


PROGRAM



**SOVIET JEWISH SOLDIERS,
JEWISH RESISTANCE,
AND JEWS IN THE USSR
DURING THE HOLOCAUST**

International Conference

November 16–17, 2008

SUNDAY

Center for Jewish History

MONDAY

New York University

Probably for every *frontovik*, the participation in the war remained forever, if not a point of pride, then at least a basis for self-respect . . . We understood that this was a war where we had to save our country, our people, and this war was for truth, for the victory of the good over evil.

—Boris Rabiner, Red Army veteran, May 2007



International Conference Soviet Jewish Soldiers, Jewish Resistance, and Jews in the USSR during the Holocaust

November 16–17, 2008

Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, masses of rich material have become available, providing new insights into previously underresearched aspects of the Holocaust and World War II on Soviet territory. This conference looks at those insights, examining the Soviet Jewish experience during World War II and the Holocaust.

The conference focuses on Soviet Jews in armed combat in the struggle against the Nazis and their collaborators; Soviet Jewish life and culture during the war; collaboration as a Soviet and post-Soviet issue; the Holocaust and the evolution of Soviet Jewish consciousness; German, Axis, and Soviet policies and attitudes during the Holocaust; Nazi and Axis camps and ghettos in the Soviet Union; and representations of Jewish soldiers in the press, literature, and films.

Newly liberated Jews pose with American and Soviet Jewish soldiers who discovered they could all communicate in Yiddish. Łosice, Poland, July 30, 1994. USHMM, courtesy of Lillian Rajs Gewirtzman

Sunday November 16

Location Center for Jewish History (CJH), 15 West 16th Street, New York, NY

The Blavatnik Archive Foundation is proud to present the digital media exhibition *Faces of the Great Patriotic War: Jewish Soldiers in the Red Army during World War II*. The exhibition, which includes excerpts of interviews with veterans, photographs, and archival documents, is displayed in both CJH and New York University (NYU) and is open to attendees throughout the conference.

10 A.M. **Welcome**

Forchheimer Auditorium/Kumble Stage, CJH

Lawrence H. Schiffman, Edelman Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies and Chair, Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, NYU, New York, United States

10:15 A.M. **Opening Remarks**

Zvi Gitelman, Professor of Political Science and Preston R. Tisch Professor of Judaic Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and Member, Academic Committee, United States Holocaust Memorial Council

11 A.M.

Panel I

The Holocaust: The Soviet Jewish Experience

Forchheimer Auditorium/Kumble Stage, CJH

Chair: **Lawrence H. Schiffman**

The Jedwabne Syndrome: Anti-Jewish Pogroms in Russia's Western Borderlands in the Summer of 1941

Alexander Victor Prusin

Associate Professor of History, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro, United States

Holocaust and Revenge in Minsk, 1941–44: German and Soviet Policy, Jewish Responses

Timothy David Snyder

Professor of History, Yale University, New Haven, CT, United States

Escape and Evacuation of East European Jews in the Soviet Union, 1941–45

Anna Shternshis

Assistant Professor of Yiddish Language and Literature, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Ghettos on the German-Occupied Territory of the Russian Federation: A Brief History

Martin C. Dean

Applied Research Scholar, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies (CAHS), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), Washington, DC, United States

Sunday November 16 (continued)

1 P.M. **Break**

2:30 P.M. **Panel II**
Fighting Back: Jewish Soldiers in the Red Army and Jewish Resistance
Forchheimer Auditorium/Kumble Stage, CJH

Chair: Suzanne Brown-Fleming,
Senior Program Officer, CAHS, USHMM

Why Did They Fight? Soviet Jewish Resolve to Fight in the Ranks of the Red Army, 1941
Kiril Feferman
Research Scholar, International Institute for Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, Israel

Initial Red Army Responses to Jewish Partisan Women's Wartime Activities
Kathren A. Brown
Assistant Professor of History, Utah Valley State College, Orem, United States

Soviet Jewish Officers' Encounters with Germany, 1945
Oleg V. Budnitskii
Professor of History, Institute of Russian History, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

Red Army Soldiers and Memory of the Holocaust in the Postwar Shtetl
Jeffrey Veidlinger
Alvin H. Rosenfeld Chair in Jewish Studies and Associate Director of Borns Jewish Studies Program, Indiana University–Bloomington, United States

