

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,850

2
00:00:05,850 --> 00:00:08,465
(film slating)

3
00:00:08,465 --> 00:00:11,890

4
00:00:11,890 --> 00:00:19,670
The deportation trains were
slow, generally speaking,

5
00:00:19,670 --> 00:00:21,610
or fast?

6
00:00:21,610 --> 00:00:24,910

7
00:00:24,910 --> 00:00:27,550
Slow by any standard.

8
00:00:27,550 --> 00:00:31,840
Of course all traffic was
slowed down in wartime Germany,

9
00:00:31,840 --> 00:00:34,930
because trains were being
overloaded with cargo which

10
00:00:34,930 --> 00:00:37,690
automatically required them
to travel a little bit more

11
00:00:37,690 --> 00:00:39,400
slowly.

12
00:00:39,400 --> 00:00:42,130
And as the war
progressed, freight trains

13

00:00:42,130 --> 00:00:47,890
were limited to approximately
45 miles an hour.

14

00:00:47,890 --> 00:00:51,490
But Jewish trains, I
suspect, had a maximum speed

15

00:00:51,490 --> 00:00:53,360
of little more than
30 miles an hour.

16

00:00:53,360 --> 00:00:55,330
And that would be even
slower around the bends

17

00:00:55,330 --> 00:00:57,440
and the curves.

18

00:00:57,440 --> 00:01:04,220
Furthermore, the priority
system insofar as it

19

00:01:04,220 --> 00:01:10,250
did exist, required that
Jewish trains insofar as they

20

00:01:10,250 --> 00:01:15,330
had priority to
[SPEAKING GERMAN]

21

00:01:15,330 --> 00:01:19,800
to be moving not only
slowly but to stop

22

00:01:19,800 --> 00:01:22,650
when a priority one
train had to pass.

23

00:01:22,650 --> 00:01:24,880
So they would be
put on the siding

24

00:01:24,880 --> 00:01:28,480

while another train
would move ahead.

25

00:01:28,480 --> 00:01:30,280

And this I think
accounts for the fact

26

00:01:30,280 --> 00:01:34,650

that the journey took so long.

27

00:01:34,650 --> 00:01:40,080

When the people in the sealed
cars were suffering so much,

28

00:01:40,080 --> 00:01:44,120

especially during winters
or very hot summer.

29

00:01:44,120 --> 00:01:53,480

It seemed that from Athens, I
remember the Corfu Jews told me

30

00:01:53,480 --> 00:01:59,916

they were shipped first by
sea from Corfu to Piraeus.

31

00:01:59,916 --> 00:02:02,720

And afterwards by train
from Athens to Auschwitz,

32

00:02:02,720 --> 00:02:07,600

it took nine days, nine nights.

33

00:02:07,600 --> 00:02:10,000

Or eight nights.

34

00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:13,142

That may have been the
longest train journey.

35

00:02:13,142 --> 00:02:18,130

The Greek Jews being
farthest away from Auschwitz.

36
00:02:18,130 --> 00:02:22,490
And I would imagine the
same for the Jews of Rhodes

37
00:02:22,490 --> 00:02:24,750
and from Athens
itself, and so on.

38
00:02:24,750 --> 00:02:28,070
This is a bit unusual.

39
00:02:28,070 --> 00:02:32,940
It was not a problem for the
Germans, the slowness of the--

40
00:02:32,940 --> 00:02:33,670
No.

41
00:02:33,670 --> 00:02:34,580
The Jewish trains.

42
00:02:34,580 --> 00:02:36,030
No this was not the problem.

43
00:02:36,030 --> 00:02:40,730
So long as the Jews were being
shipped out in that sense,

44
00:02:40,730 --> 00:02:43,880
Europe could become
free of Jews.

45
00:02:43,880 --> 00:02:50,750
Their arrival even with 5%
or 10% of the passengers

46
00:02:50,750 --> 00:02:56,130
dying on the way, was not
a matter of high priority

47

00:02:56,130 --> 00:02:59,880

so long as they got there
and trains could be unloaded

48

00:02:59,880 --> 00:03:03,820

and the victims cast.

49

00:03:03,820 --> 00:03:06,636

They knew they were doomed.

