

Simon Wiesenthal Center Library & Archives

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The Holocaust, 1933 - 1945 Educational Resources Kit

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INTRODUCTION

The Simon Wiesenthal Center is an international center for Holocaust remembrance and the defense of human rights and the Jewish people. Headquartered in Los Angeles, the Center's mandate is a unique combination of social action, public outreach, scholarship, education and media projects as it imparts the lessons of the Holocaust, develops educational strategies for tolerance and impacts on issues of the day. Outreach and education are the focal points of this mandate, providing unique educational opportunities to interface with Holocaust survivors and scholars through appropriate seminars, conferences, and programs.

Founded in 1977, the Simon Wiesenthal Center established its special library a year later (1978), with fifty books and a part-time librarian. Today, twenty-one years later, the Library's holdings number over 40,000 volumes, 500 periodicals, non-print material, and an extensive Archives. Although it was founded thirty years after the Holocaust, the Simon Wiesenthal Center was the first Holocaust Center in the United States to recognize the need for a Library and Archives meeting professional standards, to educate and disseminate information. With the opening of the Museum of Tolerance in 1993, the mandate broadened to address the challenges of the nineties, *e.g.* human rights, tolerance, social justice, *et al.*

The Library/Archives of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the *Beit Hashoah*/ Museum of Tolerance is a fully-staffed information and multi-media resource center on the Holocaust, twentieth century genocides, antisemitism, racism, multiculturalism, tolerance, and related issues. It services educators, librarians, students, researchers, the public, and the media, responding to queries and information requests from around the world, via e-mail, the Internet, and the SWC/MOT Web Sites, as well as the more traditional telephone, fax and mail.

In addition to its holdings of books, journals, newspapers, tapes, videos, compact discs, CD-ROM and computer programs, the Library regularly subscribes to over 300 journals, newspapers, and newsletters; preserves a multi-lingual special collection of historical and contemporary works of primary antisemitica, Holocaust denial, and racism; maintains an extensive map file and a vertical file of current ephemeral materials.

The Archives is a primary research repository for materials dealing with tolerance and civil rights and with the Holocaust and the pre-World War II Jewish experience. It is comprised of documents, letters, manuscripts, personal narratives, diaries, artifacts, ghetto and concentration camp postage and money, liberation and occupation memorabilia, photographs, magazines, newspapers, maps, posters, rare books, pamphlets and original artwork.

The Library/Archives provides all back-up information for the museum exhibitions and the Multi-Media Learning Center of the Museum of Tolerance. In addition, the Library/Archives also prepares and distributes educational materials, including educational resources kits and a series of graded bibliographies. All of these materials are updated regularly as new materials are published and received.

The work of the Library and Archives is supported by the efforts of a loyal cadre of volunteers and interns. (*Gedenkdienst* interns from Austria fulfill their military obligations through their service.) They are representative of the multi-ethnic fabric of Southern California society and bring their rich life time experiences to their work. In 1998, to meet the challenges of the next millennium, the Library and Archives moved to the new Simon Wiesenthal Center/ Museum of Tolerance Educational Resource Center with expanded facilities and increased technology, including staff and public Internet access.

Other Public Services of the Library/Archives include:

- A model library of Juvenile and Young Adult Literature, primarily for students and educators
- A monthly “Arts and Lectures” program, usually on the third Wednesday of every month at 3:00pm
- Basic Internet training, by appointment, using the Library/Archives’ computer station, funded by an InfoPeople Project grant, under the provisions of the U.S. Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.
- The “Once Upon A World” Children’s Book Award, annually honoring the children’s book (ages six to ten), which best represents the values of tolerance, diversity, human understanding and social justice, and the “Write to Tolerance” Institute for librarians, children’s authors and editors.
- “Ask-a-Survivor” program whereby students, researchers, and others are able to ask a survivor a question and receive an answer. This e-mail program can be accessed at:
www.wiesenthal.com/library/service.cfm

Educators, researchers, and the public are welcome and the Library has a circulation policy which is available upon request. The Archives are open to *bona fide* researchers by appointment.

If you need reference assistance, please contact the Library/Archives and discuss your needs with a professional librarian:

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Adaire J. Klein, Director of Library & Archival Services

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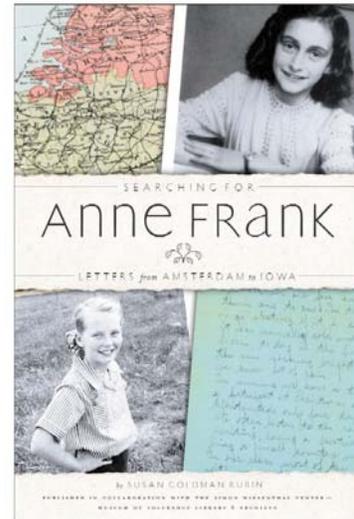
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NEW BOOK!

Searching for Anne Frank: Letters from Amsterdam to Iowa offers new insight into the girl whose diary change the world. In the fall of 1939, ten year-old Juanita Wagner of Danville, Iowa, picked a name from a list of pen pals provided by her teacher. She chose a girl her own age who lived in Amsterdam. The girls’s name was Anne Frank. Through first-hand reports and interviews with Juanita’s sister, Betty, friends of both Juanita and Anne Frank, as well as never-before-published photographs, author Susan Goldman Rubin weaves the story of two girls – one in America and one in the Netherlands – against the backdrop of pending World War II, its brutal reality, and its aftermath.

In alternating chapters, Goldman Rubin describes the lives of Juanita and Anne before the war begins , then continues to tell their stories, as well as those of their sisters, Betty and Margot, as the war progresses. Juaita, Betty, and their mother witness the war from afar, aware of its presence only through radio, film clips, rationing, and watching schoolmates and friends leave for military service. In tragic contrast, Anne, Margot, and their parents go into hiding, are discovered, and are sent to concentration camps. Only Anne’s father survives. Although the girls only had the opportunity to correspond briefly, their letters and contrasting experiences offer a poignant and timely look at lives during World War II.



“What will hold all those readers of the Diary is the contrast between Anne and the innocent kids from Iowa, who had no idea what it meant to be Jewish.”

-Booklist review, November 1, 2003

Goldman Rubin, Susan. **Searching for Ann Frank: Letters from Amsterdam to Iowa** (NY: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2003). Published in Association with the Simon Wiesenthal Center – Museum of Tolerance Library & Archives.

Autographed copies are available for purchase at the Museum of Toelrance Book Store. (310) 772-2493 or www.museumoftolerance.com

Timeline of the Holocaust: 1933 – 1945**1933**

January 30	Adolf Hitler appointed Chancellor of Germany
March 22	Dachau concentration camp opens
April 1	Boycott of Jewish shops and businesses
April 7	Laws for Reestablishment of the Civil Service barred Jews from holding civil service, university, and state positions
April 26	<i>Gestapo</i> established
May 10	Public burnings of books written by Jews, political dissidents, and others not approved by the state
July 14	Law stripping East European Jewish immigrants of German citizenship

1934

August 2	Hitler proclaims himself <i>Führer und Reichskanzler</i> (Leader and Reich Chancellor). Armed forces must now swear allegiance to him
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1935

May 31	Jews barred from serving in the German armed forces
September 15	"Nuremberg Laws": anti-Jewish racial laws enacted; Jews no longer considered German citizens; Jews could not marry Aryans; nor could they fly the German flag
November 15	Germany defines a "Jew": anyone with three Jewish grandparents; someone with two Jewish grandparents who identifies as a Jew

1936

March 3	Jewish doctors barred from practicing medicine in German institutions
March 7	Germans march into the Rhineland, previously demilitarized by the Versailles Treaty
June 17	Himmler appointed the Chief of German Police
July	Sachsenhausen concentration camp opens
October 25	Hitler and Mussolini form Rome-Berlin Axis

1937

July 15	Buchenwald concentration camp opens
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1938

March 13	<i>Anschluss</i> (annexation of Austria by Germany): all antisemitic decrees immediately implemented in Austria
April 26	Mandatory registration of all property held by Jews inside the Reich
July 6	Evian Conference held in Evian, France on the problem of Jewish refugees
August 1	Adolf Eichmann establishes the Office of Jewish Emigration in Vienna to increase the pace of forced emigration
August 3	Italy enacts sweeping antisemitic laws
September 30	Munich Conference: Great Britain and France agree to German occupation of the Sudetenland, previously western Czechoslovakia
October 5	Following request by Swiss authorities, Germans mark all Jewish passports with a large letter "J" to restrict Jews from immigrating to Switzerland
October 28	17,000 Polish Jews living in Germany expelled; Poland refused to admit them; 8,000 are stranded in the village of Zbaszyn
November 7	Assassination in Paris of German diplomat Ernst vom Rath by Herschel Grynszpan
November 9-10	<i>Kristallnacht</i> (Night of Broken Glass): anti-Jewish pogrom in Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland; 200 synagogues destroyed; 7,500 Jewish shops looted; 30,000 male Jews sent to concentration camps (Dachau, Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen)
November 12	Decree forcing all Jews to transfer retail businesses to Aryan hands
November 15	All Jewish students expelled from German schools
December 12	One billion <i>marks</i> fine levied against German Jews for the destruction of property during <i>Kristallnacht</i>

1939

January 30	Hitler in <i>Reichstag</i> speech: "If war erupts it will mean the <i>Vernichtung</i> (extermination) of European Jews"
March 15	Germans occupy Czechoslovakia
August 23	Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact signed: non-aggression pact between Soviet Union and Germany
September 1	Beginning of World War II: Germany invades Poland
September 21	Heydrich issues directives to establish ghettos in German-occupied Poland
October 12	Germany begins deportation of Austrian and Czech Jews to Poland
October 28	First Polish ghetto established in Piotrków
November 23	Jews in German-occupied Poland forced to wear an armband or yellow star

1940

April 9	Germans occupy Denmark and southern Norway
May 7	Lodz Ghetto (Litzmannstadt) sealed: 165,000 people in 1.6 square miles
May 10	Germany invades the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and France
May 20	Concentration camp established at Auschwitz
June 22	France surrenders
August 8	Battle of Britain begins
September 27	Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis
November 16	Warsaw Ghetto sealed: ultimately it contained 500,000 people

1941

January 21-26	Anti-Jewish riots in Romania, led by the Iron Guard (Romanian fascist organization); hundreds of Jews butchered
February 1	German authorities begin rounding up Polish Jews for transfer to Warsaw Ghetto
March	Adolf Eichmann appointed head of the Department for Jewish Affairs of the Reich Security Main Office (<i>Gestapo</i>), Section IV B 4.
April 6	Germany attacks Yugoslavia and Greece; occupation follows
June 22	Germany invades the Soviet Union
July 31	Heydrich appointed by Göring to implement the "Final Solution"
September 1	German Jews required to wear yellow star of David with the word <i>Jude</i> "
September 28-29	34,000 Jews massacred at Babi Yar outside Kiev
October	Establishment of Auschwitz II (Birkenau) for the extermination of Jews; Gypsies, Poles, Russians, and others were also murdered at the camp
December 7	Japanese attack Pearl Harbor
December 8	Chelmno (Kulmhof) extermination camp begins operations: 340,000 Jews, 20,000 Poles and Czechs murdered by April 1943
December 11	United States declares war on Japan and Germany

1942

January 20	Wannsee Conference in Berlin: Heydrich outlines plan to murder Europe's Jews
March 17	Extermination begins in Belzec; by end of 1942, 600,000 Jews murdered
May	Extermination by gas begins in Sobibor killing center; by October 1943, 250,000 Jews murdered
June	Jewish partisan units established in the forests of Byelorussia and the Baltic States
July 22	Germans establish Treblinka concentration camp
Summer	Deportation of Jews to killing centers from Belgium, Croatia, France, the Netherlands, and Poland; armed resistance by Jews in ghettos of Kletzk, Kremenets, Lakhva, Mir, Tuchin, Weisweiz
Winter	Deportation of Jews from Germany, Greece and Norway to killing centers; Jewish partisan movement organized in forests near Lublin

1943

January	German 6th Army surrenders at Stalingrad (Volgograd)
March	Liquidation of Craców Ghetto
April 19	Warsaw Ghetto revolt begins as Germans attempt to liquidate 70,000 inhabitants; Jewish underground fights Nazis until early June
May	Liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto. On May 16, 1943, SS and Police Chief Jürgen Stroop proclaimed, "180 Jews, bandits, and subhumans were destroyed. The Jewish quarter of Warsaw is no more."
June	Heinrich Himmler orders the liquidation of all ghettos in Poland and the Soviet Union
Summer	Armed resistance by Jews in Bedzin, Bialystok, Czestochowa, Lvov, and Tarnów ghettos
Fall	Liquidation of large ghettos in Minsk, Vilna (Vilnius) and Riga
October 14	Armed revolt in Sobibor extermination camp
October-November	Rescue of Danish Jewry

1944

March 19	Germany occupies Hungary
May 15	Nazis begin deporting Hungarian Jews; by June 27, 380,000 sent to Auschwitz
June 6	D-Day: Allied invasion at Normandy
Spring/Summer	Red Army repels Nazi forces
July 20	Group of German officers attempts to assassinate Hitler
July 24	Russians liberate Majdanek killing center
October 7	Revolt by inmates at Auschwitz; one crematorium blown up
November	Last Jews deported from Theresienstadt (Terezin) to Auschwitz
November 8	Beginning of death march of approximately 40,000 Jews from Budapest to Austria

1945

January 17	Evacuation of Auschwitz; beginning of death march
January 25	Beginning of death march for inmates of Stutthof
April 6-10	Death march of inmates of Buchenwald
April 30	Hitler commits suicide
May 8	V-E Day: Germany surrenders; end of Third Reich
August 6	Bombing of Hiroshima
August 9	Bombing of Nagasaki
August 15	V-J Day: Victory over Japan proclaimed.
September 2	Japan surrenders; end of World War II

Glossary of Terms, Places, and Personalities

<i>AKTION</i> (Action)	A German military or police operation involving mass assembly, deportation and killing; directed by the Nazis against Jews during the Holocaust.
ALLIES	The twenty-six nations led by the United States, Britain, and the former Soviet Union who joined in fighting Nazi Germany, Italy and Japan during World War II.
ANIELEWICZ, MORDECAI (1919-1943)	Leader of the Jewish underground movement and of the uprising of the Warsaw Ghetto in April 1943; killed on May 8, 1943.
<i>ANSCHLUSS</i> (Annexation)	The incorporation of Austria into Germany on March 13, 1938.
ANTISEMITISM	Prejudice and/or discrimination towards Jews, based on negative perceptions of their beliefs.
ARYAN RACE	"Aryan" was originally applied to people who spoke any Indo-European language. The Nazis, however, primarily applied the term to people with a Northern European racial background. Their aim was to avoid what they considered the "bastardization of the German race" and to preserve the purity of European blood. (See NUREMBERG LAWS.)
AUSCHWITZ	Auschwitz was the site of one of the largest extermination camps. In August 1942 the camp was expanded and eventually consisted of three sections: Auschwitz I - the main camp; Auschwitz II (Birkenau) - the extermination camp; Auschwitz III (Monowitz) - the I.G. Farben labor camp, also known as Buna. In addition, Auschwitz had 48 sub camps. It became the largest center for Jewish extermination.
AXIS	The Axis powers originally included Nazi Germany, Italy, and Japan who signed a pact in Berlin on September 27, 1940, to divide the world into their spheres of respective political interest. They were later joined by Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia.
BABI YAR	A deep ravine two miles from the Ukrainian city of Kiev, where the mobile killing units (<i>Einsatzgruppen</i>) massacred and buried 34,000 Jews on September 29-30, 1941. Executions of Jews, Gypsies, Soviet POWs and handicapped brought the total dead at Babi Yar to 100,000.

**BAECK, LEO
(1873-1956)**

Rabbi, philosopher and a leader of German Jews. In 1933 he became the leader of the Reich Representation of German Jews. Despite opportunities to emigrate, Baeck refused to desert his community and, in 1943, he was deported to Theresienstadt (Terezin). There he became a member of the Jewish Council and spiritual leader of the imprisoned Jews. After his liberation, Leo Baeck immigrated to England.

BELZEC

One of the six extermination camps in Poland, originally established in 1940 as a camp for Jewish forced labor. Germans began construction of an extermination camp at Belzec on November 1, 1941, as part of *Aktion Reinhard*, code name for the operation to physically destroy the Jews in occupied central Poland. By the time the camp ceased operations in January 1943, more than 600,000 people had been murdered there.

BLITZKRIEG

Lightning attack, used to describe the speed and intensity of Germany's military action. First used by the Germans during their invasion of Poland in September 1939 and, later, made famous in their battle for Britain.

Capo (See: Kapo)**CHAMBERLAIN, NEVILLE
(1869-1940)**

British Prime Minister, 1937-1940, indentified with the Policy of "appeasement" toward Hitler's Germany in the years preceding World War II. He concluded the Munich Agreement in 1938 with Adolf Hitler, which he mistakenly believed would bring "peace in our time."

