

The background of the slide is a grayscale composite image. On the left, there is a photograph of the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin, showing its iconic white, ribbed dome and the long, straight paths of the memorial grounds. On the right, there is a map of Europe, with the landmasses highlighted in white against a dark gray background. The map includes major landmasses like the British Isles, Scandinavia, and the Mediterranean region.

# **VOICES OF THE HOLOCAUST**

**Part Two**

A black and white photograph showing three men from behind, standing on a cracked, dry, and desolate landscape. The man on the left is wearing a dark jacket and glasses, pointing towards the horizon. The man in the center is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark trousers, with his hand on his head. The man on the right is wearing a dark jacket and dark trousers. The background is a flat, open field under a cloudy sky.

# THE POLISH CONTEXT OF THE SHOAH

# NAZI IDEOLOGY AND OCCUPATION



Social Darwinism contributed to the development of modern anti-Semitism.

In 1850, the Englishman, Herbert Spencer, advanced the theory of “constant struggle between humans in which the strongest would win” – it was not the survival of the “fittest” as Darwin later postulated but the survival of the “strongest” (p. 49).

# NAZI IDEOLOGY AND OCCUPATION



Nazi ideology desired to shape the entire world.

“It did not limit itself to the Jews and to the aspiration of their disappearance and annihilation”

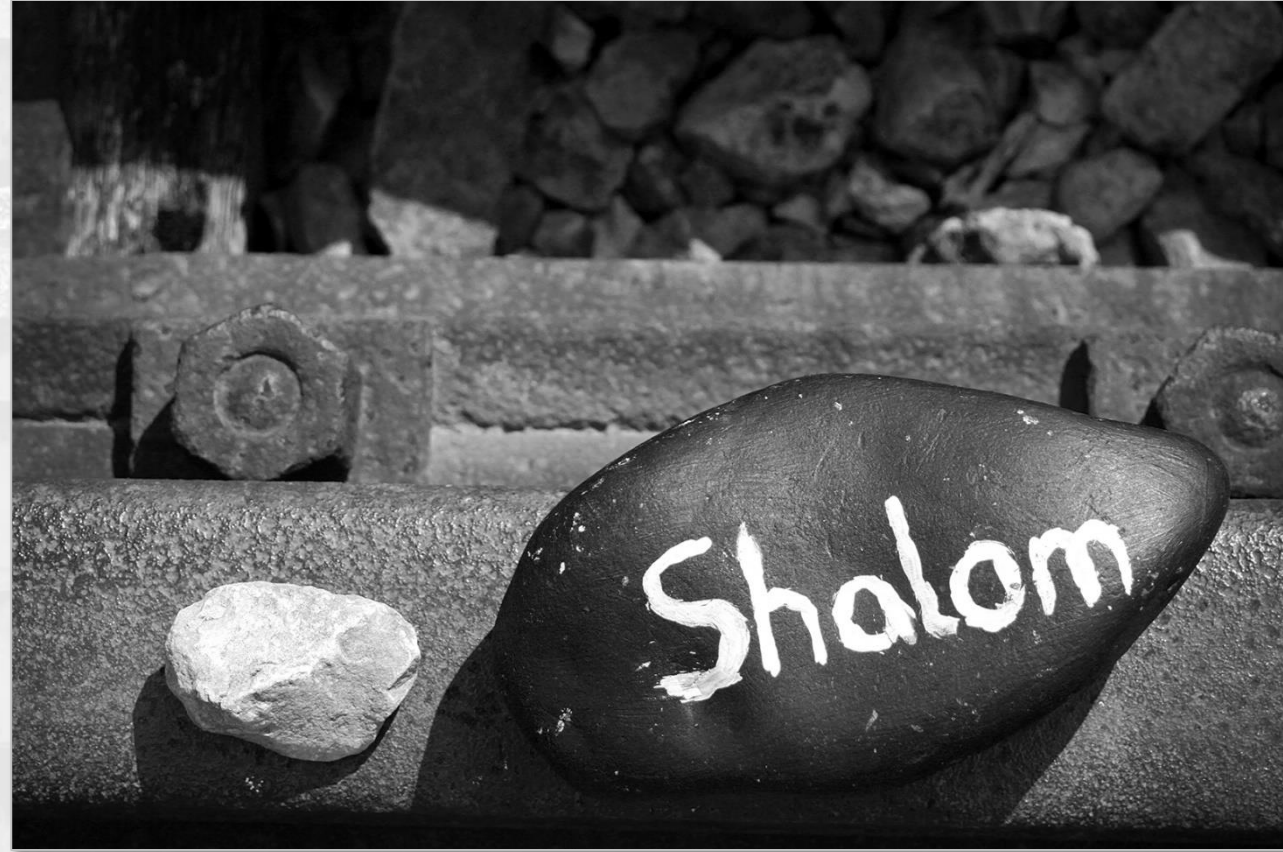
Nazi Germany wanted to “create a New Order in Europe and beyond” (Tel Aviv University & Vashem, 2016a).

