

**Chronicles of the  
Past:  
Short Stories from  
Global History**



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# I. White Rose

Such a fine, sunny day, and I have to go. But what does my death matter, if through us thousands of people are awakened and stirred to action?." 21-year-old Sophie Scholl lamented, before she was guillotined by the Nazis. The date was February 22, 1943. Sophie Scholl and her brother Hans Scholl, along with their best friend, Christoph Probst, were executed by guillotine four days after their arrest by Nazi officials that afternoon. The prison guards were so impressed with the calm and bravery of the prisoners in the face of impending death that they violated regulations by permitting them to meet together one last time. Hans, a medical student at the University of Munich, was 24. Sophie, a student, was 21. Christoph, a medical student, was 22. They were the members of White Rose Anti-Nazi Resistance Group.



White Rose was a non-violent, intellectual resistance group in Nazi Germany led by a group of students from the University of Munich, including Hans Scholl and Alexander Schmorell. They eventually adopted a strategy of passive resistance towards the Nazis by writing and publishing leaflets and calling themselves the White Rose. In the summer of 1942, four leaflets were written and distributed throughout the school and central Germany. The first White Rose essay concluded with the statement, “Do not forget that every nation deserves the government that it endures.” Using addresses obtained from a telephone directory, the leaflets were mailed to individuals across Munich. Five more leaflets followed over the next eight months, and the Gestapo became increasingly concerned about the potential threat posed by them. By early 1943, members of the White Rose were scattering leaflets by hand, and they began an anti-Nazi graffiti campaign, painting “Freedom” and “Down with Hitler” on buildings throughout Munich. On February 18, 1943, the Scholl siblings tossed hundreds of the pamphlets into the atrium of the University of Munich. It was a daring act of public protest, and it cost them their lives; they were executed soon after at the hands of the German secret police. In the People's Court before Judge Roland Freisler on 21 February 1943, Scholl was recorded as saying these words: “Somebody, after all, had to make a start. What we wrote and said is also believed by many others. They just don't dare express themselves as we did”.

That were Her last words: “Such a fine, sunny day, and I have to go. But what does my death matter, if through us thousands of people are awakened and stirred to action?”



## II. Raised finger and bowed head

A man released from a German prison points a finger at a Nazi guard after being freed by American forces.

Look at that supremely mighty guard with stooped shoulders and downcast eyes. He was a pure Aryan, a superior race, a patriot, a hero and a nationalist. Crushed by power, intoxicated, he was not God. But he was not less than God.

Now he was standing like a criminal.

"In the era of power, when you leave the hem of morality, then as soon as the time turns, you have to live like a criminal with your head bowed in shame"



# III. Nazi book burnings

"Come, Let's Burn All the Books... Oh, this was not poetry; it was a real challenge. To cleanse the minds of the people, to save the nation and culture from decline, an order was given to burn seditious literature. In April 1933, a campaign was launched, where every author who did not align with the Nazis, every thought that did not conform to Nazism, was targeted.

The organization behind this campaign had no affiliation with the government. It was a non-political organization dedicated to student welfare. "Book Burn Fairs" were organized all over the country. Prominent nationalists like Joseph Goebbels were invited, and after their stirring speeches, books were set ablaze.

These books were confiscated from city libraries because there was no space left for them, as the libraries had already been set on fire. Young patriots took an oath while holding the burning books: "I will only read nationalist literature. I will read nothing but nationalism." And thus, the nation began reading "Mein Kampf."



Book burnings occurred in every city in the country. Peace, love, science, psychology, political thoughts—books written by "degenerate" authors like Marx, Kafka, H.G. Wells, Romain Rolland, and Albert Einstein were saved from destruction. Librarians were lynched, book savers were sent to jail. This campaign continued for two years until the nation was mentally cleansed.

After the purification of books, a campaign to purify society followed. This is known as the Holocaust. Purified Germany was simultaneously producing deadly gases, engineering gas chambers, constructing concentration camps, and keeping accounts of looted property. Those who were not well-educated joined the army or the SS and shot their own people.

The mental conditioning of society is a harbinger of its future. Germany endured it well. It crumbled, split into two, lived under foreign rule, and now, after passing through hell, it has become wiser. Public libraries have been rebuilt. The books of those very writers are once again available, people read them, and form their opinions.

Nazism is a bad dream. Despite being a democracy, supporting Nazism is forbidden, it's a crime punishable by imprisonment. The books that were once burned are now memorialized in cities across the nation, reminding us that the era of a corrupt and cruel society begins with... burning books."

