



Holocaust Denial

Presented by the Hampton Roads Naval Museum

Anti-Semitism and Holocaust Denial

Anti-Semitism, which means prejudice against Jews, has found its place in today's world most prominently in the form of **Holocaust denial**. While Holocaust denial has many shapes, forms, and practices, it is at its very core a racist ideology that discriminates against the Jewish community. Any form of denial that the Holocaust took place is rooted in anti-Semitic ideology and should be rejected.

Holocaust denial can be broken down into three general categories:

- 1) Hitler's Final Solution was only the deportation of the Jewish community from Germany, not the extermination through genocide
- 2) The number of deaths is exaggerated
- 3) There were no gas chambers or mass killings of any Jews

The first notions of holocaust denial came almost immediately after World War II, during the 1950s, when scholars (yes, real scholars) began to question the scope and intensity of the genocide against the Jewish community.



This graffiti was found in Seattle, Washington in 2017 ([click here to read more](#)). Note how the "S" are written as "\$" to further conspiracies about the Jewish community.

Debunking Deniers of the Holocaust

Let us take some time to examine some of these claims and understand why they are false.

Hitler's Final Solution

As Hitler and the Nazi party rose to power in Germany during the 1930s, Europe's Jewish community was often blamed for the failures of Germany, and before long the rhetoric began