# NAZI IDEOLOGY AND OCCUPATION

Nazi Redemptive Anti-Semitism defined the Jews as an anti-race, a destructive element of humanity

As such they were a hazard to the existence of the new order of the world.

Subsequently this ideology could not be expressed or realized without “the well-rooted hostility towards the Jews of Europe.”



# NAZI IDEOLOGY AND OCCUPATION



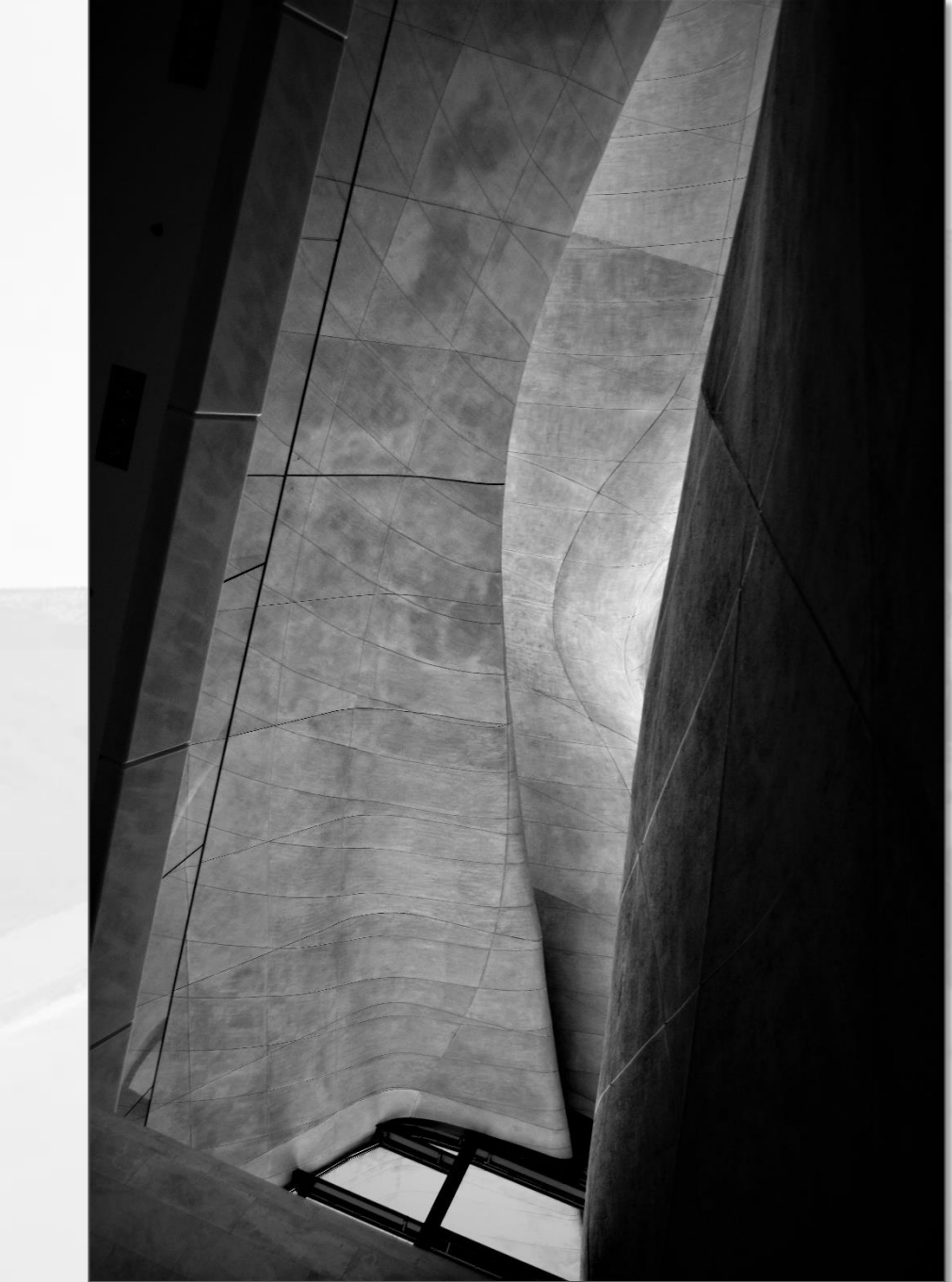
Aryans “were considered the master race, consisting above all of the Germans and ethnic Germans in Eastern Europe

