

By Ella Morfett

Never Again

The Holocaust was the genocide of European Jews during World War 2. Between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany systematically murdered six million Jews across German-occupied Europe, which was around two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population. The murders were carried out both through labour in concentration camps and also in gas chambers and gas vans in German Extermination camps.

Why did it happen?

In 1918, Germany lost the First World War and people in Germany, including Adolf Hitler, found this loss very difficult and humiliating to process. Many German citizens looked for scapegoats to blame. Rumours were spread that the German Army did not lose the First World War, but were betrayed by the Jews. When Hitler came into power, he and the Nazis started to persecute the Jews, starting with exclusionary policies which eliminated Jews from certain professions and educational opportunities and encouraged them to emigrate. Eventually, all the Jews remaining were taken away and were taken away to concentration camps to be killed.

Facts and Figures

Total WW2 deaths worldwide – 70-85 million
Jewish deaths – 6 million
Jewish survivors – 3.5 million
Total Nazi party members – 60-85 million
German occupied countries - Poland, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, Yugoslavia, Greece.

Never Forget

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing”

One of the most disturbing things about the holocaust is that it happened in a sophisticated, intellectual, developed nation. The German people were particularly vulnerable to the wild promises of Hitler after the defeat of World War 1, but this does not excuse the resulting evil enacted on those perceived to be undesirable.

This should give us pause for thought. Many people comfort themselves by believing that they would have acted differently, but we should remember that the supporters of the Nazi party were ordinary German men and women. The main lesson of the Holocaust is not only that Adolf Hitler and his cronies were evil, but in fact that many ordinary men and women have the capability to enact evil when under authority.

Therefore, we must remember that individuals must be willing at all times to stand up for truth and defend the weakest when human rights are under threat. Refusing to participate in that what we know to be wrong is the only prevention to history repeating.

Corrie Ten Boom

Corrie Ten Boom was born in 1892 in Haarlem, Netherlands. She was a Dutch watchmaker and later a Christian writer. During the Second World War, her family hid Jews in a secret room in her house. She is well remembered for this because she and her family risked their lives even though they were not Jewish herself. Eventually, her and the rest of her family were exposed and sent to multiple concentration camps, with Corrie and her sister ending up in Ravensbrück camp in Germany. She managed to smuggle in a Bible and share the gospel with other prisoners. She survived the concentration camps but a lot of family members did not, including her older sister Betsie.

After the war, she wrote about her experiences in 'The Hiding Place' and famously forgave the guards in charge of the camp where her sister died.



The Swastika was the symbol of the Nazi party. Since the war, it has become synonymous with evil and is a banned symbol in many countries, including Germany itself.