

Chapter 1 : The Holocaust in Poland | Facing History and Ourselves

â€”US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum A Polish priest, Father Piotr Sosnowski, before his execution by German Security Police, near the city of Tuchola, October 27,

Visit Website Did you know? Even in the early 21st century, the legacy of the Holocaust endures. Swiss government and banking institutions have in recent years acknowledged their complicity with the Nazis and established funds to aid Holocaust survivors and other victims of human rights abuses, genocide or other catastrophes. On January 20, 1933, he was named chancellor of Germany. At first, the Nazis reserved their harshest persecution for political opponents such as Communists or Social Democrats. The first official concentration camp opened at Dachau near Munich in March 1933, and many of the first prisoners sent there were Communists. Like the network of concentration camps that followed, becoming the killing grounds of the Holocaust, Dachau was under the control of Heinrich Himmler, head of the elite Nazi guard, the Schutzstaffel SS, and later chief of the German police. In 1933, Jews in Germany numbered around 1.5 million, or only 1 percent of the total German population. Under the Nuremberg Laws of 1935, anyone with three or four Jewish grandparents was considered a Jew, while those with two Jewish grandparents were designated Mischlinge half-breeds. Under the Nuremberg Laws, Jews became routine targets for stigmatization and persecution. From 1933 to 1945, hundreds of thousands of Jews who were able to leave Germany did, while those who remained lived in a constant state of uncertainty and fear. German police soon forced tens of thousands of Polish Jews from their homes and into ghettos, giving their confiscated properties to ethnic Germans non-Jews outside Germany who identified as German, Germans from the Reich or Polish gentiles. Surrounded by high walls and barbed wire, the Jewish ghettos in Poland functioned like captive city-states, governed by Jewish Councils. In addition to widespread unemployment, poverty and hunger, overpopulation made the ghettos breeding grounds for disease such as typhus. Meanwhile, beginning in the fall of 1941, Nazi officials selected around 70,000 Germans institutionalized for mental illness or disabilities to be gassed to death in the so-called Euthanasia Program. After prominent German religious leaders protested, Hitler put an end to the program in August 1941, though killings of the disabled continued in secrecy, and by 1945, people deemed handicapped from all over Europe had been killed. In hindsight, it seems clear that the Euthanasia Program functioned as a pilot for the Holocaust. Beginning in 1942, Jews from all over the continent, as well as hundreds of thousands of European Gypsies, were transported to the Polish ghettos. The German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 marked a new level of brutality in warfare. Mobile killing units called Einsatzgruppen would murder more than 3 million Soviet Jews and others usually by shooting over the course of the German occupation. Since June 1941, experiments with mass killing methods had been ongoing at the concentration camp of Auschwitz, near Krakow. The SS soon placed a huge order for the gas with a German pest-control firm, an ominous indicator of the coming Holocaust. Holocaust Death Camps, Beginning in late 1941, the Germans began mass transports from the ghettos in Poland to the concentration camps, starting with those people viewed as the least useful: The first mass gassings began at the camp of Belzec, near Lublin, on March 17, 1942. Five more mass killing centers were built at camps in occupied Poland, including Chelmno, Sobibor, Treblinka, Majdanek and the largest of all, Auschwitz-Birkenau. From 1942 to 1945, Jews were deported to the camps from all over Europe, including German-controlled territory as well as those countries allied with Germany. The heaviest deportations took place during the summer and fall of 1942, when more than 1.5 million people were deported from the Warsaw ghetto alone. Though the Nazis tried to keep operation of camps secret, the scale of the killing made this virtually impossible. Eyewitnesses brought reports of Nazi atrocities in Poland to the Allied governments, who were harshly criticized after the war for their failure to respond, or to publicize news of the mass slaughter. This lack of action was likely mostly due to the Allied focus on winning the war at hand, but was also a result of the general incomprehension with which news of the Holocaust was met and the denial and disbelief that such atrocities could be occurring on such a scale. At Auschwitz alone, more than 2 million people were murdered in a process resembling a large-scale industrial operation. A large population of Jewish and non-Jewish inmates worked in the labor camp there; though only Jews were gassed, thousands of others died of starvation

or disease. Nazi Rule Comes to an End, as Holocaust Continues to Claim Lives, By the spring of , German leadership was dissolving amid internal dissent, with Goering and Himmler both seeking to distance themselves from Hitler and take power. The following day, he committed suicide. The last trace of civilization had vanished around and inside us. The work of bestial degradation, begun by the victorious Germans, had been carried to conclusion by the Germans in defeat. Survivors of the camps found it nearly impossible to return home, as in many cases they had lost their families and been denounced by their non-Jewish neighbors. As a result, the late s saw an unprecedented number of refugees, POWs and other displaced populations moving across Europe. In an effort to punish the villains of the Holocaust, the Allies held the Nuremberg Trials of , which brought Nazi atrocities to horrifying light. Increasing pressure on the Allied powers to create a homeland for Jewish survivors of the Holocaust would lead to a mandate for the creation of Israel in

Chapter 2 : Poland, Guilt and the Holocaust

The Holocaust in German-occupied Poland was the last and most lethal phase of Nazi Germany's "Final Solution of the Jewish Question" (Endlösung der Judenfrage), marked by the construction of death camps on German-occupied Polish soil.