50

00:03:06,636 --> 00:03:09,470

Yes.

51

00:03:09,470 --> 00:03:16,340

With that, I talked with
a Polish train driver.

52

00:03:16,340 --> 00:03:20,630

He conducted Jewish trains
from Bialystok from Warsaw

53

00:03:20,630 --> 00:03:22,990

to Treblinka.

54

00:03:22,990 --> 00:03:27,700

I asked him, did
you go fast or slow?

55

00:03:27,700 --> 00:03:30,886

He told me very fast,
as fast as we could.

56

00:03:30,886 --> 00:03:37,990

And I think it was a projection
of his own bad consciousness.

57

00:03:37,990 --> 00:03:39,730

Well we've all
seen the schedules

58

00:03:39,730 --> 00:03:42,690

which themselves allowed

for pretty slow traffic.

59

00:03:42,690 --> 00:03:48,160

And it's hardly likely that
particular train or trains

60

00:03:48,160 --> 00:03:51,520

that he was driving would
have arrived earlier.

61

00:03:51,520 --> 00:03:54,370

In fact, they couldn't very well
have because as you'll notice,

62

00:03:54,370 --> 00:03:59,650

each segment of the journey had
been charted out in advance.

63

00:03:59,650 --> 00:04:04,970

Yes and if you could
summarize in one

64

00:04:04,970 --> 00:04:09,620

of two formulas what we
have said up till now,

65

00:04:09,620 --> 00:04:10,610

how would you do it?

66

00:04:10,610 --> 00:04:13,990

What would you say?

67

00:04:13,990 --> 00:04:16,990

I would say that for
me in particular,

68

00:04:16,990 --> 00:04:22,790

the railroads are a conspicuous
and significant element

69

00:04:22,790 --> 00:04:25,580

in the machinery of destruction.

70

00:04:25,580 --> 00:04:28,885

That the railroads
illustrate that there

71

00:04:28,885 --> 00:04:33,110

is great destructive potential
in an organization that

72

00:04:33,110 --> 00:04:36,470

operates efficiently
and which is

73

00:04:36,470 --> 00:04:38,720

ready to move with
other organizations

74

00:04:38,720 --> 00:04:41,160

in the same direction.

75

00:04:41,160 --> 00:04:46,680

Which understands the latent
structure of the undertaking,

76

00:04:46,680 --> 00:04:52,280

and which does not have to be
either ordered or even informed

77

00:04:52,280 --> 00:04:57,240

of precise goals or
purposes or aims.

78

00:04:57,240 --> 00:05:00,390

It is significant to me
that the railroads insofar

79

00:05:00,390 --> 00:05:06,510

as we can now see were not
especially indoctrinated

80

00:05:06,510 --> 00:05:08,340

in Nazism.

81

00:05:08,340 --> 00:05:10,110
Many of its leading
personalities

82
00:05:10,110 --> 00:05:12,180
would have described
themselves as good

83
00:05:12,180 --> 00:05:16,090
practicing Christian moral men.

84
00:05:16,090 --> 00:05:23,860
And in their individual home
lives, quite probably were.

85
00:05:23,860 --> 00:05:27,760
In fact, the conspicuous
element in the entire operation

86
00:05:27,760 --> 00:05:30,850
is the sheer absence
of Jews becoming

87
00:05:30,850 --> 00:05:35,650
a special category of
operations within this network.

88
00:05:35,650 --> 00:05:43,016
[Personal name] at the center,
Clem in General Betriebsleitung

89
00:05:43,016 --> 00:05:47,320
ost Schteer in
Krakow are examples

90
00:05:47,320 --> 00:05:51,220
of people who were by nature
of the operation beginning

91
00:05:51,220 --> 00:05:54,760
to specialize in
Jewish transports.

92

00:05:54,760 --> 00:05:58,210

But even they have
no special background

93

00:05:58,210 --> 00:06:00,280

that one can discover.

94

00:06:00,280 --> 00:06:03,790

And so once again,
we see perhaps more

95

00:06:03,790 --> 00:06:07,390

crassly than in other cases
that ordinary men were

96

00:06:07,390 --> 00:06:11,500

performing extraordinary tasks.

