



# The history of the Nazi Concentration Camps

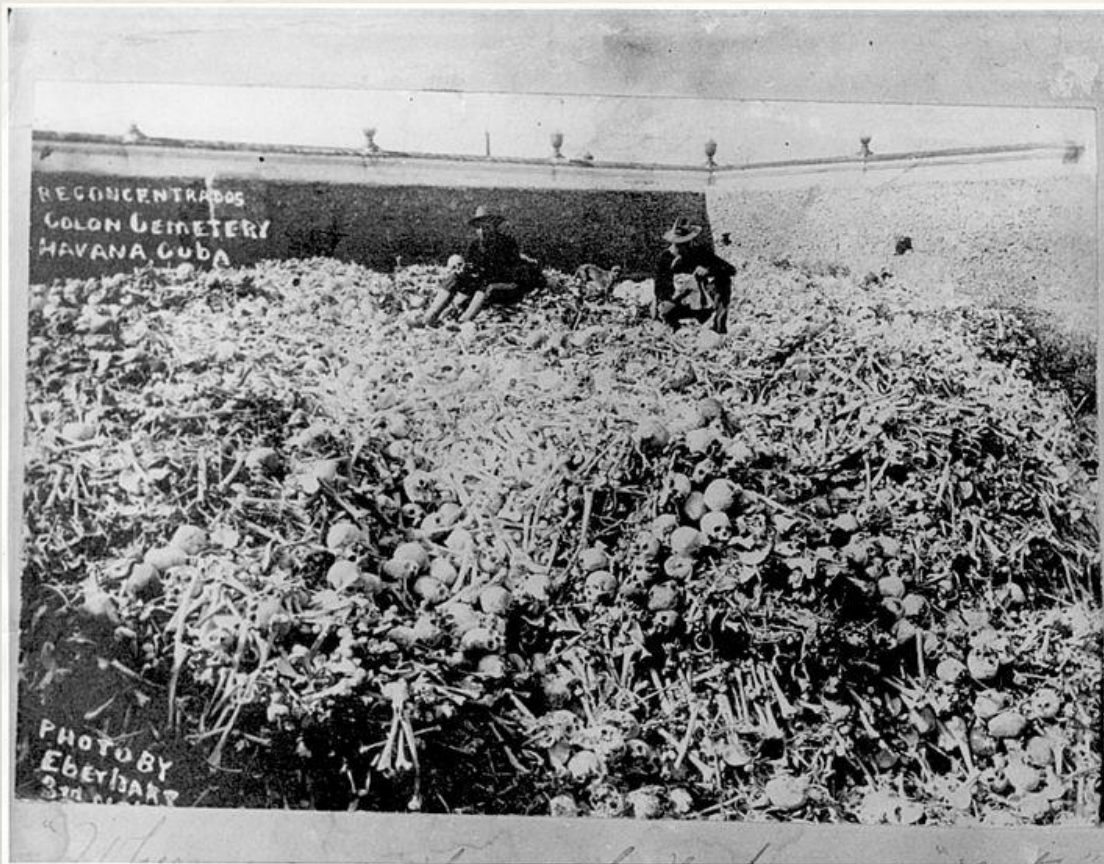
# The idea of the concentration camps

- Definition: It is a place to keep there a lot of people, the reasons to keep them there are usually political
- Purposes:
  - Forced labour
  - Detention ward (a temporary place to keep there prisoners)
  - extermination

# The origins of the concentration camps

- Russian camps for polish rebels (XVIII)
- Spanish „campos de concentración” for cuban rebels (XIX)
- British concentration camps for women and children during civil war in Africa (27000 prisoners died) (XIX)

# Results of Spanish Concentration Camps in Cuba





# British concentration camps in Africa





# The origins of the Nazi Concentration Camps

- First camps in Germany – 1933 (Dachau)
- Originally used to keep their political enemies
- Before the war – at least 180,000 prisoners
- Almost 12,000 concentration camps
  