CHELMNO

Located 47 miles west of Lodz, Poland, Chelmno was built in late 1941, solely for the purpose of extermination. A total of 320,000 people were exterminated at Chelmno by firing squads and by asphyxiation in mobile gas vans.

**CHURCHILL, WINSTON
(1875-1965)**

British Prime Minister, 1940-1945, who rallied the British during World War II and fought at the side of the United States. Churchill was one of the very few Western statesmen who recognized the threat that Hitler posed to Europe and strongly opposed Chamberlain's policies of appeasement

CONCENTRATION CAMPS

(Konzentrationslager, KZ) Camps in which people were imprisoned without regard to the accepted norms of detention. An essential part of Nazi systematic oppression, they were constructed almost immediately after Hitler came to power in Germany. They were used for the imprisonment of all "enemies of the Third Reich." In the beginning (1933-1936), the camps primarily imprisoned political and ideological opponents of the regime, (e.g. Communists, Social Democrats et.al.) Later (1936-1942), Concentration Camps were expanded and non-political prisoners (e.g. Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, handicapped and other

“asocials”). The extensive camp system of over 9000 camps and sub-camps included labor camps, transit camps, prisoner of war (POW) camps and extermination camps. Death, disease, starvation, crowded and unsanitary conditions and torture were a daily part of concentration camp life.

DACHAU

Located 10 miles northwest of Munich, Germany, Dachau was one of the first concentration camps. It was established in March 1933 for the internment of political prisoners. The number of Jews rose steadily to about a third of the total inmate population. Although no mass murder program existed there, tens of thousands died from starvation, disease, torture, medical experiments or they were transported to extermination camps.

DEATH CAMPS

See **EXTERMINATION CAMPS**.

DEATH MARCH

When the German army was trapped between the Soviet Army to the east and the advancing Allied troops from the west, the Germans evacuated the camps in 1944 and forced the prisoners to march westward to Germany. During these marches the Jews were starved, brutalized, and killed. Few survived the experience; the paths traveled were littered with bodies. Although death marches occurred throughout the war, the largest and deadliest occurred during the last phase. It is estimated that 250,000 died in death marches between the summer of 1944 and the end of the war, in May 1945.

DEPORTATION

The deportation was the forced relocation of Jews, in Nazi occupied countries, from their homes to “resettle” elsewhere. It meant removal either to a ghetto or a concentration camp and later to extermination camps.

EICHMANN, ADOLF (1906-1962)

SS officer, head of the “Jewish section” of the *Gestapo*. He participated in the Wannsee Conference (January 20, 1942) and was instrumental in implementing the “Final Solution” by organizing the transportation of Jews to death camps from all over Europe. At the end of World War II he was arrested in the American zone of Berlin. However, he escaped, went underground, and disappeared. On May 11, 1960, members of the Israeli Secret Service uncovered his whereabouts and smuggled him to Israel from Argentina. Eichmann was tried in Jerusalem (April-December 1961), convicted and sentenced to death. He was executed on May 31, 1962.

EINSATZGRUPPEN

Mobile killing squads of the Security Police and SS Security Service. They consisted of four units (A,B,C, D), and followed the German armies into the Soviet Union in June 1941. Their task was to kill all Jews, mental and defectives and Soviets. They were supported by units of the uniformed German Order Police and auxiliaries of volunteers from (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Ukraine). Their victims were executed by shooting and were buried

in mass graves from which they were later exhumed and burned. At least 1.3 million Jews were killed in this manner.

EUTHANASIA

“Mercy killing” – the quick and painless death for the terminally ill. However, the Nazi euthanasia program that began in 1939 meant the deliberate killings of institutionalized physically, mentally, and emotionally handicapped people in order to improve the German race. It started with German non-Jews and later extended to Jews. Three major classifications were developed: 1) euthanasia for the incurable; 2) direct extermination by “Special Treatment” (gassing); and 3) experiments in mass sterilization.

EVIAN CONFERENCE

Conference convened by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. On July 6, 1938 to discuss the problem of emigration and resettlement of Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria. Thirty two countries met at Evian-les-Bains, France. Not much was accomplished since most western countries and the United States refused to accept Jewish refugees.

EXTERMINATION CAMPS

Nazi camps, known as “death camps”, established for the mass killing of Jews and others (e.g. Gypsies, Russian prisoners-of-war, et.al.). Located in occupied Poland, the camps were: Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Chelmno, Majdanek, Sobibor, Treblinka.

FINAL SOLUTION

Nazi code name for the “Final solution of the Jewish question” – the physical destruction of European Jewry. Beginning in December 1941, Jews were rounded up and sent to extermination camps in the East. The program was deceptively disguised as “resettlement in the East.”

FRANK, HANS

personal
(1900-1946)

Member of the Nazi Party from its earliest days and Hitler’s

lawyer. From 1939 to 1945, Frank served as the Governor-General of occupied Poland and controlled Europe’s largest Jewish population. He also supervised the major Nazi killing centers. He ordered the execution of thousands of Poles and Jews and announced that “Poland will be treated like a colony; The Poles will become slaves of the greater German Reich.” Frank was tried at Nuremberg, convicted, and executed in 1946.

**FRICK, WILHELM
(1877-1946)**

A dedicated Nazi bureaucrat and one of Hitler’s earliest followers.

In 1933 Frick was appointed Minister of the Interior, where he was responsible for enacting Nazi racial laws. As of 1943, he served as governor of Bohemia and Moravia. In 1946, he was tried at Nuremberg, convicted and executed.

GENOCIDE

The deliberate and systematic destruction of a religious, racial, national, or cultural group.

GERSTEIN, KURT

SS Officer and head of the *Waffen SS* Office of Hygiene in Berlin.

(1905-1945)

Gerstein purchased the Zyklon B gas officially needed in Auschwitz for fumigation purposes, but actually used for exterminating Jews. He wrote a widely-quoted description of the gassing procedures in Belzec and forwarded information about the killings to the Dutch underground and Swedish and Vatican representatives. His efforts met with little success. After the war, Gerstein was captured by the French and he committed suicide in a French jail.

GESTAPO

German acronym for *Geheime Staatspolizei* - Secret State Police. Established in April 1933 by Herman Goering the *Gestapo* monitored and suppressed all opposition to the Hitler regime. The *Gestapo* had total freedom to spy, arrest, interrogate and deport Jews, intellectuals, Gypsies, homosexuals, and anyone deemed an enemy of the Third Reich.

GHETTO

An Italian word, it refers to a quarter or street separated from the other parts of the city, in which Jews lived in the Middle Ages. The Nazis revived the Italian medieval ghetto and created their compulsory "Jewish Quarter" (*Wohnbezirk*), where all Jews from the surrounding areas were forced to reside. The ghettos, surrounded by barbed wire or walls, were overcrowded, unsanitary and sealed from the world without food, medicine and heat. Daily, people died in the streets from starvation and disease. The Germans constantly harassed the Jewish residents of the ghetto, randomly seizing people on the streets, raiding their apartments, and subjecting them to beatings and humiliation, leaving them to die in the streets. The ghettos were established mainly in Eastern Europe (e.g. Lodz, Warsaw, Vilna, Riga, Minsk). All ghettos were eventually liquidated and the Jews, Gypsies and others were deported to extermination camps.

**GOEBBELS, JOSEPH
(1897-1945)**

Joined the Nazi party in 1924, and in 1933, became Hitler's Minister of Propaganda and Public Information. He decided that "all un-German" books would be burned on May 10, 1933. He controlled the media and was also one of the creators of the "Führer" (the leader) myth, an important element in the Nazis' successful plan for support by the masses. He supervised the publication of *Der Stürmer* and conducted the propaganda campaign against the Jews. On the day following Hitler's death, Goebbels and his wife committed suicide in Hitler's bunker, after first ordering the murder of their six children, all under the age of thirteen.

**GÖRING, HERMANN
(1893-1946)**

A member of the Nazi Party from its earliest days who participated in Hitler's "Beer Hall *Putsch*" (The failed attempt by Hitler and his associates to overthrow the German Weimar Republic on November 9, 1923.) Served as president of the *Reichstag* (German parliament) in 1932 and, when Hitler came to power in 1933, he made Goring Air Minister of Germany and Prime Minister of Prussia. Goring organized Hitler's wartime economic system and was responsible for the rearmament program. In 1939, Hitler designated him his successor. Convicted at Nuremberg in 1946, Goring committed suicide by taking poison two hours before his scheduled execution.

GREATER GERMAN REICH

See **THIRD REICH**

**GRYNSZPAN, HERSCHEL
(1921-1943?)**

A Polish Jewish youth who emigrated to Paris. He agonized over the fate of his parents who, were trapped between Germany and Poland in "no man's land". On November 7, 1938, Grynszpan went to the German Embassy where he assassinated Third Secretary Ernst von Rath. The Nazis used this incident as an excuse for the *KRISTALLNACHT* (Night of Broken Glass) pogrom.

**GYPSIES
(Roma and Sinti)**

Ancient nomadic people who originated in India and wandered into Europe during the 14th and 15th centuries. By the 16th century, they had spread throughout Europe, where they were persecuted for their life style. The gypsies occupied a special place in nazi racist theories. It is believed the approximately 500,000 perished during the Holocaust.

**HESS, RUDOLF
(1894-1987)**

Deputy and close aide of Hitler from the earliest days of the Nazi movement, who participated in Hitler's "Beer Hall *Putsch*" (the failed attempt by Hitler and his associates to overthrow the German Weimar Republic on November 9, 1923). Hess believed he could persuade the British to make peace with Hitler. To further his idea Hess flew to Scotland prior to Hitler's invasion of the former Soviet Union. Arrested by the British, Hitler promptly declared Hess insane. Hess was tried at Nuremberg, found guilty, and sentenced to life in prison. He was the only prisoner in the Spandau prison in Berlin, Germany, until he committed suicide in 1987.

**HEYDRICH, REINHARD
(1904-1942)**

Former naval officer who joined the *SS* in 1932, after his dismissal from the German Navy. He headed the *Reich Security*, which included the *Gestapo*, and organized the *Einsatzgruppen*, which systematically murdered Jews in occupied Russia during 1941-1942. Heydrich was appointed Governor of Bohemia and Moravia and was asked by Goring to implement the "Final Solution" to the "Jewish Question." In January 1942 Heydrich presided over the Wannsee Conference, where the implementation of the "Final Solution" was discussed. On May 29, 1942 Heydrich was assassinated near Prague, by a member of the Czech resistance. In retaliation the Nazis destroyed the Czech town of Lidice and murdered all its men. To

honor Reinhard Heydrich, the Nazis gave the code name “Operation Reinhard” to the destruction of Polish Jewry.

HIMMLER, HEINRICH

Reich leader of the *SS*, *Gestapo*, and the *Waffen-SS*; minister of the interior, and next to Hitler, the most powerful man in Nazi Germany. His obsession with “racial purity” led to the establishing of the concentration camp system and to the implementation of the “Final Solution.” Himmler committed suicide on May 23, 1945, before he could be brought to trial.

HITLER, ADOLF (1889-1945)

Fuhrer und reichskanzler (Leader and Reich Chancellor). Although born in Austria, he settled in Germany in 1913. At the outbreak of World War I, Hitler enlisted in the Bavarian Army, became a corporal and received the Iron Cross First Class for bravery. Returning to Munich after the war, he joined the newly formed German Workers Party, which was soon reorganized, under his leadership, as the National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP). In November 1923, he unsuccessfully attempted to forcibly bring Germany under nationalist control. When his coup, known as the “Beer-Hall *Putsch*,” failed, Hitler was arrested and sentenced to 5 years in prison. It was during this time that he wrote *Mein Kampf*. Serving only 9 months of his sentence, Hitler quickly reentered German politics and soon outpolled his political rivals in national elections. In January 1933, Paul vom Hindenburg (*Reich* President) appointed Hitler chancellor of a coalition cabinet. Hitler, who took office on January 30, 1933, immediately set up a dictatorship. In 1934, the chancellorship and presidency were united in the person of the *Fuhrer*. Soon, all other parties were outlawed and opposition was brutally suppressed. In addition, he initiated antisemitic policies and programs. By 1938, Hitler implemented his dream of a “Greater Germany,” by the annexation of Austria, the Sudetenland and, finally, Czechoslovakia itself. On September 1, 1939, Hitler’s armies invaded Poland. By this time western democracies realized that no agreement with Hitler could be honored and World War II had begun. Although initially victorious on all fronts, Hitler’s armies suffered setbacks after the United States joined the war in December 1941. The war was obviously lost by early 1945, but Hitler insisted that Germany fight to the death. On April 30, 1945, Hitler committed suicide rather than be captured alive.

HOLOCAUST

Holocaust derived from the Greek word, *holokauston*, “an offering consumed by fire,” and has a sacrificial connotation to what occurred. As of the 1950’s the term refers to the destruction of some 6 million Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators in Europe between the years 1933-1945. Other individuals and groups were persecuted and suffered grievously during this period, but only Jews were marked for complete and utter annihilation.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES	A religious sect, originating in the United States, and organized by Charles Taze Russell. The Witnesses base their beliefs on the Bible and have no official ministers. Recognizing only the kingdom of God, they refuse to swear allegiance to any worldly power; to salute the flag; to bear arms in war; and to participate in the affairs of government. Therefore, the Witnesses were persecuted as “enemies of the state.” About 10,000 Witnesses from Germany and other countries were imprisoned in concentration camps during World War II. Of these, about 2,500 died.
JEWISH BADGE	See YELLOW STAR
JUDENRAT (PLURAL: JUDENRATE)	Council of Jewish representatives appointed by the Nazis for administration within the communities and ghettos in German-occupied countries.
JUDENREIN	"Cleansed of Jews," denoting areas where all Jews had been either murdered or deported.
KAPO	From Italian <i>Capo</i> , meaning: head, chief. An inmate (male or female) in a position of authority in Nazi concentration camps. The <i>Kapo</i> was in charge of a group of inmates and carried out the instructions of <i>SS</i> supervisors. They made sure that prisoners performed their tasks and met the quotas. The <i>Kapo</i> was the Nazis' instrument to humiliate and brutalize the prisoners.
KINDERTRANSPORT	German for “children’s transport.” Immediately after <i>Kristallnacht</i> (November 9-10, 1938), the British government, with the aid of Jewish, British and Quaker relief organizations, set up the <i>Kindertransport</i> to evacuate children from Nazi oppression to Great Britain. Nearly 10,000 children were rescued from Germany, Austria, Poland and Czechoslovakia. Most of these children never saw their parents again. It is believed that 20-25% eventually made their way to the United States and Canada.
KONZENTRATIONSLAGER	See CONCENTRATION CAMP
KRISTALLNACHT	(Night of Broken Glass): On November 9-10, 1938, a centrally planned countrywide pogrom and riot, known as <i>Kristallnacht</i> was carried out against the Jews. Arson and destruction of Jewish-owned property and synagogues took place in every town throughout Germany and Austria. It came in retaliation for the assassination of Ernst vom Rath in Paris by a 17 year-old Jewish youth named Herschel Grynzspan. 7,500 businesses and 101 synagogues were destroyed, almost 100 Jews were killed and several thousand were arrested and sent to concentration camps.
LIDICE	A Czech mining village (pop. 700); scene of a violent reprisal for the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, on May 27, 1942. On June

10, 1942, the village was razed to the ground and all its men, 192 in all, were murdered. After World War II, a new village was built near the site of the old Lidice, which is now a national park and memorial.

LODZ

Poland's second largest city. The Lodz economy was based on the textile industry, much of which was established by the local Jewish population. Home to a large Jewish working class, Lodz was a center for Jewish culture and social political activities. On September 8, 1939, the Germans occupied Lodz, and on April 11, 1940 renamed the city Litzmannstadt, after the German general Karl Litzmann who had conquered it in World War I. In April 1940, Lodz became the site of the first major ghetto established by the Nazis, who forced all Jews from Lodz and the surrounding areas into the ghetto. The Lodz Ghetto was severely overcrowded and lacked food, medicine and heat. Daily people died of starvation and disease. In January 1942, the Germans began raiding the ghetto and rounding up Jews for deportation to the Chelmno Extremation Camp. By September 1942, the ghetto was almost empty. Only able bodied men and women were kept alive for forced labor. In the spring of 1944 the Germans liquidated the ghetto, clearing street by street and transporting the remaining Jews to the Auschwitz Concentration Camp and to the Chelmno Extremation Camp. The ghetto was liquidated by the fall of 1944.

MAJDANEK

Located in the Lublin district of Poland, Majdanek was opened in October 1941 and was one of the largest extermination camps in Europe with seven gas chambers. Majdanek inmates included prisoners of war from the former Soviet Union, Belorussian and Poles as well as Jews. Killing methods were by gassing with carbon monoxide and zyklon B and by mass shootings. Nearly 500,000 people, mainly Jews, passed through Majdanek and its sub-camps. Of these some 360,000 perished. The Soviet Army liberated the camp in July 1944.

