

# Teaching about the Holocaust

A RESOURCE BOOK FOR EDUCATORS



SA Boycott, 1933



Book Burning, 1933



Kristallnacht, 1938



Buchenwald, 1938–1941



Kindertransport, 1938

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# Teaching about the Holocaust

## A RESOURCE BOOK FOR EDUCATORS

### VISITING THE MUSEUM

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United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C., March 2001.



*Two members of the SA encourage the boycott of Jewish-owned businesses. (April 1, 1933)*

*Bildarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz*

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# Visiting the Museum

## INTRODUCTION

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is America's national institution for the documentation, study, and interpretation of Holocaust history, and serves as this country's memorial to the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust.

The Museum's primary mission is to advance and disseminate knowledge about this unprecedented tragedy; to preserve the memory of those who suffered; and to encourage its visitors to reflect upon the moral and spiritual questions raised by the events of the Holocaust as well as their own responsibilities as citizens of a democracy.

Chartered by a unanimous Act of Congress in 1980, and located adjacent to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the Museum strives to broaden public understanding of the history of the Holocaust through multifaceted programs that include exhibitions; research and publications; the collection and preservation of material evidence, art, and artifacts relating to the Holocaust; annual Holocaust commemorations known as Days of Remembrance; distribution of educational materials and teacher resources; and a variety of public programming designed to enhance understanding of the Holocaust and related issues, including those of contemporary significance.

As mandated by Congress, the Museum has developed a number of resources, services, and programs—including this resource book—to assist educators and students who want to teach and learn about the Holocaust.

## VISITING THE MUSEUM'S PERMANENT EXHIBITION

The Museum's Permanent Exhibition is recommended for visitors 11 years of age and older. The self-guided, three-floor exhibition presents a comprehensive history of the Holocaust through artifacts, photographs, films, and eyewitness testimonies. Middle and high school students usually take between one and a half to two hours to walk through the exhibition; adults often take longer.

**Individual Reservations:** Timed passes are required only for the Permanent Exhibition. Same-day passes are distributed free of charge each day at the Museum beginning at 10 a.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. There is a limit of four passes per person. Advance passes may be acquired through [tickets.com](https://www.tickets.com) for a small service fee:

(800) 400-9373

[www.tickets.com](https://www.tickets.com)

**Group Reservations:** Groups of more than ten people must make group reservations; see pages iv–v.

**Orientation Film:** The orientation film provides an overview of the Museum’s exhibitions and memorials. The 14-minute film is presented throughout the day and visitors are encouraged to view the film upon arrival.

## GROUP VISITS TO THE PERMANENT EXHIBITION

- The Group Scheduling Office only accepts reservation requests in writing. Reservations cannot be made by telephone. Please complete the form on page v of this publication and send it to the attention of the Coordinator of Scheduling.
- A group is defined as more than ten people.
- You may request a group reservation for any day of the week. Visits are scheduled on the half hour beginning at 10 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m.
- All requests must include your group’s size and a specific date. By providing alternative dates, your chances of obtaining a reservation are greatly increased.
- You should send your request several months in advance. Requests are gladly accepted and processed 12 months ahead of the date requested. All requests are filed according to date of receipt and are booked on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Groups including children or students below college level must be accompanied by chaperons. We require a ratio of one adult to every seven children. Chaperons serve to provide guidance through difficult subject matter and to preserve order among their group in the event of an emergency.
- As a Federal institution, the Museum has a special policy on accepting reservations from any for-profit, third-party representatives (such as travel agents or tour operators). If you would like to know more about this policy, please call (202) 488-0455 and leave your address. Information outlining our policy will be sent to you.
- Please note: Weekends and holidays, as well as March–June and September–November, are extremely popular times to visit the Museum and Washington, D.C., in general. Because the Permanent Exhibition has a prescribed sequential path, space constraints, the quality of the individual visit, and the observance of fire and safety codes must be considered. Thus, we have only a limited number of group spaces we may reserve at any given time. If your group plans to visit during one of our busier periods, please include as many alternative dates as possible and submit your request as early as you can.

## REQUEST FORM: GROUP VISIT TO THE PERMANENT EXHIBITION

Please read carefully and fill out completely. Submit this form at least three weeks prior to the date of your request.

We will gladly accept and schedule requests up to one year in advance.

Group name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Time range: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternative date 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Time range: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternative date 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Time range: \_\_\_\_\_

Due to high demand, many dates/times may be unavailable. Please indicate alternative or flexible times and dates, as they often significantly increase the likelihood of confirmation.

Number of adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children/students: \_\_\_\_\_

*We require a ratio of at least one adult to every seven students below college level.*

Please send this form to: Coordinator of Scheduling  
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
FAX: (202) 488-2606

You may send the required information to the Group Scheduling Office by e-mail to [group\\_visit@ushmm.org](mailto:group_visit@ushmm.org). You also may make requests through the Museum's website at [www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org).

This form represents a request for a group appointment; it does not guarantee a booking. Separate confirmation packets and a teacher guide to the Permanent Exhibition *The Holocaust* are sent via U.S. mail.

## OTHER EXHIBITIONS AND FACILITIES

On average, students spend between one and a half to two hours in the Permanent Exhibition. Keep in mind that, in addition to the Permanent Exhibition, there are other on-site exhibitions and facilities from which students can learn about the Holocaust. Because a visit to the Permanent Exhibition can be an overwhelming experience, we recommend that you choose only one or, at most, two additional exhibitions or facilities for your students to view on the day of your visit. Reservations are not necessary for any of the following:

**Orientation Film:** Before entering the Permanent Exhibition, students can view an orientation film that provides an introduction to the Museum. The 14-minute film is shown in a theater on the Concourse at quarter after and quarter of the hour from 10:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

**Remember the Children: Daniel's Story:** For visitors age eight and older, this hands-on exhibition recounts the history of the Holocaust from the perspective of a child growing up in Nazi Germany.

**Special Exhibitions:** The Museum regularly presents exhibitions on specific aspects of the Holocaust and related issues. For information on current special exhibitions, consult the Museum's website at [www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org) or call (202) 488-0400.

**Wexner Learning Center:** Touch-screen computer stations offer an opportunity to study specific Holocaust-related topics through text, photographs, maps, films, eyewitness testimonies, and music.

**Hall of Remembrance:** The hexagonal Hall of Remembrance, with its eternal flame, is America's national memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. Visitors are encouraged to light a candle in memory of the victims.

**Wall of Remembrance (Children's Tile Wall):** More than 3,000 tiles painted by American school children form this memorial to the approximately 1.5 million children murdered during the Holocaust.

**Museum Shop:** The Museum Shop offers students and teachers age-appropriate historical text, memoirs, literature, and poetry in the section entitled "Young Readers." The Shop has a "Teacher Resource" section as well as a diverse selection of titles appropriate for adult and/or advanced student reading. Videos, compact discs, posters, keepsakes, and postcards are also available for purchase. A selection of these materials is available online at [www.holocaustbooks.org](http://www.holocaustbooks.org).

**Museum Café:** The Museum has a small café in the Ross Administrative Center adjacent to the Museum for visitors who wish to purchase lunch. The average price for lunch is under \$10.00 per person. Although the café is not kosher, kosher meals are available upon request. No food or drink is allowed inside the Museum. Students who bring bag lunches may sit outside the Museum in designated areas.







*A member of the SA throws confiscated books into a bonfire during the public burning of "un-German" books in Berlin, Germany. (May 10, 1933)*

*USHMM*

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# Teaching Resources

## GUIDELINES FOR TEACHING ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

### WHY TEACH HOLOCAUST HISTORY?

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The history of the Holocaust provides one of the most effective, and most extensively documented, subjects for a pedagogical examination of basic moral issues. A structured inquiry into Holocaust history yields critical lessons for an investigation of human behavior. A study of the Holocaust also addresses one of the central tenets of education in the United States, which is to examine what it means to be a responsible citizen. Through a study of the Holocaust, students can come to realize that

- democratic institutions and values are not automatically sustained, but need to be appreciated, nurtured, and protected;
- silence and indifference to the suffering of others, or to the infringement of civil rights in any society, can—however unintentionally—perpetuate the problems; and
- the Holocaust was not an accident in history—it occurred because individuals, organizations, and governments made choices that not only legalized discrimination but also allowed prejudice, hatred, and ultimately, mass murder to occur.

### QUESTIONS OF RATIONALE

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Because the objective of teaching any subject is to engage the intellectual curiosity of the student in order to inspire critical thought and personal growth, it is helpful to structure your lesson plan on the Holocaust by considering throughout questions of rationale. Before deciding what and how to teach, we recommend that you contemplate the following:

- Why should students learn this history?
- What are the most significant lessons students should learn from a study of the Holocaust?
- Why is a particular reading, image, document, or film an appropriate medium for conveying the lessons about the Holocaust that you wish to teach?

Among the various rationales offered by educators who have incorporated a study of the Holocaust into their various courses and disciplines are

- The Holocaust was a watershed event, not only in the twentieth century but also in the entire history of humanity.
- Study of the Holocaust assists students in developing an understanding of the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping in any society. It helps students develop an awareness of the value of pluralism and encourages tolerance of diversity in a pluralistic society.
- The Holocaust provides a context for exploring the dangers of remaining silent, apathetic, and indifferent in the face of others' oppression.
- Holocaust history demonstrates how a modern nation can utilize its technological expertise and bureaucratic infrastructure to implement destructive policies ranging from social engineering to genocide.
- A study of the Holocaust helps students think about the use and abuse of power, and the roles and responsibilities of individuals, organizations, and nations when confronted with civil rights violations and/or policies of genocide.
- As students gain insight into the many historical, social, religious, political, and economic factors that cumulatively resulted in the Holocaust, they gain awareness of the complexity of the subject and a perspective on how a convergence of factors can contribute to the disintegration of democratic values. Students come to understand that it is the responsibility of citizens in a democracy to learn to identify the danger signals, and to know when to react.

When you, as an educator, take the time to consider the rationale for your lesson on the Holocaust, you will be more likely to select content that speaks to your students' interests and that provides them with a clearer understanding of a complex history. Most students demonstrate a high level of interest in studying the Holocaust precisely because the subject raises questions of fairness, justice, individual identity, peer pressure, conformity, indifference, and obedience—issues that adolescents confront in their daily lives. Students are also affected by and challenged to comprehend the magnitude of the Holocaust; they are particularly struck by the fact that so many people allowed this genocide to occur by failing either to resist or to protest.

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## AGE APPROPRIATENESS

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Students in grades 7 and above demonstrate an ability to empathize with individual eyewitness accounts and to attempt to understand the complexities of this history, including the scope and scale of the events. While elementary students are able to empathize with individual survivor accounts, they often have difficulty placing these personal stories in a larger historical context. Such demonstrable developmental differences have traditionally shaped social studies curricula throughout the country; in most states, students are not introduced to European history and geography—the context for the Holocaust—before grades 7 or 8.

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## METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

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The teaching of Holocaust history demands of educators a high level of sensitivity and a keen awareness of the complexity of the subject matter. The recommendations that follow, while reflecting methodological approaches that would be appropriate to effective teaching in general, are particularly relevant in the context of Holocaust education.

### ***1. Define the term “Holocaust.”***

The Holocaust refers to a specific genocidal event in twentieth-century history: the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Jews were the primary victims—6 million were murdered; Gypsies, the handicapped, and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny.

### ***2. Avoid comparisons of pain.***

A study of the Holocaust should always highlight the different policies carried out by the Nazi regime toward various groups of people; however, these distinctions should not be presented as a basis for comparison of suffering between those groups. Similarly, one cannot presume that the horror of an individual, family, or community destroyed by the Nazis was any greater than that experienced by victims of other genocides. Avoid generalizations that suggest exclusivity such as “the victims of the Holocaust suffered the most cruelty ever faced by a people in the history of humanity.”

### ***3. Avoid simple answers to complex history.***

A study of the Holocaust raises difficult questions about human behavior, and it often involves complicated answers as to why events occurred. Be wary of oversimplifications. Allow students to contemplate the various factors that contributed to the Holocaust; do not attempt to reduce Holocaust history to one or two catalysts in isolation from the other factors that came into play. For example, the Holocaust was not simply the logical and inevitable consequence of unbridled racism.

Rather, racism combined with centuries-old bigotry and antisemitism; renewed by a nationalistic fervor that emerged in Europe in the latter half of the nineteenth century; fueled by Germany's defeat in World War I and its national humiliation following the Treaty of Versailles; exacerbated by worldwide economic hard times, the ineffectiveness of the Weimar Republic, and international indifference; and catalyzed by the political charisma and manipulative propaganda of Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime contributed to the occurrence of the Holocaust.

**4. *Just because it happened does not mean it was inevitable.***

Too often students have the simplistic impression that the Holocaust was inevitable. Just because a historical event took place, and it was documented in textbooks and on film, does not mean that it had to happen. This seemingly obvious concept is often overlooked by students and teachers alike. The Holocaust took place because individuals, groups, and nations made decisions to act or not to act. By focusing on those decisions, you gain insight into history and human nature and can better help your students to become critical thinkers.

**5. *Strive for precision of language.***

Any study of the Holocaust touches upon nuances of human behavior. Because of the complexity of the history, there is a temptation to overgeneralize and thus to distort the facts (e.g., “all concentration camps were killing centers” or “all Germans were collaborators”). Rather, you must strive to help your students clarify the information presented and encourage them to distinguish the differences between prejudice and discrimination, collaborators and bystanders, armed and spiritual resistance, direct orders and assumed orders, concentration camps and killing centers, and guilt and responsibility.

Words that describe human behavior often have multiple meanings. Resistance, for example, usually refers to a physical act of armed revolt. During the Holocaust, it also encompassed partisan activity; the smuggling of messages, food, and weapons; and actual military engagement. But resistance also embraced willful disobedience such as continuing to practice religious and cultural traditions in defiance of the rules or creating fine art, music, and poetry inside ghettos and concentration camps. For many, simply maintaining the will to remain alive in the face of abject brutality was an act of spiritual resistance.

**6. *Make careful distinctions about sources of information.***

Students need practice in distinguishing between fact, opinion, and fiction; between primary and secondary sources; and between types of evidence such as court testimonies, oral histories, and other written documents. Hermeneutics—the science of interpretation—should be called into play to help guide your students in their analysis of sources. Students should be encouraged to consider why a particular text was written, who wrote it, who the intended audience was, whether there were any biases inherent in the information, whether any gaps occurred in discussion, whether omissions in certain passages were inadvertent or not, and how the information has been used to interpret various events.

Because scholars often base their research on different bodies of information, varying interpretations of history can emerge. Consequently, all interpretations are subject to analytical evaluation. Only by refining their own “hermeneutic of suspicion” can students mature into readers who discern the difference between legitimate scholars who present competing historical interpretations and those who distort or deny historical fact for personal or political gain.

**7. Try to avoid stereotypical descriptions.**

Though all Jews were targeted for destruction by the Nazis, the experiences of all Jews were not the same. Simplistic views and stereotyping take place when groups of people are viewed as monolithic in attitudes and actions. How ethnic groups or social clusters are labeled and portrayed in school curricula has a direct impact on how students perceive groups in their daily lives. Remind your students that, although members of a group may share common experiences and beliefs, generalizations about them, without benefit of modifying or qualifying terms (e.g., “sometimes,” “usually,” “in many cases but not all”) tend to stereotype group behavior and distort historical reality. Thus, all Germans cannot be characterized as Nazis nor should any nationality be reduced to a singular or one-dimensional description.

**8. Do not romanticize history to engage students’ interest.**

People who risked their lives to rescue victims of Nazi oppression provide useful, important, and compelling role models for students. However, given that only a small fraction of non-Jews under Nazi occupation helped to rescue Jews, an overemphasis on heroic tales in a unit on the Holocaust can result in an inaccurate and unbalanced account of the history. Similarly, in exposing students to the worst aspects of human nature as revealed in the history of the Holocaust, you run the risk of fostering cynicism in your students. Accuracy of fact along with a balanced perspective on the history must be priorities for any teacher.

**9. Contextualize the history you are teaching.**

Events of the Holocaust and, particularly, how individuals and organizations behaved at that time, should be placed in historical context. The occurrence of the Holocaust must be studied in the context of European history as a whole to give students a perspective on the precedents and circumstances that may have contributed to it.

Similarly, study of the Holocaust should be viewed within a contemporaneous context, so students can begin to comprehend the circumstances that encouraged or discouraged particular actions or events. Frame your approach to specific events and acts of complicity or defiance by considering when and where an act took place; the immediate consequences to oneself and one’s family of one’s actions; the impact of contemporaneous events; the degree of control the Nazis had on a country or local population; the cultural attitudes of particular native populations historically toward different victim groups; and the availability, effectiveness, and risk of potential hiding places.

Students should be reminded that individuals and groups do not always fit neatly into categories of behavior. The very same people did not always act consistently as “bystanders,” “collaborators,” “perpetrators,” or “rescuers.” Individuals and groups often behaved differently depending upon changing events and circumstances. The same person who in 1933 might have stood by and remained uninvolved while witnessing social discrimination of Jews might later have joined up with the SA and become a collaborator or have been moved to dissent vocally or act in defense of Jewish friends and neighbors.

Encourage your students not to categorize groups of people only on the basis of their experiences during the Holocaust: contextualization is critical so that victims are not perceived only as victims. The fact that Jews were the central victims of the Nazi regime should not obscure the vibrant culture and long history of Jews in Europe prior to the Nazi era. By exposing students to some of the cultural contributions and achievements of 2,000 years of European Jewish life, you help them to balance their perception of Jews as victims and to better appreciate the traumatic disruption in Jewish history caused by the Holocaust.

Similarly, students may know very little about Gypsies (Roma and Sinti) except for the negative images and derogatory descriptions promulgated by the Nazis. Students would benefit from a broader viewpoint, learning something about Gypsy history and culture as well as understanding the diverse ways of life among different Gypsy groups.

***10. Translate statistics into people.***

In any study of the Holocaust, the sheer number of victims challenges easy comprehension. You need to show that individual people—families of grandparents, parents, and children—are behind the statistics and to emphasize that within the larger historical narrative is a diversity of personal experience. Precisely because they portray people in the fullness of their lives and not just as victims, first-person accounts and memoir literature provide students with a way of making meaning out of collective numbers and give individual voices to a collective experience. Although students should be careful about overgeneralizing from first-person accounts such as those from survivors, journalists, relief workers, bystanders, and liberators, personal accounts help students get beyond statistics and make historical events of the Holocaust more immediate and more personal.

***11. Be sensitive to appropriate written and audiovisual content.***

One of the primary concerns of educators teaching the history of the Holocaust is how to present horrific images in a sensitive and appropriate manner. Graphic material should be used judiciously and only to the extent necessary to achieve the objective of the lesson. You should remind yourself that each student and each class is different and that what seems appropriate for one may not be appropriate for all.

Students are essentially a “captive audience.” When you assault them with images of horror for which they are unprepared, you violate a basic trust: the obligation of a teacher to provide a “safe” learning environment. The assumption that all students will seek to understand human behavior after being exposed to horrible images is fallacious. Some students may be so appalled by images of brutality and mass murder that they are discouraged from studying the subject further. Others may become fascinated in a more voyeuristic fashion, subordinating further critical analysis of the history to the superficial titillation of looking at images of starvation, disfigurement, and death. Though they can be powerful tools, shocking images of mass killings and barbarisms should not overwhelm a student’s awareness of the broader scope of events within Holocaust history. Try to select images and texts that do not exploit the students’ emotional vulnerability or that might be construed as disrespectful of the victims themselves.

**12. Strive for balance in establishing whose perspective informs your study of the Holocaust.**

Often, too great an emphasis is placed on the victims of Nazi aggression rather than on the victimizers who forced people to make impossible choices or simply left them with no choice to make. Most students express empathy for victims of mass murder. But it is not uncommon for students to assume that the victims may have done something to justify the actions against them and, thus, to place inappropriate blame on the victims themselves.

There is also a tendency among students to glorify power, even when it is used to kill innocent people. Many teachers indicate that their students are intrigued and, in some cases, intellectually seduced by the symbols of power that pervaded Nazi propaganda (e.g., the swastika and/or Nazi flags, regalia, slogans, rituals, and music). Rather than highlight the trappings of Nazi power, you should ask your students to evaluate how such elements are used by governments (including our own) to build, protect, and mobilize a society. Students should also be encouraged to contemplate how such elements can be abused and manipulated by governments to implement and legitimize acts of terror and even genocide.

In any review of the propaganda used to promote Nazi ideology—Nazi stereotypes of targeted victim groups and the Hitler regime’s justifications for persecution and murder—you need to remind your students that just because such policies and beliefs are under discussion in class does not mean they are acceptable. Furthermore, any study of the Holocaust should attempt to portray all individuals, especially the victims and the perpetrators of violence, as human beings who are capable of moral judgment and independent decision making.

**13. Select appropriate learning activities.**

Word scrambles, crossword puzzles, and other gimmicky exercises tend not to encourage critical analysis but lead instead to low-level types of thinking and, in the case of Holocaust curricula, trivialize the history. When the effects of a particular activity, even when popular with you and your students, run counter to the rationale for studying the history, then that activity should not be used.



Similarly, activities that encourage students to construct models of killing centers should also be reconsidered because any assignment along this line will almost inevitably end up being simplistic, time-consuming, and tangential to the educational objectives for studying the history of the Holocaust.

Thought-provoking learning activities are preferred, but even here, there are pitfalls to avoid. In studying complex human behavior, many teachers rely upon simulation exercises meant to help students “experience” unfamiliar situations. Even when great care is taken to prepare a class for such an activity, simulating experiences from the Holocaust remains pedagogically unsound. The activity may engage students, but they often forget the purpose of the lesson and, even worse, they are left with the impression at the conclusion of the activity that they now know what it was like during the Holocaust. Holocaust survivors and eyewitnesses are among the first to indicate the grave difficulty of finding words to describe their experiences. It is virtually impossible to simulate accurately what it was like to live on a daily basis with fear, hunger, disease, unfathomable loss, and the unrelenting threat of abject brutality and death.

An additional problem with trying to simulate situations from the Holocaust is that complex events and actions are oversimplified, and students are left with a skewed view of history. Because there are numerous primary source accounts, both written and visual, as well as survivors and eyewitnesses who can describe actual choices faced and made by individuals, groups, and nations during this period, you should draw upon these resources and refrain from simulation games that lead to a trivialization of the subject matter.

Rather than use simulation activities that attempt to re-create situations from the Holocaust, teachers can, through the use of reflective writing assignments or in-class discussion, ask students to empathize with the experiences of those who lived through the Holocaust era. Students can be encouraged to explore varying aspects of human behavior such as fear, scapegoating, conflict resolution, and difficult decision making or to consider various perspectives on a particular event or historical experience.

#### ***14. Reinforce the objectives of your lesson plan.***

As in all teaching situations, the opening and closing lessons are critically important. A strong opening should serve to dispel misinformation students may have prior to studying the Holocaust. It should set a reflective tone, move students from passive to active learning, indicate to students that their ideas and opinions matter, and establish that this history has multiple ramifications for them as individuals and as members of society as a whole.

Your closing lesson should encourage further examination of Holocaust history, literature, and art. A strong closing should emphasize synthesis by encouraging students to connect this history to other world events and to the world they live in today. Students should be encouraged to reflect on what they have learned and to consider what this study means to them personally and as citizens of a democracy.

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## INCORPORATING A STUDY OF THE HOLOCAUST INTO EXISTING COURSES

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The Holocaust can be effectively integrated into various existing courses within the school curriculum. This section presents sample rationale statements and methodological approaches for incorporating a study of the Holocaust in seven different courses. Each course synopsis constitutes a mere fraction of the various rationales and approaches currently used by educators. Often, the rationales and methods listed under one course also can be applied to other courses.

### UNITED STATES HISTORY

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Although the history of the United States is introduced at various grade levels throughout most school curricula, all states require students to take a course in American history at the high-school level. Incorporating a study of the Holocaust into American history courses can encourage students to

- examine the dilemmas that arise when foreign policy goals are narrowly defined, as solely in terms of the national interest, thus denying the validity of universal moral and human principles;
- recognize the fundamental fragility of democratic institutions and the need for citizens of a democracy to be both well informed and vigilant about the preservation of democratic ideals;
- examine the responses of governmental and nongovernmental organizations in the United States to the plight of Holocaust victims (e.g., the Evian Conference, the debate over the Wagner-Rogers bill to assist refugee children, the ill-fated voyage of the *St. Louis*, the Emergency Rescue Committee, the rallies and efforts of Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, and the decision by the United States not to bomb the railroad lines leading into Auschwitz);
- explore the role of American and Allied soldiers in liberating victims from Nazi concentration camps and killing centers, using, for example, first-person accounts of liberators to ascertain their initial responses to and subsequent reflections about what they witnessed; and
- examine the key role played by the United States in bringing Nazi perpetrators to trial at Nuremberg and other war crimes trials.

