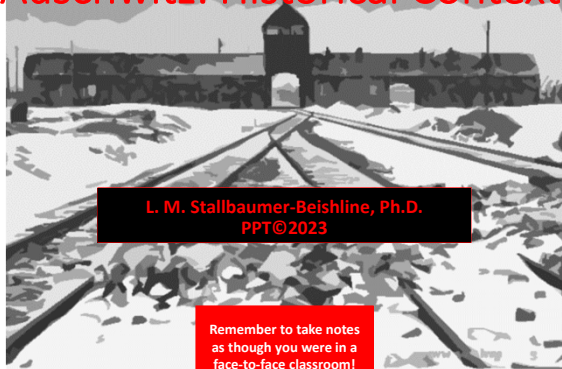


Washington Post survey (12 April 2018)

- 1350 American adults
- 41% "could not come up with a correct response identifying [Auschwitz] as a concentration or extermination camp" (66% were millennials, ages 18-34)
- 55% could not name a concentration camp or ghetto
- 31% of all respondents/41% millennials believed fewer than 2 million died
- 93% Holocaust should be taught (results might be skewed since the survey was about the Holocaust)

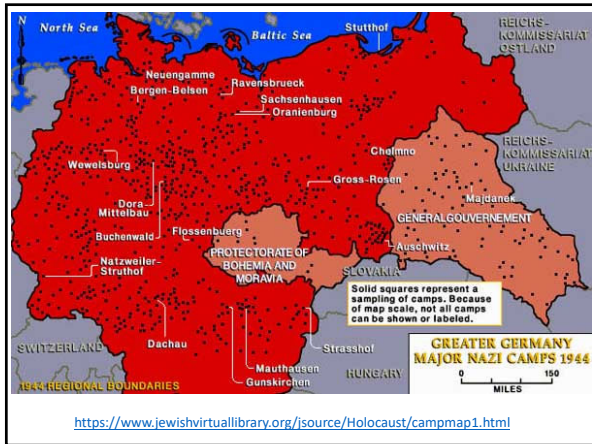


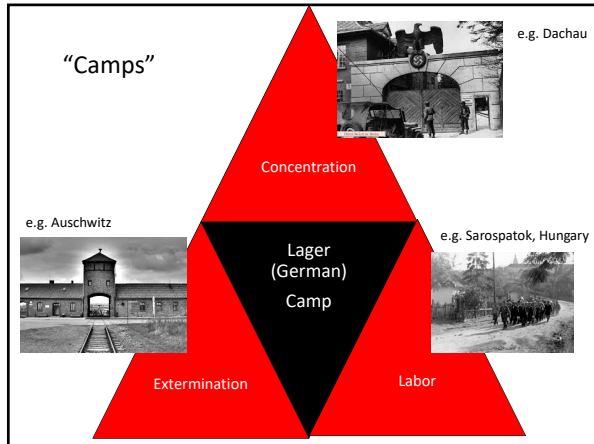
Auschwitz: Historical Context

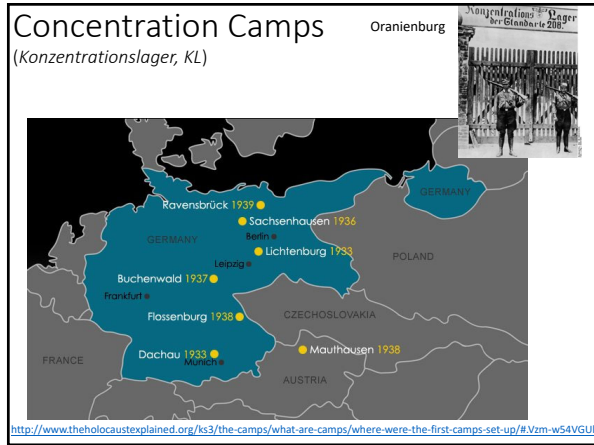


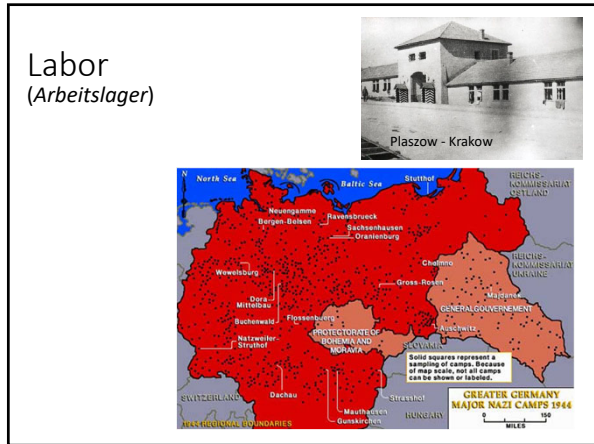
L. M. Stallbaumer-Beishline, Ph.D.
PPT © 2023

Remember to take notes
as though you were in a
face-to-face classroom!



