

# WWII: The Holocaust

**"KTO NIE PAMIĘTA HISTORII SKAZANY  
JEST NA JEJ PONOWNE PRZEŻYCIE"**

**GEORGE SANTAYANA**

**"THE ONE WHO DOES NOT REMEMBER  
HISTORY IS BOUND TO LIVE THROUGH IT  
AGAIN"**

**GEORGE SANTAYANA**

**11 million people were exterminated**



6 million Jews      5 million people  
1933 - 1945



**They were shot, starved,  
gassed and burned...**

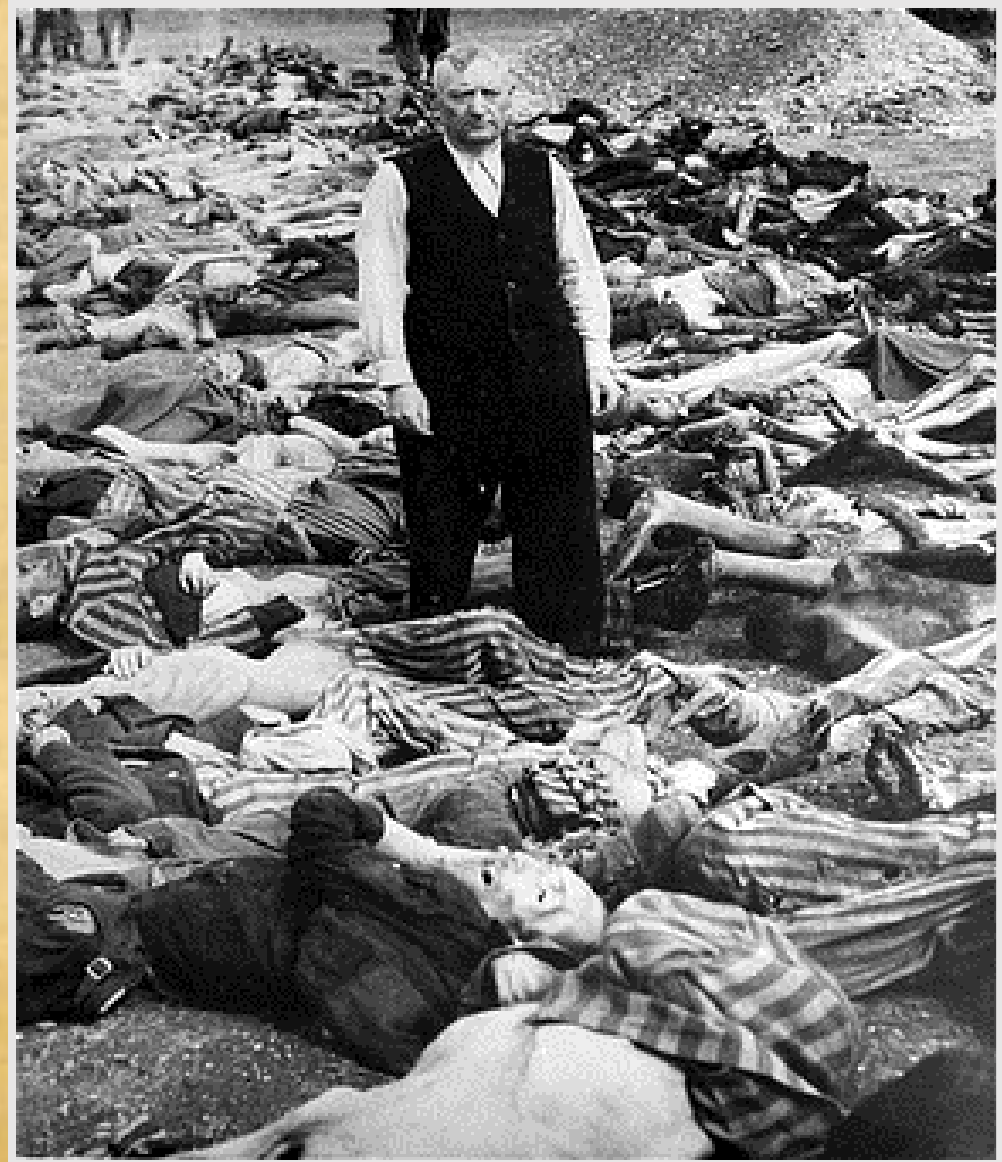


# Defining the Holocaust

- **HOLOCAUST**

The annihilation of the Jews and other groups of people of Europe under the Nazi regime during World War II

