

UCL Centre for Holocaust Education: Lesson materials to support 'After the War', a novel by Tom Palmer

Glossary

Allies:

Countries which formally cooperate with each other for a military or other purpose. Here the Allies refer to Britain, America and the Soviet Union.

Auschwitz:

A complex of camps set up by the Nazis. Auschwitz was both a concentration camp and a collection of slave labour camps. From spring 1942 to January 1945, Auschwitz – Birkenau operated as a death camp.

Collaborators:

People, organisations and governments that helped the Nazis persecute and/or murder Jews.

Communist:

A person who supports and believes in the principles of communism. Communism is a political ideology about how societies and economies should be organised. It argues, for instance, that resources and industries be collectively owned for the benefit of everyone.

Concentration camps:

Places where large numbers of people were kept as prisoners under armed guard.



Death camp:

Killing centres established by the Nazis in Central Europe during the Second World War. Approximately 2.5 million European Jews were murdered at these places primarily by gassing in specially built chambers or gas vans.

Deportations:

Forced removal of people from one country to another.

Discrimination:

Unfairly treating a group differently from others.

Einsatzgruppen:

Special units of the Nazi security police. With the help of the SS, police units, the army and local collaborators, the Einsatzgruppen carried out mass shootings in the Soviet Union. It is estimated that they murdered around 2.2 million people in what has been called the 'Holocaust by bullets'.

Freight train:

A train for carrying goods rather than people.

Gestapo:

The secret police of Nazi Germany. They encouraged people to spy on one another and to report anyone who said or did anything against the Nazis.

Ghettos:

Areas of towns or cities where Jews were separated by force from other people. They were overcrowded and many people died in ghettos from disease and starvation.

Liberation:

Setting someone free.



Nazi Germany:

The German state between 1933 and 1945, when Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party controlled the country.

Orthodox:

Orthodox Jews understand their religion – Judaism – in a traditional way and live their lives according to religious laws.

Palestine:

Territory in the Middle East that was part of the Ottoman Empire before the First World War. After the First World War it was placed under British control between 1920 and 1948 and it was known as the British Mandate of Palestine.

Persecution:

Being treated badly usually because of 'race' or religious or political beliefs.

Prejudice:

An incorrect and usually negative attitude towards an individual based upon their membership of a social group.

Sabbath:

A day of religious observance kept by Jewish people from Friday evening to Saturday evening.

Shtetls:

Towns or villages with a large Jewish population.

Slave labour camp:

A camp where persecuted groups are forced to do slave labour.

Soviet Union:

The Communist country created after the Russian Revolution in Eastern Europe.



SS:

A ruthless Nazi organisation. They were responsible for crushing opposition to the Nazis. The SS ran concentration camps and attacked Jews and other victims of the Nazis.

Tenement houses:

A tenement is a building containing a number of flats or apartments, normally describing lower-income homes.

Treblinka:

A death camp in occupied Poland.

Tuberculosis:

A potentially fatal disease which affects the lungs.

Typhoid:

A potentially fatal disease spread by lice.

Yiddish:

A language, derived from German and Hebrew, spoken by many Central and Eastern European Jews.