Since most history and social studies teachers in the United States rely upon standard textbooks, they can incorporate the Holocaust into regular units of study such as the Great Depression, World War II, and the Cold War. Questions that introduce Holocaust studies into these subject areas include

### THE GREAT DEPRESSION

How were United States electoral politics influenced by the Depression? What were the immediate consequences of the worldwide Depression on the European economic and political system established by the Versailles Treaty of 1919? What was the impact of the Depression upon the electoral strength of the Nazi party in Germany? Was the Depression a contributing factor to the Nazis' rise to power?

### WORLD WAR II, ITS PRELUDE AND AFTERMATH

What was the relationship between the United States and Nazi Germany from 1933 to 1939? How did the actions of Nazi Germany influence American foreign policy? What was the response of the United States government and nongovernmental organizations to the unfolding events of the Holocaust? What was the role of the United States in the war crimes trials?

### THE COLD WAR

How did the rivalries between the United States and its former World War II ally, the Soviet Union, influence American attitudes toward former Nazis? What was the position of America's European allies toward members of the former Nazi regime?

## WORLD HISTORY

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Although various aspects of world history are incorporated throughout school curricula, most students are not required to take world history courses. It is in the context of world history courses, however, that the Holocaust is usually taught. Inclusion of the Holocaust in a world history course or unit helps students to

- examine events, deeds, and ideas in European history that contributed to the Holocaust, such as the history of antisemitism, the development of race science in the nineteenth century, the rise of German nationalism, the defeat of Germany in World War I, and the failure of the democratic Weimar Republic;
- reflect upon the commonly held presumption that Western civilization has been progressing in a positive direction since the Enlightenment;

- explore how the various policies of the Nazi regime were interrelated (e.g., the connections between establishing a totalitarian government, carrying out racial policies, and waging war); and
- reflect upon the moral and ethical implications of the genocide against the Jews as a watershed in world history by examining the systematic planning and implementation of a government policy to kill millions of people; the use of technological advances to carry out mass slaughter; the role of Nazi collaborators; and the role of bystanders around the world who chose not to intervene in the persecution and murder of Jews and other victims.

Since most teachers rely upon standard textbooks and a chronological approach to history, teachers may wish to incorporate the Holocaust into the following standardized units of study in European history: The Aftermath of World War I, The Rise of the Dictators, The World at War, 1939–1945, and The Consequences of War. Questions that introduce Holocaust studies into these subject areas include

#### THE AFTERMATH OF WORLD WAR I

What role did the Versailles Treaty play in the restructuring of European and world politics? How did the reconfiguration of Europe following World War I influence German national politics in the period 1919–1933?

#### THE RISE OF THE DICTATORS

What factors led to the rise of totalitarian regimes in Europe in the period between the two world wars? How were long-established prejudices, including antisemitism, exploited by the Nazis and other regimes (Hungary, Romania, the Soviet Union) to justify dictatorial measures?

#### THE WORLD AT WAR, 1939–1945

Why has the Holocaust often been called a “war within the war”? How did the Holocaust affect Nazi military decisions? Why might it be “easier” to commit genocidal acts during wartime than during a period of relative peace?

#### THE CONSEQUENCES OF WAR

What was the connection between World War II and the formation of the State of Israel? Was a new internationally recognized standard of legal accountability introduced with the convening of the Nuremberg Tribunals? How did the Cold War affect the fate of former Nazis?

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## WORLD CULTURES

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A course on world cultures incorporates knowledge from both the humanities and the social sciences into a study of cultural patterns and social institutions of various societies. A study of the Holocaust in a world cultures course helps students

- examine conflicts arising between majority and minority groups in a specific cultural sphere (Europe between 1933–1945);
- further their understanding of how a government can manipulate concepts such as ethnicity, race, diversity, and nationality to justify persecution, murder, and annihilation;
- analyze the extent to which cultures are able to survive and maintain their traditions and institutions (e.g., retaining religious practices, recording eyewitness accounts, and hiding cultural symbols and artifacts) when faced with threats to their very existence; and
- apply insights achieved through an examination of the Holocaust to gain an understanding of other genocides.

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## GOVERNMENT

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Government courses at the high school level usually focus on understanding the U.S. political system, comparative studies of various governments, and the international relationship of nations. The Holocaust can be incorporated into a study of government in order to demonstrate how the development of public policy can be subverted toward destructive, even genocidal, ends when dissent and debate are silenced. Inclusion of Holocaust studies in government courses helps students

- compare governmental systems (e.g., by investigating how the Weimar Constitution in Germany prior to the Nazi seizure of power was similar to, or different from, the Constitution of the United States; by comparing the Nazi system of governance with that of the United States);
- study the process of how a state can degenerate from a (parliamentary) democracy into a totalitarian state (e.g., by examining the processes by which the Nazis gained absolute control of the German government and how the Nazi government then controlled virtually all segments of German society);

- examine how the development of public policy can lead to genocidal ends, especially when people remain silent in the face of discriminatory practices (e.g., the development of Nazi racial and genocide policies beginning with the philosophical platform elaborated in Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, continuing through the state-imposed Nuremberg Laws, and culminating with governmental policies of murder and extermination after 1941);
- examine the role of Nazi bureaucracy in implementing policies of murder and annihilation (e.g., the development and maintenance of a system to identify, isolate, deport, enslave, and kill targeted people) and in the exploitation of the victims and their property;
- examine the role of various individuals in the rise and fall of a totalitarian government (e.g., those who supported Nazi Germany, those who were passive, and those who resisted internally such as partisans and others who carried out revolts, and externally, such as the Allies); and
- recognize that among the legacies of the Holocaust have been the creation of the United Nations in 1945 and its ongoing efforts to develop and adopt numerous, significant human rights bills (e.g., the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Convention on Genocide).

## CONTEMPORARY WORLD PROBLEMS

Many schools include a contemporary world problems course at the senior high level, which allows students to conduct an in-depth study of a topic such as genocide. The focus is usually on what constitutes genocide, and areas of investigation include various preconditions, patterns, consequences, and methods of intervention and prevention of genocide. A study of the Holocaust in contemporary world problems curricula can help students to

- comprehend the similarities and differences between governmental policies during the Holocaust and contemporary policies that create the potential for “ethnic cleansing” or genocide (e.g., comparing and contrasting the philosophy and policies of the Nazi regime with that of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia); and
- compare and contrast the world response of governments and nongovernmental organizations to the Holocaust with the responses of governments and nongovernmental organizations to mass killings today (e.g., comparing the decisions made at the Evian Conference in 1938 to the U.S. response to the Cambodian genocide between 1974 and 1979, or the response of nongovernmental organizations like the International Red Cross to the Nazi genocide of Jews during the Holocaust with that of Amnesty International to political killings in Argentina, Guatemala, Indonesia, and Cambodia; or the International Military Tribunal's prosecution of Nazi war criminals to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia's prosecution of individuals who committed war crimes in Bosnia).

## LITERATURE

Literature is read in English classes across grade levels and also is used to enhance and strengthen social studies and science courses. The literature curriculum is generally organized thematically or around categories such as American, British, European, and world literature. Literature is capable of providing thought-provoking perspectives on myriad subjects and concerns that can engage students in ways that standard textbooks and essays do not.

Holocaust literature encompasses a variety of literary genres including novels, short stories, drama, poetry, diaries, and memoirs. This broad spectrum gives teachers a wide range of curriculum choices. Because Holocaust literature derives from a true-to-life epic in human history, its stories illuminate human nature and provide adolescent readers with models of dignity and heroism. At the same time, it compels them to confront the reality of the human capacity for evil.

Because so many of the stories are relevant to issues in students' own lives, Holocaust literature can inspire a commitment to reject indifference to human suffering and can teach students about the potential effects of intolerance and elitism. Studying literary responses to the Holocaust helps students

- develop a deeper respect for the necessity of basic human decency by asking them to confront the moral depravity and the extent of Nazi evil (e.g., the cruelty of the Nazi treatment of victims even prior to the roundups and deportations, the event of *Kristallnacht*, the deportations in boxcars, the mass killings, and the so-called medical experiments of Nazi doctors);
- recognize the deeds of heroism in ghettos and concentration camps (e.g., the couriers who smuggled messages, goods, and weapons in and out of the Warsaw ghetto, the partisans who used arms to resist the Nazis, and the uprisings and revolts in various ghettos including Warsaw and in killing centers such as Treblinka);
- explore the idea of spiritual resistance manifest in clandestine writings, diaries, poetry, and plays, which are emblematic of irrepressible human dignity and defiance, even in the face of evil;
- recognize the different roles assumed by, or thrust upon, people during the Holocaust such as victim, oppressor, bystander, and rescuer;
- examine the moral choices, or absence of choices, confronting young and old, victim and perpetrator; and

- analyze the manipulation of terminology used by the Nazis, particularly the euphemisms employed to mask evil intent (e.g., their use of the terms “emigration” for expulsion, “evacuation” for deportation, “deportation” for transportation to concentration camps and killing centers, “police actions” for roundups that typically led to mass murder, and “Final Solution” for the planned annihilation of every Jew in Europe).

## ART AND ART HISTORY

One of the goals for studying art history is to enable students to understand the role of art in society. The Holocaust can be incorporated into a study of art and art history to illuminate how the Nazis used art for the purposes of propaganda, and how victims used artistic expression to communicate their protest, despair, and/or hope. A study of art during the Holocaust helps students

- analyze the motivations for and implications of the Nazis’ censorship activities in the fine and literary arts, theater, and music (e.g., the banning of books and certain styles of painting as well as the May 1933 book burnings);
- examine the values and beliefs of the Nazis and how those beliefs were reinforced and inculcated through the use of symbols, propaganda posters, paintings, and drawings deemed by the Nazi regime to be “acceptable” rather than “degenerate”;
- study how people living under Nazi control used art as a form of resistance (e.g., examining the extent to which the victims created art, the dangers they faced in doing so, the various forms of art that were created as well as the settings in which they were created, and the diversity of themes and content in this artistic expression);
- examine art created by Holocaust victims and survivors and explore its capacity to document diverse experiences, including life prior to the Holocaust, life inside the ghettos, the deportations, and the myriad of experiences in the concentration camp system; and
- examine interpretations of the Holocaust as expressed in contemporary art, art exhibitions, and memorials.





*These shops in Berlin were among more than 7,000 Jewish-owned businesses that were vandalized in anti-Jewish riots known as Kristallnacht ("The Night of Broken Glass"). (November 10, 1938)*

*Bildarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz*

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## SUGGESTED TOPIC AREAS FOR A COURSE OF STUDY ON THE HOLOCAUST

The Museum has identified topic areas for you to consider while planning a course of study on the Holocaust. We recommend that you introduce your students to these topics even if you have limited time to teach about the Holocaust. An introduction to the topic areas is essential for providing students with a sense of the breadth of the history of the Holocaust. The essay that follows this page provides an overview of these topics.

### 1933–1939

- Dictatorship under the Third Reich
- Early Stages of Persecution
- The First Concentration Camps

### 1939–1945

- World War II in Europe
- Murder of the Disabled (“Euthanasia” Program)
- Persecution and Murder of Jews
- Ghettos
- Mobile Killing Squads (Einsatzgruppen)
- Expansion of the Concentration Camp System
- Killing Centers
- Additional Victims of Nazi Persecution
- Resistance
- Rescue
- United States/World Response
- Death Marches
- Liberation

### POST 1945

- Postwar Trials
- Displaced Persons Camps and Emigration

In addition to these core topic areas, we recommend that, in your courses, you provide context for the events of the Holocaust by including information about antisemitism, Jewish life in Europe before the Holocaust, the aftermath of World War I, and the Nazi rise to power. Consult the annotated bibliography at the end of this publication for recommended readings.



*Prisoners stand during a roll call at the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany. (ca. 1938–1941)*

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## HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST: AN OVERVIEW

On January 20, 1942, an extraordinary 90-minute meeting took place in a lakeside villa in the wealthy Wannsee district of Berlin. Fifteen high-ranking Nazi party and German government leaders gathered to coordinate logistics for carrying out “the final solution of the Jewish question.” Chairing the meeting was SS Lieutenant General Reinhard Heydrich, head of the powerful Reich Security Main Office, a central police agency that included the Secret State Police (the Gestapo). Heydrich convened the meeting on the basis of a memorandum he had received six months earlier from Adolf Hitler’s deputy, Hermann Göring, confirming his authorization to implement the “Final Solution.”

The “Final Solution” was the Nazi regime’s code name for the deliberate, planned mass murder of all European Jews. During the Wannsee meeting German government officials discussed “extermination” without hesitation or qualm. Heydrich calculated that 11 million European Jews from more than 20 countries would be killed under this heinous plan.

During the months before the Wannsee Conference, special units made up of SS, the elite guard of the Nazi state, and police personnel, known as *Einsatzgruppen*, slaughtered Jews in mass shootings on the territory of the Soviet Union that the Germans had occupied. Six weeks before the Wannsee meeting, the Nazis began to murder Jews at Chelmno, an agricultural estate located in that part of Poland annexed to Germany. Here SS and police personnel used sealed vans into which they pumped carbon monoxide gas to suffocate their victims. The Wannsee meeting served to sanction, coordinate, and expand the implementation of the “Final Solution” as state policy.

During 1942, trainload after trainload of Jewish men, women, and children were transported from countries all over Europe to Auschwitz, Treblinka, and four other major killing centers in German-occupied Poland. By year’s end, about 4 million Jews were dead. During World War II (1939–1945), the Germans and their collaborators killed or caused the deaths of up to 6 million Jews. Hundreds of Jewish communities in Europe, some centuries old, disappeared forever. To convey the unimaginable, devastating scale of destruction, postwar writers referred to the murder of the European Jews as the “Holocaust.”

Centuries of religious prejudice against Jews in Christian Europe, reinforced by modern political antisemitism developing from a complex mixture of extreme nationalism, financial insecurity, fear of communism, and so-called race science, provide the backdrop for the Holocaust. Hitler and other Nazi ideologues regarded Jews as a dangerous “race” whose very existence threatened the biological purity and strength of the “superior Aryan race.” To secure the assistance of thousands of individuals to implement the “Final Solution,” the Nazi regime could and did exploit existing prejudice against Jews in Germany and the other countries that were conquered by or allied with Germany during World War II.

“While not all victims were Jews, all Jews were victims,” Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel has written. “Jews were destined for annihilation solely because they were born Jewish. They were doomed not because of something they had done or proclaimed or acquired but because of who they were, sons and daughters of Jewish people. As such they were sentenced to death collectively and individually...”

## SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST IN TWO MAIN SECTIONS: 1933–1939 AND 1939–1945

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### 1933–1939

On January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler was named chancellor, the most powerful position in the German government, by the aged President Hindenburg, who hoped Hitler could lead the nation out of its grave political and economic crisis. Hitler was the leader of the right-wing National Socialist German Workers Party (called the “Nazi party” for short). It was, by 1933, one of the strongest parties in Germany, even though—reflecting the country’s multiparty system—the Nazis had won only a plurality of 33 percent of the votes in the 1932 elections to the German parliament (Reichstag).

Once in power, Hitler moved quickly to end German democracy. He convinced his cabinet to invoke emergency clauses of the constitution that permitted the suspension of individual freedoms of press, speech, and assembly. Special security forces—the Gestapo, the Storm Troopers (SA), and the SS—murdered or arrested leaders of opposition political parties (Communists, socialists, and liberals). The Enabling Act of March 23, 1933—forced through a Reichstag already purged of many political opponents—gave dictatorial powers to Hitler.

Also in 1933, the Nazis began to put into practice their racial ideology. The Nazis believed that the Germans were “racially superior” and that there was a struggle for survival between them and “inferior races.” They saw Jews, Roma (Gypsies), and the handicapped as a serious biological threat to the purity of the “German (Aryan) Race,” what they called the “master race.”

Jews, who numbered about 525,000 in Germany (less than one percent of the total population in 1933), were the principal target of Nazi hatred. The Nazis identified Jews as a race and defined this race as “inferior.” They also spewed hate-mongering propaganda that unfairly blamed Jews for Germany’s economic depression and the country’s defeat in World War I (1914–18).

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1 The term “Aryan” originally referred to peoples speaking Indo-European languages. The Nazis perverted its meaning to support racist ideas by viewing those of Germanic background as prime examples of Aryan stock, which they considered racially superior. For the Nazis, the typical Aryan was blond, blue-eyed, and tall.

In 1933, new German laws forced Jews out of their civil service jobs, university and law court positions, and other areas of public life. In April 1933, a boycott of Jewish businesses was instituted. In 1935, laws proclaimed at Nuremberg made Jews second-class citizens. These Nuremberg Laws defined Jews, not by their religion or by how they wanted to identify themselves, but by the religious affiliation of their grandparents. Between 1937 and 1939, new anti-Jewish regulations segregated Jews further and made daily life very difficult for them: Jews could not attend public schools; go to theaters, cinemas, or vacation resorts; or reside or even walk in certain sections of German cities.

Also between 1937 and 1939, Jews increasingly were forced from Germany's economic life: The Nazis either seized Jewish businesses and properties outright or forced Jews to sell them at bargain prices. In November 1938, the Nazis organized a riot (pogrom), known as *Kristallnacht* (the "Night of Broken Glass"). This attack against German and Austrian Jews included the physical destruction of synagogues and Jewish-owned stores, the arrest of Jewish men, the vandalization of homes, and the murder of individuals.

Although Jews were the main target of Nazi hatred, the Nazis persecuted other groups they viewed as racially or genetically "inferior." Nazi racial ideology was buttressed by scientists who advocated "selective breeding" (eugenics) to "improve" the human race. Laws passed between 1933 and 1935 aimed to reduce the future number of genetic "inferiors" through involuntary sterilization programs: 320,000 to 350,000 individuals judged physically or mentally handicapped were subjected to surgical or radiation procedures so they could not have children. Supporters of sterilization also argued that the handicapped burdened the community with the costs of their care. Many of Germany's 30,000 Roma (Gypsies) were also eventually sterilized and prohibited, along with Blacks, from intermarrying with Germans. About 500 children of mixed African-German backgrounds were also sterilized.<sup>2</sup> New laws combined traditional prejudices with the racism of the Nazis, which defined Roma, by "race," as "criminal and asocial."

Another consequence of Hitler's ruthless dictatorship in the 1930s was the arrest of political opponents and trade unionists and others the Nazis labeled "undesirables" and "enemies of the state." Some 5,000 to 15,000 homosexuals were imprisoned in concentration camps; under the 1935 Nazi-revised criminal code, the mere denunciation of a man as "homosexual" could result in arrest, trial, and conviction. Jehovah's Witnesses, who numbered at least 25,000 in Germany, were banned as an organization as early as April 1933, because the beliefs of this religious group prohibited them from swearing any oath to the state or serving in the German military. Their literature was confiscated, and they lost jobs, unemployment benefits, pensions, and all social welfare benefits. Many Witnesses were sent to prisons and concentration camps in Nazi Germany, and their children were sent to juvenile detention homes and orphanages.

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<sup>2</sup> These children, called "the Rhineland bastards" by Germans, were the offspring of German women and African soldiers from French colonies who were stationed in the 1920s in the Rhineland, a demilitarized zone the Allies established after World War I as a buffer between Germany and western Europe.

Between 1933 and 1936, thousands of people, mostly political prisoners, were imprisoned in concentration camps, while several thousand German Roma (Gypsies) were confined in special municipal camps. The first systematic roundups of German and Austrian<sup>3</sup> Jews occurred after *Kristallnacht*, when approximately 30,000 Jewish men were deported to Dachau and other concentration camps, and several hundred Jewish women were sent to local jails. The wave of arrests in 1938 also included several thousand German and Austrian Roma (Gypsies).

Between 1933 and 1939, about half the German-Jewish population and more than two-thirds of Austrian Jews (1938–39) fled Nazi persecution. They emigrated mainly to the United States, Palestine, elsewhere in Europe (where many would be later trapped by Nazi conquests during the war), Latin America, and Japanese-occupied Shanghai (which required no visas for entry). Jews who remained under Nazi rule were either unwilling to uproot themselves or unable to obtain visas, sponsors in host countries, or funds for emigration. Most foreign countries, including the United States, Canada, Britain, and France, were unwilling to admit very large numbers of refugees.

### 1939–1945

On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland and World War II began. Within weeks, the Polish army was defeated, and the Nazis began their campaign to destroy Polish culture and enslave the Polish people, whom they viewed as “subhuman.” Killing Polish leaders was the first step: German soldiers carried out massacres of university professors, artists, writers, politicians, and many Catholic priests. To create new living space for the “superior Germanic race,” large segments of the Polish population were resettled, and German families moved into the emptied lands. Other Poles, including many Jews, were imprisoned in concentration camps. The Nazis also “kidnapped” as many as 50,000 “Aryan-looking” Polish children from their parents and took them to Germany to be adopted by German families. Many of these children were later rejected as not capable of Germanization and were sent to special children’s camps where some died of starvation, lethal injection, and disease.

As the war began in 1939, Hitler initialed an order to kill institutionalized, handicapped patients deemed “incurable.” Special commissions of physicians reviewed questionnaires filled out by all state hospitals and then decided if a patient should be killed. The doomed were then transferred to six institutions in Germany and Austria where specially constructed gas chambers were used to kill them. After public protests in 1941, the Nazi leadership continued this “euthanasia” program in secret. Babies, small children, and other victims were thereafter killed by lethal injection and pills and by forced starvation.

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3 On March 11, 1938, Hitler sent his army into Austria, and on March 13, the incorporation (Anschluss) of Austria with the German empire (Reich) was proclaimed in Vienna. Most of the population welcomed the Anschluss and expressed their fervor in widespread riots and attacks against the Austrian Jews numbering 180,000 (90 percent of whom lived in Vienna).



The “euthanasia” program contained all the elements later required for mass murder of European Jews and Roma (Gypsies): a decision to kill, specially trained personnel, the apparatus for killing by gas, and the use of euphemistic language like “euthanasia” that psychologically distanced the murderers from their victims and hid the criminal character of the killings from the public.

In 1940 German forces continued their conquest of much of Europe, easily defeating Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Yugoslavia, and Greece. On June 22, 1941, the German army invaded the Soviet Union and by late November was approaching Moscow. In the meantime, Italy, Romania, and Hungary had joined the Axis powers led by Germany and were opposed by the main Allied powers (British Commonwealth, Free France, the United States, and the Soviet Union).

In the months following Germany’s invasion of the Soviet Union, Jews, political leaders, Communists, and many Roma (Gypsies) were killed in mass shootings. Most of those killed were Jews. These murders were carried out at improvised sites throughout the Soviet Union by members of mobile killing squads (*Einsatzgruppen*) who followed in the wake of the invading German army. The most famous of these sites was Babi Yar, near Kiev, where an estimated 33,000 persons, mostly Jews, were murdered over two days. German terror extended to institutionalized handicapped and psychiatric patients in the Soviet Union; it also resulted in the death of more than 3 million Soviet prisoners of war.

World War II brought major changes to the concentration camp system. Large numbers of new prisoners, deported from all German-occupied countries, now flooded the camps. Often entire groups were committed to the camps, such as members of underground resistance organizations who were rounded up in a sweep across western Europe under the 1941 Night and Fog decree. To accommodate the massive increase in the number of prisoners, hundreds of new camps were established in occupied territories of eastern and western Europe.

During the war, ghettos, transit camps, and forced-labor camps, in addition to the concentration camps, were created by the Germans and their collaborators to imprison Jews, Roma (Gypsies), and other victims of racial and ethnic hatred as well as political opponents and resistance fighters. Following the invasion of Poland, 3 million Polish Jews were forced into approximately 400 newly established ghettos where they were segregated from the rest of the population. Large numbers of Jews also were deported from other cities and countries, including Germany, to ghettos and camps in Poland and German-occupied territories further east.

In Polish cities under Nazi occupation, like Warsaw and Lodz, Jews were confined in sealed ghettos where starvation, overcrowding, exposure to cold, and contagious diseases killed tens of thousands of people. In Warsaw and elsewhere, ghettoized Jews made every effort, often at great risk, to maintain their cultural, communal, and religious lives. The ghettos also provided a forced-labor pool for the Germans, and many forced laborers (who worked on road gangs, in construction, or at other hard labor related to the German war effort) died from exhaustion or maltreatment.



Between 1942 and 1944, the Germans moved to eliminate the ghettos in occupied Poland and elsewhere, deporting ghetto residents to “extermination camps”—killing centers equipped with gassing facilities—located in Poland. After the meeting of senior German government officials in late January 1942. After the meeting in late January 1942 at a villa in the Berlin suburb of Wannsee informing senior German government officials of the decision to implement “the final solution of the Jewish question,” Jews from western Europe also were sent to killing centers in the East.

