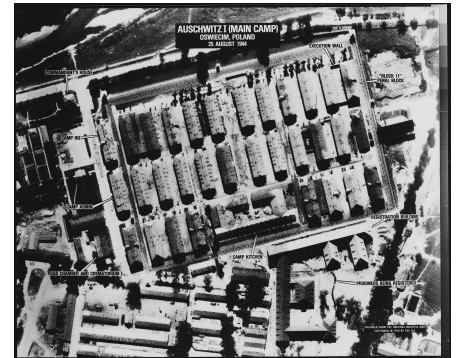


Holocaust Glossary

A

- **Allies:** 26 nations led by Great Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union that opposed Germany, Italy, and Japan (known as the Axis powers) in World War II.
- **Antisemitism:** Hostility toward or hatred of Jews as a religious or ethnic group, often accompanied by social, economic, or political discrimination. (USHMM)
- **Appellplatz:** German word for the roll call square where prisoners were forced to assemble. (USHMM)
- ***Arbeit Macht Frei:*** “Work makes you free” is emblazoned on the gates at Auschwitz and was intended to deceive prisoners about the camp’s function (Holocaust Museum Houston)
- **Aryan:** Term used in Nazi Germany to refer to non-Jewish and non-Gypsy Caucasians. Northern Europeans with especially “Nordic” features such as blonde hair and blue eyes were considered by so-called race scientists to be the most superior of Aryans, members of a “master race.” (USHMM)
- **Auschwitz:** The largest Nazi concentration camp/death camp complex, located 37 miles west of Krakow, Poland. The Auschwitz main camp (Auschwitz I) was established in 1940. In 1942, a killing center was established at Auschwitz-Birkenau (Auschwitz II). In 1941, Auschwitz-Monowitz (Auschwitz III) was established as a forced-labor camp. More than 100 subcamps and labor detachments were administratively connected to Auschwitz III. (USHMM) *Pictured right: Auschwitz I.*

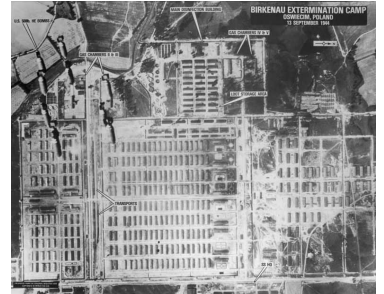


B

- **Babi Yar:** A ravine near Kiev where almost 34,000 Jews were killed by German soldiers in two days in September 1941 (Holocaust Museum Houston)
- **Barrack:** The building in which camp prisoners lived. The material, size, and conditions of the structures varied from camp to camp. At Auschwitz-Birkenau, the wooden barracks were originally designed to hold horses and were divided into stalls holding three-tiered wooden bunks. Inmates were squeezed in five or six across on the wooden planks. The buildings had little ventilation and were not insulated from the heat or cold. There was usually no sanitary facilities. As many as 500 inmates lodged in a single barrack.
- **Baum Gruppe:** Named after its leaders, Herbert and Marianne Baum, *Baum Gruppe* was diverse in its membership but unified in its opposition to the Nazis. Founded in 1937 and composed mainly of young Jewish Communists, the group also included fervent, left-wing Zionists. The Baum Group produced and distributed anti-Nazi pamphlets, arranged educational events for the increasingly isolated Jewish youth of Berlin, and offered moral support and camaraderie. In May 1942 members engaged in a daring anti-Nazi act, an attempt to burn down an anti-Bolshevik propaganda exhibit called *Das Sowjetparadies* (The Soviet Paradise). Herbert, Marianne, and 25 other members were caught, tortured, and either

killed or sent to concentration camps. Five hundred Berlin Jews not associated with the group also were arrested in reprisal and sent to camps or killed.

- **Bergen-Belsen:** Nazi concentration camp in northwestern Germany. Erected in 1943. Thousands of Jews, political prisoners, and POWs were killed there. Liberated by British troops in April 1945, although many of the remaining prisoners died of typhus after liberation. (FCIT)
- **Birkenau:** Nazi camp also known as Auschwitz II (see Auschwitz above), Birkenau contained systematic mass killing operations. It also housed thousands of concentration camp prisoners deployed at forced labor. (USHMM) *Pictured right: Birkenau.*
- **Block:** A single concentration camp barrack. (Voices of the Holocaust)
- **Blood Libel:** An allegation, recurring during the thirteenth through sixteenth centuries, that Jews were killing Christian children to use their blood for the ritual of making unleavened bread (matzah). A red mold which occasionally appeared on the bread started this myth. (FCIT)
- **Breendonck:** The concentration camp at Breendonck, Belgium, was a primary internment point for Jews in Occupied Belgium.
- **Buchenwald:** A large concentration camp established in 1937 by the Nazis. It was located in north-central Germany, near the city of Weimar. (USHMM)
- **Buna:** Industrial plant established by the I.G. Farben company on the site of Auschwitz III (Monowitz) in German-occupied Poland. I.G. Farben executives aimed to produce synthetic rubber and synthetic fuel (gasoline), using forced labor. Thousands of prisoners died there. (USHMM)
- **Bystander:** One who is present at some event without participating in it. (FCIT)



