

SOURCES

This section contains three sources which put into context some of the events that we see in *The Pianist*. Read each one very carefully and then complete the task which follows.

SOURCE 1

The Establishment of a Ghetto in Warsaw (October 2, 1940)

1. On the basis of the Regulation for Restrictions on Residence in the Government-General of September 13, 1940 (V.Bl.G.G.I., p. 288), a Jewish quarter is to be formed in the city of Warsaw, in which the Jews living in the city of Warsaw, or still to move there, must take up residence. The [Jewish] quarter will be set off from the rest of the city by the following streets: [here follows a list of streets and sections of streets]...

2. Poles residing in the Jewish quarter must move their domicile into the other part of the city by October 31, 1940. Apartments will be provided by the Housing Office of the Polish City Hall.

Poles who have not given up their apartments in the Jewish quarter by the above date will be forcibly moved. In the event of a forcible removal they will be permitted to take only refugee [style] luggage (Fluechtlingsgepaeck), bed-linen, and articles of sentimental value.

Poles are not permitted to move into the German quarter.

3. Jews living outside the Jewish quarter must move into the Jewish area of residence by October 31, 1940. They may take only refugee luggage and bed-linen. Apartments will be allocated by the Jewish Elder (Judenaeltester).

4. The Appointed Mayor of the Polish City Hall and the Jewish Elder are responsible for the orderly move of the Jews to the Jewish quarter, and the punctual move of the Poles away from the Jewish quarter, in accordance with a plan yet to be worked out, which will provide for the evacuation by stages of the individual Police districts.

5. The Representative of the District Governor of the city of Warsaw will give the necessary detailed instructions to the Jewish Elder for the establishing and permanent closure of the Jewish quarter.

6. The Representative of the District Governor of the city of Warsaw will issue regulations for the execution of this Decree.

7. Any person contravening this Decree, or the Regulations for its execution, will be punished in accordance with the existing laws on punishment.

Head of the Warsaw District, Dr. Fischer, Governor



SOURCE 2

Clearing the Ghetto (July 22 1942)

The Judenrat is informed of the following:

1. All Jewish persons living in Warsaw, regardless of age and sex, will be resettled in the East.
2. The following are excluded from the resettlement:
 1. All Jewish persons employed by German Authorities or enterprises, and who can show proof of this fact.
 2. All Jewish persons who are members or employees of the Judenrat (on the day of the publication of this regulation).
 3. All Jewish persons who are employed by a Reich-German company and can show proof of the fact.
 4. All Jews capable of work who have up to now not been brought into the labor process are to be taken to the barracks in the Jewish quarter.
 5. All Jewish persons who belong to the staff of the Jewish hospitals. This applies also to the members of the Jewish Disinfection Team.
 6. All Jewish persons who belong to the Jewish Police (Juedischer Ordnungsdienst).
 7. All Jewish persons who are first-degree relatives of the person listed under a) through f). Such relatives are exclusively wives and children.
 8. All Jewish persons who are hospitalized in one of the Jewish hospitals on the first day of the resettlement and are not fit to be discharged. Fitness for the discharge will be decided by a doctor to be appointed by the Judenrat.

Every Jew being resettled may take 15 kgs. of his property as baggage. All valuables such as gold, jewelry, money, etc., may be taken. Food is to be taken for three days.

The resettlement will begin at 11.00 o'clock on July 22, 1942. In the course of the resettlement the Judenrat will have the following tasks, for the precise execution of which the members of the Judenrat will answer with their lives...



SOURCE 3

Resistance

To the Jewish Masses in the Ghetto

On January 22, 1943, six months will have passed since the deportations from Warsaw began. We all remember well the days of terror during which 300,000 of our brothers and sisters were cruelly put to death in the death camp of Treblinka. Six months have passed of life in constant fear of death, not knowing what the next day may bring. We have received information from all sides about the destruction of the Jews in the Government-General, in Germany, in the occupied territories. When we listen to this bitter news we wait for our own hour to come, every day and every moment. Today we must understand that the Nazi murderers have let us live only because they want to make use of our capacity to work to our last drop of blood and sweat, to our last breath. We are slaves. And when the slaves are no longer profitable, they are killed. Every one among us must understand that, and every one among us must remember it always.

During the past few weeks certain people have spread stories about letters that were said to have been received from Jews deported from Warsaw, who were said to be in labor camps near Minsk or Bobruisk. Jews in your masses, do not believe these tales. They are spread by Jews who are working for the Gestapo. The blood-stained murderers have a particular aim in doing this: to reassure the Jewish population in order that later the next deportation can be carried out without difficulty, with a minimum of force and without losses to the Germans. They want the Jews not to prepare hiding-places and not to resist. Jews, do not repeat these lying tales.

Do not help the [Nazi] agents. The Gestapo's dastardly people will get their just desserts. Jews in your masses, the hour is near. You must be prepared to resist, not to give yourselves up like sheep to slaughter. Not even one Jew must go to the train. People who cannot resist actively must offer passive resistance, that is, by hiding. We have now received information from Lvov that the Jewish Police there itself carried out the deportation of 3,000 Jews. Such things will not happen again in Warsaw. The killing of Lejkin proves it. Now our slogan must be:

Let everyone be ready to die like a man!

January 1943

Archiwum Żydowskiego Instytutu Historycznego w Polsce (Archives of the Jewish Historical Institute in Poland), ARII/333.



TASKS

1. Look again at source 1. What were Jews allowed to take into the ghetto? Why do you think the Nazis allowed them to take these particular items?
2. What were the Jews forbidden to do?
3. Why do you think that the Nazis made the Judenrat responsible for the movement of Jews into the ghetto?
4. Why do you think that the Nazis wanted to collect all Jews together in the ghetto?
5. Look again at Source 2. Why, in 1942, do you think that certain people were exempt from 'resettlement'? Look at the people who were exempt. Why do you think that these categories of people were chosen?
6. Why were the Jews allowed to take valuables when they were being "resettled"?
7. Again, why do you think that the Nazis made the Judenrat responsible for delivering people for 'resettlement'?
8. Source 3 is a call to arms to resist 'resettlement'. Many Jews failed to take notice of this and still boarded the trains for 'resettlement'. Why do you think this was the case?
9. On the internet, find out as many details as you can about what happened in the ghetto uprising.

In what ways does the film give us information which relates to these three sources? Try to recall the incidents in *The Pianist* which relate to these three sources. How are we shown the Szpilman family reacting to each?

