

Responses (Jewish, U.S. & World) Timeline Layer



<http://bit.ly/chicagoprotest33>



A pile of protest signs about an anti-Nazi boycott lie on the ground. --*United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Peter Gessner*

MAY 1933

EMERGENCY SESSION OF AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

The American Jewish Congress holds an emergency session following the Nazi rise to power and subsequent anti-Jewish measures.

United States, May 1933.

When Adolf Hitler was named chancellor of Germany on January 30, 1933, Wise, president of the AJC, organized a mass protest rally in NYC. The AJC continued to organize protest rallies throughout the 1930s and 1940s. In August 1933 the AJC led a general boycott of German goods. Although active in protesting Nazi mistreatment of German Jews, the AJC abstained from publicly calling upon the U.S. government to admit additional refugees from Germany. In 1936 the American Jewish Congress was instrumental in establishing the World Jewish Congress (WJC).



USHMM Photo Archives #89752

MAY 10, 1933



USHMM Photo Archives #69040

AMERICAN PROTESTS OF NAZI BOOK BURNINGS

On the day of book burnings in Germany, massive crowds march from New York's Madison Square Garden to protest Nazi oppression and anti-Jewish persecution. New York City, United States, May 10, 1933.

On May 10, 1933, the same day as the book burnings in Germany, massive street demonstrations took place in dozens of American cities. Organized by the American Jewish Congress, the demonstrators protested the Nazi attacks upon Jews: the continued harassment, police raids, arrests, and beatings, as well as the destruction of Jewish property and the boycott of Jewish businesses. In the largest demonstration in New York City history up to that date, 100,000 people marched for more than six hours to protest events in Germany and the burning of books.

JULY 6-15, 1938



USHMM Photo Archives #62121

REFUGEE CONFERENCE IN EVIAN

The Hotel Royal, site of the Evian Conference. Evian-les-Bains, France, July 1938. Delegates from 32 countries and representatives from relief organizations meet in Evian-les-Bains, France, to discuss the German-Jewish refugees.

The U.S. encourages all countries to find a long-term solution to the problem. However, the U.S. and other countries are unwilling to ease their immigration restrictions. Most countries fear that an increase of refugees will cause further economic hardships. With the exception of the Dominican Republic, no country is willing to accept more refugees. One result of the conference is the establishment of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees (ICR), which will continue to work on the refugee problem.

UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM

FEBRUARY 9, 1939

"Suffer Little Children..."



Acme Photo

Harwich, England: Three-year old twins wonder what it's all about as they await disposition after arriving in a party of 350 child refugees from Germany.

LIMITED REFUGEE BILL PROPOSED IN U.S. CONGRESS

Pamphlet produced by the Non-Sectarian Committee for German Refugee Children; encouraging citizens to write their congressmen to support the Wagner-Rogers bill (April 23, 1939)

The Wagner-Rogers refugee aid bill is introduced in the United States Senate by Senator Robert F. Wagner (D-New York). This bill calls for the admission to the United States of 20,000 German refugee children under the age of 14 over the next two years, in addition to immigration normally permitted. The bill will be introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Edith Nourse Rogers (R-Massachusetts) five days later. Charity organizations across the country publicize the plight of German refugee children in an attempt to gain support for the bill. However, organizations favoring restrictive immigration strongly oppose the bill and claim that the refugee children would deprive American children of aid. After several months of debate, the bill is defeated in committee. The bill would have provided refuge for thousands of German Jewish children.

MAY 1939



USHMM Photo Archives #67630

BRITISH GOVERNMENT RESTRICTS IMMIGRATION INTO PALESTINE

Recent Youth Aliyah immigrants to Palestine gather in front of the Horev boarding school.

