

DOWNLOAD PDF FORCED MIGRATION PLANS AND POLICIES OF NAZI GERMANY

Chapter 1 : BBC - History - World Wars: The Nazi Racial State

By mid, not merely the largest forced migration but probably the largest single movement of population in human history was under way, an operation that continued for the next five years.

Previous centuries had seen large forced population displacements the Huguenots from France in the seventeenth century being just one example. However, the twentieth century saw massive, forced population movements across international borders, and these gave rise to legal distinctions that have affected all those seeking refuge out-side their country of origin. It is essential to make a distinction between forced migration the subject of this article , which involves the movement imposed on large populations groups of persons counted in the thousands , on the one hand, and individual migrants, who may or may not be part of a larger group but are persecuted in their country and seek asylum and the legal status of refugee as individuals in another country. The need for distinguishing between the two categories became clear as a result of post-World War II developments when political, religious, or ethnic persecution forced large numbers of people to leave their home countries, making the established procedures for individual consideration of applications for refugee status unworkable. The terms forced migration and forced displacement are used inter-changeably in this article. Deportations within states, such as those in the Soviet Union during the s, in which more than 3 million people were deported within the state, are not dealt with here. Six specific large forced population displacements are briefly referred to below. These are the displacements of Russians, Armenians, German and Austrian Jews, Hungarians, the Indo-Chinese, and the victims of ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia in the s. These cases are chronologically handled: Worldwide, a great many more people have been forced to flee their homes and cross international borders, as they became the targets of group persecution. However, the six cases highlighted here paint a historical picture of forced migration in the twentieth century. The League of Nations The first two cases of forced migration, those of the Russians and the Armenians, can be described as being part of the aftershocks of World War I. The Russian Revolution and the civil war that followed it led to a Bolshevik regime, self-described as a dicta-torship of the proletariat, which placed large population groups, declared to be class enemies, in physical jeopardy. Economic collapse, culminating in a massive famine, exacerbated the fears of persecution on political-ideological grounds. By , it is estimated that some , to 1. In February , the League of Nations passed its first resolution on refugees and, later that year, held a conference on the question of Russian refugees and appointed a prominent Norwegian, Fritjof Nansen, as High Commissioner for Refugees. Special arrangements included the creation of the Nansen Passport, a travel document for those deprived of the protections normally granted by a state of citizenship to the bearer of a passport. The disintegration of the Ottoman Empire had disastrous consequences for Armenians, a Christian minority with an ancient and distinct culture living within a Muslim population. Decades of repression in the dying phase of Ottoman rule generated substantial Armenian refugee movements, notably at the end of the Greco-Turkish War By World War I , the Armenians were essentially a stateless victim group, in the precarious position of being relatively prosperous, middle-class, and urban. In , the Turks had begun what Claudena Skran describes as "a radical method of dealing with the unwanted Armenian minority: In addition to massive loss of life, the fledgling Armenian state was besieged by its neighbors, with the Russians and Turkey carving up the territory of the new republic between them. By , more than , Armenian refugees were spread through Europe, the Balkans, and the Middle East. Many of these eventually settled in the United States. The tragedy of the Armenians was not only that so many fled, but also that so many perished because they did not become refugees. Under Nazi laws, Jews were officially discriminated against on the basis of racial criteria. By October of , the League of Nations had decided that the persecution and exodus of German Jews posed such a problem to other states that a new High Commissioner was appointed specifically for refugees coming out of Germany. By , , people, mostly Jews, had fled Germany, and , fled Austria following the Anschluss in that year. As it later transpired, these numbers represented a small fraction of the persecuted

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population that eventually perished in concentration camps and forced labor camps during World War II. To deal with this migrant flow, two new definitions were created for those fleeing Germany and for those fleeing Austria, as a result of Nazi persecution. Both the new High Commissioner post, and the new definitions, highlighted a difficult international political problem. Creating specific measures for specific groups of refugees and naming the state from which they fled was tantamount to an explicit international legal and political accusation that a state was engaged in persecuting a minority. Such an accusation, it was argued, did not help in finding a diplomatic solution to the problem. The decision was therefore made to work toward a universal definition of a refugee making asylum, the granting of refuge, a less overtly political act. An even larger group consisted of German refugees citizens of Germany and persons of German ethnicity who formerly resided either in territories now outside the redrawn German borders or who formerly resided as members of the German minority in countries East of Germany. They either fled to the West in anticipation of expulsion or were forcibly expelled. Many residents of East Germany in subsequent years fled to West Germany and settled there. The non-German displaced persons were eventually also resettled, either in various Western European countries including Germany or overseas, mostly in North America and Australia. The difficulties experienced in that process led to the adoption, in 1951, of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. The definition was in principle universal, in that it did not mention any specific group or state, but the Convention did allow for reference to specific acts of persecution occurring in Europe. The Convention was aimed both at dealing with the remaining numbers of displaced persons as a result of World War II, and with the new Cold War problem of targeted persecution. The first major challenge to the Convention, as a tool for determining the status of individuals, came in 1956. The anti-Soviet and anti-communist Hungarian uprising of 1956 led to some 200,000 persons fleeing to Austria and Yugoslavia. The Convention was not applied to all Hungarians: Most were protected temporarily in Austria and Yugoslavia, on an ad hoc basis, for up to a year, but virtually all of them were soon resettled throughout Western Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Most of them were simply given legal immigration status in the receiving countries, with employment opportunities readily available in the reconstructing post-World War II economies. While other forced displacements took place in most world regions in the Cold War years, the next major challenge to the universal system established by the signing of the Convention and the creation of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees originated in Indo-China. As a result of the war in Vietnam and the related political-ideological conflict and severe economic hardship, large numbers of people fled or were, by their own estimation, forcibly expelled from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. From 1975 to mid-1978, some 1.3 million Vietnamese, Laotians and Cambodians arrived in Thailand alone. Large numbers of refugees also entered other states neighboring Indo-China, notably Malaysia and Hong Kong: Between 1975 and 1978, some 200,000 Vietnamese "boat people" landed in these countries of presumed first asylum. Thailand and Malaysia called for solidarity from more distant states, in particular for resettlement of the refugees. In these Asian states in which initial protection was sought, the refugees were routinely denied asylum, reflecting the expectation of the receiving states that permanent solutions for these displaced persons would be found in other countries. Large numbers were indeed permanently resettled in developed countries, notably in the United States. As the Vietnamese conflict was settled, the impetus to resettle diminished and the eventual fate of large remaining numbers of displaced persons was to return, often under duress, to their country of origin. No specific status definitions were made for Indo-Chinese refugees, although principles of first asylum followed by resettlement as a permanent solution, and of global solidarity, were developed as a result of two international conferences held in 1979 and that were devoted to the problem. This exodus did not occur on anything like the anticipated scale. However, as war, sparked by long-standing ethnic and religious conflict, broke out in the Balkans, from 1991 to an estimated 3.5 million. Forced migration of whole populations on this scale and within so short a time had not been seen in Europe since World War II. The exodus found the countries of Western Europe both unprepared and with a sharply diminished desire to grant protective status to persons from former communist states. Refusing to grant most of these people the status of refugee, on the ground that they fled generalized violence rather than

