

Title: European collaboration within the Holocaust

Authors: Anduana Shahini (Albania), Aleksandar Veljanoski (North Macedonia), Vesna Rašković (Srbija)

Historical advisor: Laura Fontana

Pedagogical advisor: Loranda Miletić

Allocated total time of the LA: 2 school hours

Age indication and place in the curriculum:

Country	Albania	North Macedonia	Serbia
Target group/Age indication	15-18	15-18	15-18
Place in the curriculum	Holocaust it's not a compulsory subject in the teaching of history, however, students are offered a 2-hour module(among the different options: carrying out a practical activity or running a small project) specifically focussing on the Holocaust. In general, we tackle the topic of the Holocaust in the 5th chapter " Period of great shocks, from the First to the Second World War" in the X class of gymnasium and in the 5th chapter "The Second World War" in the XI class of gymnasium.	<i>The Holocaust in the Second World War</i> and its consequences is a topic that is being taught in two courses as a part of the course on World, Europe, and the Balkan Peninsula in the Second World War in the ninth grade in primary school Furthermore, the topic is covered in the third year of high school education within the subject: World in the Second World - Consequences of the Second World War and the Holocaust. as well as the first class of high school education in the first class of History as an elective subject in 4 years - Nuremberg Trials	There is a special focus on the Holocaust in the final grades of high school. Students can learn about the genesis of the Holocaust even earlier, especially when tackling anti-Judaism. Teachers decide the number of hours to be devoted to teaching the Holocaust.

Teaching aims (What do we intend to achieve by this learning activity?):

Students expand their knowledge and critical understanding of World War II and the Holocaust by studying various examples of collaboration in Europe during the Nazi era and the role of collaborators in the implementation of "Final Solution" policies. By analyzing different types of historical sources and by using collaborative and interactive learning strategies, students will explore forms and degrees of collaboration in case studies of Bulgaria, Romania, and Italy.

Learning outcomes (What will the learners know, and be able to do after taking part in this learning activity?)

Students will be able to:

1. define new terms: collaboration, cooperation, Wannsee Protocol, "Final Solution"
2. analyze the forms of cooperation and collaboration based on the examples of persecution and deportation of Jews in Italy, Bulgaria, and Romania
3. find the similarities and differences in the process of implementation of the "Final Solution"
4. Interpret different types of historical sources and documents.

Key question: In carrying out the genocide of the Jews, which categories of people were involved in each analyzed country?

Introduction

Time allocated: 30 minutes

Task for students: On September 1, 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland. Two days later, Britain and France declared war on Germany. In the nine months after the invasion of Poland, the German army rapidly conquered most of Western and Northern Europe. After the aggression against URSS in June 1941, the Nazis occupied other countries in the East of Europe.

a) Observe [map 1](#) and [map 2](#), and compare them, by answering the following questions:

1. Which European country was the first ally of Hitler's Germany and one of the founders of the Axis Alliance?
2. Which European countries did Nazi Germany conquer by the end of 1942?
3. Which countries in Europe joined the Tripartite Pact by 1942?

b) Look at [map 3](#) showing the distribution of the Jewish population in Europe in 1933 and answer the question:

1. Where did the largest Jewish communities live in pre-war Europe?
2. Where were the largest Jewish communities?

Note for the teachers: The teacher explains to the students that in Eastern Europe, especially in Poland and in Russia, many Jews lived in small market-towns or villages that were called *shtetls* in Yiddish („little towns“). Eastern European Jews lived a separate life as a minority within the culture of the majority. They spoke Yiddish, which combines elements of German and Hebrew. Most Western Jews usually tended to adopt the customs of the country in which they lived, assimilating more quickly. They also progressively weakened their ties to religion. Yet, beyond their social, cultural, and economic differences, Jews were persecuted in the same way as they were considered a single people, a single subhuman race to be isolated and eliminated because Nazism considered them dangerous. With Hitler coming to power in 1933, antisemitism became central to the political program of the Nazi party, with numerous discrimination measures and the enactment in September 1935 of racial laws (Nuremberg

Laws). All Jews living in Germany became enemies and consequently potential victims, and their lives changed forever.

c) In 1933 the Nazis came to power promising to build a bigger and stronger Germany, based on a racially and biologically cohesive community. For the Nazis, this Third Reich would be a national, People's Community, a society organized around ideas of "race". The Nazis did not believe Jewish people (among others) could or should be part of this new Germany. To create a Third Reich, the Nazis first needed to figure out a way to get rid of half a million German Jews. By various anti-Jewish measures, the Nazis had managed to force half of German Jews to emigrate by the beginning of WW2. After the Anschluss (annexation) of Austria and the outbreak of WW2, millions of Jews came under Nazi control. After six years of anti-Jewish measures in the Third Reich, there were more Jews than before. With the aggression against Poland, a new phase of violence began in the first two years of the war, more widespread, systematic, and radical. At some point in the last few months of 1941, it was decided that the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question" should be brought to an end.