Also included northwestern populations such as the Dutch and the Scandinavians” and people from such groups were viewed as “superior” (Tel Aviv University & Vashem, 2016a).

# NAZI IDEOLOGY AND OCCUPATION

Consequently such people  
“needed and deserved  
more”—“more rights, more  
food, more space:  
*lebensraum*, living space”  
(Tel Aviv University &  
Vashem, 2016a).





# NAZI IDEOLOGY AND OCCUPATION

*Untermenschen* were those people and nations, who were placed “at the bottom of the racial scale,” which included “the Russians and Poles, as well as others” (Tel Aviv University & Vashem, 2016a).

Polish Jews and Polish Christians were both victims of the ruthless Nazi occupation, though they were “unequal victims,” to use a term phrased by the scholars Israel Gutman and Shmoleka Kofsky (Tel Aviv University & Vashem, 2016a).

# POLISH CONTEXT OF THE SHOAH

Jews and Poles have shared a long history, which at times has been strained and embittered. The events of the Shoah only worked to exacerbate the difficulty in their relations even further.

Common belief is that the Nazi regime chose Poland for the setting of the Final Solution because of Polish anti-Semitism; however, this is not the case.

The Nazis chose Poland strategically “as their gigantic laboratory for mass murder” simply for the reason that Poland was the home to the largest Jewish population in Europe (Zimmerman, 2003, p. 3).

# POLISH CONTEXT OF THE SHOAH



Louise Steinman (2013) states that there is emptiness in the space of her family's history prior to the Shoah.

According to Steinman "most [Jews] harbored more bitterness toward Poland than they did toward Germany" even though they were once "part of Poland's body and soul, but they'd been excised, cast out" (p. xi).

# POLISH CONTEXT OF THE SHOAH

Although the Shoah was not conceived by Poles, it “had tainted Polish soil forever” (Zimmerman, 2003, p. 6).

Dealing with the aftermath of such a tragic event would require cleansing Poland and its people from this “terrible burden of history” by allowing the Polish people to see themselves and their country “in the light of truth” (Zimmerman, 2003, p. 6).



# POLISH CONTEXT OF THE SHOAH



The Shoah “is the tragedy of the Poles” because during dark days of the Nazi extermination of the Jews, Poles “were exposed to an unprecedented moral trial” through which it would be difficult to say if anyone else “would have come through it better” (Zimmerman, 2003, p. 7).

# POLISH CONTEXT OF THE SHOAH



On at least one occasion, Poles became participants of barbarism, rounding up and brutally murdering their Jewish neighbors in a pogrom.

With the permission of Nazi officials, Polish residents of Jedwabne, Poland brutally murdered 1,600 of their Jewish neighbors in July 1941.