C

- **Canada:** The name given to the storage buildings by the prisoners who worked in them. These buildings held the clothing and other possessions of those Jews who had just arrived into the extermination camps and were usually gassed shortly afterward. Much of the most valuable items were “stolen” by guards or went to the remaining ghettos to be “repaired” in the workshops there. (Holocaust Museum Houston)
- **Chancellor:** A senior state or legal official. This was the title for the head of the government in Germany.
- **Chelmno:** First death camp to use gassing and first place located outside Soviet territory in which Jews were systematically killed as part of the “Final Solution.” (Holocaust Museum Houston)
- **Concentration Camp:** Throughout German-occupied Europe, the Nazis established camps to detain and, if necessary, kill so-called enemies of the state, including Jews, Gypsies, political and religious opponents, members of national resistance movements, homosexuals, and others. Imprisonment in a concentration camp was of unlimited duration, was not linked to a specific act, and was not subject to any judicial review. In addition to

concentration camps, the Nazi regime ran several other kinds of camps including labor camps, transit camps, prisoner-of-war camps, and killing centers. (USHMM)

- **Crematorium:** A facility containing a furnace for reducing dead bodies to ashes by burning. (USHMM)
- **Criminal Police (Kripo):** German police detective force responsible for investigating non-political crimes. (USHMM)

D

- **Dachau:** Himmler's model camp located outside Munich, opened March 20, 1933; initially designed to hold political prisoners. (Holocaust Museum Houston)
- **Death March:** A forced march of prisoners of war or other captives or deportees with the intent to kill, brutalize, weaken and/or demoralize as many of the captives as possible along with way.
- **Degenerate Art:** Art which did not fit the Nazi ideal. (FCIT)
- **Dehumanization:** The process of demonizing a group of people, making them seem less than human and hence not worthy of humane treatment. This can lead to increased violence, human rights violations, war crimes, and genocide.
- **Deportation:** Forced removal of Jews in Nazi-occupied countries from their homes.
- **Displacement:** The process, either official or unofficial, of people being involuntarily moved from their homes because of war, government policies, or other societal actions, requiring groups of people to find new places to live. Displacement is a recurring theme in the history of the Jewish people. (FCIT)
- **DP:** Displaced Person. The upheavals of war left millions of soldiers and civilians far from home. Millions of DPs had been eastern European slave laborers for the Nazis. The tens of thousands of Jewish survivors of Nazi camps either could not or did not want to return to their former homes in Germany or eastern Europe, and many lived in special DP camps while awaiting migration to America or Palestine. (FCIT)
- **Displaced Persons Act of 1948:** Law passed by U.S. Congress limiting the number of Jewish displaced persons who could emigrate to the United States. The law contained antisemitic elements, eventually eliminated in 1950. (FCIT)
- **Drancy:** An unfinished apartment complex in the Paris suburb of Drancy that became a transit camp for most Jews shipped from France to Auschwitz. From 1942 to 1944 more than 60 of the 79 trains that left for the East from France left from Drancy.
- **Dreyfus Affair:** A scandal that rocked France in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Dreyfus affair involved a Jewish artillery captain in the French army, Alfred Dreyfus (1859-1935), who was falsely convicted of passing military secrets to the Germans. In 1894, after a French spy at the German Embassy in Paris discovered a ripped-up letter in a waste basket with handwriting said to resemble that of Dreyfus, he was court-martialed, found guilty of treason, and sentenced to life behind bars on Devil's Island off French Guiana. In a public ceremony in Paris following his conviction, Dreyfus had the insignia torn from his uniform and his sword broken and was paraded before a crowd that shouted, "Death to Judas, death

to the Jew.” In 1896, the new head of the army’s intelligence unit, Georges Picquart, uncovered evidence pointing to another French military officer, Major Ferdinand Walsin Esterhazy, as the real traitor. However, when Picquart told his bosses what he’d discovered he was discouraged from continuing his investigation, transferred to North Africa and later imprisoned. Nevertheless, word about Esterhazy’s possible guilt began to circulate. In 1898, he was court-martialed but quickly found not guilty; he later fled the country. After Esterhazy’s acquittal, a French newspaper published an open letter titled “J’Accuse...!” by well-known author Emile Zola in which he defended Dreyfus and accused the military of a major cover-up in the case. As a result, Zola was convicted of libel, although he escaped to England and later managed to return to France. The Dreyfus affair deeply divided France, not just over the fate of the man at its center but also over a range of issues, including politics, religion and national identity. In 1899, Dreyfus was court-martialed for a second time and found guilty. Although he was pardoned days later by the French president, it wasn’t until 1906 that Dreyfus officially was exonerated and reinstated in the army. (History.com, Elizabeth Nix, 2015)