The Holocaust also called Ha-Shoah in Hebrew refers to the period from January 30, - when Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany - to May 8, , when the war in Europe officially ended. During this time, Jews in Europe were subjected to progressively harsher persecution that ultimately led to the murder of 6,, Jews 1. These deaths represented two-thirds of European Jewry and one-third of all world Jewry. Background After its defeat in World War I, Germany was humiliated by the Versailles Treaty, which reduced its prewar territory, drastically reduced its armed forces, demanded the recognition of its guilt for the war, and stipulated it pay reparations to the allied powers. With the German Empire destroyed, a new parliamentary government called the Weimar Republic was formed. The republic suffered from economic instability, which grew worse during the worldwide depression after the New York stock market crash in Massive inflation followed by very high unemployment heightened existing class and political differences and began to undermine the government. The Nazi Party had taken advantage of the political unrest in Germany to gain an electoral foothold. At the bottom of the front page of each issue, in bold letters, the paper proclaimed, "The Jews are our misfortune! The influence of the newspaper was far-reaching: Soon after he became chancellor, Hitler called for new elections in an effort to get full control of the Reichstag, the German parliament, for the Nazis. The Nazis used the government apparatus to terrorize the other parties. They arrested their leaders and banned their political meetings. Then, in the midst of the election campaign, on February 27, , the Reichstag building burned. A Dutchman named Marinus van der Lubbe was arrested for the crime, and he swore he had acted alone. Although many suspected the Nazis were ultimately responsible for the act, the Nazis managed to blame the Communists, thus turning more votes their way. The fire signaled the demise of German democracy. On the next day, the government, under the pretense of controlling the Communists, abolished individual rights and protections: When the elections were held on March 5, the Nazis received nearly 44 percent of the vote, and with 8 percent offered by the Conservatives, won a majority in the government. The Nazis moved swiftly to consolidate their power into a dictatorship. On March 23, the Enabling Act was passed. The Nazis marshaled their formidable propaganda machine to silence their critics. They also developed a sophisticated police and military force. The Gestapo Geheime Staatspolizei, Secret State Police , a force recruited from professional police officers, was given complete freedom to arrest anyone after February With this police infrastructure in place, opponents of the Nazis were terrorized, beaten, or sent to one of the concentration camps the Germans built to incarcerate them. Dachau , just outside of Munich, was the first such camp built for political prisoners. By the end of Hitler was in absolute control of Germany, and his campaign against the Jews in full swing. The Nazis claimed the Jews corrupted pure German culture with their "foreign" and "mongrel" influence. They portrayed the Jews as evil and cowardly, and Germans as hardworking, courageous, and honest. The superior race was the "Aryans," the Germans. The word Aryan, "derived from the study of linguistics, which started in the eighteenth century and at some point determined that the Indo-Germanic also known as Aryan languages were superior in their structures, variety, and vocabulary to the Semitic languages that had evolved in the Near East. Oxford University Press, , p. The Jews Are Isolated from Society The Nazis then combined their racial theories with the evolutionary theories of Charles Darwin to justify their treatment of the Jews. The Germans, as the strongest and fittest, were destined to rule, while the weak and racially adulterated Jews were doomed to extinction. Hitler began to restrict the Jews with legislation and terror, which entailed burning books written by Jews , removing Jews from their professions and public schools, confiscating their businesses and property and excluding them from public events. The most infamous of the anti-Jewish legislation were the Nuremberg Laws , enacted on September 15, Many Jews attempted to flee Germany, and thousands succeeded by immigrating to such countries as Belgium , Czechoslovakia, England , France and Holland. It was much more difficult to get out of Europe. Even if they obtained the necessary documents, they often had to wait months or

years before leaving. Many families out of desperation sent their children first. In July , representatives of 32 countries met in the French town of Evian to discuss the refugee and immigration problems created by the Nazis in Germany. Nothing substantial was done or decided at the Evian Conference, and it became apparent to Hitler that no one wanted the Jews and that he would not meet resistance in instituting his Jewish policies. By the autumn of , Europe was in effect sealed to most legal emigration. The Jews were trapped. On November , , the attacks on the Jews became violent. Hershel Grynszpan, a year-old Jewish boy distraught at the deportation of his family, shot Ernst vom Rath, the third secretary in the German Embassy in Paris, who died on November 9. Nazi hooligans used this assassination as the pretext for instigating a night of destruction that is now known as Kristallnacht the night of broken glass. They looted and destroyed Jewish homes and businesses and burned synagogues. Many Jews were beaten and killed; 30, Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps. Soon after, in , the Nazis began establishing ghettos for the Jews of Poland. More than 10 percent of the Polish population was Jewish, numbering about three million. Jews were forcibly deported from their homes to live in crowded ghettos, isolated from the rest of society. This concentration of the Jewish population later aided the Nazis in their deportation of the Jews to the death camps. The ghettos lacked the necessary food, water, space, and sanitary facilities required by so many people living within their constricted boundaries. Many died of deprivation and starvation. Each group contained several commando units. The Einsatzgruppen gathered Jews town by town, marched them to huge pits dug earlier, stripped them, lined them up, and shot them with automatic weapons. The dead and dying would fall into the pits to be buried in mass graves. In the infamous Babi Yar massacre, near Kiev , 30,, Jews were killed in two days. In addition to their operations in the Soviet Union, the Einsatzgruppen conducted mass murder in eastern Poland, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia. It is estimated that by the end of , the Einsatzgruppen had murdered more than 1. On January 20, , several top officials of the German government met to officially coordinate the military and civilian administrative branches of the Nazi system to organize a system of mass murder of the Jews. This meeting, called the Wannsee Conference , "marked the beginning of the full-scale, comprehensive extermination operation [of the Jews] and laid the foundations for its organization, which started immediately after the conference ended" Yahil, The Holocaust, p. While the Nazis murdered other national and ethnic groups, such as a number of Soviet prisoners of war, Polish intellectuals, and gypsies, only the Jews were marked for systematic and total annihilation. Jews were singled out for "Special Treatment" Sonderbehandlung , which meant that Jewish men, women and children were to be methodically killed with poisonous gas. In the exacting records kept at the Auschwitz death camp, the cause of death of Jews who had been gassed was indicated by "SB," the first letters of the two words that form the German term for "Special Treatment. All were located near railway lines so that Jews could be easily transported daily. A vast system of camps called Lagersystem supported the death camps. The purpose of these camps varied: Some camps combined all of these functions or a few of them. All the camps were intolerably brutal. In nearly every country overrun by the Nazis, the Jews were forced to wear badges marking them as Jews , they were rounded up into ghettos or concentration camps and then gradually transported to the killing centers. The death camps were essentially factories for murdering Jews. The Germans shipped thousands of Jews to them each day. Within a few hours of their arrival, the Jews had been stripped of their possessions and valuables, gassed to death, and their bodies burned in specially designed crematoriums. Many healthy, young strong Jews were not killed immediately. These people, imprisoned in concentration and labor camps, were forced to work in German munitions and other factories, such as I. Farben and Krupps, and wherever the Nazis needed laborers. They were worked from dawn until dark without adequate food and shelter. Thousands perished, literally worked to death by the Germans and their collaborators. The Germans forced the starving and sick Jews to walk hundreds of miles. Most died or were shot along the way. About a quarter of a million Jews died on the death marches. Jewish resistance did occur, however, in several forms. Staying alive, clean, and observing Jewish religious traditions constituted resistance under the dehumanizing conditions imposed by the Nazis. Other forms of resistance involved escape attempts from the ghettos and camps. Many who succeeded in escaping the ghettos lived in the forests and mountains in family camps and in fighting partisan units. Once free, though, the Jews had to contend with local residents and partisan groups who were often openly hostile.

Jews also staged armed revolts in the ghettos of Vilna, Bialystok , Bedzin-Sosnowiec, krakow, and Warsaw. The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising was the largest ghetto revolt. Massive deportations or Aktions had been held in the ghetto from July to September , emptying the ghetto of the majority of Jews imprisoned there. When the Germans entered the ghetto again in January to remove several thousand more, small unorganized groups of Jews attacked them. After four days, the Germans withdrew from the ghetto, having deported far fewer people than they had intended. The Nazis reentered the ghetto on April 19, , the eve of Passover , to evacuate the remaining Jews and close the ghetto. The Jews , using homemade bombs and stolen or bartered weapons, resisted and withstood the Germans for 27 days. They fought from bunkers and sewers and evaded capture until the Germans burned the ghetto building by building. By May 16 the ghetto was in ruins and the uprising crushed. Jews also revolted in the death camps of Sobibor , Treblinka and Auschwitz. All of these acts of resistance were largely unsuccessful in the face of the superior German forces, but they were very important spiritually, giving the Jews hope that one day the Nazis would be defeated.

Chapter 3 : Do Not Blame Poland and Poles for the Holocaust - Katrina Shawver - Author Katrina Shawver

The word "Holocaust," from the Greek words "holos" (whole) and "kaustos" (burned), was historically used to describe a sacrificial offering burned on an altar. Since , the word has.

Hitler , who was Chancellor of Germany during the Holocaust, came to power in when Germany was experiencing severe economic hardship. Hitler promised the Germans that he would bring them prosperity and that his military actions would restore Germany to a position of power in Europe. Hitler had a vision of a Master Race of Aryans that would control Europe. He used very powerful propaganda techniques to convince not only the German people, but countless others, that if they eliminated the people who stood in their way and the degenerates and racially inferior, they - the great Germans would prosper. Neighboring Poland - The First Target: It is essential that the great German people should consider it as its major task to destroy all Poles. An agricultural country with little military power. Hitler attacked Poland from three directions on September 1, and in just over one month, Poland surrendered -- unable to defend itself against the powerful German prowess. In Poland, Hitler saw an agricultural land in close proximity to Germany, populated by modest but strong and healthy farmers. Hitler quickly took control of Poland by specifically wiping out the Polish leading class -- the Intelligentsia. During the next few years, millions of other Polish citizens were rounded up and either placed in slave labor for German farmers and factories or taken to concentration camps where many were either starved and worked to death or used for scientific experiments. The Jews in Poland were forced inside ghettos , but the non-Jews were made prisoners inside their own country. No one was allowed out. The Germans took over the ranches, farms and Polish factories. Most healthy citizens were forced into slave labor. Young Polish men were drafted into the German army. Hitler felt particularly threatened by this strong group of Christians because they, from the very beginning, refused to recognize any God other than Jehovah. When asked to sign documents of loyalty to the Nazi ideology, they refused. Roma Gypsies Like the Jews, the Roma Gypsies were chosen for total annihilation solely because of their race. Even though Jews are defined by religion, Hitler saw the Jewish people as a race that he believed needed to be completely annihilated. Likewise, the Roma Gypsies were a nomadic people that were persecuted throughout history. Both groups were denied certain privileges in many European countries. The Germans believed both the Jews and the Gypsies were racially inferior and degenerate and therefore worthless. The Gypsies were also moved into special areas set up by the Nazis and half a million of them - representing almost the entire Eastern European Gypsy Roma Roma population - was wiped out during the Holocaust. Courageous Resisters Every European nation had its courageous resisters. Many were killed for their acts of courage against the Nazis. Priests and Pastors Died for Their Beliefs Hitler wanted not only to conquer all of Europe, but Hitler also wanted to create a new religion and to replace Jesus Christ as a person to be worshipped. Hitler expected his followers to worship the Nazi ideology. Since Catholic priests and Christian pastors were often influential leaders in their community, they were sought out by the Nazis very early. Thousands of Catholic priests and Christian pastors were forced into concentration camps. A special barracks was set up at Dachau , the camp near Munich, Germany, for clergymen. A few survived; some were executed, but most were allowed to die slowly of starvation or disease. Hitler even searched his own men and found suspected homosexuals that were sent to concentration camps wearing their SS uniforms and medals. The homosexual inmates were forced to wear pink triangles on their clothes so they could be easily recognized and further humiliated inside the camps. Between 5, to 15, homosexuals died in concentration camps during the Holocaust. No Place for the Disabled The Nazis decided that it was a waste of time and money to support the disabled. In , all local authorities in Germany were to submit a list of all the mulattos. Then, these children were taken from their homes or schools without parental permission and put before the commission. Once a child was decided to be of black descent, the child was taken immediately to a hospital and sterilized. Death or Divorce - A Choice for Many Many husbands and wives of Jews in Germany were forced to choose between divorce or concentration camps. Those that chose to remain married were punished by imprisonment in camps where many died. Holocaust Forgotten Reprinted with permission from the author ;.

That's Holocaust revisionism plain and simple. The camps were German and Nazi. However, a bumbling Polish attempt to fix the problem via regulation blew up in Warsaw's face.

The Holocaust Introduction The Holocaust is generally regarded as the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and slaughter of approximately 6 million Jews — two thirds of the total European Jewish population, and two-fifths of the Jews in the entire world — but also millions of other victims, by the Nazi regime and its collaborators under Adolf Hitler. All were targeted because of their perceived "racial inferiority. His hatred of the Jews was so unrelenting that the political testament he signed on April 29, — just one day before his suicide and fewer than 10 days before German surrender — ended by ordering "the government and the people to uphold the race laws Its final objective must unswervingly be the removal of the Jews altogether. Another anti-Jewish German writer, Wilhelm Marr, coined the term anti-semitism. Anti-semitism was not unique to Germany. Hitler was only exploiting anti-semitic feelings that had been endemic in Europe for centuries. Germany was in terrible shape economically after World War I , and Hitler and his ideals made it easy for the German people to lay the blame on one particular group. Hitler led many to believe that the Jews had been the source of defeat during the war, as well as for the economic depression during the s. Above all else, German, or "Aryan," blood must be kept vital and strong. Neither Hitler nor any of his contemporaries was the first to practice what has sometimes been called "the longest hatred. His time spent in Vienna, Austria, as a young man, fueled his notions of racial superiority. Hitler joined, and soon became the leader of, a small right-wing political group that called itself the National Socialist German Workers Party Nazi. The Nazis attempted to take over the German government in November , but were unsuccessful, and Hitler received a five-year prison sentence for his involvement in the uprising. He served nine months of his sentence in a suite of rooms at the prison, during which time he wrote *Mein Kampf My Struggle* , which declared that some races create civilization and others corrupt it. By , his book had sold more than 6,, copies. The Nazis gained in popularity as Hitler promised a better life for the German people. By the Nazis were the largest political party in Germany. They soon gained total control, and called their state the Third Reich. Hell on Earth In , the Jewish population of Europe was more than 9 million. By , close to two out of every three European Jews had been killed as part of the "Final Solution," or the policy to slay all the Jews of Europe. The Holocaust had essentially been underway since the enactment of the Nuremberg Race Laws, which proclaimed Jews to be second-class citizens and excluded German Jews from Reich citizenship, as well as prohibited them from marrying or having sexual relations with persons of "German or related blood. As soon as Hitler became chancellor of Germany in , he implemented his scheme to conclude the struggle between the "master race" and the "inferior races. All forms of communication, whether newspapers, magazines, books, art, music, or radio, were controlled by the Nazis. Soon, laws were instituted against Jews that forced them out of public life — civil service jobs, university positions, and numerous others. Jewish businesses were boycotted, and all Jews were compelled to label their exterior clothing with a yellow Star of David with the word "Juden" Jew. The first step was to eliminate the leaders and intelligentsia. Many university professors, politicians, writers, and Catholic priests were murdered. Polish people were dislocated to make room for the "superior" Germans. Following the German invasion of the Soviet Union in June , Einsatzgruppen, or mobile killing units, carried out mass-murder operations. On September 29 and 30, , for example, more than half of the 60, Jews living in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev were marched into a ravine and shot. Hitler also authorized an order to exterminate institutionalized, handicapped patients deemed incurable. The practice went on throughout the war. During the war, the Nazis created ghettos, or city districts often enclosed , in which the Germans forced the Jewish population to live under miserable conditions. More than ghettos were established, the largest of which was the one in Warsaw, Poland, where approximately , Jews were crowded into an area of 1. By the middle of , , Warsaw Jews perished every month from hunger and disease brought on by malnutrition. Between and , Germans decided to eliminate the ghettos and deport their populations to "extermination camps," or killing centers equipped with gassing facilities, in Poland. That was known as the "Final Solution

to the Jewish Question" implemented after a meeting with senior Nazi officials in January. One was against Allied forces on three continents and the other was against the Jews and other unfortunate civilians. Extermination Deportations of Jews from the ghettos commenced from west to east. Jews by the trainloads arrived in Poland from Germany, Holland, and Belgium. A lucky few managed to jump from the "death trains. By the beginning of , Jewish communities, in continuous existence for nearly a thousand years, ceased to exist. Six "killing centers," or extermination camps, were organized in Poland: The camps were chosen according to their proximity to rail lines, which was essential for transporting the victims. Railroad freight cars and passenger trains brought in the victims. Upon arrival, men and women were immediately separated. Prisoners were stripped of their clothing and valuables, then they were divided into two groups. Those too weak for work were forced naked into the gas chambers, disguised as showers, where carbon monoxide or hydrogen cyanide asphyxiated them. The bodies were then stripped of hair used for rugs, socks, and mattresses , gold fillings, and teeth, and burned in crematoriums or buried in mass graves. Those who were allowed to live were chosen for medical experiments or slave labor. Camp living conditions were wretched. Inmates were crammed into windowless, non-insulated barracks up to 55 in one building. There were no bathrooms available a bucket served as the only waste control. Food was scarce, malnutrition made prisoners easy targets of disease and dehydration. Besides the "extermination camps", whose sole purpose was to annihilate the Jewish population and all other enemies of the Nazis, there also were "concentration camps" established throughout Germany, where inmates were placed under harsh working conditions and starvation. An end to the nightmare In late , the tide of war had turned and Allied forces moved across Europe in a series of offensives on Germany. The Nazis decided to evacuate outlying concentration camps. In the final months of the war, SS guards forced inmates on death marches in an attempt to prevent the Allied liberation of large numbers of prisoners. Those death marches passed directly through many towns, and many died literally at the front doors of townspeople. Many died from starvation, disease, exhaustion, and cold, and thousands more were shot along the way. It is estimated that , concentration camp prisoners were murdered or died in the forced death marches that were conducted during the last 10 months of World War II. Allied forces began to encounter and liberate concentration camp prisoners in the late spring and early summer of The Third Reich collapsed in May SS guards fled and many of the concentration camps were turned into displaced person camps. Between and , nearly , Jews emigrated to the new state of Israel. Approximately , Holocaust survivors came to America after , most settling in New York. Many Nazis were put on trial at Nuremberg, and found guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Nazi medical doctors were accused of involvement in the horrors of human experimentation. He was sentenced to death, along with dozens of other Nazi leaders. Current estimates, based on Nazi war records and official government documents from various countries, place the death toll of the Holocaust at anywhere from 10 million a conservative figure to 26 million people. The sobering fact about the Holocaust is how close the Nazis came to total victory. It is important to note, however, when looking at this atrocious event in world history, that the Jews were by no means the only victims of the Holocaust. Other ethnic groups suffered heavy losses. For instance, there were nearly as many non-Jewish Poles killed approximately 3 million as there were Jewish Poles. Many survivors have expressed disgust that the Holocaust happened in full public view, and reached its awful results because people were content to be bystanders and look the other way. Although the full extent of what was happening in German-controlled areas was not known until after the war, there were many rumors and eye-witness accounts throughout Europe that indicated that a great number of Jews were being killed. The German Rail Company, which was used to transport prisoners to various concentration camps, had more than 1 million employees, and had to be fully aware of the reality of life in the camps. British historian Ian Kershaw has written: There were uprisings, but one has to remember that the prisoners, for the most part, lacked any kind of organizational or military experience. They came from various European countries and therefore spoke different languages. Most importantly, they were extremely weak because of their living conditions. The trial in Jerusalem of Adolf Eichmann, the coordinator of the Final Solution, set off an angry debate about Jewish honor and resistance. The real mystery is not why the Jews failed to resist, but how anyone managed to survive at all.

Chapter 5 : The Holocaust - HISTORY

POLES: VICTIMS OF THE NAZI ERA. During World War II Poland suffered greatly under five years of German occupation. Nazi ideology viewed "Poles"- the predominantly Roman Catholic ethnic majority- as "sub-humans" occupying lands vital to Germany.