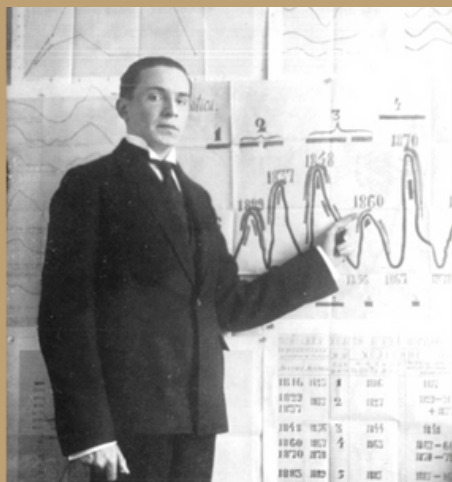


# IV. Blank ideologies turn into hell

Russian scientist **Alexander Leonidovich Chizhevsky** is one of the greatest scientists of the last century. The versatile Chizhevsky was not only a gifted inventor, but also the founder of **Cosmobiology** and **Heliobiology**, which presented a new philosophical understanding of world history.

Born on February 7, 1897, in the family of a military officer, Chizhevsky made an amazing discovery in his youth, which was called the great discovery of the relationship between the Sun and the Earth. Chizhevsky, in his very important research, told that nuclear explosions occur every 11 years in the Sun and whenever this action occurs on the Sun, then great revolutions occur on the Earth.

Chizhevsky was the first to explain that life on Earth is linked in a way with the activity of the Sun, the cosmic force that determines the processes of life in the biosphere. These events, which are repeated over a period of 11 years in the Sun, affect the intensity of reproduction and the rate of growth of organisms on our planet. The development of life on Earth is the result of the mutual processes of terrestrial and cosmic factors; The world of the cosmic world and the terrestrial biosphere are linked together. These ideas were first expressed by Chizhevsky in 1915.





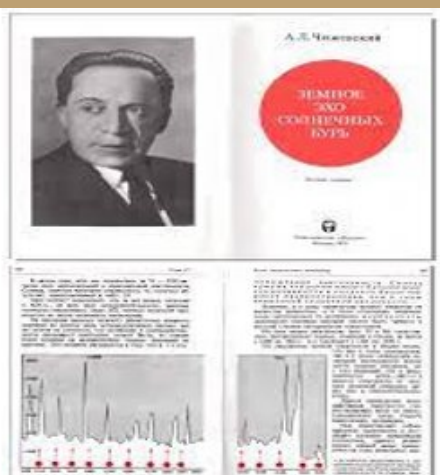
He presented the details of the last several hundred years to prove his point. In India, a lot of work has already been done on this and we have been believing that celestial events happening in distant space become the factors of events on Earth. Chizhevsky called his research 'Heliobiology'. In simple language, it can be called the effect of the Sun on the life-world or their interrelationship.

Chizhevsky's research stood the test of science. His research received great recognition. He was called to lecture in many universities. America called. He was elected an honorary member of the International Congress of Biological Physics and Space Biology in 1939. Scholars believe that he may have been the first person to receive the Nobel Prize in the Soviet Union, but by then a lot of time had been lost and his research could not progress further.

But what happened in his own country Russia?

There was a time when the Soviet Union was ruled by **Joseph Stalin**. The Communist Soviet thought that revolutions were caused by economic inequality. So he could not digest this research of Chizhevsky. The communists who called themselves scientific did not even consider Chizhevsky's science. Didn't even feel the need to study it.

Where else do his followers, who call Marx's theory scientific, see anything else. He believes that Karl Marx is the sovereign of knowledge. Nothing can be done beyond that. That is Dhruva Satya.



Because of this gland, Stalin directly said, "Your research is not in accordance with the concept of our revolution in 1905 and 1917. Change it. We cannot edit our interpretations. Nor can we accept any fact or explanation other than that.

Chizhevsky refused. As a result Chizhevsky was arrested in 1942. **Dictator Stalin** would certainly have killed them, but Chizhevsky's father was the chief of the artillery of the Russian army. Therefore, he was given mercy and he had to spend 8 years in jail. In this way, for so many years, he paid the price of his research by staying in jail.

The supremacist thinking of the bare followers of the ideology tried to cover up knowledge. That's why empty ideology is hell. Bounded thoughts are conservatism and the road to hell because the conservatism of ideology negates the opening of the door of knowledge. A continuously flowing river becomes a puddle.

Thoughts make up the mind. The mind inspires action and action creates personality, but is man's personality his existence? Or is the vitality more important? Life is given by nature, ideology is artificial and developed by human society. To deny life in the blindness of ideology is tragedy. Denial of knowledge is a disaster.