The six killing sites, chosen because of their closeness to rail lines and their location in semirural areas, were at Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, Chelmno, Majdanek,<sup>4</sup> and Auschwitz-Birkenau. Chelmno was the first camp in which mass executions were carried out by gas piped into mobile gas vans; at least 152,000 persons were killed there between December 1941 and March 1943, and between June and July 1944. A killing center using gas chambers operated at Belzec, where about 600,000 persons were killed between May 1942 and August 1943. Sobibor opened in May 1942 and closed following a rebellion of the prisoners on October 14, 1943; about 250,000 persons had already been killed by gassing at Sobibor. Treblinka opened in July 1942 and closed in November 1943; a revolt by the prisoners in early August 1943 destroyed much of that facility. At least 750,000 persons were killed at Treblinka, physically the largest of the killing centers. Almost all of the victims at Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor, and Treblinka were Jews; a few were Roma (Gypsies), Poles, and Soviet POWs. Very few individuals survived these four killing centers where most victims were murdered immediately upon arrival.

Auschwitz-Birkenau, which also served as a concentration camp and slave labor camp, became the killing center where the largest numbers of European Jews and Roma (Gypsies) were killed. After an experimental gassing there in September 1941—of 250 malnourished and ill Polish prisoners and 600 Soviet POWs—mass murder became a daily routine; more than 1 million people were killed at Auschwitz-Birkenau, 9 out of 10 of them Jews. In addition, Roma, Soviet POWs, and ill prisoners of all nationalities died in the gas chambers there. Between May 15 and July 9, 1944, nearly 440,000 Jews were deported from Hungary in more than 140 trains, overwhelmingly to Auschwitz. This was probably the largest single mass deportation during the Holocaust. A similar system was implemented at Majdanek, which also doubled as a concentration camp, and where between 170,000 and 235,000 persons were killed in the gas chambers or died from malnutrition, brutality, and disease.

The methods of murder were similar in the killing centers, which were operated by the SS. Jewish victims arrived in railroad freight cars and passenger trains, mostly from ghettos and camps in occupied Poland, but also from almost every other eastern and western European country. On arrival, men were separated from women and children. Prisoners were forced to undress and hand over all valuables. They were then forced naked into the gas chambers, which were disguised as shower rooms, and either carbon monoxide or Zyklon B (a form of crystalline prussic acid, also used as an insecticide in some camps) was used to asphyxiate them. The minority selected for forced labor were,

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4 Despite concerns among some historians that, operationally, Majdanek resembled concentration camps more than it did killing centers, most scholars include it among the killing centers because of the large number of prisoners who died there and the use of poison gas in the killing process.

after initial quarantine, vulnerable to malnutrition, exposure, epidemics, medical experiments, and brutality; many perished as a result.

The Germans carried out their systematic murderous activities with the active help of local collaborators in many countries and the acquiescence or indifference of millions of bystanders. However, there were instances of organized resistance. For example, in the fall of 1943, the Danish resistance, with the support of the local population, rescued nearly the entire Jewish community in Denmark by smuggling them via a dramatic boatlift to safety in neutral Sweden. Individuals in many other countries also risked their lives to save Jews and other individuals subject to Nazi persecution. One of the most famous was Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who played a significant role in some of the rescue efforts that saved the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews in 1944.

Resistance existed in almost every concentration camp and ghetto of Europe. In addition to the armed revolts at Sobibor and Treblinka, Jewish resistance in the Warsaw ghetto led to a courageous uprising in April and May 1943, despite a predictable doomed outcome because of superior German force. In general, rescue or aid to Holocaust victims was not a priority of resistance organizations, whose principal goal was to fight the war against the Germans. Nonetheless, such groups and Jewish partisans (resistance fighters) sometimes cooperated with each other to save Jews. On April 19, 1943, for instance, members of the National Committee for the Defense of Jews, in cooperation with Christian railroad workers and the general underground in Belgium, attacked a train leaving the Belgian transit camp of Malines headed for Auschwitz and succeeded in assisting Jewish deportees to escape.

The U.S. government did not pursue a policy of rescue for victims of Nazism during World War II. Like their British counterparts, U.S. political and military leaders argued that winning the war was the top priority and would bring an end to Nazi terror. Once the war began, security concerns, reinforced in part by antisemitism, influenced the U.S. State Department (led by Secretary of State Cordell Hull) and the U.S. government to do little to ease restrictions on entry visas. In January 1944, President Roosevelt established the War Refugee Board within the U.S. Treasury Department to facilitate the rescue of imperiled refugees. Fort Ontario in Oswego, New York, began to serve as an ostensibly free port for refugees from the territories liberated by the Allies.

After the war turned against Germany, and the Allied armies approached German soil in late 1944, the SS decided to evacuate outlying concentration camps. The Germans tried to cover up the evidence of genocide and deported prisoners to camps inside Germany to prevent their liberation. Many inmates died during the long journeys on foot known as “death marches.” During the final days, in the spring of 1945, conditions in the remaining concentration camps exacted a terrible toll in human lives. Even concentration camps such as Bergen-Belsen, never intended for extermination, became death traps for thousands, including Anne Frank, who died there of typhus in March 1945. In May 1945, Nazi Germany collapsed, the SS guards fled, and the camps ceased to exist.

## AFTERMATH OF THE HOLOCAUST

The Allied victors of World War II (Great Britain, France, the United States, and the Soviet Union) faced two immediate problems following the surrender of Nazi Germany in May 1945: to bring Nazi war criminals to justice and to provide for displaced persons (DPs) and refugees stranded in Allied-occupied Germany and Austria.

Following the war, the best-known war crimes trial was the trial of “major” war criminals, held at the Palace of Justice in Nuremberg, Germany, between November 1945 and August 1946. Under the auspices of the International Military Tribunal (IMT), which consisted of prosecutors and judges from the four occupying powers (Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States), leading officials of the Nazi regime were prosecuted for war crimes. The IMT sentenced 13 of those convicted to death. Seven more defendants were sentenced to life imprisonment or to prison terms ranging from 10 to 20 years. One defendant committed suicide before the trial began. Three of the defendants were acquitted. The judges also found three of six Nazi organizations (the SS, the Gestapo-SD, and the Leadership Corps of the Nazi Party) to be criminal organizations.

In the three years following this major trial, 12 subsequent trials were conducted under the auspices of the IMT but before U.S. military tribunals. The proceedings were directed at the prosecution of second- and third-ranking officials of the Nazi regime. They included concentration camp administrators; commanders of the *Einsatzgruppen* (mobile killing units); physicians and public health officials; the SS leadership; German army field commanders and staff officers; officials in the justice, interior, and foreign ministries; and senior administrators of industrial concerns that used concentration camp laborers, including I. G. Farben and the Flick concern.

In addition, each occupying power (Great Britain, France, the United States, and the Soviet Union) conducted trials of Nazi offenders captured in its respective zone of occupation or accused of crimes perpetrated in that zone of occupation. The U.S. military authorities conducted the trials in the American zone at the site of the Nazi concentration camp Dachau. In general, the defendants in these trials were the staff and guard units at concentration camps and other camps located in the zone and people accused of crimes against Allied military and civilian personnel.

Those German officials and collaborators who committed crimes within a specific location or country were generally returned to the nation on whose territory the crimes were committed and were tried by national tribunals. Perhaps the most famous of these cases was the trial in 1947, in Cracow, Poland, of Rudolf Höss, the commandant of Auschwitz. Trials of German war criminals and their collaborators were conducted during the late 1940s and early 1950s in Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and the Soviet Union. After the establishment of West Germany in 1949, many former Nazis received relatively lenient treatment by the courts. Courts in West Germany ruled the offenders were not guilty because they were obeying orders from their superior officers. Some Nazi criminals were acquitted and returned to normal lives in German society, a number of them taking jobs in the business world. Many war criminals, however, were never brought to trial or punished. In 1958, the Federal Republic of Germany established a Central Agency for the

Investigation of National Socialist Violent Crimes to streamline the investigation of Nazi offenders living in West Germany. These efforts, which continue to this day, led to some significant proceedings such as the Frankfurt Trial of Auschwitz camp personnel in the 1960s. The investigation of Nazi offenders residing in the United States began in earnest during the late 1970s and continues to this day.

Even as the Allies moved to bring Nazi offenders to justice, the looming refugee crisis threatened to overwhelm the resources of the Allied powers. During World War II, the Nazis uprooted millions of people. Within months of Germany's surrender in May 1945, the Allies repatriated more than 6 million (DPs) to their home countries.

Some 250,000 Jewish DPs, including most of the Jewish survivors of concentration camps, were unable or unwilling to return to Eastern Europe because of postwar antisemitism and the destruction of their communities during the Holocaust. Many of those who did return feared for their lives. Many Holocaust survivors found themselves in territory liberated by the Anglo-American armies and were housed in DP camps that the Allies established in Germany, Austria, and Italy. They were joined by a flow of refugees, including Holocaust survivors, migrating from points of liberation in Eastern Europe and the Soviet-occupied zones of Germany and Austria.

Most Jewish DPs hoped to leave Europe for Palestine or the United States, but the United States was still governed by severely restrictive immigration legislation, and the British, who administered Palestine under a mandate from the defunct League of Nations, severely restricted Jewish immigration for fear of antagonizing the Arab residents of the Mandate. Other countries had closed their borders to immigration during the Depression and during the war. Despite these obstacles, many Jewish DPs were eager to leave Europe as soon as possible.

The Jewish Brigade Group, formed as a unit within the British army in late 1944, worked with former partisans to help organize the *Beraha* (literally, "escape"), the exodus of Jewish refugees across closed borders from inside Europe to the coast in an attempt to sail for Palestine. However, the British intercepted most of the ships. In 1947, for example, the British stopped the *Exodus 1947* at the port of Haifa. The ship had 4,500 Holocaust survivors on board, who were forcibly returned on British vessels to Germany.

In the following years, the postwar Jewish refugee crisis eased. In 1948, the U.S. Congress passed the Displaced Persons Act, which provided up to 400,000 special visas for DPs uprooted by the Nazi or Soviet regimes. Some 68,000 of these visas were issued to Jews under the DPA Act, as well as an additional 28,000 under the Truman Directive during the years 1946–48. When the DP Act expired in 1952, it was followed by a Refugee Relief Act that remained in force until the end of 1956. Moreover, in May 1948, the State of Israel became an independent nation after the United Nations voted to partition Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab state. Israel quickly moved to legalize the flow of Jewish immigrants into the new state, passing legislation providing for unlimited Jewish immigration to the Jewish homeland. The last DP camp closed in Germany in 1957.

*Special thanks to Little, Brown and Company for permission to include excerpts from Tell Them We Remember by Susan Bachrach, 1994.*



*A Jewish girl from Vienna sits on a staircase after her arrival in England. Nearly 10,000 children found refuge in England in what was called the Kindertransport. (December 12, 1938)*

*U.S. National Archives and Records Administration*

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## CHRONOLOGY OF THE HOLOCAUST

### JANUARY 30, 1933

German President Paul von Hindenburg appointed Adolf Hitler chancellor. At the time, Hitler was leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi party).

### FEBRUARY 27–28, 1933

The German parliament (Reichstag) building burned down under mysterious circumstances. The government treated it as an act of terrorism.

### FEBRUARY 28, 1933

Hitler convinced President von Hindenburg to invoke an emergency clause in the Weimar Constitution. The German parliament then passed the Decree of the Reich President for the Protection of Nation (Volk) and State, popularly known as the Reichstag Fire Decree. The decree suspended the civil rights provisions in the existing German constitution, including freedom of speech, assembly, and press, and formed the basis for the incarceration of potential opponents of the Nazis without benefit of trial or judicial proceeding.

### MARCH 22, 1933

The SS (Schutzstaffel), Hitler's "elite guard," established a concentration camp outside the town of Dachau, Germany, for political opponents of the regime. It was the only concentration camp to remain in operation from 1933 until 1945. By 1934, the SS had taken over administration of the entire Nazi concentration camp system.

### MARCH 23, 1933

The German parliament passed the Enabling Act, which empowered Hitler to establish a dictatorship in Germany.

### APRIL 1, 1933

The Nazis organized a nationwide boycott of Jewish-owned businesses in Germany. Many local boycotts continued throughout much of the 1930s.

### APRIL 7, 1933

The Nazi government passed the Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service, which excluded Jews and political opponents from university and governmental positions. Similar laws enacted in the following weeks affected Jewish lawyers, judges, doctors, and teachers.

**MAY 10, 1933**

Nazi party members, students, teachers, and others burned books written by Jews, political opponents of Nazis, and the intellectual avant-garde during public rallies across Germany.

**JULY 14, 1933**

The Nazi government enacted the Law on the Revocation of Naturalization, which deprived foreign and stateless Jews as well as Roma (Gypsies) of German citizenship.

The Nazi government enacted the Law for the Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Diseases, which mandated the forced sterilization of certain physically or mentally impaired individuals. The law institutionalized the eugenic concept of “life undeserving of life” and provided the basis for the involuntary sterilization of the disabled, Roma (Gypsies), “social misfits,” and black people residing in Germany.

**JUNE 30–JULY 1, 1934**

In what came to be called “the Night of the Long Knives,” on Hitler’s orders members of the Nazi party and police murdered members of the Nazi leadership, army, and others. Hitler declared the killings legal and necessary to achieve the Nazi party’s aims. The murders were reported throughout Germany and in other countries.

**AUGUST 2, 1934**

German President von Hindenburg died. Hitler became Führer in addition to his position as chancellor. Because there was no legal or constitutional limit to Hitler’s power as Führer, he became absolute dictator of Germany.

**OCTOBER 7, 1934**

In standardized letters sent to the government, Jehovah’s Witness congregations from all over Germany declared their political neutrality but also affirmed defiance of Nazi restrictions on the practice of their religion.

**APRIL 1, 1935**

The Nazi government banned the Jehovah’s Witness organization. The Nazis persecuted Jehovah’s Witnesses because of their religious refusal to swear allegiance to the state.

**JUNE 28, 1935**

The German Ministry of Justice revised Paragraphs 175 and 175a of the criminal code to criminalize all homosexual acts between men. The revision provided the police broader means for prosecuting homosexual men.

**SEPTEMBER 15, 1935**

The Nazi government decreed the Reich Citizenship Law and the Law for the Protection of the German Blood and Honor. These Nuremberg “racial laws” made Jews second-class citizens. They prohibited sexual relations and intermarriage between Jews and “persons of German or related blood.” The Nazi government later applied the laws to Roma (Gypsies) and to black people residing in Germany.

**JULY 12, 1936**

Prisoners and civilian workers began construction of the concentration camp Sachsenhausen at Oranienburg near Berlin. By September, German authorities had imprisoned about 1,000 people in the camp.

**AUGUST 1–16, 1936**

Athletes and spectators from countries around the world attended the Summer Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany. The Olympic Games were a propaganda success for the Nazi state. The Nazis made every effort to portray Germany as a respectable member of the international community and soft-pedaled their persecution of the Jews. They removed anti-Jewish signs from public display and restrained anti-Jewish activities. In response to pressure from foreign Olympic delegations, Germany also included Jews or part-Jews on its Olympic team.

**MARCH 12–13, 1938**

German troops invaded Austria, and Germany incorporated Austria into the German Reich in what was called the Anschluss.

**JULY 6–15, 1938**

Delegates from 32 countries and representatives from refugee aid organizations attended the Evian Conference at Evian, France, to discuss immigration quotas for refugees fleeing Nazi Germany. However, the United States and most other countries were unwilling to ease their immigration restrictions.

**SEPTEMBER 30, 1938**

Britain, France, Italy, and Germany signed the Munich Pact, forcing Czechoslovakia to cede its border areas to the German Reich.

**OCTOBER 1–10, 1938**

German troops occupied the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia under the stipulations of the Munich Pact.



**NOVEMBER 9–10, 1938**

In a nationwide pogrom called *Kristallnacht* (“Night of Broken Glass”), the Nazis and their collaborators burned synagogues, looted Jewish homes and businesses, and killed at least 91 Jews. The Gestapo, supported by local uniformed police, arrested approximately 30,000 Jewish men and imprisoned them in the Dachau, Sachsenhausen, Buchenwald, and Mauthausen concentration camps. Several hundred Jewish women also were imprisoned in local jails.

**MARCH 14, 1939**

Slovakia declared itself an independent state under protection of Nazi Germany.

**MARCH 15, 1939**

German troops occupied the Czech lands and established the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

**MAY 13–JUNE 17, 1939**

Cuba and the United States refused to accept more than 900 refugees—almost all of whom were Jewish—aboard the ocean liner *St. Louis*, forcing its return to Europe.

**AUGUST 23, 1939**

The Soviet and German governments signed the Molotov-Ribbentrop Non-Aggression Pact in which they agreed to divide up eastern Europe, including Poland; the Baltic states of Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia; and parts of Romania.

**SEPTEMBER 1, 1939**

German troops invaded Poland, marking the beginning of World War II.

**SEPTEMBER 3, 1939**

Britain and France fulfilled their promise to protect Poland’s border and declared war on Germany.

**SEPTEMBER 28, 1939**

In a secret amendment to the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, the German and Soviet governments outlined their plans to partition Poland.

**OCTOBER 1939**

Hitler initiated an order to kill those Germans whom the Nazis deemed “incurable” and hence “unworthy of life.” Health care professionals sent tens of thousands of institutionalized mentally and physically disabled people to central “euthanasia” killing centers where they killed them by lethal injection or in gas chambers.

**OCTOBER 26, 1939**

Germany annexed the former Polish regions of Upper Silesia, Pomerania, West Prussia, Poznan, and the independent city of Danzig. Those areas of occupied Poland not annexed by Germany or the Soviet Union were placed under a German civilian administration and were called the General Government (Generalgouvernement).

**NOVEMBER 12, 1939**

German authorities began the forced deportation of Jews from West Prussia, Poznan, Danzig, and Lodz (also in annexed Poland) to locations in the General Government.

**NOVEMBER 23, 1939**

German authorities required that, by December 1, 1939, all Jews residing in the General Government wear white badges with a blue Star of David.

**APRIL 9–JUNE 10, 1940**

German troops invaded, defeated, and occupied Denmark and Norway.

**JUNE 30, 1940**

German authorities ordered the first major Jewish ghetto, in Lodz, to be sealed off, confining at least 160,000 people in the ghetto. Henceforth, all Jews living in Lodz had to reside in the ghetto and could not leave without German authorization.

**MAY 10, 1940**

German troops invaded the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and France. By June 22, Germany occupied all of these regions except for southern (Vichy) France.

**MAY 20, 1940**

SS authorities established the Auschwitz concentration camp (Auschwitz I) outside the Polish city of Oswiecim.

**NOVEMBER 15, 1940**

German authorities ordered the Warsaw ghetto in the General Government sealed off. It was the largest ghetto in both area and population. The Germans confined more than 350,000 Jews—about 30 percent of the city’s population—in about 2.4 percent of the city’s total area.

**APRIL 6, 1941**

German and other Axis forces (Italy, Bulgaria, and Hungary) invaded Yugoslavia and Greece.

**JUNE 22, 1941**

Germany and its Axis forces invaded the Soviet Union in Operation Barbarossa. German mobile killing squads called *Einsatzgruppen* were assigned to identify, concentrate, and kill Jews behind the front lines. By the spring of 1943, the *Einsatzgruppen* had killed more than a million Jews and an undetermined number of partisans, Roma (Gypsies), and officials of the Soviet state and the Soviet Communist party. In 1941–42, some 70,000–80,000 Jews fled eastward, evading the first wave of murder perpetrated by the German invaders.

**JULY 20, 1941**

German authorities established a ghetto in Minsk in the German-occupied Soviet territories and, by July 25, concentrated all Jews from the area in the ghetto.

**JULY 31, 1941**

Reich Marshal Hermann Göring charged SS-Gruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich, head of the Security Police and the SD (Security Service), to take measures for the implementation of the “final solution of the Jewish question.” The “Final Solution” was a euphemism for the mass murder of the Jewish population of Europe.

**AUGUST 15, 1941**

By order of German authorities, the Kovno ghetto, with approximately 30,000 Jewish inhabitants, was sealed off.

**SEPTEMBER 3, 1941**

At the Auschwitz concentration camp, SS functionaries performed their first gassing experiments using Zyklon B. The victims were Soviet prisoners of war and non-Jewish Polish inmates.

**SEPTEMBER 6, 1941**

German authorities established two ghettos in Vilna in German-occupied Lithuania. German and Lithuanian units killed tens of thousands of Jews in the nearby Ponary woods.

**SEPTEMBER 15, 1941**

The Nazi government decreed that Jews over the age of six who resided in Germany had to wear a yellow Star of David on their outer clothing in public at all times.

**SEPTEMBER 29–30, 1941**

German SS, police, and military units shot an estimated 33,000 persons, mostly Jews, at Babi Yar, a ravine on the outskirts of Kiev (in Ukraine). In the following months, German units shot thousands of Jews, Roma (Gypsies), and Soviet prisoners of war at Babi Yar.

**OCTOBER 15, 1941**

German authorities began the deportation of Jews from the German Reich to the ghettos of Lodz, Riga, and Minsk.

**OCTOBER 28, 1941**

After requiring all Kovno ghetto inhabitants to assemble at Demokratu Square, German and Lithuanian units took more than one-third of the ghetto's population—some 9,200 people—to Fort IX and shot them in what was called the “Great Action.”

**OCTOBER–NOVEMBER 1941**

SS functionaries began preparations for Einsatz Reinhard (Operation Reinhard; often referred to as Aktion Reinhard), with the goal of murdering the Jews in the General Government. Preparations included construction of the killing centers Belzec, Sobibor, and Treblinka in the territory of the General Government.

**NOVEMBER 24, 1941**

German authorities established the Theresienstadt (also known as Terezin) ghetto, in the German-controlled Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

**NOVEMBER 26, 1941**

SS authorities established a second camp at Auschwitz, called Auschwitz–Birkenau or Auschwitz II. The camp was originally designated for the incarceration of large numbers of Soviet prisoners of war but later was used as a killing center.

**DECEMBER 1, 1941**

Einsatzkommando 3, a subunit of Einsatzgruppe A that operated in Lithuania, reported that its members had killed 136,442 Jews since June 1941.

**DECEMBER 7, 1941**

Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The next morning, the United States declared war on Japan.

**DECEMBER 8, 1941**

Gassing operations began at Chelmno, one of six Nazi killing centers. Situated in the Polish territory annexed by Germany, Chelmno closed in March 1943 and resumed its killing operations during two months in the early summer of 1944. SS and German civilian officials killed at least 152,000 Jews and an undetermined number of Roma (Gypsies) and Poles at Chelmno using special mobile gas vans.

**DECEMBER 11, 1941**

Germany and Italy declared war on the United States.

**JANUARY 16, 1942**

German authorities began the deportation of Jews from the Lodz ghetto to Chelmno.

**JANUARY 20, 1942**

Senior Nazi officials met at a villa in the outskirts of Berlin at the Wannsee Conference to discuss and coordinate implementation of the “Final Solution.”

**MARCH 17, 1942**

At the Belzec killing center, an SS special detachment began using gas chambers to kill people. Between March 17 and December 1942, approximately 600,000 people, mostly Jews but also an undetermined number of Roma (Gypsies), were killed at Belzec.

**MARCH 27, 1942**

German authorities began systematic deportations of Jews from France. By the end of August 1944, the Germans had deported more than 75,000 Jews from France to camps in the East, above all, to the Auschwitz-Birkenau killing center in occupied Poland, where most of them perished.

**MARCH–APRIL 1942**

German SS and police units deported Jews from Lublin, in the General Government, to Belzec, where they were killed. The Lublin deportations were the first major deportations carried out under Operation Reinhard, the code name for the German plan to kill more than 2 million Jews living in the General Government of occupied Poland.

**MAY 1942**

After trial gassings in April, an SS special detachment began gassing operations at the Sobibor killing center in early May. By November 1943, the special detachment had killed approximately 250,000 Jews at Sobibor.

**MAY 4, 1942**

SS officials performed the first selection of victims for gassing at the Auschwitz-Birkenau killing center. Weak, sick, and “unfit” prisoners were selected and housed in an isolation ward prior to being killed in the gas chambers. Between May 1940 and January 1945, more than one million people were killed or died at the Auschwitz camp complex. Close to 865,000 were never registered and most likely were selected for gassing immediately upon arrival. Nine out of ten of those who died at the Auschwitz complex were Jewish.

**MAY 31, 1942**

German authorities opened the I.G. Farben labor camp at Auschwitz III (also known as Monowitz or Buna), situated near the main camp complex at Auschwitz.

**JULY 15, 1942**

German authorities began deportations of Dutch Jews from the Westerbork transit camp in the Netherlands to Auschwitz. By September 13, 1944, over 100 trains had carried more than 100,000 people to killing centers and concentration camps in the German Reich and the General Government.