E

- **Edelstein, Jacob:** Edelstein was among the leading figures in Czechoslovakia’s Zionist movement before the start of the war. He became the first chairman of the Theresienstadt Ghetto’s Jewish Council. He used this position to resist efforts to deport the ghetto’s Jews. Bravely, he falsified daily reports concerning the number of Jews in the ghetto. The Nazis deported him in December 1943 to Auschwitz, where he and his family were shot on June 20, 1944. (The Holocaust Chronicle)
- **Einsatzgruppen (mobile killing units):** Mobile units of the German Security Police and SD augmented by Order Police and Waffen-SS personnel. These units followed the German army as it invaded the nations of central and eastern Europe. Their duties included the arrest or murder of political opponents and potential resistance. In Poland in 1939, these units were assigned to shoot Polish intellectuals and to concentrate the Jewish population into large cities. After the German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, Einsatzgruppen personnel killed Jews, Soviet political commissars, Gypsies (Roma), mentally disabled persons, and other perceived "racial" and ideological enemies, usually by mass shootings. (USHMM)
- **Einsatzkommando:** Command units that carried out killing operations, particularly of groups of Jews who were to be exterminated in gas vans or by firing squads (Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies, University of Minnesota)
- **Eugenics:** The science of improving a human population by controlled breeding to increase the occurrence of desirable heritable characteristics. Developed largely by Francis Galton as a method of improving the human race, it fell into disfavor after the perversion of its doctrines by the Nazis.
- **Euthanasia:** “Euthanasia” (literally, “good death”) usually refers to the inducement of a painless death for a chronically or terminally ill individual. In Nazi usage, however,



“euthanasia” was a euphemistic term for a clandestine program which targeted institutionalized mentally and physically disabled patients for systematic killing, without the consent of themselves or their families. (USHMM)

- **Evian Conference:** Held July 6-15, 1938. Delegates from 32 countries and representatives from relief organizations met in Evian-les-Bains, a spa town in France, to discuss German-Jewish refugees. The United States encouraged all countries to find a long-term solution to the problem. (USHMM)
- **Extermination Camps:** Six major camps designed and built for the sole purpose of killing Jews. These were Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Chelmno, Majdanek, Sobibor, and Treblinka. (Holocaust Museum Houston)

F

- **Fascism:** A political movement that exalts the collective nation, and often race, above the individual and that advocates a centralized totalitarian state headed by a charismatic leader; expansion of the nation, preferably by military force; forcible suppression and sometimes physical annihilation of opponents both real and perceived. (USHMM)
- **“Final Solution”:** The Nazi plan to annihilate the European Jews. (USHMM)
- **Flossenburg:** Bavarian camp established in 1938/39 mainly for political, particularly foreign, prisoners. (FCIT)
- **Forced-Labor Camps:** Camps where prisoners were used as slave labor.

G

- **Generalgouvernement (General Government):** That part of German-occupied Poland not directly annexed to Germany, attached to German East Prussia, or incorporated into the German-occupied Soviet Union. (USHMM)
- **Genocide:** Any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life, calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; [and] forcibly transferring children of the group to another group. (Article 2 CPPCG)
- **Gestapo:** The German Secret State Police, which was under SS control. It was responsible for investigating political crimes and opposition activities. (USHMM)
- **Ghetto:** A confined area of a city in which members of a minority group are compelled to live. The first use of the term “ghetto” for a section of a city in which Jews lived was in Venice, Italy, in 1516. (USHMM)
- **Gypsy:** A traditional term, sometimes perceived as pejorative, for Roma, a nomadic people whose ancestors migrated to Europe from India. Nazi Germany and its Axis partners persecuted and killed large numbers of Roma during the era of the Holocaust. (USHMM)
- **Goebbels, Joseph (1897-1945):** In 1933, the year Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) became chancellor of Germany, he named Joseph Goebbels, his trusted friend and colleague, to the

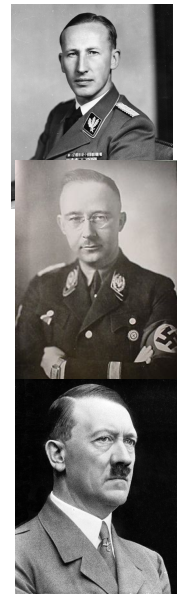
key post of minister for public enlightenment and propaganda. In this capacity, Goebbels was charged with presenting Hitler to the public in the most favorable light, regulating the content of all German media and fomenting anti-Semitism. Goebbels forced Jewish artists, musicians, actors, directors and newspaper and magazine editors into unemployment, and staged a public burning of books that were considered “un-German.” He also spearheaded the production of Nazi propaganda films and other projects. Goebbels remained in this post and was loyal to Hitler until the end of World War II (1939-45). On May 1, 1945, the day after Hitler committed suicide, Goebbels and his wife poisoned their six children and then killed themselves. (History.com)



- **Goeth, Amon:** The commandant of the Kraków-Plaszów concentration camp in Plaszów in German-occupied Poland for most of the camp's existence during World War II

H

- **Heydrich, Reinhard** (1904–1942): SS General and chief of the Security Police and SD. Sometime in December 1940, Heydrich was tasked with developing a “Final Solution” of the Jewish question in Europe. (USHMM)
- **Himmler, Heinrich** (1900–1945): *Reichsführer-SS* (Reich Leader of the SS) and Chief of German Police, a position which included supreme command over the Gestapo, the concentration camps, and the Waffen-SS. After 1943, Himmler was Minister of the Interior of Nazi Germany, principal planner for the aim of Nazi Germany to kill all European Jews. (USHMM)
- **Hitler, Adolf** (1889–1945): *Führer* (leader) of the National Socialist (Nazi) movement (1921–1945); Reich Chancellor of Germany 1933–1945; *Führer* of the German Nation (1934–1945). (USHMM)
- **Holocaust:** The Holocaust was the state-sponsored systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Jews were the primary victims. Six million were murdered. (USHMM)



