

## Americans and the Holocaust photo captions

United States of America

State of Illinois  
 City of Chicago  
 County of Cook

I, Lester J. Lyons  
 age 42 being duly sworn, deposes and says:  
 I reside at 723- W Lake Str., Chicago, Ill.

I am a Native American or Naturalized Citizen of the United States as evidenced by  
 (indicate which)  
 my \_\_\_\_\_ Naturalization Certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_ issued on \_\_\_\_\_  
 by \_\_\_\_\_ Court at born in Chicago

I am Single and dependent on me for support are my mother  
 (married or single)

I am Sales manager for H.berg & Co. 723-W Lake Str.  
 (State fully business or occupation, location, earnings)  
Sausage casing, Imp & Exp. 7500.- annually

In addition, I have assets consisting of Net worth \$5000.-  
 (State investments, savings, life insurance, real property, etc.)

I am the friend of Gustav Weinmann and  
 (state relationship) (give names and ages of persons abroad)  
his wife & Grete Weinmann  
Gustav Weinmann born 1/22/1889, Vienna  
Grete " " 1/2 1892 Kyjev, Motavia  
 now residing at Vienna, XII, Edelsinn Str. 2, Germany

who desire to come to the United States to join me and others of the family, and whom I am most anxious to bring over.

I do hereby promise and guarantee that I will receive and take care of my friends who is applying for an immigration visa, and will at no time allow them to become public charges to any community or municipality. I do further promise and agree that those of my relatives covered by this affidavit within school age will attend public school, and will not be permitted to work until they are of age.

I make this affidavit for the purpose of inducing the United States Consular authorities to grant the visa to my said relative, and herewith submit corroborative proof as to my personal standing.

George Aeger  
 Notary Public, duly commissioned, do hereby certify that this affidavit was sworn to before me

this 22nd day of June 1939, and that affiant herein mentioned has exhibited to me the naturalization certificate above mentioned.

George Aeger  
 Notary Public

Lester J Lyons

“Sponsorship affidavit of Louis Lyons” Notarized June 22, 1939 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, gift of Hans Weinmann

The paperwork required both to leave Nazi-controlled areas and to enter the United States was difficult to acquire and expensive. Potential immigrants needed passports, transit visas, affidavits of moral or financial support, birth certificates, certificates of good conduct, medical clearances, tax clearances, and proof of military discharge if they had served. Even those who met these requirements often found themselves on years-long waiting lists for visas.



"Americans and the Holocaust" special exhibition (2018-2021)

This exhibition is a portrait of American society that shows how the Depression, isolationism, xenophobia, racism, and antisemitism shaped responses to Nazism and the Holocaust. It reveals how much information was available to Americans at the time and asks why rescuing Jews did not become a priority, except for a few individuals who took the risk to help.



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“Jewish refugee children wait to board SS Mouzinho in Lisbon.” August 20, 1941 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, gift of Milton Koch

As applicants sought U.S. immigration visas, private American relief agencies formed networks of rescue to aid as many refugees as possible. They helped refugees navigate the U.S. immigration system, explained the required paperwork, located potential financial sponsors, purchased ship tickets, and, for those fortunate enough to enter the United States, assisted with Americanization, employment, and housing.

AT STUTTGART, GERMANY.

APPLICATION FOR IMMIGRATION VISA (QUOTA)

I, the undersigned APPLICANT FOR AN IMMIGRATION VISA, being duly sworn, state that my full and true name is Roberta Alice Ollendorf Stern; that I am 48 years of age, of the female sex and Hebrew race; that I was born on the 10th day of November 1891 at Frankfurt M. Germany; that for 5 years immediately preceding this application I have resided at the following places, during the periods stated, to wit: Frankfurt M. Germany, Koernerstrasse 5.

That I am (married), and the name of my (husband) is Ludwig Stern, who was born at Paderborn, Germany; and resides at deceased.

That the names, dates of birth, and places of residence of my minor children are: Helmut Stern, August 31, 1921, London, England.

That my calling or occupation is housewife; that my height is 5 feet and 1 inches; my complexion fair; color of hair, brown; color of eyes, grey; and that I bear the following marks of identification: none; that I am (able) to speak German & Engl.; (able) to read German & Engl.; and (able) to write the German & English languages; that the names and addresses of my parents are as follows:

Mother, Hermine Schiller Ollendorf; address, deceased; Father, Josef Ollendorf; address, deceased.

