

Glossary

General Terms

Gentile

Someone who is not a Jew. Many gentiles helped to save and hide Jews during the Holocaust.

Jewish Seminary

A Jewish educational institution. Different seminaries can be specifically for boys or girls but can also be co-educational, focusing on the study of religious texts and practices.

Orthodox

Orthodox Judaism is one of the branch types of Judaism. Orthodox Judaism adheres most strictly to traditional beliefs and practices such as observing the Sabbath, eating kosher, and studying Judaism's holy book called the Torah.

Yeshiva

A type of Jewish seminary specifically for boys or young men. Focuses on the study of traditional religious texts such as the Talmud and the Torah, and Jewish Law known as halacha.

Geography Terms

British Palestine/Mandatory Palestine

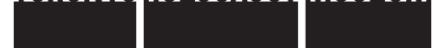
British Palestine was established in 1920 when the League of Nations granted Britain the Mandate for Palestine. This Mandate gave Britain administrative control over the region of Palestine. The British Mandate for Palestine ended in 1948 when the State of Israel was established.

Czechoslovakia

A former country in central Europe. It was formed in 1918 after the end of the First World War. In 1993, Czechoslovakia split into two present-day countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Soviets/Soviet Union

Also called the USSR, a country that stretched from the Pacific Ocean all the way into eastern Europe. Its center was in modern day Russia. In 1941, the Soviet Union joined the Allies that fought against Nazi Germany and the Axis powers during World War II. The Soviet Union lasted from 1922 until 1991.



Holocaust-Related Terms

Antisemitism

Hostility toward or hatred of Jews as a religious or ethnic group because they are Jewish. It is often accompanied by social, economic, or political discrimination.

Auschwitz

The largest Nazi concentration camp complex located near the Polish town of Oświęcim. The Auschwitz main camp (Auschwitz I) was established in 1940. In 1942, a killing center was established at Auschwitz-Birkenau (Auschwitz II). In 1941, Auschwitz-Monowitz (Auschwitz III) was established as a forced-labor camp. Auschwitz was liberated on 27 January 1945 by the Soviet Army and is now a museum.

Barrack

A group of long buildings built to house military personnel or laborers. Prisoners slept in barracks within concentration camps. These barracks were often small, overcrowded, and unclean.

Cattle Cars

Wagons used to transport livestock such as cows to markets. During the Holocaust, cattle cars were used to transport Jewish prisoners from their hometowns to concentration camps. The cattle cars were often full of people, making it hard to move. Train journeys in cattle cars often lasted many days, leaving people locked inside with no food or water.

Concentration Camp

Camps set up by the Nazis across German-occupied Europe to detain and, if necessary, kill so-called enemies of the state, including Jews, Roma and Sinti frequently referred to as “Gypsies,” political and religious opponents, members of national resistance movements, homosexuals, and others. In addition to concentration camps, the Nazi regime ran several other kinds of camps including labour camps, transit camps, prisoner-of-war camps, and killing centers.

Dachau

A Nazi concentration camp located in Bavaria, in southern Germany. The camp opened on 22 March 1933 and acted as a forced labour camp throughout World War Two. The camp was initially supposed to only be to hold political prisoners but eventually, other victims such as Jews and criminals were sent there as well. The camp was liberated on 29 April 1945.

Death March

A forced march of prisoners of war or other captives from one location to another during which prisoners are killed and those unable to continue are left to die on the way. Near the end of the war when the Allied armies closed in on the Nazi concentration camps, prisoners were forced to march long distances in bitter cold, with little or no food, water, or rest from one camp to another.

Discrimination

The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different groups of people based on aspects of their identities, such as race, age, or sex.

Final Solution

Also known as the “Final Solution to the Jewish Question.” The Final Solution was the deliberate, planned mass murder of European Jews by the Nazi regime between 1941 and 1945. The goal of the Final Solution was to systematically murder all Jews within reach.

Ghetto

A small area of a city in which members of a minority group are forced to live. During the Second World War, many Jewish families were forced to leave their homes and move into ghettos across Nazi-occupied Europe.

Kindertransport

An organized rescue effort between 1938 and 1940. These efforts allowed children under the age of 17 to enter Great Britain as refugees from Nazi Germany.

