

HOW WAS IT HUMANLY POSSIBLE?

יד ושם
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THE WORLD HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE CENTER

SHOAH


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1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945

SHOAH - The Holocaust

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Shoah, the Holocaust, was an unprecedented genocide, total and systematic, perpetrated by Nazi Germany and its collaborators, with the aim of annihilating the Jewish people. The primary motivation was the racist, antisemitic ideology of Adolf Hitler and his followers, which viewed Jews as an inferior race and a threat to the German nation. This ideology was rooted in the writings of Heinrich Himmler and other Nazi leaders, who saw the Jews as a "cancer" on the body of the German people. The Holocaust was the result of this ideology, which was implemented through a series of laws, decrees, and actions that culminated in the mass murder of six million Jews.

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Remember only that I was innocent and, just like you, mortal on that day. I, too, had had a face marked by rage, by pity and joy. Quite simple, a human face.



Jewish Life before the Two World Wars. For almost 2,000 years, the Jewish people lived as a minority among the nations. In the modern era, the Jews struggled to acquire equal civil rights, joined political movements, and contributed to the development of modern society. Despite their small numbers, they made significant contributions to science, art, and culture. However, their peaceful existence was shattered by the rise of Nazism and the Holocaust.

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How many look up to him [Hitler] as their savior... in his role as rescuer... the scholar, the clergyman, the worker, the entrepreneur, who rescue them from the gutter back into the nation.



The Rise of Hitler in Germany. In 1933, Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany. He was a charismatic leader who promised to restore the German nation to its former glory. He was supported by many Germans who were disillusioned with the Weimar Republic and its economic problems. Hitler's rise to power was a turning point in German history, as he began to implement his radical policies and prepare the country for war.

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to (the Aryan) does... represents the presence of all that he understood by the word "Jew". For this is the essence.

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This was my farewell from everything German. My internal farewell from what had been my fatherland... I could no longer be German.



Reich Jewry under the Nazis. In 1933, the Nazis began to persecute the Jews in Germany. They passed laws that stripped Jews of their citizenship and rights. They also targeted Jewish institutions, including synagogues and schools. The persecution was systematic and aimed at the complete annihilation of the Jewish people.

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I have never been so humiliated in my life as when I looked through the gate to the square and saw the happy, smiling faces of passersby, laughing at our misfortune.



The Occupation of Europe. With the help of the Nazis, the Jews were persecuted in other parts of Europe. In Poland, for example, the Jews were forced to live in ghettos and were subjected to harsh conditions. In the Soviet Union, the Jews were targeted by the Nazis and the local population. The persecution was widespread and aimed at the complete annihilation of the Jewish people.

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Suddenly we see ourselves present in all places. We are segregated and separated from the world... driven out of the society of the human race.



Isolation. In many places, the Jews were isolated from the rest of society. They were forced to live in ghettos and were subjected to harsh conditions. They were also targeted by the Nazis and the local population. The isolation was a key part of the Holocaust, as it made it easier for the Nazis to control the Jews and to implement their plans for their annihilation.

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I am twenty years old. Oh, how lonely is the world around me... Are these my final moments? Revenge! May all those who read my last request take revenge.



Auschwitz. On June 19, 1941, the Nazis began to implement their plan for the mass murder of the Jews. They built the Auschwitz concentration camp, where millions of Jews were killed. The camp was a place of horror and suffering, where the Jews were subjected to brutal conditions and were killed in gas chambers. The Holocaust was a crime against humanity, and the world must never forget it.

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Tomorrow we will be heading towards the Great Unknown in full awareness and at peace. If we are fortunate to live, all the better, and if not...



The Final Solution. The Nazis implemented their plan for the mass murder of the Jews, known as the Final Solution. They used gas chambers to kill millions of Jews in a systematic and efficient manner. The Holocaust was a crime against humanity, and the world must never forget it.

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Auschwitz-Birkenau. Auschwitz was the largest of the Nazi concentration camps. It was a place of horror and suffering, where millions of Jews were killed. The camp was a key part of the Holocaust, and the world must never forget it.

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Don't rush to fight and die. We need to save lives. It is more important to save Jews than to kill Germans.



Jewish Resistance. Despite the harsh conditions of the Holocaust, many Jews resisted the Nazis. They organized underground movements and fought back against their oppressors. The Jewish resistance was a testament to the strength and courage of the Jewish people.

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BETRAYED



The Betrayal of the Jewish People. The Holocaust was a crime against humanity, and the world must never forget it. The Jewish people were betrayed by many of their own people, who turned them over to the Nazis. This betrayal was a key part of the Holocaust, and the world must never forget it.

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We were clerks, farmers, workers, students, artists, actors... we were simple people, our deeds were unexceptional, yielding to violence would have been a disgrace.



The Victims of the Holocaust. The Holocaust was a crime against humanity, and the world must never forget it. The victims of the Holocaust were simple people, like you and me. They were killed because they were Jewish. The world must never forget the names of the victims, and the world must never forget the lessons of the Holocaust.

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In my heart - how strange - there is no hatred, only a terrible pain, astonishment, and the constant question - "Why?"

We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.

No man should judge unless he has himself in absolute honesty whether in a similar situation he might not have done the same.

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For us, the victory had come too late, much too late.



Liberation. The Holocaust ended in May 1945, when the Nazis were defeated. The Jewish people were liberated from the camps, but the damage was done. Millions of Jews had been killed, and the world must never forget the lessons of the Holocaust.

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My life started from the end. First I have known death. Then - birth.



Return to Life. After liberation, many Jews returned to their homes. However, many of their homes had been destroyed, and many of their families had been killed. The Jewish people were faced with a new beginning, and they had to rebuild their lives.

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IT HAPPENED THEREFORE IT CAN HAPPEN AGAIN

THIS IS THE CORE OF WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY

Primo Levi

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Yad Vashem - The World Holocaust Remembrance Center

The Hall of Names. Yad Vashem is the place where the names of Holocaust victims are permanently preserved. It is a place of remembrance and education, where the world can learn the lessons of the Holocaust.

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