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individually-targeted persecution, European states began to develop a doctrine of temporary protection, based not on the principle of a durable solution ultimately being found in integration, or resettlement, but on voluntary return, or mandatory repatriation as the only acceptable final arrangement. Each state developed its own definition of temporary protection notwithstanding that this situation arose during a time when the member states of the European Union were seeking harmonization of their asylum policies. In some definitions, the former Yugoslavia was mentioned specifically in new laws and policy documents. The Kosovo crisis evoked a similar response. About half the population of Kosovo, almost a million persons, fled to neighboring Albania and Macedonia. Like Thailand and Malaysia in the 1980s, Macedonia reinforced its appeal to other states for assistance by temporarily closing its border with Kosovo, preventing people from becoming refugees. An evacuation program removed some 90,000 people from Macedonia to Western European states, Turkey, Australia, and the United States during a three-month period, and many more were transferred to Albania. In the summer of 1999, rapid repatriation occurred. As NATO forces and then a United Nations mission took control of the province, the vast majority of the 1 million people who had fled returned, initially from Macedonia and Albania, and over the following months from further afield. Conclusion By 1999, virtually all countries of the world had strict control over immigrant entries to their territories, and many were imposing high barriers to entry even for those persons forced to flee their country of origin, whether individually or en masse as described above. Though the moral duty to protect human rights was professed and the legal tools to enact refugee protection worldwide were in place, the actual willingness to grant refuge was clearly absent in most countries perhaps most obviously in those parts of the world most capable of protecting significant numbers of forced migrants and those farthest away from the countries those migrants would be forced to leave. The Global Crisis of Internal Displacement. The Refugee Concept in Group Situations. Refugees in Inter-war Europe: The Emergence of a Regime. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Refugee Protection in Europe: Lessons of the Yugoslav Crisis. The Indochinese in Australia From Burnt Boats to Barbecues. Conflict and the Refugee Crisis in the Developing World.

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Chapter 2 : Generalplan Ost | Abuse Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia

"Europe has a long history of state-led population displacement on ethnic grounds. The nationalist argument of ethnic homogeneity has been a crucial factor in the mapping of the continent.

The Largest Forced Migration In History Omitted from the history books, after WWII, the Allies carried out the largest forced population transfer -- nowadays referred to as "ethnic cleansing" -- in human history. Between 12 and 14 million civilians, the majority women, children and the elderly, were driven out of their homes. Douglas is the author of " Orderly and Humane: Millions of civilians living in the eastern German provinces that were to be turned over to Poland after the war were to be driven out and deposited among the ruins of the former Reich, to fend for themselves as best they could. The Prime Minister did not mince words. What was planned, he forthrightly declared, was "the total expulsion of the Germans For expulsion is the method which, so far as we have been able to see, will be the most satisfactory and lasting. What neither he nor anybody else knew was that in addition to the displacement of the million Germans of the East, Churchill, U. Roosevelt and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin had already agreed to a similar "orderly and humane" deportation of the more than 3 million German-speakers -- the "Sudeten Germans" -- from their homelands in Czechoslovakia. They would soon add the half-million ethnic Germans of Hungary to the list. Although the governments of Yugoslavia and Romania were never given permission by the Big Three to deport their German minorities, both would take advantage of the situation to drive them out also. By mid, not merely the largest forced migration but probably the largest single movement of population in human history was under way, an operation that continued for the next five years. Between 12 and 14 million civilians, the overwhelming majority of them women, children and the elderly, were driven out of their homes or, if they had already fled the advancing Red Army in the last days of the war, forcibly prevented from returning to them. From the beginning, this mass displacement was accomplished largely by state-sponsored violence and terror. In Poland and Czechoslovakia, hundreds of thousands of detainees were herded into camps -- often, like Auschwitz I or Theresienstadt, former Nazi concentration camps kept in operation for years after the war and put to a new purpose. The regime for prisoners in many of these facilities was brutal, as Red Cross officials recorded, with beatings, rapes of female inmates, gruelling forced labour and starvation diets of calories the order of the day. As the British Embassy in Belgrade reported in , conditions for Germans "seem well down to Dachau standards. So did train transports that sometimes took weeks to reach their destination, with up to 80 expellees crammed into each cattle car without adequate or, occasionally, any food, water or heating. The deaths continued on arrival in Germany itself. Declared ineligible by the Allied authorities to receive any form of international relief and lacking accommodation in a country devastated by bombing, expellees in many cases spent their first months or years living rough in fields, goods wagons or railway platforms. Malnutrition, hypothermia and disease took their toll, especially among the very old and very young. Although more research is needed to establish the total number of deaths, conservative estimates suggest that some , people lost their lives as a result of the operation. Not only was the treatment of the expellees in defiance of the principles for which the Second World War had professedly been fought, it created numerous and persistent legal complications. At the Nuremberg trials, for example, the Allies were trying the surviving Nazi leaders on charges of carrying out "deportation and other inhumane acts" against civilian populations at the same moment as, less than a hundred miles away, they were engaging in large-scale forced removals of their own. Facing the collapse of the accord in the event of Czech non-ratification, the EU reluctantly acquiesced. To this day, the postwar expulsions -- the scale and lethality of which vastly exceed the ethnic cleansing that accompanied the break-up in the s of the former Yugoslavia -- remain little known outside Germany itself. Even there, a survey found that Germans under thirty had a more accurate knowledge of Ethiopia than of the areas of Europe from which their grandparents were deported. Superficially persuasive as these arguments may appear, they do not stand up to scrutiny. The expellees were deported not after individual trial and conviction for acts of wartime

