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## The White Rose: German Resistance During the Third Reich

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# The White Rose: Resistance in the Third Reich

Kelli Dockery

Professor Christoph Schiessl

## The Scholl Siblings' Childhood

- Grew up in an isolated town surrounded by nature
- Encouraged by liberal and open-minded parents
- Moved to Ulm in their late childhood
- Joined the Hitler Youth
- Started noticing the lack of diversity and demand for conformity in the Nazi Party

## Hans Scholl

- Loved philosophy and poetry
- Morals were influenced by books
- Ambitious and charismatic

## Sophie Scholl

- Loved nature and art
- Morals were introspective and influenced by religion
- Naïve and humble

## Other Core Members

- Willi Graf
- Alexander Schmorell
- Professor Kurt Huber
- Christoph Probst

## Ideology

- “Now it is our task to find one another again, to spread information from person to person, to keep a steady purpose, and to allow ourselves no rest until the last man is persuaded of the urgent need of his struggle against this system”
- Influenced by philosophy and Christian values
- Moral and religious, not political or personal

## Actions

- Drafted and copied six leaflets urging German citizens to passively resist and sabotage the war effort between 1942 and 1943
- Painted treasonous slogans on walls in Munich
- Tried to branch out and connect with other resistance groups

## Aftermath

- The six core members as well as several of their associates were executed
- Other resistance groups distributed their leaflets or took inspiration from their actions
- Nazi officials feared other resistance groups would soon emerge
- Allies spread their leaflets around Germany during the war

## Did They Achieve Their Goals?

- The widespread resistance movement they had hoped for never happened.
- They are held up as an example of what should be done in an oppressive regime
- Their actions continue to inspire people to this day



Mug shots taken of Hans and Sophie Scholl after their arrest on February 18, 1943. They were soon convicted of high treason and executed.

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