MAUTHAUSEN

A concentration camp primarily for men, located near Linz, Austria. Mauthausen, opened in August 1938 to mine the nearby quarries, and was classified by the SS as a camp of utmost severity. The inmates included German political prisoners, Spanish republicans, Soviet soldiers and prisoners of war from various European countries. In 1944 Jews were transported to Mauthausen from other concentration camps which were evacuated. Conditions in Mauthausen were brutal, even by concentration camp standards. Nearly 125,000 prisoners of various nationalities were either worked or tortured to death. On May 5, 1945, the camp was liberated by American troops.

***MEIN KAMPF* (My Struggle)**

Adolf Hitler's autobiography, written in 1924 during his imprisonment in the Landsberg prison for his role in the "Beer Hall *Putsch*" (the

failed attempt by Hitler and his associates to overthrow the German Weimar Republic on November 9, 1923). In his book, Hitler details his plan for the future of Germany, including his foreign policy and his racial ideology to make Europe *judenrein* (“Jew-free.”) The Germans, belonging to the “superior” Aryan race, have a right to living space (*Lebensraum*) in the East, which is inhabited by “inferior” Slavs. Throughout the book, Hitler accuses the Jews of being the source of all evil. Unfortunately, most of the people who read *Mein Kampf* (except for Hitler’s admirers) did not take him seriously and believed the book to be the ravings of a maniac.

**MENGELE, JOSEF
(1911-1979)**

SS physician at Auschwitz from 1943-1944 who conducted inhuman medical experiments, especially on twins and Gypsies. Mengele used human beings as “guinea pigs” and subjected them to x-rays, mutilations, diseases and toxic injections. Inmates called him the “Angel of Death” because he, by a simple gesture of his hand pointing to the left or right, would seal a new arrival’s fate. Those considered too weak or too old were sent to the gas chambers; those whom he considered able to work were sent to concentration or labor camps. After the war, Mengele spent time in a British internment hospital but disappeared, went underground, escaped to Argentina and later to Paraguay, where he became a citizen in 1959. He was hunted by Interpol, Israeli agents, and Simon Wiesenthal. In July 1985, forensic experts in Brazil exhumed the body of a man who died in 1979 in a drowning accident and they identified him as Mengele.

MUSSELMANN (German)

Nazi concentration camp slang word for a prisoner who is on the brink of death.

NAZI PARTY

Short term for National Socialist German Workers’ Party (*Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter-Partei* NSDAP). A right-wing, nationalistic and antisemitic political party formed in 1919 and headed by Adolf Hitler from 1921 to 1945.

**NIEMOELLER, MARTIN
(1892-1984)**

German Protestant Pastor who headed the Confessing Church during the Nazi regime. During World War I Niemoeller distinguished himself in the German Navy. He was ordained as a minister in 1924, and in 1931, became pastor of Dahlem parish in Berlin, where his naval fame and his preaching drew large crowds. In 1937, he assumed leadership of the Confessing Church. Subsequently, he was arrested for “malicious attacks on the state,” given a token sentence and made to pay a small fine. After he was released, he was re-arrested on direct orders from Adolf Hitler. He spent the next seven years in Sachsenhausen and Dachau concentration camps, usually in solitary confinement. Despite this, at the beginning of World War II, the patriotic Niemoeller offered his services to the German Navy, but was refused. In 1945, he was released by the Allies, and became an avowed pacifist who

supported a neutral, disarmed and unified Germany. The following statement is attributed (but never recorded officially) to Martin Niemoeller and authenticated by Niemoeller's second wife and widow, Sibylle Niemoeller. Taken from the The Christian Century, Dec. 14, 1994, v. 111, n. 36, p. 1207(1):

"First they came for the communists, but I was not a communist--so I said nothing. Then they came for the social democrats, but I was not a social democrat--so I did nothing. Then came the trade unionists, but I was not a trade unionist. And then they came for the Jews, but I was not a Jew-- I did little. Then when they came for me, there was no one left who could stand up for me."

NIGHT AND FOG DECREE

Secret order, issued by Adolf Hitler on December 7, 1941, to seize "persons endangering German security" who were to vanish without a trace into "night and fog."

NUREMBERG LAWS

Two anti-Jewish statutes enacted in September 1935 during the Nazi party's national convention in Nuremberg. The first, the *Reich* Citizenship Law, deprived German Jews of their citizenship and all pertinent, related rights. The second, the Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honor, outlawed marriages of Jews and non-Jews, forbade Jews from employing German females of childbearing age, and prohibited Jews from displaying the German flag. Many additional regulations were attached to the two main statutes, which provided the basis for removing Jews from all spheres of German political, social, and economic life. The Nuremberg Laws carefully established definitions of Jewishness based on bloodlines. Thus, many Germans of mixed ancestry, called "*Mischlinge*," faced antisemitic discrimination if they had a Jewish grandparent.

PARTISANS

Member of a resistance group operating within and behind enemy lines, using guerrilla tactics. During World War II, this term was applied to resistance fighters in Nazi occupied countries. There was a general partisan movement that included Jews. Jewish partisan groups operated in White Russia, Poland, and Lithuania.

PROTOCOLS OF THE ELDERS OF ZION

A fictitious, infamous publication written in Paris, in 1894, by members of the Russian Secret Police who claimed to offer conclusive evidence of the existence of a Jewish conspiracy to take over the world by creating feuds among Christians, corrupting and undermining established systems. The Protocols were adapted from a nineteenth century French satire by a French lawyer Maurice Joly against Napoleon III (*Dialogue aux enfers entre Montesquieu et Machiavel* – Dialogue in Hell between Montesquieu and Machiavelli. Brussels: 1864). Although it has long been repudiated as an absurd and hateful lie, the protocols are still being published and distributed around the world by white supremacists and others who are committed to intolerance and the hatred of Jews.

**RATH, ERNST VOM
(1909-1938)**

Third secretary at the German Embassy in Paris who was on November 7, 1938 by Herschel Grynszpan His murder was the excuse for *Kristallnacht*.

**RIGHTEOUS AMONG
THE NATIONS**

A term designated by Yad Vashem, the remembrance authority in Jerusalem, Israel, as the tribute to non-Jews who, at the risk of their own lives, saved Jews from Nazi persecution during the Holocaust. These people are often referred to as “Righteous Gentiles.”

SA (German)

An acronym for *Sturmabteilung* (“Storm Troopers”) Members of the special uniformed “Brownshirts” and the armed section of the *Nazi* party, organized in 1923. They were responsible for street fighting and attacks on the opposition and they participated in *Kristallnacht*.

SELECTION

A process of separating prisoners upon their arrival at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. Most people were directed to the gas chambers and were killed immediately. The rest, if they were considered fit to work, were sent to forced labor in Auschwitz and other camps.

SHOAH (Hebrew)

Destruction and/or catastrophe. The terms *Shoah* and Holocaust are linked to the destruction of European Jewry during World War II.

SHTETL

Yiddish term for a small Eastern European Jewish town or village.

SOBIBOR

Extermination camp in the Lublin district in Eastern Poland. Sobibór opened in April 1942 and closed on October 14, 1943, one day after a rebellion of the Jewish prisoners. During this period at least 200,000 Jews were gassed there.

SS (German)

An acronym for *Schutzstaffel* (“Protective Squad”) Originally formed in 1925 as Hitler’s personal bodyguard, Heinrich Himmler, between 1929 and 1939, transformed it into a giant organization. Although various SS units were assigned to the battlefield, the organization is best known for carrying out the destruction of European Jewry.

ST. LOUIS

A steamship, carrying 1128 Jewish refugees, it left Hamburg, Germany in the spring of 1939, bound for Cuba. When the ship arrived, only 22 Jews were allowed to disembark. Initially, no country, including the United States, was willing to accept the other passengers. The St. Louis finally returned to Europe where most of the refugees were finally granted entry into England, The Netherlands, France and Belgium. Nonetheless, most of these Jewish refugees became victims of the “final solution.”

STREICHER, JULIUS

Nazi politician and the most fanatical antisemite in the Nazi party,

(1885-1946)

founded the antisemitic newspaper *Der Stürmer* in 1923. As Hitler's friend he became the head of the region of Franconia, in southern Germany between 1928 and 1940. After World War II, he was convicted at Nuremberg and executed in October 1946.

STRUMA

A cattle boat carrying 769 Jewish refugees, which left Constanta, Romania in December 1941, bound for Palestine (pre 1948 Israel), which was governed by the British mandate. Having been promised entry visas for Palestine, the *Struma* docked in Istanbul, Turkey. Upon arrival, there were no visas for them. The British did not grant the refugees visas and the Turkish authorities refused to transfer them to a transit camp until other arrangements would be made. On February 23, 1942 the *Struma* was tugged by the Turkish police, with no food, water or fuel on board, out to the Black Sea, where it was struck erroneously by a torpedo from a Soviet submarine. Only one passenger survived.

DER STÜRMER (German)

("The Attacker") An antisemitic German weekly newspaper, founded and edited by Julius Streicher, and published in Nuremberg from 1923 and 1945. The phrase "Die Juden sind unser Unglück" ("The Jews are our misfortune!") appeared on each issue at the bottom of the front page.

TEREZIN (Czech)
THERESIENSTADT (German)

Established in early 1942 outside Prague as a "model" ghetto, Terezin was not a sealed section of town, but rather an eighteenth-century Austrian garrison. It became a Jewish town, governed and guarded by the SS. When the deportations from central Europe to the extermination camps began in the spring of 1942, certain groups were initially excluded: invalids; partners in a mixed marriage, and their children; and prominent Jews with special connections. These were sent to the ghetto in Terezin. They were joined by old and young Jews from the Protectorate, and, later, by small numbers of prominent Jews from Denmark and Holland. Its large barracks served as dormitories for communal living; they also contained offices, workshops, infirmaries, and communal kitchens. The Nazis used Terezin to deceive public opinion. They tolerated a lively cultural life of theatre, music, library, lectures, art and sports. Thus, it could be shown to officials of the International Red Cross. In reality, however, Terezin was only a station on the road to the extermination camps; about 88,000 were deported to their deaths in the East. In April 1945, only 17,000 Jews remained in Terezin, where they were joined by 14,000 Jewish concentration camp prisoners, evacuated from camps threatened by the Allied armies. On May 8, 1945, Terezin was liberated by the Red Army. (see BAECK, LEO).

TREBLINKA

Extermination camp in northeast Poland (see EXTERMINATION CAMP). Established in May 1942 along the Warsaw-Bialystok railway line, 870,000 people were murdered there. The camp

operated until the fall of 1943 when the Nazis destroyed the entire camp in an attempt to conceal all traces of their crimes.

UMSCHLAGPLATZ (German)

Collection point. It was a square in the Warsaw Ghetto where Jews were rounded up for deportation to Treblinka.

WANNSEE CONFERENCE
(January 20, 1942)

Lake near Berlin where the Wannsee Conference was held to discuss and coordinate the "Final Solution." It was attended by many high-ranking Nazis, including Reinhard Heydrich and Adolf Eichmann.

WALLENBERG, RAOUL
(1912-19??)

Swedish diplomat who, in 1944, went to Hungary on a mission to save as many Jews as possible by handing out Swedish papers, passports and visas. He is credited with saving the lives of at least 30,000 people. After the liberation of Budapest, he was mysteriously taken into custody by the Russians and his fate remains unknown.

WARSAW GHETTO

Established in November 1940, the ghetto, surrounded by a wall, confined nearly 500,000 Jews. Almost 45,000 Jews died there in 1941 alone, due to overcrowding, forced labor, lack of sanitation, starvation, and disease. From April 19 to May 16, 1943, a revolt took place in the ghetto when the Germans, commanded by General Jürgen Stroop, attempted to raze the ghetto and deport the remaining inhabitants to Treblinka. The uprising, led by Mordecai Anielewicz, was the first instance in occupied Europe of an uprising by an urban population. (See ANIELEWICZ, MORDECAI).

WIESENTHAL, SIMON
(1908-)

Famed Holocaust survivor who has dedicated his life since the war to gathering evidence for the prosecution of Nazi war criminals. (see p. 47)

36 Questions and Answers

1. When speaking about the "Holocaust," what time period are we referring to?

Answer: The "Holocaust" refers to the period from January 30, 1933, when Hitler became Chancellor of Germany, to May 8, 1945 (V-E Day), the end of the war in Europe.

2. How many Jews were murdered during the Holocaust?

Answer: While it is impossible to ascertain the exact number of Jewish victims, statistics indicate that the total was over 5,860,000. Six million is the round figure accepted by most authorities.

3. How many non-Jewish civilians were murdered during World War II?

Answer: While it is impossible to ascertain the exact number, the recognized figure is approximately 5,000,000. Among the groups which the Nazis and their collaborators murdered and persecuted were: Gypsies, Serbs, Polish intelligentsia and priests, resistance fighters from all the nations, German opponents of Nazism, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, habitual criminals, and the "anti-social," e.g. beggars, vagrants, and hawkers.

4. Which Jewish communities suffered losses during the Holocaust?

Answer: Every Jewish community in occupied Europe suffered losses during the Holocaust. The Jewish communities in North Africa were persecuted, but were not subjected to the same large-scale deportations and mass murder. Some individuals, however, were deported to German death camps where they perished.

5. How many Jews were murdered in each country and what percentage of the pre-war Jewish population did they constitute?

Answer: (Source: **Encyclopedia of the Holocaust**; Country names as of 1945)

Austria	50,000	27.0%	Italy	7,680	17.3%
Belgium	28,900	44.0%	Latvia	71,500	78.1%
Bohemia/Moravia	78,150	66.1%	Lithuania	143,000	85.1%
Bulgaria	0	0.0%	Luxembourg	1,950	55.7%
Denmark	60	0.7%	Netherlands	100,000	71.4%
Estonia	2,000	44.4%	Norway	762	44.8%
Finland	7	0.3%	Poland	3,000,000	90.9%
France	77,320	22.1%	Romania	287,000	47.1%
Germany	141,500	25.0%	Slovakia	71,000	79.8%
Greece	67,000	86.6%	Soviet Union	1,100,000	36.4%
Hungary	569,000	69.0%	Yugoslavia	63,300	81.2%

6. What is a death camp? How many were there? Where were they located?

Answer: A death (or mass murder) camp is a concentration camp with special apparatus specifically designed for systematic murder. Six such camps existed: Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Chelmno, Majdanek, Sobibór, Treblinka. All were located in Poland.

7. What does the term "Final Solution" mean and what is its origin?

Answer: The term "Final Solution" (*Endlösung*) refers to Germany's plan to murder all the Jews of Europe. The term was used at the Wannsee Conference (Berlin; January 20, 1942) where German officials discussed its implementation.

8. When did the "Final Solution" actually begin?

Answer: While thousands of Jews were murdered by the Nazis or died as a direct result of discriminatory measures instituted against Jews during the initial years of the Third Reich, the systematic murder of Jews did not begin until the German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941.

9. How did the Germans define who was Jewish?

Answer: On November 14, 1935, the Nazis issued the following definition of a Jew: Anyone with three Jewish grandparents; someone with two Jewish grandparents who belonged to the Jewish community on September 15, 1935, or joined thereafter; was married to a Jew or Jewess on September 15, 1935, or married one thereafter; was the offspring of a marriage or extramarital liaison with a Jew on or after September 15, 1935.

10. How did the Germans treat those who had some Jewish blood but were not classified as Jews?

Answer: Those who were not classified as Jews but who had some Jewish blood were categorized as *Mischlinge* (hybrids) and were divided into two groups:

Mischlinge of the first degree--those with two Jewish grandparents;
Mischlinge of the second degree--those with one Jewish grandparent.

The *Mischlinge* were officially excluded from membership in the Nazi Party and all Party organizations (e.g. SA, SS, etc.). Although they were drafted into the Germany Army, they could not attain the rank of officers. They were also barred from the civil service and from certain professions. (Individual *Mischlinge* were, however, granted exemptions under certain circumstances.) Nazi officials considered plans to sterilize *Mischlinge*, but this was never done. During World War II, first-degree *Mischlinge*, incarcerated in concentration camps, were deported to death camps.

11. What were the first measures taken by the Nazis against the Jews?

Answer: The first measures against the Jews included:

April 1, 1933: A boycott of Jewish shops and businesses by the Nazis.

April 7, 1933: The law for the Re-establishment of the Civil Service expelled all non-Aryans (defined on April 11, 1933 as anyone with a Jewish parent or grandparent) from the civil service. Initially, exceptions were made for those working since August 1914; German veterans of World War I; and, those who had lost a father or son fighting for Germany or her allies in World War I.

April 7, 1933: The law regarding admission to the legal profession prohibited the admission of lawyers of non-Aryan descent to the Bar. It also denied non-Aryan members of the Bar the right to practice law. (Exceptions were made in the cases noted above in the law regarding the civil service.) Similar laws were passed regarding Jewish law assessors, jurors, and commercial judges.

April 22, 1933: The decree regarding physicians' services with the national health plan denied reimbursement of expenses to those patients who consulted non-Aryan doctors. Jewish doctors who were war veterans or had suffered from the war were excluded.