97

00:06:11,500 --> 00:06:18,140

And that to me is a
conclusion that transcends

98

00:06:18,140 --> 00:06:21,140

the railroads themselves.

99

00:06:21,140 --> 00:06:21,800

Yes.

100

00:06:21,800 --> 00:06:24,660

What happened to them?

101

00:06:24,660 --> 00:06:31,740

Again, I think most of them
died a normal death after having

102

00:06:31,740 --> 00:06:34,290

lived out their lives.

103

00:06:34,290 --> 00:06:37,440

A few were caught
by the Russians.

104

00:06:37,440 --> 00:06:41,040
I'm not entirely sure
whether the Soviets realized

105
00:06:41,040 --> 00:06:42,900
who they were, but
some did disappear

106
00:06:42,900 --> 00:06:45,990
from Generalbetriebsleitung
ost which was apparently

107
00:06:45,990 --> 00:06:48,720
overrun by the Red Army.

108
00:06:48,720 --> 00:06:51,540
Still others were
being investigated

109
00:06:51,540 --> 00:06:56,420
by German prosecutors into
the 1960s and even 70s.

110
00:06:56,420 --> 00:06:59,530
But for the most part
insofar as we can find them,

111
00:06:59,530 --> 00:07:03,710
these officials were
continuing their careers

112
00:07:03,710 --> 00:07:06,970
in the post-war world.

113
00:07:06,970 --> 00:07:11,050
And here I think it may
be interesting to note

114
00:07:11,050 --> 00:07:14,560
that whereas most
other organizations

115
00:07:14,560 --> 00:07:23,610

or agencies of Nazi Germany
came to a halt in May 1945,

116
00:07:23,610 --> 00:07:26,580
whereas ministries were
virtually disbanded

117
00:07:26,580 --> 00:07:29,040
and industries were stopped.

118
00:07:29,040 --> 00:07:33,690
The railroads reconstituted
themselves within a week

119
00:07:33,690 --> 00:07:36,930
or within at most two
weeks after the occupation

120
00:07:36,930 --> 00:07:42,210
of territory by British or
American or French troops.

121
00:07:42,210 --> 00:07:47,580
They were already at work as
though nothing had happened

122
00:07:47,580 --> 00:07:50,230
in a new postwar world.

123
00:07:50,230 --> 00:07:53,010
And so these men pursued
their normal careers

124
00:07:53,010 --> 00:07:56,910
and were promoted as they
might have been expected to

125
00:07:56,910 --> 00:07:59,190
and are now well
perhaps retired.

126
00:07:59,190 --> 00:08:02,760
And in a few cases still

finishing the careers that

127

00:08:02,760 --> 00:08:05,090

they had begun then.

128

00:08:05,090 --> 00:08:10,980

But some of them I

think even gain--

129

00:08:10,980 --> 00:08:12,270

how do you say?

130

00:08:12,270 --> 00:08:13,470

[SPEAKING FRENCH]

131

00:08:13,470 --> 00:08:14,530

Oh absolutely.

132

00:08:14,530 --> 00:08:16,890

The most conspicuous

case would be

133

00:08:16,890 --> 00:08:20,550

Geitmann, who was

in charge at one

134

00:08:20,550 --> 00:08:23,640

time of the reichsbahndirektion

in [INAUDIBLE]

135

00:08:23,640 --> 00:08:27,440

and whose jurisdiction

was Auschwitz itself.

136

00:08:27,440 --> 00:08:30,950

And who became a member

of a four man directorate

137

00:08:30,950 --> 00:08:35,820

that ran the bundesbahn

for some years.

138

00:08:35,820 --> 00:08:36,490
20 years.

139
00:08:36,490 --> 00:08:38,200
Not the reichsbahn,
the bundesbahn.

140
00:08:38,200 --> 00:08:41,470
Yeah, the bundesbahn.

141
00:08:41,470 --> 00:08:44,350
But it's the same
organization, the same people.

142
00:08:44,350 --> 00:08:48,650
The same tradition,
the same procedure.

143
00:08:48,650 --> 00:08:51,980
Only now, a sonderzug
is really a train

144
00:08:51,980 --> 00:08:56,050
carrying a youth to vacation.