Kristallnacht

Usually referred to as the “Night of Broken Glass.” It is the name given to the violent anti-Jewish pogrom that took place on November 9-10, 1938. The pogrom occurred throughout Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia. During this time, Nazis burned hundreds of synagogues, vandalized Jewish-owned businesses, damaged Jewish cemeteries, and homes, and arrested many Jewish men.

Liberation/Liberated

The act of setting someone free from imprisonment, slavery, or oppression; release. Many concentration camps were liberated by American or Soviet soldiers in 1945.

Mauthausen

A Nazi concentration camp located near the town of the same name in Upper Austria. The camp was opened on 8 August 1938 and acted as a forced labor camp throughout World War Two. The camp was liberated on 5 May 1945 and is now a museum.

Pogrom

A Russian word, meaning to ‘wreak havoc’ or ‘to demolish violently,’ used to refer to a violent riot where local non-Jewish people specifically attack Jews.

Ravensbrück

A Nazi concentration located in northern Germany. The camp opened in May 1939 and operated as the largest forced labour and death camp exclusively for women. The camp was liberated on April 29, 1945.

Shoah

A Hebrew word meaning catastrophe used to refer to the Holocaust, the state-sponsored systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945.



Immigration-Related Terms

Brihah

An underground organization that helped at least 150,000 Jews illegally emigrate from eastern Europe into Allied-occupied zones in Europe or Palestine. “Brihah” is the Hebrew word for “flight” or “escape.”

Camps B and I

Internment camps that imprisoned Jewish refugees during World War II. Camp B was located in Ripples, New Brunswick, and Camp I was located in Île-aux-Noix, Quebec.

Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC): A democratically elected organization representing Jewish Canadians. During its years of operation from 1919 and 2011, the CJC advocated for Jewish rights. For example, the CJC lobbied the Government of Canada after World War II to allow Jewish refugees into the country. Following reorganization in 2011, the CJC disbanded with the [Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs](#) (CIJA) taking on the CJC’s responsibilities.

Displaced Persons (DP) Camps

Facilities for housing displaced persons after the Second World War. Displaced Persons were people who were unable to return to their homes after the war.

Enemy Aliens

People in Canada who were connected to countries at war with Canada and its allies. They might be connected to enemy countries through current citizenship or through ancestry.

Furrier

A professional who makes, repairs, or alters clothing made from fur. Jewish furriers in DP Camps were allowed to immigrate to Canada as part of a Garment Workers’ Scheme. The Furriers Project was like the Tailor Project except recruiters looked for furriers instead.

Garment Workers

Professionals who make, repair, and alter clothing. Garment workers include tailors, dressmakers, furriers, milliners (hatmakers), and more.

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS): An American organization that helps and advocates for refugees. After the Holocaust, HIAS helped refugees resettle in new countries including Canada. Today, HIAS still helps refugees, whether they are Jewish or from other backgrounds.

Internment/Internee

The imprisonment of groups of people from enemy countries during wartime. Internees were confined in internment camps without being charged with a crime.

Refugee

Someone who has been forced to flee their home country because of war, violence, conflict, or persecution.

Sponsor

A person or group living in the country who fills in an application on behalf of a family member or a refugee who wishes to become a permanent resident there.



Tailor Project

The first of the immigration schemes targeting garment workers beginning in 1947. Driven by labour shortages in Canada, the Tailor Project worked around Canada's restrictive immigration policies. The Project team recruited Jewish tailors from DP Camps in Europe to work and live in Canada.

Visa

A document that gives someone permission to enter a country they do not live in.

War Orphan Project

An immigration scheme that allowed orphaned Jewish Holocaust survivors under 18 to immigrate to Canada. The Project began in 1947 when the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) convinced the Government of Canada to allow these survivors to enter Canada. Between 1947 and 1952, over one thousand orphans immigrated to Canada.

World Agudath Israel

Also known as Aguda. A political organization that represents a large portion of Orthodox Judaism and Jews who adhere to Torah Judaism. The organization gained large popularity and support in Eastern Europe before the Holocaust. Afterwards, the movement continues to operate in various places around the world such as the United States and Israel.