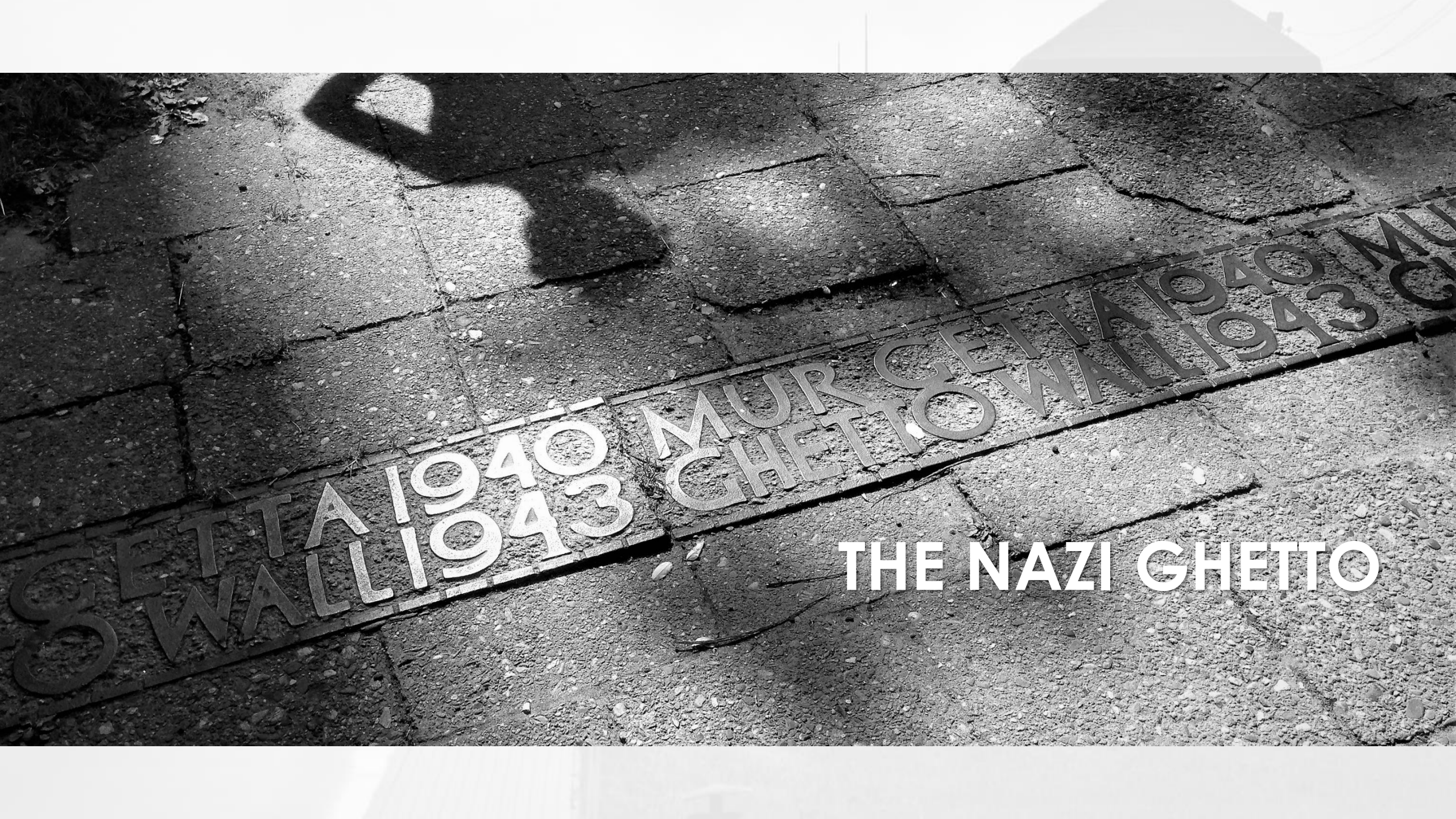
Jews were rounded up and were beaten, clubbed or hacked to death; however, most of those who died were eventually herded into a barn and burned alive.

# POLISH CONTEXT OF THE SHOAH

The events of Jedwabne were not the norm; however, it occurred and Poles took part in the murder of Jews.

This event has not been examined historically due to the fact that many historians discounted the grim eyewitness testimony of the Jewish survivors of the event as being too incredible to be true.





GHETTO WALL 1943 MUR GETTA 1940 GHETTO WALL 1943

# THE NAZI GHETTO

DO KONCA 1942 R. WSZYSCY ZNAJDUJĄCY SIĘ W IZBICY ŻYDZI  
ZOSTALI ZAMORDOWANI PRZEZ NIEMIECKICH NAZISTÓW.  
4000 OSÓB ROZSTRZELANO NA TERENIE CMENTARZA ŻYDOWSKIEGO  
W IZBICY, POZOSTALI ZGINĘLI W OBOZACH ZAGŁADY  
W BEŁŻCU I SOBIBORZE.

