



Little Door to the 22nd of December

Hannah Arendt – German-American Philosopher

It is likely that you have already heard about her. Her most important publications are *“Elemente und Ursprünge totaler Herrschaft”* (= The Origins of Totalitarianism, 1951), *“Vita active oder Vom tätigen Leben”* (= The Human Condition, 1958), *“Eichmann in Jerusalem. Ein Bericht von der Banalität des Bösen”* (= Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil, 1963), *„Über die Revolution“* (= On Revolution, 1963) and *“Macht und Gewalt”* (= On Violence, 1970). Here’s the timeline of her life:

- 📖 **1906:** Born on October 14 in a secular Jewish family in Linden (today a part of Hannover)
- 📖 **1909:** Arendt’s family moves to Königsberg.
- 📖 **1924-1926:** Arendt studies philosophy at the University of Marburg, taught by **Martin Heidegger** (1889-1976) with whom she has a love relationship.
- 📖 **1926:** Studied in Freiburg under **Edmund Husserl** (1859-1938) and in Heidelberg under **Karl Jaspers** (1883-1969).
- 📖 **1929:** Postdoctoral graduation under supervision of Karl Jaspers. In the same year, she meets **Günther Anders** (1902-1992) with whom she’s married until 1937.
- 📖 **1933:** Arrested by the Gestapo for political participation in a Zionist organization, where she documented the persecution of the Jews. Later, she leaves Germany and flees to Paris.
- 📖 **1937:** The national socialist government of Germany revokes her German citizenship.
- 📖 **1940:** Internment in the nazi concentration camp Gurs (1939-1945, Southwest France). She was able to escape from the concentration camp.
- 📖 **1941:** Arendt moves to New York.
- 📖 **1949-1950:** For the first time in 17 years, Arendt travels to Germany. She meets Jaspers and Heidegger; she terminated the contact with the latter for his membership in the NSDAP.
- 📖 **1951:** Arendt receives the American citizenship.
- 📖 **1953:** Arent becomes professor at the Brooklyn College in New York.
- 📖 **1961:** As a reporter, Arendt attends the court process against **Adolf Eichmann** (1906-1962) in Jerusalem.
- 📖 **1963-1967:** Professorship at the University of Chicago
- 📖 **1967-1975:** Professorship at the New School for Social Research in New York. The legacy of her works is stored there today.
- 📖 **1975:** On December 4, Hannah Arendt dies at the age of 69 years in New York.



Photo: Hannah Arendt in 1933