**JULY 22, 1942**

Between July 22 and September 12, German SS and police authorities, assisted by auxiliaries, deported approximately 300,000 Jews from the Warsaw ghetto to killing centers and concentration camps. Of that number, about 265,000 Jews were sent to the Treblinka killing center where they were murdered.

**JULY 23, 1942**

Gassing operations began at the Treblinka killing center. Between July 1942 and November 1943, SS special detachments at Treblinka murdered an estimated 750,000 Jews and at least 2,000 Roma (Gypsies).

**AUGUST 4, 1942**

German authorities began systematic deportations of Jews from Belgium. The deportations continued until the end of July 1944. The Germans deported more than 25,000 Jews, about half of Belgium's Jewish population, to the Auschwitz-Birkenau killing center in occupied Poland, where most of them perished.

**JANUARY 18–22, 1943**

SS and police units deported more than 5,000 Jews from the Warsaw ghetto to the Treblinka killing center. Members of the Jewish Fighting Organization (Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa, or ŻOB) fought against the Germans in armed revolt as Jews were rounded up for deportation.

**MARCH 15, 1943**

German SS, police, and military units began the deportation of Jews from Salonika, Greece, to Auschwitz. Between March 20 and August 18, more than 50,000 Greek Jews arrived at the Auschwitz camp complex. SS staff killed most of the deportees in the gas chambers at Birkenau.

**APRIL 19–MAY 16, 1943**

In what is called the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, Jewish fighters resisted the German attempt to liquidate the ghetto. German SS and police units deported many of those who survived the armed revolt to Treblinka, and sent others to Majdanek and forced labor camps at Trawniki and Poniatowa in the General Government. Some resistance fighters escaped from the ghetto and joined partisan groups in the forests around Warsaw. The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising was the first mass revolt in Nazi-occupied Europe.

**JUNE 21, 1943**

Heinrich Himmler, leader of the SS, ordered the liquidation of all ghettos in the Baltic states and Belorussia (Reich Commissariat Ostland) and the deportation of all Jews to concentration camps.

**AUGUST 2, 1943**

Jewish prisoners revolted at the Treblinka killing center. Although more than 300 prisoners escaped, most were caught and killed by German SS and police units assisted by army troops. The SS special detachment forced surviving prisoners to remove all remaining traces of the camp's existence. After the killing center was dismantled in November 1943, the special detachment shot the remaining prisoners.

**SEPTEMBER 15, 1943**

SS authorities converted the Kovno ghetto into a concentration camp (Concentration Camp Kauen) under the direction of SS Captain Wilhelm Goecke.

**SEPTEMBER 23, 1943**

SS authorities ordered the final deportation of Jews from the Vilna ghetto. SS and police units in Vilna deported 4,000 Jews to the Sobibor killing center and evacuated approximately 3,700 to labor camps in German-occupied Estonia.

**OCTOBER 14, 1943**

Jewish prisoners at the Sobibor killing center began an armed revolt. Approximately 300 escaped. German SS and police units, with assistance from German military units, recaptured more than 100 and killed them. After the revolt, SS special detachments closed and dismantled the killing center.

**OCTOBER 21, 1943**

German authorities declared the Minsk ghetto officially liquidated after they murdered the remaining 2,000 Jews.

**NOVEMBER 3–4, 1943**

German SS and police units implemented Operation Harvest Festival. The purpose of Harvest Festival was to liquidate several labor camps in the Lublin area. During Harvest Festival, German SS and police units killed at least 42,000 Jews at Majdanek, Trawniki, and Poniatowa.

**MARCH 19, 1944**

German military units occupied Hungary.

**MAY 15–JULY 9, 1944**

Hungarian gendarmerie (rural police units), under the guidance of German SS officials, deported nearly 430,000 Jews from Hungary. Most were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau where SS staff immediately killed about half of them in gas chambers.

**JUNE 6, 1944**

D Day. British and American troops launched an invasion of France.



**JUNE 22, 1944**

A massive Soviet offensive destroyed the German front in Belorussia.

**JULY 8–12, 1944**

As the Soviet army neared, SS authorities liquidated the Kauen concentration camp, transferring 6,000 Jews to the Stutthof and Dachau concentration camps in the German Reich.

**JULY 22, 1944**

SS authorities evacuated most of the remaining prisoners from Majdanek westward to evade the advancing Soviet army.

**JULY 23, 1944**

Soviet troops liberated Majdanek. Surprised by the rapid Soviet advance, the Germans failed to destroy the camp and the evidence of mass murder.

**AUGUST 7–30, 1944**

SS and police officials liquidated the Lodz ghetto and deported approximately 60,000 Jews and an undetermined number of Roma (Gypsies) to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

**AUGUST 28/29–OCTOBER 27, 1944**

Members of the Slovak resistance revolted against the German-supported Slovakian government. Between September and October, German SS and police officials, assisted by German military units and Slovak fascist paramilitary units, deported approximately 10,000 Slovak Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

**OCTOBER 6, 1944**

At Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Sonderkommando (special detachment of Jewish prisoners deployed to remove corpses from the gas chambers and burn them) blew up Crematorium IV and killed the guards. About 250 participants of the revolt died in battle with SS and police units. The SS and police units shot 200 more members of the Sonderkommando after the battle was over.

**OCTOBER 30, 1944**

The last transport of Jews from Theresienstadt (Terezin) arrived at Auschwitz. During October, SS officials deported approximately 18,000 Jews to the Auschwitz camp complex. Most of them were killed in the gas chambers at Birkenau.

**NOVEMBER 1944**

The word “genocide” first appeared in a book by Raphael Lemkin, a Polish-Jewish lawyer who had moved to Washington, D.C., in 1942 and worked with the U.S. War Department. In the book *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe*, Lemkin coined the term by combining the Greek for race or tribe, *genos*, with the Latin for killing, *cide*. He employed it to describe Nazi policies of systematic murder of an entire group—the destruction of European Jewry.

**NOVEMBER 25, 1944**

The SS began to demolish the gas chambers and crematoria at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

**JANUARY 17, 1945**

As Soviet troops approached, SS units evacuated prisoners in the Auschwitz camp complex, marching them on foot toward the interior of the German Reich. The forced evacuations came to be called “death marches.”

**JANUARY 27, 1945**

Soviet troops liberated about 8,000 prisoners left behind at the Auschwitz camp complex.

**APRIL 11, 1945**

U.S. troops liberated more than 20,000 prisoners at Buchenwald.

**APRIL 29, 1945**

U.S. troops liberated approximately 32,000 prisoners at Dachau.

**APRIL 30, 1945**

Hitler committed suicide in his bunker in Berlin.

**MAY 2, 1945**

German units in Berlin surrendered to Soviet forces.

**MAY 5, 1945**

U.S. troops liberated more than 17,000 prisoners at Mauthausen concentration camp and more than 20,000 prisoners at the Gusen concentration camps in the annexed Austrian territory of the German Reich.

**MAY 7–9, 1945**

German armed forces surrendered unconditionally in the West on May 7 and in the East on May 9. Allied and Soviet forces proclaimed May 8, 1945, to be Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day).

**AUGUST 3, 1945**

United States special envoy Earl Harrison made public a report to President Truman on the treatment of Jewish displaced persons (DPs) in Germany. Following World War II, several hundred thousand Jewish survivors were unable or unwilling to return to their home countries. Harrison's report contained a strong indictment of Allied military policies, underscored the plight of Jewish DPs, and led eventually to improved conditions for them in the American zone of occupied Germany.

**SEPTEMBER 2, 1945**

Japan surrendered. World War II officially ended.

**NOVEMBER 20, 1945**

The International Military Tribunal (IMT), made up of United States, British, French, and Soviet judges, began a trial of 21 major Nazi leaders at Nuremberg, Germany.

**DECEMBER 22, 1945**

President Truman issued a directive giving DPs preference in receiving visas under the existing quota restrictions on immigration to the United States.

**JULY 4, 1946**

Mob attack against Jewish survivors in Kielce, Poland. Following a ritual murder accusation, a Polish mob killed more than 40 Jews and wounded dozens of others. This attack sparked a second mass migration of Jews from Poland and Eastern Europe to DP camps in Germany, Austria, and Italy.

**AUGUST 1, 1946**

The IMT passed judgment on the major Nazi war criminals on trial in Nuremberg, Germany. Eighteen were convicted, and three were acquitted. Eleven of the defendants were sentenced to death.

**OCTOBER 16, 1946**

In accordance with the sentences handed down after the convictions, ten defendants were executed by hanging. One defendant, Hermann Göring, escaped the hangman by committing suicide in his cell.

**JULY 11, 1947**

The *Exodus 1947* ship carrying 4,500 Jewish refugees sailed for British-administered Palestine from southern France, despite British restrictions on Jewish immigration. The British intercepted the ship and forced it to proceed to Haifa in Palestine and then to the French port of Port-de-Bouc, where it lay at anchor from more than a month.

**SEPTEMBER 8, 1947**

Ultimately, the British took the Jewish refugees from the *Exodus 1947* to Hamburg, Germany, and forcibly returned them to DP camps. The fate of the *Exodus 1947* dramatized the plight of Holocaust survivors in the DP camps and increased international pressure on Great Britain to allow free Jewish immigration to Palestine.

**NOVEMBER 29, 1947**

As the postwar Jewish refugee crisis escalated and relations between Jews and Arabs deteriorated, the British government decided to submit the status of Palestine to the United Nations. In a special session on this date, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition Palestine into two new states, one Jewish and the other Arab. The decision was accepted by the Jewish and rejected by the Arab leadership.

**MAY 14, 1948**

David Ben-Gurion, leader of the Jews of Palestine, announced the establishment of the State of Israel in Tel Aviv and declared that Jewish immigration into the new state would be unrestricted. Between 1948 and 1951, almost 700,000 Jews immigrated to Israel, including more than two-thirds of the Jewish DPs in Europe.

**JUNE 1948**

Congress passed the Displaced Persons Act, authorizing 200,000 DPs to enter the United States in 1949 and 1950. Though at first the law's stipulations made it unfavorable to Jewish DPs, Congress amended the bill, and by 1952, thousands of Jewish DPs entered the United States. An estimated 80,000 Jewish DPs immigrated to the United States with the aid of American Jewish agencies between 1945 and 1952.

**JANUARY 12, 1952**

The United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide entered into force after more than 20 countries ratified it. But the convention faced strong opposition in the United States over concerns about the infringement of U.S. national sovereignty. The United States only ratified the convention more than 30 years later, on November 5, 1988.



*Jews cross a pedestrian bridge from one section of the Lodz ghetto (in Poland) to another. German guards control access to the ghetto from the street below—a main thoroughfare that is not part of the ghetto. (1941)*

*USHMM*





*Under SS guard, prisoners perform forced labor in the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. (1942)*

*U.S. National Archives and Records Administration*



*Prisoners perform forced labor in the Plaszow concentration camp in Poland. (ca. 1943-44)*

*Leopold Page Photographic Collection, courtesy of USHMM*





*Members of the SS separate Hungarian Jewish men from women and children upon arrival at the Auschwitz-Birkenau killing center in Poland. After separating the victims by gender, the SS selected individuals for either forced labor or murder in gas chambers. (spring 1944)*

*Yad Vashem*

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## ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

The purpose of this annotated bibliography is to help teachers choose from the vast array of Holocaust publications that might be useful to them and to their students. This bibliography is not meant to indicate that these are the best examples of Holocaust literature, although they are all excellent books. The works cited here were chosen both because of individual merit and specifically because they address particular aspects of Holocaust experience.

We have tried, for the most part, to include books that are readily available and, where possible, available in paperback. A few books that were out of print at the time this bibliography was compiled have nevertheless been included simply because they are too important to be omitted. Books published under the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Holocaust Library imprint are available through the Museum Shop.

The difficulty in compiling a selective list of Holocaust literature is complicated not only by the great amount of material available but also by the subject matter itself. The Holocaust was a monumental event in history. It involved millions of people in dozens of nations, and its effects were felt in every aspect of their lives. There is, therefore, no simple answer to the questions, What's the best book for me to read about the Holocaust? or If I can only read one or two books, which ones should they be? Any one book can present only a partial perspective. Where a good general history of the period can provide historical background, a personal narrative will translate that history into human terms, and a more specialized history will examine a particular aspect of that history in greater depth.

Which book or books you should read will depend both on how much time you are able to commit and on the aspect of the Holocaust upon which you are focusing. No one can learn, or teach, everything about the Holocaust. First, determine your goals, and then select the most appropriate materials. A broad range of materials have been included on these lists to represent the scope of the Holocaust and to enable teachers to choose the materials best suited to their individual approaches to the subject.

The lists are presented in three sections organized by reading level: middle school, high school, and adult. Almost without exception, the titles on the middle school lists are books that were originally published by the children's book divisions of publishing houses, indicating that the intended audience was young people aged 14 or under. In many cases, however, that range can be expanded upward. Although a few of the books on the high school list were published with a "young adult" audience in mind, most of them are adult books that are particularly well suited to high school students. (At the end of this bibliography is an alphabetized index by author to all the volumes included in this list.)

In choosing books for student use, it is as important to determine when a book should be assigned as it is to decide which book to use. Most students have little prior knowledge of the history of this period and, therefore, need some historical background to be able to put the book they are reading into perspective. This is especially true of the fiction and personal narratives on the middle school

list. Many of these books were written from a child's perspective; the child in the book frequently does not really understand the events he or she is caught up in and neither will the reader without some historical background.

As new Holocaust literature is constantly appearing, it is also important to establish criteria for examining these materials. In addition to the usual standards of literary quality and historical accuracy, two phrases from Lawrence L. Langer's *The Age of Atrocity: Death in Modern Literature* set the parameters in this arena. At one end of the scale, the book should be one that actually confronts the horrors of the Holocaust; it should not "circumspectly [skirt] the horror implicit in the theme but [leave] the reader with the mournful if psychologically unburdened feeling that he has had a genuine encounter with inappropriate death." At the other extreme, too great a concentration on the horrors, especially if presented with graphic details, tends to overwhelm the reader and numb the senses; Langer refers to these works as "mere catalogues of atrocities." Between these two extremes, there is a wealth of material, only a fraction of which is listed here, that will enable students and teachers to confront the Holocaust and the issues that it raises.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### 1. HISTORY, GENERAL

**Adler, David A.** *We Remember the Holocaust*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1989.

Adler uses first-person narratives and original photographs to chronicle the history of the Holocaust. The narratives describe Jewish life in Europe in the 1930s, Hitler's rise to power, and the Jews' fight for survival under Nazi rule.

**Bachrach, Susan D.** *Tell Them We Remember: The Story of the Holocaust*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1994.

Bachrach tells the story of the Holocaust as presented in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in brief, thematic segments illustrated by artifacts and historical photographs. Sidebars tell the personal stories of more than 20 young people of various social and religious backgrounds and nationalities who suffered or died during the Holocaust.

**Chaikin, Miriam.** *A Nightmare in History: The Holocaust, 1933–1945*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1987.

The author effectively weaves personal narratives into this concise, readable history. She presents the facts clearly and succinctly but never allows the reader to forget the faces behind the facts.

**Meltzer, Milton.** *Never to Forget: The Jews of the Holocaust.* New York: Dell Publishing Company, 1977.

Meltzer's history focuses on the Jewish perspective on the Holocaust, including brief histories of antisemitism and of Jewish resistance. One of the first books on the Holocaust written for young people, this is still one of the most useful.

**Rogasky, Barbara.** *Smoke and Ashes: The Story of the Holocaust.* New York: Holiday House, 1988.

Blending a narrative of historical events with personal testimonies, Rogasky poses these questions: How did the Holocaust happen and why? Couldn't anyone stop it? How could the Jews let it happen? She also includes a chapter on non-Jewish victims.

## 2. HISTORY, SPECIALIZED

**Bachrach, Susan D.** *The Nazi Olympics: Berlin 1936.* Boston: Little, Brown, 2000.

Bachrach traces the troubled history of the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, examining the Nazi dictatorship, the escalating persecution of German Jews, and the abortive movement in the United States to boycott the games. She tells the complete story of the Games, focusing not only on the athletes who competed but also on those who were banned from competition.

**Friedman, Ina R.** *The Other Victims: First-Person Stories of Non-Jews Persecuted by the Nazis.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1990.

Friedman focuses on non-Jewish victims of the Holocaust. She interviews Roma (Gypsies), Jehovah's Witnesses and other religious figures, the disabled, and members of other victim groups. Information is included on blacks and homosexuals, although she was unable to provide interviews.

**Landau, Elaine.** *The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.* New York: Macmillan, 1992.

After briefly describing the creation of the Warsaw ghetto, the author concentrates on the 28 days of the uprising. Both text and photographs are graphic at times but only to the extent necessary to describe the events accurately.

**Meltzer, Milton.** *Rescue: The Story of How Gentiles Saved Jews in the Holocaust.* New York: HarperCollins Children's Books, 1991.

This work focuses on the non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews throughout Nazi-occupied Europe. The author uses material excerpted from diaries and letters, personal interviews, and eyewitness accounts.

Stadtler, Bea. *The Holocaust: A History of Courage and Resistance*. West Orange, N.J.: Behrman House, 1994.

One of the first Holocaust books written for young people, this work focuses on Jewish resistance. This is a good companion to Meltzer's *Rescue*; together the two books present an excellent picture of both Jewish and non-Jewish resistance.

Volavkova, Hana, ed. *I Never Saw Another Butterfly: Children's Drawings and Poems from Terezin Concentration Camp, 1942–1944*. New York: Schocken, 1993.

A poignant memorial to the children of Terezin, the collages, paintings, drawings, and poems published in this selection are impressive for their artistic merit and their value in documenting the feelings and lives of children in the camp. Some prior knowledge of what life in the camps was like will make these pieces more meaningful to students.

### 3. BIOGRAPHY

Atkinson, Linda. *In Kindling Flame: The Story of Hannah Senesh 1921–1944*. New York: William Morrow, 1992.

Atkinson combines history and biography in this story of the noted Jewish-Hungarian resistance fighter. Because the author includes an account of Senesh's capture and execution as well as the historical background essential for full understanding of her story, this book can either complement Senesh's diary or serve as an alternative for younger readers.

Friedman, Ina R. *Flying against the Wind: The Story of a Young Woman Who Defied the Nazis*. Brookline, Mass.: Lodgepole Press, 1995.

This biography tells the little-known but compelling story of Cato Bjontes van Beek, a non-Jewish German executed at the age of 22 for writing and circulating anti-Nazi flyers. Before her arrest, Cato also had aided Jews in hiding, smuggled refugees over the Alps, and helped starving French prisoners of war. This biography is one of the few books on German resistance for younger readers.

Marrin, Albert. *Hitler: A Portrait of a Tyrant*. New York: Viking, 1987.

Much more than a biography, Marrin provides a detailed look at both the man himself and the war he orchestrated. While he makes no effort to be objective in his portrayal of Hitler, the author gives the most detailed account of Hitler and Nazism available in books for young people.

Nicholson, Michael, and David Winner. *Raoul Wallenberg*. Ridgefield, Conn.: Morehouse, 1990.

This concise, well-illustrated biography contains considerable information about one of the best known of those individuals who helped rescue Jews during the Holocaust.

Pettit, Jane. *A Place to Hide: True Stories of Holocaust Rescues*. New York: Scholastic, 1993.

One of the most readable books for younger students, this collection includes the stories of Miep Gies, the Schindlers, and Denmark's rescue of its Jews.

Van der Rol, Ruud, and Rian Verhoeven. *Anne Frank beyond the Diary: A Photographic Remembrance*. New York: Viking Press, 1993.

Compelling photographs from the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam and private collections provide a moving portrait of Anne Frank. Facts about Anne's life before and after her stay in the annex and the larger historical context constitute the text.

#### 4. FICTION

Kerr, Judith. *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*. New York: Dell Yearling, 1987.

Nine-year-old Anna and her family are forced to flee Nazi Germany in 1933. Anna's father is a prominent German journalist who does not agree with the Nazi party or Hitler. For the next four years, Anna and her family move from Switzerland to France and finally to England, experiencing life as Jewish refugees, while her father tries to find work.

Laird, Christa. *Shadow of the Wall*. New York: Greenwillow, 1990.

Set in 1942 in the Warsaw ghetto, this novel features a boy living with his two younger sisters in an orphanage run by Janusz Korczak, a distinguished physician, writer, and educator. This work is short and much easier to read than Korczak's biography and could either complement it or serve as an alternative to it.

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1984.

Annemarie Johansen is ten years old in 1943 when the Nazis plan to round up all the Jews in Denmark. This is the story of the Danish resistance as seen through her eyes and of the Danish people who helped to rescue almost the entire Jewish population of Denmark.

Orgel, Doris. *The Devil in Vienna*. New York: Puffin, 1988.

Based partly on the author's own experiences, this story is set in Vienna in the months leading up to the Nazi annexation of Austria in March 1938. Through her diary entries, a 13-year-old Jewish girl recounts the difficulties of maintaining her close friendship with the daughter of a Nazi.

**Orlev, Uri. *The Island on Bird Street*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1984.**

After his mother disappears and the German army takes his father, a young Jewish boy is forced to make his own way in the Warsaw ghetto. Alex takes refuge in an abandoned building to wait out the winter and hopes for his father's return.

**Orlev, Uri. *The Man from the Other Side*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1991.**

This is the story of a non-Jewish boy living outside the Warsaw ghetto who joined his stepfather in smuggling goods into and people out of the ghetto. The author himself was a child in the ghetto and based his novel on the actual experiences of a childhood acquaintance.

**Richter, Hans P. *Friedrich*. New York: Puffin Books, 1987.**

Told in the first person, this autobiographical novel describes the friendship between two German boys, one Jewish and one not, and what happens to that relationship after the Nazis come to power and the non-Jewish boy's father joins the Nazi party. The story is simple and easy to read, but a dramatic and powerful account, told from a child's perspective.

## 5. MEMOIRS

**Auerbacher, Inge. *I Am a Star: Child of the Holocaust*. New York: Prentice Hall, 1987.**

History, poetry, and personal narrative accompanied by drawings and photographs combine in this slim volume to present a concise, child's eye view of the Holocaust. From 1942 to 1945, Auerbacher was incarcerated in the Terezin ghetto in Czechoslovakia. This is an excellent personalized introduction to the Holocaust for younger readers.

**Ayer, Eleanor H. *Parallel Journeys*. New York: Atheneum, 1995.**

Alternating chapters contrast the wartime experiences of two young Germans—Helen Waterford, who was interned in a Nazi concentration camp, and Alfons Heck, a member of the Hitler Youth. The volume is composed mainly of excerpts from their published autobiographies, connected by Ayer's overview of the era. Teachers may want to accompany this book with the film, *Heil Hitler: Confessions of a Hitler Youth* (p. 105).

**Boas, Jacob. *We Are Witnesses: Five Diaries of Teenagers Who Died in the Holocaust*. New York: Henry Holt, 1995.**

Boas, a Holocaust survivor, recounts the stories of five young Jews, including Anne Frank, whose diaries describe their observations and feelings during the Holocaust. These are their stories, in their own words.

**Drucker, Olga Levy.** *Kindertransport*. New York: Holt, 1992.

Born in Germany in 1927, Olga Levy was one of the many Jewish children evacuated from Germany to England during 1938 and 1939. She was separated from her parents for six years, until they were reunited in the United States in 1945. She tells her story in a simple and moving way, adding historical facts of which she was unaware at the time, but that put her story into perspective. The book concludes with the reunion of former Kindertransport children in London in 1989.

**Frank, Anne.** *The Diary of a Young Girl*. New York: Bantam Books, 1993.

One of the most read works in Holocaust literature, this classic account presents an eloquent picture of adolescence for a Jewish girl growing up during the Holocaust years. The focus is more personal than historic, so accompanying background material is recommended to put it into historical perspective.

**Grossman, Mendel.** *My Secret Camera: Life in the Lodz Ghetto*. San Diego: Gulliver Books, 2000.

Mendel Grossman was a Jewish photographer who depicted life in the Lodz ghetto in 1941 and 1942. This is an excellent companion to the Lodz ghetto film and Adelson book. It can also supplement the book if the film is not available.

**Holliday, Laurel.** *Children in the Holocaust and World War II: Their Secret Diaries*. New York: Pocket Books, 1995.

Holliday provides an anthology of diaries written by children in Nazi-occupied Europe. She includes the writings of 23 boys and girls ages ten through 18. Their diaries illustrate the diverse experiences of children during World War II and the Holocaust.

**Isaacman, Clara, and Joan A. Grossman.** *Clara's Story*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1984.

Clara and her family fled antisemitism in Romania to Belgium in 1940. Like so many others, they were then threatened a second time by the Nazi invasion of Belgium. By constantly moving from one hiding place to another, everyone but Clara's father survived. Although her story parallels Anne Frank's in a number of ways, she adds more historical background to her personal narrative.