That neither of my parents is living, and that the name of my nearest relative in the country from which I came is Robert Ollendorf, whose relationship is brother and whose address is Berlin Wilmersdorf Jenagstrasse.

That my port of embarkation is undecided; that my final destination beyond such port is New York; that I do have a ticket through to such destination; that my passage was paid for by nephew, Ernest Cassel; and whose address is Kew Gardens, New York; that I intend to join (relative) " " " "

whose address is 84-18 Cuthbert Street, Kew Gardens, Queens L. I. New York.

That my purpose in going to the United States is to reside, and I intend to remain permanently (permanently or length of time) that I have never been in prison or almshouse; that I have never been in an institution or hospital for the care and treatment of the insane; that my (father) (has) not been in an institution or hospital for the care and treatment of the insane; that I have not been refused an immigration or passport visa at any American consulate.

That, except as hereafter noted, I am not a member of any one of the following classes of individuals excluded from admission to the United States under the Immigration laws: (1) Idiots; (2) imbeciles; (3) feeble-minded; (4) epileptics; (5) insane persons; (6) persons having had previous attacks of insanity; (7) persons with constitutional psychopathic inferiority; (8) persons with chronic alcoholism; (9) paupers; (10) professional beggars; (11) vagrants; (12) persons afflicted with tuberculosis; (13) persons afflicted with a loathsome or dangerous contagious disease; (14) criminals; (15) polygamists; (16) anarchists; (17) persons who believe in or advocate the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the United States; (18) persons inadmissible under the provisions of section 3 of the act of February 5, 1917; (19) persons inadmissible under the provisions of the act entitled, "An Act to Exclude and Expel from the United States Aliens who are Members of the Anarchistic and Similar Classes", approved October 10, 1918, as amended by the act approved June 5, 1920; (20) prostitutes; (21) procurers; (22) contract laborers; (23) persons likely to become public charges; (24) persons previously deported or ordered deported and permitted to leave the United States voluntarily in lieu of deportation; (25) persons previously excluded from admission to the United States at a port of entry; (26) persons whose passage paid by another; (27) unaccompanied children; (28) natives of Asiatic barred zone; (29) illiterates; or (30) aliens ineligible to citizenship. 26

That I claim to be exempt from exclusion on account of the class or classes noted above, for the reasons following, to wit: Not otherwise inadmissible.

That I am the father, mother, or husband, by marriage contracted after July 1, 1922, of a minor child under 21 years of age who is a citizen of the United States, years of age, and resides at (City, State, street, and number)

That because of the relationship aforesaid I am entitled to and claim the preference provided for in paragraph (3) of Subdivision (a) of Section 6 of the Immigration Act of 1924, as amended.

That I am the dependent child under 18 years of a skilled agriculturalist and entitled to and claim preference provided for in paragraph (1) of Subdivision (b) of Section 6 of the Immigration Act of 1924, as amended.

That I am aware that the Deportation Act of March 4, 1920, provides in part that an alien who enters the United States in an illegal manner, or who eludes examination or inspection by immigration officials, or who obtains entry to the United States by a willfully false or misleading representation or willful concealment of a material fact shall be punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both; and that the Immigration Act of 1924 provides in part that a person who knowingly makes under oath any false statement in any application, affidavit, or other document required by the immigration laws or regulations issued thereunder shall be punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both.

Available documents required by the Immigration Act of 1924, as amended, are filed herewith and made part hereof, as follows: Certificate of birth and police records.

WHEREFORE, I apply for an Immigration Visa as a quota immigrant, pursuant to the provisions of the Immigration Act of 1924, as amended.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of February 1940 at New York, N.Y. Alice Stern (signature of applicant) A. John Cope, Jr. Vice Consul of the United States of America.

"Visa application from Alice Stern." February 1940 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collection, gift of Harold H. Stern

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Z.8  
1904

1 Grund  
Nummer 00501003

Geburts-Zeugnis.

1 Kromm

Stempelmarke Von Seite des Endesgefertigten wird hiemit  
bezeugt, dass laut des vorliegenden Geburts-Protokolles Band I.  
Fol. XXXVI. L. Z. 011 Max Winter, ehelicher Sohn des Herrn Leopold  
u. der Frau Rosa Winter, geborenen Heisz, am 18. September 1893  
(neunzigdreißig) zu Ebreichsdorf Haus Nr. 90 geboren worden ist.

