The story of the Danish rescue of their Jewish citizens during Nazi occupation of Denmark remains an awesome example of moral heroism during one of the darkest times in modern history. Denmark was the only Nazi-occupied country that successfully resisted and thwarted the Nazis' attempts to deport its Jewish citizens.

King Christian X continuously objected to the Nazis plans to deport the Danish Jews. His visible and outspoken dissent encouraged and provided moral support to the Danish people.

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On September 28, 1943, the German ambassador to Denmark, Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz, informed the Danish Resistance that the Germans were going to begin deporting all Jews from Denmark. News of the deportation spread and the Danish people sought out the Jews to warn them of the impending danger. The Danes loudly and strongly opposed. Because of these protests, and because there were few Jews in Denmark, the Germans decided to wait until the end of the war to deal with Denmark's “Jewish problem.”

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Rudy's Danish Bakery for decades on Mercer Island, Washington. Like his father Mads, Rudy became a master baker in Aalborg, Denmark. In his early 20s, Rudy possessed the key to a city building in whose basement the Danish underground held meetings. He distributed underground newspapers on the routes of his bread deliveries, at great personal risk. Rudy worked through the entire war to help the underground. His visible and outspoken dissent encouraged and provided moral support to the Danish people.
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1. How did Denmark’s leaders take a very active role in resisting the Nazis? What should be the role of leaders relative to resistance? What kinds of things should countries try to resist and how can their leaders assist in this endeavor? Look through today’s Seattle Times for articles/images that demonstrate leaders using their role to resist.

2. Using today’s article, discuss “resistance” and what it means. How did people resist the Nazi persecution? What are some ways people resist? Look for examples of resistance in today’s Seattle Times. If you are unable to find one, locate an article in which someone is being oppressed. Then, identify ways of resistance that could be taken by the victims of the oppression.

3. Rudy Hansen risked his life to fight the Nazi occupation of Denmark and their goal to kill the Jewish population. One way he did this was by distributing an underground newspaper. You may recall that the Nazis controlled newspapers and other media sources. Why would they want to do this? And how does a free and independent newspaper play a role in resistance in our world and country today?