**Koehn, Ilse.** *Mischling, Second Degree: My Childhood in Nazi Germany*. New York: Puffin Books, 1990.

Unaware of her Jewish heritage, Ilse was six years old when the Nuremberg "racial laws" declared her a "Mischling, second degree," a person with one Jewish grandparent. Her story is that of a little girl whose comfortable world has been turned upside down for no apparent reason.



**Leitner, Isabella.** *Isabella: From Auschwitz to Freedom.* New York: Anchor Books, 1994.

Leitner, a survivor of Auschwitz, recounts the ordeal of holding her family together after her mother was killed. Leitner describes her deportation from Hungary in the summer of 1944, her experiences in Auschwitz, and her evacuation to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp near the end of the war.

**Reiss, Johanna.** *The Upstairs Room.* New York: HarperCollins, 1990.

Reiss, from a Dutch Jewish family, tells the story of the years she spent hiding with her sister in the farmhouse of a Dutch family who protected them. She relates her experiences after the war in a sequel, *The Journey Back*.

**Sender, Ruth M.** *The Cage.* New York: Macmillan, 1986.

Sender's account of her experiences is one of the most graphic and dramatic in young people's literature. Her story begins just before the Nazi invasion of Poland and continues through life in the Lodz ghetto and finally, at Auschwitz. A sequel, *To Life*, continues her narrative from liberation to her arrival in the United States in 1950.

**Siegal, Aranka.** *Upon the Head of the Goat: A Childhood in Hungary, 1939–1944.* London: Dent, 1982.

A nine-year-old girl named Piri describes the bewilderment of being a Jewish child during the German occupation of her hometown (then in Hungary and now in Ukraine) and relates the ordeal of trying to survive in the ghetto.

**TenBoom, Corrie.** *The Hiding Place.* New York: Bantam Books, 1971.

Written in the first person, this memoir reads like an adventure book as it tells the story of a Christian woman and her sister who were arrested for helping Jews and were subsequently sent to a concentration camp.

**Toll, Nelly S.** *Behind the Secret Window: A Memoir of a Hidden Childhood during World War II.* New York: Dial Books, 1993.

Toll recounts the details of her family life in Lwów (Lvov), Poland, before World War II and her experiences, told from a child's perspective, of her 18 months in hiding with her mother. The narrative is accompanied by 29 reproductions of watercolor paintings that Toll created during those difficult months.

Wiesel, Elie. *Night*. New York: Bantam, 1982.

Wiesel is one of the most eloquent writers of the Holocaust, and this book is his best-known work. The compelling narrative describes his experience in Auschwitz. This narrative is often considered required reading for students of the Holocaust.

Zar, Rose. *In the Mouth of the Wolf*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1983.

Zar's story is unusual because she is one of the few Polish Jews who survived the Holocaust years in Poland. She fled the Piotrkow ghetto and lived under false papers as a Christian Pole. She survived the war working in the household of a German officer and his wife.

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## HIGH SCHOOL

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### 1. HISTORY, GENERAL

Bauer, Yehuda, and Nili Keren. *A History of the Holocaust*. New York: Franklin Watts, 1982.

Broader in scope than the title indicates, this work examines the origins of antisemitism and Nazism as well as the history of Jewish-German relationships. Bauer also arranges material on the Holocaust by individual country; this is useful for following events in each nation and for demonstrating the scope of the Holocaust. One of the most readable general histories for high school students.

Hilberg, Raul. *The Destruction of the European Jews* [student text]. New York: Holmes and Meier, 1985.

This edition of Hilberg's classic work is an abridgment of the original, three-volume edition. The focus here is on the Nazis and their destruction process, from the concentration of the Jews in ghettos to the killing operations of the mobile units and the death camps. This essential history is recommended for more advanced students.

Hilberg, Raul. *Perpetrators, Victims, Bystanders: The Jewish Catastrophe, 1933-1945*. New York: HarperCollins, 1992.

In his most recent work, Hilberg expands his focus from the study of the perpetrator alone to include, as the title indicates, victims and bystanders. He also includes rescuers and Jewish resisters, groups that he ignored in his earlier work; however, the attention he gives to these groups is minimal. His main focus continues to be on the destruction and those responsible for it. Hitler's role is more central here than in the earlier work. This is Hilberg's most accessible book.

## 2. HISTORY, SPECIALIZED

**Abzug, Robert H.** *Inside the Vicious Heart: Americans and the Liberation of Nazi Concentration Camps.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.

Using the diaries, letters, photographs, and oral testimonies of American GIs and journalists, Abzug analyzes the reactions of the first eyewitnesses who entered the concentration camps in Germany and Austria during the spring of 1945. This highly readable account is liberally illustrated with photographs.

**Adelson, Alan, and Robert Lapides, eds.** *Lodz Ghetto: Inside a Community under Siege.* New York: Viking Penguin, 1991.

As the source book for the film *Lodz Ghetto* (see p. 110), this work is an excellent supplement to the documentary, but it also stands on its own. It contains both German and ghetto documents as well as the personal expressions of ghetto residents in a variety of forms, including diaries, speeches, paintings, photographs, essays, and poems.

**Allen, William S.** *The Nazi Seizure of Power: The Experience of a Single German Town, 1922–1945.* Revised edition. New York: Franklin Watts, 1984.

Northeim, a small town of medieval origins in the center of prewar Germany, is the setting for this absorbing study of the impact of Nazism on a single community. As one of the few detailed local studies of Nazi Germany available in English, this book is an invaluable complement to histories of Nazism from the national perspective.

**Arad, Yitzhak.** *Ghetto in Flames.* New York: Holocaust Publications, 1982.

For centuries, its large number of rabbinic scholars ensured Vilna a central place in the cultural life of Lithuanian Jewry. Arad's scholarly and groundbreaking study focuses on the life, struggle, and annihilation of the Jews of Vilna in the period between 1941 and 1944.

**Bachrach, Susan D.** *The Nazi Olympics: Berlin 1936.* Boston: Little, Brown, 2000.

Bachrach traces the troubled history of the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, examining the Nazi dictatorship, the escalating persecution of German Jews, and the abortive movement in the United States to boycott the games. She tells the complete story of the Games, focusing not only on the athletes who competed but also on those who were banned from competition.

**Berenbaum, Michael.** *The World Must Know: The History of the Holocaust as Told in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.* Boston: Little, Brown, 1993.

As indicated by the title, the book tells the story of the Holocaust as presented in the Museum. It includes more than 200 photos from the Museum's archives and artifact collection and many

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eyewitness accounts from the Museum's oral and video history collections. The three parts of the book, which correspond to the three main exhibition floors, cover the rise of the Nazis to power; the ghettos and camps; and rescue, resistance, and the postwar period.

**Block, Gay, and Malka Drucker.** *Rescuers: Portraits of Moral Courage in the Holocaust.* New York: Holmes and Meier, 1992.

Interviews and full-size color portraits of 49 ordinary individuals from ten countries who risked their lives to help Jews by hiding them, sharing their food rations, forging passports and baptismal certificates, and raising Jewish children as their own. The rescuers' portraits are presented by country of origin, and a brief historical overview of rescue efforts in each country precedes their personal stories.

**Cohn-Sherbok, Dan.** *Atlas of Jewish History.* New York: Routledge, 1994.

Cohn-Sherbok traces the development of Jewish history from ancient times to the present day, placing the Holocaust within the larger context of almost 5,000 years of Jewish history. He includes more than 100 maps and 24 black-and-white illustrations.

**Conot, Robert E.** *Justice at Nuremberg.* New York: Carroll and Graf, 1984.

Conot provides a detailed history of the Nuremberg Trials. He covers the preparations for the trials, the interrogation and indictment of the major Nazi war criminals, the prosecution of the trial, strategies used by the defense, and the verdict and execution of the sentences handed down by the International Military Tribunal in 1946. Conot also includes a brief discussion of the difficulties involved in organizing the Nuremberg Trials, which involved representatives from the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union.

**Des Pres, Terrence.** *The Survivor: An Anatomy of Life in the Death Camps.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1976.

Des Pres studies survivors of the death camps in an attempt to determine what enabled people to survive; his conclusions are controversial and are unlike those of Bettelheim (*The Informed Heart*), Frankl (*Man's Search for Meaning*), and other Holocaust survivors.

**Flender, Harold.** *Rescue in Denmark.* New York: Anti-Defamation League, 1963.

The exceptional, honorable character of the Danes' successful operation to rescue most of its Jewish residents has aroused profound admiration. Individual stories of rescue are cited here as well as more general historical background and a look at the reasons for the Nazis' failure to implement the "Final Solution" in Denmark.

Grossman, Mendel. *My Secret Camera: Life in the Lodz Ghetto*. San Diego: Gulliver Books, 2000.

Mendel Grossman was a Jewish photographer who depicted life in the Lodz ghetto in 1941 and 1942. This is an excellent companion to the *Lodz Ghetto* film (see p. 110) and the Adelson book. It can also supplement the book if the film is not available.

Hayes, Peter, ed. *Lessons and Legacies: The Meaning of the Holocaust in a Changing World*. Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 1991.

In this useful collection, thoughtfully introduced by Hayes, various aspects of the Holocaust are examined by 16 leading scholars, including Raul Hilberg, Saul Friedländer, Yehuda Bauer, Michael Marrus, Christopher Browning, and Lawrence Langer. Also included is a critical essay by Alvin Rosenfeld on the popularization of Anne Frank.

Hayes, Peter, ed. *Lessons and Legacies, Volume III: Memory, Memorialization, and Denial*. Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 1999.

A collection of essays by noted scholars (Christopher Browning, John Roth, Michael Marrus, and Debórah Dwork, among others). The essays deal with integrating the Holocaust into several disciplinary fields (history, Jewish studies, sociology, philosophy, and literary studies), the German context of the Holocaust, issues of memorialization, and combating Holocaust denial.

Marrus, Michael, and Robert O. Paxton. *Vichy France and the Jews*. New York: Basic Books, 1981.

Marrus and Paxton examine the fate of the Jews in Vichy, France. They outline the antisemitic policy of the Vichy regime and its collaboration with the Nazis.

Mayer, Milton. *They Thought They Were Free: The Germans, 1933–45*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1966.

After the war, Mayer, an American journalist, interviewed ten men of different backgrounds but from the same German town in an effort to determine, through their eyes, what had happened in Germany and what had made it possible. This is an excellent companion to Allen's *Nazi Seizure of Power*.

Mendelsohn, Ezra. *The Jews of East Central Europe between the World Wars*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1983.

Mendelsohn focuses on the Jewish communities of Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia with particular attention to the relationship between Jews and Gentiles in the highly nationalist environment of the volatile period between the world wars, from 1918 to 1939.

Patterson, Charles. *Anti-Semitism: The Road to the Holocaust and Beyond*. New York: Walker and Company, 1988.

As the title implies, this history of antisemitism includes the years both before and after the Holocaust. Patterson begins with ancient and medieval times and concludes with a discussion of modern antisemitism in various parts of the world.

Plant, Richard. *The Pink Triangle: The Nazi War against Homosexuals*. New York: Henry Holt, 1986.

The Nazis condemned homosexuals as “socially aberrant.” Soon after Hitler came to power in 1933, Storm Troopers raided nightclubs and other places where homosexuals met. Plant argues that about 10,000 people were imprisoned as homosexuals and many of them perished in concentration camps. In this volume, the first comprehensive study available in English, Plant examines the ideological motivations for the Nazi persecution of homosexuals and the history of the implementation of Nazi policies.

Read, Anthony, and David Fisher. *Kristallnacht: The Tragedy of the Nazi Night of Terror*. New York: Random House, 1989.

Beginning with a brief background and ending with the Evian conference, the focus of this work is the events of *Kristallnacht* itself and its immediate aftermath, including the response of ordinary Germans, the Nazi follow-up, and the international response. Both the prologue and epilogue deal with Herschel Grynszpan, the young man who triggered *Kristallnacht* by shooting a German official in Paris.

Schilling, Donald G. *Lessons and Legacies II: Teaching the Holocaust in a Changing World*. Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 1998.

This volume of *Lessons and Legacies* includes a collection of essays written by noted scholars on recent developments in Holocaust history, methodology for teaching the Holocaust, and strategies for integrating the study of the Holocaust into an interdisciplinary environment.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *Historical Atlas of the Holocaust*. New York: Macmillan Publishing, 1995.

The atlas presents the story of the Holocaust in detail—country by country, ghetto by ghetto, and camp by camp. It includes more than 230 full-color maps and accompanying text, from the location of Jewish and Romani (Gypsy) communities in 1933 to the makeup of postwar Europe in 1949–1950.

Zuccotti, Susan. *The Italians and the Holocaust: Persecution, Rescue, and Survival*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1996.

Zuccotti examines the Holocaust in Italy. She notes the generous acts toward Jews that characterized the behavior of many Italians during the Holocaust but also notes the fact that antisemitic legislation was passed in Italy almost without dissent. Some Italians collaborated with the Germans in the deportation of Jews from Italy.

Zuccotti, Susan. *The Holocaust, the French, and the Jews*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1999.

Zuccotti examines the response to the Holocaust of ordinary French people. She draws on memoirs, government documents, and personal interviews with survivors to tell the story of French men and women, Jews and non-Jews, during the Holocaust.

### 3. BIOGRAPHY

Bierman, John. *Righteous Gentile: The Story of Raoul Wallenberg, Missing Hero of the Holocaust*. New York: Anti-Defamation League, 1981.

The first half of the book is a biography of the well-known figure who helped save at least 30,000 Jews in Hungary. The second part of the book describes the circumstances surrounding Wallenberg's disappearance and subsequent attempts to locate him or at least find out what happened to him.

Breitman, Richard, and Walter Laqueur. *Breaking the Silence: The Man Who Exposed the Final Solution*. Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 1986.

Eduard Schulte was a major German industrialist who abhorred Hitler and Nazism. He is the man credited with passing on to the Allies news not only of troop movements and weapon programs but of the Nazi plans for genocide. This biography relates Schulte's story from his childhood to his postwar years. The authors also describe the responses of Allied governments to the information he passed on to them.

Lifton, Betty Jean. *The King of Children: A Portrait of Janusz Korczak*. New York: Schocken, 1989.

Much of the material in this biography is taken from Korczak's diaries, but Lifton also interviewed many of his former charges and people who worked with him. In addition to the personal portrait of Korczak, a distinguished physician, writer, and educator, she includes background material on the Warsaw ghetto based on Korczak's diary and diaries of other ghetto victims.

Scholl, Inge. *The White Rose: Munich, 1942–43*. Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan, 1983.

Inge Scholl was the sister of Hans and Sophie Scholl, founders of the famous “White Rose” resistance movement in Germany. Originally written in 1952, this is the story of the Scholls and of the White Rose movement. It also includes original documents concerning their indictments and sentences. This book was previously published under the title *Students against Tyranny*.

Spiegelman, Art. *Maus* [vols. I–II]. New York: Pantheon, 1991.

Spiegelman presents his parents’ experiences during the Holocaust in a unique way; here cartoon characters represent people, with the Jews portrayed as mice and the Nazis as cats. In the first volume, the author relates the real-life trials of his parents at Auschwitz. The second volume continues their story from Auschwitz to America. The cartoon format will appeal to reluctant readers, and the satirical irony of these works make them appropriate for a wide audience.

#### 4. FICTION

Appelfeld, Aharon. *To the Land of the Cattails*. New York: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1986.

A young man and his mother living in Austria travel eastward across the heart of Europe to the distant land of the mother’s childhood. The year is 1938, and the two arrive just as the Jews of the village are being shipped off on a mysterious train to an unspecified destination. Appelfeld is a master storyteller, and this haunting narrative of an ironic pilgrimage will not easily be forgotten.

Fink, Ida. *A Scrap of Time*. New York: Schocken, 1989.

The title story in this collection of short stories concerns the way time was measured by Holocaust victims. Other stories describe people in a variety of human situations distorted by the circumstances of the times. Many of these stories can be effectively used with students.

Friedlander, Albert. *Out of the Whirlwind*. New York: Schocken, 1989.

Not all of the entries included in this anthology are fiction. Excerpts are also included from historical works and personal narratives. The book is arranged thematically, making it especially helpful for a teacher looking for material to support specific aspects of a curriculum.

Glatstein, Jacob. *Anthology of Holocaust Literature*. New York: Macmillan, 1973.

Chapters in this collection cover life in the ghettos, children, the camps, resistance, and non-Jewish victims. Excerpts are included from both works of fiction and primary source materials such as diaries, memoirs, and ghetto documents. Many of these pieces can be especially useful if teachers provide additional background information on the authors and context of the writings.



**Ozick, Cynthia.** *The Shawl*. New York: Random House, 1990.

Originally published as two separate stories in *The New Yorker*, the title story tells of a mother witnessing her baby's death at the hands of camp guards. Another story, "Rose," describes that same mother 30 years later, still haunted by the event.

**Uhlman, Fred.** *Reunion*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1977.

More a novella than a novel, this brief but moving story told in retrospect by a Jewish German youth describes his friendship with a non-Jewish German youth during the 1930s. Its brevity and readability make it especially suitable for reluctant readers.

## 5. MEMOIRS

**Ayer, Eleanor H.** *Parallel Journeys*. New York: Atheneum, 1995.

Alternating chapters contrast the wartime experiences of two young Germans—Helen Waterford, who was interned in a Nazi concentration camp, and Alfons Heck, a member of the Hitler Youth. The volume is composed mainly of excerpts from their published autobiographies, connected by Ayer's overview of the era. Teachers may want to accompany this book with the film, *Heil Hitler: Confessions of a Hitler Youth* (see p. 105).

**Boas, Jacob.** *We Are Witnesses: Five Diaries of Teenagers Who Died in the Holocaust*. New York: Henry Holt, 1995.

Boas, a Holocaust survivor, recounts the stories of five young Jews, including Anne Frank, whose diaries describe their observations and feelings during the Holocaust. These are their stories, in their own words.

**Conot, Robert E.** *Justice at Nuremberg*. New York: Carroll and Graf, 1984.

Conot provides a detailed history of the Nuremberg Trials. He covers the preparations for the trials, the interrogation and indictment of the major Nazi war criminals, the prosecution of the trial, strategies used by the defense, and the verdict and execution of the sentences handed down by the International Military Tribunal in 1946. Conot also includes a brief discussion of the difficulties involved in organizing the Nuremberg Trials, which involved representatives from the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union.

**Eliach, Yaffa.** *Hasidic Tales of the Holocaust*. New York: Vintage Books, 1988.

Through interviews and oral histories, Eliach garnered 89 tales, both true stories and fanciful legends. This compelling collection bears witness, in a traditional idiom, to the victims' suffering, dying, and surviving.

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Fenelon, Fania. *Playing for Time*. Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press, 1997.

Fenelon recounts her experiences in the Nazi concentration camps. The Nazis transported her from the Drancy camp in Paris to the Auschwitz killing center. Although her descriptions reveal the horrors of the camps, the book's primary focus is on her experiences in the Auschwitz-Birkenau women's orchestra.

Gies, Miep, and Alison L. Gold. *Anne Frank Remembered: The Story of the Woman Who Helped to Hide the Frank Family*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1988.

Miep Gies, along with her husband, was among the people who helped the Frank family while they were in hiding. Her story is an important supplement to Anne Frank's diary as it adds historical background and an outside perspective to Anne's story. Gies enables the reader to understand what was happening both inside and outside the annex.

Leitner, Isabella. *Isabella: From Auschwitz to Freedom*. New York: Anchor Books, 1994.

Leitner, a survivor of Auschwitz, recounts the ordeal of holding her family together after her mother was killed. Leitner describes her deportation from Hungary in the summer of 1944, her experiences in Auschwitz, and her evacuation to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp near the end of the war.

Levi, Primo. *Moments of Reprieve*. New York: Summit Books, 1986.

Levi was deported from Turin, Italy, to the Auschwitz camp in German-occupied Poland in 1943. He presents a collection of short stories that celebrate his survival of Auschwitz.

Levi, Primo. *Survival in Auschwitz*. New York: Macmillan, 1987.

Levi was an Italian Jew captured in 1943 who was still at Auschwitz at the time of the liberation. He not only chronicles the daily activities in the camp but also his inner reactions to it and the destruction of the inner as well as the outer self.

Meed, Vladka. *On Both Sides of the Wall*. Washington, D.C.: Holocaust Library, 1993.

This is an informative memoir of the Warsaw ghetto by one of the young smugglers who maintained contact between the ghetto and the "Aryan" side of the city. Working for the Jewish Fighting Organization (ZOB), Vladka Meed helped smuggle weapons and ammunition into the ghetto.

**Nir, Yehuda.** *The Lost Childhood.* San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991.

This compelling memoir chronicles six extraordinary years in the life of a Polish Jewish boy, his mother, and his sister, who all survived the Holocaust by obtaining false papers and posing as Catholics. Yehuda Nir lost almost everything, including his father, his possessions, his youth and innocence, and his identity, but he managed to live with the help of chance, personal resourcefulness, and the support of his family.

**Sierakowiak, Dawid, Alan Adelson, and Kamil Turowski.** *The Diary of Dawid Sierakowiak: Five Notebooks from the Lodz Ghetto.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Dawid Sierakowiak was a 15-year-old boy in the Lodz ghetto in German-occupied Poland when he began writing this diary. Edited and annotated by Alan Adelson and Kamil Turowski, Dawid provides a vivid account of daily life in the Lodz ghetto.

**Tec, Nechama.** *Dry Tears: The Story of a Lost Childhood.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1984.

The author and her family were Polish Jews who survived the Holocaust on the “Aryan” side of the ghetto. Although she escaped the worst horrors of the Holocaust, her story adds another dimension to Holocaust literature. She describes her childhood experiences as seen through the child’s eyes, but with the added perspective of her adult perception.

**Wiesel, Elie.** *Night.* New York: Bantam, 1982.

Wiesel is one of the most eloquent writers of the Holocaust, and this book is his best-known work. The compelling narrative describes his experience in Auschwitz. This narrative is often considered required reading for students of the Holocaust.

**Yoors, Jan.** *Crossing: A Journal of Survival and Resistance in World War II.* New York: Simon and Schuster, 1971.

Every summer during his teen years, Yoors left his comfortable, upper-middle-class family life in Belgium to travel around Europe with a Romani (Gypsy) family. This beautifully written journal focuses on the participation of Yoors and his fondly remembered Romani friends in resistance activities during World War II.

1. GENERAL HISTORY

**Berenbaum, Michael.** *The World Must Know: A History of the Holocaust as Told in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.* Boston: Little, Brown, 1993.

As indicated by the title, the book tells the story of the Holocaust as presented in the Museum. It includes more than 200 photos from the Museum's archives and artifact collection and many eyewitness accounts from the Museum's oral and video history collections. The three parts of the book, which correspond to the three main exhibition floors, cover the rise of the Nazis to power; the ghettos and camps; and rescue, resistance, and the postwar period.

**Dawidowicz, Lucy S.** *A Holocaust Reader.* West Orange, N.J.: Behrman House, 1976.

A companion to the historical work cited below, here Dawidowicz presents documentation to support the history. Both German and Jewish documents are provided, including reports, letters, and diaries. The general introduction to studying Holocaust documents and the introductions to each section of documents are extremely helpful.

**Dawidowicz, Lucy S.** *The War against the Jews, 1933–1945.* New York: Bantam, 1986.

Dawidowicz raises three questions: How was it possible for a modern state to carry out the systematic murder of a people for no reason other than that they were Jewish? How did European Jewry allow itself to be destroyed? How could the world stand by without halting this destruction? In Dawidowicz's view, World War II was the direct result of Hitler's antisemitism; she believes the war was waged to allow the Nazis to implement the "Final Solution."

**Friedlander, Saul.** *Nazi Germany and the Jews: The Years of Persecution 1933–1939.* New York: Harper Collins, 1997.

Friedlander recounts the step-by-step process by which the Nazi regime increased its repression against the Jews of Germany in the years between 1933 and 1939. His account includes a description of the responses of Jews at all levels of society.

Gilbert, Martin. *The Holocaust: A History of the Jews in Europe during the Second World War*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1986.

Gilbert effectively combines the results of historical research with personal narratives of survivors. Although the book is long, it is readable and extremely well-indexed, making it an invaluable tool for providing supplementary material on almost any aspect of the Holocaust.

Hilberg, Raul. *The Destruction of the European Jews* [3 vols.]. New York: Holmes and Meier, 1985.

This authoritative reconstruction of the Holocaust remains the standard text to which all others are compared. Hilberg's primary focus is on the methods of the Nazi murder process, including the organizational and bureaucratic machinery of destruction. Hilberg's explanation of the role of Jews themselves in their destruction and of the lack of resistance has been criticized.

Hilberg, Raul. *Perpetrators, Victims, Bystanders: The Jewish Catastrophe, 1933–1945*. New York: HarperCollins, 1992.

