

## The Trials of Stella Goldschlag: Nazi Victim, Holocaust Survivor, and War Criminal

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This project explores the story of Stella Goldschlag (1922-1994), a German Jewish Holocaust survivor who worked as an informer in Berlin in the years 1943–1945, allegedly betraying dozens of Jews who had gone into hiding to the Nazi authorities. The study centers around three postwar court cases against Goldschlag: a 1946 Soviet military trial and two criminal trials at German courts in 1957 and 1972. Found guilty of “crimes against humanity” and “accessory to murder” three times but seeing herself as a victim who had only tried to save herself and her family from deportation, Goldschlag eventually took her own life. In all three trials, the remnants of the Berlin Jewish community played a central role. Eager to seek retribution and to find some form of closure by seeing Goldschlag sentenced, the survivors formed an uneasy alliance with Soviet and German prosecutor and judges, who lacked any sensitivity for the severe duress that had led a Jew under Nazism to turn against other Jews to save her own life. The vehemence with which courts in East and West Germany prosecuted Goldschlag is disproportionate, even extreme, considering that most of the Gestapo agents for whom Goldschlag had worked would never stand trial. The widespread and extended public attention that the three trials received in Germany fed into the narratives of those who denied German responsibilities for the Holocaust and claimed that Jews were to blame for their own destruction.