4:15 P.M. **Coffee Break**

4:30 P.M. **Panel III**
Soviet Jewish Veterans Speak
Steinberg Great Hall, CJH

Chair: Zvi Gitelman

David Barsky, Cleveland, OH

Alexandra Bocharova, Philadelphia, PA

Boris Rabiner, Brooklyn, NY

Comment: Zvi Gitelman

6 P.M. **Reception and Welcoming Remarks**
Steinberg Great Hall, CJH

Len Blavatnik, Chairman, Access Industries

Paul A. Shapiro, Director, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, USHMM, and Member, Academic Advisory Board, CJH

Bruce Slovin, Chairman, Center for Jewish History

Richard Foley, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science, NYU

Location: NYU, Helen and Martin Kimmel Center for University Life
(Kimmel Center), 60 Washington Square South, New York, NY

1 P.M. **Roundtable: Research Resources**
Room 802, NYU Kimmel Center

Chair: Kenneth Alper, Associate Professor of
Psychiatry and Neurology, NYU School of Medicine,
New York, United States

*The Blavatnik Archive Video Project: Interviews with
World War II Jewish Veterans of the Red Army*
Julie Chervinsky

Director, and Leonid Reines, Senior Interviewer,
Blavatnik Archive Foundation, New York, NY,
United States

*New Archival Acquisitions for the Study of the History
of Jews in the Soviet Union*
Vadim Altskan
Program Coordinator, International Archival Program
Division, CAHS, USHMM

Photography as Evidence
Caroline Waddell
Photo Reference Coordinator, Photographic Reference
Collection, Collections Division, USHMM

Film as Evidence
Raye Farr
Director, Film and Video, Collections Division, USHMM

2:30 P.M.

Panel IV
Memory and Representation: Literature, Press, and Textbooks
Room 802, NYU Kimmel Center

Chair: Gennady Estraiikh, Rauch Associate Professor of
Yiddish Studies, NYU, New York, United States

*Soviet and Jewish War and Remembrance: Neglected
Literary Works in Russian and Yiddish Written and
Published in the 1940s*

Harriet Murav
Professor and Head, Department of Slavic Languages
and Literatures, University of Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign, United States

*The Image of the Jewish Hero in the Soviet Yiddish Press
during World War II*

Arkadi Zeltser
Editor, *Jews in Russia and Eastern Europe*, Avraham
Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew
University of Jerusalem, Israel

*The Case of Russia: Jewish Red Army Soldiers Encounter
the Holocaust on the Ground, 1944–45*

Mordechai Altschuler
Professor Emeritus of the Former Soviet Union and
East European Jewry, Hebrew University of Jerusalem,
Israel

*Foreshadowing the Holocaust: Boris Slutsky's Jewish
Poetic Cycles of 1940.*

Marat Grinberg
Assistant Professor of Russian and Humanities,
Reed College, Portland, OR, United States

MONDAY NOVEMBER 17 (continued)

4:15 P.M. **Coffee Break**

4:30 P.M. **Panel V**
**Treatment of the Holocaust in Post-Communist States:
Controversies and Interpretations, 1944 to Present**
Room 802, NYU Kimmel Center

Chair: David Engel, Maurice R. and Corrine P.
Greenberg Chair of Holocaust Studies, NYU,
New York, United States

*The Holocaust and Collaboration in Post-Soviet Russian
History Textbooks*

Ksenia L. Polouektova
Doctoral candidate in History, Central European
University, Budapest, Hungary

Public Debates in Ukraine over the Holocaust

John-Paul Himka
Professor of History, University of Alberta,
Edmonton, Canada

*Memories of Destruction: Soviet Icons, Nationalist
Mythology, and the Genocide of the Jews as Warring
Narratives in Lithuania*

Saulius Suziedelis
Professor of History, Millersville University, PA,
United States

6 P.M. **Concluding Roundtable**
Room 802, NYU Kimmel Center

Chair: Paul A. Shapiro

Participants: Oleg Budnitskii, Zvi Gitelman,
Harriet Murav, Timothy Snyder

7 P.M. **Conference Concludes**

Organized by

UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM

CENTER FOR ADVANCED HOLOCAUST STUDIES



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

A private university in the public service

Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic
Studies

With the Support of



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Center for Jewish History

Cover: Soviet troops lead German prisoners of
war past the crematoria and remains of victims in
the Majdanek concentration camp, August 1944.
Photo by Mikail Trackbman

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