

While They Watched: What We Can Learn from the Holocaust

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What caused the Holocaust?

Was it linear?
 Hitler Nazi Rise to Power War
 Six Final Camps,
 Million Solution Ghettoes

The Holocaust

Traditional View of the Events of the **Holocaust** The Holocaust **Key Events** Victims, Perpetrators, Bystanders, Resisters and Rescuers

Tim Kaiser, Director of Educational Initiatives, USHMM

Or was it...not?

Expanding the Lens

The Holocaust

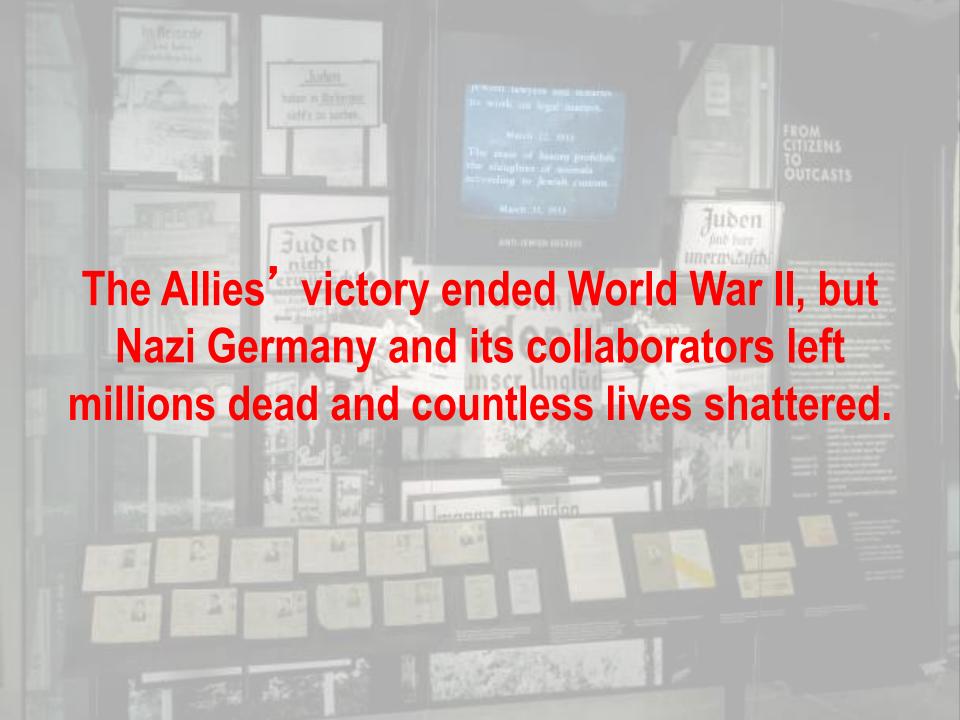
Key Events Victims, Perpetrators, Rescuers

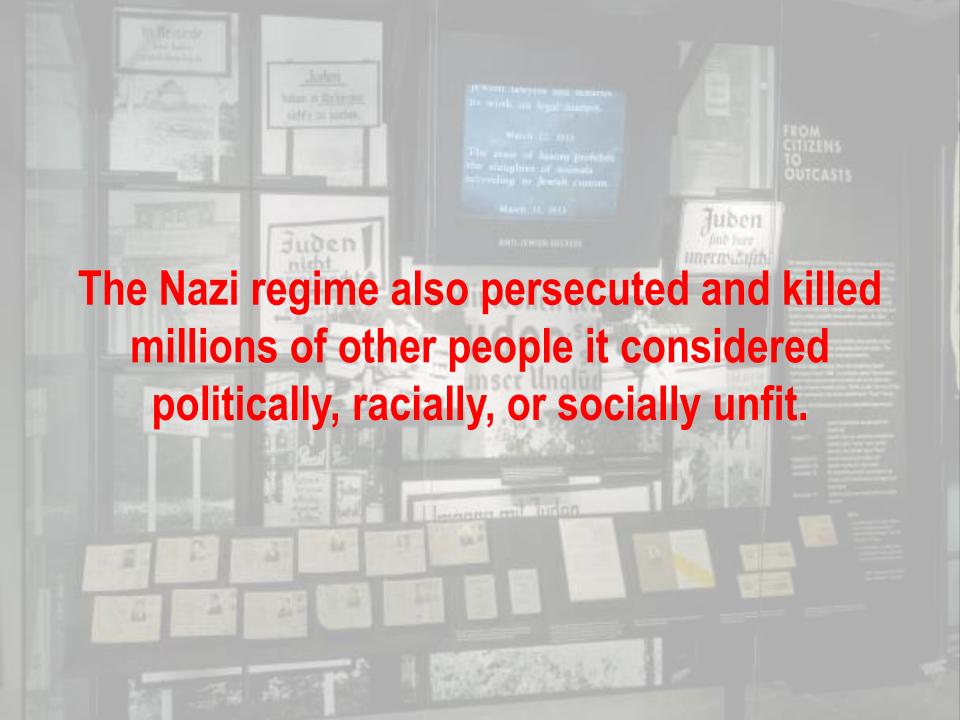
Onlookers, Store Owners
Neighbors, Classmates
Work Colleagues
Bureaucrats, Parishioners
Accountants, Civil Servants
Police, Farmers
Housewives, Actors