PAMIĘCI ŻYDOWSKICH MIESZKAŃCÓW IZBICY,  
ZAMORDOWANYCH W CZASIE ZAGŁADY

FUNDACJA OCHRONY DZIEDZICTWA ŻYDOWSKIEGO  
AMBASADA REPUBLIKI FEDERALNEJ NIEMIEC

2006

IZBICA WURDE 1750 ALS ANSIEDLUNG FÜR AUS DEM BENACHBARTEN  
TARNOGÓRA VERTRIEBENE JUDEN GEGRÜNDET. FAST ZWEIHUNDERT  
JAHRE LANG STELTEN DIE JUDEN DIE MEHRZAHL  
DER EINWOHNER VON IZBICA UND TRUGEN ZU DESSEN  
WIRTSCHAFTLICHER UND KULTURELLER ENTWICKLUNG BEI.  
IM JAHRE 1921 WAREN 93% DER EINWOHNER DER STADT JUDEN.

IM SEPTEMBER 1939 LEBTEN IN IZBICA 4000 JUDEN.  
IM DEZEMBER 1939 BRACHTE DIE BESATZUNGSMACHT 2500 JUDEN  
AUS ŁÓDŹ UND KOŁO IN DIE STADT, UND IM JAHRE 1942  
WEITERE 1000 JUDEN AUS DER TSCHECOSLOWAKEI.  
BIS ENDE 1942 WURDEN ALLE IN IZBICA BEFINDLICHEN JUDEN  
VON DEN DEUTSCHEN NAZIS ERMORDET. 4000 PERSONEN WURDEN  
AUF DEM JÜDISCHEN FRIEDHOF VON IZBICA ERSCHOSSEN,  
DIE ANDEREN KAMEN IN DEN VERNICHTUNGSLAGERN  
BEŁŻEC UND SOBIBÓR UMS LEBEN.

ZUM GEDENKEN AN DIE WÄHREND DES HOLOCAUST ERMORDETEN  
JÜDISCHEN EINWOHNER VON IZBICA

STIFTUNG FÜR DIE BEWAHRUNG DES JÜDISCHEN ERBES  
BOTSCHAFT DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND

2006

IZBICA WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1750 AS A SETTLEMENT  
FOR JEWISH PEOPLE REMOVED FROM THE NEIGHBORING TARNOGÓRA.  
FOR ALMOST TWO HUNDRED YEARS JEWS WERE THE MAJORITY  
OF IZBICA'S CITIZENS, CONTRIBUTING TO ITS ECONOMICAL  
AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. IN 1921 93% OF THE TOWN'S  
CITIZENS WERE JEWISH.

IN SEPTEMBER 1939 THERE WERE 4000 JEWS LIVING IN IZBICA.  
IN DECEMBER 1939 OCCUPIERS BROUGHT TO THE TOWN 2500 JEWS  
FROM ŁÓDŹ AND KOŁO, AND IN APRIL 1942 1000 JEWS  
FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

BY THE END OF 1942 ALL THE IZBICA JEWS WERE  
MURDERED BY THE GERMAN NAZIS. 4000 PEOPLE WERE SHOT  
AT THE IZBICA JEWISH CEMETERY, AND ALL THE OTHERS WERE  
KILLED IN THE BEŁŻEC AND SOBIBÓR DEATH CAMPS.

IN MEMORY OF THE JEWISH CITIZENS OF IZBICA,  
MURDERED DURING THE SHOAH

FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF JEWISH HERITAGE  
IN POLAND EMBASSY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

2006

# GHETTOIZATION

In September of 1939 SS General Reinhardt Heydrich, sent the *Schnellbrief*," concerning the "Jewish Question in Occupied Territories" and in this letter he "emphasized that the planned total measures, i.e., the final aim - *Endziel*, are to be kept strictly secret" (Tel Aviv University & Vashem, 2016b).



