Visual Clues to the Holocaust: The Case of the Deportation of Jews from Northern Greece

by

Nadège Ragaru, CERI-Science Po Paris Maël Le Noc, Texas State University

Abstract

The present article explores the persecution of Greek Jewry in Bulgarian-occupied lands through a unique visual object: a silent film, several minutes long, which recorded moments from the roundups, transfers and deportations of March 1943. This film is analyzed not as a mere illustration but as an element integral to the study of historical events and the situations portrayed. Through our investigation, we were able to identify and locate most sequences of the archival footage by drawing on a variety of sources, including photographs, newsreels, maps, digitalized data visualization, print archival records and oral testimonies. The reconstitution of the political, social and geographical contexts of the filming and image editing offers new insights into the visual archive itself, but also, more broadly, into the deportation of Jews from Bulgarian-occupied Thrace and eastern Macedonia.

Keywords: Visual Holocaust Studies, deportation, Bulgaria, Northern Greece, film.

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