


**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.

Jews newly liberated by Soviet forces pose with Jewish soldiers, Soviet and American, who discovered they could all communicate in Yiddish. Łosice, Poland, February 1945. 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

**Monday** November 17

**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**

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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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