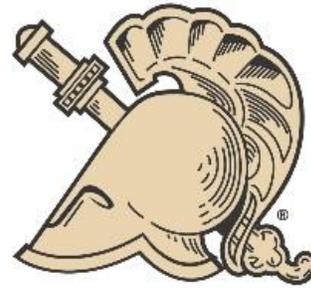


CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES AT WEST POINT

January 2016 update



MISSION

The Mission of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (CHGS) is to instill within current and future military leaders a sophisticated understanding of the Holocaust and other instances of genocide, and to inspire them to prevent future atrocities in their roles as military leaders. West Point's CHGS has no equivalent. It operates as an inter-academy center, serving not just West Point, but the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and Coast Guard. The Center also works with the Reserve Officer Training Corps, the Command General Staff College, the US Army War College, the National Defense University, the Marine Corps University, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. This reach, this ability to forge connections and make systemic change is unparalleled.

OVERVIEW

The Fall 2015 semester was marked by a number of firsts and the continuation and expansion of existing Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies programs. The CHGS and its representatives facilitated or participated in multiple workshops and symposia. The Center hosted its first presidential address to the entire Corps of Cadets. Finally, the Center will, within a few days, commence a search for the first CHGS Post-doctoral Fellow. These are all significant milestones in the continued evolution and growth of the Center. The Center's most significant workshops and symposia, guest lectures, film screenings, publications, and upcoming events are described below.

Center Direct David Frey had a particularly busy semester. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum selected him to be a member of the USHMM Education Committee. He consulted on several international studies on Holocaust education, had input into a national study on the implementation of Presidential Study Directive-10 on atrocity prevention, and participated in an American Academy of Arts and Sciences conference on "Technology, War, and Ethics" which had a heavy emphasis on protection of civilians and responsibility to protect. Dr. Frey also met with the Deputy Commander of SOUTHCOM to discuss human rights and atrocity training and education concepts for use throughout South and Central America.

WORKSHOPS & SYMPOSIA



*Participants in the 2015 Mass Atrocity Education Workshop
(Photo credit: Mariam Lomaskin, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)*

West Point's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (CHGS), in partnership with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), conducted the fifth iteration of an innovative "Mass Atrocity Education Workshop: Teaching about the Holocaust and Genocide", from 10-13 September 2015 in Washington, DC. The workshop brought together scholars in order to produce greater understanding of ways atrocity detection and prevention can be integrated into service academy teaching and research. The co-organizers, CHGS Director Dr. David Frey and Ms. Jennifer Ciardelli of the USHMM, gathered West Point, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard faculty from multiple departments. Through a series of talks, panels, and planning sessions, service academy faculty met with renowned Holocaust and genocide scholars; staff and experts from the USHMM, including representatives of the Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide; individuals engaged in atrocity prevention and response work in USAID, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and at Amnesty International; and survivors of the Rwandan Genocide and the Holocaust. The three-day program focused on the evolution of the United States government's capacity to prevent, mitigate, and respond to genocide and mass atrocities today. Through examination of the Holocaust as foundational event and contemporary regions at risk of genocide such as Burma, participants examined early warning mechanisms to prevent atrocity; curricular projects designed for military audiences, and the interagency potentials for prevention and response.



USMA cadets (including several foreign cadets) tour the Coast Guard Academy with their "Coastie" peers during the American Service Academy Program Holocaust Ethics Symposium on 21 November 2015.

On 20-22 November 2015, MAJ Stephen Barker, representing the Department of History and the Center of Holocaust and Genocide Studies brought nine USMA cadets (including two German and one Austrian exchange cadets) to 2015 U.S. Coast Guard Academy's American Service Academy Program Holocaust Ethics Symposium. The American Service Academy Program is an inter-academy summer program which takes place in Washington D.C., New York City, and Poland. This symposium allowed cadets from all service academies, including USMA's Cadet Andrea Steinke, to present their experiences and conduct small group discussions analyzing the most significant lessons from the Holocaust. The symposium expanded cadets' knowledge about the Holocaust and promoted awareness about genocide and the ethical dilemmas armed forces officers face during commissioned service.

