



Special Edition Newsletter

International Holocaust Remembrance Day: January 27, 2018

Why We Remember:

For almost 10 years, between 1933 and 1945, the world watched in horror as the rise of violent fascism spread throughout Europe. The eruption of a second world war consumed nearly every country in Europe, and eventually spread to the United States and South East Asia. As war devastated Europe, innocent Jews, Roma, gay and lesbian men and women, and others were being deported, sent to ghettos and concentration camps and eventually raped, tortured, and killed.

The international community adopted the phrase, “never forget” when remembering the genocide during WWII. We, as a collective, must never forget how many died, how many women were raped and abused, how many people were tortured, experimented on and mutilated, we must never forget the intolerance and hatred and the political and economic circumstances that led to Hitler’s rise in power. We must never be allowed to forget the horrors of WWII. If we allow ourselves the luxury of not remembering these atrocities, we will be turning a blind eye to other’s sufferings, other genocides, other injustices in the world. “Never forget” is a promise to work toward a future that does not include genocide, ethnic cleansing, and violations of human rights and human dignity.

We as a human right’s center pride ourselves on this mission to make our shared world a better and more just place for everyone. We have vowed to never turn our backs to human suffering and to work toward educating future generations of human rights activists.

This special edition of our newsletter memorializes the lives that were lost during the Holocaust and other genocides and honors those who survived.

For additional resources on the Holocaust and other genocides, visit the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](http://www.ushahimuseum.org) website.



Photos courtesy of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum



1933-1945



Suffering by the Numbers

- The most targeted groups in Nazi Germany: Jews, Roma (Gypsies), disabled people, and homosexuals
- Up to 6 million Jews were killed
- Approximately 7 million Soviet civilians were killed and 3 million Soviets were captured as prisoners of war (including 50,000 Jewish soldiers)
- 1.8 million non-Jewish Polish civilians killed
- 312,000 Serb civilians killed by German forces
- Up to 250,000 people with disabilities were killed
- Close to 220,000 Roma were killed
- German ideology at the time included racial and ethnic superiority and the Third Reich therefore established concentration camps, euthanasia programs, and medical experimentation on specific ethnic groups. At least 70 medical research projects took place between 1939-1945 (exact number of those impacted by these experiments is unknown).
- Between 1948 and 1951, almost 700,000 Jews emigrated to Israel, including 136,000 Jewish persons who found shelter in Displaced Persons camps administered by the Allied forces. Other Jewish displaced persons emigrated to the US and other nations.

The Holocaust and WWII Timeline

January 30, 1933: President Hindenburg appoints Adolf Hitler Chancellor of Germany.

September 15, 1935: The Nuremberg Race Laws (anti-Semitic laws) are introduced.

September 1, 1939: Germany invades Poland, starting World War II in Europe.

December 7, 1941: Japan bombs Pearl Harbor and the United States declares war the next day.

March 27, 1942: Germans begin the deportation of more than 65,000 Jews from Drancy, outside Paris, to the east (primarily to Auschwitz).

July 22, 1942: Germans begin the mass deportation of over 300,000 Jews from the Warsaw ghetto to the Treblinka killing center.

June 6, 1944: D-Day: Allied forces invade Normandy, France.

April—May 1945: Adolf Hitler commits suicide and Germany surrenders to Soviets and Western Allies

March 20, 1933: The Schutzstaffel (SS) opens the Dachau concentration camp outside of Munich.

November 9/10 1938: *Kristallnacht* (nationwide pogrom in Germany).

July 6, 1941: (mobile killing units) shoot nearly 3,000 Jews at the Seventh Fort, a 19th-century fortification surrounding Kovno, (Lithuania).

January 16, 1942: Germans begin the mass deportation of more than 65,000 Jews from Lodz (Poland) to the Chelmno killing center.

July 15, 1942: Germans begin mass deportations of nearly 100,000 Jews from occupied regions of the Netherlands to the east (primarily to Auschwitz).