The teacher then asks students:

- Can you figure out what the "Final Solution" was?

The teacher instructs the students to study the definition they can see on the computer screen. If students are unfamiliar with the term euphemism, they should be instructed to find an explanation in the *List of Key Terms*. The same list also contains an explanation of the term "Final Solution".

The "Final Solution", a shortened version of the Nazi term, "the Final Solution to the Jewish Question", was a euphemism used by Nazi Germany's leaders to refer to the mass murder of European Jews. The "Final Solution to the Jewish Question" was the last stage of the Holocaust and took place from summer/autumn 1941 to 1945. It was the deliberate, planned mass murder of Europe's Jews. Many Jews were killed before the "Final Solution" began. However, the vast majority of Jews who died in the Holocaust were murdered as part of the "Final Solution".

The teacher explains to the students that in all European occupied countries or in countries allied to Germany, the Nazi occupying forces discriminated against and persecuted the Jews, often in collaboration with the local authorities. Yet, the persecution and the deportation took place at different times and in different ways in each country. The mass murder of the Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators required the coordination and cooperation of governmental agencies throughout Axis-controlled Europe. We do not know the exact date when the Nazi regime made the decision for genocide because no precise documents have been found, but historians believe this decision was made by Hitler and the highest-ranking Nazi leaders by the end of 1941.

On January 20, 1942, 15 high-ranking Nazi officials and representatives of the Reich authorities took part in a meeting held in Wannsee (a suburb of Berlin) chaired by Reinhard Heydrich, Chief of the Reich Security Main Office (RSHA) to discuss and coordinate the implementation of the so-called "Final Solution of the Jewish Question", the code name for

the systematic annihilation of the European Jews. Adolf Eichmann, the head of the Department for Jewish Affairs, prepared the minutes of the meeting based on a transcript made by a stenographer. He later revealed that the words he used to write up the minutes were not the exact words used by the participants. The real intention of perpetrating a genocide was actually hidden behind the official language (for example: 'Evacuation' meant deportation to concentration and killing centers, and the 'appropriate treatment' meant 'murder'. They spoke "in blunt terms" with "no mincing of words," unlike Eichmann, who relied on euphemisms in the Protocol.

In a meeting lasting barely an hour and a half, the fate of millions of Jews was sealed.

Tasks for students:

1. Read the bold text below from the Wannsee Protocol and try to answer:
 - What was the purpose of the Wannsee Conference?
 - Pay attention to the vocabulary and expressions that are used to refer to „Jewish question“. Euphemisms, mild or indirect words or expressions substituted for ones considered to be too harsh or blunt, can hide dangerous or illegal behavior. What expressions did the Nazis use to disguise their intentions or policies? Underline them in the text.

In the course of this final solution of the European Jewish Problem, approximately 11 million Jews are involved. . . .

Under the proper direction, the Jews should now in the course of the Final Solution be brought to the East in a suitable way for use as labor. In big labor gangs, with separation of the sexes, the Jews capable of work are brought to these areas and employed in road building, in which task undoubtedly a great part will fall out through natural [means].

The remnant that finally is able to survive all this—since this is undoubtedly the part with the strongest resistance—must be treated accordingly, since these people, representing a natural selection, are to be regarded as the germ cell of new Jewish development. (See the experience of history.) In the program of the practical execution of the Final Solution, Europe is combed through from the West to the East.



2. Use this QR code and study the list of countries mentioned in the Wannsee Protocol and answer:

- Thinking of perpetrating genocide throughout occupied Europe, what do you think were the main difficulties the Nazis had to face? (for example; the Nazis didn't speak the local languages, they didn't know who the Jews were or didn't have their lists, and they didn't know how the local population would react...)
- Bearing in mind Hitler's desire to eliminate the Jews throughout Europe under Nazi rule, what difference do you think there is between allies and collaborators? And between cooperation and collaboration? If you are not sure of the answer, check the meaning of these terms in the List of Key Terms.

- Which countries are listed in Table A? What is the relationship between these countries and Nazi Germany? If you are not sure of the answer, look at [map 1](#) and [map 2](#).
- Which countries are listed in table B? What is the relationship between these countries with Nazi Germany? If you are not sure of the answer, look at [map 1](#) and [map 2](#).