Hilberg expands his focus from the study of the perpetrator alone to include, as the title indicates, victims and bystanders. He also includes rescuers and Jewish resisters, groups that he ignored in his earlier work; however, the attention he gives to these groups is minimal. His main focus continues to be on the destruction and those responsible for it. Hitler's role is more central here than in his book *The Destruction of the European Jews*.

Levin, Nora. *The Holocaust: The Nazi Destruction of European Jewry, 1933–1945*. Melbourne, Fla.: Krieger Publishing Company, 1990.

Levin was one of the first writers to use the term *Holocaust* for the destruction of the Jews of Europe during World War II. The first part of this historical account, arranged chronologically, details the Nazi plan and implementation of the "Final Solution." The second half, arranged geographically, shows how the Nazi program was affected by individual governments and by degrees of anti-semitism. Levin emphasizes the resistance of the Jews and rejects the notion that they went to their deaths "like sheep to the slaughter."

Niewyk, Donald L., ed. *The Holocaust: Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation*. Lexington, Mass.: D.C. Heath and Company, 1992.

This series of essays by well-known historians offers distinct perspectives on five different themes of the Holocaust. The topics include the development of the Nazi plan to solve the "Jewish Question," experiences of victims, viewpoints on Jewish resistance, reactions of Christians to the "Final Solution," and finally, perspectives on rescue.

Schleunes, Karl A. *The Twisted Road to Auschwitz: Nazi Policy toward German Jews, 1933–1939*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1990.

Schleunes's groundbreaking work examines the organization and operations of the Nazi government between 1933 and 1939, in order to understand how German antisemitism evolved into a program of mass murder. Through his interpretation of the public record, the author presents an image of Hitler as a leader who provided no cohesive set of objectives or plans for dealing with the "Jewish Question" during this period. In this power vacuum, Schleunes argues that a policy evolved in a series of "jumps and starts" as the party and government agencies acted on their own initiative to curry favor with Hitler. The work offers an interesting contrast to Dawidowicz's *The War against the Jews, 1933–1945* (see p. 73).

Yahil, Leni. *The Holocaust: The Fate of European Jewry, 1932–1945*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.

Yahil demonstrates how the Nazis used the anti-Jewish program from the beginning to reinforce their power. Before the war, their deliberate violence against the Jews of Germany helped to terrorize the rest of the country, and during the war, their anti-Jewish policies were used as an excuse for taking control of the governments of satellites and occupied countries.

## 2. HISTORY, SPECIALIZED

Allen, William S. *The Nazi Seizure of Power: The Experience of a Single German Town, 1922–1945*. Revised edition. New York: Franklin Watts, 1984.

Norheim, a small town of medieval origins in the center of prewar Germany, is the setting for this absorbing study of the impact of Nazism on a single community. As one of the only detailed local studies of Nazi Germany available in English, this book is an invaluable complement to histories of Nazism from the national perspective.

Aly, Götz. *"Final Solution": Nazi Population Policy and the Murder of the European Jews*. New York: Arnold, 1999.

Aly reconstructs the events and decisions leading to the Holocaust. He examines the failures of Nazi resettlement plans and the growing ideological imperative for the Nazis to find a solution to the so-called "Jewish Question" during the war.

Bartoszewski, Wladyslaw T. *The Warsaw Ghetto: A Christian's Testimony*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1988.

The author is a Polish historian and journalist, born in Warsaw in 1922, now a retired professor of Catholic University in Lublin. He returned to Warsaw in 1941 and was one of the founders of Zegota, the council for aid to Jews. He served as liaison between the Polish underground and Jewish ghetto leadership. In this work, he intermingles his personal story with primary source material from Nazi, resistance, and ghetto documents.

**Bauer, Yehuda, and Nathan Rotenstreich, eds.** *The Holocaust as Historical Experience*. New York: Holmes and Meier, 1981.

This is a collection of essays by noted scholars in the field (Saul Friedlander, Jacob Katz, Raul Hilberg, Henry Feingold, Isaiah Trunk, and Randolph Braham, among others). It is organized into three sections: the Holocaust as historical phenomenon (the possibility and predictability of the Holocaust); case studies (Vilna, Warsaw, Hungary, and Romania); and the contentious issue of Jewish leadership in Nazi-dominated Europe. Material for the book originated at a conference titled “The Holocaust: A Generation After” held in New York in March 1975.

**Berenbaum, Michael, ed.** *A Mosaic of Victims: Non-Jews Persecuted and Murdered by the Nazis*. New York: New York University Press, 1990.

This collection of essays includes entries by a number of noted Holocaust scholars, including Berenbaum himself. The subjects of the essays include non-Jewish victims such as homosexuals, Gypsies, Serbs, Slavs, and pacifists.

**Berenbaum, Michael, and Abraham J. Peck, eds.** *The Holocaust and History: The Known, the Unknown, the Disputed, and the Reexamined*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998.

Published in association with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, this book of essays by noted scholars in the field defines the state of knowledge about the Holocaust today. The book probes topics such as Nazi politics, racial ideology, stages of the Holocaust, Jewish leadership and resistance, the Allies and Axis powers, the rescuers, and the impact of the Holocaust on survivors.

**Bridenthal, Renate, et al.** *When Biology Became Destiny: Women in Weimar and Nazi Germany*. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1984.

Claudia Koonz and Sybil Milton are among the scholars included in this collection of essays dealing with issues relating to women and families in Germany in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. Politics, feminism, and antisemitism are some of the subjects addressed.

**Browning, Christopher R.** *Fateful Months: Essays on the Emergence of the Final Solution*. New York: Holmes and Meier Publishers, Inc., 1991.

Browning renders a short review of the historiography of the Holocaust and offers an interpretation of the Nazi decision-making process that led to the “Final Solution.” The work focuses on the critical period between the summer of 1941 and the spring of 1942. The author presents evidence that growing persecution of minorities and target groups, brutal wartime reprisal measures, and the mass starvation and maltreatment of Soviet prisoners of war were components of a brutalization process that culminated in genocide. The work discusses the development of the gas van and explores how the German response to partisan warfare in Yugoslavia developed into a “Final Solution” for the local Jewish community in Serbia.

**Browning, Christopher R.** *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*. New York: HarperCollins, 1992.

In this compelling, pioneering social history, Browning attempts to explain how “ordinary,” middle-aged men became mass murderers, personally shooting thousands of men, women, and children in occupied Poland where the reservists served as members of the German Order Police. The author draws on the interrogations of 210 men who provided testimony in war crimes trials in the 1960s regarding their participation in the massacres and roundups of Jews in 1942 and 1943.

**Browning, Christopher R.** *Nazi Policy, Jewish Workers, German Killers*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Browning focuses on the evolution of Nazi Jewish policy during the first years of the war—the movement from expulsion of Jews to systematic extermination—in an effort to illuminate the mindset and behavior of local perpetrators of the Holocaust.

**Burleigh, Michael.** *Death and Deliverance: “Euthanasia” in Germany, 1900–1945*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

This well-documented study moves beyond Burleigh’s earlier work, *The Racial State* (described below), and examines three principal themes: the origins and evolution of Germany’s “euthanasia” program, the involvement of personnel from various levels of the bureaucracy, and the advancements they received for participation.

**Burleigh, Michael, and Wolfgang Wippermann.** *The Racial State: Germany, 1933–1945*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

Between 1933 and 1945 the Nazi regime tried to restructure German society along racial lines. This study shows how the Nazis’ plan to annihilate European Jewry derived from racial and population policies that also targeted the Sinti and Roma (Gypsies), the mentally and physically handicapped, the “asocial,” and homosexuals.

**Cohn-Sherbok, Dan.** *Atlas of Jewish History*. New York: Routledge, 1994.

Cohn-Sherbok traces the development of Jewish history from ancient times to the present day, placing the Holocaust within the larger context of almost 5,000 years of Jewish history. He includes more than 100 maps and 24 black-and-white illustrations.



**Conot, Robert E.** *Justice at Nuremberg*. New York: Carroll and Graf, 1984.

Conot provides a detailed history of the Nuremberg Trials. He covers the preparations for the trials, the interrogation and indictment of the major Nazi war criminals, the prosecution of the trial, strategies used by the defense, and the verdict and execution of the sentences handed down by the International Military Tribunal in 1946. Conot also includes a brief discussion of the difficulties involved in organizing the Nuremberg Trials, which involved representatives from the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union.

**Delbo, Charlotte.** *None of Us Will Return*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1968.

Delbo joined the resistance movement in France in 1940 and was arrested together with her husband by the Germans in March 1942. The Germans executed her husband but imprisoned and, later, deported Delbo to Auschwitz in occupied Poland. The book is a series of memories about the camp written in free verse and rhythmic prose in an attempt to symbolize time for prisoners in a death camp.

**Des Pres, Terrence.** *The Survivor: An Anatomy of Life in the Death Camps*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1976.

Des Pres studies survivors of the death camps in an attempt to determine what enabled people to survive. His conclusions are controversial and are unlike those of Bettelheim (*The Informed Heart*), Frankl (*Man's Search for Meaning*), and other Holocaust scholars.

**Dobroszycki, Lucjan, ed.** *The Chronicle of the Lodz Ghetto, 1941–1944*. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1987.

Himself a survivor of the Lodz ghetto, Dobroszycki introduces and analyzes the detailed records kept by Lodz archivists. He includes material about the ghetto's controversial leader, Mordecai Chaim Rumkowski.

**Dwork, Debórah.** *Children with a Star: Jewish Youth in Nazi Europe*. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1991.

This detailed study of Jewish children during the Holocaust is based on archival material and survivor interviews. The book focuses on the daily life of children in hiding and in transit camps, ghettos, forced labor camps, and killing centers.

**Engelmann, Bernt.** *In Hitler's Germany*. New York: Schocken, 1988.

Engelmann, a German raised in an anti-Nazi home, tells his own story here along with those of other Germans both for and against the Nazis. He also includes stories of those who actively resisted the Nazis and those who were indifferent to the events around them. This is a social history, focusing on everyday life.

Feingold, Henry. *The Politics of Rescue: The Roosevelt Administration and the Holocaust, 1938–1945*. New York: Schocken, 1980.

This study examines the reaction of the Roosevelt administration to the Holocaust. Feingold attempts to move beyond a moral condemnation of American inaction to examine the political context that shaped the American response. The main focus is on American and international refugee policy from the Evian Conference in 1938 to the creation of the War Refugee Board in 1944.

Friedlander, Henry. *The Origins of Nazi Genocide: From Euthanasia to the Final Solution*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1995.

Friedlander traces the Nazi “euthanasia” program in Germany from its development and inception in the 1930s until 1945. Beginning with the murder of children and expanding into a more inclusive operation, the author details the evolution of the Nazis’ eugenics policy designed to rid society of the “incurable,” institutionalized, mentally and physically handicapped, and others whom the Nazis termed “useless eaters.” One of the work’s important contributions in understanding the Holocaust is its study of the program’s bureaucratic structure and how it functioned as a precursor to the “Final Solution.”

Gallagher, Hugh Gregory. *By Trust Betrayed: Patients, Physicians, and the License to Kill in the Third Reich*. Arlington, Va.: Vandemeer Press, 1995.

A paraplegic, Gallagher provides a compelling account of Nazi Germany’s so-called “euthanasia” program that gave license to German physicians to kill mentally and physically handicapped people deemed “unworthy of life.”

Gellately, Robert. *The Gestapo and German Society: Enforcing Racial Policy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.

In this study of the Nazi secret police, Gellately combines administrative and social history. He draws extensively on Gestapo case files to show that the key factor in the enforcement of Nazi racial policy designed to isolate Jews was the willingness of German citizens to provide the authorities with information about suspected “criminality.” The author includes a chapter on racial policy aimed at Polish foreign workers.

Gutman, Israel, and Shmuel Krakowski. *Unequal Victims: Poles and Jews during World War Two*. New York: Holocaust Library, 1986.

Gutman and Krakowski examine in-depth the story of Polish-Jewish relations during the Holocaust. They analyze Polish attitudes toward Jews by region and by social class, concluding that the majority of Poles were either indifferent or actively hostile toward Jews during the Holocaust.

Gutman, Israel, and Michael Berenbaum, eds. *Anatomy of the Auschwitz Death Camp*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994.

Twenty-nine essays by scholars on all aspects of Auschwitz, including its construction, operations, perpetrators, and victims, compose this comprehensive volume published in association with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Hayes, Peter, ed. *Lessons and Legacies: The Meaning of the Holocaust in a Changing World*. Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 1991.

In this useful collection thoughtfully introduced by Hayes, various aspects of the Holocaust are examined by 16 leading scholars including Raul Hilberg, Saul Friedländer, Yehuda Bauer, Michael Marrus, Christopher Browning, and Lawrence Langer. Also included is a critical essay by Alvin Rosenfeld on the popularization of Anne Frank.

Hayes, Peter, ed. *Lessons and Legacies, Volume III: Memory, Memorialization, and Denial*. Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 1999.

A collection of essays by noted scholars (Christopher Browning, John Roth, Michael Marrus, and Debórah Dwork, among others). The essays deal with integrating the Holocaust into several disciplinary fields (history, Jewish studies, sociology, philosophy, and literary studies), the German context of the Holocaust, issues of memorialization, and combating Holocaust denial.

Herzstein, Robert E. *The War that Hitler Won: Goebbels and the Nazi Media Campaign*. New York: Paragon House, 1978.

The author illustrates the power of propaganda and the effective manipulation of mass media by focusing on the work of Goebbels and the impact of Nazi propaganda on the German people.

Horwitz, Gordon. *In the Shadow of Death: Living Outside the Gates of Mauthausen*. New York: The Free Press, 1990.

How much did people living near the camps know about what was going on? How did they cope with this knowledge? How did they find out? These and similar questions are raised in this very readable book on the complicity of bystanders in the Holocaust.

Kaplan, Marion A. *Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Kaplan draws on memoirs, diaries, interviews, and letters to paint a portrait of Jewish life in Nazi Germany. This is the story of the Holocaust told from the perspective of individuals living in an increasingly hostile world.

Klee, Ernst, et al., eds. *The Good Old Days: The Holocaust as Seen by Its Perpetrators and Bystanders*. New York: Free Press, 1991.

Originally published in Germany in 1988, this work is made up of letters, diaries, reports, photographs, and other documents, some of which were kept in scrapbooks and albums by concentration camp guards, SS officers, and other perpetrators and “sympathetic observers” of the Holocaust.

Koonz, Claudia. *Mothers in the Fatherland: Women, the Family, and Nazi Politics*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1988.

A history of the women's movement in Germany from the Weimar Republic to the Nazi era, this work emphasizes the role of women in Nazi Germany and the impact of Nazism on the family unit. Koonz also includes material on the influence of the church in defining women's roles, on female members of the resistance, and on Jewish women.

Lanzmann, Claude. *Shoah: An Oral History of the Holocaust*. New York: Pantheon, 1987.

This work consists of the text of Lanzmann's nine-and-a-half-hour film of the same name (see p. 102). The film's length makes the text extremely useful to the teacher, facilitating the process of selecting excerpts for classroom use. The text can also be used alone if the film is unavailable.

Laska, Vera. *Women in the Resistance and in the Holocaust: The Voices of Eyewitnesses*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Publishing Group, 1983.

Laska has collected more than two dozen accounts of women during the Holocaust, stressing women's resistance activities. The material is divided into three sections: resistance, hiding, and the camps. These are all first-person accounts, many of them excerpts from diaries and memoirs, and they represent a number of different countries.

Lifton, Robert. *The Nazi Doctors: Medical Killings and the Psychology of Genocide*. New York: Basic Books, 1988.

Based on German records as well as on interviews with Nazi doctors, prison doctors, and survivors of the camps, Lifton's book not only documents the role doctors played but also suggests ways they were able to rationalize their role.

Lipstadt, Deborah. *Beyond Belief: The American Press and the Coming of the Holocaust, 1933–1945*. New York: The Free Press, 1986.

Why did one of every three Americans polled in 1943 dismiss as propaganda the reports of atrocities against European Jews? Why were reports given by Auschwitz escapees in 1944 viewed with skepticism by major newspapers? Lipstadt raises these questions and others in this book on how the American news media reported (or ignored) the Nazi persecution and genocide of European Jewry.

Lipstadt, Deborah. *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*. New York: The Free Press, 1993.

Lipstadt does not refute the deniers of the Holocaust point by point (although she offers a useful appendix addressing some of their specific charges). Instead, she provides an overview of the main figures promoting denial in the United States and abroad, their motives, their methods, and an assessment of their impact on college campuses and wider public opinion.

Marrus, Michael. *The Holocaust in History*. New York: New American Library/Dutton, 1989.

In this succinct evaluation of historical accounts of the Holocaust, Marrus looks at a variety of issues: antisemitism, collaboration, resistance, and others. He presents the interpretations of leading historians in these areas and points out the strengths and weaknesses of their arguments.

Marrus, Michael, and Robert O. Paxton. *Vichy France and the Jews*. New York: Basic Books, 1981.

Marrus and Paxton examine the fate of the Jews in Vichy France. They outline the antisemitic policy of the Vichy regime and its collaboration with the Nazis.

Mendelsohn, Ezra. *The Jews of East Central Europe between the World Wars*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1983.

Mendelsohn focuses on the Jewish communities of Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia with particular attention to the relationship between Jews and Gentiles in the highly nationalist environment of the volatile period between the world wars, from 1918 to 1939.

Mosse, George. *Nazi Culture: A Documentary History*. New York: Schocken, 1981.

While primarily an anthology of original source material, Mosse includes a lengthy personal introduction as well as introductions to each section and selection. Selections include material taken from speeches, newspapers, contemporary literature, and diaries.

Noakes, Jeremy, and Geoffrey Pridham, eds. *Nazism, 1919–1945: A Documentary Reader* [2 vols.]. Exeter, United Kingdom: University of Exeter Press, 1998.

This comprehensive work includes a wide range of official, government, and party documents; newspapers; speeches; memoirs; letters; and diaries. The first volume covers the Nazis' rise to power and the domestic aspects of their regime from 1933 to 1939. Volume two examines foreign policy in the prewar and war periods, the occupation of Poland, the "euthanasia" program, and the implementation of the genocidal policies.

Phayer, Michael. *The Catholic Church and the Holocaust, 1930–1965*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2000.

Phayer examines the response of the Catholic Church as a whole to the Holocaust. He shows that without effective church leadership under Pius XII, Catholics reacted in different ways to the Holocaust. Some Catholics saved Jews, others collaborated with the Nazis, while most became bystanders to genocide.

Plant, Richard. *The Pink Triangle: The Nazi War against Homosexuals*. New York: Henry Holt, 1986.

The Nazis condemned homosexuals as “socially aberrant.” Soon after Hitler came to power in 1933, Storm Troopers raided nightclubs and other places where homosexuals met. Plant argues that about 10,000 people were imprisoned as homosexuals, and many of them perished in concentration camps. In this volume, the first comprehensive study available in English, Plant examines the ideological motivations for the Nazi persecution of homosexuals and the history of the implementation of Nazi policies.

Rubenstein, Richard L. *The Cunning of History*. New York: HarperCollins, 1987.

This slim volume is less a history of the Holocaust than an extended essay that attempts to put the Holocaust into historical perspective. Rubenstein’s original but controversial tenet essentially describes the Holocaust as the culmination of twentieth-century technology and bureaucracy.

Rubenstein, Richard L., and John K. Roth. *Approaches to Auschwitz: The Holocaust and Its Legacy*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1987.

Rubenstein and Roth explore the historical development that led to the Holocaust from both a Christian and Jewish perspective. They develop an analysis of the historical roots of the Holocaust and explore the implications of the Holocaust for the future.

Schilling, Donald G. *Lessons and Legacies II: Teaching the Holocaust in a Changing World*. Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 1998.

This volume of *Lessons and Legacies* includes a collection of essays written by noted scholars on recent developments in Holocaust history, methodology for teaching the Holocaust, and strategies for integrating the study of the Holocaust into an interdisciplinary environment.

Tec, Nechama. *When Light Pierced the Darkness: Christian Rescue of Jews in Nazi-Occupied Poland*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1987.

Tec studies those who risked their lives to save Jews in an attempt to find a sociological pattern, to determine what characteristics these people had in common, and whether they were related by class, religion, or other factors.

United States Holocaust Memorial Council. *In Pursuit of Justice: Examining the Evidence of the Holocaust*. Washington, D.C.: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 1997.

Published to mark the 50th anniversary of the verdict from the International Military Tribunal that passed judgment on some of the Holocaust's major perpetrators, this book commemorates postwar trials of Nazi war criminals and provides documentation of some of the worst crimes of the Nazi regime.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *Historical Atlas of the Holocaust*. New York: MacMillan Publishing, 1995. (Out of print)

The atlas presents the story of the Holocaust in detail—country by country, ghetto by ghetto, and camp by camp. It includes more than 230 full-color maps and accompanying text, from the location of Jewish and Romani (Gypsy) communities in 1933 to the makeup of postwar Europe in 1949–1950.

Volavkova, Hana, ed. *I Never Saw Another Butterfly: Children's Drawings and Poems from Terezin Concentration Camp, 1942–1944*. New York: Schocken, 1993.

A poignant memorial to the children of Terezin, the collages, drawings, and poems published in this selection are impressive for their artistic merit and their value in documenting the feelings and lives of the children in the camp. Some prior knowledge of what life in the camp was like will make this book more meaningful to students.

Weinberg, Gerhard L. *Germany, Hitler, and World War II: Essays in Modern German and World History*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

This collection of essays from the prominent scholar Gerhard Weinberg examines the nature of the Nazi system and its impact on Germany and the course of World War II. Weinberg places the Holocaust within the larger context of World War II.

Wyman, David S. *The Abandonment of the Jews*. New York: Pantheon, 1986.

Wyman asks and answers the basic questions about how much was known in America about the "Final Solution." In addition to his criticism of the official response from the U.S. government in general and from President Roosevelt in particular, Wyman also indicts some of the American Zionist leaders.

Zuccotti, Susan. *The Holocaust, the French, and the Jews*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1999.

Zuccotti examines the response to the Holocaust of ordinary French people. She draws on memoirs, government documents, and personal interviews with survivors to tell the story of French men and women, Jews and non-Jews, during the Holocaust.

Zuccotti, Susan. *The Italians and the Holocaust: Persecution, Rescue, and Survival*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1996.

Zuccotti examines the Holocaust in Italy. She notes the generous acts toward Jews that characterized the behavior of many Italians during the Holocaust but also notes the fact that antisemitic legislation was passed in Italy almost without dissent. Some Italians collaborated with the Germans in the deportation of Jews from Italy.

### 3. BIOGRAPHY

Anger, Per. *With Raoul Wallenberg in Budapest: Memories of the War Years in Hungary*. Translated by David Mel Paul and Margareta Paul. Washington, D.C.: Holocaust Library, 1996.

While Raoul Wallenberg is the dominant figure in this biography, the central theme of the book is the fate of Hungarian Jews in the latter stages of World War II. The author combines his personal memories as a member of the Swedish legation with a historical narrative of the events. Anger also examines the history of antisemitism in Hungarian society and how it manifested itself in 1944.

Breitman, Richard. *The Architect of Genocide: Himmler and the Final Solution*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991.

This is not a biography of Himmler in the traditional sense that it chronicles the life of the man from birth to death. Rather, it focuses on his years as a Nazi, his relationship with Hitler, and his role in masterminding the “Final Solution.” Other Nazi leaders, like Goering and Goebbels, are discussed at length.

Breitman, Richard, and Walter Laqueur. *Breaking the Silence: The Man Who Exposed the Final Solution*. Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 1986.

Eduard Schulte was a major German industrialist who abhorred Hitler and Nazism. He is the man credited with passing on to the Allies news not only of troop movements and weapon programs but also of the Nazi plans for genocide. This biography relates Schulte’s story from his childhood to his postwar years. The authors also describe the responses of Allied governments to the information he passed on to them.



Kershaw, Ian. *Hitler, 1889–1936: Hubris*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1999.

Kershaw depicts the early years of Adolf Hitler from his birth in a small Austrian village in 1889 through the remilitarization of the Rhineland in 1936. He argues that the sources for Hitler's power are to be found not only in the dictator's actions but also in the social circumstances of Germany in the early twentieth century.

Kershaw, Ian. *Hitler, 1937–1945: Nemesis*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2000.

In this second volume of his two-volume biography of the Nazi dictator, Kershaw depicts Hitler from his achievement of absolute power within Germany and early triumphs against other European powers to the destruction of Germany and his suicide in Berlin in 1945.

Sereny, Gitta. *Into that Darkness*. New York: Random House, 1983.

Franz Stangl, a convicted Nazi war criminal, was interviewed in prison by the author. These interviews were supplemented by testimony from witnesses. Stangl was commandant of the camps at both Sobibor and Treblinka. His testimony, as told to Sereny, is revealing and chilling.

