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World History B- WWII Unit

Our textbooks have very little information on the Holocaust. Students are familiar with the impacts of the Holocaust in Germany and Poland but they know very little about Eastern European countries. Many Jewish people were saved and taking the time to learn about the Gentiles allows our students to see how different people around the world helped.

Jewish People and Gentiles

Matilda Kalef-Three Promises- Video features the story of a family and how the Holocaust impacted a Serbian Jewish Family.

- Mother was Catholic, Father was Jewish
- Wheelchair bound father was murdered in a gas van not in a camp
- Catholic priests hid the two Kalef sisters (they are still alive today)

Compare and Contrast: Compare and contrast Anne Frank's Story (students are very familiar with this story) and the Kalef Family Story. Students know more about Jewish people from Germany and Poland. They rarely learn about Jewish families in Eastern European countries.

Debrief- Identify the similarities and differences between the story of Anne Frank and the Kalef Sisters

Story	Anne Frank	Kalef Sisters
Similarities	Young girl, hid in an attic. Anne Frank died in Bergen- Belsen.	Young girls, hid in a Catholic Church. Both sisters lived to talk about their experiences.
Differences	Father survives to share the story. Anne Frank was born in Germany and hid in Amsterdam.	Father was one of the first to die in a gas van. Kalef sisters were born in Belgrade and hid in a church in Belgrade.

Additional Activity: Go to google maps to pull up the locations of the Kalef family's homes, business and the church where they were hiding. These locations were not destroyed during the war.

Righteous Gentile

[Righteous Among the Nations](#), an honorific bestowed by the State of Israel to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews from the Nazis

The Kalef sisters petitioned for Father Andrej Tumpej to be recognized as a Righteous Gentile (2001)

Go to <<https://www.yadvashem.org/righteous.html>>

Go to **Name of Righteous by Country** <<https://www.yadvashem.org/righteous/statistics.html>>
Show the students the numbers of people from around the world that saved people.

Debrief

1. **Who are the Gentiles?**
2. **Analyze where a majority of the Gentiles are from.**

3. **Can it be explained by geography?** (France will naturally have more Gentiles than Peru)
4. **Can one person make a difference?**

Example: Japan 1= Sempo Sugihara (1900-1986) (Honored in 1984) Japanese diplomat posted in Lithuanian issued 2,140 visas to help Jewish people escape. (There are gingko trees in Lithuania to honor Sugihara)

Further Research Ideas:

Select countries and individual Gentiles to research. Students present their findings in a gallery walk.