I

- **Immigrant:** A person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.
- **International Military Tribunal:** The United States, Great Britain, France, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics charted this court to prosecute Nazi war criminals. (FCIT)

J

- **Jehovah's Witnesses:** Religious sect that originated in the United States and had about 2,000 members in Germany in 1933. Their religious beliefs did not allow them to swear allegiance to any worldly power, making them enemies of the Nazi state. (FCIT)
- **Judenrat:** Jewish councils set up within the ghettos to maintain order and carry out the orders of the German army. (Holocaust Museum Houston)

- **Judenrein:** “Cleansed of Jews,” a German expression for Hitler’s plan to rid Europe of Jews. (Holocaust Museum Houston)

K

- **Kapo:** a concentration camp prisoner selected to oversee other prisoners on labor details. The term is often used generically for any concentration camp prisoner to whom the SS gave authority over other prisoners. (USHMM)
- **Killing Centers:** The Nazis established killing centers for efficient mass murder. Unlike concentration camps, which served primarily as detention and labor centers, killing centers (also referred to as “extermination camps” or “death camps”) were almost exclusively “death factories.” German SS and police murdered nearly 2,700,000 Jews in the killing centers either by asphyxiation with poison gas or by shooting. (USHMM)
- **Kindertransport:** The informal name of a series of rescue efforts which allowed for thousands of Jewish children to be sent from Germany, Austria, and parts of Czechoslovakia to Great Britain between 1938 and 1940.
- **Kommando:** German word for “detachment,” such as a detachment of concentration camp prisoners at forced labor. (USHMM)
- **Korczak, Janusz:** Korczak, with the pen name of Henryk Goldszmit, was a Polish-Jewish physician, writer, and educator. He spent his entire professional life studying and caring for children. With the outbreak of World War II, and the creation of the Warsaw Ghetto, Korczak dedicated himself to helping Jewish boys and girls. On August 5, 1942, the Nazis rounded up Korczak and his 200 children. After a three-mile march to the deportation trains, nothing more is known of Korczak or his children and their journey to Treblinka where they were gassed.
- **Krakow Ghetto:** The ghetto in Krakow, Poland, where Oskar Schindler gave factory jobs to remaining Jews thus saving them from deportation in March 1943. (Holocaust Museum Houston)
- **Krakow/Plaszow:** Home to the oldest and most important Jewish communities in Europe, Krakow, Poland was transformed by the Nazis into a place of terror. The city was occupied by the Germans in September 1939 and declared capital of the *Generalgouvernement* of Poland. All anti-Jewish legislation for the region was issued from Krakow. Terror campaigns against the Jews began in December 1940. Jewish property was seized, synagogues were burned, and thousands of Jews were expelled from their residences. A formal ghetto that measured 656 x 437 yards was established in March 1941. Jews from the neighboring communities were packed into the ghetto; by the end of the year, 18,000 Jews were imprisoned in Krakow. The overcrowding and deplorable sanitary conditions caused many deaths. Deportations from Krakow to Belzec and Auschwitz death camps began in May 1942 and continued until March 1943. On March 13, 1943, 2,000 Jews were transferred to the Plaszow forced-labor camp. Located on the outskirts of Krakow, the Plaszow camp was run by the notorious Amon Goeth, a psychopathic killer who took pleasure in shooting Jews for sport

from his balcony. The Krakow ghetto and Plaszow labor camp provided the setting for the film *Schindler's List*.

- **Kristallnacht:** usually referred to as the “Night of Broken Glass.” It is the name given to the violent anti-Jewish pogrom of November 9 and 10, 1938. Instigated primarily by Nazi party officials and the SA (Nazi Storm Troopers), the pogrom occurred throughout Germany, annexed Austria, and the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia. (USHMM)
- **Kube, Wilhelm:** a Nazi official who was appointed *Generalkommissar* of Belorussia in 1941. One of the earliest members of the Nazi Party, Kube was a Nazi deputy in the Weimar Republic’s *Reichstag*, before Hitler’s ascension to power in 1933. A political figure to the end, Kibe opposed SS deportations and mass murder because he did not want more Jews brought into his area. He was assassinated by a Russian partisan disguised as a housemaid in September 1943 (Holocaust Chronicle).



L

- **League of German Girls:** Female counterpart of the Hitler Youth formed in 1927 but not formally integrated by Hitler until 1932. (FCIT)
- **Lebensraum:** Meaning “living space,” it was a basic principle of Nazi foreign policy. Hitler believed that eastern Europe had to be conquered to create a vast German empire for more physical space, a greater population, and new territory to supply food and raw materials. (FCIT)
- **Legion Vlaanderen (Flanders Legion):** A collaborationist military unit in Belgium established on August 6, 1941. (Holocaust Chronicle)
- **Le Juif et la France (The Jew and France):** An exposition opened by the Nazis in Paris, France. The exhibits appealed to French patriotism by portraying the Jew as the enemy, a monster intent on destroying France. In its first days, the exhibits drew 100,000 Parisians (The Holocaust Chronicle).
- **Liberate:** To set someone free from a situation, especially imprisonment or slavery, in which their liberty is severely restricted.