145
00:08:56,050 --> 00:09:01,220
Why did they try to make a
secrecy of their involvement

146
00:09:01,220 --> 00:09:03,710
in the destruction of the Jews?

147
00:09:03,710 --> 00:09:07,860
Do you have an
explanation for this?

148
00:09:07,860 --> 00:09:10,800
Well I think first of all,
they had the opportunity

149
00:09:10,800 --> 00:09:12,008
for [MUTED].

150

00:09:12,008 --> 00:09:23,870

151

00:09:23,870 --> 00:09:27,170

Right from the beginning,
when the allied

152

00:09:27,170 --> 00:09:33,410

powers were looking for
important persons in the regime

153

00:09:33,410 --> 00:09:37,250

and tried them at Nuremberg.

154

00:09:37,250 --> 00:09:39,800

I'm quite convinced
that no one was even

155

00:09:39,800 --> 00:09:43,490

thinking about the railroads as
an integral part of the machine

156

00:09:43,490 --> 00:09:47,830

or of railroad men as
possible war criminals.

157

00:09:47,830 --> 00:09:50,320

And therefore also
no documentation

158

00:09:50,320 --> 00:09:53,470

was being collected either.

159

00:09:53,470 --> 00:09:56,020

Now the effect of
this quite obviously

160

00:09:56,020 --> 00:10:02,470

was that many of these
documents disappeared.

161

00:10:02,470 --> 00:10:05,980

Granting that the allied air
raids had destroyed some,

162
00:10:05,980 --> 00:10:09,550
but so many of the
crucial fahrplananordnung

163
00:10:09,550 --> 00:10:12,250
were prepared in
multiple copies that it

164
00:10:12,250 --> 00:10:16,480
is impossible to believe
that every one of them became

165
00:10:16,480 --> 00:10:20,850
burned in the course of the war.

166
00:10:20,850 --> 00:10:26,220
Thus many of the railroad
people could continue incognito

167
00:10:26,220 --> 00:10:30,710
as it were without anyone
realizing what they had done.

168
00:10:30,710 --> 00:10:33,240
No one suspecting it.

169
00:10:33,240 --> 00:10:35,520
Not for war crimes
trials, nor for days

170
00:10:35,520 --> 00:10:39,630
denouncification proceedings,
nor for anything else.

171
00:10:39,630 --> 00:10:42,985
It is precisely this fact
that made some of the SS

172
00:10:42,985 --> 00:10:47,710
so very angry because they were

always being put before trials

173

00:10:47,710 --> 00:10:51,970
in front of tribunals as though
they alone had done everything.

174

00:10:51,970 --> 00:10:53,620
As [SPEAKING GERMAN].

175

00:10:53,620 --> 00:10:54,820
Yes.

176

00:10:54,820 --> 00:11:00,660
But now, gradually it became
clear that also the railroads

177

00:11:00,660 --> 00:11:03,710
had such a function.

178

00:11:03,710 --> 00:11:06,170
And there were now
two reasons for not

179

00:11:06,170 --> 00:11:08,370
publicizing this material.

180

00:11:08,370 --> 00:11:11,540
The first is quite obviously
that some of these people

181

00:11:11,540 --> 00:11:14,630
could still be liable
for their deeds

182

00:11:14,630 --> 00:11:18,740
and could still be
placed on trial.

183

00:11:18,740 --> 00:11:21,740
And the second and I think,
increasingly more important,

184

00:11:21,740 --> 00:11:28,230
reason is that the railroads
want to hide the fact,

185
00:11:28,230 --> 00:11:34,370
as an institution, they were
involved in this operation.

186
00:11:34,370 --> 00:11:39,940
They don't want the reputation
of having been the conveyors

187
00:11:39,940 --> 00:11:42,520
of victims to death camps.

188
00:11:42,520 --> 00:11:48,250
They don't want to be known in
posterity as having done that.

189
00:11:48,250 --> 00:11:52,990
So they are amongst
themselves quiet about it.

190
00:11:52,990 --> 00:11:54,970
Although increasingly
they begin to talk

191
00:11:54,970 --> 00:11:59,220
about their forgotten
role in the mobilization.