- **GENOCIDE:** the systematic extermination of a nationality or group



# Cold Hard Facts

Casualties of the Holocaust:

**63%** of Jewish population in Europe killed

**91%** of Jewish population in Poland killed

Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by Soviet troops on Jan. 27, 1945. The Soviets found 836, 255 women's dresses, 348, 000 men's suits, 38, 000 pairs of men's shoes and 14, 000 pounds of human hair. But only **7, 650 live prisoners**

# How did the Holocaust Happen?

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- The Power of Words
- The Stages of Isolation
- Anti-Semitism



# The Power of Words...

- “The great masses of the people will more easily fall victims to a big lie than a small one”
- “How fortunate for leaders that men do not think”
- “The victor will never be asked if he told the truth”
- “The personification of the devil as the symbol of all evil assumes the living shape of the Jew”

*What do all these quotes have in common?*



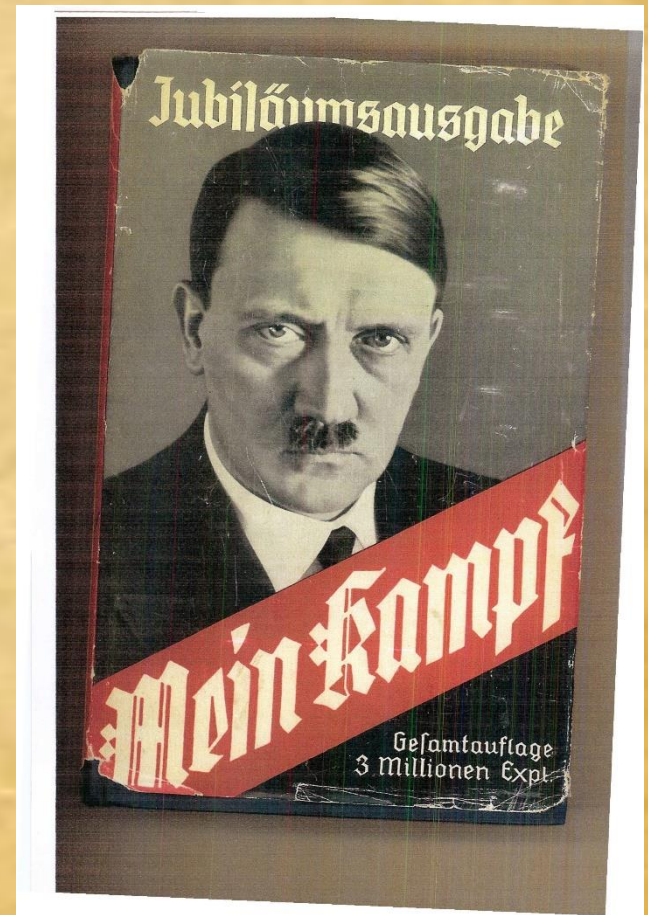
# All Quotes of Adolf Hitler...



# Anti-Semitic Propaganda

*"Propaganda attempts to force a doctrine on the whole people... Propaganda works on the general public from the standpoint of an idea and makes them ripe for the victory of this idea."*

Adolf Hitler wrote these words in his book *Mein Kampf* (1926), in which he first advocated the use of propaganda to spread the ideals of National Socialism—among them racism, anti-Semitism, and anti-Bolshevism.



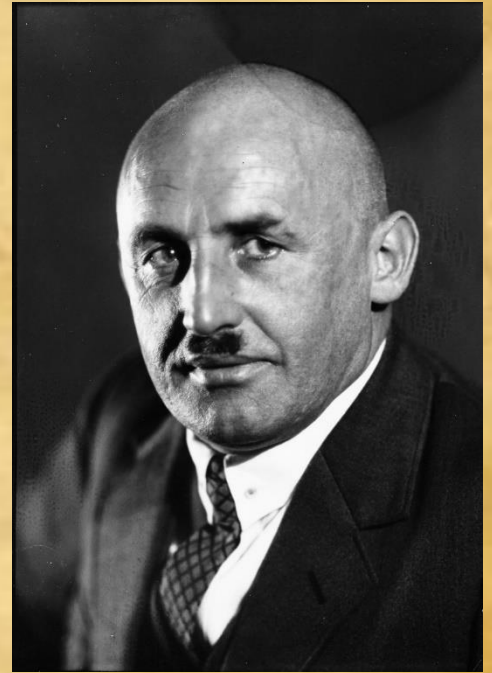
# Anti-Semitic Propaganda

- Posters
- Films
- Books (even for children!)