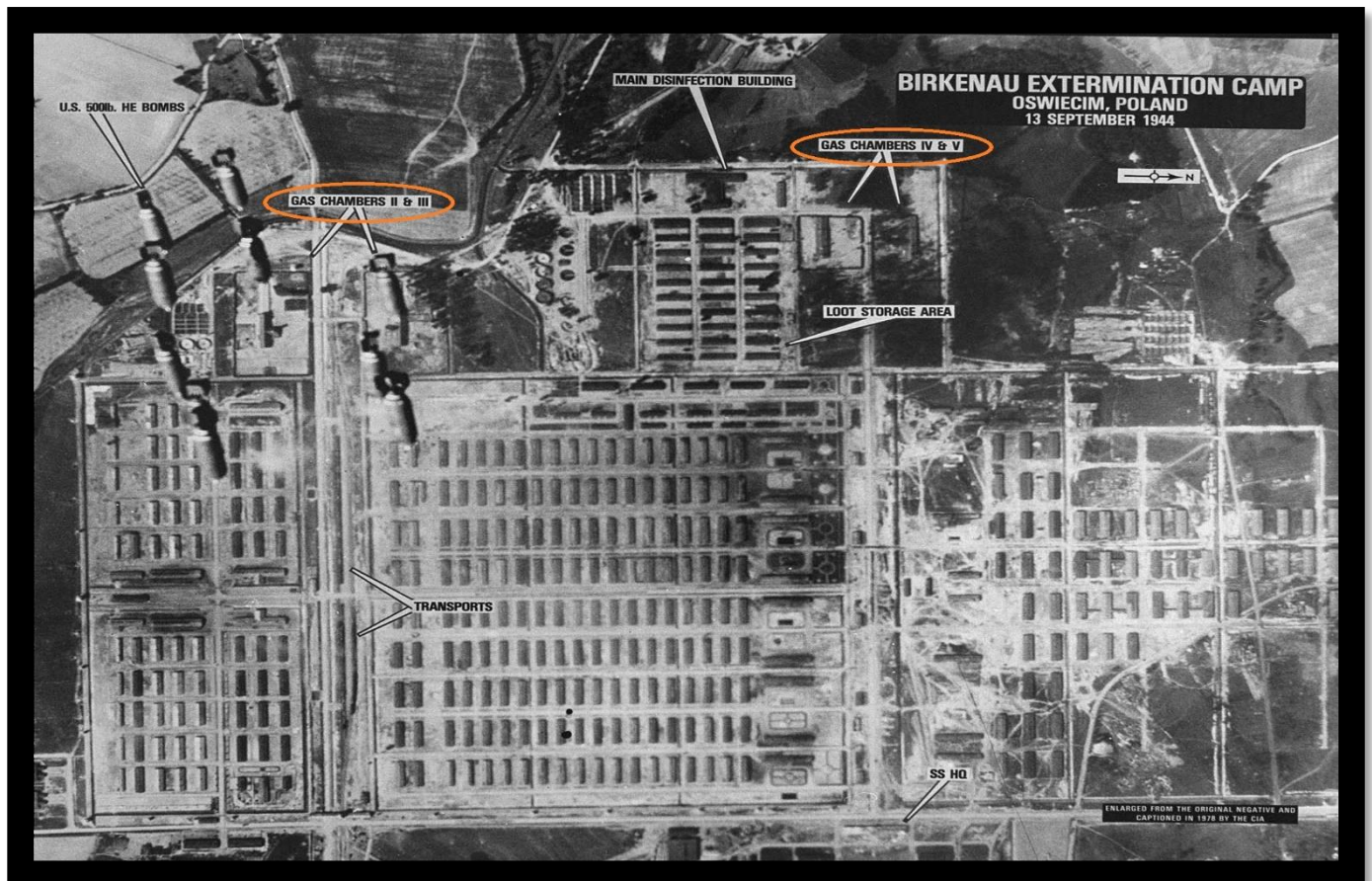


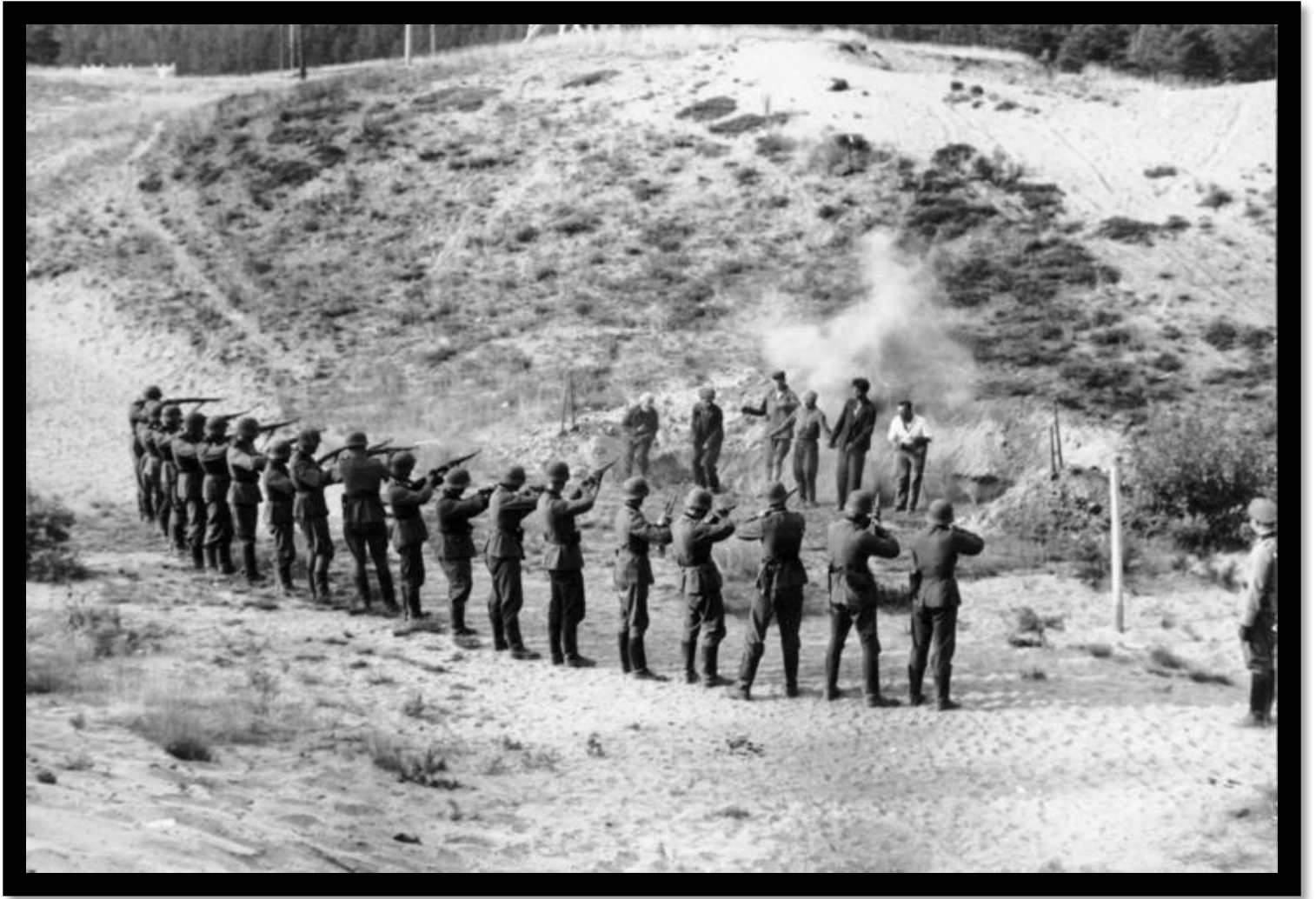
to suggest the extermination of all of Europe's Jews as a solution. Although no single document exists that connects Hitler or other Nazi leadership with making the extermination of the Jewish community their goal, there are [several moments](#) before and during the war that indicate the plan's existence. 1942 marked the official beginning of the deportation of Jews with the Wannsee conference, although the first camps were built in 1933, suggesting a longer pattern of deportation. The most staggering evidence that the Final Solution **did** include the extermination of the Jewish community is the existence of what is referred to as "Extermination Camps." The Nazi Regime operated six camps that have been identified as extermination camps, also called "death camps" or "killing centers" – Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, Majdanek, and most famously Auschwitz-Birkenau. Below is an image of Majdanek.



Gas Chambers and Mass Killings

To the left is an image of empty Zyklon-B canisters, a chemical agent developed by German scientists from a pesticide to be used against humans in one of the six extermination camps. Some numbers suggest as many as one million Jews were killed through the administration of Zyklon B. Below is a map of Auschwitz-Birkenau with the gas chambers marked in orange. Often, Holocaust deniers suggest that the extermination of the Jews by gas was a myth, but the evidence of empty Zyklon-B canisters, along with the aerial photographs of the gas chambers themselves, is ample evidence to prove them wrong. Gas, however, was not the only or primary weapon used to carry out the genocide – many deaths can be tied to firing squads. The next page has an example of a firing squad and another demonstrating the scale of these actions.





Number of Deaths

One of the most prominent forms of Holocaust denial refers to the scale of the Holocaust. Although estimations of the number of Jews killed in the Holocaust range from 2 million to 6 million, the discrepancy is there because the historical record is hard to access – the Germans did not want the world to find out how many people were killed.

It's important to keep in mind that this number (2 – 6 million) refers only to the Jewish population killed.

The Germans targeted many other groups with extermination as well, including homosexuals, physically disabled, mentally ill, gypsies (Romas and Sintis), Jehovah's Witnesses, Captured POWs, and Poles. In total, these

groups made up another 4 – 5 million killed during the Holocaust, bringing the total number of victims to roughly above 10 million. The photo below is from Krakow, Poland, depicting Poles (many likely of Jewish descent) being loaded into a train car. The conditions in the train cars were horrid and many people died before reaching the labor or extermination camps.

Holocaust Deaths

