

key terms.

To consult before, during, & after your visit.

Antisemitism: The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) defines antisemitism as a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

Communist Party: A political party that advocates for the principles of communism, which include the creation of a classless society and the abolition of private property. In Nazi Germany, communists were persecuted and targeted as political enemies.

Conspiracy (blaming Jews for economic decline): A baseless and antisemitic conspiracy theory that falsely accuses Jewish people of being responsible for economic problems, often used as a scapegoat by political movements to explain and exploit societal issues.

DP Camp: Displaced Persons camps established in Europe after World War II to house Holocaust survivors and others who had been uprooted by the war. These camps were administered by the Allies and provided shelter, food, and medical care.

Einsatzgruppen: Mobile death squads of the SS that followed the German army into Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, systematically murdering Jews, Romani people, communists, and other groups deemed undesirable by the Nazis.

Extermination Camp: Nazi camps established primarily for the systematic killing of large numbers of people, especially Jews, during the Holocaust. Notable extermination camps include Auschwitz, Treblinka, and Sobibor.

Final Solution: The Nazi plan for the genocide of the Jewish people during World War II, which resulted in the murder of six million Jews.

Ghetto: Segregated and enclosed districts in cities where Jews were forced to live under Nazi occupation during World War II. Conditions in ghettos were extremely poor, with overcrowding, starvation, and forced labor being common.

Holocaust: Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, defines the Holocaust as the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its allies and collaborators.

Kapo: A prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp who was assigned by the SS guards to supervise forced labor or carry out administrative tasks. Kapos were often brutal towards fellow inmates to maintain their privileged status.

Kielce Pogrom: A violent attack on the Jewish community in Kielce, Poland, on July 4, 1946, resulting in the deaths of over 40 Jews. It was one of the worst post-war pogroms and highlighted ongoing antisemitism in Europe.

Kindertransport: A rescue operation that took place before World War II, where around 10,000 Jewish children were transported from Nazi-occupied territories to safety in the United Kingdom.

Kristallnacht: Also known as the Night of Broken Glass, this was a pogrom against Jews throughout Nazi Germany on November 9-10, 1938, where Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues were destroyed, and thousands of Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps.

Mein Kampf: A book written by Adolf Hitler, published in two volumes in 1925 and 1926, outlining his ideology and future plans for Germany. The title translates to "My Struggle."

MS St. Louis: A German ocean liner that, in 1939, carried over 900 Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi persecution. The ship was denied entry to Cuba, the United States, and Canada, forcing its return to Europe, where many passengers eventually perished in the Holocaust.

key terms.

To consult before, during, & after your visit.

Nazi: A member of the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP), the far-right political party led by Adolf Hitler that ruled Germany from 1933 to 1945 and was responsible for the Holocaust.

Nuremberg Laws: A set of anti-Semitic laws enacted in Nazi Germany in 1935, which institutionalized many of the racial theories prevalent in Nazi ideology. These laws excluded Jews from German citizenship and prohibited marriages between Jews and non-Jews.

Pier 21: A historic site in Halifax, Nova Scotia, that served as an immigration shed for Canada from 1928 to 1971. It was a major point of entry for many immigrants, including Holocaust survivors.

Pogrom: A violent riot aimed at the massacre or expulsion of an ethnic or religious group, particularly Jews. Historically, pogroms involved the organized massacre of Jews, especially in Russia and Eastern Europe in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Pogroms typically involved looting, destruction of property, and physical violence, often with the tacit or explicit approval of local authorities. The term is derived from a Russian word meaning "to wreak havoc" or "to demolish violently".

Reichstag: The German parliament building in Berlin, which was the seat of the Weimar Republic's government and later became symbolic of Nazi power after the Reichstag fire in 1933.

Righteous Among the Nations: An honorific used by the State of Israel to describe non-Jews who risked their lives during the Holocaust to save Jews from extermination by the Nazis. This title is awarded by Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial.

Roma (Gypsies): An ethnic group of traditionally nomadic people who were persecuted and murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

SD: The Sicherheitsdienst, the intelligence agency of the SS and the Nazi Party, responsible for identifying and neutralizing resistance to the Nazis and gathering intelligence.

Soviet Union: The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), a socialist state in Eurasia that existed from 1922 to 1991. It was one of the Allied powers during World War II and played a significant role in the defeat of Nazi Germany.

SS: The Schutzstaffel, a major paramilitary organization under Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party, responsible for many of the crimes against humanity during the Holocaust, including running concentration and extermination camps.

Sturmabteilung (Brown Shirts): The paramilitary wing of the Nazi Party, also known as the SA. They played a key role in Adolf Hitler's rise to power by using intimidation and violence against political opponents.

Tailor Project: A post-World War II initiative in Canada to help displaced persons, specifically Jewish tailors and their families, immigrate to Canada to fill labor shortages in the garment industry.

Treaty of Versailles: The peace treaty that ended World War I, signed on June 28, 1919. It imposed heavy reparations and territorial losses on Germany and is often cited as a cause of economic hardship and political instability in Germany during the interwar period.

Wannsee Conference: A meeting held on January 20, 1942, in the Berlin suburb of Wannsee, where senior Nazi officials discussed and coordinated the implementation of the Final Solution.