# GHETTOIZATION

Heydrich emphasized that the “final aim” would require time and that there would be stages running up to the “final aim.” These were short periods of time to carry out so called “temporary steps” (Tel Aviv University & Vashem, 2016b).

# GHETTOIZATION

In the annexed territories were to be cleared of Jews, while in Poland, Jews should be concentrated in large cities at rail junctions or along rail lines.

The question concerning how to implement the final aim and its associated steps was not answered in Nazi documents.



# GHETTOIZATION



The word ghetto is from Italy, where the first ghetto was set aside for Jews in Venice in the 1500s.

Unlike what the Israeli Minister of Education said recently at Auschwitz, there were no ghettos in Paris and Vienna.



# GHETTOIZATION

Ghetto was a term used by Nazis is different.

It meant that the Jews would be moved to an area as a temporary step in the deportation process.

The first ghetto was established in Poland and later in other parts of Eastern Europe.

Roughly a 1,000 ghettos established by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

Ghettos were generally placed in cities, but could be in other areas.

# GHETTOIZATION

More than half of the ghetto residents were refugees.

Ghettos were in the Eastern European Jewish experience.

In the West, Jews were isolated by legal and economic measures and they were essentially removed from society.



The Warsaw Ghetto is a “standard example” of a ghetto but there were others. Nevertheless all the ghettos in the occupied territories were quite diverse.



# THE WARSAW GHETTO

The Jews were ordered to move into the Warsaw Ghetto on October 12, 1940 and by November 1940 the Warsaw Ghetto was sealed and enclosed by a 3 meter high wall.

In the beginning of the Warsaw Ghetto, 380,000 Jews lived in less than 3.5 square kilometers.



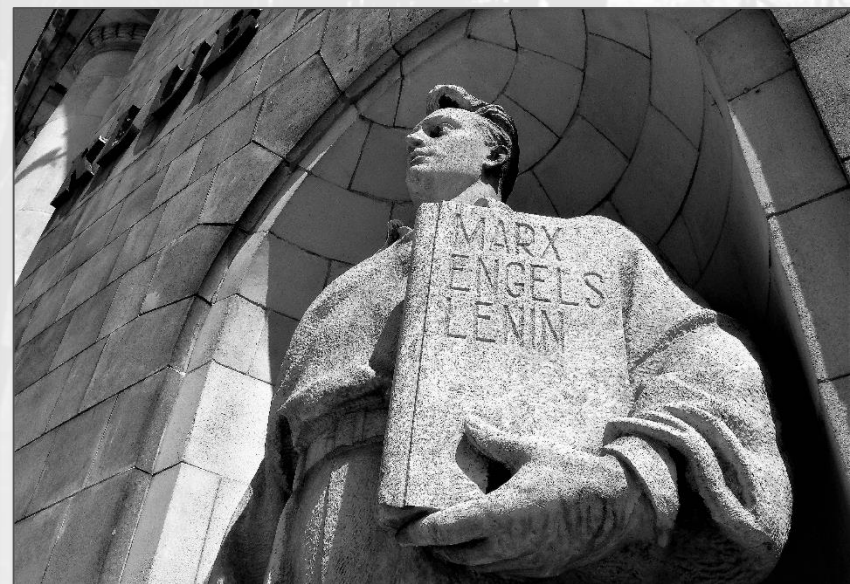
# THE WARSAW GHETTO



About 30% of Warsaw's population lived in 3% of the city's territory.

More than 80,000 Jews died in the Warsaw Ghetto of hunger, disease, and Nazi terror.

The German formal food allocation for a Jew was 184 calories per day.





**TREBLINKA**



# TREBLINKA

Beginning in July 1942, the Nazis began to empty the Warsaw Ghetto and sent Jews to their immediate death at the Treblinka Death Camp.

Treblinka was “only designed for mass murder of Jews.”



# TREBLINKA

In the summer of 1942 more than 300,000 Jews were sent to their death at Treblinka.

Collectively more than 1,000,000 Jews were murdered at Treblinka.

# DISCUSSION

Nazi Germany built their “extermination camps in occupied Poland. It is historically unfair that the Poles, whose country was annexed by the Nazis and effectively dismantled, are forced to bear the guilt that is Germany’s and the hatred and disgust of Israelis and the entire world.”

**Carolina Landsmann**

