

THE HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE & THE TEN WORST NAZI PRISON CAMPS OF WW2

THE WORST OF THE WORST



224



INTRODUCTION TO THE HOLOCAUST

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/introduction-to-the-holocaust>

THE EARLY WARNING SIGNS

<https://www.ushmm.org/m/pdfs/20141010-dor-posterset-warningsigns.pdf>

THE DEFINITION OF GENOCIDE



PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY SUGGESTED LINKS, ADDRESSES, OR URLS IN THIS ARTICLE WILL TAKE YOU TO AND PROVIDE THE INFORMATION FROM THE UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MUSEUM WEBSITE (USHMM)

Genocide is an internationally recognized crime where acts are committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. These acts fall into five categories:

1. Killing members of the group
2. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group
3. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part
4. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group
5. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group

Many other serious, violent crimes do not fall under the specific definition of genocide. They include crimes against humanity, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and mass killing.

Raphael Lemkin, a Holocaust survivor from Poland, coined the word genocide in 1944 and made it his mission to compel nations to prevent it from occurring in the future. *US Holocaust Memorial Museum, gift of United Nations*

ORIGIN OF THE TERM GENOCIDE

The word “genocide” did not exist before 1944. It is a very specific term coined by a Polish-Jewish lawyer named Raphael Lemkin (1900-1959) who sought to describe Nazi policies of systematic murder during the Holocaust, including the destruction of European Jews.

He formed the word genocide by combining geno-, from the Greek word for race or tribe, with -cide, from the Latin word for killing.

On December 9, 1948, the United Nations approved a written international agreement known as the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

This convention established genocide as an international crime, which signatory nations “undertake to prevent and punish.” Preventing genocide, the other major obligation of the convention remains a challenge that nations, institutions, and individuals continue to face.

In 1933, the first Nazi concentration camp was built in Dachau, Germany to imprison dissidents. Heinrich Himmler took over in 1934 and started arresting “racially undesirable elements

Between 1933 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its allies established more than 44,000 camps and other incarceration sites (including ghettos). The perpetrators used these locations for a range of purposes. These purposes included forced labor, detention of people deemed to be “enemies of the state,” and mass murder. Millions of people suffered and died or were killed. Among these sites was Dachau, the longest-operating camp. On March 22, 1933, the first prisoner transports arrived at the camp.

Germany invaded Poland in 1939, and since Poland had a vast Jewish population, more camps were built. The killings began in 1941, and the following year, Germany started to exterminate the undesirables in staggering numbers.



German POWs watching footage of the concentration camps in 1945

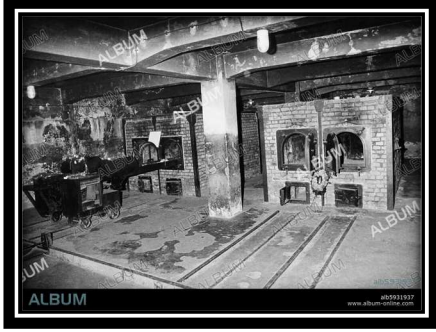
As WWII progressed, more camps were built for different purposes. There were those for POWs, those for slave labor, and those designated for extermination. This was probably the best-known of the camps and was responsible for the greatest number of deaths.

1.1 AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU **OCCUPIED POLAND**



Train tracks leading to the “Gate of Death,” the main entrance of Auschwitz II

Built in Poland it was a vast network of 48 sites. Also called Auschwitz I, II, and III for the main facilities, they had 45 other satellite camps. Auschwitz originally held Polish political prisoners who were first sent there in May 1940. It was at Auschwitz II (Birkenau), where the exterminations began in 1942.