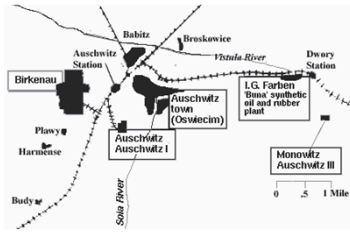






By November 1943

- Auschwitz I: Main Camp
- Auschwitz II: Birkenau
- Auschwitz III: Monowitz
- 40 + subcamps



Power Structure



SS Officers and Rank & File



Ukrainian and Lithuanian Auxillary Guards

Kapos and Blockelders



Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*:

“the privileged oppress the unprivileged: the social structure of the camp is based on this human law.” (44)



Children

- 232,000 out of 1.3 million
- Jewish (of all nationalities)
- "Gypsy"
- Polish
- Soviet



Births at Auschwitz



Gisella Perl's *I was a Doctor in Auschwitz*

Written in 1946; published in 1948
Adapted into a movie, *Out of the Ashes* in 2002 on Showtime
Directed by Joseph Sargent

Barracks



Meals

- Morning: "coffee" or "tea"
- Noon: soup (mostly with vegetables)
- Supper: black bread with 25 grams of sausage, margarine, or marmalade or cheese



Work

- 4:30/5:30 am
- Roll call
- March to work
- 11 hours



Hospitals



Gas Chambers at Auschwitz

Block 11 experiments



"Little Red House" & "Little White House"



Gas Chambers at Auschwitz

Gas Chambers + Crematorium I-IV



Selections



“Kingdom” of Auschwitz

Blockelder to Elie Wiesel, *Night*:

“Listen to me, boy. Don’t forget that you’re in a concentration camp. Here, every man has to fight for himself and not think of anyone else. Even of his father. Here, there are no fathers, no brothers, no friends. Everyone lives and dies for himself alone.” (105)



“Kingdom” of Auschwitz

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*:

Upon having reached out of the barrack’s window for an icicle to quench his thirst, the German ripped it from Levi’s hand. He asked “Why?” and the guard responded: “There is no why here” and pushed his hand back inside. (29)





“... in the face of driving necessity and physical disabilities many social habits and instincts are reduced to silence.” (87)

Average life span

Number of Victims

Ethnicity/category	number
Jews	1.1 million
Poles	140-150 thousand
Gypsies	23 thousand
Soviet POWs	15 thousand
Others	25 thousand
Total	Approx. 1.3 million

Gisella Perl's *I was a Doctor in Auschwitz*

Written in 1946; published in 1948
 Adapted into a movie, *Out of the Ashes*
 in 2002 on Showtime
 Directed by Joseph Sargent

Hungarian Jews



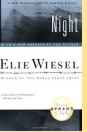



DEPORTATIONS FROM HUNGARIAN GHETTOS 1944




Black arrows represent ghettos in Hungary from which Jews were deported to Auschwitz.

Hungarian Jews


Elie Wiesel

Gisella Perl

Myklos Nyszli

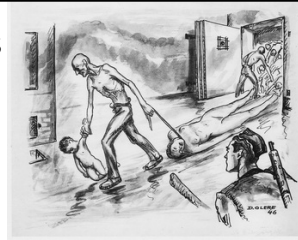



"Every dramatization of the Holocaust has to decide for itself at what point the depiction of unimaginable suffering becomes too much to bear, and the horror threatens to induce a defensive numbness and revulsion instead of empathy.

"*Out of the Ashes*, a Showtime original movie that tells the true story of Gisella Perl, a Jewish gynecologist who was forced to assist Josef Mengele in his hideous medical experiments at Auschwitz, is more horrific than most. But the film, directed by Joseph Sargent from a screenplay by Anne Meredith, has the good sense to avert its gaze from the most gruesome images of cruelty and death. In other words, it is approachable and never feels exploitative."

~Stephen Holden, "Television Review; a Doctor (and inmate) at Auschwitz," *New York Times*, 12 April 2003.

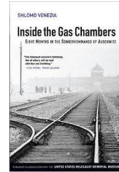
Sonderkommandos



"Survival without renunciation of any part of one's own moral world ... was conceded only to very few superior individuals, made of the stuff of martyrs and saints." (Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*, 92)

Sonderkommandos

Shlomo Venezia, about his initiation to the Sonderkommando:
It's difficult to imagine now, but we didn't think of anything – we couldn't exchange a single word. Not because it was forbidden, but because we were terror-struck. We had turned into robots, obeying orders while trying not to think, so we could survive for a few hours longer." (59)



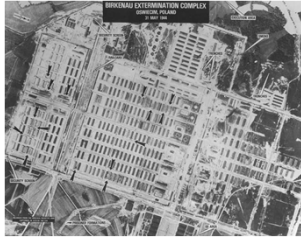
In speaking about witnessing a cold-blooded shooting of a Sonderkommando, Venezia, "[The SS] ordered us to undress him ... I had not choice if I was to avoid the same fate as this poor man. We didn't know what to think; we were outside the world, already in hell. But on seeing the body burning I thought the dead were perhaps luckier than the living; they were no longer forced to endure this hell on earth, to see the cruelty of man." (61-62)



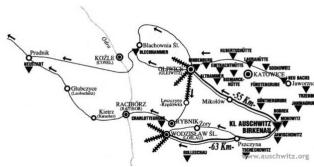
~ *Inside the Gas Chambers: Eight Months in the Sonderkommando of Auschwitz* (2009).

Resistance

- Escapes
- Sonderkommando Uprising or Mutiny (7 October 1944)



Evacuation & Liberation





More details about the other Extermination Camps

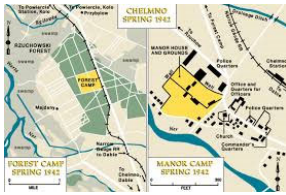
Chelmno



Used gas trucks that were loaded and operated in stationary position on site, then the dead were driven to a burial site.

Operated from 8 Dec 1941 through March 1943; June-July 1944

Most victims were Polish Jews caught up in "Operation Reinhard"; Roma were also killed there.



Belzec

November 1941
Construction of Killing Center

Began operation 17 March 1942; Ceased operation in June 1943

Mostly Polish Jews; "Operation Reinhard"

Carbon Monoxide



Additional Killing Locations



- Mauthausen
- Sachsenhausen
- Ravensbrück
- Dachau

Small gas chambers to kill prisoners who were described as "too weak or sick" to work