192
00:11:59,220 --> 00:12:02,990
Barbarossa, the mounting of the
attack upon the Soviet Union.

193
00:12:02,990 --> 00:12:04,430
But they are proud of this.

194
00:12:04,430 --> 00:12:07,350
They are quite proud
of that achievement.

195
00:12:07,350 --> 00:12:09,610

And yet when it
comes, of course,

196
00:12:09,610 --> 00:12:12,240
to the final solution
of the Jewish question,

197
00:12:12,240 --> 00:12:15,510
any material whatsoever
that even touches upon it

198
00:12:15,510 --> 00:12:18,960
is handled with very great care.

199
00:12:18,960 --> 00:12:23,640
And any official history, such
as most especially Kreidler's

200
00:12:23,640 --> 00:12:27,360
history of the role of the
railroads would not in one word

201
00:12:27,360 --> 00:12:32,220
mention Jews as having been one
of the items being transported

202
00:12:32,220 --> 00:12:34,290
in these trains.

203
00:12:34,290 --> 00:12:37,560
And even when one or
another railroad official

204
00:12:37,560 --> 00:12:40,590
would talk about the
matter, and that is rare,

205
00:12:40,590 --> 00:12:44,550
he would do so on the
basis of published reports.

206
00:12:44,550 --> 00:12:49,200
Never revealing new

information which

207

00:12:49,200 --> 00:12:52,890

obviously is not available
to the general public.

208

00:12:52,890 --> 00:13:00,570

Yes, but the very fact is that
the allied powers after Germany

209

00:13:00,570 --> 00:13:10,290

was defeated never thought
of prosecuting such people is

210

00:13:10,290 --> 00:13:11,860

meaningful, I think.

211

00:13:11,860 --> 00:13:13,570

It's very meaningful.

212

00:13:13,570 --> 00:13:17,870

It means that the
full implication

213

00:13:17,870 --> 00:13:19,580

of what is meant
by a totalitarian

214

00:13:19,580 --> 00:13:25,790

system, the full meaning of what
was meant by mobilized Germany

215

00:13:25,790 --> 00:13:27,120

was not understood.

216

00:13:27,120 --> 00:13:27,790

Yes.

217

00:13:27,790 --> 00:13:30,490

Or maybe they did,
but it means that it

218

00:13:30,490 --> 00:13:34,640
would have been necessary to
prosecute the whole of Germany.

219
00:13:34,640 --> 00:13:37,160
Well it would have been
necessary to prosecute

220
00:13:37,160 --> 00:13:41,782
individuals from every
segment of organized society.

221
00:13:41,782 --> 00:13:43,490
It would have been
necessary to prosecute

222
00:13:43,490 --> 00:13:47,030
not the whole of Germany
but that sampling of it.

223
00:13:47,030 --> 00:13:50,910
That cross section of
it that became involved.

224
00:13:50,910 --> 00:13:52,730
Because as a matter
of fact, what was done

225
00:13:52,730 --> 00:13:55,460
was exactly the
other way around.

226
00:13:55,460 --> 00:13:58,600
They decided to
choose a, let's say

227
00:13:58,600 --> 00:14:04,070
a sample of individuals and
to concentrate all the guilt.

228
00:14:04,070 --> 00:14:06,020
Yes they chose leaders.

229

00:14:06,020 --> 00:14:08,180

And not even all
of those, and then

230

00:14:08,180 --> 00:14:10,550

they chose the
people, as it were,

231

00:14:10,550 --> 00:14:15,800

caught with the machine guns
in hand or the gas canisters.

232

00:14:15,800 --> 00:14:16,960

These were the people.

233

00:14:16,960 --> 00:14:18,200

The actual killers.

234

00:14:18,200 --> 00:14:21,440

The actual killers who
said we are after all

235

00:14:21,440 --> 00:14:25,370

only the end product
of a long process.

236

00:14:25,370 --> 00:14:34,230

But I think that what you
have found, which is really

237

00:14:34,230 --> 00:14:42,160

a reason why your
book is a master book,

238

00:14:42,160 --> 00:14:48,650

you've succeed to show really
the inside implications.

239

00:14:48,650 --> 00:14:54,790

I mean, how the destruction
of the Jews had been possible.