Zur Bekräftigung dessen folgt eigenhändige Fertigung  
nebst Amtssiegel

Wr. Neustadt, den 21. Feber 1904.

Der Seelsorger:

Benj. Weiss e.H.

Rundstamp.  
Matrikelamt der israel.  
Kultusgemeinde Wr. Neustadt

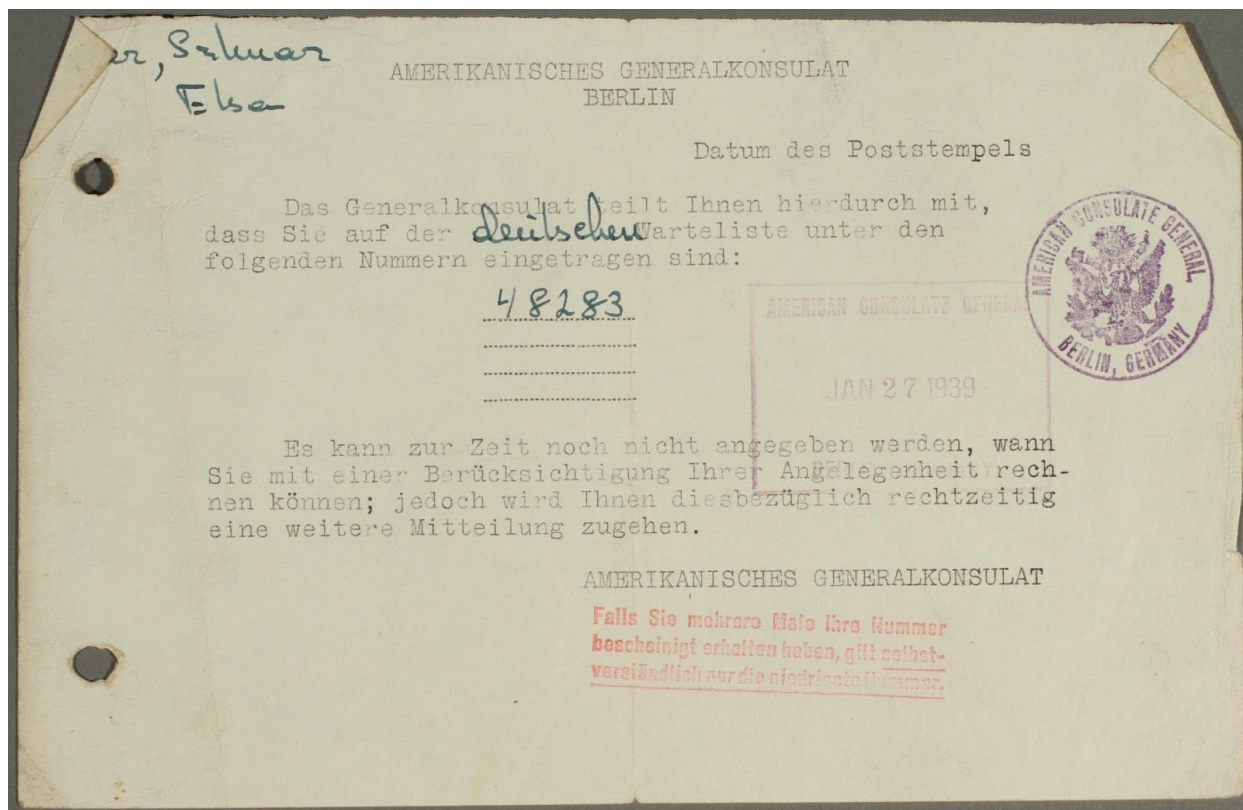


Das Gericht besatigt, dass diese, von der  
Antrag angefertigte Abschrift mit der aus  
beiden Seiten bestehenden, mit Z. 8 g  
gestempelten Umschrift übereinstimmt.  
Bezirksgewalt Josephstadt  
Geschäftsstelle  
Wlao, VIII, Frankplatz 1, früher Alserplatz 1  
am 25. Jull 1938 193