OVENS @ AUSCHWITZ



GAS CHAMBERS DISGUISED AS SHOWERS

Of those killed some 90% were Jewish, the rest were Poles, Soviets, Romani, Sinti, Jehovah's Witnesses, gays, and those of mixed German blood. **Though gassing was a major cause of death**, so was overwork, malnutrition, poor conditions, inhumane treatment, and infectious diseases **More than 1.1 million died here.**



To view additional information on this "camp" copy and paste the below link into your browser

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/auschwitz>

2. TREBLINKA OCCUPIED POLAND



Treblinka was built to the northeast of Warsaw and was set up on 23 July 1942. **Although the first concentration camps were not meant to kill anyone, Treblinka was specifically designed for death.**

By August 1941, over 70,000 handicapped German men, women, and children had been exterminated through Aktion T4, an operation to eliminate the weak.

And the knowledge gained from that was used at Treblinka. Jews and Gypsies were worked at Treblinka I. When they died, they were disposed of at Treblinka II.

Some 700,000 to 900,000 Jews and about 2,000 Gypsies were killed here, the second-highest casualty rate after Auschwitz-Birkenau.



To view additional information on this “camp” copy and paste the below link into your browser
<https://www.holocaust.cz/en/history/concentration-camps-and-ghettos/treblinka-3/>

3. **BELZEC**

OCCUPIED POLAND



Entrance to Belzec

Belzec was opened on 17 March 1942 specifically to exterminate the Jews and to “Germanize” the area as part of Nazi colonial expansion into Poland. *As such, many non-Jewish Poles and Gypsies in the region were also sent here to die.*

As early as April 1940, German Jews were in Belzec as slave labor to prepare for the German invasion of Russia. In October 1941, however, Himmler gave the order to exterminate the Jews and Poles to make room for German Christian immigrants.

It's estimated that some 500,000 to 600,000 Jews, Poles, Russians, and Gypsies died here.



To view additional information on this “camp” copy and paste the below link into your browser
<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/belzec>

4. MAJDANEK OCCUPIED POLAND



An aerial photo of Majdanek taken on 24 June 1944

Majdanek was built to house 25,000 POWs in anticipation of Germany's invasion of Russia. But after the First Battle of Kyiv in September 1941, there were over 50,000 Soviet POWs, so the camp was redesigned in October.

By December, there were 150,000 inmates and in March the following year, there were over 250,000. Originally meant to be a working camp, the authorities couldn't cope with the numbers, so it was turned into a labor and extermination facility. ***"Unhealthy" Germans were also sent here to die. By 1945, 360,000 people were killed, including thousands of Germans unwanted by their government.***



To view additional information on this "camp" copy and paste the below link into your browser

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/lublin-majdanek-concentration-camp-conditions>

5. CHELMNO OCCUPIED POLAND



With no trains to Chelmno, prisoners were taken by truck or had to walk. Most abandoned their belongings along the way.

Chelmno opened in December 1941 as part of Operation Reinhard to purge the Polish Jews from the Łódź Ghetto. To “Germanize” the area, the local, non-Jewish Poles were also sent here to die. As Germany expanded, other Jews and Gypsies from Austria, Bohemia, Germany, Hungary, Luxemburg, and Moravia were also put here.

Though primarily a death camp, it was also used for medical experimentation. It was here that doctors developed the mobile gas vans used in Operation Barbarossa against Russia to kill large numbers in the open air.



The Polish government claims that about 340,000 people died in this camp, alone.

To view additional information on this “camp” copy and paste the below link into your browser.

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/chelmno>

6. **SOBIBOR** OCCUPIED POLAND



Aerial photo of Sobibór in 1942 as it was undergoing expansion

Sobibor was built near the Polish town of Włodawa in March 1942 to supplement the Bełżec camp which housed Jews deported from the Lublin Ghetto. It was at Sobibór that early experiments on gassing were carried out on several Jewish prisoners.

The fit and the unfit were first separated from those brought in. The latter were gassed immediately upon arrival, while the former were first worked to exhaustion. On 14 October 1943, the prisoners rose in revolt and about 50 escaped, after which the authorities obliterated the camp.

Some 250,000 people died at the site, which is now gone, but a memorial center has been built there.



To view additional information on this "camp" copy and paste the below link into your browser.