Group work

PART I. Time allocated 30 minutes

Note for teachers: The teacher divides the students into three groups. Each group will receive teaching material about a country that was an ally of the Third Reich or collaborated with Nazi Germany. Students should perform all the tasks assigned in the sheet and prepare a joint presentation about their findings. In the second step, the students will present their work and fill in a common table with the data on the selected countries - Bulgaria, Italy, and Romania.

The final goal is to confirm the thesis that the so-called« Final Solution» is a Nazi project, but its implementation relied on a broad range of collaborators in Europe.

The teacher explains to students that the collaboration took place in every country in Europe which was occupied by or allied with Nazi Germany or which were neutral but in very different forms, ranging from the arrest of the Jews or their internment in transit camps to the confiscation of their property to taking part in mass killings. Its variety of forms and expressions encompassed all social groups, political parties and organizations, economic and cultural sectors, the church and the military along with the authorities and the police. The behavior of each local population should be seen in relation to the actions of their governments. The line between voluntary and forced collaboration was often very thin. Some people became involved out of necessity, they collaborated for fear of deportation and reprisals; others did so for the opportunities for personal advancement, an improvement in living conditions, pragmatism, corruption, personal gain, or ideological conviction. Alternatively, they remained passive, went about their daily lives as usual, and thus supported the criminal activities in their country with their indifference. It can be assumed that without the aid and abetting of the local authorities and the conformist behavior of the local population, the German occupying machinery could not have functioned as it ultimately did.

Group 1 Italy

On September 27, 1940, the Axis powers are formed as Germany, Italy and Japan become allies with the signing of the Tripartite Pact in Berlin. The Pact provided for mutual assistance should any of the signatories suffer an attack by any nation not already involved in the war.

Jewish population: approx. 48,000.

Jews under the Fascist regime in Italy

The Jewish community in Italy was one of the oldest in Europe. By the 1930s, Italian Jews were fully integrated into Italian culture and society. In 1933, approximately 50,000 Jews

lived in Italy. Although antisemitism was present in the political discourse of Mussolini and several ruling fascists, even as a cultural legacy, it was not a priority topic. The regime did not manifest a willingness to persecute the small Jewish community until 1938, when the racist laws were enacted. Mussolini's policies toward the Jews were independently conceived and implemented, and not — as many people still argued — a late concession to Hitler's war against the Jews.

The task for the students: Take a look at the illustration and answer the questions:

1. What rights were the Italian Jews deprived of since 1938?
2. What was the position of Jews in Italian society after 1938?
3. What was the regime's policy against foreign Jews in Italy, many of whom had fled their countries to escape deportation?

[Antisemitic cartoon](#) were published in "La Difesa della Razza" on the occasion of the antisemitic law "Measures for the defense of the Italian race". Translation of the beginning of the text: "Pursuant to the deliberations of the Council of Ministers." Translation of left panel: "Jews cannot provide military service. Jews cannot exercise the office of guardian. Jews cannot own national defense interests. Jews cannot own land and buildings. Jews may not have Aryan domestics in their households. Expulsion of foreign Jews." Translation of right panel: "There can be no Jews in military and civilian administration. There can be no Jews in the Party. There can be no Jews in the provincial and communal bodies. There can be no Jews in Parastatal Bodies. There can be no Jews in the banks. There can be no Jews in the insurance company. Jews are excluded from the Italian school."

Between 1938 and September 1943, the Fascist regime discriminated against the Jewish community in many ways and established concentration camps for foreign Jews and for those Jews who were accused of being resistant and dangerous. In the internment camps in Italy, Jews were neither killed nor subjected to forced labor, the mortality rate never reached the levels of the Nazi concentration camps, but the incarcerated Jews suffered hunger, cold, disease and deprivation of freedom. The continued psychological and economic pressure after 1938 influenced the emigration of many Jews to the USA.

In 1940, Italy went to war on the side of Germany and started its expansionist campaigns. Already in 1942 Mussolini was informed about the deportations of the Jews in all Nazi-occupied countries and about the mass killings, however, he proved reluctant to hand over Jews who had fled to Italian-administered territories to Hitler. He did this not out of pity or generosity, but to maintain control over his own territories and population. The Italian army and civilian authorities protected the Jews in areas such as southern France, Greece, and Croatia.

- Watch the [video](#) in which Flory (Floritz) Jagoda describes seeking refuge in Italy. Find the answers to the questions:

Where did Flory's family find refuge, fleeing Zagreb?
How does Flory describe the atmosphere in Bari?
What was the biggest problem for her when she arrived in Bari?

The situation changed drastically after the fall of Mussolini (25 July 1943) and in particular immediately after 8 September 1943, when it was made public that the Italian government has signed an unconditional armistice with the Allies. Hitler immediately reacted by invading northern and central Italy, as well as by occupying the Italian zones in Yugoslavia, Greece, and France. Take a look at [map 4](#) and find those areas.