In a further speech in April 1925, Streicher declared:

*"You must realize that the Jew wants our people to perish. That is why you must join us and leave those who have brought you nothing but war, inflation, and discord. For thousands of years the Jew has been destroying the nations. Let us make a new beginning today so that we can annihilate the Jews."*



“He is guilty for the war”



Illustration from a children's book: says "Jews are our misfortune"



# Der Giftpilz

- <http://www.professorgair.com/poisonous-mushroom-with.pdf>



„Wie die Giftpilze oft schwer von den guten Pilzen zu unterscheiden sind, so ist es oft sehr schwer, die Juden als Gainer und Verbrecher zu erkennen...“

# European Jewish Population in 1933 was 9,508,340





# Estimated Jewish Survivors of Holocaust: 3,546,211



# The Stages of Isolation

*The Holocaust was a progression of actions leading to the annihilation of millions by:*

- 1: Stripping of Rights
- 2: Segregation
- 3: Concentration
- 4: Extermination

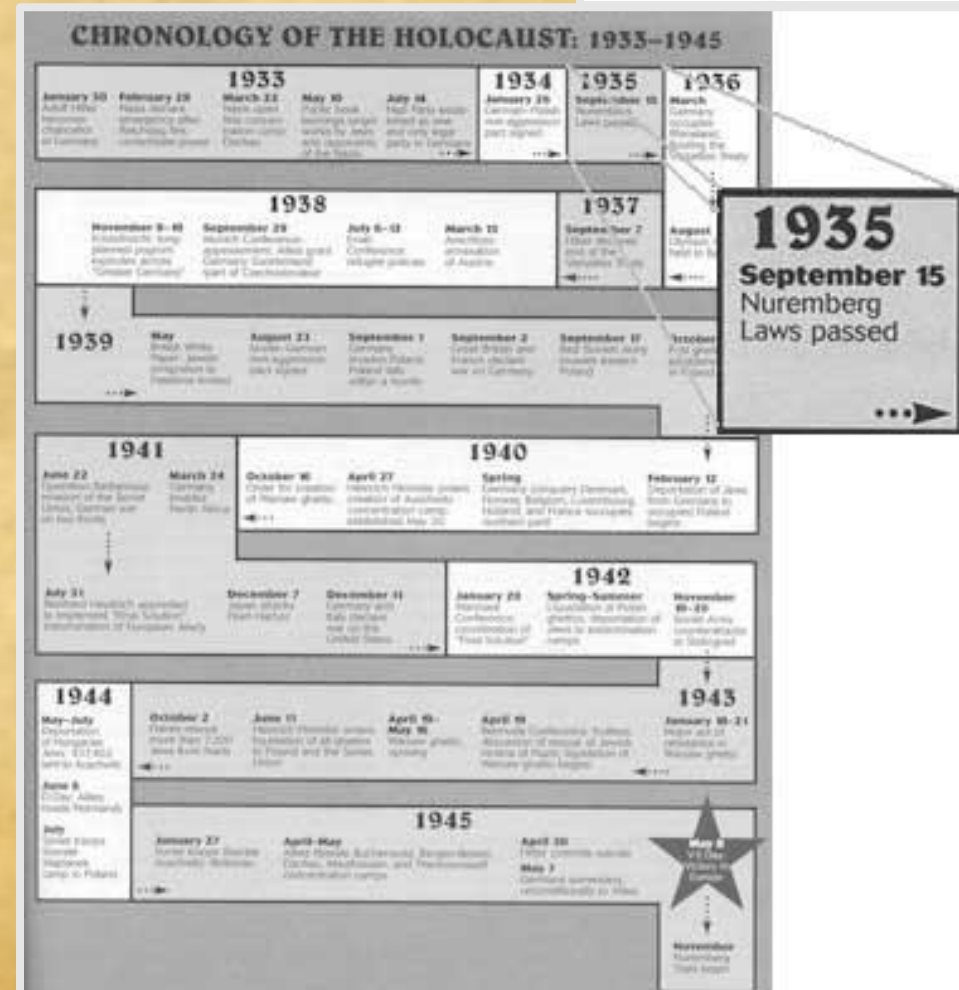


# Stage 1: Stripping of Rights



1935: Nuremberg Laws stated that all JEWS were :

