

Globocnik, Odilo

(1904--1945), Senior SS commander who played a major role in the destruction of the Jews of Poland. Of Austrian-Croat descent, Globocnik joined the Nazi Party in Austria in 1931 and the SS in 1934. He engaged in a number of illegal activities for the Nazi Party, and was imprisoned several times as a result. In 1938 Globocnik began rising through the SS ranks; by May he was made state secretary and party leader of Vienna. He was stripped of this position just a few months later due to some illegal dealings. Nonetheless, SS chief Heinrich Himmler pardoned Globocnik of all wrongdoing, and in November 1939 he was named SS and Police Leader for the Lublin district of Poland.

In 1941 Himmler, who was quite fond of Globocnik and called him "Globus," charged him with organizing and setting up an SS power base in Poland. In 1942 Himmler once again gave Globocnik a great deal of responsibility: this time, he was ordered to implement *Aktion Reinhard*—the systematic extermination of the Jews in Poland. In this capacity, Globocnik was in charge of special SS troops who answered to Himmler only. Globocnik used the extermination camps of Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, and Majdanek as killing sites where some two million Jews perished. He also became the executive director of Ostindustrie GMBH, an organization whose sole purpose was to expand the industrial SS empire and to take advantage of the Jews in the extermination camps who were not immediately gassed by using them as slave laborers. Globocnik also supervised the seizure of the Jews' valuables and property; he even had the gold teeth and fillings of the murdered Jews melted down and reused. In all, during *Aktion Reinhard*, 178 million reichsmarks worth of property was confiscated from the Jews of Poland.

In August 1943, after disagreements with other SS and Nazi Party leaders, Globocnik was transferred to Trieste, Italy where he was charged with suppressing the Partisans. At the end of the war he was captured by British soldiers and in May 1945 he took his own life.