With the German occupation, the situation of the Jews, already completely isolated and deprived of their rights, worsened considerably and exposed them to the danger of deportation. Unlike in other countries, Jews in Italy lived spread throughout the peninsula, and only in the larger cities, there were Jewish communities. For the Nazis, it was essential to be able to locate them, also because many Jews lived in hiding or under a false identity. Precisely because the Fascist regime had already taken a census of Jews in previous years, the Nazi authorities were easily able to obtain lists of people to be arrested who had been registered as Jewish.

2. Italy was occupied by Germany, camps, and deportations of Jews.

The German occupation of Italy radically altered the situation for the remaining 43,000 Italian Jews living in the northern half of the country. The Germans quickly established an SS and police apparatus and restored the fascist government in the form of a puppet government (RSI, the Italian Social Republic led by Mussolini) in order to facilitate arrests and deportations. With the help of the local authorities, the German authorities rounded up the Jews in Rome, Milan, Genoa, Florence, Trieste, and other major cities in northern Italy. To collect the Jews before deportation, the Nazis established police transit camps at Fossoli di Carpi near Modena, and at Borgo San Dalmazzo, near the French border. The round-ups did not always take place according to the expectations of the Nazi authorities because after the first arrests in September and October 1943, the Jews tried, by all means, to get to safety, constantly moving from one place to another. Many emigrated to Switzerland or tried to escape to the south, where the Allies had landed. To save themselves, the Jews hid in convents, hospitals, and private homes, also thanks to the help of many Italians and religious authorities, not only Catholics. 80% of the Jews living in occupied Italy could escape the deportations, which is the highest percentage in all occupied Europe. Most of the arrested Jews were denounced by the fascists or by spies hired by the Nazis. Almost all Jews captured in Italy were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau to be killed upon arrival, see [map 5](#), except for some small groups of Jews with English or Turkish nationality who were deported to Bergen-Belsen, Buchenwald, Ravensbrück, and Flossenbürg concentration camps. According to data from the USHMM website, the Germans deported at least 8,564 Jews from Italy, Italian-occupied France, and the islands of Rhodes and KOS, most of them to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Research [timeline 1](#) and answer the questions:

1. Research [timeline 1](#) of events from October 1943, which relate to the fate of Italian Jews under German occupation. What were the role of SS General Odilo Globocnik and La Risiera di San Sabba camp near Trieste?
2. Why the round-ups did not always take place according to the expectations of the Nazi authorities?
3. How many Jews were deported from Italy in total, and how many Jews survived the Holocaust in Italy?

Group 2 Bulgaria

Joined the Axis powers: 1st of March 1941

In the spring of 1941, Bulgaria officially joined the Axis Powers and was [rewarded](#) with parts of Greek Thrace and Yugoslavian Macedonia, which both had Jewish populations. Even before the beginning of the war, Bulgaria was in cooperation with Nazi Germany in its politics.

Jewish population: 48 000 - 50 000

Note for students: the task is to study the given text and visual sources and to answer the questions.

For all visual sources, try to answer the following questions:

A) Observe and identify: What do you notice first? Which people and objects are depicted in the photograph? How are they arranged in the frame? What is the setting? Are there any textual clues visible (words, signs, etc.)? Are there details you cannot identify?

B) Reflect: In your opinion, what do you think might have been the reason for taking these photographs? How were they composed? What's happening in the images? When were they taken? Who was the intended audience for these photos?

C) Query: What's missing in the photos? What happened just some moments before the shots were captured? And immediately afterward? What considerations or assumptions do you make after seeing these images?

First, you will learn about what happened in relation to Jews and antisemitism in Bulgaria until 1943, then what happened since spring 1943. You will explore the different policies towards Bulgarian Jews in the older country and in the newly annexed territories. You have to understand which responsibilities took the Bulgarian government, either by collaborating with the Nazis or autonomously.

- a) Was there antisemitism in Bulgaria before the beginning of the Second World War? How did the life of Bulgarian Jews change after the enactment of the Law for Protection of the Nation?

There was no widespread nor virulent antisemitism in Bulgaria until the fall of 1939, when the Second World war broke out. By 1940, the pro-German government enacted the first anti-Jewish laws, despite protests from the citizens. Bulgarian legal regulations began to be applied

to the occupied territories as well. Tsar Boris III enacted the [Law for Protection of the Nation](#), which imposed many legal restrictions on Jews: they were excluded from public service and forced to wear the Yellow Star or [David badges](#). Furthermore, they were made to live in terribly overcrowded conditions. In addition, Jews were not allowed to walk in the [main streets](#) or attend public gathering places, their radios, cars, and other valuable possessions were confiscated, and most adult Jewish males were recruited for [forced labor](#). After the Wannsee conference, in September 1942 the Bulgarians established a Commissariat (office) for Jewish Affairs and appointed a well-known antisemite, Alexandr Belev, to run it. The Commissariat, which was funded by money taken from blocked Jewish bank accounts, soon became Bulgaria's main address for dealing with Jewish affairs.