- stripped of German citizenship
- fired from jobs & businesses boycotted
- banned from German schools and universities
- Marriages between Jews and Aryans forbidden
- Forced to carry ID cards
- Passports stamped with a “J”
- forced to wear the arm band of the Yellow “Star of David”
- Jewish synagogues destroyed
- forced to pay reparations and a special income tax



# “NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS”



Residents of Rostock, Germany, view a burning synagogue the morning after *Kristallnacht* (“Night of Broken Glass”). On the night of November 9–10, 1938, the Nazi regime unleashed orchestrated anti-Jewish violence across greater Germany.

# “NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS”



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



# Schindler's List

*“Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire”*

Oskar Schindler is a vain, glorious and greedy German businessman who becomes unlikely humanitarian amid the barbaric Nazi reign when he feels compelled to turn his factory into a refuge for Jews. Based on the true story of Oskar Schindler who managed to save about 1100 Jews from being gassed at the Auschwitz concentration camp. A testament for the good in all of us.

- Clip 1: Chapter 5 (entering ghetto)- 5 min

# Stage 2: Segregation



## GHETTOS

- Jews were forced to live in designated areas called “ghettos” to isolate them from the rest of society
- Nazis established 356 ghettos in Poland, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Hungary during WWII
- Ghettos were filthy, with poor sanitation and extreme overcrowding
- Disease was rampant and food was in such short supply that many slowly starved to death
- Warsaw, the largest ghetto, held 500,000 people and was 3.5 square miles in size

**Nazi ghettos** were a preliminary *step* in the annihilation of the Jews, as the ghettos became transition areas, used as collection points for deportation to concentration & death camps





# Schindler's List

- Entering the ghetto: 17:56-21:50
- Clip 2: Start at 45:00 min - 49:30 (train)
- Clip 3: Chapter 14 (Liquidation of Ghetto)-  
17 min (56:59-1h13)

