

The Holocaust

Genocide was perpetrated on a horrific scale in the early 1940s with the mass killings of approximately 6 million Jews by the Nazis. The carnage was stopped by the United States and allies in 1945 with the defeat of the Nazi regime in World War II.

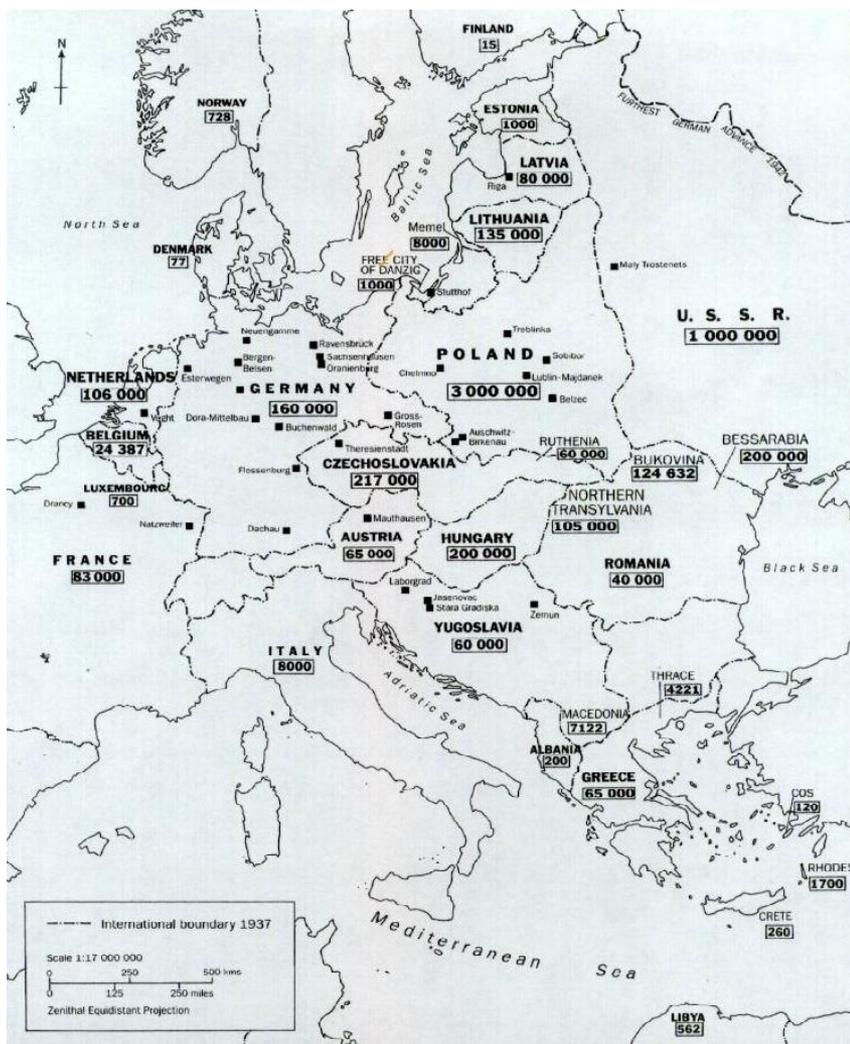


Isurvived.org

Why?

The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in 1933, believed that Germans were “racially superior” and that the Jews, deemed “inferior,” were an alien threat to the so-called German racial community.

-- U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (ushmm.org)



The mass killings primarily took place in concentration camps in Poland, Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, to which Jews were transported from their homes by the Nazis. Smaller concentration camps were spread throughout Nazi-occupied Europe.

Map shows locations of concentration camps and estimates of Jews murdered from various countries. From *The Oxford Companion to World War II*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1995. Copyright © 1995 by I.C.B. Dear and Oxford University Press

Initially, concentration camps were meant to hold Hitler's victims as prisoners. After several years, they evolved as labor camps where the inmates were used as slaves and often died from injury and poor living conditions. For the last several years of the war, camps like Auschwitz were built specifically for extermination.



By 1945, the Nazis and their collaborators had killed nearly two out of every three European Jews as part of the “Final Solution,” the Nazi policy to murder the Jews of Europe.



Isurvived.org



Isurvived.org



Theholocaustpictures.com

“The understanding of the extent of Nazi brutality was considerably broadened in early 1945, after the liberation of Auschwitz in southwestern Poland. Auschwitz was one of six Nazi extermination camps, and was the last one still operating in the final months of the war. Of the estimated six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, well over three million perished in these six camps.”

-- text from BBC web site (BBC.co.uk), as excerpted from Liberation of the Concentration Camps, by Dr. Stephen A. Hart.



Isurvived.org

After the war, the Nuremberg Trials, an international military tribunal, sentenced high-ranking Nazi officials to death or prison terms for crimes against humanity.



Wikipedia.org



Holocaust Remembrance Day – April 19, 2012



Sources:

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website (ushmm.org)

Isurvived.org

Theholocaustpictures.com

Wikipedia.org

BBC.co.uk