

Hannah Arendt (born Oct. 14, 1906, Hannover, Ger.-died Dec. 4, 1975, New York, N.Y., U.S.) German-born U.S. political philosopher. Her major work, *Origins of Totalitarianism* (1951), traced totalitarianism to 19th-century anti-Semitism, imperialism, and the disintegration of the traditional nation-state. Her highly controversial book *Eichmann in Jerusalem* (1963) argued that the Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann was not inwardly wicked or depraved but merely "thoughtless"; his role in the extermination of the Jews thus epitomized the fearsome "banality of evil" that had swept across Europe at the time. Resuming contact with her past lover, the philosopher, Martin Heidegger in 1950, she claimed that his involvement with the Nazis had been the "mistake" of a great philosopher. She taught at the University of Chicago (1963-67) and thereafter at the New School for Social Research in New York City. "Hannah Arendt." Britannica Concise Encyclopedia. 2007.

Eichmann, Adolf, 1906-62, German National Socialist official.

A member of the Austrian Nazi party, he headed the Austrian office for Jewish emigration (1938). His zeal in deporting Jews brought him promotion (1939) to chief of the Gestapo's Jewish section. Eichmann promoted the use of gas chambers for the mass extermination of Jews in concentration camps, and he oversaw the maltreatment, deportation, and murder of millions of Jews in World War II. Arrested by the Allies in 1945, he escaped and settled in Argentina. He was located by Israeli agents in 1960 and abducted to Israel, where he was tried (1961) and hanged for crimes against the Jewish people and against humanity. "Adolf Eichmann." The Columbia Encyclopedia. Sixth Edition. Columbia UP, 2006.