- Types:
  - Concentration camps
  - Forced labour camps
  - Prisoners-of-war camps
  - Camps for „rehabilitation and reeducation of Poles”
  - Extermination camps





# Dachau and Buchenwald









# During II WW

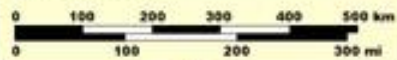
- the camps especially in Poland became places of grouping and extermination of Jews
- Over 2,5 million people died in the death camps

# Der Holocaust



- Vernichtungslager
- Konzentrationslager\*
- Stadt mit Ghetto
- Durchgangsstadt
- Großes Massaker
- Wichtige Transportroute
- Achsenmächte
- Besetzt durch Achsenmächte
- Alliierten
- Neutral

\*inkl. Arbeits-, inhaftierungs- und Durchgangslagern.  
Hinweise: Nicht alle Lager und Ghettos sind eingetragen.  
Staatsgrenzen von 2007



# The symbol of the Holocaust

- Auschwitz
- Established by Germans in 1940
- In the suburbs of Oświęcim
- The direct reason – to keep there Polish prisoners
- The factual one: to exterminate the Jews.





# The Division of Auschwitz:

- **KL Auschwitz I** (the main camp),
- **KL Auschwitz II-Birkenau** (included all camps, the so-called building sections in Birkenau as well as sub-camps at agricultural and livestock farms),
- **KL Auschwitz III** (It included Monowitz as well as sub-camps that did not fall under the Birkenau camp, mainly those located near the industrial centers).

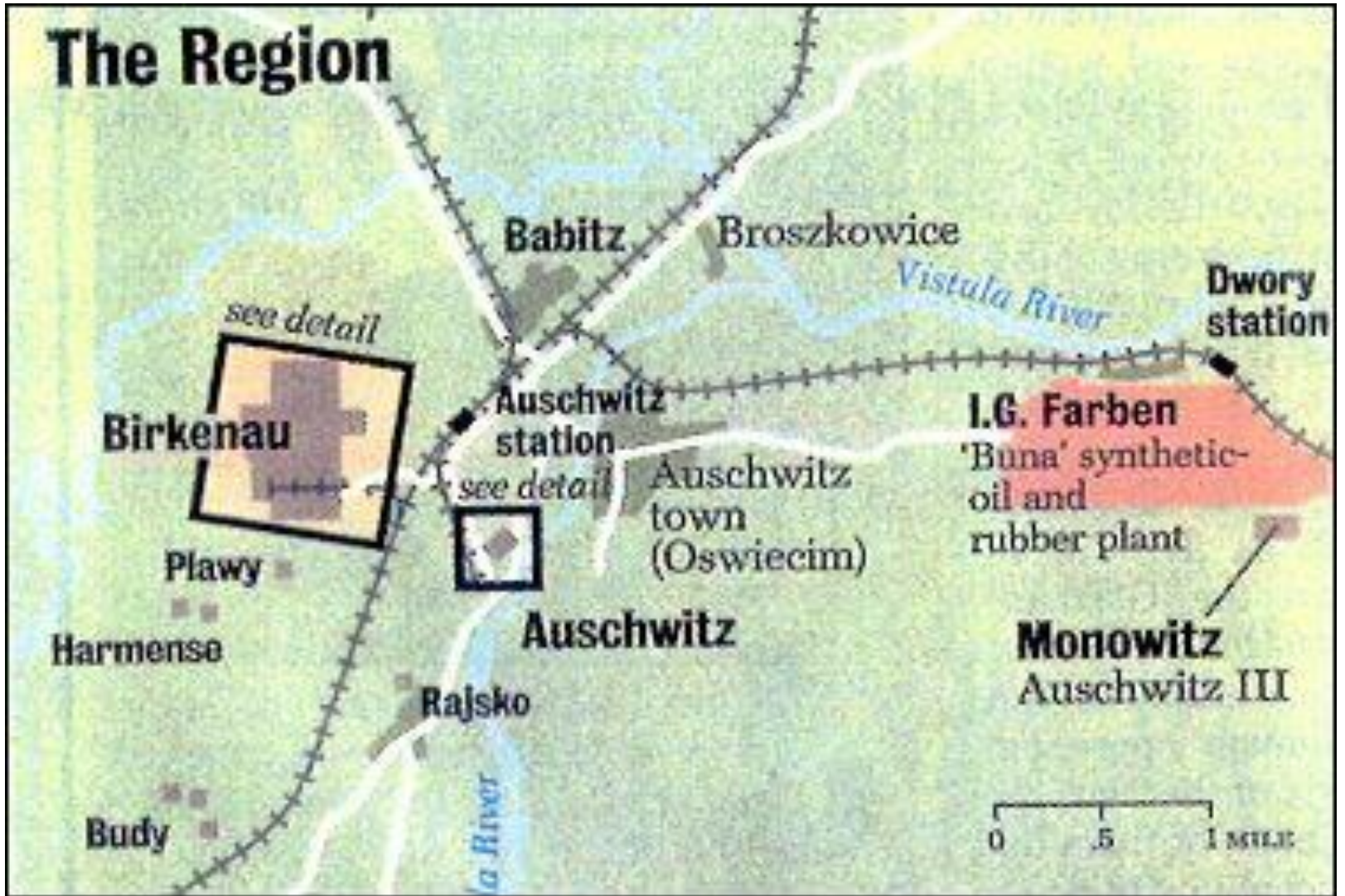
## The Auschwitz I:

