Week s 3-4: Discussion and Review Questions: Danish Occupation, Resistance & Rescue

(Questions may be used for inspiration for “letters” due Oct. 19):

The following questions are intended to encourage you to begin to synthesize the perspectives presented during this week and last in articles by Henrik Nissen, Hans Kirchhof and Henning Poulsen, the films “Living with the Enemy” and “Power of Conscience,” the text by Karen Blixen, Kim Malthe-Bruun, and Tove Ditlevsen as well as by Emmy Verner’s The Conspiracy of Decency.

1. Discuss the nature of the occupation of Denmark and the so-called “Policy of Negotiation.”
   What did Danish leaders seek to achieve/avoid? When, how and why did the “Policy of Negotiation” come to an end?

2. Relate briefly forms of non-violent (passive) resistance and armed (active) resistance. Draw examples from the Danish case (article by Hans Kirchhoff) and definitions offered in class.
   Begin to consider how and whether the Danish Resistance movement was effective.

3. Resistance: Analyze as best possible the content of the selected letters and diaries of Kim Malthe-Bruun.
   Consider at least two of the following points:
   • Consider how this published document constitutes an historical artifact, a personal narrative, a work of literature.
• Are the main ideas discussed primarily political, ideological, emotional and/or spiritual?
  (With whom does the author identify his difficult plight?)

• Speculation: How might Kim’s case and his ideas (as expressed in the texts) be representative of Danish resistance members? How might they differ?

4. Rescue: Based on assigned reading and films, consider historical factors which made the Rescue of the Danish Jews possible during the darkest hours of the Holocaust.
   What in your opinion are some of the most significant factors?

5. Rescue: Emmy Verner’s study offers personal testimonies (especially those of Jewish children during the occupation) and also the perspectives of scholars and historians.
   Can you pinpoint her overriding thesis or perspective? Is this an effective blend of personal testimony and historical scholarship?

6. Danish literary texts/memoirs: Karen Blixen, Tove Ditlevsen (through the main character of the story, “Oranges”) and Kim Malthe-Bruun (his remarks on the Gestapo) attempt to offer insights on the psychology of Nazism, of the Germans. Each offers a kind of “explanation” of the enemy. Compare/contrast their views: