

What is the Holocaust?

The Holocaust is the systematic persecution and genocide of over six million European Jews, perpetrated by Adolph Hitler and his fascist Nazi regime from 1933 to 1945. The Nazis also murdered millions of Roma (Gypsies), Russians, Poles, homosexuals, religious and political dissidents, and Germans with physical and mental disabilities in an attempt to create a “master” German race.

Graphic Novels

1. Maus I: A Survivor’s Tale: My Father Bleeds History, 1986
2. Maus II: A Survivor’s Tale: And Here My Troubles Began, 1992 by Pulitzer Prize winning graphic novelist Art Spiegelman, who recounts how his father, a Polish Jew, survived the Holocaust.

Memoirs, Diaries, & Non-fiction

1. Hitler’s willing executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust by Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, 1996
2. Inherit the Truth: a Memoir of Survival and the Holocaust by Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, 1996
3. In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer by Irene Gut Opdyke & Jennifer Armstrong, 2001
4. Night by Elie Wiesel, 1982
5. Your life is worth mine by Ewa Kurek, 1997

Film

1. Europa Europa, 1990: a Jewish boy becomes a member of the Hitler Youth to survive the Holocaust; based on Shlomo Perel’s 1997 memoir.
2. Everything Is Illuminated, 2006: A Jewish American looks for the woman who saved his grandfather in a Ukrainian village.
3. Last Days, 1988: Five Hungarian Holocaust survivors imprisoned during the final days of World War II share their experiences.
4. Paper Clips, 2006: Middle School students in rural Tennessee collect millions of paper clips to understand the magnitude of the Holocaust.
5. Paragraph 175, 2000: German gay survivors of Nazi persecution tell their story.
6. The Pianist, 2002: This film depicts the true-life story of acclaimed musician Wladyslaw Szpilman, who hid from the Nazis during the War.

7. Triumph of the Will, 1934: Commissioned by Adolf Hitler, this propaganda film documents the Nazi Party rally in Nuremberg in 1934.

Websites

1. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: National museum and archive for the study of the Holocaust. URL: <http://www.ushmm.org/>
2. Shoah Foundation: Features over 52,000 testimonies of Holocaust survivors. URL: <http://www.usc.edu/schools/college/vhi/>