Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Global Studies II:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Selections of Personal Testimonies of Active Resistance**

**Read the following selection and annotate the passage.**

* **Underline key ideas from each paragraph**
* **In the space provided to the right**
  + **summarize the key information from each paragraph**
  + **make connections to prior knowledge**
  + **create questions**
* **Circle or box new vocabulary**
* **Answer the questions at the end of the reading.**

*Armed resistance during the Holocaust was acts of opposition, defiance, or the sabotage of Nazi plans using weapons or including typical battles, attacks, or guerrilla strikes. Examples of armed resistance are the bombing of a bunker, camp, office, or train or an uprising or revolt using weapons and arms.*

*In approximately one hundred ghettos, in Poland, Lithuania, Belorussia, and Ukraine, underground organizations were formed. The purpose of such organizations was to wage armed struggle, that is, to stage an uprising in the ghetto or to break out of the closed ghetto by the use of force in order to engage in partisan operations on the outside. Active resistance occurred in many forms, from armed struggle through hiding and escape. It is important to note that many Jews resisted the Nazis but it was very difficult to conduct active resistance.*

**From the founding meeting of the Jewish Fighting Organization (Z.O.B.)**

On July 28, 1942, a meeting of ‘Hehalutz’ was held. It was decided that a Jewish Fighting Organization would be established […] however, the sum total of the ghetto’s weapons at the time was only one pistol!”

**From the words of Marek Edelman, a Warsaw ghetto fighter**

Then we collected weapons.

We smuggled it from the Aryan side (we took money by force from all kinds of institutions and private people)…

How much would you pay for a pistol?

From three thousand to fifteen thousand.

The closer to April, the more expensive: the demand in the market increased.

And how much did it cost to get a Jew to the Aryan side?

Two thousand, five thousand. All kinds of prices. It depended on whether the person looked like a Jew, if he spoke with an accent, and if it was a man or a woman.

That means that for one pistol, it would have been possible to hide one, two or even three people for a month.

If you had been offered the choice at that time: one pistol or the life of one person for a month…

Such a choice was not offered. Perhaps it was even better that it was not offered.

**A letter smuggled from the fighting ghetto to the underground courier Antek Zuckerman. The Last Letter from Mordechai Anielewicz, Warsaw Ghetto Commander.**

It is impossible to put into words what we have been through…I feel that great things are happening and what we dared do is of great, enormous importance…It is impossible to describe the conditions under which the Jews of the ghetto are now living. Only a few will be able to hold out. The remainder will die sooner or later. Their fate is decided. In almost all the hiding places in which thousands are concealing themselves it is not possible to light a candle for lack of air. With the aid of our transmitter we heard the marvelous report on our fighting by the *Shavit* radio station. The fact that we are remembered beyond the ghetto walls encourages us in our struggle. Peace go with you, my friend! Perhaps we may still meet again! The dream of my life has risen to become fact. Self-defense in the ghetto will have been reality. Jewish armed resistance and revenge are facts. I have been a witness to the magnificent, heroic fighting of Jewish men in battle.

Mordechai Anielewicz, April 23, 1943

**From the words of Zalman Gradowski, one of the fighters in the Auschwitz-Birkenau revolt**

Dear Finder, search every part of the ground. Buried in it are dozens of documents of others, and mine, which shed light on everything that happened here…As for us, we have already lost all hope…

…The future will judge us on the basis of this evidence. May the world understand some small part of the tragic world in which we lived.

Zalman Gradowski, September 6, 1944

*Note: The revolt in Auschwitz-Birkenau attempted to put an end to the murder by disrupting the operation of the crematoria, and also to create a memory and a testimony to the tragedy of the lives and deaths*

*of the hundreds of thousands of people who were killed in front of their eyes. After writing down and documenting the events, they buried them near the crematoria. This document was written by one of the organizers of the uprising.*

**“Never Say” song written by Hirsch Glick, a young partisan (member of underground resistance movements in the country sides of German occupied territories)**

Never say the final journey is at hand

Never say we will not meet the Promised Land,

The longed-for hour shall come, oh never fear!

Our tread drums forth the tidings—we are here!

From land of palm-tree to the far-off land of snow,

We shall be coming with our torment and our woe.

And everywhere our blood had sunk into the earth,

Shall our bravery, our vigor blossom forth!

We’ll have the morning sun to set our day aglow,

And all our yesterdays shall vanish with the foe,

And if the time is long before the sun appears,

Then let this song go like a signal through the years.

This song was written with our blood and not with lead;

It’s not a song that birds sing overhead,

It was a people, among toppling barricades,

That sang this song of ours with pistols and grenades.

So never say that there is only death for you.

Leaden skies may be concealing days of blue-

Because the hour we have hungered for is near;

Beneath our tread the earth shall tremble: We are here!

*“Never Say” became the unofficial song of Jewish partisans across occupied Europe. It was written in Yiddish by a young partisan, Hirsch Glick (1922-1944). Glick was a member of a group of young poets who were active partisans in Lithuania. He was caught by the Germans and imprisoned in a camp in Estonia. In 1944, Glick and eight other men managed to escape from the camp, but they were all caught and shot by the Germans.*

Answer the following questions in complete sentences using details and evidence from the source.

1. What motivated Jews to fight the Nazis?

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1. How did Jews obtain weapons during the Holocaust? What difficulties did they face in obtaining the weapons?

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1. A. What expressions does Mordechai Anielwicz use to describe the revolt?

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B. To whom is his message addressed?

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1. Why was it so important to Mordechai Anielwicz that news of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising be broadcast over the underground radio?

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1. What descriptive word or term describes the Auschwitz-Birkeneau revolt?

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1. Why was it important for Zalman Gradowski to leave written testimonies behind?

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1. In the song “Never Say,” what are the fighters fighting against?

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