

**Days of Remembrance 2013
Facts of the Day**



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Day	Fact	Source
1	<p>The United States Congress established the Days of Remembrance as our nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust and created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a permanent living memorial to the victims. Holocaust Remembrance Day is Monday, April 8, 2013. The Museum designated "Never Again: Heeding the Warning Signs" as the theme for the 2013 observance.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
2	<p>The Holocaust was the systematic persecution and murder of approximately six million Jewish men, women, and children by the Nazi regime. "Holocaust" is a word of Greek origin meaning "sacrifice by fire." The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in January 1933, believed that Germans were "racially superior" and that the Jews, deemed "inferior," were a threat to the German racial community.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
3	<p>During the Holocaust, German authorities targeted the Jewish population as well as other groups they perceived as racially inferior, such as Roma (Gypsies) and the Slavic people (Poles, Russians, and others). Additionally, other groups were persecuted on political, ideological, and behavioral grounds; among them were Communists, Socialists, Jehovah's Witnesses, the disabled, and homosexuals.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
4	<p>The 2013 Days of Remembrance examines the events of 1938 and the impact they had on individuals targeted by Nazi persecution. Reflecting on these events 75 years later challenges us to consider our own response to warning signs of genocide today. Our choices in response to hatred do matter, and together we can help fulfill the promise of "Never Again."</p>	

5	<p>By 1938, the Nazis had been in power for five years, during which they systematically removed Jews from public life in Germany, stripped them of their rights as citizens, and severely limited their employment opportunities. In that pivotal year, the year before Germany invaded Poland and ignited World War II, the treatment of Jews took a dramatic turn for the worse. With the Reich's annexation of Austria and incorporation of the Czech border areas—which the nations of the world failed to prevent at the Munich conference in September—an additional 200,000 Jews fell under Nazi rule and became targets of intense persecution, humiliation, and violence.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
6	<p>On the night of November 9, 1938, the Nazis destroyed synagogues and the shop windows of Jewish-owned stores throughout Germany and Austria (an event now known as the Kristallnacht or Night of Broken Glass). This event marked a transition to an era of destruction, in which genocide would become the singular focus of Nazi anti-Semitism.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
7	<p>In 1939 and 1940, slightly more than half of all immigrants to the United States were Jewish, most of them refugees from Europe. In 1941, 45 percent of all immigrants to the United States were Jewish. After the U.S. entered the war in December 1941, the trickle of immigration virtually dried up, just at the time that the Nazi regime began to systematically murder the Jews of Europe. Despite many obstacles, more than 200,000 Jews found refuge in the United States from 1933 to 1945, most of them before the end of 1941.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>

8	<p>In 1939, the German government conducted a census of all persons living in Germany. Census takers recorded each person's age, sex, residence, profession, religion, and marital status, and for the first time, they also listed the person's race as traced through his or her grandparents. The information from the census helped Nazi official Adolf Eichmann create the Jewish Registry. The registry also recorded the names of Jews in Austria and the Sudetenland of Western Czechoslovakia, which were occupied by German troops. Technology and information that were under other circumstances helpful tools became, under the Nazi regime, a means of locating victims.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
9	<p>Under the support of the International Military Tribunal (IMT), U.S. Military Tribunals between December 1946 and April 1949 conducted 12 trials of high-ranking German officials at Nuremberg, called the Subsequent Nuremberg Proceedings. U.S. prosecutors tried 177 persons and won convictions of 97 defendants.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
10	<p>Although Jews, whom the Nazis deemed a high-priority danger to Germany, were the primary victims of Nazi racism, at least 200,000 mentally or physically disabled patients, mainly Germans living in institutions, were murdered in the so-called Euthanasia Program.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
11	<p>On August 17, 1938, the German government required all Jews in Germany whose first name was not immediately recognizable as Jewish to add a "Jewish" name following their first name. Men were required to add "Israel" and women "Sara." In October, the German government confiscated all passports held by Jews. New passports issued to Jews had a "J" stamped on them, indicating that the holder was Jewish.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>

12	<p>The Germans and their collaborators killed as many as 1.5 million children, including over a million Jewish children and tens of thousands of Romani (Gypsy) children, German children with physical and mental disabilities living in institutions, Polish children, and children residing in the occupied Soviet Union. The chances for survival for Jewish and some non-Jewish adolescents (13-18 years old) were greater, as they could be deployed at forced labor.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
13	<p>Researchers from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum have concluded that over 40,000 Nazi camps and ghettos existed during Hitler's reign of terror between 1933 and 1945. Essentially, this 2012 study shows that the Holocaust was far more extensive than even historians comprehended.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
14	<p>Denmark was the only Nazi-occupied country that managed to save 95 percent of its Jewish residents.</p>	<p>I Survived.org</p>
15	<p>Only 63 of the approximately 7,000 SchutzStaffel (SS) personnel who served at Auschwitz—including the Birkenau, Buna-Monowitz, and satellite camps—were tried after the war.</p>	<p>I Survived.org</p>
16	<p>Genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy—in whole or in part—a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group: killing members of the group, causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part, imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group, or forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>

