

# THE GENOCIDE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE



60 Minutes Video: Hitler's Secret Archive

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/revisiting-the-horrors-of-the-holocaust/>

# CONCENTRATION CAMPS

- Concentration Camps: Refers to a camp where people are confined.
  - Usually harsh conditions
  - Usually imprisoned without following democracy
  - Part of Nazi Germany from 1933-1945
- First camps in Germany established after Hitler was appointed as Chancellor.
  - The SS (elite Nazi guards) organized camps to detain political opponents



# CONCENTRATION CAMPS

- As Nazi Germany expanded between 1938 and 1939, the numbers of political opponents increased.
  - Before the Germans invaded Poland, unleashing WWII, there were already 6 camps:
  - Prisoners were used as forced laborers
  - Stone quarries, coal mines, construction labor
- After WWII started, Sept. 1939, Germans conquered new territory=more prisoners.



# EUTHANASIA PROGRAM

- Euthanasia= means “good death”

- Painless death for a terminal ill person
- Nazi’s targeted a mentally and physically disabled patients living in institutions
- Saw as a financial burden
- This program predated the genocide of Jews (Holocaust) by 2 years
- Goal: to restore racial integrity of German nations

- Child Euthanasia Program

- August 1939, physicians and nurses were asked to report children under age 3 who showed signs of a disability
- Encourage parents to admit child to a clinic in Germany and Austria
- Reality: Killing wards—lethal overdose of medication
- Went up to age 17
- 1939-1945=5,000 children were killed in this program



*The Hartheim Institute - one of the hospitals where the Euthanasia Program was carried out*

# EXTENDING THE EUTHANASIA PROGRAM

- Eventually adult disabled patients were included in this secret program
  - Hitler protected doctors and medicals staff from prosecution
  - Under this program 6 gas chambers were built
  - Families of the deceased were sent an urn and death certificate (falsified records)
  - From Jan. 1940 to August 1941 about 70,273 were gassed
  - Hitler stopped the program in August 1941



# THE HOLOCAUST

- State-sponsored persecution
- Murder of about 6 million Jews by the Nazi regime.
- Holocaust=“sacrifice by fire”
  - Greek word
- Jews viewed as an alien threat; inferior to Germans. Didn't fit the social norm.
  - Gypsies (Roma): From Northern India
  - Poles
  - Russians
  - Communists
  - Jehovah Witnesses



# THE HOLOCAUST

- Most Jews lived in countries that Nazi Germany would occupy during WWII.
  - Nearly 2 out of every 3 were killed
  - “Final Solution” —Genocide Plan to murder all Jews in Europe
- To monitor Jewish population
  - Created ghettos
  - Jews were deported to ghettos, labor-camps, extermination camps



# DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CAMPS

A black and white photograph of a concentration camp. In the foreground, there are several strands of barbed wire supported by wooden posts, forming a path that leads into the distance. On the left and right sides, there are long, multi-story brick buildings with many windows. In the background, there are trees and a small, dark, square tower with a pointed roof, likely a guard post. The sky is overcast.

- Concentration Camps vs. Extermination Camps
  - Concentration camps mainly served as detention/ labor centers
  - Extermination Camps (also called Killing Centers) were “death factories”



# THE END OF THE HOLOCAUST

- During the final months of the war, SS guards moved camp inmates by train or on forced marches (“death marches”)
  - Goal= to prevent large numbers of prisoners being liberated by the Allies
  - Allied forces liberated camp prisoners as they moved across Europe
  - Marches continued till May 7, 1945, the day the German armed forces surrendered

# AFTERMATH OF THE HOLOCAUST



- Allied powers had displaced person camps
  - Provided shelter
  - Open until 1957
- 700,000 Jews migrated to Israel
  - Many went to the United States and other nations
- War Crime Trials—Nuremberg Trials
  - Included Nazi party members, military officers, lawyers, and doctors
  - 12 of the convicted were sentenced to death
  - 3 life imprisonment
  - 4 10 to 20 years

# SURVIVORS

- When thinking about the Holocaust, there shouldn't be a focus on the Jews as victims, but rather as survivors.
  - Symbol of hope
  - Went onto rebuild their lives
  - Courage to tell their stories
- What we can learn from this event?
  - Human rights need to be protected
  - Not to keep silent when others suffer
  - Democratic institutions and values are not automatic