- b) Bulgaria implemented different policies towards Bulgarian Jews in the older country and in the newly annexed territories. Think and answer: What happened to the Jewish population in Sofia and Bulgaria during World War II? What happened to the Jewish population living in the occupied territories (Pirot Southern Serbia, Macedonia, and Thrace)? Considering all the information gathered, do you think that Bulgaria was a country that collaborated in the genocide of the Jews?

Occupied territories by Bulgaria

Look at [Map 5](#) and identify which territories are mentioned in the text below.

The Bulgarian authorities did, however, deport Jewish residents from Greek and Yugoslav territories that Bulgaria had occupied in 1941. On February 22, 1943, Aleksandar Belev and SS Hauptschturmführer Theodor Dannecker, Adolf Eichmann's representative to Bulgaria, signed a confidential agreement for the deportation of 20,000 Jews from the New Lands. As there were only about 12,000 Jews there, the remaining 8,000 were to be collected from Old Bulgaria, with the communities in Kyustendil and Plovdiv targeted first. Bulgaria was preparing itself for the Final Solution. During the first half of March 1943, Bulgarian military and police authorities carried out the deportation of 11,343 Jews residing in the [Bulgarian-occupied territories](#). Once the Jews were in German custody, German authorities transported them to Treblinka, where virtually all were killed in the gas chambers or shot.

Bulgaria

During the war, German-allied Bulgaria did not deport Jews from the core provinces of Bulgaria. As news of the successful deportations and the imminent deportation of Jews from Sofia reached the capital, opposition politicians, Bulgarian intellectuals, and members of the Bulgarian clergy raised the alarm and began to protest openly against deporting Jews from the core provinces of Bulgaria. Tsar Boris was inclined to go forward with the deportations until Dimitur Pešev, the deputy speaker of the Parliament, a representative from Kustendil, and a prominent member of Boris's own Government Ruling Party, personally intervened and persuaded the tsar to delay the planned deportation. On March 19, 1943, Pešev introduced a resolution in the parliament critical of the deportations and demanding a halt to them. The majority in the Government Ruling Party, undoubtedly with Boris's tacit approval, voted down Pešev's resolution and forced his resignation in late March. After Pešev's

resignation, Bulgarian officials resumed preparations to continue the deportations. The growing wave of public protest, which included intervention from the Metropolitan of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, eventually forced Boris to change his mind and cancel the deportations in May 1943. Shortly thereafter, the Bulgarian government announced the expulsion of 20,000 Jews from Sofia to the provinces. (In 1934, the Jewish population of Sofia was about 25,000, 9 percent of the capital's total population.) Police brutally suppressed popular protests staged by both Jews and non-Jews. Within about two weeks, Bulgarian authorities expelled almost 20,000 Jews, relocated them to the Bulgarian countryside, and deployed males to forced labor in forced-labor camps. Bulgarian authorities also confiscated most of the property left behind by those deported. In 1945, the Jewish population of Bulgaria was still about 50,000, at its prewar level.

c) Through the information you can get from the proposed text, from the selected images and from the video, answer the question:

Did the Bulgarian army participate in the Holocaust? Justify your answer by looking for relevant information from the sources.

During the first half of March 1943, Bulgarian military and police authorities carried out the deportation of 11,343 Jews living in the Bulgarian-occupied territories. The Bulgarian authorities handed over the arrested Jews to the German authorities who managed the deportation transports to the killing center of Treblinka (in occupied-Poland), where almost all were killed upon arrival in the gas chambers or shot.

Thrace

[The film](#), Deportation of Jews from Bulgarian-occupied Thrace

[Photo](#) Jews forced to board a deportation ship on the Danube river

Macedonia

[Photo](#) Bulgarian authorities round up Jews in occupied Macedonia

[Photo](#) Jews load a barrel of water onto a deportation train in Skopje

[Testimony](#), Albert Sarfati survived the war, and he gave this eyewitness account:

They loaded us into cattle wagons, fifty to sixty people per wagon, including luggage. There wasn't enough space and many had to stand. There was no water. The children were crying ... A woman in one wagon was giving birth... but there was no doctor. We reached Skopje at midnight. Night. Darkness. They opened the wagons and pushed us into two large buildings in the darkness. Cars carrying the Jews from Shtip had been added to our train. Stumbling over one another in the darkness, dragging our luggage, and continuously being beaten by the Bulgarian soldiers, the children, the aged, and the infirm tried to squeeze into the building. When the sun rose, we realized we were in Skopje in the building of the Monopoly, and all the Jews of Macedonia had been rounded up that same day.

