

bystander aspect gained growing attention and importance as from the second half of the 1960s. From this perspective, intriguing questions regarding collaboration in the process of implementation of the anti-Jewish campaign (as well as rescue activities or lack of them) also shed light on local involvement in Aryanization and profiting from the disappearance of Jews, yet this involvement has usually been interpreted as resulting from greed and as a by-product of legal and social exclusion preceding the Final Solution.²⁹

In the realm of research on the history of Jewish society during the Shoah, historians first tended to focus on highly sensitive issues of leadership and *Judenräte*, armed and spiritual resistance, and – later on (as from the 1970s) – on daily life, social relations, religious problems etc. The functioning of besieged Jewish communities in local settings – especially (but not only) in the ghettos – drew much attention.³⁰ Within these studies robbery, forced labor, confiscations, profiting etc. from the German side and their impact on life conditions of Jews were always mentioned as part of the picture, but were seen – as in bystander studies – as by-products of larger Nazi goals or/and results of ad hoc situations, rarely as an essential feature.

Fresh interest in the Nazi economy in general and the anti-Jewish component in it in particular can be discerned since the beginning of the 1980s, to a considerable extent due to the influential studies – in German, English and Hebrew – carried out by Israeli historian Avraham Barkai.³¹ In the 1990s, the partial overcoming of the intentionalist-functionalist controversy; the critical stance of the younger generation of scholars (mainly Germans) in perpetrator history towards the older generation of historians; and the public awareness regarding the unsettled economic aspects of the Shoah – awakened by the dormant Swiss bank accounts affair in 1994 and the consecutive questioning of restitution issues in a

29 See for instance the important study by Kádár/Vági, *Self-financing Genocide*.

30 For overviews and surveys of these aspects see: Michman, *Holocaust Historiography*: throughout.

31 Barkai published many studies on this topic. The most important are: Barkai, *Das Wirtschaftssystem des Nationalsozialismus*; Barkai, *Die deutschen Unternehmer und die Judenpolitik im Dritten Reich*; Barkai, *Vom Boykott zur 'Entjudung'*; Barkai, *The German Volksgemeinschaft from the Persecution of the Jews to the 'Final Solution'*.