It is used here with permission. They also kidnapped children judged racially suitable for adoption by Germans and confined Poles in dozens of prisons and concentration and forced labor camps, where many perished. Polish troops fought valiantly in the face of vastly better equipped forces, with fierce engagements around Warsaw. Exhausted of food and water, the besieged capital surrendered on September 27, and fighting by regular Polish army units ended in early October. On the eve of the invasion he reportedly stated in a meeting of high officials: Accordingly, I have placed my death-head formations in readiness "for the present only in the East" with orders to send to death mercilessly and without compassion, men, women, and children of Polish derivation and language. Only thus shall we gain the living space that we need. Cracow became the capital of the General Government, as the Germans planned to turn the Polish capital of Warsaw into a backwater town. This territory had been invaded and occupied by the Soviets in September, in accordance with the German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact of August that divided Poland between Germany and the Soviet Union. German map of Poland Select to view One aspect of German policy in conquered Poland aimed to prevent its ethnically diverse population from uniting against Germany. Most of them were Roman Catholics. Fifteen per cent were Ukrainians, 8. Nearly three-fourths of the population were peasants or agricultural laborers, and another fifth, industrial workers. Poland had a small middle and upper class of well-educated professionals, entrepreneurs, and landowners. This policy had two aims: Tens of thousands of wealthy landowners, clergymen, and members of the intelligentsia "government officials, teachers, doctors, dentists, officers, journalists, and others both Poles and Jews" were either murdered in mass executions or sent to prisons and concentration camps. In many instances, these executions were reprisal actions that held entire communities collectively responsible for the killing of Germans. During the summer of, the SS rounded up members of the intelligentsia in the General Government. In this so-called A-B Aktion Extraordinary Pacification Operation, several thousand university professors, teachers, priests, and others were shot. The mass murders occurred outside Warsaw, in the Kampinos forest near Palmiry, and inside the city at the Pawiak prison. As part of wider efforts to destroy Polish culture, the Germans closed or destroyed universities, schools, museums, libraries, and scientific laboratories. They demolished hundreds of monuments to national heroes. They applied this policy most rigorously in western incorporated territories "the so-called Wartheland. There, the Germans closed even elementary schools where Polish was the language of instruction. They renamed streets and cities so that Lodz became Litzmannstadt, for example. They also seized tens of thousands of Polish enterprises, from large industrial firms to small shops, without payment to the owners. Signs posted in public places warned: The Germans treated the Church most harshly in the annexed regions, as they systematically closed churches there; most priests were either killed, imprisoned, or deported to the General Government. The Germans also closed seminaries and convents, persecuting monks and nuns. Between and an estimated 3, members of the Polish clergy were killed; of these, 1, died in concentration camps, of them at Dachau. By the end of, the SS had expelled, people without warning and plundered their property and belongings. Many elderly people and children died en route or in makeshift transit camps such as those in the towns of Potulice, Smukal, and Torun. In, the Germans expelled 45, more people, but they scaled back the program after the invasion of the Soviet Union in late June. Trains used for resettlement were more urgently needed to transport soldiers and supplies to the front. A Polish deportee recalls her ordeal Select to view In late and in, the SS also carried out massive expulsions in the General Government, uprooting, Poles from villages in the Zamosc-Lublin region. Families were torn apart as able-bodied teens and adults were taken for forced labor and elderly, young, and disabled persons were moved to other localities. Tens of thousands were also imprisoned in Auschwitz or Majdanek concentration camps. As many as 4, children chosen for Germanization were given German names, forbidden to speak Polish, and reeducated in SS or other

Nazi institutions, where many died of hunger or disease. Few ever saw their parents again. An estimated total of 50, children were kidnapped in Poland, the majority taken from orphanages and foster homes in the annexed lands. Infants born to Polish women deported to Germany as farm and factory laborers were also usually taken from the mothers and subjected to Germanization. The Zamosc expulsions spurred intense resistance as the Poles began to fear they were to suffer the same fate as the Jews—systematic deportation to extermination camps. Attacks on ethnic German settlers by members of the Polish resistance, whose ranks were filled with terrorized peasants, in turn provoked mass executions or other forms of German terror. Throughout the occupation, the Germans applied a ruthless retaliation policy in an attempt to destroy resistance. As the Polish resistance grew bolder in after the German defeat at Stalingrad, German reprisal efforts escalated. The Germans destroyed dozens of villages, killing men, women, and children. Public executions by hanging or shooting in Warsaw and other cities occurred daily. During the war the Germans destroyed at least villages in Poland. Many were teenaged boys and girls. Although Germany also used forced laborers from western Europe, Poles, along with other eastern Europeans viewed as inferior, were subject to especially harsh discriminatory measures. While the actual treatment accorded factory workers or farm hands often varied depending on the individual employer, Polish laborers as a rule were compelled to work longer hours for lower wages than western Europeans, and in many cities they lived in segregated barracks behind barbed wire. During the war hundreds of Polish men were executed for their relations with German women. Poles were prisoners in nearly every camp in the extensive camp system in German-occupied Poland and the Reich. Auschwitz Oswiecim became the main concentration camp for Poles after the arrival there on June 14, , of men transported from an overcrowded prison at Tarnow. By March , 10, prisoners were registered at the camp, most of them Poles. In September , ill prisoners, most of them Poles, along with Soviet prisoners of war, were killed in the first gassing experiments at Auschwitz. The Polish scholar Franciszek Piper, the chief historian of Auschwitz, estimates that , to , Poles were brought to that camp between and , and that 70, to 75, died there as victims of executions, of cruel medical experiments, and of starvation and disease. Some , Poles were deported to Majdanek, and tens of thousands of them died there. An estimated 20, Poles died at Sachsenhausen, 20; at Gross-Rosen, 30, at Mauthausen, 17, at Neuengamme, 10, at Dachau, and 17, at Ravensbrueck. Despite military defeat, the Polish government itself never surrendered. In a Polish government-in-exile became based in London. The universities of Warsaw, Cracow, and Lvov all operated clandestinely. After preliminary organizational activities, including the training of fighters and hoarding of weapons, the AK activated partisan units in many parts of Poland in Concentration camp song Select to view With the approach of the Soviet army imminent, the AK launched an uprising in Warsaw against the German army on August 1, After 63 days of bitter fighting, the Germans quashed the insurrection. The Soviet army provided little assistance to the Poles. Nearly , Poles, most of them civilians, lost their lives. The Germans deported hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children to concentration camps. Many others were transported to the Reich for forced labor. Many others were victims of the Soviet occupation of eastern Poland and of deportations to Central Asia and Siberia. Records are incomplete, and the Soviet control of Poland for 50 years after the war impeded independent scholarship. The changing borders and ethnic composition of Poland as well as vast population movements during and after the war also complicated the task of calculating losses. Subtracting 3 million Polish Jewish victims, the report claimed 3 million non-Jewish victims of the Nazi terror, including civilian and military casualties of war. Documentation remains fragmentary, but today scholars of independent Poland believe that 1. This approximate total includes Poles killed in executions or who died in prisons, forced labor, and concentration camps. An enamel shield bearing the Polish national insignia that at one time may have been affixed to a customs house along the Polish border. The War Begins 4th floor: Film footage of the German invasion of Poland. Terror in Poland 4th floor: Photos and a tree stump that marked a mass grave near the village of palmiry, Poland. Prisoners of the Camps 3rd floor: Includes mug shots of many Polish victims. Slave Labor 3rd floor: Poster announcing the execution of Poles for anti-German activities. The Courage to Rescue 2nd floor: Repression and Murder in Occupied Poland. Type in the following numbers to read about the experience of Polish people who were persecuted during the Holocaust: Videotaped interviews of a number of Polish victims. Watercolor illustrations of Auschwitz by Jan