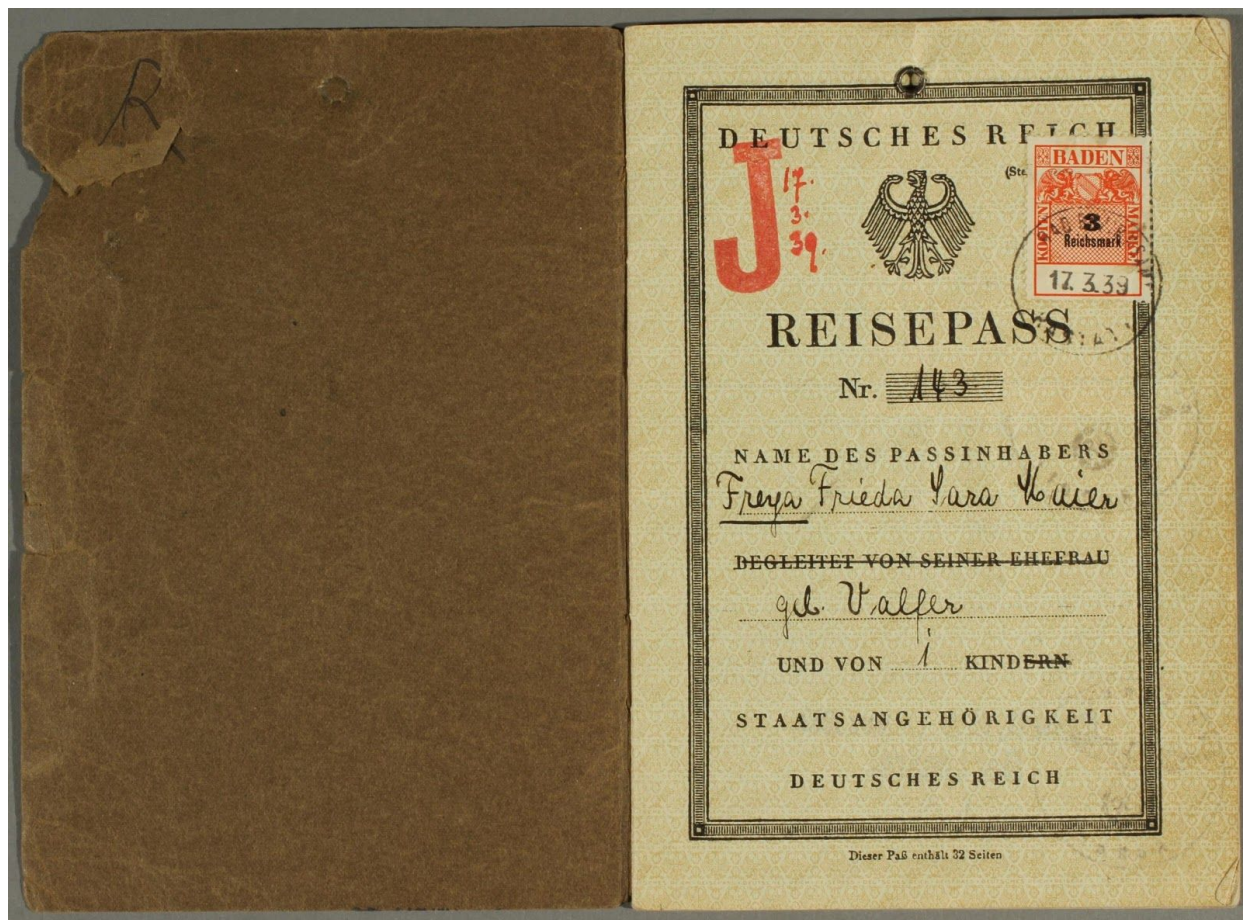
“Birth certificate for Max Winter.” February 21, 1904 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collection, gift of Stephen Winter

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“Quota visa number for Elsa.” January 27, 1939 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collection, gift of Ruth D. Barzilay and Evelyn Hill

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“Passport for Freya Frieda Maier.” March 17, 1939 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collection, gift of sonja Geismar and Lynn J. Maier

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A) Per il **Passeggero**

**ITALIA** N° **99125**

SOCIETÀ ANONIMA DI NAVIGAZIONE - SEDE IN GENOVA  
CAPITALE SOCIALE L. 500.000.000 INTERAMENTE VERSATO 65/68

**Contratto per Biglietto di Classe TURISTICA**

RILASCIATO ALLE CONDIZIONI INDICATE A TERGO  
*Issued on the conditions printed on the reverse side*

