

The Nuremberg

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The Nazi Background

Nazi Germany is the common English name for Germany between 1933 and 1945, when Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party controlled the country through a dictatorship. Under Hitler's rule, Germany was transformed into a absolute state that controlled nearly all aspects of life



THE FIRST DAY WAS SPENT READING THE 24,000-WORD INDICTMENT AGAINST THE DEFENDANTS, BROADCAST THROUGH HEADPHONES IN FOUR DIFFERENT LANGUAGES. THE DEFENDANTS SAT TOGETHER IN A TWO-LEVEL DOCK, GUARDED BY A ROW OF WHITE STEEL-HELMETED AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL .

Opening Nuremberg War Crime Trails

On Nov. 20, 1945, the International Military Tribunal began proceedings against 22 high-ranking Nazis indicted for war crimes; the Nuremberg Trials set a precedent in international human rights law. At the end of the allied powers sought to bring those responsible for the holocaust and WW II atrocities to justice low-level offenders were tried by court-martial while Germans who primarily committed crimes in foreign countries would be tried in those countries .The four Allies divided the workload for the prosecution. The United States handled the charges of conspiracy, Britain handled crimes against peace, and France and the Soviet Union shared war crimes and crimes against humanity. In the first and most famous of the 12 trials at Nuremberg, 24 Nazi war criminals were indicted. Industrialist Gustav Krupp was ruled too ill to face trial and labor leader Robert Ley committed suicide before trial. The tribunal began proceedings against the remaining 22 men—including with Hitler's deputy Martin Bormann, who was tried in absentia "The privilege of opening the first trial in history for crimes against the peace of the world imposes a grave responsibility," Jackson began. "The wrongs which we seek to condemn and punish have been so calculated, so malignant, and so devastating, that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored, because it cannot survive their being repeated. That four great nations, flushed with victory and stung with injury, stay the hand of vengeance and voluntarily submit their captive enemies to the judgment of the law is one of the most significant tributes that Power has ever paid to Reason."The prosecution began their cases against each individual defendant in January and, from March to June, most of the defendants would testify. Final statements were made Aug. 31 and the justices reached their verdicts on Oct. 1. Twelve of the defendants were sentenced to death, including Bormann. Seven were given prison sentences and three were acquitted. Goering evaded the hangman by swallowing a