# Stage 3: Concentration Camps



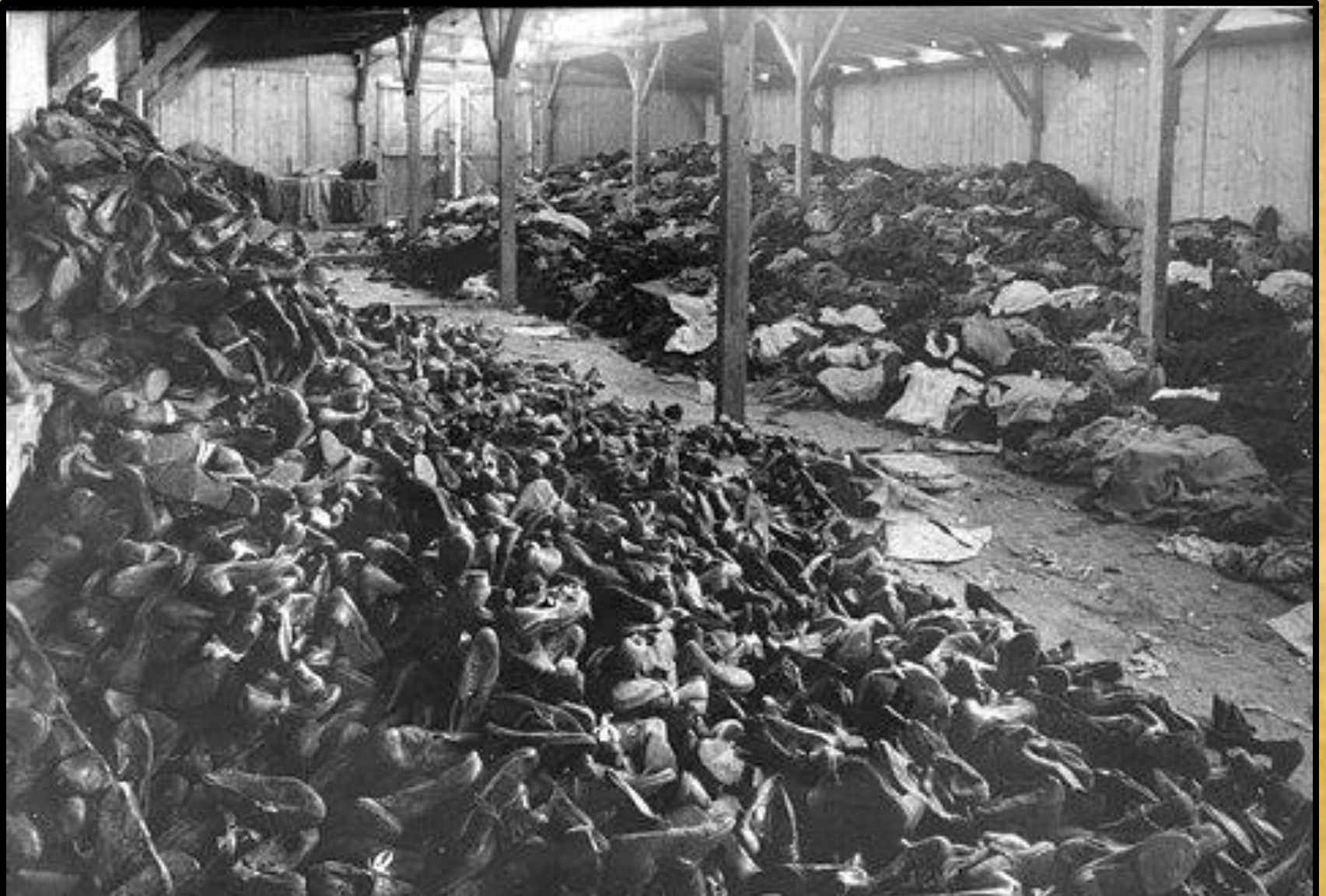
- **Essential to Nazi's systematic oppression and eventual mass murder of enemies of Nazi Germany (Jews, Communists, homosexuals, opponents)**
- **Slave labor "annihilation by work"**
- **Prisoners faced undernourishment and starvation**
- **Prisoners transported in cattle freight cars**
- **Camps were built on railroad lines for efficient transportation**



# Life in the Camps



- possessions were confiscated
- heads were shaved
- arms tattooed
- Prison uniforms
- Men, women and children were separated
- Survival based on trade skills / physical strength
- Unsanitary, disease ridden and lice infested barracks
- inhumane medical experiments



**Nazis confiscated property of prisoners in storerooms nicknamed “Kanada” because the sheer amount of loot stored there was associated with the riches of Canada**