Tim Kaiser, Director of Educational Initiatives, USHMM

Between 1933 and 1945, the German government led by Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party carried out the systematic persecution and murder of Europe's Jews.

This genocide is now known as the Holocaust.







TAKEOVER OF POWER, 1933

After this photograph was taken, all political parties in the Reichstag—with the exception of the Socialists and Communists—passed the "Enabling Act" giving Hitler, newly appointed chancellor, the power to rule by emergency decree.



THE TERROR BEGINS

Communists, Socialists, and other political opponents of the Nazis were among the first to be rounded up and imprisoned by the regime.



FROM CITIZENS TO OUTCASTS

Juden

Marine Co.

The Nazi's initiated a boycott of Jewish businesses on April 1st, 1933. Many Germans continued to enter the Jewish stores despite the boycott, and it was called off after 24 hours. In the subsequent weeks and months more discriminatory measures against Jews followed and remained in effect.



NAZI RACE LAWS

An instructional chart distinguishes individuals with pure "German blood" (left column), "Mixed blood" (second and third columns), and Jews (right two columns), as defined in the Nuremberg Laws. FROM CITIZENS TO OUTCASTS



THE "SCIENCE" OF RACE

Members of the Hitler Youth receive instruction in racial hygiene at a Hitler Youth training facility. The Nazis divided the world's population into superior and inferior "races."

The Night of the Broken Glass

November 9th and 10th, 1938, Nazi officials and Hitler–Jugend perpetrated a pogrom on Jewish homes, synagogues and businesses throughout Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland.



The Boerneplatz synagogue in flames during Kristallnacht (the "Night of Broken Glass"). Frankfurt am Main, Germany, November 10, 1938.

-US Holocaust Memorial Museum

- •Violence erupted through the morning hours of November 10th
- •Many of the perpetrators wore civilian clothing to pose as an "outraged public."
- •The rioters destroyed 267 synagogues throughout Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland.
- Many synagogues burned throughout the night, in full view of the public and of local firefighters, who had received orders to intervene only to prevent flames from spreading to nearby buildings.



On the morning after Kristallnacht local residents watch as the Ober Ramstadt synagogue is destroyed by fire.

-USHMM



"NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS"

Within 48 hours, synagogues were vandalized and burned, 7,500 Jewish businesses were damaged or destroyed, 96 Jews were killed, and nearly 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and sent to concentration camps.





"ENEMIES OF THE STATE"

Although Jews were their primary targets, the Nazis also persecuted Roma (Gypsies), persons with mental and physical disabilities, and Poles for racial, ethnic, or national reasons.



Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents, also suffered oppression and death. Significantly, Kristallnacht marks the first instance in which the Nazi regime incarcerated Jews on a massive scale simply on the basis of their ethnicity.

Kristallnacht intensified the emigration of Jews from Germany in the months to come.

The German government blamed the Jews for the pogrom and imposed a punitive fine of one billion *Reichsmark* (some 400 million US dollars at 1938 rates) on the German Jewish community.

Historians have noted that after the pogrom, anti-Jewish policy intensified and was concentrated more and more concretely into the hands of the SS.



Jewish men arrested during Kristallnacht are forced to march through the town streets under SS guard and to watch the desecration of a synagogue before their deportation. —US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Lydia Chagoll



SEARCH FOR REFUGE

Jews in Vienna wait in line at a police station to obtain exit visas. Following the incorporation of Austria by Nazi Germany in March 1938, and the unleashing of a wave of humiliation, terror, and confiscation, many Austrian Jews attempted to leave the country.