**PRAGA (GENOVA)** da da **NEWYORK** colla Nave **CONTE DI SAVOIA**  
from from with Vessel  
**ANDATA** in partenza il **26/I/1939** alle ore **11 AM** imbarco alle ore **9 AM** cabina **85 BAGNO**  
*OUTWARD* sailing at at embarkation at cabin berth  
**79 SENZA BAGNO**

**RITORNO** da da colla Nave  
*HOMEWARD* from from with Vessel  
Valido fino al in partenza il alle ore imbarco alle ore cabina letto  
Valid until sailing at at embarkation at cabin berth

NOMI DEI PASSEGGERI PASSENGERS NAMES	Età Age	Valuta Tariffa Currency	ANDATA OUTWARD		RITORNO HOMEWARD	
			Posti Fares	Nolo Amount	Posti Fares	Nolo Amount
SIG. Max WINTER	AD	§	I	174.=		
SIG.RA Anne WINTER	"	"	I	174.=		
FIGLIA Marianne WINTER	"	"	I	174.=		
FIGLIO Stephan WINTER	"	"	I	174.=		
Supplemento cabina	"	"		40.=		
" bagno	"	"		20.=		
Incassato (valute d'incasso) collected (actual currency)			Importo totale passaggi Total amount		756.=	
			Tasse Europee imbarco European Taxes, Embarkation		8	
			Tasse Europee sbarco European Taxes, Landing			
			Tasse Americane imbarco American Taxes, Embarkation			
			Tasse Americane sbarco American Taxes, Landing		24	
			Proseguimenti ferroviarie Railway tickets			
Intermediario <b>VIENNA</b> Agent			TOTALE TOTAL		RM. 1970,=	
RILASCIATO IN CONNESSIONE COL BIGLIETTO <i>Issued in connection with ticket</i>			Acconto come da B.tto <b>21463 Vienna</b>		1976,28	
Soc. Comp. N. emesso a issued at			Tassa di <b>Vienna</b>		6,28	
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Emesso in sostituzione del B.tto Chiam./Sez. Rit. N° <i>Issued in exchange for Prepaid/Return Ticket</i>			Tassa di <b>Vienna</b>		BALANCE	
rilasciato a issued at il on the			Tassa di <b>Vienna</b>		BALANCE	
Rilasciato a <b>GENOVA</b> il <b>26/I/1939</b> XVII			Tassa di <b>Vienna</b>		BALANCE	
Issued at on the			Tassa di <b>Vienna</b>		BALANCE	

Società Anonima di Navigazione  
Cap. Sociale L. 500.000.000 Interamente versato  
UFFICIO PASSEGGERI CLASSE TURISTICA

OFFICIO emittente Issuing Office

G. A. IMPRESE TIPOGRAFICHE - GENOVA

Per il Passeggero

“Payment for ship passage for the Winters.” January 26, 1939 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collection, gift of Stephen Winter

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“US officials Process Alien Registration documents.” June-November, 1940 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services History Office & Library

After Germany invaded and annexed Austria and Czechoslovakia in 1938 and 1939, hundreds of thousands of people, mostly Jews, applied to immigrate to the United States. U.S. immigration visas were difficult to obtain due to America’s national security concerns, the difficulty refugees had in securing American financial sponsors, and the finite number of visas and travel options.