[Jewish Community of Monastir](#)

These individual and family portraits of members of the Jewish community of Bitola, Macedonia, were used by Bulgarian occupation authorities to register the Jewish population prior to its deportation in March 1943.

Group 3 Romania

Joined the Axis powers: November 23, 1940.

Jewish population: [757,000](#) before World War II (nearly 4% of the population)

Note for the students: read the text carefully and solve all the tasks.

Before World War I, Romania had the reputation of being, together with Russia, [the most anti-Semitic country in Europe](#). Although Jewish communities had been present for centuries, the Jews were not fully integrated, but they were forced to live separately from the non-Jewish rural society. The vast majority of the Romanian Jews did not even have national citizenship, so they did not fully enjoy their rights. There was a long tradition of widespread, violent, popular antisemitism in Romania.

At the end of the First World War ended, although Jews had obtained the right of, they were still not allowed to participate in public life, and were discriminated against in many areas of society, for example at universities.

On the eve of the Second World war, increasingly extreme antisemitic movements, which had already been evident in the country for some time, emerged in the national political discourse. After Germany forced Romania to give up a large part of its territory to the Soviet Union, Hungary and Bulgaria, in September 1940 Marshal Ion Antonescu came to power. He was supported by the fascist, anti-Semitic Iron Guard movement.

Task: Look at [map1](#) and [map2](#) and see how the borders of Romania changed in 1940.

Note for the students: The government of Marshal Ion Antonescu quickly promulgated a number of restrictive measures against the Jews of Romania. Jews were subjected to persecutions such as random arrests, blackmail, torture, and confiscation of property and businesses.

Romania sided with Germany in the war of aggression against the Soviet Union in June 1941. Within days of the start of the invasion, Romanian soldiers, police, and civilians killed [15,000 Jews in the city of Iasi](#) and carried out pogroms against the Jews in other cities under the Romanian administration. The Romanian army and gendarmerie, with the partial cooperation and support of the German SS and police units and also of some locals, massacred [100,000-120,000](#) Jews of Bessarabia and North Bukovina (areas that had been annexed by the URSS in June 1940, and were reconquered by Romania in summer 1941). Similar massacres were carried out by the Romanian army in Western Ukraine and especially in the city of Odessa. Authorizing the [mass killings in the eastern territories](#), Marshal Antonescu followed the Nazi method of ethnic cleansing. After the executions in Bukovina and Bessarabia, the survived Jews were deported to Transnistria in 1941. Transnistria was a largely unsettled area between the Dniester and Bug rivers that Nazi Germany had ceded to Romania in return for its participation in the war against the Soviet Union.

Task: Look at the [map3](#). It marks the territories where Romania participated in the massacres of Jews in 1941-1942

Many Jews died of starvation or disease during the deportations to Transnistria or after their arrival. Others were killed by Romanian or German units, either in Transnistria or after being driven across the Bug River into German-occupied Ukraine.

The [film](#) shows one example of how the deportation took place.

Note for the students: The Romanian authorities established several ghettos and death camps in Transnistria. However, despite these preliminary preparations, the Jews from the Old Kingdom (Romania pre World War I) and from southern Transylvania were not deported. Regarding Antonescu's anti-Semitic policy against Romanian Jewish, it must be underlined that Antonescu considered only the Jews who lived in pre-World War I Romania and those living in southern Transylvania to be true Romanians, unlike the Jews living in Bessarabia and southern Bukovina. He ordered that the rural Jews of Bessarabia and Bukovina be exterminated, and the urban Jews imprisoned in ghettos and concentration camps. In the summer of 1941, he deported [150,000](#) Bessarabian and Bukovina Jews to Transnistria, where many died or were killed. In the rest of Romania, the Jews were concentrated in urban centers, and their property was confiscated. However, Antonescu refused to hand them over to the Nazis.

Task: 1. Based on the text and [photo 1](#), answer the question: who was responsible, and who participated in the deportation of Jews from Bessarabia and Bukovina to Transnistria?

2. Look at [photo 2](#), determine which Jews from a Bessarabian village were taken to Transnistria according to gender and age?

From the time of their deportation to Transnistria until their liberation by the Red Army in March 1944, [120,000](#) of the deportees perished as a result of murder, hypothermia, starvation, and epidemics. This is in addition to the tens of thousands of the local Jews in Transnistria who were victims of the Romanian invasion.