M

- **Madagascar Plan:** A Nazi policy that was seriously considered during the late 1930s and 1940s which would have sent Jews to Madagascar, an island off the southeast coast of Africa. At that time, Madagascar was a French colony. Ultimately, it was considered impractical and the plan was abandoned. (FCIT)
- **Majdanek:** Death camp located in a suburb of Lublin, Poland, where 360,000 people were shot, beaten, starved, or gassed to death. (Holocaust Museum Houston)
- **Mass Murder:** The act of murdering a number of people, typically simultaneously or over a relatively short period of time and in close geographic proximity.
- **Mauthausen:** Hard labor and concentration camp located near Linz, Austria. (Holocaust Museum Houston)



- **Mengele, Dr. Josef** (1911–1979): SS physician assigned to Auschwitz; notorious for conducting so-called medical experiments on inmates, especially twins and dwarfs. (USHMM)
- **Mengele Twins:** The term given to the 3,000 twins in Auschwitz who were subjects of pseudo-scientific experiments directed by Dr. Josef Mengele.
- ***Mein Kampf* (My Struggle):** Adolf Hitler’s autobiography, written during his imprisonment in 1924, which details his plan to make Europe *judenrein* or “Jew-free.”
- **Münch, Dr. Hans:** A Nazi doctor at Auschwitz who witnessed the selection process and gassing of thousands of innocent people. He was acquitted of war crimes at the Krakow War Crimes Trial in 1947. He agreed to meet with Auschwitz survivor Eva Kor at his home in 1993, where she videotaped an interview with him. After the meeting, Eva wrote Dr. Munch a letter of forgiveness. The two met in Auschwitz in 1995, where he signed documentation on the operation of the gas chambers. (CANDLES)
- ***Munkaszigalat:*** After the adoption of anti-Jewish laws in Hungary in 1938 and '39, Jews of military age were deemed “unreliable.” Considered unfit to bear arms, tens of thousands of Jews were drafted into the *Munkaszigalat* (Hungarian Labor Service System). Instead of carrying guns, these Jews were given shovels and pickaxes. They worked construction and toiled in mines, and, during combat, performed such dangerous tasks as clearing the minefields. Many Hungarians officers, viciously antisemitic, abused them as well. After Hungary declared war on the Soviet Union in June 1941, tens of thousands of *Munkaszigalat* Jews lost their lives as casualties of war. Ironically, after the Nazis occupied Hungary on March 19, 1944, many Jews found refuge in *Munkaszigalat*, where they performed the hard labor but avoided deportation.
- **Muselmann:** A term widely used by concentration camp prisoners to refer to inmates who were on the verge of death from starvation, exhaustion, and despair. A person who had reached the Muselmann stage had little, if any, chance for survival and usually died within weeks. They tended to walk around the camps like the living dead.



N

- **National Socialist Teachers' Association:** Established in 1929, it assumed responsibility for the ideological indoctrination of teachers. (FCIT)
- **National Socialist Women's Association:** The NS Frauenschaft was an organization intended to recruit an elite group of women for the Nazis. (FCIT)
- **Nazi:** Name for members of the NSDAP, National Socialist Democratic Workers Party, who believed in the idea of Aryan supremacy. (Holocaust Museum Houston)
- **Nebe, Arthur:** From June to November 1941, Nebe commanded *Einsatzgruppe* B, operating around Minsk, Belorussia, and along the Moscow front. In those five months, Nebe’s unit executed over 45,000 Jews. After completing his assignment in Russia, Nebe returned to his duties as head of the Criminal Police. During Heinrich Himmler’s visit to Minsk, Nebe staged the shooting execution



of 100 people for the *Reichsführer's* viewing. Himmler, sickened at the sight, became particularly distressed over two women not killed outright. He then instructed Nebe to find more “humane” methods for killing. When given the task of ending the suffering of insane-asylum inmates, Nebe used dynamite on the mentally ill. Involved in the plot against Hitler, Nebe was himself reportedly executed in 1945. (The Holocaust Chronicle).

- **Nuremberg Laws:** Laws which excluded Jewish people from German life and took away some of their natural rights. They were first declared at the annual Nazi rally held in Nuremberg in 1935.
- **Nuremberg Trials:** A series of trials held between 1945 and 1949 in which the Allies prosecuted German military leaders, political officials, industrialists, and financiers for crimes they had committed during World War II.



