



MATILDA

EFFECT



Pionierinnen der Forschung **Female Pioneers of Research**

Pt. 14

Hannah Arendt





Hannah Arendt (1906-1975)
Philosopher & Theorist

She completed her philosophy studies in Marburg, Freiburg, and Heidelberg with her doctorate in 1928. After being arrested by the Gestapo in 1933 and her outspoken opposition to the Nazi regime, she emigrated to France.



In 1951, she became an American citizen and taught for several years in Chicago and New York, but continued to advocate for the rights of refugees, stateless persons, persecuted individuals, the discriminated, and Jews.

In 1961, she participated as a reporter for *The New Yorker* in the trial against Adolf Eichmann.

This led to her book 'Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil'.



The 'banality of evil' refers to the process by which evil actions become commonplace through thoughtlessness and lack of intent.

Arendt argues that the thoughtlessness of the perpetrators often has worse consequences than consciously evil intentions.

In 1964/65, Arendt gave several lectures in Germany under the title: Personal Responsibility under Dictatorship.

She reiterated that her publication on Eichmann was merely a 'factual report'.



According to Arendt, humans are free agents responsible for their actions.

Therefore, specific individuals bear guilt for their deeds.

She rejected the idea of collective guilt and described it as moral confusion that, in post-war Germany, the innocent felt guilty while most perpetrators showed no remorse.





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"Die traurige Wahrheit ist, dass das meiste Böse von Menschen gemacht wird, die sich zwischen Böse und Gute nicht entschieden haben."

"The sad truth is that most evil is done by people who have not chosen between evil and good."