- employment office
- SS enterprises – most prisoners were employed there

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- The Auschwitz II – combined 2 functions:
  - Center of the direct extermination of the Jews and sick prisoners
  - Concentration complex, consisting of different groups and prepared for different destinations

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- **The Auschwitz III:**
  - It included sub-camps near the industrial enterprises
  - It consisted of the slave workers for the German enterprises

# The Region



# Auschwitz-Birkenau

- It was the largest part of the complex
- Originally it was a place to hold soviet prisoners-of-war
- It became main place of the extermination of the Jews

# Auschwitz-Birkenau entrance



# Crematorium at Auschwitz I





# Cyclone B container



# Categories of prisoners

- Jews
- Poles
- Gypsies
- Soviet prisoners-of-war
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Other ethnic groups
- Homosexuals

# Children in Auschwitz

- Among 1,3 million prisoners, there were approximately 232 thousand children (mostly Jews).
- They were deported with their parents



# Life in the camp

- Limited access to food, water and even toilets
- Rooms were overcrowded
- Sanitary conditions were terrible
- Epidemics noticed

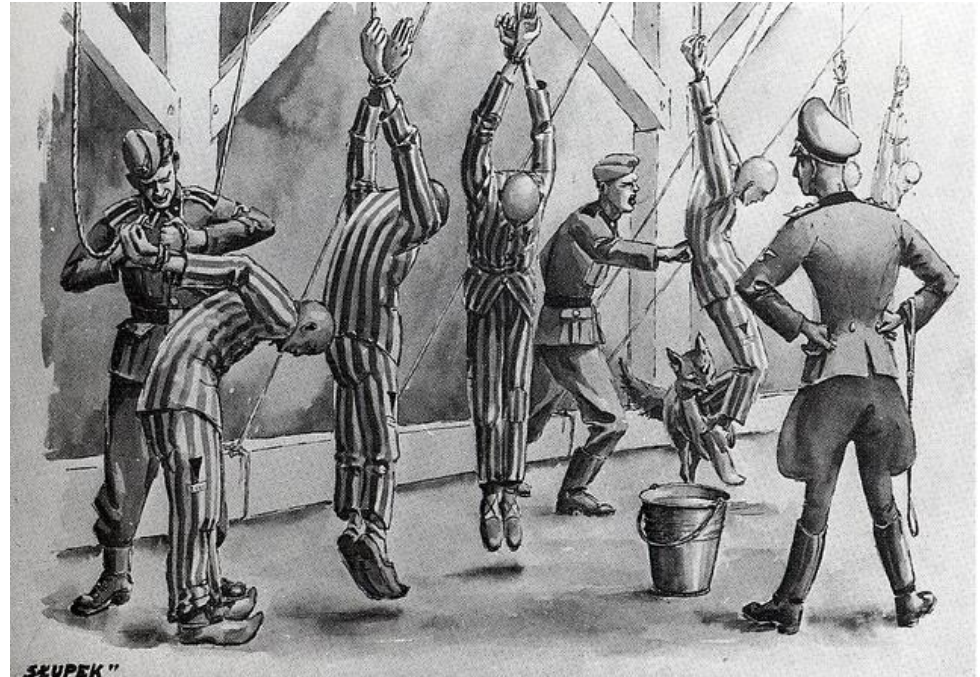
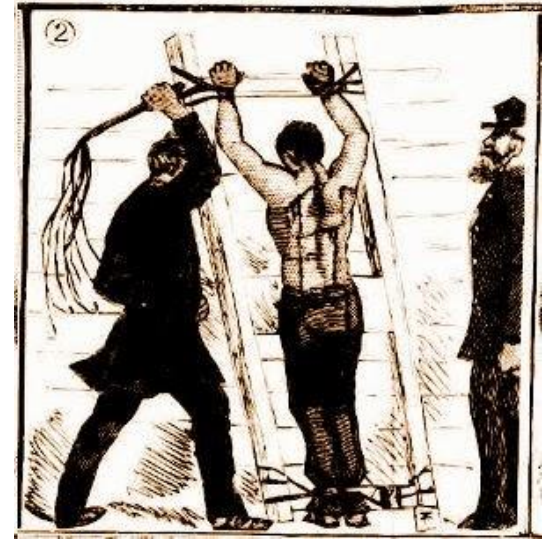
# Punishments

Different reasons:

- Additional food
- Faked work
- disobedience

# The punishments:

- Flogging
- Hanging torture
- confinement



# Ways to kill the prisoners

- Gas chambers
- Executions by firing squad
- Starvation
- Epidemics
- Overwork
- suicides



# Medical experiments

## Principal purposes:

- Meeting army's needs
- Postwar plans concerning population policy
- Personal interests of doctors

