

The accomplishment of the project aiming at analyse the phenomenon of informing¹ on one another in the context of Polish-Jewish and Jewish-Jewish relations in Krakow District during the II WW. I am particularly interested in its impact on the everyday life of the Poles and Jews living there. With an eye to explicating the social and historical facets of this problem, I will try to make a reference to the influence that informing exerted on the inhabitants of the General Government, turning to such aspects as the dynamics of the Holocaust, gender studies and the prevailing notional clichés: Jewish communism and Bolshevism. I will also attempt to highlight the differences between the attitudes projected by the people from the occupied territories, including passiveness, submissiveness, heroism, betrayal and collaboration, and, more importantly, an evaluation of more serious misdemeanours, verging on high treason. It is of cardinal importance that the aforesaid problems be analysed taking into account fates of the individual persons. For this to be feasible, one needs to consider such factors as: social bonding, anomy, disintegration and social dehumanisation at a specific time in the past – indeed, they all will help to shed light on the role of the dehumanisation of the individual against eachother.

To get a more accurate picture of the issues discussed above, especially the differences between informing and collaboration, one may want to answer some further questions that crop up. Who exactly were the denouncers? What was their origin? What was their creed? Did those factors underlie their attitudes and undertakings? What was the role of the culprit's gender? Did women inform on others more frequently or was it utterly otherwise? What was the frequency of the very phenomenon? Was informing a matter of a single incident at the basis of which lay a desire for revenge, greed or perhaps a fear of repressions on the part of the German authorities? Indeed, some stooped to informing to settle old scores with the neighbours; to others, informing was an avenue for growing rich. Both rural and urban residents were the victims of the latter, who targeted especially the ghetto refugees or the Jews living on the Aryan side. The Poles would not fall victim to their actions that often; however, they could be at risk of being informed on if they provided the Jews with a shelter or lent them a helping hand on a single occasion. At this point, it is worth mentioning that the anti-Semitic feelings were not in the least few and far between in Krakow. The members of the underground movements and the individuals in illegal trade were yet another group of those at risk. That being the case, I am going to capture the differences between various categories or groups of the prospective victims of informing. Hence, not only a critical analysis of the source texts but also an examination of the language used therein will help to address the questions posed above.

The literature treats of the inhabitants of the occupied Krakow coming from the three territorial units: the ghetto, the Plaszow camp and the Aryan side, inhabited mainly by the Polish and German population. With a few exceptions, the literature employs a historical narration based on personal documents such as: memories, personal accounts, and testimonies of the witnesses. The way of describing the events is quite distinctive: the researchers present the occupation reality chiefly from the perspective of victims and perpetrators, often excluding the eyewitnesses and those involved in the crimes committed on the Jews. To the researchers, a point of reference are the events which directly impacted the lives of the Cracovians: for example, the German law, the German policy (i.e. anti-polish and anti-Semitic movements) and the direct and indirect extermination of the Jews. Not many, however, dwell on one blemish on the landscape of living in the General Government – to wit, the collaboration with the occupier.

Informing was a key element in holding power and the phenomenon was thick on the ground in the countries under the German occupation. It was essentially aimed at controlling the society. Nonetheless, the issue is not readily addressed in the literature on Krakow District and is rather taken for granted. Krakow itself was the capital of General Government between 1939-1945 and thus was the locus of power over the Krakow district, which harboured all the major civil and political institutions: the governors of the GG, the administrative offices of public, municipal and local security as well as numerous German police stations, including Gestapo, Sipo, Kripo, Orpo, and Schupo.

The project will be anchored in the interdisciplinary combination of two human studies: history and sociology – the use of the two branches of science will also necessitate referring to some auxiliary elements of other branches too, for instance psychology.

¹ Alternatively referred to as *denouncing* in this work.