

Chiune Sempo Sugihara

January, 1 1900-July, 31 1986

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Who was Chiune Sempo Sugihara

- Chiune Sempo Sugihara was a Japanese man born on January 1, 1900 in Mino. He was born in a middle class family. He was raised by his parents Yatsu and Yoshimi Sugihara.
 - Sugihara graduated from Harbin Gakuin.
- Sugihara grew up to become a career Japanese diplomat.
 - Sugihara was the first Japanese diplomat posted to Lithuania (Europe).



A diplomat is a person who is representing a country abroad

The Beginning

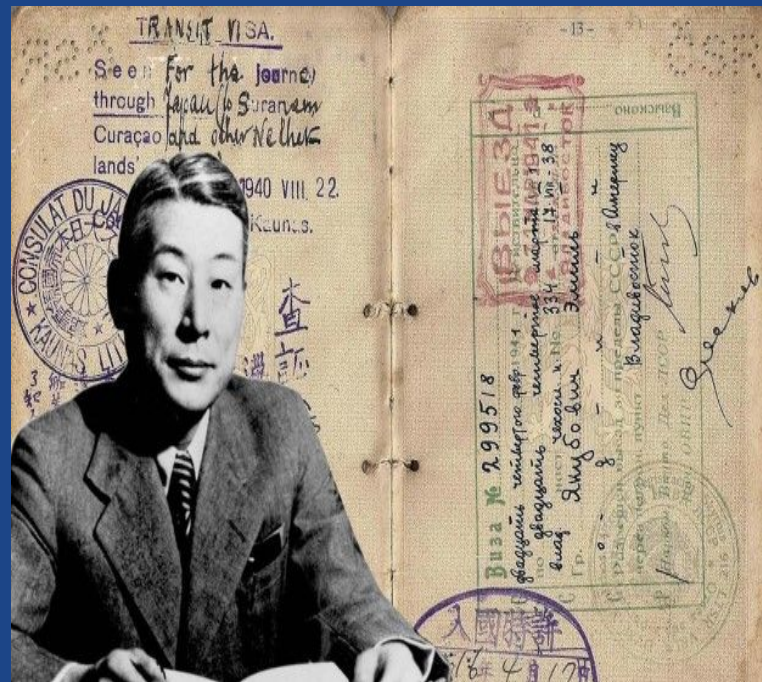
- In September 1939 Germans invaded Poland. It was the beginning of injustice to Jewish people.
- A lot of Jews went East but 15, 000 Jewish people arrived from Poland and got caught between the Soviets and the Nazis. Jews were desperately seeking ways to emigrate.
- In November 1939, Sugihara was sent to Kovno by the Japanese Foreign Ministry and then to the capital of Lithuania, Vilnius. He was there to serve as Japan's consul.
- It was then when Sugihara found out what was happening to Jews and how they could not travel to go somewhere else.

A Request

- In summer of 1940, Lithuania was taken over by the Soviet Union so all diplomats were asked to leave Kovno by the end of August.
- While Sugihara was packing he was informed that a Jewish delegation was waiting for him in front of his consulate, asking to see him.
- The delegation was by Zerach Warhaftig. He was a Jewish refugee. Sugihara agreed to have a brief conversation with Zerach.
 - Zerach came with a request. Zerach told Sugihara that it had become impossible for Jewish refugees in Lithuania to get immigration visas to go anywhere. Zerach asked Sugihara if he can issue the Jews transit visas. With the transit visas the Jews would be able to get permission to cross the Soviet Union.
- Sugihara asked for time to get authorization from his superiors to grant the visas. But, it was very unlikely that the Japanese Foreign Ministry would agree to this request.

The Japanese Schindler

- Sugihara was very troubled by the Jewish refugees condition and could not stop thinking about it so he began issuing visas secretly.
- He did not get any of the ministry's support.
- About nine days later, Sugihara got a response from the Ministry and they denied his request, but Sugihara kept giving the visas to Jews anyways.



The Japanese Schindler

Continued

- Sugihara stamped some of the passports himself. He stamped them when he was in the railway station, as he was leaving Lithuania too. He also got the help of some Jews to stamp the passports.
- The Jews didn't know any Japanese so some of the stamps were upside down.



LIVES SAVED BY CHIUNE SEMPO SUGIHARA

- About 200 or 300 people waited for an answer from Sugihara in the start. Was he going to provide the visas or not?
- The people that were waiting for an answer were outside all day, morning to night. They escaped Poland with their children and came to Sugihara.
- They were tired when they arrived and their clothes were ripped.
- Sugihara ended up giving visas to of 2100 -3500 people.



Sugihara's Sacrifices

- Sugihara sacrificed many things to save Jewish people.
 - He risked the safety of his family and risked his job.
- When Sugihara went back to Japan in 1946 he had found out that he lost his job.
 - After that Sugihara had to make a living of doing odd jobs.
- But it was worth it because if Sugihara had not given the transit visas then the Jews in Europe they would never have escaped.
 - The Jews he gave transit visas to escaped the Holocaust. Because of Sugihara Jews were able to escape Europe.

A Good Man

- Sugihara had 4 children Nobuki, Hiroki, Chiaki, and Haruki Sugihara.
- Chiune Sempo Sugihara saved a lot of lives during World War 2. So, on October 4, 1984, Yad Vashem identified Sugihara as *Righteous Among The Nations*.
- Many people owe their lives to Sugihara. He gave as many visas as he possibly could and for that we should never forget him.
 - On July 31, 1986 Sempo Sugihara died.



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