April 25, 1933: The law against the overcrowding of German schools restricted Jewish enrollment in German high schools to 1.5% of the student body. In communities where they constituted more than 5% of the population, Jews were allowed to constitute up to 5% of the student body. Initially, exceptions were made in the case of children of Jewish war veterans, who were not considered part of the quota. In the framework of this law, a Jewish student was a child with two non-Aryan parents.

12. Did the Nazis plan to murder the Jews from the beginning of their regime?

Answer: This question is one of the most difficult to answer. While Hitler made several references to killing Jews, both in his early writings (*Mein Kampf*) and in various speeches during the 1930s, it is fairly certain that the Nazis had no operative plan for the systematic annihilation of the Jews before 1941. The decision on the systematic murder of the Jews was apparently made in the late winter or the early spring of 1941 in conjunction with the decision to invade the Soviet Union.

13. When was the first concentration camp established and who were the first inmates?

Answer: The first concentration camp, Dachau, opened on March 22, 1933. The camp's first inmates were primarily political prisoners (e.g. Communists or Social Democrats); habitual criminals; homosexuals; Jehovah's Witnesses; and "anti-socials" (beggars, vagrants, hawkers). Others considered problematic by the Nazis (e.g. Jewish writers and journalists, lawyers, unpopular industrialists, and political officials) were also included.

14. Which groups of people in Germany were considered enemies of the state by the Nazis and were, therefore, persecuted?

Answer: The following groups of individuals were considered enemies of the Third Reich and were, therefore, persecuted by the Nazi authorities: Jews, Gypsies, Social Democrats, other opposing politicians, opponents of Nazism, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, habitual criminals, and "anti-socials" (e.g. beggars, vagrants, hawkers), and the mentally ill. Any individual who was considered a threat to the Nazis was in danger of being persecuted.

15. What was the difference between the persecution of the Jews and the persecution of other groups classified by the Nazis as enemies of the Third Reich?

Answer: The Jews were the only group singled out for total systematic annihilation by the Nazis. To escape the death sentence imposed by the Nazis, the Jews could only leave Nazi-controlled Europe. Every single Jew was to be killed according to the Nazis' plan. In the case of other criminals or enemies of the Third Reich, their families were usually not held accountable. Thus, if a person was executed or sent to a concentration camp, it did not mean that each member of his family would meet the same fate. Moreover, in most situations, the Nazis' enemies were classified as such because of their actions or political affiliation. In the case of the Jews, it was because of their racial origin, which could never be changed.

16. Why were the Jews singled out for extermination?

Answer: The explanation of the Nazis' implacable hatred of the Jew rests on their distorted world view, which saw history as a racial struggle. They considered the Jews a race whose goal was world domination and who, therefore, were an obstruction to Aryan dominance. They believed that all of history was a fight between races which should culminate in the triumph of the superior Aryan race. Therefore, they considered it their duty to eliminate the Jews, whom they regarded as a threat. Moreover, in their eyes, the Jews' racial origin made them habitual criminals who could never be rehabilitated and were, therefore, hopelessly corrupt and inferior.

There is no doubt that other factors contributed toward Nazi hatred of the Jews and their distorted image of the Jewish people. These included the centuries-old tradition of Christian antisemitism which propagated a negative stereotype of the Jew as a Christ-killer, agent of the devil, and practitioner of witchcraft. Also significant was the political antisemitism of the latter half of the nineteenth and early part of the twentieth centuries, which singled out the Jew as a threat to the established order of society. These combined to point to the Jew as a target for persecution and ultimate destruction by the Nazis.

17. What did people in Germany know about the persecution of Jews and other enemies of Nazism?

Answer: Certain initial aspects of Nazi persecution of Jews and other opponents were common knowledge in Germany. Thus, for example, everyone knew about the Boycott of April 1, 1933, the Laws of April, and the Nuremberg Laws, because they were fully publicized. Moreover, offenders were often publicly punished and shamed. The same holds true for subsequent anti-Jewish measures. *Kristallnacht* (The Night of the Broken Glass) was a public pogrom, carried out in full

view of the entire population. While information on the concentration camps was not publicized, a great deal of information was available to the German public, and the treatment of the inmates was generally known, although exact details were not easily obtained.

As for the implementation of the "Final Solution" and the murder of other undesirable elements, the situation was different. The Nazis attempted to keep the murders a secret and, therefore, took precautionary measures to ensure that they would not be publicized. Their efforts, however, were only partially successful. Thus, for example, public protests by various clergymen led to the halt of their euthanasia program in August of 1941. These protests were obviously the result of the fact that many persons were aware that the Nazis were killing the mentally ill in special institutions.

As far as the Jews were concerned, it was common knowledge in Germany that they had disappeared after having been sent to the East. It was not exactly clear to large segments of the German population what had happened to them. On the other hand, there were thousands upon thousands of Germans who participated in and/or witnessed the implementation of the "Final Solution" either as members of the SS, the *Einsatzgruppen*, death camp or concentration camp guards, police in occupied Europe, or with the *Wehrmacht*.

18. Did all Germans support Hitler's plan for the persecution of the Jews?

Answer: Although the entire German population was not in agreement with Hitler's persecution of the Jews, there is no evidence of any large scale protest regarding their treatment. There were Germans who defied the April 1, 1933 boycott and purposely bought in Jewish stores, and there were those who aided Jews to escape and to hide, but their number was very small. Even some of those who opposed Hitler were in agreement with his anti-Jewish policies. Among the clergy, *Dompropst* Bernhard Lichtenberg of Berlin publicly prayed for the Jews daily and was, therefore, sent to a concentration camp by the Nazis. Other priests were deported for their failure to cooperate with Nazi antisemitic policies, but the majority of the clergy complied with the directives against German Jewry and did not openly protest.

19. Did the people of occupied Europe know about Nazi plans for the Jews? What was their attitude? Did they cooperate with the Nazis against the Jews?

Answer: The attitude of the local population vis-a-vis the persecution and destruction of the Jews varied from zealous collaboration with the Nazis to active assistance to Jews. Thus, it is difficult to make generalizations. The situation also varied from country to country. In Eastern Europe and especially in Poland, Russia, and the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania), there was much more knowledge of the "Final Solution" because it was implemented in those areas. Elsewhere, the local population had less information on the details of the "Final Solution."

In every country they occupied, with the exception of Denmark and Bulgaria, the Nazis found many locals who were willing to cooperate fully in the murder of the Jews. This was particularly true in Eastern Europe, where there was a long-standing tradition of virulent antisemitism, and where various national groups, which had been under Soviet domination (Latvians, Lithuanians, and Ukrainians), fostered hopes that the Germans would restore their independence. In several countries in Europe, there were local fascist movements, which allied themselves with the Nazis and participated in anti-Jewish actions; for example, the Iron Guard in Romania and the Arrow Guard in

Slovakia. On the other hand, in every country in Europe, there were courageous individuals who risked their lives to save Jews. In several countries, there were groups which aided Jews, e.g. Joop Westerweel's group in the Netherlands, *Zegota* in Poland, and the Assisi underground in Italy.

20. Did the Allies and the people in the Free World know about the events going on in Europe?

Answer: The various steps taken by the Nazis prior to the "Final Solution" were all taken publicly and were, therefore, reported in the press. Foreign correspondents commented on all the major anti-Jewish actions taken by the Nazis in Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia prior to World War II. Once the war began, obtaining information became more difficult, but reports, nonetheless, were published regarding the fate of the Jews. Thus, although the Nazis did not publicize the "Final Solution," less than one year after the systematic murder of the Jews was initiated, details began to filter out to the West. The first report which spoke of a plan for the mass murder of Jews was smuggled out of Poland by the *Bund* (a Jewish socialist political organization) and reached England in the spring of 1942. The details of this report reached the Allies from Vatican sources as well as from informants in Switzerland and the Polish underground. (Jan Karski, an emissary of the Polish underground, personally met with Franklin Roosevelt and British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden). Eventually, the American Government confirmed the reports to Jewish leaders in late November 1942. They were publicized immediately thereafter. While the details were neither complete nor wholly accurate, the Allies were aware of most of what the Germans had done to the Jews at a relatively early date.

21. What was the response of the Allies to the persecution of the Jews? Could they have done anything to help?

Answer: The response of the Allies to the persecution and destruction of European Jewry was inadequate. Only in January 1944 was an agency, the War Refugee Board, established for the express purpose of saving the victims of Nazi persecution. Prior to that date, little action was taken. On December 17, 1942, the Allies issued a condemnation of Nazi atrocities against the Jews, but this was the only such declaration made prior to 1944.

Moreover, no attempt was made to call upon the local population in Europe to refrain from assisting the Nazis in their systematic murder of the Jews. Even following the establishment of the War Refugee Board and the initiation of various rescue efforts, the Allies refused to bomb the death camp of Auschwitz and/or the railway lines leading to that camp, despite the fact that Allied bombers were at that time engaged in bombing factories very close to the camp and were well aware of its existence and function.

Other practical measures which were not taken concerned the refugee problem. Tens of thousands of Jews sought to enter the United States, but they were barred from doing so by the stringent American immigration policy. Even the relatively small quotas of visas which existed were often not filled, although the number of applicants was usually many times the number of available places. Conferences held in Evian, France (1938) and Bermuda (1943) to solve the refugee problem did not contribute to a solution. At the former, the countries invited by the United States and Great Britain were told that no country would be asked to change its immigration laws. Moreover, the British agreed to participate only if Palestine were not considered. At Bermuda, the delegates did not deal with the fate of those still in Nazi hands, but rather with those who had already escaped to

neutral lands. Practical measures which could have aided in the rescue of Jews included the following:

- Permission for temporary admission of refugees
- Relaxation of stringent entry requirements
- Frequent and unequivocal warnings to Germany and local populations all over Europe that those participating in the annihilation of Jews would be held strictly accountable
- Bombing the death camp at Auschwitz.

22. Who are the "Righteous Among the Nations"?

Answer: "Righteous Among the Nations," or "Righteous Gentiles," refers to those non-Jews who aided Jews during the Holocaust. There were "Righteous Among the Nations" in every country overrun or allied with the Nazis, and their deeds often led to the rescue of Jewish lives. *Yad Vashem*, the Israeli national remembrance authority for the Holocaust, bestows special honors upon these individuals. To date, after carefully evaluating each case, *Yad Vashem* has recognized approximately 10,000 "Righteous Gentiles" in three different categories of recognition. The country with the most "Righteous Gentiles" is Poland. The country with the highest proportion (per capita) is the Netherlands. The figure of 10,000 is far from complete as many cases were never reported, frequently because those who were helped have died. Moreover, this figure only includes those who actually risked their lives to save Jews, and not those who merely extended aid.

23. Were Jews in the Free World aware of the persecution and destruction of European Jewry and, if so, what was their response?

Answer: The news of the persecution and destruction of European Jewry must be divided into two periods. The measures taken by the Nazis prior to the "Final Solution" were all taken publicly and were, therefore, in all the newspapers. Foreign correspondents reported on all major anti-Jewish actions taken by the Nazis in Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia prior to World War II. Once the war began, obtaining information became more difficult, but, nonetheless, reports were published regarding the fate of the Jews.

The "Final Solution" was not openly publicized by the Nazis, and thus it took longer for information to reach the "Free World." Nevertheless, by December 1942, news of the mass murders and the plan to annihilate European Jewry was publicized in the Jewish press.

The response of the Jews in the "Free World" must also be divided into two periods, before and after the publication of information on the "Final Solution." Efforts during the early years of the Nazi regime concentrated on facilitating emigration from Germany (although there were those who initially opposed emigration as a solution) and combating German antisemitism. Unfortunately, the views on how to best achieve these goals differed and effective action was often hampered by the lack of internal unity. Moreover, very few Jewish leaders actually realized the scope of the danger. Following the publication of the news of the "Final Solution," attempts were made to launch rescue attempts via neutral states and to send aid to Jews under Nazi rule. These attempts, which were far from adequate, were further hampered by the lack of assistance and obstruction from government channels. Additional attempts to achieve internal unity during this period failed.

24. Did the Jews in Europe realize what was going to happen to them?

Answer: Regarding the knowledge of the "Final Solution" by its potential victims, several key points must be kept in mind. First of all, the Nazis did not publicize the "Final Solution," nor did they ever openly speak about it. Every attempt was made to fool the victims and, thereby, prevent or minimize resistance. Thus, deportees were always told that they were going to be "resettled." They were led to believe that conditions "in the East" (where they were being sent) would be better than those in ghettos. Following arrival in certain concentration camps, the inmates were forced to write home about the wonderful conditions in their new place of residence. The Germans made every effort to ensure secrecy. In addition, the notion that human beings--let alone the civilized Germans--could build camps with special apparatus for mass murder seemed unbelievable in those days. Since German troops liberated the Jews from the Czar in World War I, Germans were regarded by many Jews as a liberal, civilized people. Escapees who did return to the ghetto frequently encountered disbelief when they related their experiences. Even Jews who had heard of the camps had difficulty believing reports of what the Germans were doing there. Inasmuch as each of the Jewish communities in Europe was almost completely isolated, there was a limited number of places with available information. Thus, there is no doubt that many European Jews were not aware of the "Final Solution," a fact that has been corroborated by German documents and the testimonies of survivors.

25. How many Jews were able to escape from Europe prior to the Holocaust?

Answer: It is difficult to arrive at an exact figure for the number of Jews who were able to escape from Europe prior to World War II, since the available statistics are incomplete. From 1933-1939, 355,278 German and Austrian Jews left their homes. (Some immigrated to countries later overrun by the Nazis.) In the same period, 80,860 Polish Jews immigrated to Palestine and 51,747 European Jews arrived in Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. During the years 1938-1939, approximately 35,000 emigrated from Bohemia and Moravia (Czechoslovakia). Shanghai, the only place in the world for which one did not need an entry visa, received approximately 20,000 European Jews (mostly of German origin) who fled their homelands. Immigration figures for countries of refuge during this period are not available. In addition, many countries did not provide a breakdown of immigration statistics according to ethnic groups. It is impossible, therefore, to ascertain the exact number of Jewish refugees.

26. What efforts were made to save the Jews fleeing from Germany before World War II began?

Answer: Various organizations attempted to facilitate the emigration of the Jews (and non-Jews persecuted as Jews) from Germany. Among the most active were the Jewish Agency for Palestine, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, HICEM, the Central British Fund for German Jewry, the *Reichsvertretung der Deutschen Juden* (Reich Representation of German Jews), which represented German Jewry, and other non-Jewish groups such as the League of Nations High Commission for Refugees (Jewish and other) coming from Germany, and the American Friends Service Committee. Among the programs launched were the "Transfer Agreement" between the Jewish Agency and the German government whereby immigrants to Palestine were allowed to transfer their funds to that country in conjunction with the import of German goods to Palestine. Other efforts focused on retraining prospective emigrants in order to increase the number of those eligible for visas, since some countries barred the entry of members of certain professions. Other

groups attempted to help in various phases of refugee work: selection of candidates for emigration, transportation of refugees, aid in immigrant absorption, etc.

Some groups attempted to facilitate increased emigration by enlisting the aid of governments and international organizations in seeking refugee havens. The League of Nations established an agency to aid refugees but its success was extremely limited due to a lack of political power and adequate funding.

The United States and Great Britain convened a conference in 1938 at Evian, France, seeking a solution to the refugee problem. With the exception of the Dominican Republic, the nations assembled refused to change their stringent immigration regulations, which were instrumental in preventing large-scale immigration. In fact, Australia remarked, “as we have no real racial problem, we are not desirous of importing one.”

In 1939, the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, which had been established at the Evian Conference, initiated negotiations with leading German officials in an attempt to arrange for the relocation of a significant portion of German Jewry. However, these talks failed. Efforts were made for the illegal entry of Jewish immigrants to Palestine as early as July 1934, but were later halted until July 1938. Large-scale efforts were resumed under the *Mosad le-Aliya Bet*, Revisionist Zionists, and private parties. Attempts were also made, with some success, to facilitate the illegal entry of refugees to various countries in Latin America.

27. Why were so few refugees able to flee Europe prior to the outbreak of World War II?

Answer: The key reason for the relatively low number of refugees leaving Europe prior to World War II was the stringent immigration policies adopted by the prospective host countries. In the United States, for example, the number of immigrants was limited to 153,744 per year, divided by country of origin. Moreover, the entry requirements were so stringent that available quotas were often not filled. Schemes to facilitate immigration outside the quotas never materialized as the majority of the American public consistently opposed the entry of additional refugees. Other countries, particularly those in Latin America, adopted immigration policies that were similar or even more restrictive, thus closing the doors to prospective immigrants from the Third Reich.

Great Britain, while somewhat more liberal than the United States on the entry of immigrants, took measures to severely limit Jewish immigration to Palestine. In May 1939, the British issued a "White Paper" stipulating that only 75,000 Jewish immigrants would be allowed to enter Palestine over the course of the next five years (10,000 a year, plus an additional 25,000). This decision prevented hundreds of thousands of Jews from escaping Europe.

The countries most able to accept large numbers of refugees consistently refused to open their gates. Although a solution to the refugee problem was the agenda of the Evian Conference, only the Dominican Republic was willing to approve large-scale immigration. The United States and Great Britain proposed resettlement havens in under-developed areas (e.g. Guyana, formerly British Guyana, and the Philippines), but these were not suitable alternatives.