GUEST LECTURES



President Bill Clinton Addresses the Corps of Cadets in Eisenhower Hall at the United States Military Academy, 14 October 2015

On 14 October 2015, the Academy hosted President William J. Clinton, the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies' first presidential address. Invited by CHGS Director Dr. David Frey to speak about his experiences with mass atrocity as while in office, President Clinton addressed the entire Corps of Cadets and a select group of faculty and invited guests. In his speech, the former President also discussed West Point history and the need for leaders to understand the complexity of the world. After his speech, President Clinton took questions from cadets via First Captain E. J. Coleman (pictured below). Cadets queried President Clinton about a variety of issues, ranging from atrocities in Somalia, Rwanda, and Bosnia to intervention in Kosovo to the continued importance of NATO and finally to the type of characteristics President Clinton most valued in the Army officers who worked for him. President

Clinton posted the above and below pictures on his Twitter feed with the word “Tonight at West Point. An honor!”



President Bill Clinton takes questions from the Corps of Cadets and First Captain EJ Coleman, 14 October 2015

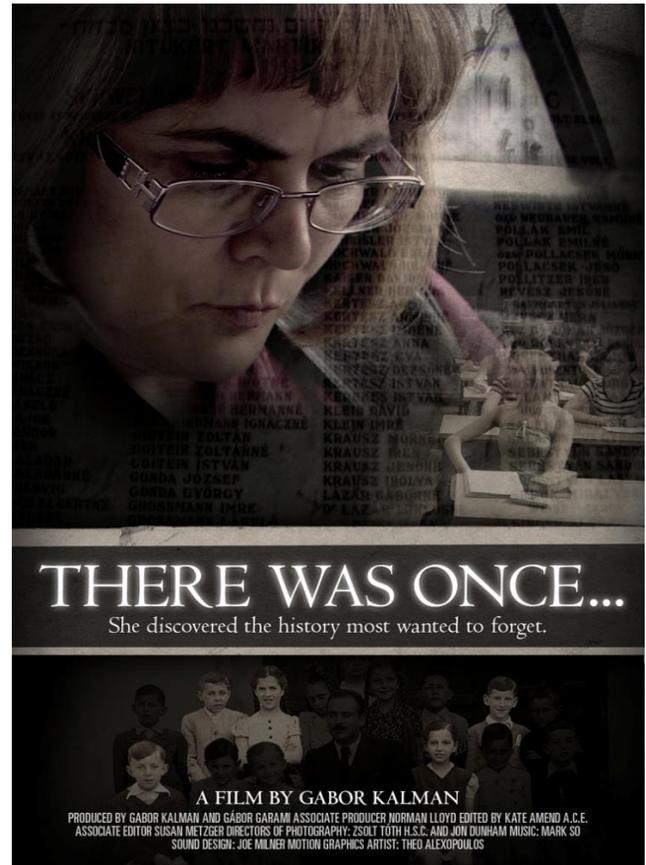
On 27-28 October, the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies hosted Dr. Julian Kulski. During his two day visit, Dr. Kulski, a veteran of the Polish Home Army who fought in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, spoke to cadets and faculty from multiple history and language classes. Dr. David Frey interviewed Dr. Kulski for the Center for Oral History. In both his talk and his interview, Kulski spoke of growing up in pre-WWII Poland, becoming a Boy Scout, and joining the Polish Underground at age 12. From ages 12 to 15, he was a fighter, hunting Germans and gathering arms, some of which he smuggled into the Warsaw Jewish ghetto prior to the 1943 Ghetto Uprising. After fighting in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, he became a prisoner-of-war, saved by two Polish-American POWs he befriended in the camp. After finishing his high school education in Northern Ireland, Dr. Kulski immigrated to the United States where he became an extremely successful architect. Part one of Dr. Kulski’s interview can be viewed on the Center for Oral History website (<http://www.westpointcoh.org/interviews/the-battle-was-lost-not-the-war-fighting-nazis-with-the-polish-underground>).



Dr. Julian Kulski speaks to cadets and faculty from six different departments about his experiences fighting as a pre-teen and teen in the Polish Underground during the Second World War, 27 October 2015.

FILM SCREENINGS

On 10 November 2015, the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies brought the filmmaker Gábor Kálmán to West Point to screen his award-winning documentary about a Hungarian teacher leading her students to rediscover the lost Jewish past and the Holocaust history of the city of Kalocsa, Hungary. The CHGS collaborated with the USMA Library, the Cadet Film Forum, the West Point Hillel, and the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center in White Plains, New York, to present the film. After the screening, the director and producer, Kálmán discussed the making of the film and its significance to Holocaust studies and Hungarian history. The event was open to the



PUBLICATIONS

W. Beorn, J. Prescott, D. Frey, *et. al.*, "Ordinary Soldiers: A Study in Ethics, Law and Leadership", first published in hardcopy in September 2014 is now available in Kindle, Ebook, and pdf forms. (Available for free download at <http://www.usmmm.org/professionals-and-student-leaders/military-professionals> and soon to be available at www.usma.edu/chgs).

