

Question #1

Civil Disobedience

Obedience maybe defined as compliance with an order, request, or law or submission to another's authority. People have a natural tendency to follow the instructions of the authorities. For example, in the Third Reich, people did as they were told not only because of the punishment they would receive if they didn't comply, but because following the orders of higher authorities was assumed to be the right thing to do. People naturally obey the authorities but many people speak out and stand for what they believe in even if it is against the law and it is these people that change history.

The psychologist Milgram performed an experiment to see the lengths people would go to obey an authoritative figure. Three people participated in the experiment, and one was a volunteer. The volunteer would teach a "learner" words, and if the "learner" answered incorrectly, he would be shocked. Every time the "learner" answered incorrectly the voltage increases. Though the "learner" never actually gets shocked, the volunteer thinks he does since they are in separate rooms. The experiment can be stopped in two ways, only if the volunteer express his desire to stop 5 times even after being encouraged to continue or when the volunteer "inflicts" the maximum voltage of 450 three times. Even though people were scared and afraid 61-66 percent of people would deal the maximum voltage. People would continue rather than refusing to continue they are reassured that the "learner" would not suffer permanent damage and that they would not be held responsible. This experiment has been repeated in different places and times with approximately the same results. This exemplifies that most humans naturally

obey higher authorities without question. This shows that those who helped Jews are truly an exception.

Many people during World War II obeyed the immoral commands of Hitler, and they even turned on their Jewish neighbors. However, some were brave enough to help. Yad Vashem, a Holocaust memorial in Israel has recognized 24,356 people as Righteous among the Nations. This title is given to those prestigious, honorary brave souls that assisted in rescuing a Jew. In Bulgaria, Denmark, and Albania, there were few or no Jews deported. There were many resistance groups throughout different countries including like the White Rose.

It wasn't only resistance groups that helped Jews but also individuals. One famous man was Oskar Schindler was a famous man, known for helping Jews. Schindler was a German industrialist, spy, and member of the Nazi Party, but he saved the lives of 1,200 Jews. He employed Jews in his factories initially for money, but when he saw the cruelty of the SS against Jews, he started to save as many Jews as he could. He built a sub-camp to protect Jews from the cruelty of Amon Göth who was in charge of the concentration camp. At one point, the low output of weapons of his factory was questioned, so he bought weapons from the black market and sold them as his products. Through his connections and bribes, he was able to keep his Jewish workers safe since they were "essential" to the war effort. It was estimated that he spent \$1,056,000 on bribes, camp construction, and food.

Oskar Schindler demonstrated the ideals of a responsible citizen. A responsible citizen follows the laws but when the law is unethical, he does something about it. When Oskar saw the ruthless murders that the Nazis committed, he decided to do protect the Jews. Today in the United States, if someone think a law is unreasonable, he would petition against the law.

However, during World War II, if someone spoke up against the Nazis, he could be sentenced to

death. Oskar's decision to help Jews was extremely brave of him even though he could have easily been murdered. Oskar Schindler was not the only person that helped, there were countless more. It was in these acts of disobedience that helped save so many innocent lives. These acts have affected history because it shows that one person can make a difference. It has inspired many people to stand up for what they believe in. It teaches people that there is a line that can be drawn in the face of authorities. People like Oskar inspire others to speak up against oppressive governments. The Holocaust is known as the ruthless murder of six million Jews but it is also known for the brave people that saved numerous lives.