

**The period of the dictatorship in
Lithuania in the 20th century:
dominating and discriminating
memories of the citizens**

Collaboration

Solomo Aleichemo ORT gimnazija, Vilnius, Lithuania

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1. INTRODUCTION

Title

The ninth place on the S. Wiesental Center's list of the 10 most wanted Nazis.

Grades addressed

10 -12, secondary education.

Duration

1x45 min.

Sources

<http://www.haaretz.com/jewish/2.209/nazi-collaborator-fled-arrest-living-peacefully-in-germany-1.252929>

<http://www.alfa.lt/straipsnis/196128/lietuvis-naciu-kolaborantas-isvenges-aresto-ramiai-gyvena-atokiame-vokietijos-miestelyje>

<http://www.b.dk/nationalt/verdens-mest-eftersoegte-nazi-forbrydere>

<http://www.clevescene.com/cleveland/the-hunt-for-dailide/Content?oid=1475651>

http://www.snipview.com/q/Algimantas_Dailid%C4%97

Biography rationale

Algimantas Mykolas Dailide (born 12 March 1921) is a former Lithuanian Security Police (Saugumas) official. He was born in Kaunas. After the war Dailide sought refuge in the United States, saying he had been a "forester." While in the United States Dailide was a real estate agent

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until he retired to Gulfport, Florida. His citizenship was revoked in 1997 and he left the United States on his own in 2004.

Aims

1. Present facts and informations on Second World War.
2. To understand how it felt to see the horror
3. To increase knowledge about Lithuanian Jews situation during Second World War
4. To understand how it felt to collaborate
5. To develop students' ability to critical thinking and ability to form their own opinions.

Other aspects

Regarding **spaces and groups**, the didactic unit will be implemented in a normal classroom. The classroom should be arranged so that every student would be face to face to each other. If wanted, you can divide the class in small groups.

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2. BIOGRAPHY

Algimantas Dailide was born in Kaunas, the capital of Lithuania, in 1921.

Dailide didn't finish high school; instead, he moved to Vilnius to be trained as a forester.

When the Nazis invaded on June 22, Dailide was unemployed and taking a typing course.

Dailide heard the Saugumas (Lith. National Security Office), which the Soviets had disbanded, had re-formed and was looking for recruits. So on June 24, 1941, Dailide joined the force as a clerk. He was 20 years old.

Lithuanian sovereignty was not a priority of the Germans; eliminating communists and Jews was. The Lithuanian police branches in Vilnius, subordinated to the Einsatzkommando, were given the task of drawing up current lists of the names of Jews in Vilnius; first the Intelligentsia, political activists, and wealthy Jews.

Arad, the main witness used Nazi correspondence to show the Saugumas, and therefore Dailide, was subordinate to the SS.

In June 1944, the Soviets pushed back the withering German army and reclaimed Lithuania. The Saugumas dissolved along with the Nazi regime, and Dailide fled to Germany. There he applied to the Displaced Persons Commission for permission to emigrate to the U.S. Asked for a description of his activities during the war, Dailide wrote that he was a "practitioner forester" in Vilnius. The form asked if he had been a member of the police. He answered no.

Granted a visa, Dailide, now married and a father, arrived in New York in 1950.

In 2003, the United States revoked Dailide's citizenship, cancelled his certificate of naturalisation, and ordered his deportation. On 27 March 2006, Dailide was convicted by a Lithuanian court for cooperating with the Nazis during World War II, specifically for arresting two Polish nationals and twelve Jews while serving in the Saugumas.

Dailide's wife, Ruth, went into depression.

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After this happened, she didn't want to come out of the house." A son, Al, lives in Medina. Al is convinced of his father's innocence and sickened the Dailide name might become synonymous with Nazism. Al Dailide politely declined to be interviewed for this story.

The judges in the Lithuanian criminal trial decided, however, that Dailide's sentence would not be implemented because of his advanced age, and because he was no longer a threat to society. Following protests by the United States, Israel, and the Simon Weisenthal Centre, and a Jewish human rights organisation, the suspension of Dailide's sentence was appealed. On 8 June 2006, the court decided to appoint a medical board to review Dailide's health, but during the period of review, the panel never met and no further action was taken to implement the sentence. Dailide remains convicted but not imprisoned.

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3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Lithuania's provisional government during II WW greeted Nazi occupation as saw it as a possibility to take down the Soviet occupants in the country. The government joined the plans of Adolf Hitler to "construct new Europe". Nethertheless. First weeks of German occupation meant lost lives of Lithuanian Jews who were killed in pogroms and mass killings.