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collaboration -- something of which the children could not have been guilty in any event -- but because their indiscriminate removal served the interests of the Great Powers and the expelling states alike. Provisions to exempt proven "anti-fascists" from detention or transfer were routinely ignored by the very governments that adopted them; Oskar Schindler, the most famous "anti-fascist" of all who had been born in the Czech town of Svitavy, was deprived by the Prague authorities of nationality and property like the rest. The proposition, moreover, that it is legitimate in some circumstances to declare in respect of entire populations that considerations of human rights are simply not to apply is an exceedingly dangerous one. Once the principle that certain specially disfavoured groups may be treated in this way is admitted, it is hard to see why it should not be applied to others. Scholars including Andrew Bell-Fialkoff, John Mearsheimer and Michael Mann have already pointed to the expulsion of the Germans as an encouraging precedent for the organization of similar forced migrations in the former Yugoslavia, the Middle East and elsewhere. The history of the postwar expulsions, though, shows that there is no such thing as an "orderly and humane" transfer of populations: As the former U. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who fled Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia as a small child, has correctly noted: Suggestions to the contrary -- including those made by expellees themselves -- are both offensive and historically illiterate. Nonetheless, as the historian B. Sullivan has observed in another context, "greater evil does not absolve lesser evil. Their demographic, economic, cultural and political effects continue to cast a long and baleful shadow across the European continent. Yet their importance remains unacknowledged, and many vital aspects of their history have not been adequately studied. Nearly seventy years after the end of the Second World War, as the last surviving expellees are passing from the scene, the time has come for this tragic and destructive episode to receive the attention it deserves, so that the lessons it teaches may not be lost and the unnecessary suffering it engendered may not be repeated.

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Chapter 3 : Unsere Website ist momentan nicht erreichbar

Forced migration plans and policies of Nazi Germany -- The population policies of the "Axis" allies -- Population movements at the end of the war and in its aftermath -- The experience of forced migration -- Forced migrations and mass movements in the memorialization processes since the Second World War -- Forced labourers in the Third Reich.

Dark grey " Germany Deutsches Reich. Dotted black line " the extension of a detailed plan of the "second phase of settlement" zweiten Siedlungsphase. Light grey " planned territorial scope of the Reichskommissariat administrative units; their names in blue are Ostland , Ukraine , Moskowien never realized , and Kaukasien never realized. It would have included the extermination of most Slavic people in Europe. Drive towards the East ideology of German expansion to the east, both of them part of the larger plan to establish the New Order. The final version of the Generalplan Ost proposal was divided into two parts; the "Small Plan" Kleine Planung , which covered actions carried out in the course of the war; and the "Big Plan" Grosse Planung , which described steps to be taken gradually over a period of 25 to 30 years after the war was won. Both plans entailed the policy of ethnic cleansing. The "Small Plan" was to be put into practice as the Germans conquered the areas to the east of their pre-war borders. In this way the plan for Poland was drawn up at the end of November and is probably responsible for much of the World War II expulsion of Poles by Germany first to colonial district of the General Government and, from also to Polenlager. Because the number of Germans appeared to be insufficient to populate the vast territories of Central and Eastern Europe, the peoples judged to lie racially between the Germans and the Russians Mittelschicht , namely, Latvians and even Czechs, were also supposed to be resettled there. The Plan stipulated that there were to be different methods of treating particular nations and even particular groups within them. Attempts were even made to establish the basic criteria to be used in determining whether a given group lent itself to Germanization. These criteria were to be applied more liberally in the case of nations whose racial material rassische Substanz and level of cultural development made them more suitable than others for Germanization. The Plan considered that there were a large number of such elements among the Baltic nations. Erhard Wetzel felt that thought should be given to a possible Germanization of the whole of the Estonian nation and a sizable proportion of the Latvians. On the other hand, the Lithuanians seemed less desirable since "they contained too great an admixture of Slav blood. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were to be deprived of their statehood, while their territories were to be included in the area of German settlement. This meant that Latvia and especially Lithuania would be covered by the deportation plans, though in a somewhat milder form than the expulsion of Slavs to western Siberia. While the Baltic nations like Estonians would be spared from repressions and physical liquidation that the Jews and the Poles were experiencing , in the long term the Nazi planners did not foresee their existence as independent entities and they would be deported as well, with eventual denationalisation; initial designs were for Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia to be Germanized within 25 years, however Heinrich Himmler revised them to 20 years. It depicts pockets of German colonists resettling into Polish areas annexed by Nazi Germany from Soviet controlled territories during the " Heim ins Reich " action. The outline of Poland here superimposed in red was missing from the original poster. According to the plan this would result in their assimilation by the local populations, which would cause the Poles to vanish as a nation. Those of them who would still not Germanize were to be forbidden to marry, the existing ban on any medical help to Poles in Germany would be extended, and eventually Poles would cease to exist. Experiments in mass sterilization in concentration camps may also have been intended for use on the populations. The seizure of food supplies in Ukraine brought about starvation, as it was intended to do to depopulate that region for German settlement. For example, by AugustSeptember Operation Tannenberg followed by the A-B Aktion in , Einsatzgruppen death squads and concentration camps had been employed to deal with the Polish elite, while the small number of Czech intelligentsia were allowed to emigrate overseas. Parts of Poland were annexed by Germany early in the war leaving aside the rump German-controlled General Government and the