240

00:14:54,790 --> 00:15:01,250

And so which step, what
were the things which

241
00:15:01,250 --> 00:15:04,220
had to enter into
play in order to make

242
00:15:04,220 --> 00:15:08,220
this destruction possible?

243
00:15:08,220 --> 00:15:08,720
Thank you.

244
00:15:08,720 --> 00:15:11,670

245
00:15:11,670 --> 00:15:16,370
I ask you to talk really about
this, because in which respect

246
00:15:16,370 --> 00:15:19,680
such a thing has been possible?

247
00:15:19,680 --> 00:15:24,050
Because as a matter of fact,
antisemitism is not new.

248
00:15:24,050 --> 00:15:26,800

249
00:15:26,800 --> 00:15:29,320
We can talk about
the Nazi antisemitism

250
00:15:29,320 --> 00:15:33,260
and about what was specific in
the Nazi antisemitism, that's

251
00:15:33,260 --> 00:15:34,550
for sure.

252
00:15:34,550 --> 00:15:37,130

But I don't think it's
necessary to enter in this,

253
00:15:37,130 --> 00:15:42,200
it is for my taste
too much ideological.

254
00:15:42,200 --> 00:15:44,150
Yes.

255
00:15:44,150 --> 00:15:47,300
I am much more
interested in the how.

256
00:15:47,300 --> 00:15:49,290
How the things
could have happened,

257
00:15:49,290 --> 00:15:50,850
how did they actually happen.

258
00:15:50,850 --> 00:15:57,850
And the drive to
kill always existed.

259
00:15:57,850 --> 00:16:02,455
Not only in Germany,
but how is it then

260
00:16:02,455 --> 00:16:08,590
these barriers
could fall in order

261
00:16:08,590 --> 00:16:12,470
to permit this
gigantic extermination,

262
00:16:12,470 --> 00:16:16,260
this mass extermination?

263
00:16:16,260 --> 00:16:22,813
What were the prerequisites
for such an achievement?

264
00:16:22,813 --> 00:16:24,105
It's a very difficult question.

265
00:16:24,105 --> 00:16:33,620

266
00:16:33,620 --> 00:16:37,810
Well, I think you
are driving at the--

267
00:16:37,810 --> 00:16:39,350
I agree completely with you.

268
00:16:39,350 --> 00:16:41,850
My question was not--

269
00:16:41,850 --> 00:16:43,560
Yes.

270
00:16:43,560 --> 00:16:45,380
It was a practical one.

271
00:16:45,380 --> 00:16:48,620
I think you are
driving at a deeper

272
00:16:48,620 --> 00:16:54,580
penetration of that
question, how it was done.

273
00:16:54,580 --> 00:17:00,180
And I can tell you just how
I ask myself the question

274
00:17:00,180 --> 00:17:02,980
and how I proceeded to
answer it for myself.

275
00:17:02,980 --> 00:17:05,220
And in that way
perhaps come closer

276
00:17:05,220 --> 00:17:08,180
to what you want to hear.

277
00:17:08,180 --> 00:17:11,240
As I began that work,
I was very young,

278
00:17:11,240 --> 00:17:13,270
perhaps it should
be pointed out.

279
00:17:13,270 --> 00:17:16,200
Yes, I would like to know the
beginning as a matter of fact.

280
00:17:16,200 --> 00:17:18,530
Perhaps it should be
pointed out that I

281
00:17:18,530 --> 00:17:22,240
was all of 22 years of age.

282
00:17:22,240 --> 00:17:25,210
And when I say
that I began, I do

283
00:17:25,210 --> 00:17:29,590
mean to imply that I already
had the ambition, if that

284
00:17:29,590 --> 00:17:33,900
is the word, to describe
the process as a whole.

285
00:17:33,900 --> 00:17:37,120
Though I had neither the
knowledge or experience

286
00:17:37,120 --> 00:17:40,510
to estimate what it would take.

287

00:17:40,510 --> 00:17:43,480
I did need an
ordering principle.

288
00:17:43,480 --> 00:17:45,610
I did need an outline.

289
00:17:45,610 --> 00:17:47,620
I did need something
that would enable

290
00:17:47,620 --> 00:17:52,090
me to go into piles of
documents that were not indexed.

