



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

## Center for Middle Eastern Studies

### Holocaust-Related Works for Secondary/Post-Secondary Classrooms

#### **Balkans:**

*Besa: The Promise*. Dir and Prod. Rachel Goslins. Prod. Michael Berenbaum. JWM Productions, 2012. Film.

This is a documentary (86 minutes) about the Albanian rescue of Jews during the Holocaust. (Albania was the only European country to end World War II with more Jews – 5 times as many – than at the beginning of the war.)

“Exhibition Honors Muslims Who Saved Jews from Nazi Persecution.” Associated Press. *Haaretz.com*. ([www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/919523.html](http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/919523.html))

This brief article tells about the exhibition of Albanian Muslim Holocaust rescuers and describes some of the reasons the rescuers gave for their actions.

Gershman, Norman H. *Besa: Muslims Who Saved Jews in World War II*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2008.

This recently-published book contains photos of Albanian Muslims – or their descendants - honored for rescuing Jews and/or their families. Each photo comes with a description of what they did and why. (Students who have read Geraldine Brooks’ novel *People of the Book* will recognize the story – although the names were changed in the novel.)

Hellman, Peter. *When Courage Was Stronger Than Fear: Remarkable Stories of Christians and Muslims Who Saved Jews from the Holocaust*. New York: Marlowe and Company, 2004.

This newer edition of an earlier work contains a very readable chapter on the Korkuts, who rescued both a Jewish woman and a rare Jewish manuscript: the Sarajevo Haggadah.

Jelinek, Yeshayahu A. “Bosnia-Herzegovina at War: Relations between Moslems and Non-Moslems.” *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* (1990): 275-292.

This journal article analyzes relations between Bosnian Muslims and the region’s non-Muslims (Serbs, Jews) persecuted during World War II. The article would be useful for advanced high school or college students.

Paldiel, Mordecai. *Saving the Jews: Amazing Stories of Men and Women Who Defied the "Final Solution."* Rockville: Schreiber Publishing, 2000.

The book contains a chapter on the Hardagas, a Bosnian Muslim couple who rescued Jews during the Holocaust.

"Muslim Rescuers in Sarajevo: Mustafa and Zejneba Hardaga, Izet and Bachriya Hardaga, Ahmed Sadik. Bosnia." *Yad Vashem. The Righteous Among the Nations.*

([www1.yadvashem.org/righteous\\_new/bosnia/hardaga.html](http://www1.yadvashem.org/righteous_new/bosnia/hardaga.html))

This is Yad Vashem's brief account of the wartime activities of the Hardagas and their relatives. The "more pictures" section is also interesting.

Sarner, Harvey. *Rescue in Albania: One Hundred Percent of Jews in Albania Rescued from the Holocaust.* Cathedral City, CA: Brunswick Press, 1997.

This work describes Albanian rescue efforts on behalf of Jews.

"Servet and Dervis Korkut." *The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous.*

([www.jfr.org/site/PageServer?pagename=sup\\_korkut](http://www.jfr.org/site/PageServer?pagename=sup_korkut))

This is the story of the Korkuts, ethnic Albanians living in Bosnia during the war. They not only rescued a Jewish woman but Dervis Korkut, a librarian in the Bosnian national library, risked his life to save the famous Jewish manuscript "The Sarajevo Haggadah." (Interesting note: The Korkuts, originally from Kosovo but who lived much of their lives in Bosnia, are listed as being from Croatia as that was the country that took over Bosnia during World War II.)

Tauber, Eli. *When Neighbors Were Real Human Beings.* Sarajevo, 2010.

## **Turkey/Iran:**

"Abdol Hussein Sardari (1895-1981)." *Holocaust Encyclopedia. U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.* ([www.ushmm.org/wlc/article.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10007452](http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/article.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10007452))

This is an account of an Iranian diplomat who helped to save Jews in France.

Burns, Margie. "Turkey Served As Safe Haven for Jews during the Holocaust." *The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation.*

([www.raoulwallenberg.net/?en/saviors/diplomats/turkey-served-safe-haven-jews.2110.htm](http://www.raoulwallenberg.net/?en/saviors/diplomats/turkey-served-safe-haven-jews.2110.htm))

This is a brief article about Turkey during the Holocaust.

*Desperate Hours.* Dir. Victoria Barrett. Prod. Michael Berenbaum. Shenandoah Films, 2008. Film.

A documentary about Turkish assistance to Jews during the Holocaust, this film even contains interviews with two Turkish Holocaust rescuers.

Epstein, Mark. A. "A Lucky Few: Refugees in Turkey." In *The Holocaust and History: The Known, the Unknown, the Disputed, and the Reexamined*. Ed. Michael Berenbaum and Abraham J. Peck. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998. 536-550.

This scholarly article is clearly written and could be useful to advanced high school or college students.

"Selahattin Ulkumen's Official Website." ([www.ulkumen.net](http://www.ulkumen.net))

This entire website is dedicated to a Turkish diplomat honored for his rescue of Jews.

Shaw, Stanford J. *Turkey and the Holocaust: Turkey's Role in Rescuing Turkish and European Jewry from Nazi Persecution, 1933-1945*. London: MacMillan Press, 1993.

This book is more for useful to teachers than to students. However, it contains a number of primary source documents that might prove useful in a classroom.

"True Courage of One Who Had to Act: Necdet Kent, Turkish Diplomat 1911-2002." *The Telegraph*, London. 1 October 2002.

(<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2002/09/30/1033283437468.html>)

This is a vivid story of a Turkish diplomat who climbed into a boxcar with Jews headed for a concentration camp in order to force Nazi officials to release the 'Turkish' Jews.

## **Arab Lands:**

*Among the Righteous*. PBS, 2010. DVD.

This documentary, based on the work by Robert Satloff (See below), is thought-provoking. There are also a number of materials – a lesson plan, viewer's guide, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum guide – on the PBS website:

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/among-the-righteous/>

"Faiza Abdul-Wahhab." Interview – podcast and transcript. *Voices on Anti-Semitism Podcast Series*. 30 Aug. 2007. *U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum*.

(<http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/focus/antisemitism/voices/transcript/?content=20070830>)

The daughter of Tunisian Holocaust rescuer Khaled Abdul-Wahab speaks about her father and his motives and efforts to save Jews threatened by the Nazis.

*Free Men (Les Hommes Libres)*. 2011. DVD.

About the resistance and rescue activities at the Grand Mosque in Paris, this movie is historical fiction, but it is historically accurate. The film clearly states – at the end – which characters are fictional and which ones are historical. It can be very useful in school classes (and *is* used in schools in French) with a guided discussion of the usefulness and limitations of historical fiction.

Ruelle, Karen Gray and Deborah Durland DeSaix. *The Grand Mosque of Paris: A Story of How*

*Muslims Saved Jews during the Holocaust.* New York: Holiday House, 2009.

This picture book is an unusual book for students since it is beautifully illustrated in the style of a book for young readers, yet its topic and language are not for elementary school children. (Middle school students would enjoy it.) The book is based on research by Robert Satloff and was the recipient of a youth literature award by the Middle East Outreach Council.

Satloff, Robert. *Among the Righteous: Lost Stories from the Holocaust's Long Reach into Arab Lands.* New York: Public Affairs, 2006.

This book is more for teacher use than for student use, but it's a seminal book on the subject of Arabs in the Holocaust. The photographs are also useful.

Satloff, Robert. "In Search of 'Righteous Arabs'." *Commentary* 118.1 (2004): 30+. *General OneFile.*

This article provides some interesting insights into Arabs' complex feelings toward the Holocaust.