

(DIAPO 1)

(DIAPO 2)

With Hitler coming into power as German Chancellor in January 1933, millions of Jews and other victims of Nazism were subjected to forced labor under horrible conditions. (DIAPO 3) The forced labor penalty consisted of detention with compulsory labor inflicted on individuals deported and convicted of crimes, according to the Nazis. Thus, a labor camp was a form of concentration camp for the practice of forced labor or even mass slavery.

(DIAPO 4) In the winter of 1933, from the establishment of the first Nazi concentration camps and detention facilities, forced labor (imposed without proper equipment, clothing, nourishment, or rest) formed part of the concentration camp regimen. Even before the war, the Nazis imposed forced labor on Jewish civilians, both in concentration camps and outside.

In the fall of 1944, as the war raged on two fronts in Europe, about eight million forced laborers worked in Nazi Germany to support the regime's increasingly desperate attempt to avoid the defeat of the Allies. The number of forced laborers recruited by the Nazi regime had steadily grown since the beginning of the war in 1939.

(DIAPO 5)

→ What was forced labor?

Who was affected, and for what reasons?

We shall see in a first part the conditions of forced labor, then to see where in the world we could find it.

## **I – Forced Labor : who and where**

(DIAPO 6)

### **1- Nazi's ideology :**

Before 1933, many Germans (CLIC) thought that compulsory labor was a productive means of integrating those who were considered as social "outsiders" into the local workforce. They believed that work would accustom these "outsiders" to appropriate social habits and personal discipline. By qualifying the prisoners in the concentration camps of criminals and asocials who would be "educated" in the camps to appropriate labor and social discipline. Nazi leaders could rely on the support of the German people for the concentration camps.

The Jews were chosen for specifically harsh and physically punished treatment. (CLIC) We can see here the race considered as superior in Nazi's ideology, the aryan breed: a strong man, with fair hair and blue eyes. With written in a few sorts I think, "The proud and happy Germans!"

This severe treatment was an integral part of the Nazi program to control those whom they regarded as political or racial enemies of the German people.

The basic notion was that the maintenance of social order depended on the productive work of all the citizens, and those who didn't commit themselves to their own initiative should be compelled to do so.

As early as 1937, they began to exploit "enemies of the State" in order to derive an economic benefit from it, which responded to a severe shortage of manpower. Labor shortages in the German war economy became critical, (CLIC) especially after the German defeat at the Battle of Stalingrad in 1942-1943. Most of them have been serving the industry and agriculture for the benefit of the state, especially in times of war. (CLIC) Thus, by the end of 1938, most Jewish men resident in Germany had been forced into forced labor for various Reich authorities. We can see a column of Jewish forced laborers, in Hungary, in 1941.

(DIAPO 7)

### **2- Where it happened :**

In the areas occupied by the Germans, the ghettos served as a basis for the use of Jewish labor, as were the forced labor camps for Jews in occupied Poland especially, and Germany. (CLIC) In the Lodz ghetto, for example, the Nazis opened 96 factories. The ability to work could save a life, but most often only temporarily. Jews deemed unproductive by the Nazis were often

the first to be shot or deported. Jewish labor, even forced labor, was considered "consumable". We can see Jewish forced laborers at work in a leather refining factory in Lodz ghetto, between 1941 and 1944.

On 26 October 1939, when German forces occupied Poland, Jewish men between the ages of 14 and 60 were drafted for forced labor to erase war damage and repair roads. (CLIC) Later, Jewish women with Jewish children aged 12 to 14 are also required to perform forced labor. Forced labor camps for Jews are established throughout occupied Poland. Jews generally work 10 to 12 hours a day in difficult conditions, receiving little or no salary.

(CLIC) On July 11 1942, the Germans asked that all Jewish men between the ages of 18 and 45 living in Thessaloniki should come to the Freedom Square where they were to receive forced labor. About 2,000 are assigned to forced labor projects for the German army. The rest are detained until the Jewish communities of Salonica and Athens pay a huge ransom to the German occupation authorities for their release.

(CLIC) Camps like Auschwitz III, or Monowitz in Poland and Buchenwald in central Germany have become administrative centers of huge networks of forced labor camps. They supplied forced laborers to a synthetic rubber factory. German private companies increasingly resort to forced maneuvers to stimulate war production. The life expectancy of workers at the giant plant is extremely low. In 1945, about 25,000 forced laborers died in the Monowitz plant. We can see here prisoners at forced labor in Auschwitz camp, between 1940 and 1944.

(DIAPO 8)

## **II – Forced Labor : Holocaust**

(CLIC) When the Nazis began to implement the "final solution", or Holocaust (the extermination project of all Jews in Europe), (CLIC) being able to work could represent a chance of survival. Those who were deemed unfit were often the first to be killed or deported.

They were exposed, directly and deliberately, to illness, accidents and death. (DIAPO 9) At the Mauthausen concentration camp, in Austria, for example, detainees who had only skin on their bones were forced to run up the 186 steps of a stone quarry carrying heavy rocks.

After the invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941, the Germans let the Soviet prisoners of war die by ignoring them deliberately (food, clothing, shelter or insufficient medical care). In the spring of 1942, the German authorities also began to send them to various factories participating in the war effort. Between 1942 and 1944, nearly three million Soviet citizens were deported to Germany, Austria and Bohemia-Moravia as forced laborers.

At the end of the war, there were millions of internally displaced persons forced into Germany. Thousands of them were Jews who had survived the "final solution", victims of the Nazi policy of deportation for forced labor.

(DIAPO 10)

## **III – Personal account and artifacts**

### **1- Personal Account :**

In this personal account, broadcasted for the first time the august, 5th 1945.

David Lloyd James reads out a list of relatives the children from forced labor camps and concentration camps are hoping to trace, with a short history of each child. All have been through harrowing experiences, having lost close family members, and all are now homeless.

In November 1938, some children could leave the Europe occupied by the Nazis. Indeed, the British government relaxed immigration laws to allow Jewish children to take refuge in Britain. Around 10,000 children fled Germany, Austria, Poland..etc. in what became known as the 'Kindertransport' scheme. Most never saw their parents again.

(DIAPO 11)

## 2- Artifact :

This photograph shows some of the 190 granite blocks donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by the Mauthausen Public Memorial in Austria. The Nazis established the Mauthausen concentration camp in 1938 near an abandoned stone quarry. Prisoners were forced to carry these granite blocks up more than 180 steps. The small blocks weighed between 30 and 45 pounds each, about 13 and 20 kilograms. The larger blocks could each weigh more than 75 pounds (34 kilograms). Prisoners assigned to forced labor in the camp quarry were quickly worked to death.

(CLIC)

This Singer sewing machine was used by shoemakers in the Lodz ghetto. As early as May 1940, the Germans began to establish factories in the ghetto and to utilize Jewish residents for forced labor. By August 1942, there were almost 100 factories within the ghetto. The major factories produced textiles, especially uniforms, for the German army.

(DIAP 12)

### **Conclusion :**

Labor camps of forced labor were abolished by Convention n°105 of the United Nations International Labour Organization (ILO), adopted internationally on 27 June 1957.

The duty of man is transmit his knowledge, and to present the images stored in his brain. Images that recount past events, which show movements, acts, and periods affecting the course of all his past life. To recount his still living memories, the good and the bad, with sincerity, honesty and truth.

A man must bring his knowledge to others, share it, offer it to present and future generations. The importance here is to convey the "never again" of the horrors that war and racism bring.

(DIAPO 13)