September 12, 1942: Germans deport about 265,000 Jews from Warsaw to Treblinka.

April 29, 1945: American forces liberate the Dachau concentration camp.

20th Century Genocides

Justice After Genocide:

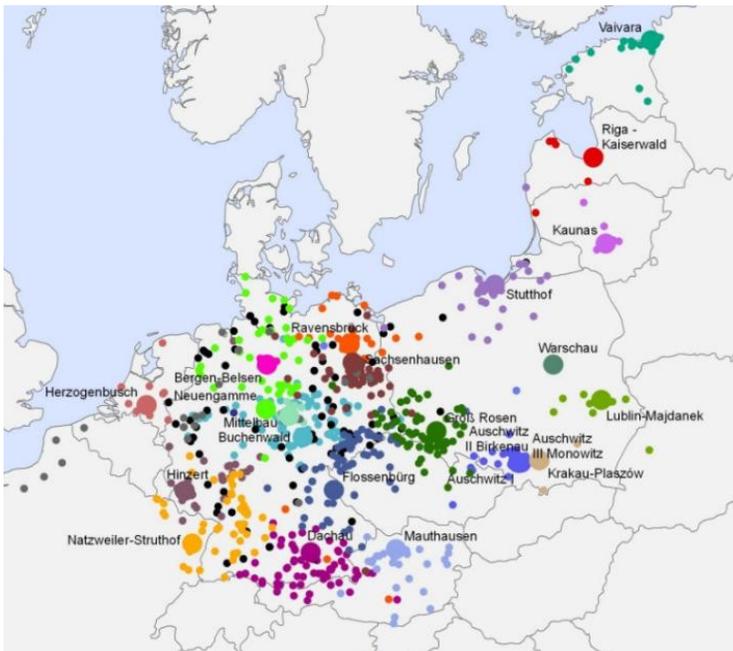
After WWII, both domestic and international courts sought to bring members of the Third Reich to justice.

Beginning in 1942, the Allied powers announced their intentions to punish war criminals and offered a joint declaration “officially noting the mass murder of European Jews and resolving to prosecute those responsible for crimes against civilian populations”.

Between October 1945 and October 1946, the International Military Tribunal tried 22 high ranking SS officials on charges of crimes against humanity and conspiracy to commit such crimes. Twelve of the 22 were convicted and given the death penalty, 3 were sentenced to life in prison, 4 were given prison sentences of 10 to 20 years and 3 defendants were acquitted.

In subsequent Nuremberg proceedings, between December 1946 and April 1949, US prosecutors tried 177 people and won convictions for 97 defendants. While most would tout the success of these trials, unfortunately many perpetrators have still not been brought to justice and simply returned to normal lives and professions in German society.

The quest for justice continues today.



Map of SS-designated concentration camps and subcamps, 1933–1945. Each large dot represents the main camp with the smaller dots referencing subcamps. The original map is animated to show the expansion of the camp system over time (Data source: *The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos*, Vol. 5 [2009]). —Alexander Yule and Anne Kelly Knowles

How Many Have Died in Other Genocides?

Armenia: Between 1915-1923, 800,000 to 1.5 million Armenians, approximately half the Armenian population living in the Ottoman Empire, were deported and sent on “death marches,” killed in brutal massacres, or by mass starvation. By 1922, there were fewer than 400,000 that survived the genocidal campaign.

Cambodia: Under the leadership of Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge killed up to three million people between 1975 and 1979. In an effort to establish an Ultra-Maoist state, Pol Pot created re-education camps, forced labor camps, and implemented rape and sexual violence (including forced marriage) as a way to control and subjugate the population.

Rwanda: Civil war broke out in Rwanda in 1990, exacerbating ethnic and racial tensions between the Hutu majority and Tutsi minority. The killing peaked in the spring of 1994 when over 1 million people were butchered.