291
00:17:52,090 --> 00:17:54,640
And thus looking at
one item pertaining

292
00:17:54,640 --> 00:17:57,040
to 1943 and the
Justice Ministry,

293
00:17:57,040 --> 00:18:00,490
and another item pertaining
to 1935 and the banks,

294
00:18:00,490 --> 00:18:04,890
and yet another item talking
about the SS in 1944,

295
00:18:04,890 --> 00:18:09,820
be able to put these documents
all of which are out of context

296
00:18:09,820 --> 00:18:16,980
into an order, into a definite
pattern that would make sense.

297
00:18:16,980 --> 00:18:19,890
And I had to use some tools
of analysis for this purpose,

298

00:18:19,890 --> 00:18:21,570
and I obtained them.

299
00:18:21,570 --> 00:18:25,600
I obtained them, I didn't
make them up myself.

300
00:18:25,600 --> 00:18:27,790
And in particular, I
obtained the notion

301
00:18:27,790 --> 00:18:32,230
of a process of a
destruction process

302
00:18:32,230 --> 00:18:36,730
from one man who wrote
an affidavit immediately

303
00:18:36,730 --> 00:18:40,870
after the war and almost
casually and incidentally

304
00:18:40,870 --> 00:18:44,900
gave me the clue, if
you'd like the key.

305
00:18:44,900 --> 00:18:47,260
This was, of course, Kesnar.

306
00:18:47,260 --> 00:18:48,350
Kesnar.

307
00:18:48,350 --> 00:18:49,120
Absolutely.

308
00:18:49,120 --> 00:18:53,900

309
00:18:53,900 --> 00:18:55,600
(film slating)

310

00:18:55,600 --> 00:18:58,620

311

00:18:58,620 --> 00:19:02,580

What did they get from
the past, the Nazi?

312

00:19:02,580 --> 00:19:05,790

313

00:19:05,790 --> 00:19:10,630

They got the actual content
of measures which they took.

314

00:19:10,630 --> 00:19:16,040

For example, the barring
of Jews from office.

315

00:19:16,040 --> 00:19:20,930

The prohibition of
inter-marriages, the employment

316

00:19:20,930 --> 00:19:25,710

in Jewish homes of female
persons under the age of 45.

317

00:19:25,710 --> 00:19:29,860

What struck me so much--

318

00:19:29,860 --> 00:19:34,680

because everybody talks
even now about the German

319

00:19:34,680 --> 00:19:40,810

are known, the German
orderly way of killing.

320

00:19:40,810 --> 00:19:47,040

And everybody is thinking
about the factory

321

00:19:47,040 --> 00:19:49,160

process of Auschwitz.

322
00:19:49,160 --> 00:19:53,950
But Auschwitz came very
late as a matter of fact.

323
00:19:53,950 --> 00:19:55,860
When you read what
happened at the beginnings

324
00:19:55,860 --> 00:19:57,860
with the first
extermination camps,

325
00:19:57,860 --> 00:20:01,140
Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor.

326
00:20:01,140 --> 00:20:03,360
It was complete disorder.

327
00:20:03,360 --> 00:20:04,440
Absolutely.

328
00:20:04,440 --> 00:20:07,620
People were being
dumped along the route.

329
00:20:07,620 --> 00:20:10,740
There was a tendency you'll see
on the part of the bureaucracy

330
00:20:10,740 --> 00:20:14,730
to take steps before one
realized where these steps were

331
00:20:14,730 --> 00:20:16,680
actually going to end.

332
00:20:16,680 --> 00:20:19,170
So people were
being transported.

333
00:20:19,170 --> 00:20:20,650

Let us say to Å Å³dÅ¼.

334

00:20:20,650 --> 00:20:21,750

Let us say to Riga.

335

00:20:21,750 --> 00:20:23,850

Let us say to

Kaunas from Germany.

336

00:20:23,850 --> 00:20:27,270

And within Poland, they were
being shifted from one place

337

00:20:27,270 --> 00:20:30,960

to the other all in

quote preparation.

338

00:20:30,960 --> 00:20:33,300

Without there being
clarity as to what

339

00:20:33,300 --> 00:20:36,000

it is that was being prepared.