An Arab-Palestinian revolt against the British mandate in Palestine in 1936 and continuing Arab unrest, especially regarding the status of Jews in Palestine, leads to a decisive change in British policy in the Middle East. In the White Paper of 1939, the British government announces its policies on the future status of Palestine. The British reject the establishment of an independent Jewish state and severely restrict future Jewish immigration to Palestine. In response to the British policy, illegal immigration of Jewish refugees to Palestine increases. The British intercept the illegal immigrants and intern them in camps. During the war, there is no attempt to relax the immigration policy. Restrictions on Jewish immigration remain in force until the establishment of Israel in 1948.

MAY 13, 1939



USHMM Photo Archives #11291

937 JEWISH REFUGEES FLEE NAZI GERMANY AND SAIL FOR HAVANA, CUBA
Refugees aboard the "St. Louis" wait to hear whether Cuba will grant them entry. Off the coast of Havana, Cuba, June 3, 1939.

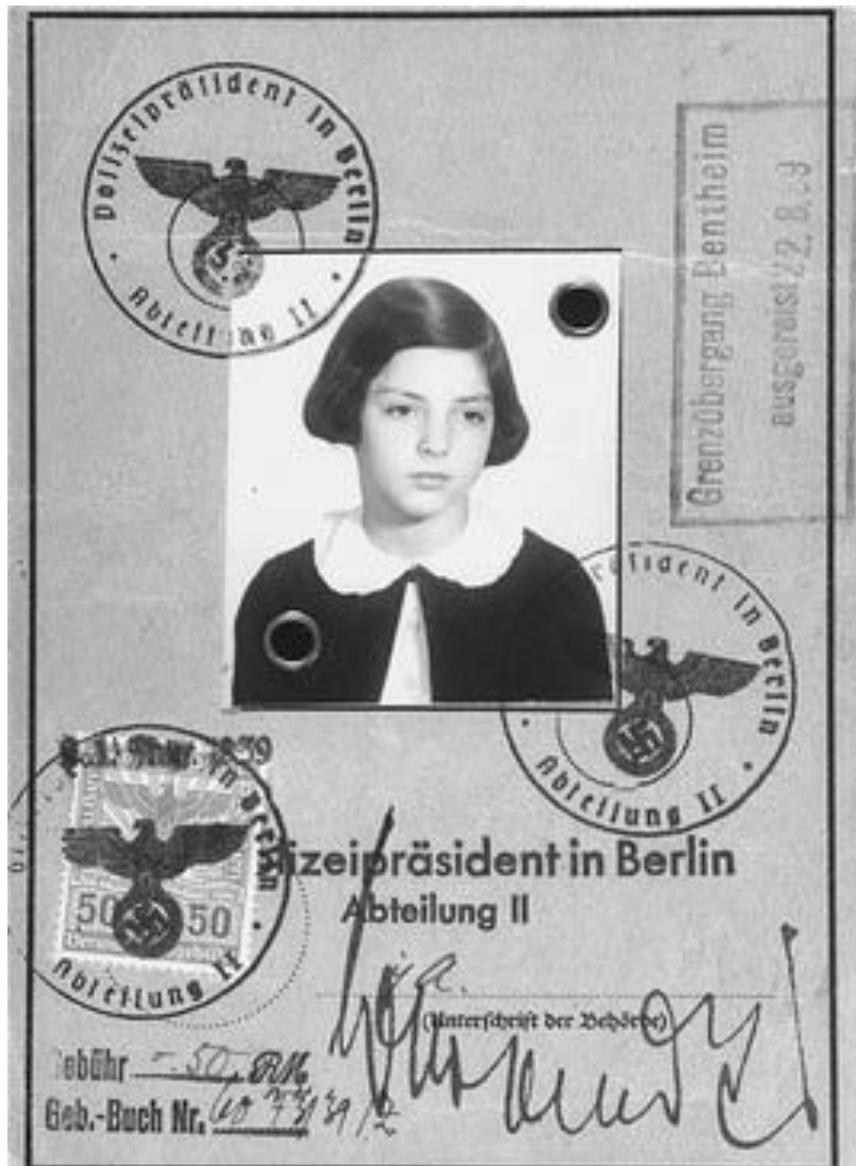
In May 1939, 937 passengers, most Jewish refugees, left Hamburg, Germany, en route to Cuba. All passengers held landing certificates permitting them entry to Cuba, but when the *St. Louis* reached the port of Havana, the President of Cuba refused to honor the documents. When the ship sailed close to Florida, the U.S. did not allow it to dock. The *St. Louis* turned back to Europe.



