HST EU 274

October 24 2019

# Lecture 8: Modern Holocausts

1. The Turning Points and Ends of War

•Their Finest Hour: The Battle of Britain, Evacuation and the \*Blitz (September-December 1940)

•\*Operation Barbarossa (June 1941)

•\*Stalingrad (July 1942-February 1943)

•D-Day (June 6 1944)

1. Definitions: Holocaust or Shoah
2. Race and Hatred in Nazi Germany: The Laws of Biocracy

•The Fascist Body: Leni Riefenstahl’s *Olympia* (1938)

•Coercive Sterilization and Biomedical Politics

•The Distinctiveness of German Anti-Semitism

•From Religion to Race: The Rise of Anti-Semitic Law

•“Final Solution”: Ghettos, *Einsatzgruppen*, and Concentration Camps

1. Depicting the Holocaust: The Burdens of Memory

•Liberation and Post-Liberation

•Claude Lanzmann’s *Shoah* (1985)

TERMS:

\*General Friedrich Paulus

Cornelius Ryan, *The Longest Day* (1959)

Paul Verlaine – “The long sobs of the violins of autumn

Wound my heart with a monotonous languor.”

VE Day (Victory of Europe Day), May 8 1945

\**Sokol* (*Slets*)

Hereditary Health Courts

Honor Cross of the German Mother

Law for the Reestablishment of the Professional Civil Service (1933)

Aryan/non-Aryan

\*Nuremberg Laws (1935) - Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor

## Judenfrei

\**Kristallnacht* (1938)

Decree for the Exclusion of Jews from German Economic Life (1938)

Adolf Legalité (Adolf of the Law)

Wannsee Conference

Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Bergen-Belsen

\*Warsaw Ghetto uprising (January and April-May 1943)

“Never had there been a dawn like this. In the murky, gray light, in majestic, fearful grandeur, the great Allied fleet lay off Normandy’s five invasion beaches. The sea teemed with ships. Battle ensigns snapped in the wind all the way across the horizon from the edge of the Utah area on the Cherbourg peninsula to Sword Beach near the mouth of the Orne. Outlined against the sky were the big battlewagons, the menacing cruisers, the whippetlike destroyers. Behind them were the squat command ships, sprouting their forests of antennae. And behind them came the convoys of troop-filled transports and landing ships, lying low and sluggish in the water. Circling the lead transports, waiting for the signal to head for the beaches, were swarms of bobbing landing craft, jam-packed with the men who would land in the first waves.

The great spreading mass of ships seethed with noise and activity. Engines throbbed and whined as patrol boats slashed back and forth through the milling assault craft. Windlasses whirred as booms swung out amphibious vehicles. Chains rattled in the davits as assault boats were lowered away. Landing craft loaded with pallid-faced men shuddered and banged against the high steel sides of transports. Loud-hailers blared out, ‘Keep in line! Keep in line!’ as coastguardsmen shepherded the bobbing assault boats into formations. On the transports men jammed the rails, waiting their turn to climb down slippery ladders or scramble-nets into the heaving, spray-washed beaching raft. And through it all, over the ships’ public address systems came a steady flow of messages and exhortations: ‘Fight to get your troops ashore, fight to save your ships, and if you’ve got any strength left, fight to save yourselves’ … ‘Get in there, Fourth Division, and give ‘em hell!’ … ‘U.S. Rangers, man your stations’ … ‘Remember Dunkirk! Remember Coventry! God bless you all’ … ‘We shall die on the sands of our dear France but we shall not turn back’ … This is it, men, pick it up and put it on, you’ve only got a one-way ticket and this is the end of the line. Twenty-nine, let’s go!’ And then the two messages that most men still remember: ‘Away all boats,’ and ‘Our Father, which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name…’”

--Cornelius Ryan, *The Longest Day* (1959)

“We shall show the world that we stood up to the enemy, that we did not go passively to our slaughter. Let our desperate act be a protest flung into the face of the world, which has reacted so feebly against the crimes committed by the Nazis against hundreds of thousands of Polish Jews.”

--Hirsch Berlinski, Jewish fighter at Warsaw