

22.3 Judgment at Nuremberg

Sources: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1IIG_MF6do&t=395s; <https://www.roberthjackson.org/nuremberg-event/reading-of-the-judgement-against-ernst-kaltenbrunner-4/>

Background: The Nuremberg trials were military trials held in the city of Nuremberg, Germany by the victorious allies after World War II. They prosecuted prominent German political, military, judicial and economic leaders for planning and participating in **the Holocaust** and other **war crimes**. In the movie “Judgment at Nuremberg,” the actor who played the prosecuting attorney narrated for about 8-minutes as the film shows documentary footage, maps, and artifacts from the Nazi concentration camps.

A. Movie Clip: Judgment at Nuremberg (1961)

1. What was the motto at the Buchenwald Concentration Camp?
2. Why were bulldozers used to bury the bodies?
3. Which image from the video clip of the trial do you find most powerful or disturbing? Why?
4. Based on the evidence presented in this movie do you believe the men on trial for crimes against humanity should have been severely punished? Explain your view.

B. Judgment Against Ernst Kaltenbrunner in Nuremberg Trials (1946)

Ernst Kaltenbrunner was head of the Nazi SS in Austria. In 1943, Kaltenbrunner became Chief of the Security Police and Head of the Reich Security Office (RSHA). In October 1946, at the post-World War II Nuremberg trials, he was found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging. A two-minute film clip shows the verdict being pronounced to the court. Below is an excerpt from the verdict and sentencing.

Questions

1. What were the charges against Ernst Kaltenbrunner?
 2. What was the “Final Solution”?
 3. How many Jews died during the Holocaust?
 4. In your opinion, should Kaltenbrunner have been executed for his participation in the extermination of the Jews of Europe?
1. During the period in which Kaltenbrunner was Head of the RSHA, the Gestapo and SD in occupied territories continued the murder and ill-treatment of the population, using methods which included the torture and confinement in concentration camps, usually under orders to which Kaltenbrunner's name was signed. The Gestapo was responsible for enforcing a rigid labour discipline on the slave labourers and Kaltenbrunner established a series of labour reformatory camps for this purpose.
2. The RSHA played a leading part in the "inal solution" of the Jewish question by the extermination of the Jews. A special section of the RSHA was established to supervise this programme. Under its direction approximately six million Jews were murdered.
3. The murder of approximately four million Jews in concentration camps has heretofore been described. This part of the programme was also under the supervision of the RSHA when Kaltenbrunner was head of that organisation, and special missions of the RSHA scoured the occupied territories and the various Axis satellites arranging for the deportation of Jews to these extermination institutions . . . The Tribunal finds that Kaltenbrunner is not guilty on Count One. He is guilty under Counts Three and Four.