## **Included things like:**

- How long can a man survive in cold water
- Drinking seawater
- Infecting patients with various diseases and then trying vaccines
- Sex change operations
- Changing eye colour
- Sterilization experiments
- Remedies to gas and posion
- Psychological experiments

# Josef Mengele – the Angel of Death









# The liberation

- In 1945, before the liberation, Nazis tried to hide their crimes, blew up some building and dismantled the crematoriums
- 27.01.1945 – the liberation of the camp by the soviet army









# The museum

- After the war, former prisoners helped the Polish government to establish the museum at the area of the former Camp. It includes Auschwitz I and II (Birkenau)
- You will have an opportunity to see it and experience the atmosphere of this dark place soon, so you will be able to compare it with this presentation

Thank u for your attention. I hope you enjoyed the presentation  
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# Resources:

- <http://auschwitz.org/en/history/>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jan/27/auschwitz-short-history-liberation-concentration-camp-holocaust>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/jul/12/kl-a-history-of-the-nazi-concentration-camps-nikolaus-wachsmann-review>
- <https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005263>
- [https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obozy\\_niemieckie\\_\(1933-1945\)](https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obozy_niemieckie_(1933-1945))
- [https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obóz\\_koncentracyjny](https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obóz_koncentracyjny)
- <https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auschwitz-Birkenau>