# The Milgram Experiment

The point of the experiment is to basically show if power and authority could over rule empathy and sympathy. If a figure of authority gives you an order that you must obey, will you listen or come to the point of common feelings and sense.

A psychologist by the name of Stanley Milgram thinks the holocaust was an interesting topic so he designed this test to figure out and further understand why the holocaust was allowed to act so cruel upon their inmates and so many people followed alongside Hitler. Milgram's believed theory was that people ae usually persuaded heavily to obey over ruling authority figures. "Could it be that Eichmann and his million accomplices in the Holocaust were just following orders? Could we call them all accomplices?" In 1961, he started conducting a experiment of obedience. "When the learner gave an incorrect response, the volt would increase by 15 volts intervals. Some teachers went to the maximum of 450 volts. At times the "teacher" questioned the experiment but continued even though some were obviously extremely uncomfortable in doing so."( Stanley Milgram's Experiment. Marsden S. & Melander M. 1/20/01).

These experiment took place with many different people but it was always a two person study. Two people, one random and one who actually knows about the study. The choosing was rigged so that the person who knew about the experiment was consensual while the person who

was tricked into thinking it was just a study of memory. The teacher who has no clue about the experiment was given orders to follow. Like in the quote above it the teacher was supposed to increase the voltage by 15 every time the student got the question wrong. Some teachers questioned the whole thing but went ahead and followed orders no matter how comfortable, while other teachers had no questioning just continued to follow directions until told otherwise. The teacher pressed the shock button when the student answered wrong so they could know. After a certain amount of putting up with the shock, the actor would start complaining and screaming. You could say that you would react different in this situation, but thinking of the circumstances in the holocaust compared to this experiment, if you didn't know what the consequences could be for not following the plan, The authority that Hitler had over his country was true power. So taking that in consideration they probably figured to play it safe even though they may have sympathetic and empathetic for some innocent people.

Milgram's conclusion was that many more participants were following directions and turning the voltage even though they were discomfortable. This was lead to believe that Hitler's authority and power was "controlling" to his Nazi's despite they might have had second and third thoughts about their actions, but continued to do what they needed to do. Although this experiment is conducted, people in today's world wouldn't be able to come to an exact true statement on why Hitler had so many followers who took his command and followed through.

# Reference

Stanley Milgram's Experiment. Marsden S. & Melander M (1/20/01). http://www.cba.uri.edu