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areas previously annexed by the Soviet Union , while the other territories were officially occupied by or allied to Germany for example, the Slovak part of Czechoslovakia became a theoretically independent puppet state , while the ethnic-Czech parts of the Czech lands so excluding the Sudetenland became a " protectorate ". It is unknown to what degree the plan was actually directly connected to the various German war crimes and crimes against humanity in the East, especially in the latter phases of the war. One of the charges listed in the indictment presented at the trial of Adolf Eichmann , the SS officer responsible for the transportation aspects of the Final Solution , was that he was responsible for the deportation of , Poles. Eichmann was convicted on all 15 counts. These figures have been disputed outside of Russia. Some reports prepared by the Commission are now considered outright fabrications, such as the shifting of blame for the Katyn massacre perpetrated by the Soviet authorities themselves. The commission reported figures of 2. To support these figures, they cited sources published in the Soviet era based on the work of the Extraordinary State Commission , there were an additional estimated 3 million famine deaths in areas of the USSR not under German occupation. He submitted an estimate of 4. Snyder maintains that there were 4.

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Chapter 4 : Flight and expulsion of Germans (1945) - Wikipedia

Generalplan Ost (GPO) (English: Master Plan East) was a secret Nazi German plan for the colonization of Central and Eastern Europe. Implementing it would have necessitated genocide [15] and ethnic cleansing on a vast scale to be undertaken in the European territories occupied by Germany during World War II.

According to the national census figures the percentage of ethnic Germans in the total population was: In the census this region was included in the Czechoslovak population. In addition there were 63, Volksdeutsch in the General Government. The national census figures for Germans include German speaking Jews. Some were given important positions in the hierarchy of the Nazi administration, and some participated in Nazi atrocities , causing resentment towards German speakers in general. These facts were later used by the Allied politicians as one of the justifications for expulsion of the Germans. These demands were adopted by the Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile , which sought the support of the Allies for this proposal, beginning in 1945. The expulsion policy was part of a geopolitical and ethnic reconfiguration of postwar Europe. The respective paragraph of the Potsdam Agreement only states vaguely: They agreed that any transfers that take place should be effected in an orderly and humane manner. A desire to create ethnically homogeneous nation-states: This is presented by several authors as a key issue that motivated the expulsions. Stalin saw the expulsions as a means of creating antagonism between the Soviet satellite states and their neighbours. The satellite states would then need the protection of the Soviet Union. Ethnically homogeneous nation-state[edit] The Curzon Line The creation of ethnically homogeneous nation states in Central and Eastern Europe [46] was presented as the key reason for the official decisions of the Potsdam and previous Allied conferences as well as the resulting expulsions. Churchill cited the operation as a success in a speech discussing the German expulsions. Even in the few cases when this happened and expellees were proven to have been bystanders, opponents or even victims of the Nazi regime, they were rarely spared from expulsion. As a result, Polish exile authorities proposed a population transfer of Germans as early as 1944. As Winston Churchill expounded in the House of Commons in 1945, "Expulsion is the method which, insofar as we have been able to see, will be the most satisfactory and lasting. There will be no mixture of populations to cause endless trouble A clean sweep will be made. I am not alarmed by the prospect of disentanglement of populations, not even of these large transferences, which are more possible in modern conditions than they have ever been before". Roosevelt in 1945 of the possibility of Polish reprisals, describing them as "unavoidable" and "an encouragement for all the Germans in Poland to go west, to Germany proper, where they belong. Thus, the expulsions were at least partly motivated by the animus engendered by the war crimes and atrocities perpetrated by the German belligerents and their proxies and supporters. The satellite states would now feel the need to be protected by the Soviets from German anger over the expulsions. Settlers in these territories welcomed the opportunities presented by their fertile soils and vacated homes and enterprises, increasing their loyalty. News of Soviet atrocities , spread and exaggerated by Nazi propaganda, hastened the flight of ethnic Germans from much of Eastern Europe. In most cases implementation was delayed until Soviet and Allied forces had defeated the German forces and advanced into the areas to be evacuated. Conditions turned chaotic during the winter, when kilometres-long queues of refugees pushed their carts through the snow trying to stay ahead of the advancing Red Army. The main causes of death were cold, stress, and bombing. Many refugees tried to return home when the fighting ended. Before 1 June 1945, , people crossed back over the Oder and Neisse rivers eastward, before Soviet and Polish communist authorities closed the river crossings; another 100,000 entered Silesia through Czechoslovakia. From 1945 around 4. The evacuation focused on women, the elderly and children 1/3 a third of whom were under the age of fifteen. The camps were guarded by Danish military units. By this time, all of Eastern and much of Central Europe was under Soviet occupation. This included most of the historical German settlement areas , as well as the Soviet occupation zone in eastern Germany. The Allies settled on the terms of occupation , the territorial truncation of Germany , and the expulsion of ethnic Germans from

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post-war Poland , Czechoslovakia and Hungary to the Allied Occupation Zones in the Potsdam Agreement, [93] [94] drafted during the Potsdam Conference between 17 July and 2 August Article XII of the agreement is concerned with the expulsions and reads: The Three Governments, having considered the question in all its aspects, recognize that the transfer to Germany of German populations, or elements thereof, remaining in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, will have to be undertaken. They agree that any transfers that take place should be effected in an orderly and humane manner. Joseph Stalin second from left , Harry Truman center , Winston Churchill right Expulsions that took place before the Allies agreed on the terms at Potsdam are referred to as "wild" expulsions *Wilde Vertreibungen*. They were conducted by military and civilian authorities in Soviet-occupied post-war Poland and Czechoslovakia in the first half of Of the many post-war forced migrations, the largest was the expulsion of ethnic Germans from Central and Eastern Europe, primarily from the territory of Czechoslovakia which included the historically German-speaking area in the Sudeten mountains along the German-Czech-Polish border *Sudetenland* , and the territory that became post-war Poland. During and after the war, 2,, Poles fled or were expelled from the eastern Polish regions that were annexed by the USSR; 1,, of these refugees were resettled in the former German territories.

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Chapter 5 : 'We are only following the law' doesn't explain immigration policy during Nazi era or now

The German defeat of the Soviet Union was supposed to enable the execution of Heinrich Himmler's General Plan East, which planned for the deportation and resettlement of million people, including Poles, east of the Ural mountains.

Print this page A racist Utopia The Nazi regime attempted, in an unprecedented manner, to establish a system of rule based upon race. The Jews were considered to be the chief enemy. Among the latter, the Jews were considered to be the chief enemy. The goal of the Jews, according to the Nazis, was to prevent the construction of the national community the Nazis were striving for. This racist anti-Semitism was able to build on a centuries-old Christian hostility to Jews that had, over time, become a social convention. Top Legalised persecution Nazi propaganda: During the first phase, in and , the focus was on the exclusion of Jews from public life. Immediately after taking power the Nazis organised an aggressive boycott of Jewish businesses, but very quickly also began to introduce anti-Jewish laws. Jews were not longer permitted to be civil servants or to practice law. Neither could they occupy any sort of public position. Anti-Jewish legislation covered almost all aspects of life. At the same time, the Nazis quickly made clear that their racist policies were not exclusively aimed at Jews. In the spring of , the Nazis began a new phase in the persecution of the Jews. As in this phase began with anti-Semitic rioting organised by supporters of the Nazi party. In the Nuremberg Laws, defining who was to be considered Jewish, were announced. The equal rights of Jews as German citizens - in place in Germany since - was ended. Marriages and extramarital sexual relations between Jews and non-Jews were forbidden. In the years that followed, comprehensive anti-Jewish legislation was introduced which covered almost all aspects of life. They were frequently sterilised and imprisoned. Male homosexuality was declared a critical threat to the very existence of the German people and homosexuals were persecuted as a consequence. From the spring of , Nazi party workers organised demonstrations and riots which lasted through the summer and led to the pogrom of 9 November. The step-by-step process, begun in , through which Jewish property was forcibly removed, was now brought to a rapid conclusion. The expulsion of Jews from Germany was to be forced through by the threat and use of violence. From the outset, mass murder was a part of this process. More than 70, patients in psychiatric hospitals were murdered, mostly in gas chambers set up in six special killing centres. This programme was cancelled in August , but such patients continued to be killed in great numbers through local, decentralised action. Moreover, soon after the start of the war special SS units murdered thousands of institutionalised patients in the occupied Polish territories, shooting them or killing them in mobile gas chambers. During the invasion of Poland, and in the first months of occupation, SS special units also systematically murdered 10, members of the Polish elites, among them thousands of Jews. This plan formed a part of an extensive resettlement project that Adolf Hitler had appointed Himmler, also chief of the SS, to lead. Whether in Poland, Madagascar or the Soviet Union, these plans show unambiguously that the deported Jews would have succumbed to a combination of malnutrition, disease, forced labour and general abuse. In June , the invasion of the Soviet Union began. It was conceived from the first by the Germans both as a racist war of extermination and as a campaign intended to exploit the occupied territory economically. Significantly, no preparation of any kind was made for a supply of food and other essentials to the large numbers of prisoners of war they expected to capture. Initially these groups, as they had done two years before in Poland, murdered members of the elites. Those killed were almost exclusively Jews, which accorded with the official Nazi doctrine that the Communist regime was ruled by Jews. Fixed and mobile gas chambers were to be used to murder Jews Soon, these German special units began to shoot all Jewish men of military age. By the end of the year more than half-a-million Jewish civilians had been killed. From March they were deported to ghettos in the Lublin district. Hitler was thus putting into practice his plan, developed at the start of , to deport the Jews to occupied Soviet territories. In autumn , the Nazi regime extended the policy of mass murder to areas outside the Soviet Union. From this point, fixed and mobile gas chambers were to be used to murder Jews. At Chelmno, from December , specially adapted buses Gaswagen were used for this purpose. The exact