Two important factors should be noted. During the period prior to the outbreak of World War II, the Germans were in favor of Jewish emigration. At that time, there were no operative plans to kill the Jews. The goal was to induce them to leave, if necessary, by the use of force. It is also important to

recognize the attitude of German Jewry. While many German Jews were initially reluctant to emigrate, the majority sought to do so following *Kristallnacht* (The Night of Broken Glass), November 9-10, 1938. Had havens been available, more people would certainly have emigrated.

28. What was Hitler's ultimate goal in launching World War II?

Answer: Hitler's ultimate goal in launching World War II was the establishment of an Aryan empire from Germany to the Urals. He considered this area the natural territory of the German people, an area to which they were entitled by right, the *Lebensraum* (living space) that Germany needed so badly for its farmers to have enough soil. Hitler maintained that these areas were needed for the Aryan race to preserve itself and assure its dominance.

There is no question that Hitler knew that, by launching the war in the East, the Nazis would be forced to deal with serious racial problems in view of the composition of the population in the Eastern areas. Thus, the Nazis had detailed plans for the subjugation of the Slavs, who would be reduced to serfdom status and whose primary function would be to serve as a source of cheap labor for Aryan farmers. Those elements of the local population, who were of higher racial stock, would be taken to Germany where they would be raised as Aryans.

In Hitler's mind, the solution of the Jewish problem was also linked to the conquest of the eastern territories. These areas had large Jewish populations and they would have to be dealt with accordingly. While at this point there was still no operative plan for mass annihilation, it was clear to Hitler that some sort of comprehensive solution would have to be found. There was also talk of establishing a Jewish reservation either in Madagascar or near Lublin, Poland. When he made the decisive decision to invade the Soviet Union, Hitler also gave instructions to embark upon the "Final Solution," the systematic murder of European Jewry.

29. Was there any opposition to the Nazis within Germany?

Answer: Throughout the course of the Third Reich, there were different groups who opposed the Nazi regime and certain Nazi policies. They engaged in resistance at different times and with various methods, aims, and scope.

From the beginning, leftist political groups and a number of disappointed conservatives were in opposition; at a later date, church groups, government officials, students and businessmen also joined. After the tide of the war was reversed, elements within the military played an active role in opposing Hitler. At no point, however, was there a unified resistance movement within Germany.

30. Did the Jews try to fight against the Nazis? To what extent were such efforts successful?

Answer: Despite the difficult conditions to which Jews were subjected in Nazi-occupied Europe, many engaged in armed resistance against the Nazis. This resistance can be divided into three basic types of armed activities: ghetto revolts, resistance in concentration and death camps, and partisan warfare.

The Warsaw Ghetto revolt, which lasted for about five weeks beginning on April 19, 1943, is probably the best-known example of armed Jewish resistance, but there were many ghetto revolts in which Jews fought against the Nazis.

Despite the terrible conditions in the death, concentration, and labor camps, Jewish inmates fought against the Nazis at the following sites: Treblinka (August 2, 1943); Babi Yar (September 29, 1943); Sobibór (October 14, 1943); Janowska (November 19, 1943); and Auschwitz (October 7, 1944).

Jewish partisan units were active in many areas, including Baranovichi, Minsk, Naliboki Forest, and Vilna. While the sum total of armed resistance efforts by Jews was not militarily overwhelming and did not play a significant role in the defeat of Nazi Germany, these acts of resistance did lead to the rescue of an undetermined number of Jews, Nazi casualties, and untold damage to German property and self-esteem.

31. What was the *Judenrat*?

Answer: The *Judenrat* was the council of Jews, appointed by the Nazis in each Jewish community or ghetto. According to the directive from Reinhard Heydrich of the SS on September 21, 1939, a *Judenrat* was to be established in every concentration of Jews in the occupied areas of Poland. They were led by noted community leaders. Enforcement of Nazi decrees affecting Jews and administration of the affairs of the Jewish community were the responsibilities of the *Judenrat*. These functions placed the *Judenrat* in a highly responsible, but controversial position, and many of their actions continue to be the subject of debate among historians. While the intentions of the heads of councils were rarely challenged, their tactics and methods have been questioned. Among the most controversial were Mordechai Rumkowski in Lodz and Jacob Gens in Vilna, both of whom justified the sacrifice of some Jews in order to save others. Leaders and members of the *Judenrat* were guided, for the most part, by a sense of communal responsibility, but lacked the power and the means to successfully thwart Nazi plans for annihilation of all Jews.

32. Did international organizations, such as the Red Cross, aid victims of Nazi persecution?

Answer: During the course of World War II, the International Red Cross (IRC) did very little to aid the Jewish victims of Nazi persecution. Its activities can basically be divided into three periods:

1. September, 1939 - June 22, 1941:

The IRC confined its activities to sending food packages to those in distress in Nazi-occupied Europe. Packages were distributed in accordance with the directives of the German Red Cross. Throughout this time, the IRC complied with the German contention that those in ghettos and camps constituted a threat to the security of the Reich and, therefore, were not allowed to receive aid from the IRC.

2. June 22, 1941 - Summer 1944:

Despite numerous requests by Jewish organizations, the IRC refused to publicly protest the mass annihilation of Jews and non-Jews in the camps, or to intervene on their behalf. It maintained that any public action on behalf of those under Nazi rule would ultimately prove detrimental to their

welfare. At the same time, the IRC attempted to send food parcels to those individuals whose addresses it possessed.

3. Summer 1944 - May 1945:

Following intervention by such prominent figures as President Franklin Roosevelt and the King of Sweden, the IRC appealed to Miklós Horthy, Regent of Hungary, to stop the deportation of Hungarian Jews.

The IRC did insist that it be allowed to visit concentration camps, and a delegation did visit the "model ghetto" of Terezin (Theresienstadt). The IRC request came following the receipt of information about the harsh living conditions in the camp.

The IRC requested permission to investigate the situation, but the Germans only agreed to allow the visit nine months after submission of the request. This delay provided time for the Nazis to complete a "beautification" program, designed to fool the delegation into thinking that conditions at Terezin were quite good and that inmates were allowed to live out their lives in relative tranquility.

The visit, which took place on July 23, 1944, was followed by a favorable report on Terezin to the members of the IRC which Jewish organizations protested vigorously, demanding that another delegation visit the camp. Such a visit was not permitted until shortly before the end of the war. In reality, the majority were subsequently deported to Auschwitz where they were murdered.

33. How did Germany's allies, the Japanese and the Italians, treat the Jews in the lands they occupied?

Answer: Neither the Italians nor the Japanese, both of whom were Germany's allies during World War II, cooperated regarding the "Final Solution." Although the Italians did, upon German urging, institute discriminatory legislation against Italian Jews, Mussolini's government refused to participate in the "Final Solution" and consistently refused to deport its Jewish residents. Moreover, in their occupied areas of France, Greece, and Yugoslavia, the Italians protected the Jews and did not allow them to be deported. However, when the Germans overthrew the Badoglio government in 1943, the Jews of Italy, as well as those under Italian protection in occupied areas, were subject to the "Final Solution."

The Japanese were also relatively tolerant toward the Jews in their country as well as in the areas which they occupied. Despite pressure by their German allies urging them to take stringent measures against Jews, the Japanese refused to do so. Refugees were allowed to enter Japan until the spring of 1941, and Jews in Japanese-occupied China were treated well. In the summer and fall of 1941, refugees in Japan were transferred to Shanghai but no measures were taken against them until early 1943, when they were forced to move into the Hongkew Ghetto. While conditions were hardly satisfactory, they were far superior to those in the ghettos under German control.

34. What was the attitude of the churches vis-a-vis the persecution of the Jews? Did the Pope ever speak out against the Nazis?

Answer: The head of the Catholic Church at the time of the Nazi rise to power was Pope Pius XI. Although he stated that the myths of "race" and "blood" were contrary to Christian teaching (in a

papal encyclical, March 1937), he neither mentioned nor criticized antisemitism. His successor, Pius XII (Cardinal Pacelli) was a Germanophile who maintained his strict neutrality throughout the course of World War II. Although, as early as 1942, the Vatican received detailed information on the murder of Jews in concentration camps, the Pope confined his public statements to broad expressions of sympathy for the victims of injustice and to calls for a more humane conduct of the war.

Despite the lack of response by Pope Pius XII, several papal nuncios played an important role in rescue efforts, particularly the nuncios in Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Turkey. It is not clear to what, if any, extent they operated upon instructions from the Vatican. In Germany, the Catholic Church did not oppose the Nazis' antisemitic campaign. Church records were supplied to state authorities which assisted in the detection of people of Jewish origin, and efforts to aid the persecuted were confined to Catholic, non-Aryans. While Catholic clergymen protested the Nazi euthanasia program, few, with the exception of Bernhard Lichtenberg, spoke out against the murder of the Jews.

In Western Europe, Catholic clergy spoke out publicly against the persecution of the Jews and actively helped in the rescue of Jews. In Eastern Europe, however, the Catholic clergy was generally more reluctant to help. Dr. Jozef Tiso, the head of state of Slovakia and a Catholic priest, actively cooperated with the Germans as did many other Catholic priests.

The response of Protestant and Eastern Orthodox churches varied. In Germany, for example, Nazi supporters within Protestant churches complied with the anti-Jewish legislation and even excluded Christians of Jewish origin from membership. Pastor Martin Niemöller's Confessing Church defended the rights of Christians of Jewish origin within the church, but did not publicly protest their persecution, nor did it condemn the measures taken against the Jews, with the exception of a memorandum sent to Hitler in May 1936.

In occupied Europe, the position of the Protestant churches varied. In several countries (Denmark, France, the Netherlands, and Norway) local churches and/or leading clergymen issued public protests when the Nazis began deporting Jews. In other countries (Bulgaria, Greece, and Yugoslavia), some Orthodox church leaders intervened on behalf of the Jews and took steps which, in certain cases, led to the rescue of many Jews.

35. How many Nazi criminals were there? How many were brought to justice?

Answer: We do not know the exact number of Nazi criminals since the available documentation is incomplete. The Nazis themselves destroyed many incriminating documents and there are still many criminals who are unidentified and/or unindicted.

Those who committed war crimes include those individuals who initiated, planned and directed the killing operations, as well as those with whose knowledge, agreement, and passive participation the murder of European Jewry was carried out.

Those who actually implemented the "Final Solution" include the leaders of Nazi Germany, the heads of the Nazi Party, and the Reich Security Main Office. Also included are hundreds of thousands of members of the Gestapo, the SS, the *Einsatzgruppen*, the police and the armed forces, as well as those bureaucrats who were involved in the persecution and destruction of European Jewry. In addition, there were thousands of individuals throughout occupied Europe who cooperated with the Nazis in killing Jews and other innocent civilians.

We do not have complete statistics on the number of criminals brought to justice, but the number is certainly far less than the total of those who were involved in the "Final Solution." The leaders of the Third Reich, who were caught by the Allies, were tried by the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg from November 20, 1945 to October 1, 1946. Afterwards, the Allied occupation authorities continued to try Nazis, with the most significant trials held in the American zone (the Subsequent Nuremberg Proceedings). In total, 5,025 Nazi criminals were convicted between 1945-1949 in the American, British and French zones, in addition to an unspecified number of people who were tried in the Soviet zone. In addition, the United Nations War Crimes Commission prepared lists of war criminals who were later tried by the judicial authorities of Allied countries and those countries under Nazi rule during the war. The latter countries have conducted a large number of trials regarding crimes committed in their lands. The Polish tribunals, for example, tried approximately 40,000 persons, and large numbers of criminals were tried in other countries. In all, about 80,000 Germans have been convicted for committing crimes against humanity, while the number of local collaborators is in the tens of thousands. Special mention should be made of Simon Wiesenthal, whose activities led to the capture of over one thousand Nazi criminals.

Courts in Germany began, in some cases, to function as early as 1945. By 1969, almost 80,000 Germans had been investigated and over 6,000 had been convicted. In 1958, the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG; West Germany) established a special agency in Ludwigsburg to aid in the investigation of crimes committed by Germans outside Germany, an agency which, since its establishment, has been involved in hundreds of major investigations. One of the major problems regarding the trial of war criminals in the FRG (as well as in Austria) has been the fact that the sentences have been disproportionately lenient for the crimes committed. Some trials were also conducted in the former German Democratic Republic (GDR; East Germany), yet no statistics exist as to the number of those convicted or the extent of their sentences.

36. What were the Nuremberg Trials?

Answer: The term "Nuremberg Trials" refers to two sets of trials of Nazi war criminals conducted after the war. The first trials were held November 20, 1945 to October 1, 1946, before the International Military Tribunal (IMT), which was made up of representatives of France, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States. It consisted of the trials of the political, military and economic leaders of the Third Reich captured by the Allies. Among the defendants were: Göring, Rosenberg, Streicher, Kaltenbrunner, Seyss-Inquart, Speer, Ribbentrop and Hess (many of the most prominent Nazis -- Hitler, Himmler, and Goebbels -- committed suicide and were not brought to trial). The second set of trials, known as the Subsequent Nuremberg Proceedings, was conducted before the Nuremberg Military Tribunals (NMT), established by the Office of the United States Government for Germany (OMGUS). While the judges on the NMT were American citizens, the tribunal considered itself international. Twelve high-ranking officials were tried, among whom were cabinet ministers, diplomats, doctors involved in medical experiments, and SS officers involved in crimes in concentration camps or in genocide in Nazi-occupied areas. Publications of the trial proceedings are available.

DIRECTORY OF MAJOR ADMINISTRATIVE CENTERS AND CONCENTRATION CAMPS

CONCENTRATION CAMP	LOCATION	TYPE OF CAMP	OPERATION	CLOSURE	PRESENT STATUS
AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU	Poland	Annihilation; Forced Labor	April 1940 - January 1945	Liberated by USSR	Camp Preserved
BELZEC	Poland	Annihilation	March 1942 - June 1943	Liquidated by Germany	Monument
BERGEN-BELSEN	Germany	Holding Center	April 1943 - April 1945	Liberated by UK	Graveyard
BUCHENWALD	Germany	Forced Labor	July 1937 - April 1945	Liberated by USA	Camp preserved; Museum
CHELMNO	Poland	Annihilation	December 1944 - April 1943; April 1944 - January 1945	Liquidated by Germany	Monument
DACHAU	Germany	Forced Labor	March 1933 - April 1945	Liberated by USA	Camp preserved; Museum
DORA/ MITTELBAU	Germany	Forced Labor	September 1943 - April 1945	Liberated by USA	Memorial Sculpture Plaza
FLOSSENBÜRG	Germany	Forced Labor	May 1938 - April 1945	Liberated by USA	Buildings; Monument

CONCENTRATION CAMP	LOCATION	TYPE OF CAMP	OPERATION	CLOSURE	PRESENT STATUS
GROSS-ROSEN	Poland	Forced Labor	August 1940 - February 1945	Liberated by USSR	Camp Preserved; Museum
JANÓWSKA	Ukraine	Forced Labor; Annihilation	September 1941 - November 1943	Liquidated by Germany	Not Maintained
KAISERWALD	Latvia	Forced Labor	March 1943 - September 1944	Liquidated by Germany	Not Maintained
MAJDANEK	Poland	Annihilation	July 1941 - July 1944	Liberated by USSR	Camp Preserved; Monument
MAUTHAUSEN	Austria	Forced Labor	August 1938 - May 1945	Liberated by USA	Buildings; Monument
NATZWEILER/STRUTHOF	France	Forced Labor	May 1941 - September 1944	Liquidated by Germany	Camp Preserved
NEUENGAMME	Germany	Forced Labor	June 1940 - May 1945	Liberated by UK	Used as Prison; Monument
ORANIENBURG	Germany	Holding Center	March 1933 - March 1935	Liquidated by Germany	Not Maintained
PLASZOW	Poland	Forced Labor	December 1942 - January 1945	Liquidated by Germany	Not Maintained

CONCENTRATION CAMP	LOCATION	TYPE OF CAMP	OPERATION	CLOSURE	PRESENT STATUS
RAVENSBRÜCK	Germany	Forced Labor	May 1939 - April 1945	Liberated by USSR	Buildings; Monument
SACHSENHAUSEN	Germany	Forced Labor	July 1936 - April 1945	Liberated by USSR	Museum; Buildings
SOBIBOR	Poland	Annihilation	May 1942 - October 1943	Liquidated by Germany	Monument
STUTTHOF	Poland	Forced Labor	September 1939 - May 1945	Liberated by USSR	Buildings; Museum
TEREZIN (THERESIENSTADT)	Czech Republic	“Model Camp” Holding Center Transit Ghetto	November 1941 - May 1945	Liberated by USSR	Buildings; Monument
TREBLINKA	Poland	Annihilation	July 1942 - November 1943	Liquidated by Germany	Monument
WESTERBORK	Netherlands	Transit Camp	October 1939 - April 1945	Liberated by Canada	Monument

Important Sub-Camps And Their Main Camps

Sub-Camp	Main Camp	Sub-Camp	Main Camp
1. Berga	Buchenwald	13. Kaufering	Dachau
2. Birkenau	Auschwitz	14. Landsberg	Dachau
3. Blechhammer	Auschwitz	15. Mielec	Plaszow
4. Ebensee	Mauthausen	16. Monowitz	Auschwitz
5. Gelsenkirchen	Buchenwald	17. Nordhausen	Dora-Mittelbau
6. Gleiwitz I	Auschwitz	18. Ohrdruf	Buchenwald
7. Görlitz	Gross Rosen	19. Quedlinburg	
	Buchenwald		
8. Gunskirchen	Mauthausen	20. Salzwedel	Neuengamme
9. Gusen	Mauthausen	21. St. Georgen	Mauthausen
10. Janinagrube	Auschwitz	22. Trawniki	Lublin-Majdanek
11. Jaworzno	Auschwitz	23. Vaihingen	Natzweiler
12. Kattowitz	Auschwitz	24. Weisswasser	Gross Rosen
		25. Wöbbelin	Neuengamme

Concentration Camps Operated by German Collaborators

Camp	Location	Camp	Location
1. Bor	Podolia (now Ukraine)	8. Lagedi	Estonia
2. Djakovo	Croatia	9. Lobargrad	Croatia
3. Danica	Croatia	10. Malines	Belgium
4. Gradiska	Croatia	11. Noe	France
5. Gurs	France	12. Salaspils	Latvia
6. Jadovno	Croatia	13. Tartu	Estonia
7. Jasenovac	Croatia	14. Transnistria (complex of many camps)	Romania (now Ukraine)

Tracing Survivors and Relatives

The following resources can be of assistance in tracing loved ones lost in the Holocaust and in finding survivors and/or researching your Jewish ancestry. Several resources should be consulted when doing a thorough genealogical search as there is no large, single "database" of victims or survivors currently available for researching one's family.