<http://bit.ly/stlouis39>

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1938-1940



USHMM Photo Archives #07816

KINDERTRANSPORT

Passport issued to Gertrud Gerda Levy, who left Germany in August 1939 on a Children's Transport (Kindertransport) to Great Britain. Berlin, Germany, August 23, 1939.

Kindertransport was the informal name of a series of rescue efforts which brought thousands of refugee Jewish children to Great Britain from Nazi Germany between 1938 and 1940. Following the violent pogrom staged by the Nazi authorities upon Jews during Kristallnacht, the British government eased immigration restrictions for certain categories of Jewish refugees. British authorities agreed to permit an unspecified number of children under the age of 17 to enter Great Britain from Germany and German-annexed territories.

<http://bit.ly/kindertransport>



UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM

SEPTEMBER 5, 1939



USHMM Photo Archives #86858

SIGNING OF THE NEUTRALITY LAW

Four days after the outbreak of World War II, Secretary of State Cordell Hull signs the Neutrality Law (first signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt) at the State Department. Washington, D.C., United States, September 5, 1939.

The United States had a small military that was unprepared to fight what would become a global war. Many Americans were **isolationists** and wanted to avoid international entanglements.

1940-1943

OYNEG SHABES-RINGELBLUM ARCHIVE WAS COLLECTED

Three of the ten metal boxes in which portions of the Ringelblum Oneg Shabbat archives were hidden and buried in the Warsaw ghetto.

Retrieved after World War II from metal boxes and milk cans buried beneath the ruins of the Warsaw Ghetto, the Oyneg Shabes–Ringelblum Archive was clandestinely compiled between 1940 and 1943 under the leadership of historian Emanuel Ringelblum. Members of the secret Oyneg Shabes organization gathered thousands of testimonies from natives of Warsaw and refugees from hundreds of other localities, creating a documentary record of the wartime fate of Polish Jewry.

<http://bit.ly/warsawghettofilm>



UNITED STATES
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JULY-AUGUST 1940



USHMM Photo Archives #77563

CHIUNE SUGIHARA ISSUES TRANSIT VISAS FOR JEWISH REFUGEES

Chiune Sugihara, Japanese consul general in Kovno, Lithuania, who in July-August 1940 issued more than 2,000 transit visas for Jewish refugees. Helsinki, Finland, 1937-1938.

In the summer of 1940, when refugees came to him with bogus visas for Curacao and other Dutch possessions in America, Sugihara decided to facilitate their escape from war-torn Europe. In the absence of clear instructions from Tokyo, he granted 10-day visas for transit through Japan to hundreds of refugees who held Curacao destination visas. Before closing his consulate in the fall of 1940, Sugihara even gave visas to refugees who lacked all travel papers.



<http://bit.ly/sugiharatestimony>

UNITED STATES
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1939-1942



USHMM Photo Archives #03090

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE HELPS AID JEWISH REFUGEES

**Quaker delegates of the
American Friends Service
Committee who set up a
relief and rescue operation
in Toulouse, France,
January 1941.**