340

00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:39,120

Certainly not to the extent that
one would know at the beginning

341

00:20:39,120 --> 00:20:41,800

where these Jews
were going to die.

342

00:20:41,800 --> 00:20:46,260

And why this tendency--
this general tendency

343

00:20:46,260 --> 00:20:51,335

of the German bureaucracy to
act without even preparation

344

00:20:51,335 --> 00:20:53,610

in what way?

345

00:20:53,610 --> 00:20:57,570

I now believe that is the
only way in which one can

346

00:20:57,570 --> 00:21:00,630

act at all in such a matter.

347

00:21:00,630 --> 00:21:03,250

That when one talks about
such a thing beforehand,

348

00:21:03,250 --> 00:21:05,250

one cannot possibly do it.

349

00:21:05,250 --> 00:21:08,280

And if one is going to do it,
one cannot possibly talk about

350

00:21:08,280 --> 00:21:09,940

it.

351

00:21:09,940 --> 00:21:12,690

And this I think is
an essential requisite

352

00:21:12,690 --> 00:21:15,570

and an essential attribute
of such drastic activities

353

00:21:15,570 --> 00:21:18,210

as those we are talking about.

354

00:21:18,210 --> 00:21:22,990

And I now do believe as I
did believe for some years,

355

00:21:22,990 --> 00:21:25,870

that with the Germans,
as Himmler said,

356

00:21:25,870 --> 00:21:27,700

it was a matter of inborn tact.

357
00:21:27,700 --> 00:21:30,010
One does not talk
about these things.

358
00:21:30,010 --> 00:21:33,400
But this also means, you see,
that one does not outline them.

359
00:21:33,400 --> 00:21:35,190
One does not plan them.

360
00:21:35,190 --> 00:21:40,600
The plan, the outline, the
goal emerges from the steps

361
00:21:40,600 --> 00:21:42,640
as they are being taken.

362
00:21:42,640 --> 00:21:45,490
There is a sense of
direction, you'll see.

363
00:21:45,490 --> 00:21:48,460
There is a sense
that what is going

364
00:21:48,460 --> 00:21:52,120
in ever more drastic
steps towards something

365
00:21:52,120 --> 00:21:53,650
unprecedented.

366
00:21:53,650 --> 00:21:58,320
There is a sense of meeting
history and of making history.

367
00:21:58,320 --> 00:22:03,870
That is pervasive in
the entire bureaucracy.

368

00:22:03,870 --> 00:22:05,790
And every one,
however remote he may

369
00:22:05,790 --> 00:22:09,690
be from the center of the
action, is somehow aware of it.

370
00:22:09,690 --> 00:22:15,910
And can sense the need
for his contribution.

371
00:22:15,910 --> 00:22:16,410
Yes.

372
00:22:16,410 --> 00:22:21,730
For instance, one of
the very striking facts

373
00:22:21,730 --> 00:22:23,940
you talk about this
in your book when

374
00:22:23,940 --> 00:22:28,350
one reads about the first
deportation, the shipping

375
00:22:28,350 --> 00:22:33,060
to the East in 1940, 1941.

376
00:22:33,060 --> 00:22:35,460
In the Polish ghettos
when they start

377
00:22:35,460 --> 00:22:39,410
to ship the Jews from
the Reich, for instance,

378
00:22:39,410 --> 00:22:47,040
or Czechoslovakia,
the entourage.

379
00:22:47,040 --> 00:22:54,610

Nothing is prepared to
welcome them, to save them.

380
00:22:54,610 --> 00:22:59,190
And the Nazis who are already in
Poland in charge of the ghetto,

381
00:22:59,190 --> 00:23:02,840
let's take $\frac{1}{4}$, for
instance, complain.

382
00:23:02,840 --> 00:23:06,470
They're appalled by this
influx of 20,000 people.

383
00:23:06,470 --> 00:23:07,610
Yes, complain to Berlin.

384
00:23:07,610 --> 00:23:09,860
What shall we do
with all these Jews?

385
00:23:09,860 --> 00:23:12,010
These new Jews?

386
00:23:12,010 --> 00:23:16,000