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/sobibor>

7. DACHAU MUNICH GERMANY



US soldiers guarding the main entrance to Dachau after liberation in 1945

Dachau was built near Munich in 1933. Its first prisoners were Germans who opposed the Nazi regime, while its last inmates were SS officers awaiting trial in 1945. In 1935, its first minorities were Jehovah's Witnesses, followed by Germans of mixed descent, and immigrants.

Jews were sent here in August 1940. To accommodate more people, almost 100 other sub-camps were created throughout southern Germany and Austria, which were administered from Dachau. After the war, Germans expelled from Eastern Europe were kept here as they awaited resettlement.

It's believed that more than 243,000 died here by the time it was liberated in 1945.



Prisoners carrying bowls in the Dachau concentration camp. Dachau, Germany, between 1933 and 1940

To view additional information on this "CAMP" copy and paste the below link into your browser

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/dachau>

THE LIBERATION OF DACHAU

The Dachau concentration camp, northwest of Munich, Germany, was the first regular concentration camp the Nazis established in 1933. About twelve years later, on April 29, 1945, US armed forces liberated the camp. There were about 30,000 starving prisoners in the camp at the time. Here, soldiers of the US Seventh Army document conditions in the camp. They also require German civilians to tour the camp and confront Nazi atrocities.

To view additional information on this "LIBERATION" copy and paste the below link into your browser

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/film/liberation-of-dachau?parent=en%2F439>

8. MAUTHAUSEN-GUSEN OCCUPIED AUSTRIA



Stone gate topped with a large metal eagle holding a swastika; through the gate a building with two garage doors is visible

Mauthausen was built in upper Austria in August 1938 and was one of the first massive concentration camp complexes in Nazi Germany, **and the last to be liberated by the Allies**. The two main camps, Mauthausen and Gusen I, were labeled as **"Grade III" camps, which meant that they were intended to be the toughest camps** for the "Incorrigible political enemies of the Reich". Unlike many other concentration camps, which were intended for all categories of prisoners, Mauthausen was mostly used for extermination through the labor of the intelligentsia - educated people and members of the higher social classes in occupied countries.

It is estimated that between 123,000 and 320,000 people were murdered in Mauthausen.

To view additional information on this "camp" copy and paste the below link into your browser.

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/mauthausen>

9. BERGEN-BELSEN GERMANY



Female inmates at Bergen-Belsen after liberation in April 1945. They're collecting extra bread rations provided by the Allies

Bergen-Belsen in Germany's Lower Saxony was built in 1943 to be a POW camp. At its height, 95,000 international prisoners were kept here, requiring constant expansion throughout the war. Prominent Jewish hostages were also sent to this camp to exchange them for German POWs, **so it was never meant to become an extermination facility**.

Due to food and medical shortages, however, as well as unsanitary conditions and inadequate facilities, many died from starvation, disease, and lack of adequate care. ***When the Allies liberated it in 1945, they found some 13,000 corpses lying about.***

It's estimated that at least 50,000 people died here.

To view additional information on this "camp" copy and paste the below link into your browser.

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/bergen-belsen>

10. **BUCHENWALD** GERMANY



Slave laborers in Buchenwald surprised by the arrival of Allied troops

Buchenwald means beech forest, belying its horror, and was the first camp to be liberated by the Western allies in WWII. Set up in July 1937, it was the also first camp built in Weimar, Germany, as well as the largest after Dachau.

Created for Communists, Freemasons, Gypsies, Jehovah's Witnesses, Jews, Poles, Soviets, Slavs, homosexuals, and common criminals, it began life as a working prison for arms production. But in 1942, they began medical experimentation on the inmates. In August 1944, an Allied bombing raid hit the facility, killing 388 and wounding some 2,000.

By 1945, 33,462 had died from executions, malnutrition, and experimentation.

To view additional information on this "camp" copy and paste the below link into your browser.

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/buchenwald>



HOW MANY MORE CONCENTRATION – PRISON - DEATH CAMPS

TO LEARN ABOUT "THE OTHERS" COPY AND PASTE THE BELOW LINK INTO YOUR BROWSER

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/nazi-camps>

1933-1945

YES IT DID HAPPEN!!!!!! AND IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN !!!



