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.


**International Conference**  
**Soviet Jewish Soldiers, Jewish Resistance, and Jews in the USSR during the Holocaust**  
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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
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
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 Estraikh, 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
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
This program is made possible by the Blavatnik Family Foundation, the Maurice R. and Corrine P. Greenberg Fund of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, New York University, and the Center for Jewish History.