O

- **Ohlendorf, Otto:** German SS-Gruppenführer and head of the interior division of the SD.
- **Ordnungspolizei:** Regular uniformed German police force. Central Headquarters were in Berlin. Municipal Police (*Schutzpolizei*) served as the urban police forces. Gendarmerie, or rural police, served in the countryside. There were also larger units of Order Police called Police Battalions. (USHMM)
- **Organize:** to organize in concentration camps meant to find and steal items needed to survive. (CANDLES)

P

- **Perpetrators:** Those who do something that is morally wrong or criminal. (FCIT)
- **Pogrom:** An organized, state-sponsored attack on a group of people. (Holocaust Museum Houston)
- **Police Battalion 101:** Police Battalion 101 was made up of mostly middle-aged family men who had been in Poland less than three weeks. These members of the *Ordnungspolizei* (Order Police), on July 13, 1942, heard the teary-eyed Major Wilhelm Trapp explain that the battalion had orders to round up Jozefow's Jews. They were to select the able-bodied males for labor and shoot everyone else: women, children, and the elderly. Trapp's explanation included a significant option: Those *Ordnungspolizei* who could not perform the task did not have to kill. Murder, in other words, was not mandatory. About a dozen members of the 500-man battalion accepted this offer. The rest murdered 1500 of Jozefow's Jews. By the end of 1943, Reserve Police Battalion 101, in conjunction with other Order Police killing units, had shot 38,000 Jews and helped deport 45,000 to Treblinka.
- **Prejudice:** A judgment or opinion formed before the facts are known. In most cases, these opinions are founded on suspicion, intolerance, and the irrational hatred of other races, religions, creeds, or nationalities. (FCIT)
- **Preventive Arrest :** Instrument of detention that permitted criminal police detectives to take persons suspected of engaging in criminal activities into custody without warrant or judicial

review of any kind. Preventive arrest usually meant indefinite internment in a concentration camp. (USHMM)

- **Propaganda:** False or partly false information used by a government or political party to sway the opinions of the population. (FCIT)
- **Protective Detention:** Instrument of detention that permitted secret state police detectives to take persons suspected of pursuing activities hostile to state interests into custody without warrant or judicial review of any kind. Protective custody most often meant indefinite internment in a concentration camp. (USHMM)

R

- **Racism:** The belief that all members of each race possess characteristics or abilities specific to that race, especially so as to distinguish it as inferior or superior to another race or races.
- **Ration:** A fixed amount of a commodity officially allowed to each person, usually during a time of shortage, as in wartime. Concentration camp rations were meagre, often consisting of foods with low nutritional value such as thin soup, ersatz coffee, and bread.
- **Red Army:** The army of the Soviet Union. (USHMM)
- **Refugee:** A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.
- **Reich Commissariat Ostland:** A German civilian occupation region that included the Baltic States and most of Belarus. (USHMM)
- **“Resettlement”:** A Nazi euphemism for deportation and murder. (USHMM)
- **Revisionists:** Those who deny that the Holocaust ever happened. (FCIT)
- **Riga Ghetto:** In August 1941, the Germans ordered the establishment of a ghetto in the southeastern area of Riga, Latvia. This ghetto was sealed in October 1941, imprisoning some 30,000 Jews. In late November/early December, the Germans announced that they planned to settle the majority of ghetto inhabitants “further east.” On November 30 and December 8-9, German killing squads and their Latvian auxiliaries shot at least 26,000 Riga Jews in the Rumbula Forest, five miles southeast of Riga.

The surviving 4,000-5,000 Jews were incarcerated in an area of the ghetto known as the “small” or “Latvian” ghetto. The Germans then deported some 20,000 Jews from Germany, Austria, and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia to Riga. The section of the ghetto where these new groups were imprisoned was called the “big” or “German” ghetto, established as a separate entity from the “Latvian” ghetto.

In the summer of 1943, the Germans deported some ghetto inhabitants to the newly opened Kaiserwald concentration camp, which had been established in March in the north of the city. Others were deported to Kaiserwald subcamps nearby. The Germans destroyed the ghetto in December 1943 and deported the last Jews to Kaiserwald. (USHMM)

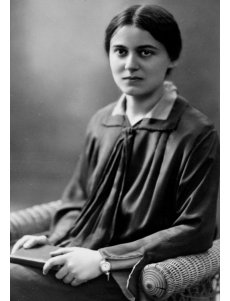
- **Righteous Among the Nations:** Official title awarded by Yad Vashem on behalf of the State of Israel and the Jewish people to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. (Yad Vashem.com)
- **Roma:** Between 1933 and 1945, Sinti and Roma ("Gypsies") suffered greatly as victims of Nazi persecution. In concentration camps, they were forced to wear either a black triangle, indicating their classification as 'asocial', or a brown triangle, specifically reserved for Romani people.
- **Rumbula Massacre:** A collective term for incidents that took place on two nonconsecutive days (November 30 and December 8, 1941) in which about 26,000 Jews from the Riga Ghetto were killed in or on the way to the Rumbula Forest near Riga, Latvia.