#### 4. FICTION

Appelfeld, Aharon. *Badenheim, 1939*. New York: Pocket Books, 1981.

The story revolves around a group of upper-class Jews in an Austrian resort town on the eve of war. The author, himself a Holocaust survivor, creates a haunting picture of impending tragedy, heightened by the reader's awareness of the events to come.

Begley, Louis. *Wartime Lies*. New York: David McKay, 1991.

Begley, himself a child caught up in the Holocaust, has written a first-person novel about a young Jewish boy and his aunt who survive only due to a pattern of denial and compromise that leaves its own scars.

Borowski, Tadeusz. *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*. New York: Viking Penguin, 1992.

Through this collection of remarkable short stories, Borowski describes his experiences in Auschwitz and Dachau. His focus is on the atmosphere of the camps and its effect on the inner being. He probes the minds of both victims and perpetrators.

**Fink, Ida.** *A Scrap of Time*. New York: Schocken, 1989.

The title story in this collection of short stories concerns the way time was measured by Holocaust victims. Other stories describe people in a variety of human situations distorted by the circumstances of the times.

**Friedlander, Albert.** *Out of the Whirlwind*. New York: Schocken, 1989.

Not all of the entries in this anthology are fiction; excerpts also are included from historical works and personal narratives. The book is arranged thematically, making it especially helpful for a teacher looking for material to support specific aspects of a curriculum.

**Keneally, Thomas.** *Schindler's List*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992.

Oskar Schindler was an influential German industrialist with high-level connections in Nazi Germany. He used his position to protect many Jews. Keneally's absorbing biography is based on interviews with many of those helped by Schindler.

**Kosinski, Jerzy.** *The Painted Bird*. New York: Random House, 1983.

In this autobiographical novel, Kosinski chronicles the horrors visited upon a six-year-old boy wandering through Europe during the Holocaust.

**Ozick, Cynthia.** *The Shawl*. New York: Random House, 1990.

Originally published as two separate stories in *The New Yorker*, the first, very brief title story tells of a mother witnessing her baby's death at the hands of camp guards. The second story, "Rose," describes that same mother 30 years later, still haunted by the event.

**Schwarz-Bart, André.** *The Last of the Just*. Cambridge, Mass.: Robert Bentley, 1981.

Based on the Talmudic legend of 36 men of each generation upon whose virtue the existence of the world depends, this novel traces the history of the Levy family from medieval times to Ernie Levy, the last of the just, who died at Auschwitz.

## 5. MEMOIRS

Anatoli, A. *Babi Yar: A Document in the Form of a Novel*. Cambridge, Mass.: Robert Bentley, 1979.

As a Russian boy of 12, A. Anatoli used to play in the Babi Yar ravine near Kiev and was in earshot of the machine-gun fire that signaled the massacre by Nazi mobile killing units of about 33,000 Jews on September 29 and 30, 1941. *Babi Yar* is an unforgettable account of the years of German occupation.

Delbo, Charlotte. *None of Us Will Return*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1968.

Delbo joined the resistance movement in France in 1940 and was arrested together with her husband by the Germans in March 1942. The Germans executed her husband but imprisoned and, later, deported Delbo to Auschwitz in occupied Poland. The book is a series of memories about the camp written in free verse and rhythmic prose in an attempt to symbolize time for prisoners in a death camp.

Donat, Alexander. *The Holocaust Kingdom*. Washington, D.C.: Holocaust Library, 1999.

The author, a Polish Jew whose Holocaust experiences included the Warsaw ghetto, Majdanek, and Dachau, was separated from his wife and son at Majdanek but was reunited with them after the war. He tells his own story and the stories of others with whom he came in contact. His wife describes her own experiences in the final section of the book.

Eliach, Yaffa. *Hasidic Tales of the Holocaust*. New York: Vintage Books, 1988.

Through interviews and oral histories, Eliach garnered 89 tales, both true stories and fanciful legends. This compelling collection bears witness, in a traditional idiom, to the victims' suffering, dying, and surviving.

Fenelon, Fania. *Playing for Time*. Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press, 1997.

Fenelon recounts her experiences in the Nazi concentration camps. The Nazis transported her from the Drancy camp in Paris to the Auschwitz killing center. While her descriptions reveal the horrors of the camps, the book's primary focus is on her experiences in the Auschwitz-Birkenau women's orchestra.

Frankl, Viktor. *Man's Search for Meaning: An Introduction to Logotherapy*. New York: Pocket Books, 1984.

A psychiatrist and a concentration camp survivor, Frankl's work is only secondarily a personal memoir. Primarily, it is an attempt to understand and explain the psychology of camp victims through Frankl's own experiences and observations.

Klemperer, Victor. *I Will Bear Witness: A Diary of the Nazi Years*. New York: Random House, 1998.

Klemperer was a professor at the University of Dresden when the Nazis came to power in 1933. Removed from his position, but protected from deportation by his non-Jewish wife, Klemperer details the countless humiliations suffered by Jews in Nazi Germany from 1933 until the systematic deportation of Jews began in 1941.

Leitner, Isabella. *Isabella: From Auschwitz to Freedom*. New York: Anchor Books, 1994.

Leitner, a survivor of Auschwitz, recounts the ordeal of holding her family together after her mother is killed. Leitner describes her deportation from Hungary in the summer of 1944, her experiences in Auschwitz, and her evacuation to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp near the end of the war.

Levi, Primo. *Survival in Auschwitz*. New York: Macmillan, 1987.

Levi was an Italian Jew captured in 1943 and was still at Auschwitz at the time of liberation. He not only chronicles the daily activities in the camp, but his inner reactions to it and the destruction of the inner as well as the outer self.

Meed, Vladka. *On Both Sides of the Wall*. Washington, D.C.: Holocaust Library, 1993.

This is an informative memoir of the Warsaw ghetto by one of the young smugglers who maintained contact between the ghetto and the "Aryan" side of the city. Working for the Jewish Combat Organization (ZOB), Vladka Meed helped smuggle weapons and ammunition into the ghetto.

Nir, Yehuda. *The Lost Childhood*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991.

This compelling memoir chronicles six extraordinary years in the life of a Polish Jewish boy, his mother, and his sister, who all survived the Holocaust by obtaining false papers and posing as Catholics. Yehuda Nir lost almost everything, including his father, his possessions, his youth and innocence, and his identity, but he managed to live with the help of chance, personal resourcefulness, and the support of his family.

Sierakowiak, Dawid, Alan Adelson, and Kamil Turowski. *The Diary of Dawid Sierakowiak: Five Notebooks from the Lodz Ghetto*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Dawid Sierakowiak was a 15-year-old boy in the Lodz ghetto in German-occupied Poland when he began writing this diary. Edited and annotated by Alan Adelson and Kamil Turowski, Dawid provides a vivid account of daily life in the Lodz ghetto.

Wiesel, Elie. *Night*. New York: Bantam, 1982.

Wiesel is one of the most eloquent writers of the Holocaust, and this book is his best-known work. The compelling narrative describes his experience in Auschwitz. This narrative is often considered required reading for students of the Holocaust.

## 6. DIARIES

Frank, Anne. *The Diary of Anne Frank: The Critical Edition*. New York: Doubleday and Company, 1989.

This edition of the internationally acclaimed diary includes three different versions: the portion that was originally found, the revisions made by Anne herself, and the version edited by her father. In addition, there is extensive commentary on each version.

Hilberg, Raul, et al., eds. *The Warsaw Diary of Adam Czerniakow*. Lanham, Md.: Madison Books, 1982.

Czerniakow was chairman of the Nazi-appointed Jewish Council in Warsaw from the German invasion in 1939 until his suicide in 1942. His diaries record the history of the period and his personal involvement with the Germans.

Ringelblum, Emmanuel. *Notes from the Warsaw Ghetto: The Journal of Emmanuel Ringelblum*. New York: Schocken, 1974.

The official archivist of the Warsaw ghetto, Ringelblum's training as a historian made him uniquely qualified to understand the importance of documenting events inside the ghetto. He carefully collected and hid documentary evidence and personal notes.

Tory, Avraham. *Surviving the Holocaust: The Kovno Ghetto Diary*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1990.

Tory, a ghetto inmate and secretary of the Jewish Council, wrote this account under conditions of extreme danger. This chronicle documents life and death in the Jewish ghetto of Kovno, Lithuania, from June 1941 to January 1944. Translated from the Yiddish, the book includes a collection of photos and sketches by artists in the ghetto.

## 7. LITERATURE AND THE ARTS

**Adam, Peter.** *Art of the Third Reich.* New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1992.

Adam presents hundreds of examples of artwork, officially sanctioned by the Third Reich. Many of the illustrations are taken from German publications of the period and demonstrate how the nation's fine arts—including painting, film, and architecture—were manipulated by the regime into propaganda tools. Adam's book is based on his film documentary of the same name.

**Ezrahi, Sidra D.** *By Words Alone: The Holocaust in Literature.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982.

This literary history of the Holocaust discusses a number of specific works, including works in American literature. The author also focuses on the language of the Holocaust and the ways in which different writers interpret the same facts.

**Fuchs, Elinor, ed.** *Plays of the Holocaust: An International Anthology.* New York: Theater Communications Group, 1987.

The author has selected plays from a variety of nations in a number of literary styles. In addition to the plays themselves, the book includes a bibliography of Holocaust drama.

**Heinemann, Marlene E.** *Gender and Destiny: Women Writers and the Holocaust.* Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Publishing Group, 1986.

Focusing on six books by women writers, including Charlotte Delbo's *None of Us Will Return*, Heinemann examines the areas in which Holocaust literature by female writers differs from that created by male writers.

**Hochhuth, Rolf.** *The Deputy.* Translated by Richard and Clara Winston. New York: Grove Press, 1964.

Hochhuth's play examines the relationship that the Catholic Church had with Nazi Germany. The work raises important issues about authority and the courage to confront evil. The author grapples with the church's failure to act when faced with the news of the mass murder of European Jews and Catholic priests in Poland. Hochhuth's work ignited a firestorm of debate when it premiered in Berlin in 1963.

**Insdorf, Annette.** *Indelible Shadows: Film and the Holocaust.* New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990.

Films from both Hollywood and Germany are examined here as well as films produced in other, mostly western, European countries. Both documentaries and fictional films are included as are short and feature-length films. Insdorf particularly looks at whether a film confronts or evades the real issues of the Holocaust.

Langer, Lawrence L. *The Holocaust and the Literary Imagination*. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1975.

Examining specific literary works, Langer provides detailed analysis of a number of novels, including Schwarz-Bart's *The Last of the Just* and Kosinki's *The Painted Bird*. He also includes some poetry and Wiesel's *Night*, which, although nonfiction, qualifies as literature due to its "imaginative power and artful presentation."

Roskies, David. *Against the Apocalypse: Responses to Catastrophe in Modern Jewish Culture*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University, 1984.

This scholarly study of Jewish literature includes both pre- and post-Holocaust literature in addition to Holocaust literature itself. It also includes monuments and other works of art. It focuses on the literary and artistic expression of modern Jewish experience in eastern Europe, beginning in the late nineteenth century and continuing through World War I and the Holocaust into the post-Holocaust world.

Schiff, Hilda. *Holocaust Poetry*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995.

This volume includes the work of 85 poets on subjects that are linked with the Holocaust. The contributors range from world-renowned writers to those who are relatively unknown.

Skloot, Robert, ed. *The Theater of the Holocaust: Four Plays*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1982.

The four plays by Shimon Wincelberg, Harold and Edith Lieberman, George Tabori, and Charlotte Delbo reflect a range of stylistic and artistic approaches. Together, they constitute an eloquent testimony to the possibility of survival during times of extreme oppression and human degradation.

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*Sinaida Grussman holds a name card intended to help surviving family members locate her at the Kloster Indersdorf displaced persons camp in Germany. (after May 7, 1945)*

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## ANNOTATED VIDEOGRAPHY

This annotated videography has been designed to identify videotapes addressing Holocaust history that have been used effectively in classrooms. The titles listed here have been chosen both because of their individual merit and because most of them are readily available. Many excellent videotapes are not on this list because they are too difficult to obtain. Most annotations suggest a distributor from whom educators can purchase their own tapes, although the availability and distribution can change. Many of the videos may be purchased by phone and mail order from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Shop (100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126; tel. 202-488-6144; [www.holocaustbooks.com](http://www.holocaustbooks.com)). Alternatively, educators can rent or borrow the videotapes from Holocaust resource centers, libraries, and schools.

A main concern of educators using audiovisual materials on the Holocaust is that graphic footage depicting people who were starved, tortured, or killed can be upsetting to viewers of all ages. Videotaped eyewitness testimonies often contain vivid descriptions of the horrors encountered by victims. When the horror is presented, it should be done in a sensitive manner, and only to the extent necessary to achieve the objective of the lesson.

In any study of the Holocaust, the sheer number of victims challenges easy comprehension. Video footage can remind students that individual people—families of grandparents, parents, and children—are behind the statistics. The first-person accounts and stories contained in many of the videotapes provide students with a context for studying collective numbers. Although students should be careful about overgeneralizing from first-person accounts such as those from survivors, journalists, relief workers, bystanders, and liberators, these individual stories help students get beyond statistics and make historical events of the Holocaust more immediate.

This videography includes recommendations for use at the middle school and high school levels. Many of the videos are appropriate for both levels whereas others have been recommended for high school students only. Videos recommended for older students usually present concepts or topics too complex for younger students, who often lack awareness of the relevant history needed to understand the information presented.

In choosing a videotape, teachers should consider the length of the videotape and the density of the information presented. Some videotapes on this list require a considerable commitment of time; the longest is the ten-hour documentary *Shoah*. Such videos contain a great deal of historical information and should be viewed in segments.

Educators indicate that most students are engaged by the videotapes listed in this pamphlet and that they want to discuss what they have viewed. Most students demonstrate a high level of interest in studying the Holocaust precisely because the subject raises questions of fairness, justice, individual identity, peer pressure, conformity, indifference, and obedience—issues that adolescents tend to confront in their daily lives. Students also are struck by the magnitude of the Holocaust and by the fact that so many people allowed this genocide to occur by acting as collaborators or perpetrators or by failing to protest or resist as bystanders.

The videotapes on this list have been classified as documentaries, survivor testimonies, animation, docudramas, or dramas. As a general rule, this videography does not recommend the use of “docudramas,” which use dramatic license to recreate historical events. Nevertheless, three docudramas, *The Wannsee Conference*, *Au Revoir les Enfants (Goodbye, Children)*, and *Schindler’s List*, have been selected on their merits. When showing any docudrama, educators should remind viewers that the film is a fictional account of historic events.

Although videos may capture and isolate an event or a memory for the historical record, viewers should be reminded that not even documentary footage is neutral. The subjective process of selection and editing is basic to filmmaking; the decision to record something can and does alter what we see or do not see. If students are aware of this bias of selection, it can help them to analyze events from various vantage points.

For example, a good deal of documentary footage was filmed by the Nazis, often for propaganda purposes. Students can gain more sophisticated insights into the history if they examine some of the motives behind recording and producing a particular film. They should be encouraged to ask why a particular scene was filmed or how people in the film responded to having their pictures taken. Many people filmed by the Nazis were obviously under duress.

Documentary footage also was taken by camp liberators at the end of World War II. Many of these soldiers had endured the hardships of war and had seen evidence of Nazi atrocities throughout Europe. Thus, these filmmakers brought their own perspectives to their work.

Condensed accounts of the Holocaust that continually show people only as victims can in themselves be dehumanizing. Showing a video that captures life before the Holocaust provides a useful balance. Students may better understand the dimensions of the tragedy when they see the richness and diversity of Jewish life in Europe before the Holocaust. By showing images of children and their families in the kinds of situations captured on home video today such as vacations, holidays, weddings, and school graduations, teachers can use these types of films to help students identify and empathize with the victims.

Where a teacher has been unable to arrange for a survivor to meet with students in person, an alternative is the use of videos that feature survivor testimony. Hearing someone speak about his or her own experiences during the Holocaust helps to personalize an event beyond the often numbing statistics and is another way to promote students’ identification with and empathy for the victims.

The videography that follows lists videotapes by topics, beginning with videos that provide a general overview of the Holocaust. The topics are generally arranged in chronological order, beginning with videos on life before the Holocaust and continuing through ghettos and camps to rescue, resistance, and liberation to post-Holocaust subjects, including the war crimes trials. The videography concludes with videos on subjects related to but not directly addressing the Holocaust. An index to all annotated videos by title and subject can be found after the annotations.



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## KEY

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D	Documentary	DR	Drama
ST	Survivor testimony	B/W	Black and white
DD	Docudrama	C	Color
A	Animation	CC	Closed captioned

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## OVERVIEWS OF THE HOLOCAUST

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### GENOCIDE, 1941–1945 (THE WORLD AT WAR SERIES)

D, C, B/W 00:50:00

Source: Zenger Video, 10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232-0802;  
1-800-421-4246. #SV2.

Credits: Produced and directed by Michael Darlow, 1982.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

The story of the destruction of European Jewry is told using archival footage and testimonies of victims, perpetrators, and bystanders. This excellent overview has been used effectively by many teachers.

### GENOCIDE (STORY OF MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN)

D, C 01:30:00

Source: Simon Wiesenthal Center, Media Department, 9760 West Pico Blvd.,  
Los Angeles, CA 90035.

Credits: Produced by the Simon Wiesenthal Center and narrated by Orsen Welles and  
Elizabeth Taylor, 1981.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

The story of the Holocaust is told using documentary film and photographs. Provides a good overview of the topic for a general audience relatively unfamiliar with the Holocaust.

### HOLOCAUST

D, B/W 00:24:00

Source: Ergo Media Inc., P.O. Box 2037, Teaneck, NJ 07666-1437; 1-800-695-3746.

Credits: Written and directed by Ben Kerner and produced by the Israeli Film Service, David Schuetz,  
and Yigal Efrati, 1988.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

This 1988 film uses German archival footage to provide a brief overview of Nazi Germany from 1933 until 1945. Some of the topics include the Nazi rise to power, the book burning, *Kristallnacht*, the Evian Conference, ghettos, camps, and Jewish resistance.



**THE HOLOCAUST: IN MEMORY OF MILLIONS**

C 01:30:00

Source: Social Studies School Service, 10010 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232; 1-800-421-4246.

Credits: Hosted by Walter Cronkite for the Discovery Channel, 1993.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

This film serves as an introduction to the Holocaust and traces the gradual escalation of the persecution of Jews under the Nazis. It includes interviews with survivors and soldiers who liberated concentration camps as well as archival film and personal photographs.

**SHOAH**

ST, C (Part 1) 02:00:00; (2) 02:00:00; (3) 01:50:00; (4) 02:00:00; (5) 01:56:00

Source: Available in most video stores and many libraries. Also may be purchased from the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Yeshiva University of Los Angeles, 9760 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90035; 310-553-9036.

Credits: Directed by Claude Lanzmann, 1985.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

This powerful film includes interviews with victims, perpetrators, and bystanders, and takes us to the locations of the Holocaust in camps, towns, and railways. The video may be segmented for classroom use. (See Lanzmann's book on p. 81 in the Bibliography for the text of the film.)

**WITNESS TO THE HOLOCAUST**

ST, B/W 02:10:00 (Two-video set)

Source: ADL, 823 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.

Credits: Production of the Holocaust Education Project for Zachor: National Jewish Resource Center.

Produced and directed by C. J. Pressma, 1984.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

This video presents a series of seven documentaries that can easily be segmented for specific topical use in the classroom. Each segment is approximately 20 minutes in length. Survivor narration is combined with photos and historic film footage. The topics include Rise of the Nazis, Ghetto Life, Deportations, Resistance, "The Final Solution," Liberation, and Reflections.

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## LIFE BEFORE THE HOLOCAUST

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### IMAGE BEFORE MY EYES

D, C, B/W 01:30:00

Source: Simon Wiesenthal Center, 9760 West Pico Blvd., Yeshiva University of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 90035; 310-553-9036.

Credits: YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Produced by Josh Waletzky, Susan Lazarus, 1980.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

Using photographs, drawings, home movies, music, and interviews with survivors, this documentary re-creates Jewish life in Poland from the late nineteenth century up to the time of its destruction during the Holocaust. The diversity of the culture is examined as well as its achievements.

### THE CAMERA OF MY FAMILY: FOUR GENERATIONS IN GERMANY, 1845–1945

D, C, B/W 00:20:00

Source: Zenger Video, 10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232-0802; 1-800-421-4246. #ADL45V-J4.

Credits: Anti-Defamation League, 1991.

*Recommended for Middle School and High School.*

Catherine Hanf Noren left Nazi Germany with her Jewish parents shortly after her birth in 1938. This film describes her perseverance as an adult to use old family photographs to trace her family roots through several generations. A guide is included.

### THE GARDEN OF THE FINZI-CONTINIS

DR, C 01:35:00

Source: Simon Wiesenthal Center, Media Department, 9760 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90035.

Credits: Directed by Vittorio De Sica and produced by Arthur Cohn, 1971.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

Adapted from Giorgio Bassani's 1962 semi-autobiographical novel, this film chronicles the gradual disintegration of the Jewish community living in Italy at the beginning of World War II. As Fascist persecution of the Jews escalates from the onset of Benito Mussolini's antisemitic edicts in 1938 to the mass arrests and deportations in German-occupied Italy in 1943, the wealthy Finzi-Contini family opens their lush gardens to the persecuted friends of their daughter, Micol, and their son, Alberto.

## THE LAST CHAPTER

D, C 01:25:00

Source: No distributor currently available.

Credits: Narrated by Theodore Bikel; produced and directed by Benjamin and Lawrence Rothman.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

This documentary traces the history of the earliest Jewish communities in Poland through their destruction during World War II. It also examines the pogroms in the postwar period, which occurred as survivors tried to return to Poland and rebuild their lives.

## PERPETRATORS

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### A NEW GERMANY, 1933–1939 (THE WORLD AT WAR SERIES)

D, C, B/W 00:52:00

Source: Zenger Video, 10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232-0802;  
1-800-421-4246. #SV251V-J5.

Credits: Written and directed by Michael Darlow, 1975.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

This video traces the rise of Hitler to power as well as Nazi racism and antisemitic policies before the war. Photo stills and film footage are complemented by the testimonies of survivors and German perpetrators. The development and role of the Nazis' elite SS corps is highlighted.

### THE WANNSEE CONFERENCE

DD, C 01:26:49

Source: Zenger Video, 10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232-0802;  
1-800-421-4246. #SV443V.

Credits: Directed by Heinz Schirk. Coproduction of Infafilm GmbH Munich; Manfred Korytowski, Austrian Television ORF; and Bavarian Broadcasting Corporation, 1984.

*Recommended for Middle School and High School.*

The video dramatizes the famous conference where the leading Nazis discussed the implementation of the "Final Solution" by the German bureaucracy. In German with English subtitles.

### HITLER: THE WHOLE STORY

D, C, B/W 02:30:00

Source: Social Studies School Service, 10010 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232; 1-800-421-4246.

Credits: Produced by Weiner Rieb and directed by Joachim C. Fest and Christian Herrendoerfer, 1989.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

This documentary about Adolf Hitler is divided into three 50-minute tapes. Part 1, The Early Years, focuses on Hitler's early career and his successful rise to power. Part 2, The Rise of the Reich, focuses on Hitler's consolidation of power in Germany and the establishment of the Nazi dictatorship. The last tape, The War Years, focuses on Hitler's leadership during World War II and the genocidal atrocities committed by the Nazis. Based on Joachim C. Fest's biography, *Hitler*.

### HEIL HITLER: CONFESSIONS OF A HITLER YOUTH

D, C, B/W 00:30:00

Source: Zenger Video, 10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232-0802; 1-800-421-4246. #TL338V-J4.

Credits: HBO, 1991.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

Alfons Heck, a former member of the Hitler Youth and now a U.S. citizen dedicated to Holocaust education, recounts the compelling story of how he became a fanatic supporter of Nazism. Documentary footage vividly demonstrates how songs, youth camps, speeches, and propaganda turned millions of young Germans like Heck into the most fervent and loyal proponents of Nazi racism and militarism. The short length of this highly recommended film makes it especially suitable for classroom use. Teachers may wish to use Eleanor Ayer's *Parallel Journeys* to accompany this film (see pp. 60, 70).

### THE TRIAL OF ADOLF EICHMANN

D, C 02:00:00

Source: PBS Video, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314-1698; 1-800-344-3337.

Credits: Hosted by David Brinkley and produced by Daniel B. Polin, 1997.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

This film includes actual trial footage of the process in Jerusalem against SS colonel Adolf Eichmann, one of the principal organizers of the Holocaust. He was primarily responsible for the deportation of the Jews of Europe to extermination camps in occupied Poland. Eichmann's escape at the end of World War II sparked a 15-year manhunt to bring him to justice.

