



CALL FOR PAPER
Bystanders, Rescuers or Perpetrators?
The Neutrals and the Shoah - Facts, Myths and Countermyths

Centro Sefarad Israel – Madrid; Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies – University of Minnesota; Mémorial de la Shoah – Paris; History Unit of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland – Berne; Topography of Terror Foundation – Berlin; Living History Forum – Stockholm; Memoshoá/Association for the Education and Remembrance of the Holocaust – Lisbon and Tarih Vakfı/History Foundation – Istanbul are calling for scholarly papers on the **policies of the neutral countries during the Holocaust and the public debate on them in these countries.**

More than a decade ago, two American reports comparing the attitude of neutral countries during and after the Holocaust gained broad public attention. The Eizenstat reports of 1997 and 1998 focused on economic and financial questions such as German Holocaust assets in neutral countries. However, questions about policies regarding Jewish refugees, rescuers and rescue myths developed in the postwar period are also central in the study of the roles of the neutral countries and the Shoah.

Several new academic studies on the stances of the neutral countries, published in recent years, question the long-standing myth cultivated by these countries' governments and public opinion, which according to them, had gone to great lengths to rescue persecuted Jews. This research documents that in reality, no active assistance had been offered. Without any real comparative research done, some authors even went so far as to claim that "their" country had offered less help than others – a kind of "negative myth." One of the reasons for this is that there is still a lack of comparative studies. One of the aims of the proposed colloquium is to provide a foundation for future transnational study on these issues.

The conference will thus aim at addressing the following issues:

- The neutral countries' reactions to Nazi anti-Jewish policies and their own policies on Jewish refugees;
- Their response to the German ultimatum of 1943 to either repatriate Jews with citizenship from their respective countries who lived in Nazi-occupied Europe or to allow their deportation;
- The genesis and long-lasting effects of "rescue myths", the current state of the discussion regarding the neutral countries' positions during the Holocaust;
- The dealing with the history of the Jewish persecution in state fact-finding commissions and committees of historians;
- Approaches to Holocaust education in neutral countries.
- Holocaust public memory (ceremonies, memorials, museums) and memory politics in neutral countries.

The primary aim of this conference is to foster a productive exchange between scholars, educators and multipliers, particularly from the former neutral countries, and establish a basis for the development of transnational or bilateral research and/or Holocaust remembrance and education projects.

Working languages of the colloquium will be English and Spanish. Transportation and accommodation of participants from outside Madrid will be covered if institutions they belong to cannot ensure coverage.

Please send your proposals (up to 350 words) and brief CVs **no later than May 25, 2014** to: conference2014@sefarad-israel.es

This conference is supported by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and will take place at Centro Sefarad-Israel in Madrid, November 24 – 26, 2014.