

"RELOCATION" OF JEWS DURING WORLD WAR II

RAILWAYS

The Nazi regime used rail transport as one method to forcibly rearrange the ethnic makeup of eastern Europe during World War II. The Nazi leadership decided to implement the "Final Solution," the systematic mass murder of European Jews in 1941.

German authorities used rail systems across the continent to

deport Jews from their homes, mainly to eastern Europe. Jews were methodically killed in specially constructed killing centers. German officials deported Jews to facilities by train, or when trains were not available or the distances were short, by truck or on foot.



WANSEE CONFERENCE

On January 20, 1942, the Wannsee Conference was held near Berlin, Germany. The SS, Nazi Party, and German state officials met to coordinate the deportation of European Jews to killing centers, also known as extermination camps.

These centers were already in operation or under construction in German-occupied Poland. The participants of the conference estimated the "Final Solution" would involve the deportation and murder of 11 million Jews, including Jewish residents of nations outside German control, such as Ireland, Sweden, Turkey, and Great Britain.

MASS DEPORTATION

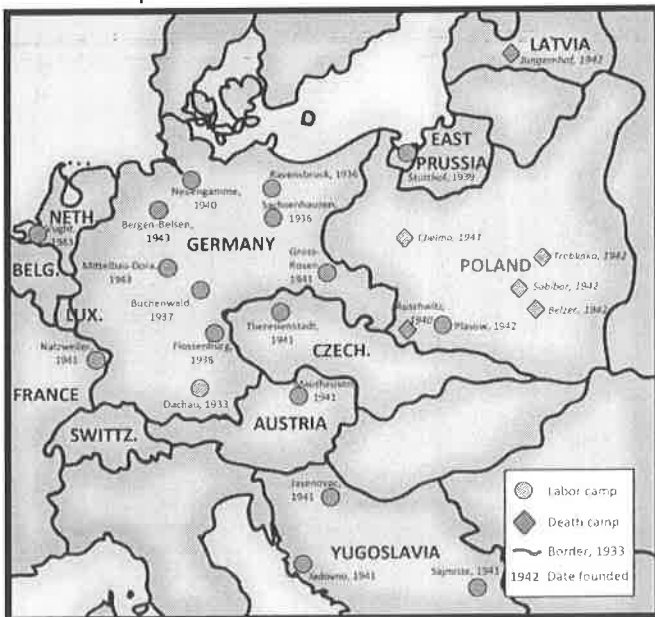
Deportations on this large scale required the coordination of many German government agencies, including the Reich Security Main Office, the Main Office of the Order Police, the Ministry of Transportation, and the Foreign Office. Germans attempted to hide their intentions. They tried to

make the deportations seem like a "resettlement" of the Jewish population in labor camps in the "East." In reality, this "resettlement" in the "East" became a euphemism for transport to the killing centers and mass murder.



JOURNEY

German railroad officials used both freight and passenger cars for deportations. Deportees were not generally given food or water during the journey, even when they had to wait for days on railroad spurs for other trains to pass. People were packed in sealed, overcrowded freight cars. They had to endure intense heat in the summer and freezing temperatures in the winter. There was only a bucket for people to use the bathroom. The stench of urine and excrement added to the humiliation and suffering of the deportees. Many died before the trains even reached their destinations. Armed police guards accompanied the transports with orders to shoot anyone who tried to escape.



KILLING CENTERS

The SS and police officials established five killing centers in German-occupied Poland: Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka II, and Auschwitz-Birkenau. Germans killed nearly three million Jews in these five killing centers.

Name _____

"RELOCATION" OF JEWS



IDENTIFY: Use the word bank to identify each description.

Wannsee Conference	train	Axis Powers
extermination camps	Final Solution	bucket
eastern	resettlement	Poland

1.	Another name for Nazi killing centers
2.	Nazi plan to rid Europe of Jews
3.	Germany was on this side during World War II
4.	Most killing camps were in this nation
5.	Most Jews were transported by this
6.	Meeting where plans for the "Final Solution" occurred
7.	Nazis referred to moving the Jews as this
8.	People on trains had to use the restroom in this
9.	Region of Europe where Jews were "relocated"

MULTIPLE CHOICE: Choose the best answer.

10. "In reality, this "resettlement" in the "East" became a euphemism for transport to the killing centers and mass murder."

What is the best definition for *euphemism* in the previous quote?

- A. The transfer of people from one place to another
- B. The substitution of a vague expression for one that may be offensive
- C. To believe in one thing, but do something else
- D. To kill multiple people at one time in a methodical manner

11. What was the purpose of the Wannsee Conference?

- A. To create a plan to deal with Jews
- B. To meet with leaders of other nations
- C. To join with other leaders to get rid of Jews
- D. To create a train schedule

12. Which of the following is NOT true about the railroad trip for the deportees?

- A. Both freight and passenger cars were used
- B. People were subject to harsh conditions
- C. All deportees made it to their destination alive
- D. They were not given food or water

13. What would most likely happen if a deportee attempted to escape?

- A. They would be allowed to go.
- B. They would be captured and imprisoned.
- C. They would be made a slave.
- D. They would be shot and killed.

14. According to the "Final Solution," how many Jews did Nazis plan to kill?

- A. 2 million
- B. 6 million
- C. 11 million
- D. 24 million

