

## Bratislava

(in German, Pressburg; in Hungarian, Pozsony), city in Czechoslovakia and capital of independent Slovakia from 1939--1945 and after 1993. In 1940, 15,000 Jews lived in Bratislava. The city also housed important Jewish organizations, including the Jewish Center (*Ustredna Zidov*, UZ), as well as nationalist groups which often attacked the Jews.

The Jews of Bratislava aided many fellow Jews who needed their help. These included Austrian Jews persecuted by the Nazis, and Slovakian Jews who lived in areas annexed to Hungary. Many Jews, including both refugees and native Czechoslovakians, escaped to Palestine through the port of Bratislava.

From fall 1941 to spring 1942, 6,700 Jewish residents of Bratislava were expelled from certain parts of the city and sent to the provinces. Their property was seized and their homes given away.

The Nazis launched large-scale deportations from Slovakia to extermination camps in March 1942. Jews remaining in Bratislava continued their rescue efforts through the officially recognized UZ and through the underground working group. After the outbreak of the Slovak National Uprising in August 1944, the Germans occupied Bratislava. Jews either fled or hid; those who hid were found and sent to labor camps. When the Soviets liberated Bratislava in April 1945, only a few Jews remained. (see also Jewish center, Slovakia.)