In total, [380,000 – 400,000](#) Jews, including the Jews of Transnistria, were murdered in Romanian-controlled areas under the dictatorship of Antonescu (1940-1944).

It is evident that the Romanian authorities did not completely perpetuate the persecution and mass murders of the Jews. As a result, some [300,000](#) Jews within Romania did not fall victim to the Germans' "Final Solution" and they survived the Holocaust.

Answer the questions:

1. Was Romania an antisemitic country before World War II?
2. How many Jews lived there before the war?
3. What were the living conditions of the Jews after Romania joined the Axis Powers?

4. What were the initiatives and actions of the Romanian authorities against the Jews during and after the invasion of the Soviet Union?
5. To what degree did Romania fulfill the "Final solution"?
6. How many Jews were murdered in Romanian-controlled areas under the dictatorship of Antonescu?

PART II. Time allocated 20 minutes

Note for teachers: Finally, students are required to summarize all the findings through a table after brainstorming with the class through a teacher-led discussion. After completing the table, students compare the data and find similarities and differences between different forms of alliance and collaboration.

	Italy	Bulgaria	Romania
Defeated/ Joined the Axis powers			
Jewish population before WWII			
In carrying out the genocide of the Jews, which categories of people were involved?			
How was the "Final Solution" conducted?			
Were there any specifics regarding the implementation of the "Final Solution"?			
Jewish population after WWII			

CONCLUSION

Time allocated: 10 minutes

Note for teachers: the learning activity concludes with a 3-2-1 exit card as a form of self-evaluation and feedback to the teacher about the success of the achievement of the outcome. Students fill out the exit card individually and hand it to the teacher.



3-2-1 EXIT TICKET



3	3 facts from today's learning activity
2	2 things I found interesting
1	1 question I have for next time

List of Key Terms

Collaboration: collaboration as a part of the history of World War II, the history of occupation and everyday life, and as an essential influencing factor in the Holocaust. Collaboration is understood to be a reaction to offerings and (forced) demands made by the Nazis that legitimized, accompanied, exercised, supported, and/or made the Nazi policies possible.

Concentration camp: Throughout German-occupied Europe, the Nazis established camps to detain and, if necessary, kill so-called enemies of the state, including Jews, Gypsies, political and religious opponents, members of national resistance movements, homosexuals, and others. Imprisonment in a concentration camp was of unlimited duration, was not linked to a specific act, and was not subject to any judicial review. In addition to concentration camps, the Nazi regime ran several other kinds of camps including labor camps, transit camps, prisoner-of-war camps, and killing centers.

Cooperation: to associate with another or others for mutual benefit; i.e. "The Allies of World War II cooperated extensively in the development and manufacture of new and existing technologies to support military operations and intelligence gathering during the Second World War".

Euphemism: A euphemism is an apparently inoffensive word or phrase substituted for one that would be considered offensive or hurtful. It is a "nice way" of saying something unpleasant. Nazi officials often used euphemisms when speaking about acts of violence and terror and their goal to murder all

Jews. For example, the phrase "special treatment" (Sonderbehandlung, in German) was used to refer to killings.

Fascism: a political movement that exalts the collective nation, and often race, above the individual and that advocates: a centralized totalitarian state headed by a charismatic leader; expansion of the nation, preferably by military force; forcible suppression and sometimes physical annihilation of opponents both real and perceived.

"Final Solution": is a shortened version of the Nazi term, "the Final Solution to the Jewish Question," The term was a euphemism used by Nazi Germany's leaders. The "Final Solution to the Jewish Question" was the last stage of the Holocaust and took place from 1941 to 1945. It was the deliberate, planned mass murder of Europe's Jews. Many Jews were killed before the "Final Solution" began. However, the vast majority of Jews who died in the Holocaust were murdered as part of the "Final Solution".

Genocide: Genocide refers to the coordinated and planned destruction of a group of people (as that "group" is defined by the perpetrators). While genocide is almost always accompanied by mass killing, this crime is an attempt to destroy the group, not necessarily to murder every member of that group. Some call genocide "the crime of crimes". Others label genocide as the ultimate crime against humanity because the genocide aims to eradicate a part of humanity.

Genocide is defined in the 1948 UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. In this, acts constitute genocide if they are committed "with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such". Whereas this is the legally applicable definition of genocide, the term genocide predates the 1948 Convention and few scholars are wholly satisfied with this definition, partly because of the practical difficulties in proving "intent". Scholars have for decades presented and debated a series of alternative definitions of what constitutes "genocide", often wanting to expand the list of groups contained in the UN definition.

