



CHOICE AND SURVIVAL IN *TWO ROSES*:
WOMEN IN NAZI-OCCUPIED POLAND

NAZI-OCCUPIED POLAND (1939 ONWARD)

Germany
invaded
Poland in
1939

Jewish
people were
forced into
ghettos

Rights were
removed and
movement
was restricted

Overcrowding,
starvation, and
disease were
common

LABOUR RECRUITMENT DURING THE WAR

- Germany needed workers for farms and factories
- Polish civilians were deported for forced labour
- Young, able-bodied women were often selected
- Labour sometimes meant food rations and temporary safety



PASSING AS POLISH – CONCEALING IDENTITY

- Some Jewish women hid their identities
- Passing required forged papers and language fluency
- Knowledge of Catholic customs was necessary
- Discovery could mean immediate death





RETHINKING “CHOICE”

Volunteering did not mean safety



Passing required constant performance



Every option carried danger



Survival often meant choosing the least dangerous path