

■ United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies

**Documenting Life
and Destruction**
Holocaust Sources
in Context

SERIES EDITOR

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DOCUMENTING LIFE AND DESTRUCTION

HOLOCAUST SOURCES IN CONTEXT

This groundbreaking series provides a new perspective on history using first-hand accounts of the lives of those who suffered through the Holocaust, those who perpetrated it, and those who witnessed it as bystanders. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies presents a wide range of documents from different archival holdings, expanding knowledge about the lives and fates of Holocaust victims and making these resources broadly available to the general public and scholarly communities for the first time.

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THE HOLOCAUST IN HUNGARY

Evolution of a Genocide

Zoltán Vági, László Csősz, and Gábor Kádár

Foreword by Randolph L. Braham

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DOCUMENT 2-16: Regent Miklós Horthy's letter to Adolf Hitler, May 7, 1943, in Miklós Szinai and László Szűcs, eds., *Horthy Miklós titkos iratai* (Budapest: Kossuth, 1962), 391–400.¹¹⁷

Your Excellency,

Following the kind invitation of Your Excellency, on the 16th of this month, I traveled to the Klessheim castle in order to exchange, in accordance with our allied status and our mutual interests, our thoughts about questions concerning our cooperation.

Because I think it is of utmost importance that our countries maintain the same open and trusting relations we have had in the past, I consider it my duty to respond in some detail to the reproaches directed at me during our long conversations on this occasion.

According to one such reproach, the treatment of the Jews is allegedly much too lenient in Hungary. Concerning this question and without being presumptuous, I wish to cite the fact that at the time,¹¹⁸ I was the first to raise my voice against the destructive behavior of the Jews, and I have ever since taken every measure to curb their influence.¹¹⁹ This was a new trend at the time, and because of it, my country was boycotted by Germany, as well as the rest of the world. However, the measures that I undertook practically stripped the Jews of the opportunity to continue exerting their harmful influence on the public affairs of the country. The enormity of the difficulties that had to be overcome in the process is due to the fact that before this, commerce and industry were almost entirely in Jewish hands. At present, we have further measures underway aimed at gradually shutting out the Jews, and we will carry out their deportation as soon as conditions for their transportation are secured. [. . .]