Thoughts are like boats, it is enough to use them where they are needed, then leave them there. There is no point in carrying it like a burden for no reason. And at least keeping science and science away from empty ideologies can only benefit mankind.



# V. I haven't died yet!!!

While strolling in London's Parliament Square, you might come across Gandhi. It's truly astonishing! The British Crown's biggest jewel - Hindustan!!! The living statue made of bronze by the same man who took it from the British, right in front of their parliament...

Is it placed at the most iconic location???

Information about this statue wasn't known before, it wasn't mentioned anywhere. Upon research, it was found that this statue was installed in 2015. British Prime Minister David Cameron unveiled it to commemorate the centenary year of Gandhi's return from South Africa to India.

What a paradox it is that at a time when there is a growing rejection of Gandhi in India, in the world, his acceptance is increasing. And remember, this global Gandhi is not an icon of India. Don't be mistaken. This Gandhi is his personal identity; it's his divinity. It's not the worship of Jesus in Palestine. Similarly, India is filled with Gandhi's influence.

This honor is a heartfelt memory of that person about whom Einstein said, 'Future generations will not believe that such a man of flesh and blood ever walked on this earth.'



Ramachandra Guha wrote Gandhi's biography in 2013, and he traveled to America to promote it. The book was on his bed, and a hotel employee who came to clean the room saw the picture on the cover of the book and asked, 'Is this young Gandhi?' Guha was surprised and filled with doubt. The employee said, 'In my country, Gandhi is highly respected.'

Now, it was Guha's turn to ask, 'Which country are you from?' 'Dominican Republic,' came the reply. Gandhi might never have heard of the Dominican Republic. But the Dominican Republic knows Gandhi.

It knows that Gandhi's message is truth, non-violence, love, tolerance, and satyagraha. It's humanity. In this age of ancient times, his philosophy remains consistent with the teachings of Buddha and the messages of Jesus. Their essence is the same. This philosophy is not the memorable speech of a successful politician of any country or era. It's a way of life.

In that century, the world witnessed two World Wars. When the war for supremacy was taking humanity toward destruction based on language, religion, race, and color, Gandhi's words guide it back towards humanity. Therefore, if America, Germany, Russia, Italy, and all of Europe consider Gandhi as the messiah of humanity, it has nothing to do with India.

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Gandhi's greatness lies in the humility he practiced. True greatness is one that doesn't intimidate you. You can criticize it. All kinds of criticisms are open about Gandhi. You can accept or reject him. It's your choice.

But you know that every path away from Gandhi is terrifying. It leads to hatred, enmity, and destruction. Even when you move away from him in disagreement, you eventually return after seeing the bloodshed. If you are human, you have to come back to Gandhi.

Because Gandhi is your strength. Gandhi is the strength of the weak. A common man who fears violence, fears confrontation, fears raising weapons, fears killing, fears taking up arms, fears the law, fears the police, fears jail, fears the government, fears death.

Gandhi raises him from there. He encourages speaking the truth fearlessly. This courage comes from within, from realizing the inner truth, from realizing the duty. It comes from feeling the pain of others and taking responsibility to alleviate it. Gandhi awakens that compassion.

His weapon is psychological. He suggests spinning the wheel, weaving clothes, making salt. These are ordinary, harmless activities turned into symbols of resistance, weapons of revolution. Even if you go to jail for these actions, there's no feeling of wrongdoing; there's only pride. When going to jail becomes a matter of pride, then a community cannot be suppressed forever.

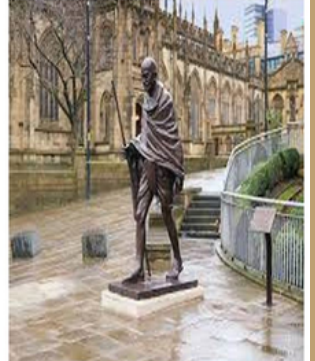
"In the same Parliament Square, there is also a statue of Winston Churchill. The Prime Minister who fought the war, saved the empire, and built it. The same Churchill who, in his effort to feed Britain, forced Bengal to supply rice and left 4 million people there to starve. And when the news of these deaths reached the Prime Minister's desk, he asked on file noting, 'Then why hasn't Gandhi died yet?'"



But Gandhi didn't die. He spread, reaching every corner of the world. Today, Britain has shrunk, and in the countries where Gandhi's statues have been erected, the sun never sets on that empire.

Efforts are being made even now to remove him from India. But Gandhi doesn't budge. He is right there, in Hindustan, gazing at his killers. And even in London, he smiles while looking at Churchill's Parliament. If you listen closely, you can hear a slow, solemn voice..."