American Red Cross

The Red Cross accesses the extensive resources of the International Red Cross movement, including the Holocaust and War Victims Tracing and Information Center, the International Tracing Service, Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies worldwide, and the *Magen David Adom* in Israel.

Your **local Red Cross chapter** can often assist in securing the documentation of forced labor or internment in a concentration camp, which is required when survivors submit claims for reparations or pensions from the German government.

(Contact your local branch first to obtain a Holocaust Tracing Form. There is no charge for this service.) Information, including chapter locations, is also available online at: <http://www.crossnet.org>

If you are unable to contact your local chapter of the American Red Cross, then you may contact the following agencies of the Red Cross; however, the paperwork procedures will take much more time:

American Red Cross
Holocaust and War Victims Tracing and Information Service
4700 Mount Hope Drive
Baltimore, MD 21215-3200
Tel.: 410-764-5311
Web: <http://www.redcross.org/services/intl/holotrace/>
Email: pweber@arc-cmc.org

International Committee of the Red Cross ("ICRC")
19 Avenue de la Paix
CH-1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel.: ++ 41 (22) 734 60 01
Fax: ++ 41 (22) 733 20 57
Web: <http://www.icrc.org>
Email: webmaster.gva@icrc.org

American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors

122 West 30th Street, Suite 205
New York, NY 10001
Tel.: 212-239-4230
Fax: 212-279-2926
Email: mail@americangathering.org

Registry of Holocaust Survivors

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024-2150
Tel.: 202-488-6130
Web: <http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/registry/>
Email: registry@ushmm.org

In 1981, the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors established a national registry to document the lives of survivors who came to the United States after the Second World War. The registry was created to help survivors search for relatives and friends. The Registry now includes over 100,000 records related to survivors and their families. Although most of the survivors who have registered live in North America, the Museum now includes the names of survivors from all backgrounds living all over the world.

The Registry defines a survivor as a person who was displaced, persecuted, and/or discriminated against by the racial, religious, ethnic, and political policies of the Nazis and their Allies. In addition to former inmates of concentration camps and ghettos this includes refugees, people in hiding, etc.

In April 1993, the registry was transferred to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. The Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors is located on the fifth floor of the Museum, in the United States Holocaust Research Institute, where user-friendly touch-screen monitors allow visitors access to the database. The Registry is open to the public seven days a week from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The Survivor's Registry:

1. Seeks to include the names of all Holocaust Survivors.
2. Facilitates contacts between survivors.
3. Collects and displays basic information about survivors.
4. Assists survivors and their families in their attempts to trace missing relatives.

The American Society for Yad Vashem

500 Fifth Avenue, 42nd Fl.
New York, NY 10110-1699
Tel.: 212-220-4304
Fax: 212-220-4308
Email: info@yadvashemusa.org

Yad Vashem

The Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority
P.O.B. 3477
Jerusalem 91034 Israel
Tel.: 972-2-6443400
Fax: 972-2-6443443
Web: <http://www.yadvashem.org.il/>
Email: names.research@yadvashem.org.il

Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (“CAHJP”)

Attention: Hadassah Assouline
Hebrew University (*Givat Ram* Campus)
Sprinzak Building
Post Office Box 1149
Jerusalem 91010
ISRAEL
Fax: 011 972 2 563 5716
Web: <http://sites.huji.ac.il/archives/>
Email: archives@vms.huji.ac.il

The Ghetto Fighters’ House Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Heritage Museum

Kibbutz Lochamei-Haghetat
D.N. Western Galilee, 25220 Israel
Tel.: 011-972-4-995-8080
Fax: 011-972-4-995-8007
Web: <http://www.gfh.org.il>
Email: yshavit@gfh.org.il

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society Location Service (“HIAS”)

Location Service
333 Seventh Avenue, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10001-5004
Tel.: 212-967-4100
Fax: 212-967-4483
Web: <http://www.hias.org>
Email: info@hias.org

Museum and Camp Memorial Majdanek

ul. Droga Meczenników Majdanka 67
20-325 Lublin Poland
Tel.: 48 81 74-426-40
Fax: 48-81-744-0526
Web: <http://www.majdanek.pl/en/index.html>
Email: archiwum@majdanek.pl

State Museum and Memorial of Auschwitz-Birkenau

ul. Więźniów Oswiecimia 20
32-620 Oswiecim Poland
Tel.: 48-33-844-81 02
Fax: 48-33-843-1934
Web: <http://www.auschwitz-muzeum.oswiecim.pl/>
Email: muzeum@auschwitz.org.pl

Kindertransport Association (“KTA”)

36 Dean Street
Hicksville, NY 11801-5852
Tel.: 516-938-6084
Fax: 516-827-3329
Web: <http://www.kindertransport.org>
Email: margkurt@aol.com

One Thousand Children (“OTC”)

P.O. Box 4710
Silver Spring, Maryland 20914-4710
Tel.: 301-622-0321
Fax: 301-622-0363
Web: <http://www.onethousandchildren.org/>
Email: contact@onethousandchildren.org

Other General Jewish Genealogy Resources:

Avotaynu Publishers

155 N. Washington Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621
Tel.: 201-387-7200
Fax: 201-387-2855
Web: <http://www.avotaynu.com>
Email: info@avotaynu.com

This is a premier Jewish genealogy publisher of information and products (books, maps, CD-ROM's, etc.), dealing with Jewish genealogy and family history. Gary Mokotoff, the company's publisher, has written an excellent and highly recommended book for genealogical research which can be ordered directly from *Avotaynu*: **How to Document Victims and Locate Survivors of the Holocaust** *Avotaynu's* web site is also an excellent source for additional information and links to other genealogical societies, searchable databases, etc.

JewishGen

2951 Marina Bay Drive, Suite 130-472
League City, TX 77573
Tel: 281-535-2200
Fax: 281-535-2204
Web: <http://www.jewishgen.org>
Email: support@jewishgen.org

Strongly recommended web site for Jewish genealogical research. Its JewishGen Family Finder, JewishGen Discussion Group, databases such as the *Shetl/Seeker*, and links to numerous other sites are invaluable information resources for the researcher.

Yizkor Books

"*Yizkor*" in Hebrew means "remembrance" or "memorial" in English. Many survivor organizations have published books, mostly in Hebrew or Yiddish, that commemorate Jewish communities in Europe that were obliterated in the Holocaust. These books can be found in the Simon Wiesenthal Center Library & Archives, the UCLA Library in Los Angeles, the Library of Congress, and other Holocaust research centers around the globe. Extensive information about *Yizkor* books can also be found on the Avotaynu and JewishGen web sites.

Written by:

**Nancy G. Saul, Reference, Research & Information Services Librarian
Simon Wiesenthal Center Library & Archives**

Revised: 1/04

SIMON WIESENTHAL (b. 1908)

A Short Biography

At the end of World War II, thousands of Nazis who participated in the systematic murder of some 6,000,000 Jews and millions of Gypsies, Poles, and other "inferior" peoples, slipped through the Allied net and escaped to countries around the globe, where many still live in freedom. Simon Wiesenthal, a survivor of the Nazi death camps, has dedicated his life to documenting the crimes of the Holocaust and to hunting down the perpetrators still at large. "When history looks back," Wiesenthal explains, "I want people to know the Nazis weren't able to kill millions of people and get away with it." His work stands as a reminder and a warning for future generations.

As founder and head of the Jewish Documentation Center (*Dokumentationszentrum*) in Vienna, the freelance Nazi hunter has, often with the cooperation of Israel, Austria, Germany, and other governments, ferreted out nearly 1,100 Nazi war criminals, including Adolf Eichmann, the administrator of the slaughter of the Jews; Franz Mürer, "The Butcher of Vilna;" and Erich Rajakowitsch, in charge of the "Death Transports" in Holland. Wiesenthal gives detailed accounts of his grim sleuthing in his memoirs, **The Murderers Among Us** (1967) and **Justice Not Vengeance** (1989). His other books include: **The Sunflower** (1970), **Sails of Hope** (1973), **Max and Helen** (1982), **Krystyna** (1987) and **Every Day Remembrance Day** (1989). In 1989, a film based on Mr. Wiesenthal's life, **Murderers Among Us: The Simon Wiesenthal Story**, was produced by Home Box Office starring Academy Award-winning actor Ben Kingsley as Simon Wiesenthal.

Simon Wiesenthal was born on December 31, 1908 in Buczacz, in what is now the Lvov Oblast section of the Ukraine. When Wiesenthal's father was killed in World War I, Mrs. Wiesenthal took her family and fled to Vienna for a brief period, returning to Buczacz when she remarried. The young Wiesenthal graduated from the Gymnasium in 1928 and applied for admission to the Polytechnic Institute in Lvov. Turned away because of quota restrictions on Jewish students, he went instead to the Technical University of Prague, from which he received his degree in architectural engineering in 1932.

In 1936, Simon married Cyla Mueller and worked in an architectural office in Lvov. Their life together was happy until 1939 when Germany and Russia signed their "non-aggression" pact and agreed to partition Poland between them; the Russian army soon occupied Lvov, and shortly afterward the Red Purge of Jewish merchants, factory owners and other professionals. In the purge of "bourgeois" elements that followed the Soviet occupation of Lvov Oblast at the beginning of World War II, Wiesenthal's stepfather was arrested by the *NKVD* (People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs - Soviet Secret Police) and eventually died in prison; his stepbrother was shot; and Wiesenthal himself, forced to close his business, became a mechanic in a bedspring factory. Later he saved himself, his wife, and his mother from deportation to Siberia by bribing an *NKVD* commissar. When the Germans displaced the Russians in 1941, a former employee of his, then serving the collaborationist Ukrainian Auxiliary police, helped him to escape execution by the Nazis. But he did not escape incarceration. Following initial detention in the Janowska concentration camp just outside Lvov, he and his wife were assigned to the forced labor camp serving the Ostbahn Works, the repair shop for Lvov's Eastern Railroad.

Early in 1942, the Nazi hierarchy formally decided on the "Final Solution" to the "Jewish Problem" -- Annihilation. Throughout occupied Europe a terrifying genocide machine was put into operation. In August 1942, Wiesenthal's mother was sent to the Belzec death camp. By September, most of his and his wife's relatives were dead; a total of eighty-nine members of both families perished.

Because his wife's blonde hair gave her a chance of passing as an "Aryan," Wiesenthal made a deal with the Polish underground. In return for detailed charts of railroad junction points made by him for use by

saboteurs, his wife was provided with false papers identifying her as "Irene Kowalska," a Pole, and spirited out of the camp in the autumn of 1942. She lived in Warsaw for two years and then worked in the Rhineland as a forced laborer, without her true identity ever being discovered.

With the help of the deputy director, Wiesenthal himself escaped the Ostbahn camp in October 1943, just before the Germans began liquidating all the inmates. In June 1944, he was recaptured and sent back to Janowska where he would almost certainly have been killed had the German eastern front not collapsed under the advancing Red Army. Knowing they would be sent into combat if they had no prisoners to justify their rear-echelon assignment, the SS guards at Janowska decided to keep the few remaining inmates alive. With 34 prisoners (out of an original 149,000), the 200 guards joined the general retreat westward, picking up the entire population of the village of Chelmiec along the way to adjust the prisoner-guard ratio.

Very few of the prisoners survived the westward trek through Plaszow, Gross-Rosen and Buchenwald, and which ended at Mauthausen in upper Austria. Weighing less than 100 pounds and lying helplessly in a barracks where the stench was so strong that even hardboiled SS guards would not enter, Wiesenthal was barely alive when Mauthausen was liberated by an American armored unit on May 5, 1945.

As soon as his health was sufficiently restored, Wiesenthal began gathering and preparing evidence on Nazi atrocities for the War Crimes Section of the United States Army. After the war, he also worked for the Army's Office of Strategic Services and Counter-Intelligence Corps and headed the Jewish Central Committee of the United States Zone of Austria, a relief and welfare organization. Late in 1945, he and his wife, each of whom had believed the other to be dead, were reunited, and in 1946, their daughter Pauline was born.

The evidence supplied by Wiesenthal was utilized in the American zone war crime trials. When his association with the United States Army ended in 1947, Wiesenthal and thirty volunteers opened the Jewish Historical Documentation Center in Linz, Austria, for the purpose of assembling evidence for future trials. But, as the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union intensified, both sides lost interest in prosecuting Germans, and Wiesenthal's volunteers, succumbing to frustration, drifted away to more ordinary pursuits. In 1954, the office in Linz was closed and its files were given to the *Yad Vashem* Archives in Israel, except for one - the dossier on Adolf Eichmann, the inconspicuous technocrat who, as chief of the *Gestapo's* Jewish Department, had supervised the implementation of the "Final Solution."

While continuing his salaried relief and welfare work, including the running of an occupational training school for Hungarian and other Iron Curtain refugees, Wiesenthal never relaxed in his pursuit of the elusive Eichmann who had disappeared at the time of Germany's defeat in World War II. In 1953, Wiesenthal received information that Eichmann was in Argentina from people who had spoken to him there. He passed this information on to Israel through the Israeli embassy in Vienna and in 1954 also informed Nahum Goldman, then President of the World Jewish Congress, but the FBI had received information that Eichmann was in Damascus, Syria. It was not until 1959 that Israel was informed by Germany that Eichmann was in Buenos Aires living under the alias of Ricardo Klement. Thus, he was captured there by Israeli agents and brought to Israel for trial. Eichmann was found guilty of mass murder and later executed on May 31, 1962.

Encouraged by the capture of Eichmann, Wiesenthal reopened the Jewish Documentation Center, this time in Vienna, and concentrated exclusively on the hunting of war criminals. One of his high priority cases was Karl Silberbauer, the *Gestapo* officer who arrested Anne Frank, the fourteen year-old German-Jewish girl who was murdered by the Nazis after hiding in an Amsterdam attic for two years. Dutch neo-Nazi propagandists were fairly successful in their attempts to discredit the authenticity of Anne Frank's famous

diary until Wiesenthal located Silberbauer, then a police inspector in Austria, in 1963. "Yes," Silberbauer confessed, when confronted, "I arrested Anne Frank."

In October 1966, sixteen SS officers, nine of them found by Wiesenthal, went on trial in Stuttgart, West Germany, for their participation in the extermination of Jews in Lvov. High on Wiesenthal's most-wanted list was Fritz Stangl, commandant of the Treblinka and Sobibór concentration camps in Poland. After three years of patient undercover work by Wiesenthal, Stangl was located in Brazil and remanded to West Germany for imprisonment in 1967. He was sentenced to life imprisonment and died in prison.

Wiesenthal's memoirs, **The Murderers Among Us**, were published in 1967. During a visit to the United States to promote the book, Wiesenthal announced that he had found Mrs. Hermine Ryan, nee Braunsteiner, a housewife living in Queens, New York. According to the dossier, Mrs. Ryan had supervised the killings of several hundred children at Majdanek. She was extradited to Germany for trial as a war criminal in 1973 and received life imprisonment.

The Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna is a nondescript, sparsely furnished three-room office with a staff of four, including Wiesenthal. Contrary to belief, Wiesenthal does not usually track down the Nazi fugitives himself. His chief task is gathering and analyzing information. In that work he is aided by a vast, informal international network of friends, colleagues, and sympathizers, including German World War II veterans, appalled by the horrors they witnessed. He has even received tips from former Nazis with grudges against other former Nazis. A special branch of his Vienna office documents the activities of right-wing groups, neo-Nazis and similar organizations.

Painstakingly, Wiesenthal culls every pertinent document and record he can get and listens to the many personal accounts told him by individual survivors. With an architect's structural acumen, a Talmudist's thoroughness, and a brilliant talent for investigative thinking, he pieces together the most obscure, incomplete, and apparently irrelevant and unconnected data to build cases solid enough to stand up in a court of law. The dossiers are then presented to the appropriate authorities. When, as often happens, they fail to take action, whether from indifference, pro-Nazi sentiment, or some other consideration, Wiesenthal goes to the press and other media, for experience has taught him that publicity and an outraged public opinion are powerful weapons.

The work yet to be done is enormous. Germany's war criminal files contain more than 90,000 names, most of them of people who have never been tried. Thousands of former Nazis, not named in any files, are also known to be at large, often in positions of prominence, throughout Germany. Aside from the cases themselves, there is the tremendous task of persuading authorities and the public that the Nazi Holocaust was massive and pervasive. In the final paragraph of his memoirs, he quotes what an SS corporal told him in 1944: "You would tell the truth [about the death camps] to the people in America. That's right. And you know what would happen, Wiesenthal? They wouldn't believe you. They'd say you were mad. Might even put you into an asylum. How can anyone believe this terrible business - unless he has lived through it?"

Wiesenthal's honors include decorations from the Austrian and French resistance movements, the Dutch Freedom Medal, the Luxembourg Freedom Medal, the United Nations League for the Help of Refugees Award, the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal presented to him by President Jimmy Carter in 1980, and the French Legion of Honor which he received in 1986. Wiesenthal was a consultant for the motion picture thriller, **The Odessa File** (Paramount, 1974). **The Boys from Brazil** (Twentieth Century Fox, 1978), is a major motion picture based on Ira Levin's book of the same name, starring Sir Laurence Olivier as Herr Lieberman, a character styled after Wiesenthal.

In November 1977, the Simon Wiesenthal Center was founded. Today, together with its world renowned *Beit Hashoah*/Museum of Tolerance, it is an international center for Holocaust remembrance, the defense of human rights and the Jewish people. With offices throughout the world, the Simon Wiesenthal Center carries on the continuing fight against bigotry and antisemitism and pursues an active agenda of related contemporary issues. "I have received many honors in my lifetime," said Mr. Wiesenthal. "When I die, these honors will die with me. But the Simon Wiesenthal Center will live on as my legacy."

In 1981, the Wiesenthal Center produced the Academy Award-winning documentary **Genocide**, narrated by Elizabeth Taylor and the late Orson Welles, and introduced by Simon Wiesenthal.

In 1999, the Museum of Tolerance curated a special temporary exhibition, entitled, "**I AM MY BROTHER'S KEEPER: The Life and Times of Simon Wiesenthal.**" The exhibit was created in honor of Simon Wiesenthal in his 90th year. It featured 200 never-before-seen photographs, unique documents, and other treasured possessions from Mr. Wiesenthal's personal collection. This exhibition is now traveling to other venues.

Simon and Cyla Wiesenthal live in a modest apartment in Vienna and have little social life. Wiesenthal spends his evenings answering letters, studying books and files, and working on his stamp collection.

As is to be expected, Simon Wiesenthal has received numerous anonymous threats and insulting letters. In June 1982, a bomb exploded at the front door of his house causing a great deal of damage. Fortunately, no one was hurt. Since then, his house and office have been guarded by an armed policeman. One German and several Austrian neo-Nazis were arrested for the bombing. The German, who was found to be the main perpetrator, was sentenced to five years in prison.

Wiesenthal is often asked to explain his motives for becoming a Nazi hunter. According to Clyde Farnsworth in the **New York Times Magazine** (February 2, 1964), Wiesenthal once spent the Sabbath at the home of a former Mauthausen inmate, now a well-to-do jewelry manufacturer. After dinner his host said, "Simon, if you had gone back to building houses, you'd be a millionaire. Why didn't you?" "You're a religious man," replied Wiesenthal. "You believe in God and life after death. I also believe. When we come to the other world and meet the millions of Jews who died in the camps and they ask us, 'What have you done?', there will be many answers. You will say, 'I became a jeweler.' Another will say, 'I have smuggled coffee and American cigarettes.' Another will say, 'I built houses.' But I will say, 'I didn't forget you.'"

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SIMON WIESENTHAL

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Videorecording, **The Long Way Home.** Winner of the 1997 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature, **The Long Way Home** examines the critical post-World War II period between 1945 and 1948 and the struggle of the tens of thousands of displaced Jewish refugees to find dignity and renewal in the aftermath of the Nazi Holocaust. Narrated by Morgan Freeman. 1997. 90 minutes.

Poster Series: **The Courage to Remember: The Holocaust 1933-1945.** On March 13, 1988, as Austria looked back on the 50th anniversary of the *Anschluss*, the Simon Wiesenthal Center won critical acclaim with the world debut of its travelling exhibition, **THE COURAGE TO REMEMBER**, in Vienna's Palais Palfy. This 40-panel visual narrative on the Holocaust is available in a series of full-color posters, which can be used as an educational display, or as a personal exhibition.

This series is ideal for commemorative or educational use in community centers, high schools and universities; libraries, synagogues, and churches; and, by other interested organizations and individuals. See posters and curriculum at <http://motlc.wiesenthal.com>

WEBSITES OF THE SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER

1. <http://www.wiesenthal.com>
Simon Wiesenthal Center
The Simon Wiesenthal Center is a 400,000 member international center for Holocaust remembrance, the defense of human rights and the Jewish People.

2. <http://www.museumoftolerance.com>
Museum of Tolerance
The Museum of Tolerance is a high-tech, interactive exhibit museum that focuses on the dynamics of racism and prejudice in America and the history of the Holocaust. This site contains numerous educational materials including maps, photographs, and the Encyclopedia of the Holocaust.

3. <http://teachres.museumoftolerance.com>
Museum of Tolerance Teachers' Guide
The MOT Teachers' Guide presents an introduction to the Museum, four primary themes which provide the framework for the Museum's learning experience, CA standards-aligned lesson plans for Elementary, Middle and High school students, message boards for community building.

4. <http://motlc.wiesenthal.com>
MOT Multimedia Learning Center
A comprehensive resource on the Holocaust and World War II, with over 3,000 text files, and tens of thousands of photos. Includes virtual exhibits, teacher resources, and special collections.

COMING TO GRIPS WITH TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST

By Mark Weitzman

National Associate Director of Educational Outreach, Simon Wiesenthal Center

Adapted from **Momentum: Journal of the National Catholic Educational Association, February, 1988.**

Teaching the Holocaust is a challenge of awesome proportions. Few if any events in recent history have had its impact or implications. Perhaps the most important lesson of the Holocaust is to move away from the perception that it is important only to Jews. Jews were victims, but the crimes were committed by persons raised in European cultures that were in great measure shaped by Christianity. This teaches us that any society can descend to that level unless safeguards are put into place; and, one of the most important places to begin is in the classroom. The Holocaust must be brought into the classroom so that students can learn to analyze the hatred and bigotry that can lead to genocide. Any remembrance or teaching of the Holocaust, whether secular or religious, must aim at preventing its recurrence.

The following guidelines were developed from our experiences and from the relevant literature. Obviously, each educational situation is unique and these suggestions should be adapted accordingly. The basic elements of the list, however, should be maintained for a balanced unit of study.

Allow ample time for students to explore and reflect upon the subject.

The Holocaust impacts upon theological, historical, legal, social, psychological, ethical, philosophical, literary, artistic, medical and political issues. The Holocaust can help increase the students knowledge of the moral and religious implications of human action in these (and other) areas.

Explore the context within which the Holocaust occurred.

Discuss the rise of Hitler and Nazi ideology as well as the historical, racial, social and religious roots of antisemitism. Also, explore Jewish life and culture before the Holocaust to gain a sense of the living community which was destroyed. Any presentation that omits this crucial background will reinforce stereotypes of Jews as aliens, or as victims who somehow deserve punishment.

Invite survivors of the Holocaust to discuss their experiences with your students.

The exchange of questions and answers will personalize the tragedy. Stalin is reputed to have said that the murder of one is a crime, but the murder of millions is just a statistic. For its lesson to be appreciated, the Holocaust has to be raised from statistics to individual tragedies.

There is another urgent reason for the participation of survivors in the classroom. There are those who deny that the Holocaust ever happened. Eyewitness testimony is an answer to this claim.

As the generation of survivors dies out, their message takes on greater urgency and requires greater exposure. However, not every survivor is ready to discuss his or her experiences or is capable of maximizing their educational value. The best place to find a qualified survivor is through a Holocaust or Jewish institution. Discuss with its representative your students' backgrounds, familiarity with the Holocaust, grade levels and other relevant issues. If you feel it necessary, ask for the names of schools where the survivor has already spoken.

If it is impossible to have a survivor speak in person, explore the possibility of showing one of the videotape survivor testimonies that can be obtained through the same local or national institutions.

Utilize a variety of resources.

Numerous films and videos deal with the Holocaust, both as fiction and as documentary. Avoid films which sensationalize the topic. Wherever possible, use primary sources. Just as there is nothing more poignant than the actual accounts of those who went through the Holocaust, there is nothing more damning than the words of the Nazis themselves. Also use the numerous photographic records of the Holocaust.

Avoid the use of Nazi terminology.

This terminology is aimed at viewing the Jew as an object, not a person, and treating him/her as such. For example, do not use the Nazi term "extermination", commonly associated with vermin, to describe the mass murder of Jews.

Include a unit on Jewish resistance, both physical and spiritual, to the Nazis.

A presentation of Jews only as victims conforms to a negative stereotype. The classes and services which took place in the ghettos and camps affirmed Jewish life and self-definition. They too were acts of resistance.

Do not omit non-Jewish victims of the Nazis.

These include Gypsies, homosexuals and Jehovah's Witnesses among others. Be careful, however, not to lose the particularity of the Nazi genocide of Jews in a broad universality.

Invite liberators to the classroom.

American soldiers were among the first to reach the concentration camps and death camps. Their eyewitness testimony, combined with their American background can remove some of the aura of "foreignness" often associated with the Holocaust.

Examine as role models the non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews.

These people affirmed their ethical and religious beliefs. Conversely, the roles of those who acquiesced or collaborated in genocide must be examined.

Be cautious when comparing the Holocaust to other events.

Easy comparisons to other events, such as the mass murders of Armenians in the early 20th century or the contemporary issue of abortion, without historical reference, are demeaning to both the victims and opponents of Nazism.

Recognize the current implications of the Holocaust.

Some deny it ever happened; others view it as a propaganda tool; still others would like to see it forgotten. Also, now that genocide has occurred, the next step, with the advent of nuclear technology, could be omnicide, the destruction of the entire world.

Explore the post-war Jewish reactions to the Holocaust.

These include both political (Zionist) and religious responses. This will help to explain the background of many current events. The lessons of the Holocaust are vital. As Richard von Weizsacker, the former president of Germany, said quoting a Hasidic master, "The secret of redemption lies in remembrance."

AUSCHWITZ FIFTY YEARS LATER: WHAT DO WE REMEMBER?

By Rabbi Marvin Hier, Dean and Founder, Simon Wiesenthal Center

A few years ago, a prominent Holocaust survivor, here in Los Angeles, told me that he took exception to the recent trend of Holocaust remembrances where the centerpiece focuses on heroic individuals such as Oskar Schindler and Raoul Wallenberg.

His point was not that they are undeserving of our eternal gratitude and honor, for they surely are. His fear, however, was that young people might come to accept the notion that the relatively few practitioners of righteous conduct were the **dominant** characters of the Holocaust.

In a few days, survivors and world leaders will gather at Auschwitz to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps. Undoubtedly, for most of the participants who personally experienced the horrors of Hitler's Third *Reich*, this will be their last gathering.

Future anniversaries will now pass to the next generation.

What kind of memory will they inherit? Will it be a memory reduced to a sound byte? Or will they have a deeper understanding of the machinery that made possible the horrors of Auschwitz?

Will it include Hitler's early writings in *Mein Kampf*, explaining what would happen to the Jews if he took power? Will they remember his use of the legal system which invoked the Nuremberg laws, barring Jews from German society? Or the infamous Concordat, which the Vatican signed with Hitler's Third *Reich* in 1933, granting the Nazis prestige and making it acceptable for the world to later flock to Germany's doorstep for the 1936 Olympics?

And what about the 1938 Evian conference, where international delegates refused to open their doors to the desperate refugees? Or, as the Australian delegate put it, "...we don't have a racial problem and don't want to import one."

And the Wannsee Conference of 1942? Will the students from Sioux City, Mammoth Falls or even L. A. know that eleven different branches of the German government were represented at that meeting to finalize the plan to exterminate an entire people with poisonous gas, thereby endowing mankind with the diabolical legacy of Auschwitz and Majdanek?

Or will the next generation's view of the Holocaust be reduced to a brief discussion in a classroom about an important book or film, where, inevitably, the few heroes manage to rise above the evil around them and stand up for human dignity? If that is all our students come away with, then I'm afraid my friend's fear is quite justifiable.

For in the end, if the *Shoah* is limited to the courage of a Schindler or a Wallenberg, then we have arrived at the same point as the Holocaust revisionists. To the latter, there was no Auschwitz because decent German people wouldn't do such a thing! And for our students, there would be no real Auschwitz, because the righteous stepped in and prevented the Jews from getting there!

But unfortunately, most of the Jews destined for Auschwitz did get there...and were murdered there!

The truth is, that in the larger landscape of the Holocaust, the Schindlers and the Wallenbergs, despite their great individual deeds were like speckles of dust, dwarfed by the monstrous figures of the Eichmanns and Heydrichs.

Indeed, for every Pastor Bernhard Lichtenberg who died en route to Dachau, because he had the courage to pray for the Jews, there were dozens of other Prelates -- from Pope Pius XII down -- who at best, looked the other way, protected their own, were bystanders rather than activists and sometimes even assisted the Nazis in carrying out their Final Solution.

And what of the World War II diplomats? Will we cite the extraordinary Japanese Counsel in Kovno, Lithuania, Chiune Sugihara, who saved nearly 8,000 Jews, and forget those heartless, antisemitic diplomats in the State Department and Whitehall who worked overtime to prevent a single Jewish refugee from entering Britain or the U.S.?

Close to five billion people now inhabit our planet. It can be said with certainty that only a small percentage will ever visit Auschwitz or Holocaust museums, if at all. More than likely, their exposure might be limited to a movie they watch in school or at home.

Given that reality, the great fear is that many of them will never be exposed to the Holocaust's central lesson - that a civilized society voluntarily turned themselves into an evil one; that lawyers and judges lied and cheated; that teachers distinguished between Aryan and non-Aryans, teaching their students that even G-d's "thou shalt not kill" did not apply to society's *untersmenschen*, the so-called sub-cultures, a name Nazis used to describe Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, and other undesirables.

To forget all that in search of almost non-existent heroes, reduces the Holocaust to a segment of *LA Law*, where a brilliant team of prosecutors preside over a world where the villains are forgotten and only the heroes live on.

Nearly 2500 years ago, the evil Persian Prime Minister, Haman, plotted a genocide against the Jews of Persia. In the end, his plot was foiled by the courage and tenacity of Mordechai and Esther and the event recounted in the book of Esther.

What is interesting, is that one of the customs introduced to help preserve that memory was the use of a *grogger*. It was to be sounded everytime Haman's name was mentioned during the annual public reading of the book of Esther in the synagogue.

The point was to remind Jews that the significance of Purim is more than just a salute to heroes. It must also be a time to remind the world that evil exists; that it is the roots of evil itself that must be uprooted, rather than placing our trust in finding more than a few who would act righteously under a dictatorship.

Of course, we should honor those who attempted to shed some light on those long black nights. But, we must insist that the apex of what we remember is that there was nothing heroic about the Holocaust; that there were far more villains than saints ... far more experts at closing doors than those brave enough to open them. So, every time we recall the defiance of the few, the courageous deeds of the small group of rescuers, we must be vigilant to never forget the silence of the many. To recall that there were thousands who betrayed their neighbors to the Gestapo, and the hundreds of train operators who went to work every morning with their box lunches and then proceeded to take their unsuspecting victims in sealed cattle cars to the death camps, never

questioning their mission or having second thoughts about herding off generations of men, women and children to hell.

Only the *full* memory does justice to the victims of the Holocaust and may be strong enough to protect our grandchildren from another Final Solution !