## Kennzeichen für Schuhhäftlinge in Den Konz.-Lagern

IV/5

*Form und Farbe der Kennzeichen*

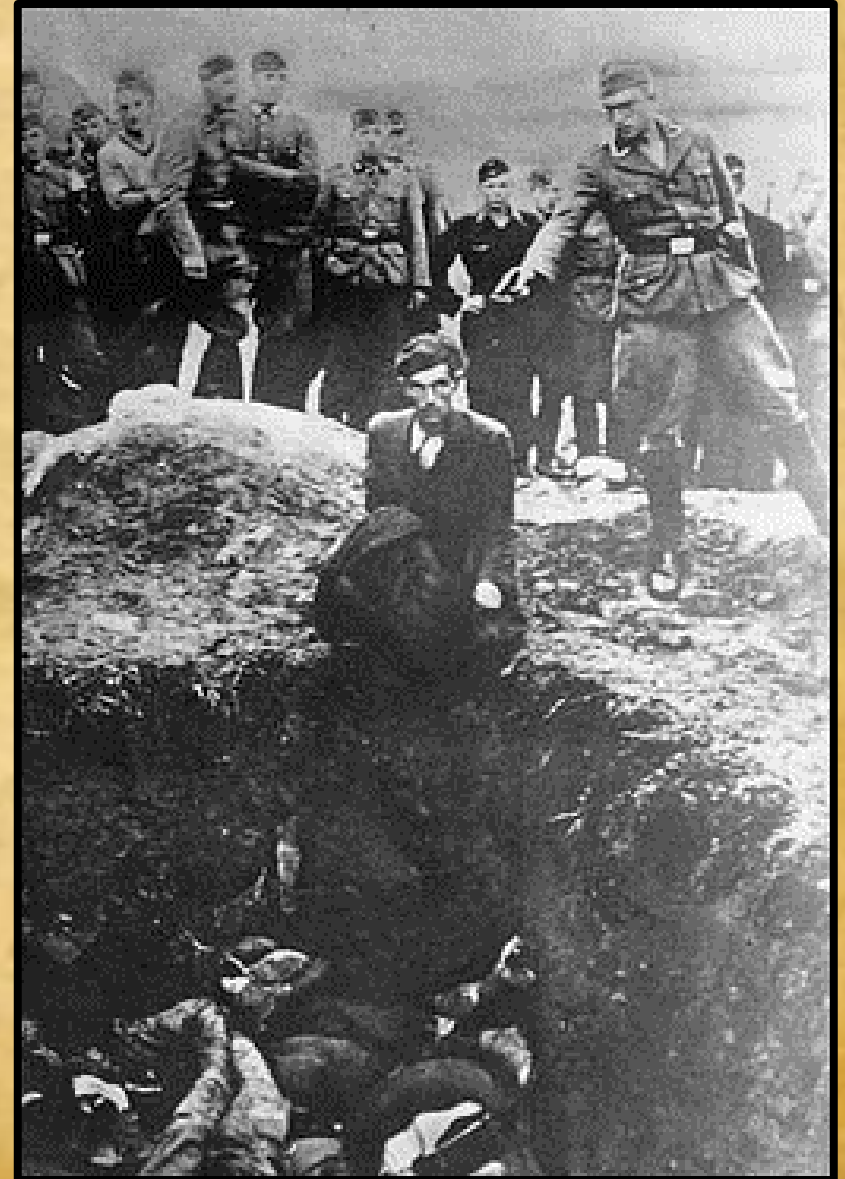
	Deutsche	Neuschweizer	Engländer	Polenlager	Russländer	Arbeitslager Rote	Arbeitslager Schwarze
Rechteckige							
Rechteckig mit Balken							
Rechteckig mit Kreuzchen							
Dreieckig							

### Besondere Kennzeichen

			2051	
Polen Kriegsgefangene	Russische Kriegsgefangene	Polen Kriegsgefangene	2051	Polen Kriegsgefangene
Polen Kriegsgefangene mit Kreuzchen	Polen Kriegsgefangene			
Polen Kriegsgefangene	Polen Kriegsgefangene			

# Stage 4: Extermination

- **Einsatzgruppen** (mobile killing units) had begun killing operations aimed at entire Jewish communities in the 1930s
- **DEATH FACTORIES:** Nazi extermination camps fulfilled the singular function of mass murder
- **Euthanasia** program: Nazi policy to eliminate “life unworthy of life” (mentally or physically challenged) to promote Aryan “racial integrity”