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date on which the leadership of the Nazi regime decided to convert the as-yet-unplanned intention to exterminate all European Jews into a concrete programme is not documented and is still the subject of controversy among historians. It is likely that it was not the consequence of a single decision, but of a longer process. Top Systematic murder In May , the comprehensive European-wide programme of systematic murder began. Between May and July the deportations were extended to the other occupied Polish regions and the extermination camps Sobibor and Treblinka were opened. At the same time German and Slovak Jews were no longer being deported to ghettos, but directly to the extermination camps. Millions of Eastern Europeans died as a consequence of brutal occupation. Gradually, the Germans extended deportations to almost all occupied regions and to the countries with which they were allied. In the process it became evident that the extent and speed of the deportations varied from region to region and were dependent upon a number of factors. Almost 20, died in Auschwitz alone.

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Chapter 6 : Forced Ethnic Migration – EGO

Plans to evacuate the ethnic German population westward into Germany, from Poland and the eastern territories of Germany, were prepared by various Nazi authorities toward the end of the war. In most cases implementation was delayed until Soviet and Allied forces had defeated the German forces and advanced into the areas to be evacuated.

Forced relocation, flight and expulsion are outlined using the example of four complexes defined in space and time. The numerically most extensive population shifts were initiated by National Socialist expansion policies and triggered a spiral of force and violence to which eventually large parts of the German population also fell victim. The motives and practices of forced migrations only differ in degree and detail. The question of who initiated the spiral of violence and, consequently, created an extremely polarized order that neither perpetrators nor victims could or would withdraw from is historically significant. Flight and expulsion have also occurred in previous centuries, but now took on gigantic proportions. These estimates are difficult to verify. Statistical recording of human tragedies is full of gaps, contradictions and possible double counts. Also, the terms used for quantification are defined differently from country to country. In addition, national discourses, the struggle for the "politically correct" choice of words, and the shaping of the national, and transnational "memorial cultures" remain in full swing. Although conducted in a very controversial manner, this discussion increasingly permits recognition of remarkable rapprochements across national boundaries. The following will exclusively discuss migrations enforced by 1. Command force, 2. Threats of violence, or 4. Fear of violence revenge, with fluid transitions between the categories, to the extent that they were ethnically or nationally motivated. This paper does not discuss the deportation and murder of the Jews because the Holocaust is a separate topic. Forced migrations in the meaning of this paper are the core of what has been summarized since the start of the war in Bosnia in under the term "ethnic cleansing". Ethnic cleansing includes those measures initiated and performed, encouraged or tolerated by a modern state or para-state and its agents that aim to remove a population that is stigmatised due to its ethnicity as "threatening", "disloyal", "alien" and often even as "inferior", from a particular territory. These measures are deliberate intentional and systematic but can also be accompanied by unregulated actions "wild" expulsions that are the result of the course of a conflict processual or "functional" forms of ethnic cleansing. Evacuation and flight in anticipation of ethnic cleansing also belongs to this context. The engine of this type of forced migration is always excessive national and ethnic portrayals of the enemy. Usually national or ethnic minorities in states that strive for ethnic and national homogeneity are affected. Security arguments prevention of separatist movements or repulsion of irredentist ambitions of a neighbouring state play as much a role in this as revenge for suffered injustice or the redistribution of assets, societal resources and opportunities. The "modernity" of forced ethnic migrations The dramatic increase of forced ethnic migrations in 20th century Europe, or their modernity, has four causes: In previous centuries, the ethnic affiliation of persons only played a subordinate or no role for the mass of the population likewise for the rulers, especially since the criteria for affiliation to a large group language, religion, settlement area, shared past, descent or a combination of several criteria were often unclear or contradictory. In the always thinly settled areas of Eastern Europe, many rulers and owners of large territories deliberately introduced outsiders from the Middle Ages through to the 19th century to improve their territories and often granted them privileges. Only during the course of forming nations and nation states in the 19th and 20th centuries, the accompanying processes of inclusion and exclusion, and the striving for "definiteness" did ethnicity come to play the outstanding role that was attributed to it in the 20th century at the latest. Rather, the reasons were religious e. The crisis and decay of the great multi-ethnic empires in Europe Ottoman empire, Habsburg monarchy, Tsarist Russia and the German empire initiated a series of state formations: The political map of large parts of Europe was rearranged with reference to the right of peoples to self-determination according to "nation state" and ethnographic criteria. If all border changes of the 20th century are entered into a map, it is immediately noticeable that an area in the middle of Europe – between Western Europe and the