*Excerpts from this article were originally published in **The Los Angeles Times**, January 19, 1995.*

HOLOCAUST DENIAL: BIGOTRY IN THE GUISE OF SCHOLARSHIP**(excerpt)**

By Sol Littman

INTRODUCTION

Between 1939 and 1945, the Nazis killed some six million Jews, two thirds of the Jewish population of Europe. Close to 1.5 million of those murdered were children. Tens of thousands of families - fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, uncles, and cousins - were wiped out without a trace. The unspeakable horror of what was to become known as the Holocaust was documented in photographs taken covertly by German soldiers, and in the captured reports and sworn testimonies of Nazis who participated actively in the destruction of European Jewry. There are also the diaries of Jewish victims that were recovered from their secret hiding places after the war as well as the memoirs of hundreds of Holocaust survivors, recounting their own tragic experiences. Despite this irrefutable body of evidence, a pervasive, insidious international movement has sprung up which brazenly claims that "the Holocaust never happened."

Viewed in perspective, these efforts to "deny the Holocaust" are readily recognizable as the latest in a long series of calumnies and anti-Jewish myths dating back to the Middle Ages. But as Canadian critic and journalist Robert Fulford writes, never before in the long history of antisemitism has anyone produced such a "titanic lie."

Holocaust deniers have borrowed freely from the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a nefarious antisemitic tract written in the mid-nineteenth century and repeatedly reworked in the twentieth. Seized upon by hatemongers worldwide, this virulent, deceitful instrument of hate propaganda portrays Jews as ceaselessly plotting to take over the world in partnership with communists, capitalists, international financiers and occult satanic forces. As the contemporary version of the "devious, conniving Jew," Holocaust denial threatens to be an equally powerful and destructive weapon in the hands of professional hate peddlers.

Most directly and personally affected by Holocaust denial are the remnants of the European Jewish community that managed - by sheer chance in most cases - to escape the Nazis' mobile killing squads, gas vans and gas chambers. To deny their suffering and degradation is the ultimate cruelty (Lipstadt, 1993). Vidal-Naquet, writing in France, refers to Holocaust deniers as "assassins of memory" whose deceits and distortions seek to rob Holocaust survivors of the sacred memory of their families and friends consumed in the flames (Vidal-Naquet, 1992).

It is important to recognize that Holocaust denial, while an important social issue, offers no grounds for academic controversy. Its importance lies not in the substance of its claims, but in society's unfortunate susceptibility to far-fetched conspiracy theories. There is considerable evidence to show that people, lacking a knowledge and understanding of history, tend to seize upon these far-fetched notions no matter how irrational and fallacious they may be. Holocaust deniers, in particular, have taken lessons from Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels who proved that any lie offered with an air of assurance and repeated loudly and often enough is bound to be believed.

And herein lies the greatest danger. This assault on historic truth, this attempt to whitewash the Nazis' crimes, portends a tragic price to a society apathetic to its implications. As the Spanish philosopher George Santayana

put it: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." An awareness of the facts concerning the annihilation of millions of Jews, Gypsies, Poles, Russians, homosexuals, mentally impaired and physically handicapped at the hands of the Nazis is the only way of ensuring that this great human tragedy never happens again.

WHAT IS HISTORICAL REVISIONISM?

History is not carved in stone and facts do not stand alone. To make sense they must be related to other facts. History, therefore, is constantly being revised. North and South saw the American Civil War from different perspectives. For the North, the war was a crusade to free the slaves and preserve the Union; to the South it was a gallant effort to preserve the Southern way of life and retain the right of states to determine their own destiny. American historians have analyzed and re-analyzed these competing claims and found considerable evidence that neither side was as innocent of avarice as it pretended.

Obviously, revising history is not the same as denying events actually took place. However, those who style themselves "Holocaust revisionists" do not revise history but invent it to suit their own purposes. They pick and choose the facts they will consider, ignoring and discarding whatever runs contrary to their thesis. It is precisely this *rejection of history* that makes Holocaust denial so intellectually and morally repugnant in a society that places a high value on truth and knowledge.

Holocaust denial can best be defined as that expression of anti-Jewish hate whose central thesis is that the Holocaust is a hoax, a massive deception on a global scale. Holocaust denial pretends to be legitimate history and takes the guise of historical scholarship. It employs the trappings of academic journals, scholarly conferences and footnoted articles to deny the historical genocide of the Jews. The deniers aim to reshape and distort history in order to "rehabilitate the perpetrator and demonize the victims." (Lipstadt, 1993) It defames the memory of those millions who perished in Hitler's death camps.

By pretending to engage in serious research, quoting seemingly authoritative sources, and by flaunting an occasional document or statistic, the Holocaust deniers hope to persuade their audience of the authenticity of their scholarship. Once they have gained a measure of credibility they will be in a position to gain ready access to the press, political institutions, student bodies and university classrooms.

WHEN DID HISTORICAL REVISIONISM BEGIN?

Repudiation of the Holocaust as an historical fact dates back to the writings of Paul Rassinier in the late forties in France. Holocaust denial, however, evolved concurrently in the U.S., France, and Canada. Within a decade, the Holocaust denial movement emerged as a force in other countries. The crystallization of the movement to deny the Holocaust did not occur until the early 1970s. Arthur Butz's *Hoax of the Twentieth Century*, is the document which first outlined the conspiracy theory which suggests that the Zionist Jews invented the Holocaust to extort monies from Germany to establish Jewish control from Israel over the entire world.

WHAT IS THE AIM OF HOLOCAUST REVISIONISM?

Underlying the broad claims of Holocaust deniers is the aim of restoring the image and credibility of Adolf Hitler's ideology and reputation. Holocaust revisionists have shared several assumptions. These include:

Revisionist Assumptions

1. There was no genocide and the chief instrument in its realization, the gas chamber, never existed;
2. There was never a premeditated genocidal plan for the Jews; the "Final Solution" was a notion conceived by Jews to gain world sympathy;
3. The number of Jewish victims of Nazism is infinitesimally smaller than has been claimed;
4. The Holocaust was an invention of Zionist propaganda motivated by the Jewish vice: love of money. Israel has been the main beneficiary of the financial reparations paid by Germany, "the milk cow for Israel" (Rassinier).

The various components of the ideology of Holocaust denial include: German nationalism, neo-Nazism, anti-communism, anti-Zionism and antisemitism. Deniers subscribe to an ideological framework which contains at least three components:

- racial determinism (i.e., biological race determines culture, intellectual capacity and moral worth);
- the doctrine of White superiority;
- the rehabilitation of Nazism and its leaders.

WHAT IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HOLOCAUST REVISIONISTS AND OTHER HATE GROUPS?

A hate group can be defined as an organization whose main purpose is to promote hatred, animosity, hostility and malice against identifiable racial, ethnic and religious groups. Their ultimate aim is the annihilation of the group's members.

The upper-echelons of the Holocaust denial movement may wear three-piece suits, and sport stylish haircuts rather than shave their heads and wear 24-notch Doc Martens, but they are just as much hatemongers as any other neo-Nazi group. Even though they may put it more politely, they share much the same ideology as the Ku Klux Klan, Heritage Front, Aryan Resistance Movement, Church of the Creator and other hate groups. They hold the view that the Aryan or White race is superior to all others and that they are destined by "blood" to dominate society. They have embraced the myth that Jews control the banks, the media, governments and ultimately, the world.

Well-financed, and in some cases well educated, the leaders of the Holocaust denial movement can afford to travel. As a result, they have established strong international links that join the National Front in Britain with skinheads in Germany to right wing publishing houses in the United States and Ernst Zundel in Canada. English writer David Irving tours Canada at the invitation of a series of local neo-Nazi groups including Zundel. In return, Zundel speaks at a fascist rally in London organized by Irving. In the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Norway, Hungary, Brazil, Slovakia and Australia, newly reascent Nazi groups have adopted Holocaust denial as a prime propaganda instrument. In

almost every case, the deniers seek to maintain a facade of respectability and intellectuality, however, being haters at heart, they are seldom able to maintain the pose for long. Sooner or later the facade crumbles and their real intentions are revealed.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READINGS

Cohn, Werner. **Partners in Hate: Noam Chomsky and the Holocaust Deniers.**
Cambridge, MA : Avukah Press, 1995.

Lipstadt, Deborah E. **Denying the Holocaust : The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory.** New York : Free Press ; Toronto : Maxwell Macmillan Canada ; New York : Maxwell Macmillan International, 1993.

Littman, Sol. **Holocaust Denial: Bigotry in the Guise of Scholarship.** Los Angeles :
Simon Wiesenthal Center, 1994.

Vidal-Naquet, Pierre. **Assassins of Memory : Essays on the Denial of the Holocaust.**
New York : Columbia University Press, 1992.

SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER BOOK AWARDS

Once Upon A World Children’s Book Award and Write to Tolerance

The **Once Upon A World Children’s Book Award** is an annual award of \$1,000 to the author of the best children’s book, ages 6-10, supporting the mandate of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Museum of Tolerance. The overall guidelines of the award are tolerance, diversity, human understanding, and social justice. Each year an impartial, independent panel of judges is appointed. They are uniquely qualified to serve in this capacity. The Book Award, endowed in perpetuity by Sonia and Lloyd Levitin and Family, is presented every year in the month of October, which is observed nationally as Multicultural Month.

Preceding the Book Award program each year, is the **Write to Tolerance** Institute for librarians, authors and editors of children’s literature, and educators. This seminar features speakers, workshops, and interactive experiences, all designed to further understanding of the issues of tolerance, diversity, and stereotypes in literature.

*For further information about the **Once Upon A World Children’s Book Award** and the **Write to Tolerance** Institute scheduled for Sunday, October 31, 2004, please contact Adaire Klein, Director of Library and Archival Services, at 310-772-7605 or aklein@wiesenthal.net.*

Previous Winners: Once Upon A World Children’s Book Award

The following are the books that have won the Simon Wiesenthal Center/Museum of Tolerance Once-Upon-A-World Children’s Book Award. The first award was presented in 1996.

1996: A SCHOOL FOR POMPEY WALKER: by Michael J. Rosen; illustrated by Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson.--1st ed.--San Diego : Harcourt Brace, c1995.

Summary: At the dedication of a school named after him, an old former slave tells the story of his life and how his white friend helped him earn the money for the school by repeatedly selling him into slavery, after which he always escaped.

1997: THE DAY GOGO WENT TO VOTE: South Africa, April 1994/ by Elinor Batezat Sisulu; illustrated by Sharon Wilson.--1st ed.--Boston : Little, Brown, c1996.

Summary: Thembi and her beloved great-grandmother, who has not left the house for many years, go together to vote on the momentous day when black South Africans are allowed to vote for the first time.

1997: THE WAGON: by Tony Johnston ; paintings by James E. Ransome.--1st ed.--New York : Tambourine Books, c1996.

Summary: A young boy is sustained by his family as he endures the difficulties of being a slave, but when he finally gains his freedom, his joy is tempered by the death of President Lincoln.

1998: GATHERING THE SUN: an alphabet in Spanish and English / by Alma Flor Ada ; English translation by Rosa Zubizarret ; illustrated by Simon Silva.—New York: Lothrop Lee & Shepard Books, c1997.

Summary: A book of poems about working in the fields and nature’s bounty, one for each letter of the Spanish alphabet. Spanish and English

1999: SO FAR FROM THE SEA: by Eve Bunting ; illustrated by Chris Soentpiet.--New York: Clarion Books, c1998.

Summary: When seven-year old Laura and her family visit Grandfather’s grave at the Manzanar War Relocation Center, the Japanese American child leaves behind a special symbol.

2000: THROUGH MY EYES: by Ruby Bridges; articles and interviews compiled and edited Margo Lundell. -- 1st ed. -- New York : Scholastic Press, 1999.

Summary: Ruby Bridges recounts the story of her involvement, as a six-year-old, in the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960

2001 THE YEAR OF MISS AGNES: by Kirkpatrick Hill – New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, c2000.

Summary: Ten-year-old Fred (short for Frederika) narrates the story of school and village life among the Athabascans in Alaska during 1948, when Miss Agnes arrived as the new teacher.

2002: FREEDOM SUMMER: by Deborah Wiles; illustrated by Jerome Lagarrigue. New York: Atheneum Book for Young Readers, c2001.

Summary: In 1964, Joe is pleased that a new law will allow his best friend John Henry, who is “colored,” to share the town pool and other public places with him, but he is dismayed to find that prejudice still exists.

2003: THANK YOU, SARAH: THE WOMAN WHO SAVED THANKSGIVING: by Laurie Halse Anderson; illustrated by Matt Faulkner. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2002.

Summary: Little-known historical heroine, author, educator and social activist, Sarah Josepha Hale, lobbies five U.S. presidents for 38 years in support of making Thanksgiving a national holiday – which finally occurred by proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln in 1863.

**** The Simon Wiesenthal Center Library & Archives welcomes and encourages any suggestions you may have for future book award winners.**

For further information about the Once Upon A World Book Award or to obtain book award seals, please contact Adaire Klein, Director of Library and Archival Services, at the Simon Wiesenthal Center Library (310-772-7605; e-mail aklein@wiesenthal.net).

Bruno Brand Book Award

The Simon Wiesenthal Center has established an annual Book Award in the name of Bruno Brand. The award is presented for a non-fiction work on the subject of tolerance, and is part of the Center's efforts to recognize achievements by individuals whose work promotes tolerance. A panel of independent judges selects a book for its effectiveness in exploring the important issues behind tolerance and awareness.

The author of the book selected will be paid \$1,500. This award is made possible through the generosity of Sandra Brand in memory of her only child, Bruno, who perished in the Holocaust. Ms. Brand is a survivor, author, and volunteer lecturer for the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a human rights organization dedicated to preserving the memory of the Holocaust, and fostering tolerance and understanding through educational outreach and social action. The award is presented in May each year to commemorate the infamous Nazi Book Burning, May 10, 1933.

For further information regarding the Bruno Brand Book Award, please contact the Simon Wiesenthal Center's New York office, 212-370-0320.

Winners: Bruno Brand Tolerance Book Award

1995 Book Award

Winner: **Shirley Taylor Haizlip**, The Sweeter the Juice: A Family Memoir in Black and White
Judges: **Susannah Heschel**, Professor of Judaic Studies, Case Western Reserve University
Anna Quindlen, Pulitzer Prize Winner, New York Times
Arnold Rampersad, Woodrow Wilson Professor of Literature At Princeton University

1996 Book Award

Winners: **Henry Friedlander**, The Origins of Nazi Genocide
Charles M. Payne, I've Got the Light of Freedom
Judges: **Eugene Fisher**, Associate Director of the National Council of Catholic Bishops
Susannah Heschel, Professor of Judaic Studies, Case Western Reserve University
Hubert Locke, Professor at the Graduate School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington

1997 Book Award

Winner: **Professor Amitai Etzioni**, The New Golden Rule
Judges: **Dr. John Pawlikowski**, Professor of Social Ethics at the Catholic Theological Union
E. R. Shipp, Professor of Journalism at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, columnist for the New York Daily News
Naomi Wolf, author and lecturer

1998 Book Award

Winner: **Professor Mark N. Cohen**, Culture of Intolerance
Judges: **Dr. Marcia Sachs Littell**, Director of the National Academy for Holocaust & Genocide Teacher Training at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
Professor Ilan Stavans, Author and Professor of Spanish, Amherst College
Bishop Krister Stendahl, Andrew W. Mellon, Professor of Divinity Emeritus and former Dean of the Harvard Divinity School, and Bishop Emeritus of Stockholm, Sweden

1999 Book Award

Winner: **Dr. Barbie Zelizer**, Remembering to Forget: Holocaust Memory Through the Camera's Eye
Judges: **Dr. Kathleen Blee**, Professor of Sociology, Director Women's Studies University of Pittsburgh
Mr. Roy Gutman, Newsday
Dr. Franklin Littell, Distinguished Professor of Holocaust Studies, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

2000 Book Award – No award given this year.

2001 Book Award

Winner: **Paul Steinberg**, Speak You Also: A Survivor's Reckoning
Judges: **Esmeralda Santiago**, Author, When I Was Puerto Rican
Ben Cheever, Author, Famous After Death
Arthur Samuelson, former Editorial Director of Schocken Books

Ask a Survivor Program

The Simon Wiesenthal Center's online "**Ask A Survivor**" program allows students, teachers, researchers and others to email a survivor a question and receive an answer.

For online questionnaire, please go to: www.wiesenthal.com/library/service.cfm

The program is monitored by the Library & Archives and has had resounding success because of the tireless efforts of a very dedicated volunteer survivor group.

One of our survivor participants in the online "Ask A Survivor" program made the following observation:

"When I was asked by the Library & Archives to participate in the program "Ask A Survivor" I jumped at the opportunity to reach people, especially our youngsters. Responding to the questions from adults, teachers and students, I realized that the majority do not grasp the enormity of the disaster that befell the Jewish people. I also have to consider the vulnerability of the young students in explaining the vicious crimes perpetrated on the Jews. With the adults, I have to focus on the fact that I am dealing with people expressing their compassion and curiosity. I reply truthfully to the events, but intertwine it with personal experiences to create a one-on-one relationship with my correspondents. They all related fully to that approach and requested more information on the Holocaust. The "Ask A Survivor" Program is a terrific contribution to society by reaching students in far away places who do not have the means to visit a Holocaust museum nor personally meet a survivor."

Notes
