

Ghettos

There is a couple of definitions of ghetto. The definition we are looking for is an small area that people are put in to be isolated or segregated.

Most of the ghettos were in Poland. The largest one in Poland was the Warsaw ghetto. Other cities that have ghettos include Lodz, Krakow,



Białystok, Lvov, Lublin, Vilna, Kovno, Czestochowa, and Minsk. Large populations of Jewish people were placed into a small area to live. These areas were very unsanitary and a lot of waste was just dumped on the streets. Conditions were very bad and a lot of sicknesses and diseases were passed within a small area. Many people would try to sneak out and smuggle what they could with their limited resources but it came with great risk as if they were caught, they would be severely punished. Western European Jews would be deported to the ghettos in the east. Many were just there to live until they were deported to killing centres or concentration camps. Some ghettos only lasted for a few days while others lasted for months or years. There were also some ghettos in Hungary but they were made closer to the end of the war so they did not last long. There were some resistance movements but they were highly unsuccessful with the small number of fighters. The biggest one was the Warsaw ghetto uprising was the biggest movement.

Ghettos were formed by the Germans putting all the Jews into separate small areas from the rest of the population. When ghettos were formed they were made to be temporary, some only lasting a few days. Jews were transported to the ghettos by cattle trucks and individuals, families, and sometimes whole communities were moved together. At least one thousand ghettos were formed in German occupied and annexed Poland and the Soviet Union alone.

The Rules for ghettos

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The Jews were forbidden to work in either key industries or government institutions, to bake breads, to earn 500 zloty a month, to travel by train or trolley-bus, to leave the city limits without special permit, and to process gold and jewelry.

All Jews had to wear star of David on their sleeves and stores/shops had to have star of David to be able to open store/shops and to sell supplies.

Education was very limited so adults held it secretly. Those who were caught were severely punished. Those who tried to escape ghetto that got caught was severely punished or killed.

Things in the ghetto

Jewish ghettos were a large area where Jews and other people the Nazis hate were thrown in the ghetto to separate them from the rest of the population. The prisoners of the ghettos were treated like animals in a fenced area. They were given small portions of food and it was limited to potatoes, bread, and fats. So many of the Jews died due to starvation. But the prisoners were able to smuggle in food to support the family. Some were able to do but those who were caught were severely punished. Others were able to trade in money and valuables for food. Most of the prisoners lived in small apartments that had at least six families inside. Those who weren't able to get a room lived in the streets filled with wastes and feces due to plumbing not working. Diseases filled the streets as it was passed around and many of the prisoners died from diseases and illness. The winter contributed to this factor as they were not given proper items to survive the bitter winter. Many were either weakened, exposed or died during the winter. The prisoners were however were able to hold classes as education is very important to them. The guards did not tolerate this and started punishing those who held books. The students were forced to hide their books inside. Guards patrolled the streets and sometimes they abused their power.

What happened when the ghettos were emptied?

Ghettos were used for keeping Jews segregated but destruction ghettos took Jews off to kill them eventually. After the Warsaw ghetto was emptied they were used for the annual Warsaw Jewish Festival. They also renovated some of the buildings. In WW2 They built a concentration camp on the Warsaw ghetto when it was abandoned.

Every time a ghetto was emptied people would steal all of the assets of the Jews that once lived there. Some of the Jews who survived WW2 would later attempt to reclaim their home. When Hitler decided to go forth with his "Final Solution" Plan the Germans killed every Jew in the Ghettos and systematically destroyed the Ghettos. Some Jews were deported to forced-labor camps and concentration camps.

Some of the Jews in the Ghetto decided to start a resistance effort to avoid the mass killing of Jewish people. They smuggled weapons information, food and medicine across the walls of the ghetto.