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Komski, a Polish artist who was imprisoned in the camp. The Struggles for Poland New York, A History of Poland, Vol. Polish Society under German Occupation: The Generalgouvernement, Princeton, NJ, Hrabar, Roman et al. Klukowski, Zygmunt, Diary from the Years of Occupation , trans. Out of the Inferno: Poles Remember the Holocaust. Help support us by making a donation or a purchase through one of these sites.

Chapter 6 : The truth about Poland and the Holocaust | MSNBC

Lanzmann shows in his documentary how many Poles knew exactly what was going on at the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz during the war and did not care, and even were eager to seize Jewish.

March 3 , 2: The Nazis sent thousands more to the newly built Auschwitz concentration camp, to Stutthof, and to other concentration camps in Germany where non-Jewish Poles constituted the majority of inmates until March. The increasingly hysterical response from Polish nationalists to valid criticism of the law has also revealed a virulent strain of anti-Semitism among supporters of the ruling Law and Justice Party, known by the Polish acronym, PiS. But the text was written so broadly that historians are concerned that the law could be used to prosecute even Polish Jews who survived the Holocaust for testifying to their own experiences of the prevailing anti-Semitism of Polish society in that period. After the international outcry, when Polish President Andrzej Duda seemed to hesitate before approving the legislation, supporters of the measure rallied outside his office in Warsaw last month displaying a large banner that read: *Przyszli z apelem do prezydenta: Morawiecki* then provoked an uproar in Israel when he seemed to suggest that there were as many Jewish collaborators with the Nazis during the German occupation as Polish collaborators. Faced with objections from historians and the Polish embassy in Tel Aviv, Lapid, whose great-grandmother was arrested in Serbia and murdered in Auschwitz, doubled down. His comments even echoed the anti-Polish remarks of a former Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, a native of Poland whose parents were killed there in the Holocaust. The foundation withdrew the video after the Jewish community in Krakow, the American Jewish Committee, and the Holocaust museum in Israel, Yad Vashem, all complained about its inflammatory tone and inaccurate account of history. The campaign geared to recruit USA Jewry against the Polish Holocaust law contains a number of historical inaccuracies as well as statements such as "Polish Holocaust" deemed unacceptable by Yad Vashem. We are pleased that the initiators of the campaign have taken the film down. How to hold off this brutal storm? In Poland, as in other formerly Soviet-dominated countries, the cold war decades were an era of censorship and deliberately falsified versions of historical events, including World War II and the Holocaust. Between and , Poland was the epicenter of several violent upheavals: The enormity of these events, combined with the suppression of basic truths about them, meant that their legacies were preserved covertly by their various inheritors, all with their own adamant loyalties and wrenching recollections, and that Poland in the postwar period became a place of often conflicting and fervently defended forms of collective memory. In the decades since the end of the cold war, Polish historians have unearthed sobering new evidence that relatively few Poles tried to protect their Jewish neighbors from the Nazis, in large part because of how widespread anti-Semitism was in Polish society. One of the most prominent researchers, Princeton historian Jan Gross, found historical records that documented the slaughter of 1, Jews by their Polish neighbors in in the village of Jedwabne, outside Warsaw. Gross, who has been threatened with prosecution for his work by the Polish government, also completed a broader survey of Polish-Jewish relations during the Nazi occupation based on firsthand accounts from the time which make evidence of Polish complicity clear. One of the accounts Gross quotes comes from was a report to the Polish government in exile by Jan Karski, a liaison officer of the Polish underground who infiltrated both the Warsaw Ghetto and a German concentration camp and delivered the first eyewitness accounts of the Holocaust to the West. In one report from , Karski was so frank about the prevalent anti-Semitism of the Polish population that the government in exile declined to share his information with its allies. Their attitude toward Jews is ruthless, often without pity. A large part avails itself of the prerogatives [vis-a-vis the Jews] that they have in the new situation. They use these prerogatives repeatedly, often even abuse them. To some extent, this brings the Poles closer to the Germans. Stefan Grot-Rowecki, sent a telegram to the exiled government in London complaining that its pro-Jewish rhetoric was costing it support. The only differences concern how to deal with the Jews. Almost nobody advocates the adoption of German methods. Even secret organizations remaining under the influence of the prewar activists in the Democratic Club or the Socialist Party adopt the postulate of emigration as a solution to the Jewish problem. This became as much a truism as, for instance, the necessity to eliminate Germans. Zygmunt

Klukowski, director of the county hospital in the town of Szczebrzeszyn. Looking at hundreds of other accounts from the time, Gross concluded one reason that so relatively few Poles risked their lives to hide Jews was the very great risk that they would be denounced to the Germans by other Poles. In an interview with an Israeli broadcaster last month, Gross said that the true aim of the new law seemed to be to stifle the uncovering of difficult truths by historians like him.

Chapter 7 : Poles: Victims of the Nazi Era – United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Poles and the Holocaust: A Reckoning With History. The tragic reality is that most Poles were neither heroes nor demons but simply watched in silence while Jews were being taken away under their eyes.