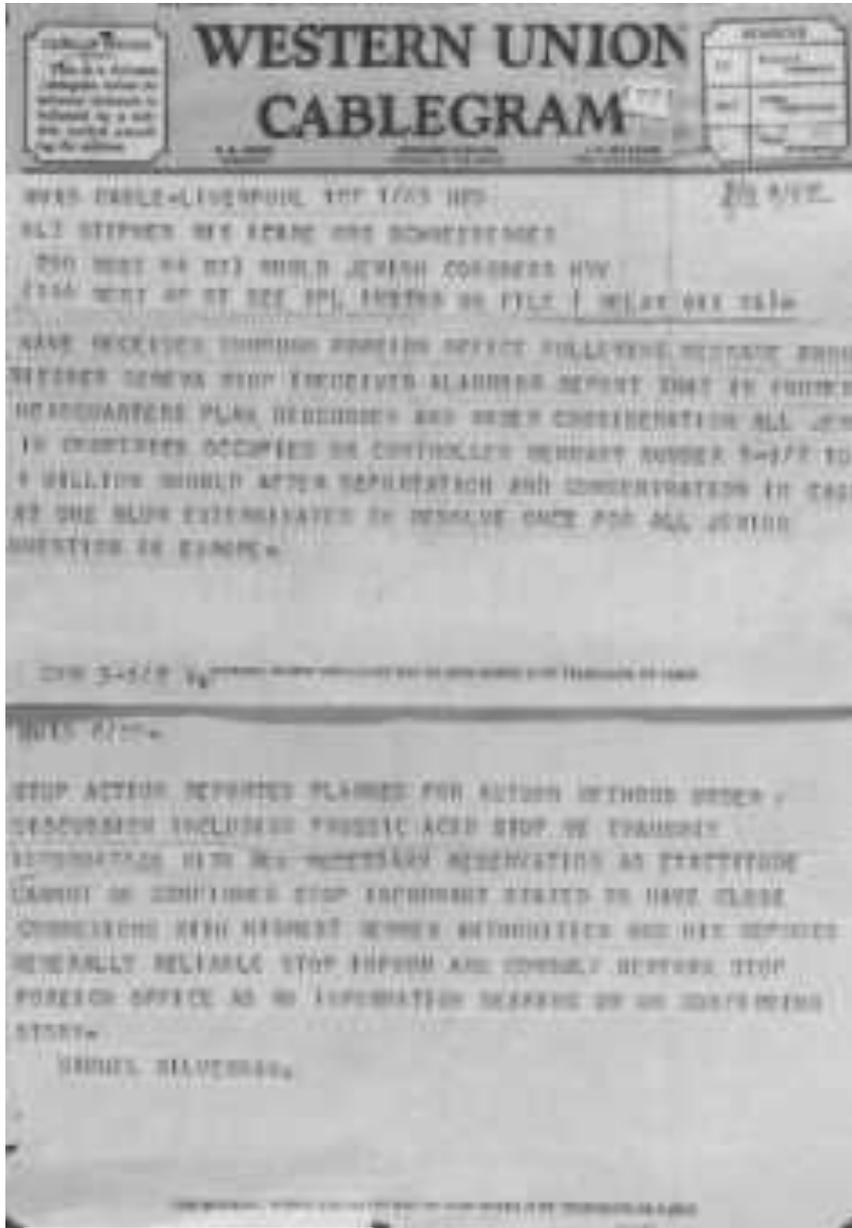
During 1941 and 1942, the AFSC chose Jewish children from children's homes and refugee camps in southern France for transfer to the United States under the auspices of the U.S. Committee for the Care of European Children. The actions of the AFSC showed that interfaith activity on behalf of European Jews could be successful.



<http://bit.ly/americanfriendssc>

UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM

AUGUST 1942



RIEGNER TELEGRAM REACHES THE U.S.

Copy of the Riegner Telegram. United States, August 29, 1942.

In August 1942, Rabbi Wise received a cable from Gerhart Riegner, the WJC representative in Switzerland. Riegner reported that the Nazis had planned and were implementing a policy to murder the Jews of Europe; the cable also referred specifically to the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. After the State Department confirmed the accuracy of the information in the cable, now known as the "Riegner telegram," the AJC convened a Joint Emergency Committee. The committee sought to coordinate the major Jewish organizations in the United States to lobby the Roosevelt administration to take more steps to rescue European Jews.