# “FINAL SOLUTION”

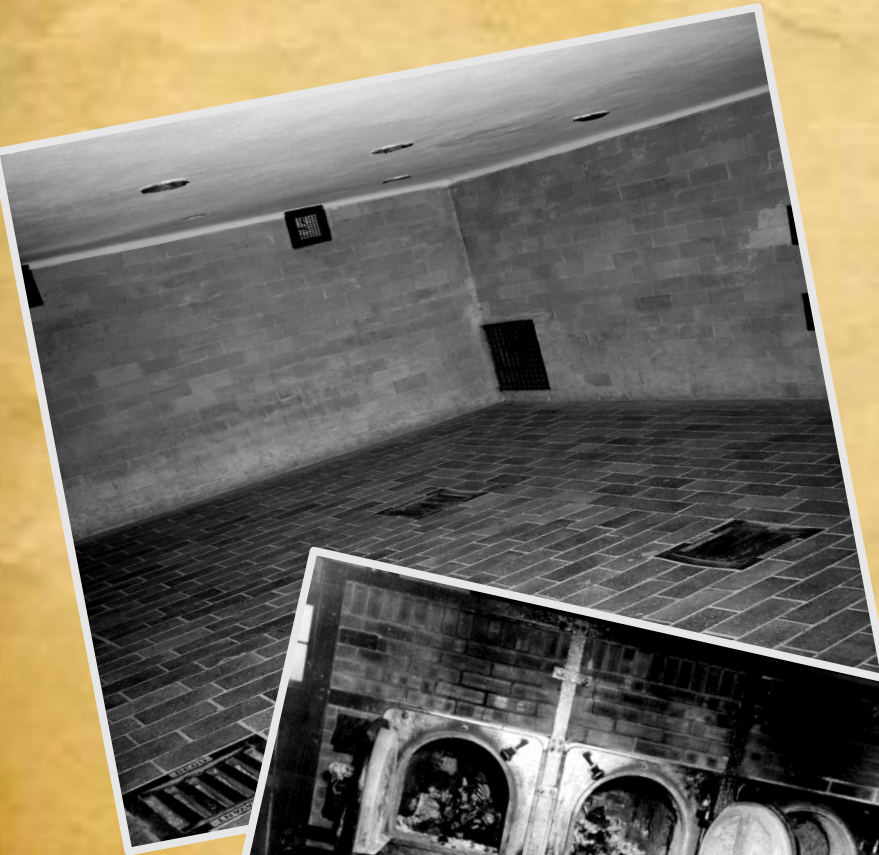
Wannsee Conference (Berlin -1942 ) established the “complete solution of the Jewish question”

Called for the **complete and mass annihilation and extermination** of the Jews as well as other groups

Zyklon B gas became the agent in the mass extermination



# Gas Chambers & Crematoriums



- Prisoners were sent to gas chambers disguised as showers
- Zyklon B gas used to gas people in 3 – 15 minutes
- Up to 8000 people were gassed per day at Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest death camp with 4 operating gas chambers
- Gold fillings from victims teeth were melted down to make gold bards
- Prisoners moved dead bodies to massive crematoriums

# Schindler's List

Separating to transport 2h04-2h07

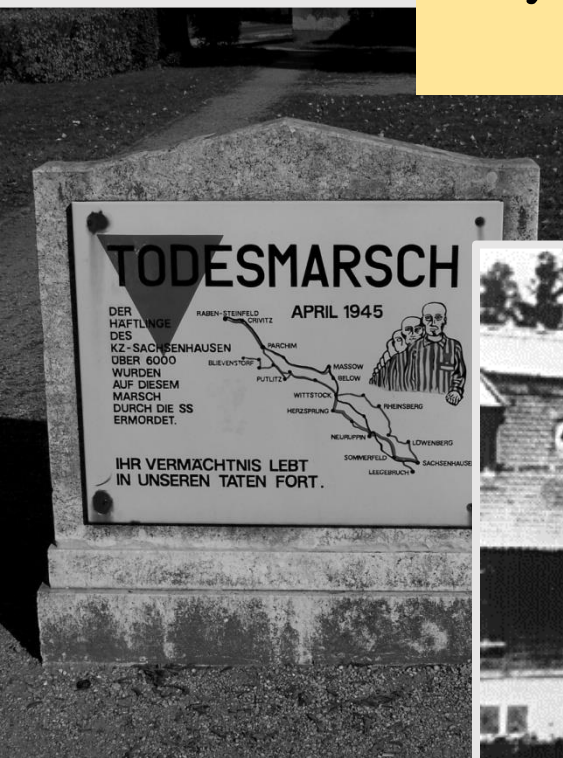
Transport to Auschwitz 2h26-2h37



# Nearing the End of the War

By 1945, the Nazis' began to destroy crematoriums and camps as Allied troops closed in

- **Death Marches (Todesmarche):** Between 1944-1945, Nazis ordered marches over long distances. Approximately 250 000 – 375 000 prisoners perished in Death Marches
- On January 27, 1945, the Soviet army entered Auschwitz (largest camp) and liberated more than 7,000 remaining prisoners, who were mostly ill and dying.



# Schindler's List

Clip 7: Chapter 11: Liberation 3h01:51-



# Footage after Liberation of Camps

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wu5PAIj5Ds>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDxX\\_OP0G1M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDxX_OP0G1M)