

## Submissive

*A submissive person is one who takes his cue from others, does what they think best for him, and only in extremities protests on his own behalf. A submissive group is one that falls under the power of a strong and organized leader, or under the power of global economic/administrative indifference—such as we see in today's mass migrations of peoples from Syria, Afghanistan, or Eritrea.*

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### *Examples*

1 Jews in the Warsaw ghetto, Muslims in Srebrenica, Black slaves in the American South: all these populations, plus the legions of homeless, fugitive, and starving humans on the globe are voiceless and perform submissive. They have no voting power, no capital reserves, and on the whole no agencies, supporting them, which can rival the power of those dominating or driving them. Those submitting, under such conditions, have little to fall back on except their own group or family traditions, value systems developed before historical crisis tore the community apart. The power of the individual provides the only axis to which such submissive peoples can hold, yet as life casts them forward they both blend with the dominants, and ultimately reshape even the cruelest game players. Who would have thought that the Germans would prove to be, in the first quarter of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the most sensitive defenders of the rights of migrant minorities?

2 The submissive wife was one of the mythologies of my time in pre WW II America. Even as a child I could see that 'the little woman' was a creation of 'the big guy,' and that both types were creations of their society. My mother, it is true, spent much of her time in our house, cleaning and preparing food and taking care of me, while my father was at his University office. If Mom was submissive, it was not to her husband—though the two of them, I think, supported one another—but to the social world in which she was herself brought up, one in which moms were home keepers and caregivers. Was that work assignment inferior to the one my Dad accepted, teaching at the University? I never thought so, and think so even less now, as a retired prof myself, wondering what the ultimate achievement of higher education is.