JANUARY 1942

JEWISH ARMY IN FRANCE

Group portrait of a Jewish French underground group named "Compagnie Reiman." This photograph was taken after the liberation of France.

Paris, France, 1945.

The Jewish Army (Armee Juive; AJ), is established by Zionist youth groups in Toulouse, France. Members are recruited from both Jewish and non-Jewish youth and resistance groups and are trained in military and sabotage activities. AJ members smuggle money out of Switzerland to France to distribute to Jewish relief agencies. The AJ smuggles about 500 Jews and non-Jews across the border into neutral Spain. In 1944, during the liberation of France, the AJ participates in uprisings in Paris, Lyon, and Toulouse against the German occupation.



USHMM Photo Archives #04090

AUGUST - OCTOBER 1943



USHMM Photo Archives #10625

TREBLINKA UPRISING & SOBIBOR UPRISING

A group portrait of some of the participants in the uprising at the Sobibor extermination camp. Poland, August 1944.

August 2, 1943, Treblinka prisoners quietly seize weapons from the camp armory. Hundreds of prisoners storm the main gate in an attempt to escape. Many are killed by machine-gun fire. More than 300 do escape; most are recaptured and killed by German police and troops. In early 1943, deportations to Sobibor slowed and prisoners suspected that they would soon be killed and the camp dismantled. They plan a revolt and mass escape from the camp. On October 14, 1943, the prisoners revolt, quietly killing German and Ukrainian guards. The guards open fire and prevent prisoners from reaching the main exit, forcing them to attempt escape through the minefield. About 300 escape; about 100 are recaptured and later shot.

OCTOBER 2, 1943



USHMM Photo Archives #62187

SWEDEN OFFERS ASYLUM TO JEWS OF DENMARK

Danish fishermen used this boat to carry Jews to safety in Sweden during the German occupation.

Denmark, 1943 or 1944.

At the end of September 1943, the German plan to arrest and deport Danish Jews is leaked to Danish authorities who warn the Jewish population in Denmark and urge them to go into hiding. In response, the Danish underground and general population spontaneously organize a nationwide effort to smuggle Jews to the coast where Danish fishermen ferry them to Sweden. In little more than three weeks, the Danes ferry more than 7,000 Jews and close to 700 of their non-Jewish relatives to Sweden. Despite the Danish efforts, some 500 Jews are arrested by the Germans and deported to Theresienstadt ghetto.

JANUARY 13, 1944



USHMM Photo Archives #85939

UNITED STATES TAKES ACTION
Meeting of the War Refugee Board in the office of Executive Director John Pehle. Pictured left to right are Albert Abrahamson, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Josiah Dubois, and Pehle. Washington, D.C., United States, March 21, 1944.

The U.S. government comes under increasing pressure to heighten rescue efforts in Europe. On January 13, 1944, a memo from the Treasury Department rebukes the State Department for its relative inaction regarding rescue efforts. U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt is urged to establish a government commission to coordinate the rescue of Europe's Jews. On January 22, 1944, Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9417, establishing the War Refugee Board. The Board is committed to enforcing the policies of the U.S. government regarding the rescue and relief of victims of persecution.

JULY 9, 1944



USHMM Photo Archives #06917A

RAOUL WALLENBERG IN BUDAPEST

Passport photograph of Raoul Wallenberg. Sweden, June 1944

Raoul Wallenberg, a diplomat from neutral Sweden, arrives in Budapest on assignment from the Swedish legation and the War Refugee Board to aid in the rescue and relief of Jews in Budapest. Wallenberg issues Swedish protective passes and moves Jews into houses under Swedish protection. In November 1944, when the Germans begin a death march of Jews from Budapest to labor camps in Austria, Wallenberg pursues the march and removes Jews with protective papers and returns them to safe houses in Budapest. Near the end of 1944, over 70,000 Jews are gathered in a ghetto in Budapest. Wallenberg successfully wards off threats from German and Hungarian authorities to destroy the ghetto and its inhabitants.