DS Frey, "A Smashing Success? The Paradox of Hungarian Cultural Imperialism in Nazi New Order Europe, 1939-1942," *Journal of Contemporary History*, forthcoming, 2016. DOI: 10.1177/0022009415622804

David S. Frey & Bonnie Kovatch, "After Genocide: Rwanda and the African Future." Eds. Hugh Liebert, Thom Sherlock, and John Morrow. *What is the Worst that Can Happen? The Politics and Policy of Crisis Management*. New York: Sloan Publishers, 2016.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Post-doctoral Fellow Search

In January and February, 2016, the Department of History and CHGS will invite applicants to apply to be the first Post-doctoral Fellowship in History and Genocide/Mass Atrocity Studies. The search will be conducted nation-wide. The appointment, which will begin on or about 1 July 2016, is for thirteen months and may be renewable for an additional year. The fellowship is open to junior scholars who received their doctorates no earlier than 2012 committed to college-level research and teaching. Expertise in Genocide/Atrocity Studies *and* either African, East Asian, Latin American, Middle Eastern, South Asian, or Russian/Central Asian History is required. The fellow will teach a regional history survey course and possibly an advanced undergraduate seminar in the candidate's area(s) of specialty pertaining to Holocaust/Genocide/Mass Atrocity studies. The fellow is also expected to produce original research prior to the conclusion of the fellowship. She/he will assist the Director in administration of West Point's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies on projects and activities. The fellow may have the opportunity to work with the Department of Defense on atrocity prevention activities and research. The job opening will be announced on USA Jobs, on H-Net and in other venues during the third week of January.

JANUARY

Lorraine Beitler Annual Holocaust Memorial Museum Visit (29-30 January 2016)

Approximately 80 "plebes" will take part in our annual Beitler/History Department program, a one-day specially tailored visit to the USHMM and meetings with survivors. This will be the 22nd annual visit, meaning that well over 1000 cadets have benefited from this program, endowed by Lorraine and Martin Beitler and the Beitler Family Foundation. The visit will occur on 29-30 January.

FEBRUARY

Law, the Legal Profession, and the Holocaust. USHMM visit (16-17 February 2016)

On 16-17 February, approximately 35-40 upperclassmen will participate in a two day collaboration between the Law Department and the CHGS focusing on law and the Holocaust. Select History Department cadets and cadets from "The Law of War" (LW 474) will tour multiple exhibits, conduct discussions with a Holocaust survivor, and hear lectures from Holocaust Museum senior scholars about Nazi use of law, the legal profession under the Nazis, war crimes, and questions of legal complicity. They will also hear from experts from Georgetown and the Simon-Skjodt Center about the future of the principle of the Responsibility to Protect, the legal responsibilities of officers, and current global regions experiencing war crimes or crimes against humanity.

MARCH

History Department Staff Ride to Bosnia and Croatia (11-19 March 2016)

Over spring break, the History Department, with support from the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, will take eight cadets and three faculty to study Yugoslavia, its predecessors and its successors, in the 20th century. The focus of the visit will be on the history, memory, and atrocities in the region, specifically in Bosnia and Croatia. The trip will take cadets to memorials, museums, camps, and historical locations in Sarajevo, Srebrenica, Mostar, and Dubrovnik. The trip will be conducted with US

Army attachés in Sarajevo, and will be preceded by a panel at West Point. The West Point panel, organized by the CHGS, the Department of Law and the Department of Strategic Studies, will convene an NYU scholar of Southeastern Europe, a Special Advisor to and former Judge on the War Crimes Chamber at the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a West Point Colonel who captured war criminals in Bosnia, and a Bosnia survivor. The panel will be open to the public and will occur in early March.

APRIL

Day of Remembrance (20-21 April 2016)

For two days in April, Father Patrick Desbois will give a set of speeches tied to West Point's Day of Remembrance Commemoration. Father Desbois' foundation, Yahad-in Unam, and his work on the Holocaust in Ukraine have produced groundbreaking advances. Father Desbois will meet with faculty, will have a separate gathering with West Point's chaplains, and will have the opportunity to speak to nearly 400 cadets, faculty, Academy leaders, and invited guests about his most recent work in Syria and Northern Iraq. Dr. Frey and representatives of Yahad are in discussions about bringing Father Desbois' exhibit on genocide through intimate killing to West Point in future years.