History Repeats



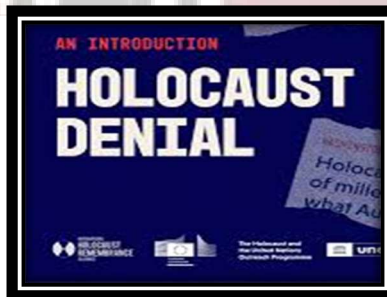
The best way to take control over a people and control them utterly is to take a little of their freedom at a time, to erode rights by a thousand tiny and almost imperceptible reductions.

In this way the people will not see those rights and freedoms being removed until past the point at which these changes cannot be reversed. Adolf Hitler

John C Brookes. Walsall. UK

First, they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

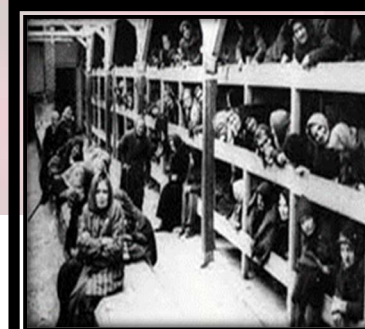
Martin Niemöller



FOR ANY NON-BELIEVERS

**THIS HAPPENED - THE PICTURES ON THE NEXT PAGE - ARE VERY GRAPHIC
THEY ARE REAL - THESE PICTURES CANNOT BE STAGED.**

**WARNING:
Graphic Imagery**





EDUCATION REQUIRED CONCERNING THE HOLOCAUST



United Nations

General Assembly
of the United Nations

JANUARY 13, 2022



"Seventy-seven years ago, liberation ended the Holocaust. But it was just the beginning of our efforts to make sure such crimes can never happen again," said Secretary-General Mr. Guterres. "As fewer and fewer can bear direct witness, let us together pledge to always remember and make sure others never forget.

The Secretary-General has welcomed recent action by the UN General Assembly and others to clearly define and actively combat Holocaust denial.

However, he was alarmed that barely half of adults worldwide had even heard of the Holocaust, while the lack of knowledge among younger generations is even worse.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted on Thursday, by consensus, a resolution that condemns the denial and distortion of the Holocaust.

The resolution was approved in the presence of a group of people who survived the Nazi genocide that killed around six million Jews, some two-thirds of the Jewish population of Europe, during World War Two.

SOME STATES ARE REQUIRING THEIR SCHOOLS TO TEACH ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

Nineteen US states require Holocaust education as part of the public school curriculum, said Andy Hollinger, a spokesperson for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. That includes Arkansas, which passed a bill last month requiring educators to teach Holocaust history in schools beginning in 2022. But 31 states do not. Holocaust awareness advocates would like to change that.

To ensure students learn about the Holocaust, some states are taking action.

Massachusetts lawmakers are pushing for mandatory education on the Holocaust and other genocides after a high school football coach was fired for allegedly using anti-Semitic language for play calls.

In the Claims Conference study, Wisconsin had the highest score in Holocaust awareness among millennials and Generation Z while Arkansas had the lowest.

Wisconsin passed a bill in April that requires social studies classes in middle schools and high schools to teach about the Holocaust and other genocides.

"This bill will affect generations of kids in our state and bring increased awareness ... in our schools to the tragedies of the Holocaust, the pervasiveness of anti-Semitism to this day, and hopefully cultivate a generation that is more compassionate, more empathetic and more inclusive," Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers said in a statement.

Under the new law school districts, independent charter schools, and private schools taking part in a choice program must teach about the Holocaust and other genocides at least once in grades five through eight, and high school.

Arkansas just passed a similar measure that goes into effect in the 2022-2023 school year.

Like Wisconsin, the law in Arkansas calls for Holocaust lessons between fifth and 12 grades. Experts believe learning about genocide at a young age will lead to greater understanding and tolerance later on.

The Arkansas bill states that the lessons will help teach students about "the ramifications of bullying, bigotry, stereotyping and discrimination" while encouraging "tolerance of diversity and reverence for human dignity for all citizens."



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