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compact Russian settlement area " is more strongly characterized by major boundary shifts than all other parts of the continent. It caused politicians and their scientific "aids" ethnographers, linguists, historians to "hide" or let "disappear" the existence of an ethnically different or differentiated population in a particular territory. Ethnic incorporation against the will of the affected , expulsion, motivation to flight and mass murder developed into important instruments when enforcing nationally homogeneous territories. The wars characterizing Europe in the 20th century were wars of mass destruction. The concept of the "contained war of states", which was developed after the Thirty Year War, broke down in the 20th century even though the Hague Convention respecting the Laws and Customs on War and Land of entrenched the differentiation between combatants and civilians in international law. The great dictatorships of 20th century Europe " National Socialism and Stalinism " have ruthlessly abused ethnic concepts to impose their rule by force and found many imitators. The power apparatus required for this purpose was also a product of modernism. The discussion to this point has not only intended to state the reasons for the clustering of ethnically motivated forced migration in the 20th century, but also to provide primary evidence of those parts of Europe that were particularly affected by it. Although forced ethnic migration has occasionally occurred in other parts of the Continent e. In France, nation formation occurred in the context of an established state and the existing state or political community constituted an important reference point of collective identity formation state into nation. However, nation builders without a state of their own or a state that was still young and fragile needed to refer to other community-lending criteria nation into state. Es ist zweifellos nicht statthaft, dass in irgendeiner Nation eine andere Nation bestehe; es ist zweifellos geboten, diejenigen welche After the founding of the empire, it consisted of two components: The Reichsdeutsche "Reich-Germans" within the empire and the Auslandsdeutsche "German expatriates" outside. In the interwar period, the term Volksdeutsche "ethnic Germans" established itself for Germans living in other countries, meaning those groups of persons who were considered German due to "blood" and descent even if their German national awareness was only in statu nascendi. A person is either one of "us" by descent or not one of "us" " tertium non datur. It is neither possible to enter the community of descent nor to leave it. However, since the presumed common descent from large groups that is projected far into the past cannot be proven or refuted even the Ariernachweis ["certificate of Aryan descent"] of the Nazis was mere patchwork , the floodgates to manipulation were opened in two ways: Groups of persons could belong to the community of descent even if they do not belong according to the evidence of their language, religion or culture. The presumed descent makes it possible: Allegedly, the respective ancestors "lost" their "true" language or their "original" culture. A state could also have resident population groups that were deliberately excluded from the ethnically defined titular nation especially Jews and Balkan Muslims 15 or did not allow the latter to include it "assimilate". Therefore, these groups were experienced as "alien" and a "threat". The results were endless "ethnicity struggles", 16 including their accompanying symptoms: Forced migrations in the first half of the 20th century Overall, four major complexes of forced ethnic migrations without claim to completeness defined by space and chronology can be differentiated in 20th century Europe. All occurred with some restrictions in the context of wars: The Soviet Union in the s and the s; 3. Yugoslavia and its successor states from to In addition to the forced migrations, there were formally more or less voluntary migrations option right, emigration , which also succumbed to ethnic and national imperatives. So-called population exchange because the quantitatively most significant agreement of these years " between Greece and Turkey in January " did not just initiate a new resettlement wave but also retroactively "legalized" the already completed flows of refugees and expulsions. The plan to "unmix" the ethnic aggregate in a disputed region by exchanging minorities had already appeared a decade before the Lausanne agreement in a supplementary protocol to the peace agreement of 29 September between the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria. It was the first interstate agreement in modern European history that provided for a population transfer between two states but on a formally voluntary basis and limited to the inhabitants of border areas. Therefore, it went far beyond the option right entrenched in previous agreements. By contrast, the Greek-Turkish agreement of had a coercive character and extended to the entire respective

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state" with a few precisely defined exceptions relating to Orthodox Christians in Istanbul and Muslims in West Thrace. The Treaty of Lausanne, which was negotiated under the auspices of the newly founded League of Nations, was another innovation in international law that was accepted though with a bad conscience as the ultima ratio for "solving" interstate conflicts. It served later actors, Adolf Hitler as well as Winston Churchill, as a precedent and example. The forced migrations in the Soviet Union of the 1930s and 1940s initially occurred in the context of Bolshevik "nation-building" and the forced restructuring of economy, society and culture. Josef Stalin and his comrades perceived this as the resistance of the nationalities conceptualized by him and punished it with mass deportations. Ethnic minorities in border areas and those that had a "home country" beyond the borders came into the visors of mass persecutions and were "prophylactically" resettled by force to Siberia or into the interior. The members of the respective national elites and wealthy peasants were deported east between December and June from the territories that the Soviet Union incorporated after the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact of the Baltic states, Eastern Poland, Bessarabia, northern Bukovina. During the summer and fall of 1941 the Soviet leadership deported the German population from the European part of the Soviet Union and the Caucasus to Central Asia and Siberia to prevent a feared collaboration with the German army. Men and childless women were drafted into the so-called labour army; the remainder of the population was locked up in "special settlements" and were declared to have lost their rights as citizens. About a third died during the transport and the first years in the destination areas. With the advance of the Red Army, the number of those affected once again increased: Apart from political opponents members of the anti-communist resistance movements and "class enemies" for example, in the Ukraine, the Baltic states and Bessarabia, especially Germans in the conquered and Soviet-controlled territories. In 1945, the Soviet Union finally agreed on a population exchange with Poland according to the Lausanne "model": In the following year, a similar though quantitatively less weighty agreement was concluded with Czechoslovakia. The period of the most extensive forced ethnic migrations ever in the history of Europe already began with the German attack on Poland in September of 1939. In his Reichstag speech of 6 October 1939, Adolf Hitler demanded that a "reordering of the ethnographic situation" in occupied Poland be immediately brought about by resettlement. The "Germanisation of Poland", already promoted in by the previously quoted Paul de Lagarde, could now take on a concrete form. Subsequently and parallel to the broadening of the war a series of repeatedly revised plans and designs for the Germanisation and colonisation of parts of eastern Central and Eastern Europe that were combined under the heading Generalplan Ost "General Plan East" were created under the leadership of the agronomist Konrad Meyer [] of the Friedrich-Wilhelm University in Berlin. It never became possible to put into practice this monstrous programme, which provided according to various versions for the removal of 25 to 31 million people of "alien ethnicity" and "alien race" from their homes and the resettlement of 5 million. However, the first measures for Germanising the conquered territories were already taken in late 1939. Initially, about 1 million Jews and Poles were deported from the "annexed eastern territories" in Poland to make room for "German east settlers". These were mostly members of "ethnic German splinter groups", who were forcibly resettled from Estonia, Latvia, Galicia, Volhynia, Rumania, the Northern Bukovina and Bessarabia as well as eventually from Lithuania based on bilateral agreements. After the German attack on the Soviet Union in the summer of 1941 and the increasing radicalisation of the war, Germanisation and conquest of new living space Lebensraum continued on a grand scale in the East. The eastern campaign was perceived as a war of ideological worldviews and race-biological annihilation. Initially, the economic exploitation of the conquered territories and their people by forced labour stood in the foreground. The Jewish population about 2.5 million of Jews, Poles, Russians and other population groups in eastern Central Europe and Eastern Europe became victims of the Nazi settlement and annihilation policies. In the states of South-eastern Europe occupied by Germany or allied to it, many population groups were forcibly resettled, expelled or driven into flight due to their ethnicity. Flight, expulsion and resettlement now proceeded from east to west: Already during the war the British Prime Minister Churchill spoke for a "westward shift" of Poland and an "untangling" of territories of mixed nationality. He repeatedly invoked the "successful" Lausanne model of 1923 in the process. The