Joint Service Academies Mass Atrocity Prevention Symposium (22-23 April 2016)

The CHGS is proud to launch a new initiative, the Joint Service Academies Mass Atrocity Prevention Symposium. This event will be convened in partnership with the US Naval Academy's Never Again Initiative [created with the assistance of the CHGS] and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. The purpose of this student-led and student-organized symposium, which will take place between 22 and 23 April 2016, in Washington, DC, is threefold. First, the symposium will enable military service academy cadets and midshipmen to have advanced discussions about the causes, contexts, and consequences of atrocity with experts in the field. Second, it will allow cadets and midshipmen an opportunity to present research they have done on the history and study of the Holocaust and other genocides. Third, it will encourage the students, who will be among the first tasked with responding to future atrocities as military officers, to draw lessons from the past, in order to discover creative means of prevention. Overall, the intent is to produce a greater understanding of atrocity detection and prevention and to encourage discussions about the consequences of atrocities while instilling in our country's future leadership a deep sense of history, ethics, and responsibility.

The two-day program will gather cadets and midshipmen from the four main service academies: West Point, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. Student participants will be selected by a joint-service academy committee of cadets and midshipmen. Selection will be based on interest and scholarship, and those chosen will have the opportunity to showcase research they have done. Through examination of the foundational event of the Holocaust and contemporary genocides, participants will present their own studies on these subjects and closely examine questions of early warning mechanisms to prevent atrocity; the actions of perpetrators, witnesses, rescuers, enablers, victims and others; and multiple other lessons that can be learned from mass atrocities.

The faculty co-organizers, will gather renowned Holocaust and genocide scholars from the USHMM and the Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide, as well as any individuals engaged in atrocity

prevention and response work at USAID, the State Department, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Between student presentations, these experts will present cutting edge research and lead discussions. Due to its location at the USHMM, the symposium will be able to take advantage of the unparalleled resources, artifacts, archives, and exhibits at the Museum.

SUMMER (Cadet Travel & Research)

- ***American Service Academies Program (29 May – 13 June 2016)*** – cadet foreign study in New York, Washington DC and Poland, run by one of the Center’s outstanding partners, the Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation, which is part of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, a Living Memorial to the Holocaust.
- ***Just War, Occupation, and Assassination. Reinhard Heydrich, Lidice, and Concepts of Justice. (29 May-6 June 2016)*** – cadet foreign study in the Czech Republic, partially funded and assisted by the CHGS. Run by the Department of English and Philosophy at West Point.
- ***Munich Under the Swastika (12-19 June 2016)*** – cadet foreign study in Germany hosted by the *Bundeswehr University*.
- ***US Army War College Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute Internships (dates TBD)*** – cadet internships to study mass atrocity in Africa.

FUTURE INITIATIVES

- Ms. Elsie Shemin-Roth will come to speak at West Point about the posthumous awarding of the Medal of Honor to her father, US Army Sergeant William Shemin, in 2015. She will speak of the antisemitism and racism which prevented the awarding of the medal to her father and to PVT Henry Johnson, who also received a posthumous Medal of Honor in 2015.
- The XH courses are back! Recent donations have allowed the Academy to teach XH 405 “The Holocaust and Its Legacy” and XH 415 “Genocide” annually for at least the next three years. For the 2016-17 year classes are already oversubscribed! Look for cooperative programming with Dartmouth College and the United States Air Force Academy, progress on the Mass Atrocity Risk Assessment App, as well as stories of multiple guest speakers, in future newsletters.
- “A Historiography of Early Warning” written by Dr. Frey and a group of his former cadets will be published in 2016.
- Dr. Frey’s monograph, *Jews, Nazis, and the Cinema of Hungary* (IB Tauris) is scheduled for release in the late summer of 2016.

SUPPORTING THE CHGS

We continue to make progress toward our goal of insuring that the next generations of West Point cadets and other military leaders understand the phenomena of genocide and mass atrocity and have the opportunity to think deeply about prevention. If you are interested in helping West Point to continue offering broad programming, such as that described above, please contact Troy Schnack at troy.schnack@wpaog.org 845.446.1558 (office).