Photo by author, Do not blame Poland and Poles for the Holocaust. I struggle to comprehend the vehemence of so many people to blame Poland for the Holocaust and for concentration camps built in occupied Poland by Germany. Clearly, a review of Polish history is in order. Think of Henry Zguda, and thousands like him, who were beaten, starved, or worse, in German concentration camps like Auschwitz and Buchenwald. That Poland should pay for its role in the Holocaust. And he never forgot it. Such is the seemingly worldwide insistence and conviction to blame Poland for the Holocaust, including the government of Israel. In , both Germany and Russia invaded, divided and occupied Poland, and effectively wiped the country off the map of Europe. The Polish government existed in exile. Click here for more info. The Polish Army defended Warsaw from German invasion for 28 days before capitulating. France completely betrayed Poland despite a joint pact signed in to send the French army within 15 days of any German attack on Poland. Eighteen thousand Polish civilians were killed, and , Polish soldiers surrendered and were taken captive, most likely executed soon thereafter. The Germans destroyed the city of Warsaw. The Germans chose Auschwitz as a primary killing center for purely logistical reasons. Among them, large tracts of land were cleared by evicting Polish farmers. From , Polish prisoners represented the majority of prisoners. In other locations, concentration camps were also built close to high concentrations of Jews to save on transportation costs. They were all built and designed by the Germans. They were constructed by slave labor. Double row of electric fence in Auschwitz. Today, the Polish government is committed to preserving evidence of the Holocaust for future generations. During the Warsaw Uprising of , more than , Polish civilians lost their lives fighting the Germans. More than 26,000 Germans died before the Uprising was squashed. Three million Jewish, and three million primarily Christian. During the war, Germans kidnapped some , Polish children to be sent back to Germany and raised as good Aryan Germans by foster families. Only per cent ever returned to Poland. Few ever learned of their Polish heritage. In Poland, if any Pole aided a Jew their entire family was executed. No other occupied country had such a stiff penalty. Blame Churchill and Roosevelt. There were two key consequences. First, Stalin forbid the teaching of Polish history, Polish heroes, and Polish suffering for three generations. Stalin also executed any surviving Polish patriots after the war. In Great Britain , that also meant that the more than , Polish members of the Polish Armed Forces who fought fiercely with the British High Command against Germany, were not permitted to march in the Victory Parade on June 8, 1946. Conversely, representatives from 17 other allied countries marched in the huge parade. This huge insult is almost inconceivable yet it happened. It would be sixty years before Britain included Poles in the annual victory parade of 2006. Many Countries Ban Racist and Hate Speech, including Holocaust Denial If Poland needs to enact a law to make a statement, it is because the push for Holocaust blame is relentless from many factions. Holocaust denial, another form of hate speech, is currently illegal in multiple countries including Poland and Israel. Holocaust denial in Israel carries a five-year prison term. See here for Yad Vashem. It is also historical truth that anti-Semitism was a serious problem in pre-war Poland, as it had been for decades in many countries. Remember the Vichy government in France? Terrible pogroms were committed against Jews by anti-Semitic Poles even after the war, and it is these incidents used so often to paint all of Poland as anti-Semitic and equally guilty. I do recognize that for many Jews, that is their true and only experience of the war. However, the actions of a number of Polish citizens were not the actions of the entire country or of the government in exile. In the face of extreme racism, does that mean every citizen is racist and shares full blame for all citizens? Every country has its ugly side but that is never the entire truth. The historical facts listed above are well-known and well-documented.

Chapter 8 : The Holocaust in Poland - Wikipedia

The holocaust was not only about Jews, but about Poles: a lot of Polish Catholics were murdered in Nazi concentration camp including Father Kolbe. If there had not been a war, it is certain that Poland will still be the country with biggest number of Jews.

Large areas of western Poland were annexed by Germany. The number of deported Polish Jews is estimated at 3,000,000, men, women, and children. Initially, they were to be expelled to the Generalgouvernement. In the first year and a half, the Nazis confined themselves to stripping the Jews of their valuables and property for profit, [9] herding them into makeshift ghettos, and forcing them into slave labor for public works and the war economy. For logistical reasons, the Jewish communities in settlements without railway connections in occupied Poland were dissolved. Before their formation, [45] the escape from persecution did not involve extrajudicial punishment by death. The food stamps introduced by the Germans, provided 9 percent of the calories necessary for survival. There were no Polish guards at any of the Reinhard camps, despite the sometimes used misnomer Polish death camps. All killing centres were designed and operated by the Nazis in strict secrecy, aided by the Ukrainian Trawniki. At that point the only chance for survival was escape to the "Aryan side". The German round-ups for the so-called resettlement trains were connected directly with the use of top secret extermination facilities built for the SS at about the same time by various German engineering companies including HAHB, [68] I. Topf and Sons of Erfurt, and C. The Holocaust trains sped up the scale and duration over which the extermination took place; and, the enclosed nature of freight cars also reduced the number of troops required to guard them. Rail shipments allowed the Nazi Germans to build and operate bigger and more efficient death camps and, at the same time, openly lie to the world about their victims about a "resettlement" program. Families walk to Prokocim railway station for "resettlement". Unspecified number of deportees died in transit during Operation Reinhard from suffocation and thirst. No food or water was supplied. A small barred window provided little ventilation, which oftentimes resulted in multiple deaths. When the sealed doors flew open, 90 percent of about 6, Jewish prisoners were found to have suffocated to death. Their bodies were thrown into smouldering mass grave at the "Lazaret". There were secluded killing sites set up further east. Explosives were used to speed up the digging process. It was a pilot project for the development of other extermination sites. The experiments with exhaust gases were finalized by murdering 1, Poles at Soldau. The ashes, mixed with crushed bones, were trucked every night to the nearby river in sacks made from blankets, to remove the evidence of mass murder. The extermination of Jews with Zyklon B as the killing agent began in July. They had transferable SS staff. Large barracks were built for storing belongings of disembarking victims. One was disguised as a railway station complete with a fake wooden clock and signage to prevent new arrivals from realizing their fate. Directly behind were the burial pits, dug with a crawler excavator. The lack of verified survivors however, makes this camp much less known. Women had their hair cut off by the Sonderkommando barbers. Once undressed, the Jews were led down a narrow path to the gas chambers which were disguised as showers. Carbon monoxide gas was released from the exhaust pipes of a gasoline engine removed from a Red Army tank. Their remains were dumped onto seven "ash mountains". Majdanek was the site of death of 59, Polish Jews from among its 79, victims. There is a popular misconception among the general public that most Jews went to their deaths passively. On October 14, , the.