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governments of Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary were requested to stop further expulsions "wild" expulsions until the Allied Control Council for Germany had agreed on a just distribution and pace of the expulsions. The great majority of the German population in these three countries and Yugoslavia lost its homes towards or after the end of the war. Some fled or were evacuated, others fell victim to "wild" expulsions and retaliation, while the rest were forcibly resettled sometimes for a repeated time. From Lausanne to Dayton: International paradigm shift After the end of the third wave of forced migrations, war, mass murder and expulsion seemed to have definitively become a thing of the past "at least in Europe. Therefore, the international public reacted with all the more shock to the ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia "at least in Europe."

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Introduction Chapter 2: Forced migration plans and policies by Nazi Germany Chapter 3. The population policies of the "Axis" allies Chapter 4. Population movements at the end of the war and in its aftermath Chapter 5.

For me, that moment came two weeks ago. I study the American response to the Holocaust. I was preparing to deliver a conference paper on U. From every media outlet came Trump administration officials spewing similar hollow arguments. The law made me do it During the Nazi era, the claim was based on the immigration law that set annual worldwide quotas, as well as country-by-country limits, on the number of immigrants to be admitted to the United States. The problem with the claim, and the idea that U. About , refugees from Nazi Europe were admitted during that period to the U. The quota for Germans of about 26, was filled in just one year, in In every other year, the quota ranged from 7 percent to 70 percent filled. Yet at the time, and in many historical accounts, officials consistently blamed the law. That includes Assistant Secretary of State Breckinridge Long, who explained why his administration could not help European Jews in Jobs and security The Trump administration has justified its anti-immigrant policy as a way to help unemployed Americans. So did the Hoover administration and then the Roosevelt administration. Immigration dropped 90 percent in the first five months. From to , the Roosevelt administration continued to use this interpretation of the likely-to-become-a-public-charge clause and other provisions to keep immigration under what the law allowed, even after the economy picked up. The Trump administration has claimed immigrants are more likely to commit crimes and to be national security risks, using unrepresentative anecdotes and amorphous fears to justify its policy. So did the Roosevelt administration. One State Department lawyer maintained that officials should deny visas to those who had criminal tendencies, even if they have no criminal record. Government officials during the Roosevelt administration also assumed a large proportion of immigrants, particularly Jewish ones, were communists determined to subvert democracy. They denied visas on that basis. Officials also assumed German Jewish refugees would be spies for the Third Reich. That was based upon the flimsiest of evidence: Only a fraction of those were indicted " for violating immigration regulations, not for espionage. Historian David Wyman estimates that the U. That concern was that allowing in too many refugees would fundamentally alter the nature of American society. Many decision-makers, particularly in the State Department, hailed from the WASP elite and perceived ambitious Jews as threatening their exclusive domains. The fewer Jews in the United States, the greater the chance of preserving the country as it had been and as they wanted it to continue to be. Roosevelt administration officials turned out to be both right and wrong in their fears. They were right that the European refugees who came before, during and after the war, though small in number, reshaped the world of higher education, the arts and the sciences and contributed to the rise of the postwar meritocracy. That postwar meritocracy broke down the class-based system that kept Jews and Italians and eventually blacks and Latinos out of elite institutions. The nation was better off letting in , refugees between and It would have been even better off filling the quotas and allowing in the additional , refugees. And it would have been better off still had the country admitted anyone in need and tried to save all those who were imperiled as the Holocaust unfolded. Some might object, probably under their breath, that these refugees were different. But that is not how they were perceived at the time. And that is exactly the point and precisely the parallel.

Chapter 8 : The Holocaust - Yad Vashem

was a prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp who was assigned by the SS guards to supervise forced labor or carry out administrative tasks in the camp. Kindertransport the informal name of a series of rescue efforts which brought thousands of refugee Jewish children to Great Britain from Nazi Germany between and

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Chapter 9 : Generalplan Ost - Wikipedia

From to fall Nazi Germany pursued an aggressive policy of forced emigration for the Reich's Jews. 2 More than , Jews emigrated from Germany and Austria.