



WHO IS **SOPHIE SCHOLL?**

The student who defied the Third Reich



Is bravery contagious ?

- 01** She joined the White Rose resistance group in Munich, produced and distributed leaflets denouncing Nazi crimes.
- 02** She organised nationwide anonymous distribution targeting academics and elites to spark moral resistance.
- 03** She publicly scattered leaflets at Munich University on 18 February 1943; arrested and executed four days later.



01 . CONTEXT

NAZI GERMANY: A STATE OF TERROR

Under the Third Reich, the Nazi regime controlled every aspect of society through propaganda, the Gestapo, and mass enrolment of youth in the Hitler Youth. Dissent was systematically crushed, making individual resistance an act of extraordinary moral courage.

02 . BIOGRAPHY

FROM ENROLLED TO DISSIDENT

Born in 1921 into a Protestant family opposed to Nazism, Sophie Scholl initially joined the Hitler Youth before breaking away. Guided by Christian philosophers and moral thinkers, she developed an individual conscience that led her to active resistance.



03 . NOTABLE FACT N°1

THE WHITE ROSE RESISTANCE NETWORK

In 1942 in Munich, Sophie joined the White Rose, a student resistance group founded by her brother Hans and Alexander Schmorell. The group produced six leaflets denouncing Nazi crimes, drawing on philosophical and religious thought to call for passive, morally grounded resistance.



04 . NOTABLE FACT N°2

A NATIONWIDE DISTRIBUTION STRATEGY

The White Rose organised a structured distribution network. Sophie helped duplicate leaflets, send them anonymously by post to cities across Germany, and distribute them by hand. The group specifically targeted academics and elites, seeking to provoke a moral awakening against the regime's crimes.

05 . NOTABLE FACT N°3

A PUBLIC ACT OF DEFIANCE

On 18 February 1943, Sophie and Hans distributed leaflets at Munich University. Before leaving, Sophie thrown the remaining copies from an interior gallery. This deliberate act broke with clandestinity. She was arrested by the Gestapo that day and executed four days later, aged 21.

06 . QUOTE

"Somebody, after all, had to make a start."

Sophie Scholl

