

What is the importance of resistance?

Acts of resistance throughout the Holocaust were important, as it gave hope to those suffering, and showed one didn't need to be Jewish to help: similarly today, resistance is also significant, as when people stand up for what they believe is right, it positively impacts societal issues.

First, in the book, *The Boy on the Wooden Box*, Leon Leyson describes how, "All of us, and over a thousand others, owed our lives to him. We survived the Holocaust because of the enormous risks Schindler took..." (Leyson 2). This demonstrates how resistance gave hope to all suffering during the Holocaust, regardless of being Jewish or not. Oskar Schindler didn't have to help Leon Leyson and over a thousand other Jews. He did it because he knew what was happening to the Jews was wrong, and he knew that he needed to do something about it. Without Oskar Schindler, over 1,000 Jews would have perished, which would have been awful. Oskar's selfless sacrifice wasn't recognized until many years after the war, but people like Leon Leyson knew what kinds of risks he undertook to save so many lives.

At the same time, Oskar Schindler wasn't the only one resisting Nazi persecution of the Jewish people. During the Holocaust, millions of Jewish people were being oppressed. People needed help escaping the Nazis. The *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum* describes how Chiune Sugihara "...exchanged information with members of the Polish underground in Lithuania and issued them visas for transit through Japan in 1940, (*Chiune (Sempo) Sugihara*). This also proved how resistance is essential. Imagine a Jewish person with the Polish resistance trying to get their visa papers. They know that there isn't a high chance of escaping, but they go to apply for a visa anyway. When they finally get a response back about their visa, they discover that it was approved. Chiune Sugihara didn't have to help all those people during the Holocaust. He helped because he felt an urge to help people who were suffering. Chiune felt an urge to resist the Nazis. Those visa's he handed out to people saved tons of lives, and gave hope to all those that received one.

As crucial as resistance was during the Holocaust, it's still very significant today. On October seventh, Hamas committed a treacherous attack on Israel. According to *March for Israel*, "Over 290,000 people marched peacefully and empathically in-person for Israel and over 250,000 tuned in online"). This demonstrates how resistance positively impacts society. Many people in Israel were mourning their losses, and people came together to make a positive impact on the world. The people at the protest came together to not only stand up against Hamas, but also to give love and support to those mourning. Very rarely does that many people come together, let alone Jewish people. Only 2.4% of America is Jewish, and to see over 290,000 Jewish people marching together shows immense resistance and bravery to hate.

Acts of resistance throughout all periods of time are important. No matter what side of a conflict people are on, resistance gives hope to those people affected. Most people don't think that a conflict such as the one in Israel would affect them individually. They just think that because the Middle-East is very far away, they wouldn't be affected by it. In reality, this is not the truth. Just because you aren't directly affected by a situation doesn't mean you can't help. On October 7th, tons of people lost their friends, family, and home. By showing resistance, you are not just saying you stand with Israel. You are giving those people hope. Knowing that other people support you is crucial in times of struggle.