Chapter 9 : Poles – United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

The Holocaust, also referred to as the Shoah, was a genocide during World War II in which Nazi Germany, aided by its collaborators, systematically murdered some six million European Jews, around two-thirds of the Jewish population of Europe, between and

Thousands were required to perform forced labor. In the lands vital to German expansion, hundreds of thousands of Poles were deported, replaced by ethnic Germans. As a result, nearly every concentration camp had a sizable population of Polish inmates. The mortality rate for Polish prisoners was high. In the face of Nazi brutality, Polish resistance was wide-spread. An underground state tried to maintain ties with the Polish government-in-exile. At great personal risk, individuals such as Jan Karski reported to the world the atrocities committed by the Germans. Others worked to rescue Jews, though the punishment for doing so was death. Polish partisans also supported Jewish resistance fighters, supplying them with arms, provisions, and information about the enemy. Nevertheless, a few recent scholarly works have renewed questions concerning active participation by some Poles in pogroms and atrocities committed against Jews. It is not meant to be exhaustive. Those unable to visit might be able to find these works in a nearby public library or acquire them through interlibrary loan. The results of that search indicate all libraries in your area that own that particular title. Talk to your local librarian for assistance. A Mosaic of Victims: Non-Jews Persecuted and Murdered by the Nazis. New York University Press, G4 M63 [Find in a library near you external link] A collection of essays first presented at a conference in on the Nazi persecution of non-Jewish groups. Includes chapters on the victimization of Poles and on the complex relationship between Slavs and Jews. The Warsaw Uprising of University of Wisconsin Press, W3 B [Find in a library near you external link] Details the Warsaw Rising of including atrocities that inspired it, planning and organizing the uprising, logistics of the battles, and eventual defeat. Discusses the roles of both Nazi and Soviet leadership in the destruction of the city and civilian casualties. Includes maps, abbreviations, endnotes, a bibliography, and an index. W3 B58 [Find in a library near you external link] Discusses the destruction of Warsaw and the failed insurrection of August Includes maps, illustrations, chapter notes, a chronology, an appendix of military units, a bibliography, and an index. A Battlefield of Ideas: Nazi Concentration Camps and their Polish Prisoners. East European Monographs, A2 D [Find in a library near you external link] Discusses the organization and structure of concentration camps, prisoner categories, and daily life and activities of Poles, especially members of the intelligentsia. Includes chapter notes, a glossary of terms from concentration camps, and a bibliography. Racial Policy and Polish Workers. Enforcing Racial Policy, , Oxford University Press, G G45 [Find in a library near you external link] Discusses the balance between Nazi attempts to eradicate the Poles while using them to meet labor shortages. Presents information on the legal constraints of Poles as policed by the Gestapo in both Occupied Poland and Nazi Germany. Includes footnotes, a bibliography, and an index. Polish Society under German Occupation: Princeton University Press, P6 G76 [Find in a library near you external link] Describes the Nazi occupation of Poland in terms of its economic control, exploitation of forced labor, terror, collaboration and cooperation, as well as the underground as a social and political movement. Includes a bibliography and an index. C4 H [Find in a library near you external link] An account of the suffering of Polish children, Jewish as well as gentile, under German occupation. Features a wealth of historical photographs, including reproductions of German decrees and orders affecting Polish youth. Did the Children Cry? C4 L82 [Find in a library near you external link] Focuses on the experiences of Polish children, Jewish as well as gentile, under German occupation. The Poles Under German Occupation, P6 L85 [Find in a library near you external link] An account of the systematic persecution of the Polish nation and its residents by the German forces. Nazi Ideology and the Holocaust. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Supplemented by excerpts of writings by perpetrators. Includes photographs, a bibliography, and an index. P56 [Find in a library near you external link] Discusses the terror and oppression of Polish citizens by both the Nazi and Soviet militaries. Includes analysis of cooperation and resistance to the occupiers by Jews, Poles, Belorussians, Lithuanians, and Ukrainians in the Polish territories. Includes tables, maps, primary source documents, endnotes, a

bibliography, and an index. German Soldiers and the Conquest of Poland. Blitzkrieg, Ideology, and Atrocity. University Press of Kansas, R [Find in a library near you external link] Analyzes the violent ideology of the Nazi invasion and initial atrocities committed by the Wehrmacht and Einsatzgruppen in Poland. Includes an overview of atrocities committed during the fighting, draconian reprisal measures against civilians, and the establishment of Anti-Jewish policies by the Nazi occupation authorities. Contains illustrations, footnotes, a bibliography and an index. Prelude to the Final Solution: Includes footnotes, a bibliography, maps and glossaries. Based on previously unresearched material from archives in Warsaw and London. A96 Z [Find in a library near you external link] Chronicles the early history of Auschwitz concentration camp beginning in June , when the first group of inmates, Poles arrested for political reasons, arrived at the camp. Includes photographs, original documents, and a list of names of the prisoners. Enforcing Racial War in the East. W [Find in a library near you external link] Discusses atrocities and the use of force by members of the Ordnungspolizei in Occupied Poland, distinguishing the violence by these police battalions from the Gestapo and SS actions. Includes illustrations, endnotes, a bibliography, and an index. Story of a Secret State. Houghton Mifflin Company, My report to the World. Diary from the Years of Occupation, University of Illinois Press, Includes day-by-day accounts of births, deaths, deportations, liquidations, atrocities and partisan activities. Contains an index of names. The Story of the Polish Underground State, Polish Christians Remember the Nazi Occupation. C47 F67 [Find in a library near you external link] Provides first-hand accounts of 28 Poles who survived Nazi oppression. Includes concentration camp artwork, pictures, a bibliography, and an index. We Were in Auschwitz. Welcome Rain Publishers, A96 N45 [Find in a library near you external link] A translation of the original memoirs of three prisoners who survived Auschwitz and the death march to Dachau. Includes a glossary of slang terms from concentration camps. That the Nightingale Return: P6 R [Find in a library near you external link] A first-hand account of life in the Polish underground in occupied Warsaw and the failed uprising organized by the Polish Home Army. Includes family portraits and documents. The Labyrinth of Dangerous Hours: A Memoir of the Second World War. University of Toronto Press, Features several photographs, a glossary of names, and a section of sources and notes. How Poles Helped the Jews, R4 B [Find in a library near you external link] A collection of testimonies from Polish rescuers of Jews during the Holocaust. Features many original documents, including transcripts and translations of German ordinances, as well as statements and reports issued by the Polish underground movement. Thou Shalt Not Kill: P62 J [Find in a library near you external link] An anthology of articles by reporters, historians, and public figures published in Poland in response to the book, Neighbors: Confronts the issues of collective guilt and the extent of Polish responsibility for the atrocities committed in that town. P62 J [Find in a library near you external link] Examines the slaughter of the 1, Jewish residents of the little Polish town of Jedwabne by their Polish neighbors. Uses survivor testimonies, postwar trial transcripts, and a memorial book, to review the days leading up to the pogrom and the pogrom itself. Includes photographs, maps, and extensive notes.