## RACISM, ANTISEMITISM

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### THE LONGEST HATRED: THE HISTORY OF ANTI-SEMITISM

D, C, CC 02:30:00

Source: WGBH, P.O. Box 2284, South Burlington, VT 05407-2284; 1-800-255-9424.

Credits: Thames Television and WGBH Educational Foundation, 1993.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

Drawing on interviews with Jews and antisemites as well as prominent scholars in Europe, America, and the Middle East, this video traces antisemitism from its earliest manifestations to recent outbreaks in Germany and Eastern Europe. This film can be segmented for classroom use.

### SHADOW ON THE CROSS

D, C 00:52:00

Source: Landmark Media, 3450 Slade Run Drive, Falls Church, VA 22042; 1-800-342-4336.

Credits: CTVC Production for Channel 4, England. Produced by Ray Bruce, 1990.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

This documentary film looks at the tragic story of Jewish-Christian relations over the past 2,000 years and explores the influences of historic Christian antisemitism on the Third Reich. The film is divided into two parts. Part 1 summarizes the history of religious antisemitism over the 2,000 years Jews lived in Europe as a religious minority. In Part 2, theologians discuss the implications of the Holocaust for Jewish-Christian relations today. This is useful for college or high school history, political science, religion, or philosophy classes.

### OF PURE BLOOD

D, C, B/W 01:40:00

Source: No distributor currently available.

Credits: Produced by Maryse Addison and Peter Bate. A film by Clarissa Henry and Marc Hillel, 1972.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

Using historical film footage and interviews with some of Hitler's victims, this film chronicles the Nazis' attempts to create a "master race." This is an excellent film for examining the issue of eugenics and racism. It also helps answer the question, How was Hitler representative of the master race when he failed to match the ideal of the tall, blond-haired, blue-eyed German? One segment of this film portrays nudity.

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## MOSAIC OF VICTIMS

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### ANNE FRANK: A LEGACY FOR OUR TIME

D, B/W 00:38:30

Source: SVE and Churchill Media 6677 N. Northwest Highway, Chicago, IL 60631-1304; 1-800-829-1900.

Credits: Narrated by Beverly Feldt and written and produced by Danny Miller, 1985.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adults*

Developed in cooperation with the Anne Frank Center, this film consists of two parts: The Story of Anne Frank and The Lesson of Anne Frank. Using period photography and excerpts from the *Diary of Anne Frank*, the film briefly chronicles Anne Frank's life and death as well as her plea for tolerance in a hostile world. The film includes an accompanying teacher's guide.

### CHILDREN REMEMBER THE HOLOCAUST

D, B/W 00:45:36

Source: SVE and Churchill Media, 6677 N. Northwest Highway, Chicago, IL 60631-1304; 1-800-829-1900.

Credits: Narrated by Keanu Reeves, produced by Mark Gordon, and directed by D. Shone Kirkpatrick, 1996.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

This documentary uses quotes from the diaries of Jewish children who were affected by the Holocaust, historical photographs, and documentary film footage to relate the history of the Holocaust.

### MORE THAN BROKEN GLASS: MEMORIES OF KRISTALLNACHT

D, ST, C 00:57:00

Source: Ergo Media Inc., P.O. Box 2037, Teaneck, NJ 07666; 1-800-695-3746. #616.

Credits: Written, produced, and directed by Chris Pelzer, 1988.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

Using archival footage, photographs, and interviews with survivors, the film describes Jewish life in Germany prior to and during the Holocaust. This documentary is excellent for examining the persecution of German Jews.

**ONE SURVIVOR REMEMBERS**

D, C, B/W 00:36:00

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Shop, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126; 202-488-6144.

Credits: Home Box Office in association with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Wentworth Films, Inc., 1995.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

Survivor Gerda Weissmann Klein eloquently recounts the personal story of her life before the war in Poland, her Holocaust experiences, including the painful loss of most of her family, and the suffering she endured on a final “death march” near the end of the war.

**PERSECUTED AND FORGOTTEN**

D, ST, C 00:54:00

Source: EBS Productions, 360 Ritch Street, San Francisco, CA 94107; 415-495-2327.

Credits: Medienwerkstatt Franken, 1989.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

This video follows a group of German Roma (Gypsies) as they return to Auschwitz after World War II. In personal accounts, Roma (Gypsies) recall the “Gypsy Police,” the Institute for Racial Hygiene, and the genealogical research that led to their imprisonment and murder during World War II. The Roma (Gypsies) who are interviewed also reveal the discrimination they continue to suffer.

**PURPLE TRIANGLES**

D, ST, C 00:25:00

Source: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

Credits: Produced and directed by Martin Smith, 1991.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

During the Holocaust, Jehovah’s Witnesses were persecuted as a religious group. Their story is told by surviving members of the Kusserow family who describe their arrest and incarceration in concentration camps, where they were identified by purple triangles.

### WE WERE MARKED WITH A BIG “A”

D, C, B/W 00:44:00

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Shop, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126; 202-488-6144.

Credits: Directed by Elke Jeanrond and Joseph Weishaupt, 1991.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

Little is known about the persecution of homosexuals by the Nazis. Three gay survivors tell the story of their arrests and incarceration in concentration camps. In German, with subtitles.

### JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES STAND FIRM AGAINST NAZI ASSAULT

D, C, ST, CC 01:18:00

Source: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483; 718-625-3600.

Credits: Produced by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, 1996.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

This film documents the persecution of Witnesses by the Nazi regime. It includes commentary from noted historians and testimony from more than 20 Jehovah’s Witnesses who survived Nazi persecution.

### ANNE FRANK REMEMBERED

D, C 01:57:00

Source: Social Studies School Service, 10010 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232; 1-800-421-4246.

Credits: Narrated by Kenneth Branagh and Glenn Close, 1995.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

This film uses archival film and photos, interviews with Anne’s family and friends, as well as documents to present the life of Anne Frank and her family from her years in Frankfurt, Germany, through her final years in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

### SURVIVORS OF THE HOLOCAUST

D, ST, C, B/W 01:10:00

Source: Social Studies School Service, 10010 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232; 1-800-421-4246.

Credits: Produced by June Beallor and James Molls for Stephen Spielberg and the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation and Turner Home Entertainment, 1996.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

This documentary examines the work of director Stephen Spielberg in compiling and documenting the testimony of Holocaust survivors. It includes survivor testimony on their life before, during, and after World War II.



## GHETTOS

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### LODZ GHETTO

D, C, B/W 01:43:00

Source: Alan Adelson, Exec. Dir., Jewish Heritage Project, Inc., 150 Franklin Street, #1W, New York, NY 10003; 212-925-9067.

Credits: Produced by Alan Adelson and directed by Alan Adelson and Kathryn Taverna, 1989.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

This documentary recounts the history of one of the last ghettos to be liquidated. The film draws on written accounts by Jews in the Lodz ghetto and on photographs, slides, and rare film footage. The book *Lodz Ghetto: Inside a Community under Siege* may be effectively paired with the video (see p. 64).

### THE WARSAW GHETTO

D, B/W 00:51:00

Source: Zenger Video, 10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232-0802; 1-800-421-4246. #BV103V.

Credits: BBC Production, 1969.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

Narrated by a ghetto survivor, this documentary uses historic film footage made by the Nazis and shows the creation of the ghetto, early Nazi propaganda, scenes from everyday life, and the final weeks of resistance before the ghetto was liquidated.

### THERESIENSTADT: GATEWAY TO AUSCHWITZ

ST, C, B/W 01:00:00

Source: American Film and Video Association, 1993.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

Survivors, who were children in the Theresienstadt ghetto during the war tell their stories. The film includes original artwork and photographs from the ghetto.

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## CAMPS

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### AUSCHWITZ: IF YOU CRIED, YOU DIED

D, C, B/W 00:28:00

Source: Impact America Foundation, Inc., c/o Martin J. Moore, 9100 Keystone at the Crossing Suite 390, Indianapolis, IN 46240-2158; 317-848-5134.

Credits: Impact America Foundation, 1991, 1993.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

Two survivors recount their experiences in Auschwitz after returning there with family members. Combined with historic footage, this is a moving commentary on prejudice. It also discusses Holocaust deniers. Teacher's guide available.

### TRIUMPH OF MEMORY

D, ST, C 00:30:00

Source: PBS Video, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314-1698; 1-800-344-3337.

Credits: Produced and directed by Robert Gardner with Executive Producers, Sister Carol Rittner, R.S.M., and Sondra Myers, 1972.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

Non-Jewish resistance fighters sent to Nazi concentration camps bear witness to the atrocities that took place in Mauthausen, Buchenwald, and Auschwitz-Birkenau. This film is divided into three parts, which can be segmented for classroom use: initiation to the camps, daily life in the camps, and genocide. This is an excellent film for cultivating understanding of the Holocaust and life in the camps. It also includes a discussion of the victimization of Roma (Gypsies).

### KITTY: RETURN TO AUSCHWITZ

D, ST, C 01:22:00

Source: Social Studies School Service, 10010 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232; 1-800-421-4246.

Credits: Directed and produced by Peter Marley, 1979.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

Kitty Felix Hart and her son revisit Auschwitz. She recalls how she and her mother survived their internment there. Kitty, who was in the camp between the ages of 16 and 18, tells her story and tries to comprehend what happened in Auschwitz.

### LOST CHILDHOOD: THE STORY OF THE BIRKENAU BOYS

D, ST, CC, B/W, C 00:48:00

Source: SVE and Churchill Media, 6677 N. Northwest Highway, Chicago, IL 60631-1304; 1-800-829-1900.

Credits: Written by Rich Newberg; Edited by Mike Mobrea, and Produced by Rich Newberg and Mike Mobrea, 1995.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

This documentary tells the story of 89 Jewish boys whom the Nazis deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau and selected for forced labor. Their story is told through the testimony of some of the survivors as well as through artwork and wartime film footage. The film includes an accompanying teacher's guide.

### MEMORY OF THE CAMPS

D, B/W 00:58:00

Source: PBS Video, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314-1698; 1-800-344-3337.

Credits: Frontline Television. Narrated by Trevor Howard, 1995.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

British and American film crews working for the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force in Europe entered Nazi concentration camps in 1945. Their film records what Allied armies found soon after the liberation of the camps.

## RESISTANCE

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### FLAMES IN THE ASHES

D, ST, B/W 01:30:00

Source: Ergo Media, Inc., P.O. Box 2037, Teaneck, NJ 07666; 1-800-695-3746.

Credits: A Ghetto Fighters' House Release, produced by Monia Avrahami, 1986.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

Historic, seldom seen footage tells the story of the variety of ways that Jews resisted the Nazis. Both murderers and resistance fighters tell the story. In Hebrew, Yiddish, French, Italian, and Polish, with subtitles.

## **PARTISANS OF VILNA**

D, C, B/W 02:10:00

Source: National Center for Jewish Film, Brandeis University, Lown 102, Waltham, MA 02254;  
617-899-7044. #M5053.

E-mail: [ncjf@logos.cc.brandeis.edu](mailto:ncjf@logos.cc.brandeis.edu)

Website: [www.brandeis.edu/jewishfilm/index.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/jewishfilm/index.html)

Credits: Produced by Aviva Kempner and directed by Josh Waletzky, 1987.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

Featuring 40 interviews with survivors, this film tells the story of Jewish resistance in the Vilna ghetto. Music sung in the ghetto and resistance as well as archival film footage add to the production. The film documents the moral dilemmas and difficulties the resisters faced both inside the ghetto and later, in relations with non-Jews in partisan camps in the forests. It also shows the prominent role women played in the Vilna resistance. An important film best suited for more advanced students of the Holocaust. In Hebrew, Yiddish, and English, with subtitles.

## **ESCAPE FROM SOBIBOR**

DR, C 02:29:00

Source: Social Studies School Service, 10010 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232;  
1-800-421-4246.

Credits: Directed by Jack Gold and starring Alan Arkin and Rutger Hauer, 1987.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

This film is a recreation of the prisoner uprising at the Sobibor extermination camp in occupied Poland. In mid-October 1943, more than 300 Jewish prisoners escaped from the camp in the face of German machine-gun fire and by running across a minefield; more than 100 were recaptured and later shot.

## **DARING TO RESIST: THREE WOMEN FACE THE HOLOCAUST**

D, C, B/W 00:57:18

Source: Women Make Movies, Inc., 462 Broadway Suite 500, New York, NY 10013;  
212-925-0606.

Credits: Produced and directed by Barbara Attie and Martha Goell Lubell and narrated by Janeane Garofalo, 1999.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

This film tells the story of three Jewish teenage girls: Faye Schulman, a photographer and partisan fighter in the forests of eastern Poland; Barbara Rodbell, a ballerina in Amsterdam who delivered underground newspapers as well as secured food and other aid for Jews in hiding; and Schulamit Lack, who acquired false papers and a safe house for Jews attempting to flee Hungary.

## RESCUE

### ASSIGNMENT RESCUE: THE STORY OF VARIAN FRY AND THE EMERGENCY RESCUE COMMITTEE

D, C, B/W 00:26:00

Source: Social Studies School Service, 10010 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232; 1-800-421-4246.

Credits: Narrated by Meryl Streep; directed by Richard Kaplan, produced by Richard Kaplan and Christina Lazard; written by Christina Lazardi, 1997.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

The film tells the story of Varian Fry, one American man who was able to enter Vichy France and help hundreds of men and women, including prominent artists such as Marc Chagall, Jacques Lipschitz, and Andre Breton, to escape the Nazis to safety in the United States in 1940.

### THE COURAGE TO CARE

D, C, B/W 00:28:00

Source: Zenger Video, 10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232-0802; 1-800-421-4246. #ADL150V.

Credits: Produced and directed by Robert Gardner with Executive Producers Sister Carol Rittner, R.S.M., and Sondra Meyers, 1986.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

The film, nominated in 1986 for an Academy Award for best short documentary film, encounters ordinary people who refused to succumb to Nazi tyranny and reached out to help victims of the Holocaust.

### THE OTHER SIDE OF FAITH

D, ST, C 00:27:00

Source: Documentaries International Film and Video Foundation, 1800 K Street, NW, Suite 1120, Washington, DC 20006; 202-429-9320.

Credits: Produced by Sy Rotter, 1990.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

Filmed on location in Przemysl, Poland, this first-person narrative tells of a courageous sixteen-year-old Catholic girl who, for two-and-a-half years, hid thirteen Jewish men, women, and children in the attic of her home.

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**RAOUL WALLENBERG: BETWEEN THE LINES**

D, ST, C, B/W 01:25:00

Source: Zenger Video, 10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232-0802;  
1-800-421-4246. #SV996V.

Credits: Written and directed by Karin Altmann, 1985.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat, was responsible for saving thousands of lives. Friends, family, and former members of his staff describe Wallenberg's efforts to stem the Nazi destruction of Hungarian Jewry. The video also examines the controversy surrounding his arrest and imprisonment in 1945 by the Soviets. Historic film footage is used.

**AU REVOIR LES ENFANTS (GOODBYE, CHILDREN)**

DD, C 01:03:00

Source: Orion Home Video, 1888 Century Park East, Los Angeles, CA 90067;  
310-282-2576

Credits: Produced and directed by Louis Malle, 1987.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

Based on Malle's own experiences in a French boarding school during the German occupation, this moving film documents the friendship between a 12-year-old Catholic boy and a Jewish youngster being sheltered at the school by a priest. The movie ends with the betrayal of the hidden child's identity to the Gestapo and his arrest, along with the priest. In French, with subtitles.

**SCHINDLER'S LIST**

DD, B/W, C 03:17:00

Source: Zenger Video, 10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232-0802;  
1-800-421-4246. #MCA172V-J5.

Credits: Directed by Steven Spielberg, adapted from Thomas Keneally's fictionalized account of a true story, 1993.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

Shot on location in Poland in stark black-and-white, this compelling Oscar-winning film tells the story of German businessman Oskar Schindler who saved more than 1,000 Jews from deportation and death. The book *Schindler's List* by Thomas Keneally (see p. 87) chronicles the story more fully and with the greater nuance that a written account allows. Contains graphic violence, strong language, and nudity.

### WEAPONS OF THE SPIRIT

D, C 00:38:00

Source: Zenger Video, 10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232-0802;  
1-800-421-4246. #ADL156V.

Credits: Written, produced, and directed by Pierre Sauvage, 1988.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

This is the story of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, a small Protestant village in south-central France, and how its predominantly Protestant citizens responded to the Nazi threat against the Jews. Residents of the area hid and cared for 5,000 Jews, many of them children.

## AMERICAN AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

### SAFE HAVEN

D, ST, C 00:57:40

Source: No distributor currently available.

Credits: WXXI-TV, Rochester, NY. Produced and directed by Paul Lewis, 1987.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

*Safe Haven* tells the story of America's only refugee camp for victims of Nazi terror. Nearly 1,000 refugees were brought to Oswego, New York, and held for 18 months in a camp known as Fort Ontario.

### WHO SHALL LIVE AND WHO SHALL DIE?

D, B/W 01:30:00

Source: Zenger Video, 10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232-0802;  
1-800-421-4246. #KN103V-J4.

Credits: Produced by James R. Kurth and Laurence Jarvik and directed by Laurence Jarvik, 1982.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

This film examines American responses to the Holocaust with particular attention to the actions (or failures to act) of American Jewish leaders. It is a detailed, informative presentation of a complex topic, with oral testimony from a wide range of Jews and non-Jews involved with the issue of Jewish rescue. Graphic images.

## AMERICA AND THE HOLOCAUST: DECEIT AND INDIFFERENCE

D, B/W, C 01:00:00

Source: PBS Video, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314-1698; 1-800-344-3337.

Credits: Produced by Marty Ostrow, 1994.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

This film focuses mostly on the responses of Roosevelt, the State Department, and other U.S. government leaders to the Nazis' persecution and mass murder of European Jews. Weaving together interviews, official photos and documents, home movies, and archival footage, the production is especially good at tracing the complex social and political factors that shaped American responses to the Holocaust. The history is interwoven with the moving personal story of Jewish refugee Kurt Klein, who failed in his efforts to obtain visas for his parents to follow him to the United States.

## THE DOUBLE CROSSING: THE VOYAGE OF THE *ST. LOUIS*

D, B/W, C 00:29:00

Source: Zenger Video, 10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232-0802;

1-800-421-4246. #ER110V-J4.

Credits: A production of the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois and Loyola University of Chicago. Produced by Elliot Lefkovitz and Nancy Partos, 1992.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

More than 900 Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi Germany in 1939 on the luxury cruise ship the *St. Louis* were denied entry to Cuba and the United States and forced to return to Europe. In interviews interwoven with archival footage and photos, surviving passengers relive their voyage. The general issues this highly recommended film addresses—racism, quota systems for refugees, and immigration policies—remain urgent ones today.

## THE BOAT IS FULL

DR, B/W 01:44:00

Source: Zenger Video, 10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232-0802;

1-800-421-4246. #FJ100V-J4.

Credits: Produced by George Reinhart, Limbo Films, Inc., in coproduction with SRG, ZDF, ORF and directed by Markus Imhoo, 1980.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

In 1942, the Swiss government, alarmed at the vast numbers of people fleeing Nazi Germany, established stringent immigration policies as they declared the country's "lifeboat" full. Nominated for an Academy Award for best foreign film, this suspenseful drama tells the story of a group of refugees forced back to the border by ordinary citizens too frightened or indifferent to take them in. In German, with English subtitles.



## LIBERATION

### HOLOCAUST: LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

D, B/W, C 00:18:00

Source: Zenger Video, 10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232-0802;  
1-800-421-4246. #EBE 296 V.

Credits: Encyclopedia Britannica, 1990.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

The liberation of Auschwitz is filmed by Soviets, whose cameras linger on the faces of the inmates. Commentary describes the selection process, medical experiments, and daily life at Auschwitz. Soviet cameraman Alexander Vorontsov shares his impressions of the liberation. Highly graphic footage is included.

### LIBERATION 1945: TESTIMONY

D, B/W, C 01:16:00

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126; 202-488-6144.

Credits: Produced by Sandy Bradley, Wentworth Films, in association with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 1995.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

This film includes expanded eyewitness testimony produced for the Museum's special exhibition, *Liberation 1945*. Jewish survivors and Allied liberators recall how they felt at liberation and describe conditions inside the camps, including difficulties faced by medical relief teams working in the liberated camps. Survivors interned in displaced persons camps describe the organization of those camps and their efforts both to find surviving family members and, by marrying, to establish new families.

### OPENING THE GATES OF HELL

D, B/W, C 00:45:00

Source: Ergo Media Inc., P.O. Box 2037, Teaneck, NJ 07666; 1-800-695-3746.

Credits: Production of the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois and Loyola University of Chicago. Directed by Timothy Roberts, 1992.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

American liberators of the Nazi concentration camps share their memories of what they saw. Interviews are effectively combined with historic photos and footage showing the camps that were liberated by Americans: Buchenwald, Nordhausen, Dachau, Landsberg, and Mauthausen. The video includes graphic footage.

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## WAR CRIMES TRIALS

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### MURDERERS AMONG US: THE SIMON WIESENTHAL STORY

DR, C 02:57:55

Source: Zenger Video, 10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232-0802;  
1-800-421-4246. #WV117V.

Credits: HBO Pictures, Robert Cooper Production. Produced by John Kemeny and Robert Cooper, 1988.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

This is the true story of a Holocaust survivor who committed himself in the years after liberation to the task of hunting Nazis and bringing them to justice. It is also useful for examining the response to the Holocaust in the postwar period.

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## RELATED FILMS

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### THE FORGOTTEN GENOCIDE

D, ST, C, B/W, CC 00:28:00

Source: Atlantis Productions, 1252 La Granada Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362;  
805-495-2790.

Credits: Written, produced, and directed by J. Michael Hagopian, Ph.D., 1975.

*Recommended for Middle School, High School, and Adult.*

Nominated for an Emmy, this is a shortened version of *The Armenian Case*, which documents the Armenian genocide that took place during and after World War I. Personal narrative is included with historic photos and film footage.

### FOR THE LIVING

D, C 01:00:00

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW,  
Washington, DC 20024-2126; 202-488-6144.

Credits: Produced by WETA, Washington, D.C., 1993.

*Recommended for High School and Adult.*

This film documents the creation, design, and building of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Combining archival film footage and photos with on-location scenes at former Nazi camps in Poland, the video shows how the Museum's Permanent Exhibition tells the story of both victims and survivors of the Holocaust. This film works best as an orientation for visitors to the Museum.

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## FRONT COVER PHOTOS

*(left to right)*

*Two members of the SA encourage the boycott of Jewish-owned businesses. (April 1, 1933)*

*Bildarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz*

*A member of the SA throws confiscated books into a bonfire during the public burning of "un-German" books in Berlin, Germany.*

*(May 10, 1933)*

*USHMM*

*These shops in Berlin were among more than 7,000 Jewish-owned businesses that were vandalized in anti-Jewish riots known as Kristallnacht*

*("The Night of Broken Glass"). (November 10, 1938)*

*Bildarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz*

*Prisoners stand during a roll call at the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany. (ca. 1938–1941)*

*USHMM*

*(bottom)*

*A Jewish girl from Vienna sits on a staircase after her arrival in England. Close to 10,000 children found refuge in England in what was called the Kindertransport. (December 12, 1938)*

*U.S. National Archives and Records Administration*

## BACK COVER PHOTOS

*(left to right)*

*Jews cross a pedestrian bridge from one section of the Lodz ghetto (in Poland) to another. German guards control access to the ghetto from the street below—a main thoroughfare that is not part of the ghetto. (1941)*

*USHMM*

*Under SS guard, prisoners perform forced labor in the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. (1942)*

*National Archives and Records Administration*

*Prisoners perform forced labor in the Plaszow concentration camp in Poland. (ca. 1943–44)*

*Leopold Page Photographic Collection, courtesy of USHMM*

*Members of the SS separate Hungarian Jewish men from women and children upon arrival at the Auschwitz-Birkenau killing center in Poland.*

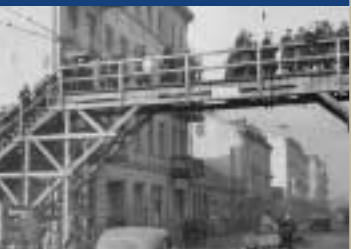
*After separating the victims by gender, the SS selected individuals for forced labor or murder in gas chambers. (Spring 1944)*

*Yad Vashem*

*(bottom)*

*Sinaida Grussman holds a name card intended to help surviving family members locate her at the Kloster Indersdorf displaced persons camp in Germany. (after May 7, 1945)*

*USHMM*



Lodz Ghetto, 1941



Mauthausen, 1942



Plaszow, 1943-44



Auschwitz, 1944

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20024-2126  
[www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org)



DP Camp, 1945