

Conclusion of the film "Schindler's List"

There's the businessman Oskar Schindler. At the beginning he's anything else than an opponent of the Nazis but in the course of time he changes his mind and turned on the side of the Jews. By allowing them to work in his factory, Schindler saved over thousand Jews from death.

At the end of the Second World War Schindler spends all his money for to redeem the people. The Allied Forces marched into Germany and the "poker-game" was won. Over thousand people who stood on Schindler's List survived the war and the Holocaust.

The girl with the red coat- a symbolic figure

Symbol for:

1. Change of Schindler's character:

-first appearance: purely profit-oriented, cold-blooded businessman becomes a human who is on his way to do the right thing. Thoughts of protecting his employees from persecution and death

-second appearance: Schindler has become a selfless "angel" (no interest in profit, but wish for saving his workers' lives)

2. Development of the Holocaust and the suffering of the Jews

-first candle (which burns down): beginning of the Shoah

-the little girl's red coat (who is hiding during the liquidation of the ghetto of Krakow): climax of the outrages (red is hiding colour for blood)

-candles (which are kindled at the end of the film): liberation from the German annihilation and new hope (that something like that won't happen anymore)

Use of the black-white material:

-visuality

-authenticity

-documentary character

-acceptation of the shown things as true

Roma Ligocka: The girl with the red coat

Spielberg's disposal of true personalities, but matched layout

In truth: survival of the little girl -> book: memorandum of the experiences during the war and attempt of dealing with it in her later life

Oskar Schindler

Childhood and youth

- born 1908 in Zwittau (today a part of Czech Republic)
- visiting elementary school and secondary school
- religious (catholic) education
- first contacts with Jewish neighbours as child
- at the age of 20, marriage with Emilie Pelzl
- later military service

Career

- 1935: job as an agent, however camouflaged to be the boss of an electronic firm
- 1939: spying leaks out -> conviction by reason of treason isn't arranged by means of Hitler's aggression; Schindler lives out
- take-over of an enamel firm, which Schindler bought from a Jew
- on grounds of illicit work, Schindler gets rich

Rescue of Jewish workers

- 1942: among his 800 workers Schindler already has 370 Jews
- in contrast to other rich men, Schindler abdicates money and attempts to rescue as many Jews as possible
- despite several suspicions owing to his helping the Jewish workers to escape, Schindler doesn't stop and he
 - puts his life in the line
- in the end Oskar Schindler saves the lives of about 1200 Jewish workers, who were employed in his factory,
 - so that they weren't killed in extermination camps

His life in the postwar period

- 1945-1950: building of a stock-farm in Argentina
- after closing his farm, he goes back to Germany
- 1961: failure of his cement factory, which should have made him rich again
- invitation to Jerusalem by surviving Schindler Jews, who has found out about his permanent money troubles
- from that time on Schindler lives a "parted" life: the one half of the year he lived in Frankfurt, the other half
 - year he spends with the rescued Jews in Jerusalem
- Oskar Schindler dies 1974 in Hildesheim, Germany

Contemporary witness

Amon Göth (December 11th, 1908, Vienna – September 13th, 1946, Krakow, Poland)

-attended elementary school, afterwards secondary modern school

-worked as an author for a short time

-was divorced, had two children

-**1932**: enters the NSDAP

-**February 1940**: dislocation to Krakow -> appointment as commandant in Krakow-Plaszow

-**November 1941**: appointment as SS-Untersturmführer

-**August 1942**: appointment as "SS and Police Leader"

-**March 13th and 14th, 1942**: helps with the brutal liquidation of the ghetto of Krakow

Amon Göth was known for his beastliness and his unscrupulous behavior. "When you saw Göth, you saw death", said Poldek Pfefferberg, one of the Schindlerjuden. One of his leisure activities was the randomly shooting of prisoners from the balcony of his mansion, being located above the concentration camp. Among others this inconsiderateness brought him the fame of "number-one-officer of the SS". The Jewish survivor Anna Duklauer Perl said: "One day he hanged a friend of mine just because he had once been rich. He was the devil."

-**1944**: detention because of defalcation of valuables

-**after the war was finished**: extradition to Poland

-**September 13th, 1946**: after conviction to death because of mass murder, Amon Göth was hanged

Emilie Schindler (October 22nd, 1907, Mähren – October 5th, 2001, near Berlin)

-attended several schools

-**March of 1928**: marriage to Oskar Schindler at the age of 21

-**1941**: moving to Krakow -> supporting her husband in the factory

Emilie Schindler was a caring woman. According to her, it was she who cared for the wounded in a military hospital, constructed by her in the factory building.

-**March of 1945**: after the capitulation Oskar and Emilie Schindler escaped to Regensburg

-**1949**: the couple emigrated to Argentina where they estranged more and more from each other

-**1957**: Oskar Schindler came back to Germany, Emilie lags behind in Argentina and

impoverishes

-**1993**: a long time after Oskar's death, Emilie came back to publicity to visit the premiere of the film "Schindler's List"

-**October 5th, 2001**: Emilie Schindler dies after an apoplexy in a hospital in Strausberg near Berlin

According to her there was just trouble with her husband. It was her who had to panhandle corn and semolina from the mill owners. She called her husband as a liar, a fool and a womanizer: "Curse him!"

Mietek Pemper (born on March 24th, 1920 in Krakow)

-former prisoner of the concentration camp Krakow-Plaszow, personal assistant of the commandant Amon Göth

-**1941**: Mietek Pemper and his family got blocked up in the ghetto of Krakow

-**1942**: relocation to the concentration camp Krakow-Plaszow with a two-year stay

-thanks to his German knowledge he became the personal assistant of Amon Göth

-he used this status to remit important information to Oskar Schindler

-**1944**: after Göth's detention, Schindler accommodated Pemper in his factory

-**after 1945**: academic studies, interpreter at the war-felons law suits, main attestor in the law suit against Göth

-**1958**: emigration to southern Germany → today he lives in Augsburg and works as a management consultant

The activities of Pemper and Stern were combined in the Person Itzhak Stern which causes that Mietek Pemper isn't that famous today. But him being one of the those, who had such a close contact to the Nazi regime while being of Jewish ancestry makes him a very important contemporary witness.