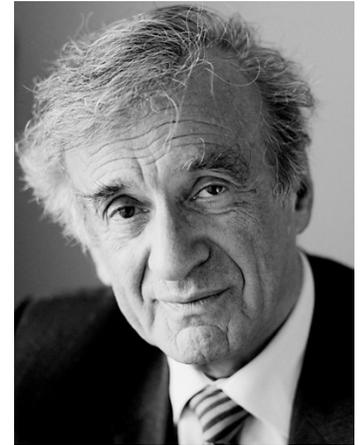
Former Yugoslavia (Bosnia): Beginning in 1991, the former Yugoslavia began to separate along ethnic lines. The independence of the republic of Bosnia brought about a genocide perpetrated by Bosnian Serbs against Bosniak and Croatian communities. The war claimed the lives of over 100,000 people.

Darfur: In 2005, the Government of Sudan, led by President Omar al-Bashir, began a genocide against Darfuri citizens, slaughtering over 300,000 and displacing over 2 million. The conflict in this region continues today.

Survivor Testimonies

“Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the little faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky. Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever. Never shall I forget that nocturnal silence which deprived me, for all eternity, of the desire to live. Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust. Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God Himself. Never.”

- Elie Wiesel, *Night*



“Just before I turned 6, we were sent to Auschwitz from the Theresienstadt ghetto. There, I became #70917. I was separated from my brother and mother and taken to a hospital where I was measured and X-rayed; blood was taken from my neck. Once, I was strapped to a table and cut with a knife. I got injections that made me throw up and have diarrhea. While ill in the hospital after an injection, guards came in to take the sick to be killed. The nurse caring for me hid me under her long skirt and I was quiet until the guards left.”

- Renate Guttman, *Holocaust Encyclopedia*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

“After my father brought us to Vilna, the Germans killed him and deported me, my mother and sister to the Stutthof camp. My mother died slowly of hunger. When my sister and I were sent to be gassed, a German saved me, saying, “Look at this rotten Jewish child; she has such beautiful eyes.” My sister waved so I wouldn’t follow her. When the Soviets neared Stutthof, two Germans with machine guns shot everyone in my barracks. Lying sick on my tummy and weighing just 40 pounds, I felt the sting of two bullets in my back.”

- Dora Goldstein Roth, *Holocaust Encyclopedia*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum



“Our insistence on preserving memory has not prevented other genocides, but perhaps has served as a reminder for those in power, making it harder for the killers to kill. It is clear that we must remember that which we would rather forget. But we cannot; we are not allowed to forget. We must not participate in the murder of memory, the ultimate objective of the murderers. “

- Professor Robert Krell, “My Journey as a Child Holocaust Survivor”

Ways to Remember

The Holocaust in film: Films serve as a powerful educational tool and can be used to inspire activism and advocacy. A few select titles on the Holocaust include:

- *Schindler's List*
- *Sophie's Choice*
- *Life is Beautiful*
- *Kapo*
- *The Pianist*
- *Train of Life*
- *The Sorrow and the Pity*
- *The Diary of Anne Frank*
- *The Murderers Among Us*
- *Shoah*
- *Europa Europa*
- *The Last Stage*

Organize a Book Club or Film Series:

- A great list of books can be found [here](#)

Use Social Media

- Share the life story of a Holocaust victim through the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM)
- Upload a "Days of Remembrance" photo to your Facebook
- Share stories about victims or survivors, facts or information on the Holocaust and WWII, or write a post.

Engage Your Community

- Participate in the World Memory Project
Create a "names wall" by inviting community members to select a name from the USHMM list of Holocaust victims ([PDF](#)) to add to a visual display
- Encourage your mayor and/or governor to issue a proclamation [Sample Proclamation for Mayors \(PDF\)](#) // [Sample Proclamation for Governors \(PDF\)](#)

Educate Others About the Holocaust! Check out great [resources](#) from the USHMM



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