

# SOME WERE NEIGHBORS

## CHOICE, HUMAN BEHAVIOR & THE HOLOCAUST

How was the Holocaust possible?

The central role of Adolf Hitler and other Nazi leaders is indisputable, but they depended on countless others. What role did ordinary people play? Why were there some zealous participants in the persecution of Jews, while most simply went along or joined in? Why did so few help the victims?

Within Nazi Germany and across German-dominated Europe, people behaved in a variety of ways, from small acts of solidarity with victims to active rescue efforts and from toleration of anti-Jewish measures to eager collaboration with Nazi perpetrators.

What motives and pressures influenced the choices and behaviors of individuals during the Holocaust? How did people respond to the plight of their Jewish classmates, coworkers, neighbors, and friends?

**Local residents** look on as Austrian Nazis force Jews to scrub the pavement following the German annexation of Austria. Vienna, March 1938. *Dokumentationsarchiv des Oesterreichischen Widerstandes*



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