S

- **SA:** *Sturmabteilungen* or storm troopers, the terrorist branch of the Nazi army, was formed in 1923 and was used to help secure Hitler's rise to power. (Holocaust Museum Houston)
- **Sachsenhausen:** The principal Nazi concentration camp for the Berlin area. (USHMM)
- **Scapegoat:** Person or group of people blamed for crimes committed by others. (FCIT)
- **Schultz Clothing Firm:** When Schultz Clothing Firm opened in the Warsaw Ghetto in September 1941, it employed approximately 150 workers to produce uniforms for the German army. By July 1942 there were nearly 4,500 workers. The massive deportations during the summer months, however, led to a steep decline in the number of employees. The company operated in Warsaw until early 1943, when the entire enterprise was transferred to the Trawniki, Poland, labor camp. (The Holocaust Chronicle)
- **Security Service (*Sicherheitsdienst*; SD):** an SS agency which served as the political intelligence service of the Nazi party and, later, of the German Reich. The SD also claimed to be the repository of the intellectual elite of the Nazi SS. The SD played a central role in carrying out the Holocaust. All key departments of the Security Police were commanded by SD officers. (USHMM)
- **Selbstschutz:** Latvian police who actively cooperated with Nazi Germany. (The Holocaust Chronicle)
- **Shoah:** The Hebrew word for Holocaust.
- **Sinti:** Between 1933 and 1945, Sinti and Roma ("Gypsies") suffered greatly as victims of Nazi persecution. In concentration camps, they were forced to wear either a black triangle, indicating their classification as 'asocial', or a brown triangle, specifically reserved for Romani people.
- **Sobibor:** Death camp in the Lublin district of Poland where approximately 250,000 Jews were gassed.



- **Sonderkommandos (special detachments):** In killing centers, Sonderkommandos consisted of those prisoners selected to remain alive as forced laborers to facilitate the killing process, particularly the disposal of corpses. (USHMM)
- **SS:** German abbreviation for *Schutzstaffel* (literally, “protection squads”). A paramilitary branch of the Nazi party initially created to serve as bodyguards to Hitler and other Nazi leaders. It later took charge of political intelligence-gathering, the German police and the central security apparatus, the concentration camps, and the systematic mass murder of Jews and other victims. (USHMM)
- **Stein, Edith:** Edith Stein was a German Jew who converted to Catholicism in 1922. Following a decade of teaching and writing, Stein was appointed to lecture at the German Institute for Scientific Pedagogy in 1932. She wrote to Pope Pius XI, asking him to issue an encyclical condemning Nazi racism. She was dismissed a year later because her parents were Jewish. Shortly after, Stein relocated to Cologne, Germany, and became Sister Teresia Benedicta, a Carmelite nun. While at a convent in the Netherlands in 1942, the Gestapo arrested Stein. She was deported to Auschwitz, where she comforted many inmates. She was gassed there on August 8, 1942, ostensibly in retaliation for the anti-Nazi activities of Dutch Catholic bishops. Stein was recognized as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church in 1998. A chapel stands in her honor at Auschwitz. (The Holocaust Chronicle)
- **Stereotype:** Biased generalizations about a group based on hearsay, opinions, and distorted, preconceived ideas. (FCIT)
- **Swastika:** The swastika has an extensive history. It was used at least 5,000 years before Adolf Hitler designed the Nazi flag. The word comes from the Sanskrit *svastika*, which means “good fortune” or “well-being.” To this day it is a sacred symbol in Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Odinism. In the beginning of the 20th century the swastika was widely used in Europe and had many meanings, the most common being a symbol of good luck and auspiciousness. However, populist movements in Germany adopted the swastika as a symbol of “Aryan identity” and nationalist pride, and it then came to represent a racially “pure” state. The swastika would become the most recognizable icon of Nazi propaganda, appearing on the flag as well as on election posters, arm bands, medallions, and badges for military and other organizations. A potent symbol intended to elicit pride among Aryans, the swastika also struck terror into Jews and others deemed enemies of Nazi Germany.



T

- **T-4 Program:** The euthanasia program directed against the physically and mentally handicapped persons who were considered “useless” in the new German Reich. The T-4 program served as the training ground for methods of mass murder that would later be used in the death camps, such as gassings and cremation of bodies.

- **Treaty of Versailles:** The Treaty of Versailles, presented for German leaders to sign on May 7, 1919, forced Germany to concede territories to Belgium, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. The Germans returned Alsace and Lorraine to France. All German overseas colonies became League of Nation Mandates, and the city of Danzig (today Gdansk), with its large ethnically German population, became a Free City. The treaty demanded demilitarization and occupation of the Rhineland, and special status for the Saarland under French control.

Perhaps the most humiliating portion of the treaty for defeated Germany was Article 231, commonly known as the "War Guilt Clause," which forced the German nation to accept complete responsibility for initiating World War I. As such Germany was liable for all material damages. Moreover, the German army was to be limited to 100,000 men, and conscription banned; the navy to vessels under 10,000 tons, with a ban on the acquisition or maintenance of a submarine fleet; and Germany was forbidden to maintain an air force. Finally, Germany was required to conduct war crimes proceedings against the Kaiser and other leaders for waging aggressive war.