17	<p>The Israeli Parliament established Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom Hashoah), to be observed on the 27th day of Nisan of the Hebrew calendar. The Hebrew calendar is a lunar calendar, so the date changes each year in the United States. Observances and remembrance activities occur throughout the Week of Remembrance, which runs from the Sunday before Holocaust Remembrance Day through the following Sunday.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
18	<p>The word anti-Semitism means prejudice against or hatred of Jews. The Holocaust is history's most extreme example of anti-Semitism.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
19	<p>Genocide does not occur spontaneously. While warning signs can vary from case to case, there are common indicators that suggest a growing potential for genocide. Some of these signs can be found within a society's history. The potential for genocide, however, increases when leaders decide to heighten tensions between groups and make specific plans to use violence.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
20	<p>On September 19, 1941, Jews over the age of six in Germany were required to wear a yellow, six-pointed star with the word "Jude" (German for "Jew") across the front in black, sewn to their outer clothing at all times. Jews were then identifiable on sight in Germany. Systematic deportations of Jews from Germany began in October. In March 1942, Jews were also required to display the star symbol on their residences.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
21	<p><i>"There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest."</i> — Elie Wiesel</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>

22	<p>Racists are people who believe that innate, inherited characteristics biologically determine human behavior. The doctrine of racism asserts that blood is the marker of national-ethnic identity. Within a racist framework, the value of a human being is not determined by his or her individuality, but instead by membership in a so-called "racial collective nation."</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
23	<p>The Nazi regime targeted all Jews, both men and women, for persecution and eventually death. However, the regime frequently subjected women, both Jewish and non-Jewish, to brutal persecution that was sometimes unique to the gender of the victims. Nazi ideology also targeted Roma (Gypsy) women, Polish women, and women with disabilities living in institutions.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
24	<p>Remembrance obligates us to focus not only on memorializing those who were killed but also to reflect on what could have been done to save them. History teaches us that the Holocaust might not have occurred if governments and leaders had spoken out during the Nazi rise to power. More people could have been saved if individual citizens had raised their voices to force their governments to act, even if only to offer safety and refuge. In the aftermath of the Holocaust, indifference to genocide cannot be tolerated. Holocaust remembrance imposes a moral obligation to speak out.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>

25	<p>In January 2013, President Obama signed legislation expanding the State Department’s Rewards for Justice program to give the secretary of state the authority to offer a reward for information leading to the arrest or conviction of anyone wanted by any international tribunal for genocide or other serious human rights violations. President Obama said, “We have made unmistakably clear that the United States is committed to seeing war criminals and other perpetrators of atrocities held accountable for their crimes, and today’s legislation can help us achieve that goal.”</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
26	<p>President Franklin D. Roosevelt, responding to mounting political pressure, called for an international conference to facilitate the emigration of refugees from Germany and Austria, and to establish an international organization to work for a solution to the refugee problem. In early July 1938, delegates from 32 countries met at the French resort of Evian on Lake Geneva. During the nine-day meeting, delegates rose to express sympathy for the refugees, yet most countries, including the United States and Britain, offered excuses for not letting in more refugees. Only the Dominican Republic agreed to accept additional refugees.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
27	<p>Commenting on the Evian Conference of 1938, the German government stated how "astounding" it was that foreign countries criticized Germany for its treatment of the Jews, yet none of them opened their doors. Although the events of the violent Kristallnacht ("Night of Broken Glass") of November 1938 were widely reported in graphic detail, Americans remained reluctant to welcome Jewish refugees, and the quotas remained in place. Even efforts by some Americans to rescue children failed: the Wagner-Rogers Bill, an effort to admit 20,000 endangered Jewish refugee children, was not supported by the Senate in 1939 and 1940.</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>

<p>28</p>	<p>In the final months of World War II, SchutzStaffel or SS guards moved concentration camp inmates by train or on forced marches, often called “death marches,” in an attempt to prevent the Allied liberation of large numbers of prisoners. As Allied forces moved across Europe toward Germany, they began to encounter and liberate concentration camp prisoners, as well as prisoners en route by forced marches from one camp to another. The marches continued until May 7, 1945, the day the German armed forces surrendered to the Allies.</p>	<p>Florida Atlantic University Libraries</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>In May 1939, the St. Louis, a ship carrying 930 Jewish refugees holding legitimate landing certificates, left Germany for Cuba. During the two-week voyage, the certificates granted by the Cuban director general of immigration were invalidated. When the ship arrived, only 22 refugees were allowed entry. President Federico Laredo Bru insisted the ship and the remaining Jews leave Havana. The refugees were then refused entry into the United States. While en route to Europe, several countries were cajoled into taking the refugees (287 to Great Britain, 214 to Belgium, 224 to France, and 181 to the Netherlands). The refugees that went to Belgium, France, and the Netherlands were soon trapped as Hitler's armies invaded Western Europe, and they became victims of the Nazi Final Solution.</p>	<p>http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/holocaust/h-louis.htm</p>

30	<p>Looking back at the events of 1938, the signs of impending war and the Holocaust—territorial expansion, disregard for international law, and persecution of people based on their identity—are undoubtedly clearer today than they were then. Nonetheless, opportunities for international intervention existed and could have saved many lives. Why did so many countries and individuals fail to respond to the warning signs? What can we learn from the few who chose to act despite widespread indifference?</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>
31	<p>"...We remember all whose lives were lost or forever altered by the Holocaust. And we are challenged to think about what might motivate us to respond to warning signs of genocide today. History teaches us that genocide can be prevented if enough people care enough to act. Our choices in response to hatred truly do matter, and together we can help fulfill the promise of <i>Never Again</i>. "</p>	<p>U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum</p>