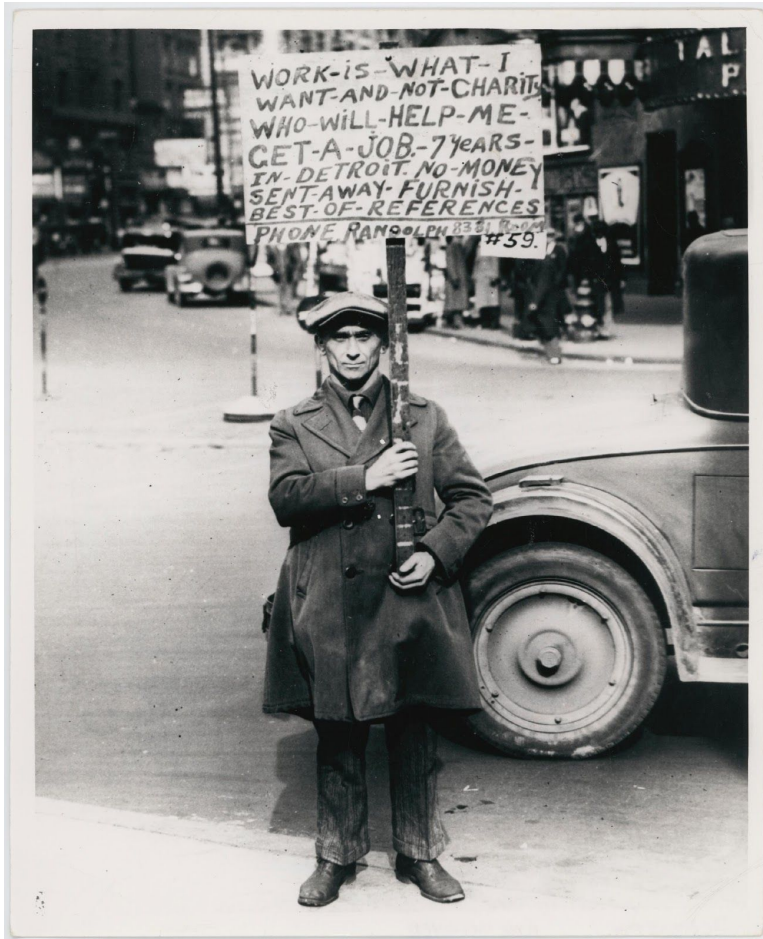
“Portrait of Jan Karski during his mission to the United States to inform government leaders about Nazi policy in Poland.” July 1943 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Jan Karski

Jan Karski, a lieutenant in the Polish underground fighting the German occupation, was smuggled into both the Warsaw ghetto and prisoner transit camp to witness the horrors suffered by Jews. Nine months later, Karski arrived in Washington, D.C., to tell American government officials what he had seen. Karski met President Roosevelt at the White House on July 28, 1943.



“Unemployed men queued outside a depression soup kitchen opened in Chicago by mobster Al Capone.” February 1931 National Archives at College Park - Still Pictures

As Americans read press reports about the Nazi persecution of Jews in Germany, the United States had been suffering the effects of the Great Depression for nearly four years. Some 25 percent of workers were unemployed in 1933. To stimulate recovery, the new U.S. President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, promised the country a “New Deal,” immediately embarking upon an ambitious agenda to repair the U.S. economy. Although there were public anti-Nazi protests and rallies in spring 1933, most Americans focused on serious domestic problems in the United States rather than on the persecution of a minority group thousands of miles away.



“Unemployed man with sign asking for work in Detroit, Michigan.” 1932 Deliverable: Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum; Copyright: Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University

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Entrance of "Americans and the Holocaust" special exhibition (2018-2021)

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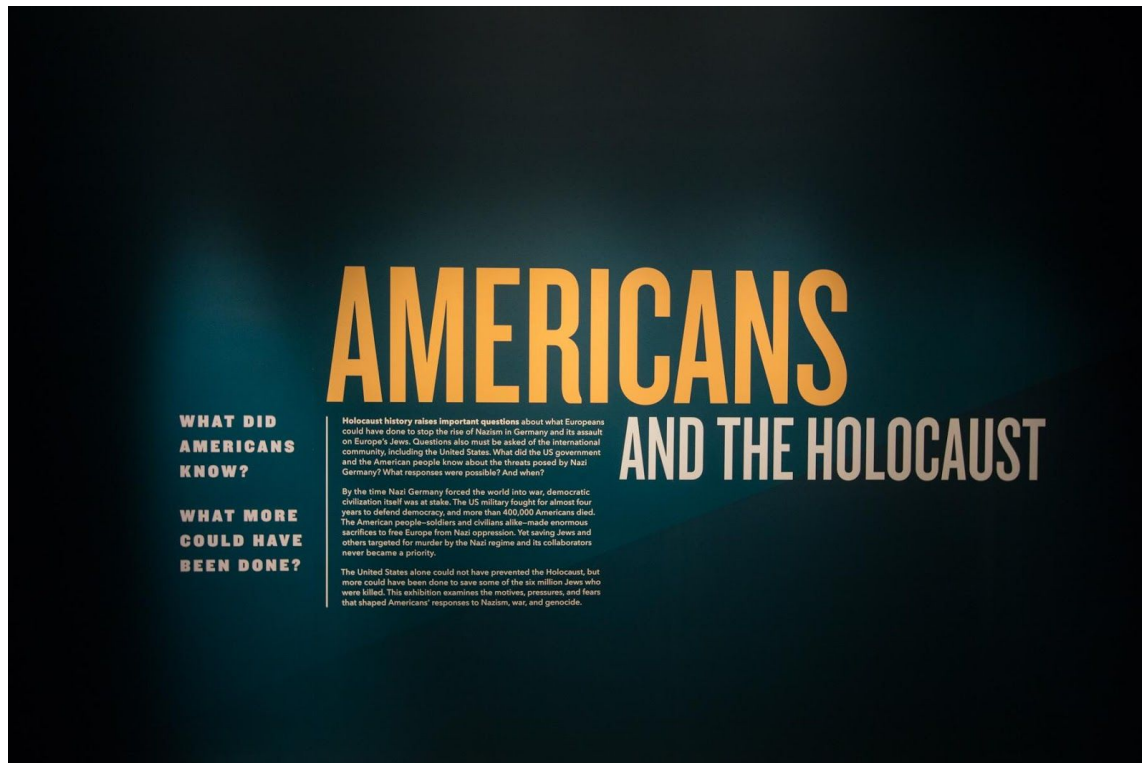
Credit: U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum





“FDR broadcasts his first fireside chat.” March 12, 1933 Courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum

President Franklin D. Roosevelt took significant yet limited action in response to the persecution of German Jews, the refugee crisis in the 1930s, and the “Final Solution,” the Nazi campaign of mass murder. Roosevelt prioritized economic recovery from the Great Depression and victory in World War II above humanitarian crises overseas.



Entrance to "Americans and the Holocaust" (2018-2021)

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Credit: U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum



“Refugees outside of US consulate in Marseilles.” September-November, 1941 Courtesy of Eric Saul

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“Children looking at Statue of Liberty.” June 4, 1939 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collection, gift of Julius Wald

As applicants sought U.S. immigration visas, private American relief agencies formed networks of rescue to aid as many refugees as possible. They helped refugees navigate the U.S. immigration system, explained the required paperwork, located potential financial sponsors, purchased ship tickets, and, for those fortunate enough to enter the United States, assisted with Americanization, employment, and housing.



“Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus (center) pose with the fifty Austrian children they are bringing to the United States.” June 1939 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collection, gift of Steven Pressman

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“Advertising poster designed by Ottomar Anton for the Hamburg-Amerika shipping line, featuring its flagship, the MS St. Louis” 1935 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Galerie Prospect

On May 13, 1939, the German transatlantic liner St. Louis sailed from Hamburg, Germany, for Havana, Cuba, carrying 937 passengers, the majority of whom were Jewish. When the St. Louis arrived in Havana, the passengers learned that the landing certificates they had purchased were invalid. After Cuba refused to allow the passengers to land and the United States (and other Western Hemisphere nations) did not offer to take the passengers, the ship returned to Europe. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee worked with the State Department, ultimately persuading four countries—Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, and Belgium—to admit the passengers.



“Passengers aboard the MS St. Louis.” May 13, 1939 - June 17, 1939 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Dr. Liane Reif-Lehrer

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“Breckinridge Long” 1942 Box 222, Breckinridge Long Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

During the 1930s and 1940s, the U.S. State Department tolerated nativist, xenophobic, and often antisemitic attitudes and actions. Although some State Department diplomats and officials aided Jewish refugees, Assistant Secretary of State Breckinridge Long was often accused of being personally antisemitic and unsympathetic to European refugees, especially Jews. Under his supervision, the Visa Division cited national security concerns when placing new restrictions on immigration, even though it was clear that Jewish refugees in Europe were in serious danger.





“John Pehle, executive director of the War Refugee Board” March 21, 1944 Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, Hyde Park, NY

On January 22, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9417, establishing the War Refugee Board, and tasking it with the “immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution.” The Board, which operated between January 1944 and September 1945, was staffed mainly by Treasury Department employees and headed by the secretaries of State, War, and Treasury. It streamlined the work of private relief agencies, helping them send money and resources into neutral and enemy territory. They also placed American representatives in neutral nations to supervise projects and pressure these countries to welcome refugees. The War Refugee Board was the first and only official American response to the crimes we now call the Holocaust.



“Third meetings of the Board of Directors of the War Refugee Board in the office of Secretary of State Cordell Hull. Pictured from left to right are: Cordell Hull, Henry Morgenthau, Henry L. Stimson, and John Pehle, Executive Director” March 21, 1944 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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