SEARCH FOR REFUGE

Before being allowed to leave, however, Jews were required to get an exit visa, plus pay large sums of money in taxes and additional fees



AMERICAN RESPONSES

After the U.S. government denied permission for the passengers to enter the United States, the *St. Louis* returned to Europe. Some 250 of the refugees would later be killed in the Holocaust.



LIFE IN THE GHETTO

Ghettos were city districts, often enclosed, in which the Germans concentrated the municipal and some-times regional Jewish population to control and segregate it from the non-Jewish population.



DEPORTATIONS

Between 1942 and 1944, trains carrying Jews from German-controlled Europe rolled into one of the six killing centers located along rail lines in occupied Poland.



DEPORTATIONS

Commonly between 80 and 100 people were crammed into railcars of this type. Deportation trains usually carried 1,000 to 2,000 people.



CONCENTRATION CAMP UNIVERSEThe German authorities

The German authorities confis-cated all the personal belongings of the Jews, including their clothing, and collected them for use or sale. Soviet troops dis-covered tens of thousands of shoes when they liberated the Majdanek concentration camp in Poland in July 1944.

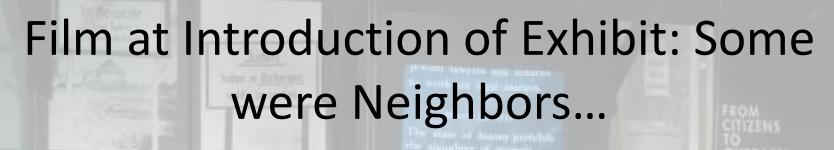
Our Responsibility...

Consider the roles of individuals in society as a way to connect the Holocaust to everyday life. What impacted the decisions that people made then, as to whether or not to intervene? To help or hinder? How are those influencing factors similar to what might impact an individual to take action or remain silent today?



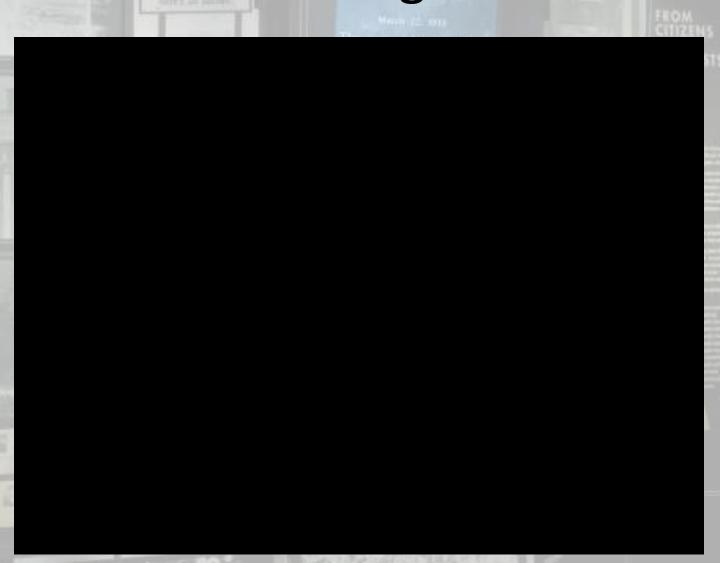
Uniformed Gestapo officials load Jews onto trucks for deportation in full view of many onlookers. Kerpen, Germany, 1942. USHMM



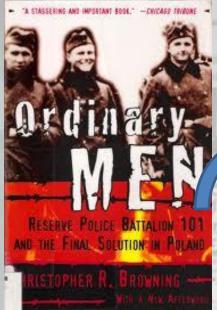


 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DxDJURn wcYk&feature=youtu.be

Some Were Neighbors Film



Polish and German Teenagers



Christopher R. Browning



In Lukow, Poland, 1942, where the ghetto was liquidated... found on page 41 of Browning's book, courtesy of Yad Vashem.

THE HOLOCAUST LAST CHAPTER



DEATH MARCHES

This photo taken from the window of a private home shows prisoners being marched from one concentration camp to another. In response to the deteriorating military situation in late 1944, German authorities ordered the evacuation of concentration camp prisoners away from advancing Allied troops to the interior of Germany.

Why didn't they throw down bread like we do with the birds in the summer? Nesse Godin, survivor Inmates from Dachau during a death march towards Wolfratshausen, Germany, **April 1945**

The Book Thief

Hans Hubermann gives a Jew bread...



LIBERATION

Eisenhower visited the camp to witness personally the evidence of atrocities.



LIBERATION

He publicly expressed his shock and revulsion, and he urged others to see the camps firsthand lest "the stories of Nazi brutality" be forgotten or dismissed as merely "propaganda."