Killing centers: camps that were established for the systematic murder of Jews and Roma. The Kulmhof (Chelmno) gas van station and the Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka camps served this purpose exclusively. Auschwitz, Majdanek and MalyTrostinets contained facilities similar to those in the death camps as well as playing roles as concentration camps, labor camps or transit camps.

Internment camp: Internment is the imprisonment of people, commonly in large groups, without charges or intent to file charges. The term is especially used for the confinement "of enemy citizens in wartime or of terrorism suspects". The internment camp differs from the concentration camp, but it still contains its elements (i.e. fascist camps on the eastern part of the Adriatic).

Transit camp: Transit camps functioned as temporary holding facilities for Jews awaiting deportation. These camps were usually the last stop before deportation to a killing center.

APPENDIX

1. AXIS ALLIANCE, 1939-1941

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/map/axis-alliance-1939-1941?parent=en%2F3343>



2. GERMAN ADMINISTRATION OF EUROPE, 1942

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/map/german-administration-of-europe-1942>



3. European Jewish population distribution, ca. 1933

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/map/european-jewish-population-distribution-ca-1933?parent=en%2F2906>

EUROPEAN JEWISH POPULATION DISTRIBUTION CIRCA 1933



4. [Antisemitic cartoon](#) published in the Fascist periodical *La Difesa della Razza*, after the promulgation of the Racial Laws (15 November 1938).

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Difesa_della_Razza.jpg



5. Flory (Floritza) Jagoda describes seeking refuge in Italy

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/oral-history/flory-floritza-jagoda-describes-seeking-refuge-in-italy?parent=en%2F5174>

6. MAP 4 <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/italy>



7. MAP 5

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/map/deportations-from-italy-1943-1945?parent=en%2F5174>



8. TIMELINE, HOLOCAUST 1945

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/1943-key-dates>

9. <https://www.yadvashem.org/holocaust/about/final-solution-beginning/romania.html>

10. <https://www.yadvashem.org/download/education/conf/Stark.pdf>

11. Romania 1933 <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/map/romania-1933>



12. Romania 1941 <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/map/romania-1941>



13. <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/map/romanian-participation-in-massacres-1941-1942>



14. VIDEO - DEPORTATION OF JEWS FROM BALTI, BESSARABIA

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/film/deportation-of-jews-from-balti-bessarabia>

15. Ion Antonescu https://www.yadvashem.org/odot_pdf/Microsoft%20Word%20-%205743.pdf

16. DEPORTATION OF JEWS FROM KISHINEV

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/photo/deportation-of-jews-from-kishinev?parent=en%2F6527>



17. JEWS ASSEMBLED FOR DEPORTATION FROM A BESSARABIAN VILLAGE

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/photo/jews-assembled-for-deportation-from-a-bessarabian-village>



18. AXIS POWERS AND THE HOLOCAUST

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/axis-powers-and-the-holocaust>

19. Bulgaria https://www.yadvashem.org/odot_pdf/Microsoft%20Word%20-%206092.pdf

20. **Law for Protection of the Nation**

<https://documents.yadvashem.org/index.html?language=en&&TreeItemId=5089464>

21. BULGARIA, BORDER CHANGES 1939-1942

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/map/bulgaria-border-changes-1939-1942>



22. DEPORTATION OF JEWS FROM BULGARIAN-OCCUPIED THRACE

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/film/deportation-of-jews-from-bulgarian-occupied-macedonia?parent=en%2F5955>



23. COMPULSORY JEWISH BADGE IN GREECE

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/photo/compulsory-jewish-badge-in-greece>

24. NORBERT J. YASHAROFF DESCRIBES THE CHANGE IN LIVING CONDITIONS FOR JEWS IN BULGARIA <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/oral-history/norbert-j-yasharoff-describes-the-change-in-living-conditions-for-jews-in-bulgaria>

25. REGISTRATION FOR FORCED LABOR IN SALONIKA <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/photo/registration-for-forced-labor-in-salonika?parent=en%2F7665>



26. BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES ROUND UP JEWS IN OCCUPIED MACEDONIA

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/photo/bulgarian-authorities-round-up-jews-in-occupied-macedonia>



23. JEWISH COMMUNITY OF MONASTIR: PHOTOGRAPHS FOR REGISTRATION

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/gallery/jewish-community-of-monastir-photographs-for-registration?parent=en%2F9150>

19. TABLE

	Italy	Bulgaria	Romania
Defeated/ Joined the Axis powers			
Jewish population before WWII			
In carrying out the genocide of the Jews, which categories of people were involved?			
How was the "Final Solution" conducted?			
Were there any specifics regarding the implementation of the "Final Solution"?			
Jewish population after WWII			