Lithuanian Security Police was formed in 1941. It was subordinate to German Nazi Security Police and German Nazi Criminal Police. There were 26 police battalions, 10 of which were directly involved in systematic extermination of Jews in Lithuania and other neighboring countries. Tens of thousands of Jews were killed by these special Lithuanian Security Police battalions.

The reasons why civilians collaborated with Nazis in Lithuania and Europe were:

1. A survival or money earning tool (receiving money from German soldiers for giving them service, i.e. laundry, selling food and etc.).
2. The denunciation of 'enemies' within the community (something which occurred across occupied Europe).

The formation of paramilitary militias and participation in collective massacres the ideological collaboration.

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4. ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 1

- Read and reflect on this fact. Answer questions.

During the Nazi occupation, 95 percent of Lithuania’s Jewish population was murdered.

- a) With one word, answer, how you feel about this?
- b) Does this statistic surprise you?

- Read and answer the questions:

In present-day Eastern Europe, Dovid Katz explained in his Brooklyn accent, “Holocaust *denial*” is being replaced by a seemingly respectable “Holocaust *obfuscation*.” Lithuania and other Eastern European countries are embracing a “double genocide” theory that posits that both the Nazis and Soviets committed genocide. What the hypothesis lacks in intellectual honesty, it makes up for in political expediency. By positing twin genocides, Lithuanians become victims—and “Judeo-Bolsheviks” become perpetrators—in a second, mirror-image holocaust. As Ephraim Zuroff of the Wiesenthal Center summarized, **“If everyone is guilty, then no one is guilty.”**

- a) Do you agree? Why?
 - b) If you can, give some examples, when this opinion is not right.
- Questions to the students:
 - a) Could an avowed racist or anti-Semite be elected President in your country? If not, why not? If so, how might such an election come about?
 - b) When Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, comparisons were made between Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein and Adolf Hitler. Discuss the differences in the world

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situations and the world's responses to Hitler's annexation of the Sudetenland and modern annexation samples.

- c) If you were a citizen in an occupied country by Germany, how would you feel about your local government relations with the Nazi order?
- d) What options did you feel you had for expressing opposition to the occupation regime or to participate in it; to oppose; to collaborate, other?
- e) How do your options differ from the opinions you had, before your findings in this project?

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ACTIVITY 2

Work in groups during the lessons after the general introduction.

- GROUP 1. Identify the social portrait of the collaborator.
- GROUP 2. Humane responsibility principles, under the occupation of the nation; the change of human behavior under the horror of occupation of a totalitarian regime.
- GROUP 3. Compare the figures of collaboration in Lithuania to low collaboration in Belgium and very high collaboration in Croatia.

Wind up summary question for the group work

- Introduction of the group discussions.
- What have you learned from this story that could help you make decisions in the future?

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ACTIVITY 3

- Analyses of the abstract. Is the sentence of the 10th most wanted Jews' prosecutor right? Read in the classroom and discuss:

In 2003, the United States revoked Dailide's citizenship, cancelled his certificate of naturalisation, and ordered his deportation. On 27 March 2006, Dailide was convicted by a Lithuanian court for cooperating with the Nazis during World War II, specifically for arresting two Polish nationals and twelve Jews while serving in the Saugumas.

The Lithuanian criminal trial was particularly noteworthy because Dailide was actually present at the trial and, at least in theory, faced the threat of real punishment if convicted. Many other defendants tried in similar proceedings were convicted in absentia. Pursuant to his conviction, Dailide was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for his crimes.

The judges in the Lithuanian criminal trial decided, however, that Dailide's sentence would not be implemented because of his advanced age, and because he was no longer a threat to society. Following protests by the United States, Israel, and the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, and a Jewish human rights organisation, the suspension of Dailide's sentence was appealed. On 8 June 2006, the court decided to appoint a medical board to review Dailide's health, but during the period of review, the panel never met and no further action was taken to implement the sentence. Dailide remains convicted but not imprisoned.

- Opinions to be discussed on the abstract:
 - a) Is the sentence adequate?
 - b) Why did it happen this way?
 - c) What historical processes in Europe and US made it possible to happen in such a sequence and such a long time?
 - d) What would be your personal suggestions?

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ACTIVITY 4

Write down the most important things you have learned.

(A poster to be made at an art lesson)

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