The war guilt clause was particularly onerous to most Germans, and revision of the Versailles Treaty represented one of the platforms that gave radical right wing parties in Germany, including Hitler's Nazi Party, such credibility to mainstream voters in the 1920s and early 1930s. (USHMM)

- **Theresienstadt (a.k.a. Terezin):** Located near Prague, Czechoslovakia; used as the "model" concentration camp to deceive the world about the true nature of Nazi plans for European Jews. "Theresienstadt" is the German word for this camp; "Terezin" is the Czech word for this camp. (Holocaust Museum Houston)
- **Third Reich:** The Third Empire; name given to the Nazi regime in Germany. Hitler boasted that the Third Reich would reign for 1,000 years. (Holocaust Museum Houston)
- **Transport:** To take or carry (people or goods) from one place to another by means of a vehicle, aircraft, train, or ship. Nazis used packed cattle cars on the railways to transport victims.
- **Treblinka:** Death camp located in sparsely populated area near Treblinka, Poland, approximately 870,000 Jews killed. (Holocaust Museum Houston)

U

- **Upper Silesia:** An area that Nazi Germany annexed in 1939 after invading and conquering Poland. (USHMM)
- **Umschlagplatz:** The tragic history of the Warsaw Jewish community resonates with the word *Umschlagplatz* (transfer point). During the massive deportations that began in July 1942, an average of 7000 Jews per day were forcibly marched to the *Umschlagplatz*, a way station on the route to the Treblinka extermination camp. During the first ten days of the Aktion, 65,000 Jews were herded through the *Umschlagplatz* en route to their deaths. The violence of this operation surpassed anything the Nazis had previously perpetrated in Warsaw. The SS,

German police, and their able-bodied and willing Latvian and Ukrainian helpers prowled the streets of Warsaw in search of their Jewish prey.

- **Untermenschen:** German word meaning “sub-humans,” used by Nazis to refer to the groups they deemed “undesirable.” (Holocaust Museum Houston)

V

- **Völkisch:** A populist movement in Germany that believed in the superiority of the Germanic race. The group feared and hated foreigners, particularly Jews. (Holocaust Museum Houston)
- **Voyage of the St. Louis:** On May 13, 1939, the German transatlantic liner *St. Louis* sailed from Hamburg, Germany, for Havana, Cuba. On board were 937 passengers; almost all were Jews fleeing from the Third Reich. Most were German citizens, some were from eastern Europe, and a few were officially “stateless.” When the *St. Louis* arrived in Havana harbor on May 27, the Cuban government admitted only 28 passengers: 22 of them were Jewish and had valid US visas; the remaining six had valid entry documents. The remaining 908 passenger—including one non-refugee, a Hungarian Jewish businessman—had been awaiting entry visas and carried only Cuban transit visas issued by Gonzales. 743 had been waiting to receive US visas. The Cuban government refused to admit them or to allow them to disembark from the ship.

W

- **Wagner-Rogers Bill:** A bill to admit some 20,000 Jewish children into the United States. The bill was killed by the efforts of some of the antisemitic factions in the U.S. State Department, as well as the fear by some Jewish leaders that pressing this bill would create antisemitic backlash in the United States. (Holocaust Museum Houston)
- **Wansee Conference:** Conference of 15 high-ranking German officers, held in the Berlin suburb of Wannsee on January 20, 1942, to discuss and coordinate plans for the implementation of what they called the “Final Solution of the Jewish Question.”(USHMM)
- **Warsaw Ghetto:** On October 12, 1940, the Germans decreed the establishment of a ghetto in Warsaw. The decree required all Jewish residents of Warsaw to move into a designated area, which German authorities sealed off from the rest of the city in November 1940. The ghetto was enclosed by a wall that was over 10 feet high, topped with barbed wire, and closely guarded to prevent movement between the ghetto and the rest of Warsaw. The population of the ghetto, increased by Jews compelled to move in from nearby towns, was estimated to be over 400,000 Jews. German authorities forced ghetto residents to live in an area of 1.3 square miles, with an average of 7.2 persons per room. (USHMM)
- **Warsaw Ghetto Uprising:** On April 19, 1943, the Warsaw ghetto uprising began after German troops and police entered the ghetto to deport its surviving inhabitants. By May 16, 1943, the Germans had crushed the uprising and left the ghetto area in ruins. Surviving ghetto residents were deported to concentration camps or killing centers. (USHMM)

- **Weimar Republic:** Name for the parliamentary democracy established in Germany from 1919–1933, following the collapse of imperial Germany and preceding Nazi rule. (USHMM)
- **Westerbork:** A transit camp in northeast Holland through which almost 100,000 Jews were deported between 1942 and 1944 to the Auschwitz-Birkenau, Sobibor, Theresienstadt, and Bergen-Belsen concentration and death camps.
- **White Rose Movement:** A group of young German students who protested against the Nazi treatment of Jews and others. Most of the members of this group were eventually rounded up and executed. (Holocaust Museum Houston)

Y

- **Yellow Star:** A badge featuring the Star of David (a symbol of Judaism) used by the Nazi regime during the Holocaust as a method of visibly identifying Jews. (USHMM)



Z

- **Zionism:** Political and cultural movement calling for the return of the Jewish people to their Biblical home. (FCIT)
- **Zyklon B:** A chemical developed as an insecticide, the pellets of which were shaken down an opening in the euphemistically called “shower rooms,” or gas chambers. The Nazis found this to be a quicker, cheaper, and more reliable method of mass killing than carbon monoxide. (Holocaust Museum Houston)