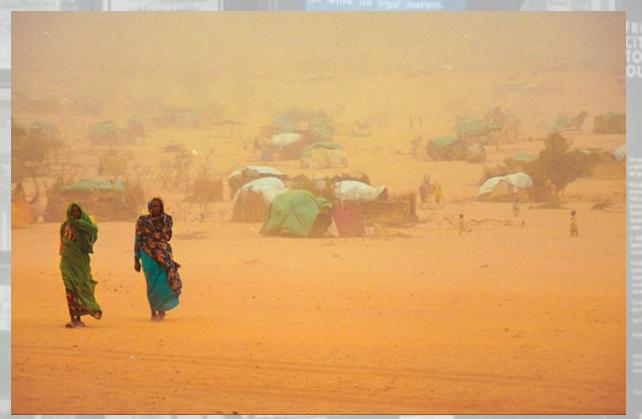
POSTWAR TRIALS

Beginning in October 1945, 22 major war criminals were tried on charges of crimes against peace, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and conspiracy to commit such crimes.



GENOCIDE DID NOT END WITH THE HOLOCAUST

In response to the Holocaust, the international community worked to create safeguards to prevent future genocides.



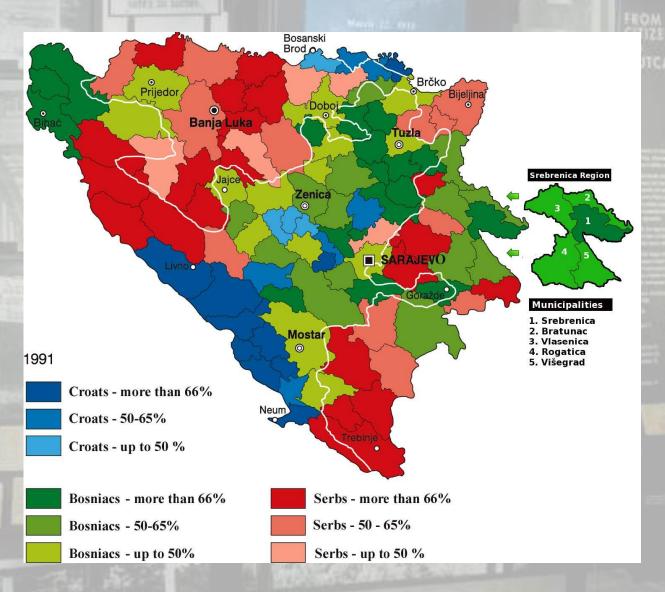
GENOCIDE DID NOT END WITH THE HOLOCAUST

Despite this effort, genocide has continued, and it continues to threaten parts of the world even today.

Cambodia



Bosnia





the triumph of evil

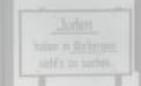
how the west ignored warnings of the 1994 rwanda genocide and turned its back on the victims.



Darfur

C(1)23





Syria

The state of heating profession



CITIZENS





Never Again?! Signs in Speech

- New research by Professor Susan Benesch regarding Dangerous Speech is thought provoking as a model to distinguish incitement from hate speech. This can be a definite part of the solution to preventing genocide!
- http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstr act id=1121926

Five Defining Criteria for Dangerous Speech

- Powerful speaker with influence over the audience most likely to react
- Audience vulnerable to incitement e.g. fearful
- Meaning of the speech act: understood as call to violence
- Conducive social and historical context
- Influential means of dissemination

Original research by: Professor Susan Benesch, American University



Eight Stages of Genocide Genocide Watch

- http://www.genocidewatch.org/aboutgenocide/8 stagesofgenocide.html
- 1. Classification
- 2. Symbolization
- 3. Dehumanization
- 4. Organization
- 5. Polarization
- · 6. Preparation
- 7. Extermination
- 8. Denial

Often done through speech!

"Tell the Truth and Secure the Future for All of Us... Nesse Godin, Survivor



1've had an unimaginable past, but 1 thank God every day for my life...



in Hersede and being speliebne lande Juden 100 pewant lawyers and notation haben in Abritanian 80. to work on legal matters. nicht's zu suches. FROM March 22, 2933 CITIZENS The state of Saxony prohibin TO the slaughner of unimals OUTCASTS according to Jewish custom. March 31, 3944 Juden find bier Buden ANTI-JEWISH DECREES unerwayich! An assessment of the second of print for Day To this layer during their by retaining community of the AND STREET Merch. alest whente had Bitte-SA.