Holocaust-Related Works for Secondary/Post-Secondary Classrooms

Balkans:

This brief article tells about the exhibition of Albanian Muslim Holocaust rescuers and describes some of the reasons the rescuers gave for their actions.

This recently-published book contains photos of Albanian Muslims – or their descendants - honored for rescuing Jews and/or their families. Each photo comes with a description of what they did and why. (Students who have read Geraldine Brooks’ novel People of the Book will recognize the story – although the names were changed in the novel.)

This newer edition of an earlier work contains a very readable chapter on the Korkuts, who rescued both a Jewish woman and a rare Jewish manuscript: the Sarajevo Haggadah.

This journal article analyzes relations between Bosnian Muslims and the region’s non-Muslims (Serbs, Jews) persecuted during World War II. The article would be useful for advanced high school or college students.

The book contains a chapter on the Hardagas, a Bosnian Muslim couple who rescued Jews during the Holocaust.

This is Yad Vashem’s brief account of the wartime activities of the Hardagas and their relatives. The “more pictures” section is also interesting.

“Servet and Dervis Korkut.” *The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous.* (www.jfr.org/site/PageServer?pagename=sup_korkut) This is the story of the Korkuts, ethnic Albanians living in Bosnia during the war. They not only rescued a Jewish woman but Dervis Korkut, a librarian in the Bosnian national library, risked his life to save the famous Jewish manuscript “The Sarajevo Haggadah.” (Interesting note: The Korkuts, originally from Kosovo but who lived much of their lives in Bosnia, are listed as being from Croatia as that was the country that took over Bosnia during World War II.)

**Turkey/Iran:**


Burns, Margie. “Turkey Served As Safe Haven for Jews during the Holocaust.” *The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation.* (www.raoulwallenberg.net/?en/saviors/diplomats/turkey-served-safe-haven-jews.2110.htm) This is a brief article about Turkey during the Holocaust.

*Desperate Hours.* Dir. Victoria Barrett. Prod. Michael Berenbaum. Shenandoah Films, 2008. Film. A documentary about Turkish assistance to Jews during the Holocaust, this film even contains interviews with two Turkish Holocaust rescuers.

Epstein, Mark. A. “A Lucky Few: Refugees in Turkey.” In *The Holocaust and History: The Known, the Unknown, the Disputed, and the Reexamined.* Ed. Michael Berenbaum and Abraham J. Peck. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998. 536-550. This scholarly article is clearly written and could be useful to advanced high school or college students.

“Selahattin Ulkumen’s Official Website.” (www.ulkumen.net) This entire website is dedicated to a Turkish diplomat honored for his rescue of Jews.

Shaw, Stanford J. *Turkey and the Holocaust: Turkey’s Role in Rescuing Turkish and European Jewry from Nazi Persecution, 1933-1945.* London: MacMillan Press, 1993. This book is more for useful to teachers than to students. However, it contains a number of primary source documents that might prove useful in a classroom.
This is a vivid story of a Turkish diplomat who climbed into a boxcar with Jews headed for a concentration camp in order to force Nazi officials to release the ‘Turkish’ Jews.

Arab Lands:

Among the Righteous. PBS, 2010. DVD.
This documentary, based on the work by Robert Satloff (See below), is thought-provoking. There are also a number of materials – a lesson plan, viewer’s guide, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum guide – on the PBS website:
http://www.pbs.org/newshour/among-the-righteous/

The daughter of Tunisian Holocaust rescuer Khaled Abdul-Wahab speaks about her father and his motives and efforts to save Jews threatened by the Nazis.

Free Men (Les Hommes Libres). 2011. DVD.
About the resistance and rescue activities at the Grand Mosque in Paris, this movie is historical fiction, but it is historically accurate. The film clearly states – at the end – which characters are fictional and which ones are historical. It can be very useful in school classes (and is used in schools in French) with a guided discussion of the usefulness and limitations of historical fiction.

This picture book is an unusual book for students since it is beautifully illustrated in the style of a book for young readers, yet its topic and language are not for elementary school children. (Middle school students would enjoy it.) The book is based on research by Robert Satloff and was the recipient of a youth literature award by the Middle East Outreach Council.

This book is more for teacher use than for student use, but it’s a seminal book on the subject of Arabs in the Holocaust. The photographs are also useful.

This article provides some interesting insights into Arabs’ complex feelings toward the Holocaust.