**I haven't died yet!!!**



# VI. Last letter from the Holocaust

"Dear Daddy and Mummy... I also kiss and hug both of you very tight:  
Yours, Edik"

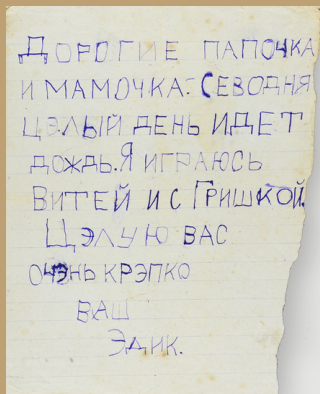
Edik, who had just started learning to write, wrote these words to his parents, Klara and Lazer, in May 1941. That was the last they heard from their 7 year old son.

When the Germans invaded the Soviet Union, Edik was living with his grandparents in Satanov, Ukraine. His mother, who was in Russia with the theater, couldn't get back home to be with her family, and her constant efforts to find out what had happened to Edik and her relatives were unsuccessful.

Only when Satanov was liberated did they receive a letter that was sent in April 1944, bringing the devastating news that all but 6 of the town's Jews had been murdered.

Nearly the entire family had been wiped out: their son Edik, Klara's parents Rivka and Gregory, Klara's grandmother, Malka, and more relatives.

In 1947 Lazer and Klara had a daughter, whom they named Rivka. Lazer Tonkonogi and Klara Mittelman passed away in their 60s in Odessa. Their daughter Rivka Gorenstein immigrated to Israel in 1990, and in 2013 she donated the letters and family photographs to Yad Vashem museum.



# VII. Leni Riefenstahl: Capturing the Spectacle of Nazi Germany

Recall a scene from Nazi Germany: a crowd of millions, the echoing chants of 'Heil Hitler,' and the vast stadiums adorned with grand decorations during the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The camera angles were perfect, the lighting impeccable, and the background flawless, capturing the unconquered spirit of Hitler and his soldiers from both earthly and celestial perspectives. It marked an early stage in the art of filmmaking, but Leni Riefenstahl suddenly propelled the genre to new heights.

Leni's mother had once aspired to be a theatre artist, a dream her husband vehemently opposed. As their daughter grew, she clandestinely pursued her passion for dance and theatre, hidden from her disapproving father. When he eventually discovered her secret, he erupted in anger, prompting his daughter to leave home and embark on a career in film. As an actress, cinematographer, and scriptwriter, Leni's talent took flight. She established her office in Munich, coincidentally close to where Hitler made his first attempt to overthrow the government.





Following Hitler's imprisonment after the Beer Hall Putsch, he penned 'Mein Kampf.' His speeches during the trial catapulted him to hero status upon his release. Leni, deeply impressed, sought a meeting with him. The ideals of Aryan supremacy, purity, and Germany's global dominance resonated with patriots, and Leni became immersed in Nazi ideology.

She created numerous short films, akin to modern-day multiplex pre-movie messages on topics such as cleanliness and smoking. These films, akin to newsreels, were shown in theaters as there was no television to convey current affairs. Government and political parties produced small movies to showcase current events before the feature presentation.

Leni's proximity to propaganda minister Goebbels allowed her to produce films, featuring big stars, including the blockbuster 'Triumph of the Will.' In this film, a Hitler-like figure elevates the nation to world leadership through sheer willpower, portraying Nazi opponents as fools, traitors, conspirators, and cowards. These efforts significantly contributed to Hitler's electoral victory.



With Hitler's rise, the country underwent profound changes. Films depicted a nation of patriots, with citizens enlisting in the army, and the world cowering before Germany's might. Rallies, roadshows, and grand speeches were filmed and showcased in cinema newsreels worldwide. The 1936 Olympics epitomized this propaganda, presenting an enduring masterpiece of sports coverage.

Throughout the Nazi era, Leni produced propaganda films, carefully controlling the narrative seen by the public. Every film included Jewish villains engaging in theft, murder, and betrayal.

After the war, Leni's films were confiscated. She was briefly arrested but subsequently released. She passed away in 2003. In an interview, she acknowledged that meeting Hitler had been the most catastrophic event of her life, forever tarnishing her legacy. Later in life, she created a few paintings reflecting a somewhat softer ideology. Leni's role in Nazi Germany during the 1930s remains a significant chapter in history.

**“Goebbels was the hammer, then Leni was the nail. A nail in the coffin of one generation, one nation and millions of dead bodies”.**

