

THE CITY WHERE EVERYTHING STARTS AND EVERYTHING ENDS NUREMBERG

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The trials of Nazi war criminals concluded 60 years ago in Nuremberg. While World War II was still ongoing, the Allies began preparations for the trial of war criminals. To this end, the Declaration of St. James, signed by nine countries occupied by Germany, was issued on January 13, 1942, establishing the trial and punishment of war criminals.

Then, the Big Three (leaders of the USA, Britain and the USSR) gathered in Moscow and issued the Moscow Declaration dated 1 November 1943, which directed that war criminals would be tried.

Finally, the Big Three gathered in London in June 1945 and determined the trial procedures and principles of the Nuremberg International Military Criminal Tribunal, where war criminals would be tried, the structure of the tribunal and the claims to be put forward, and signed the London Treaty on the establishment of the Nuremberg Tribunal (Nuremberg Tribunal Statute) on 8 August 1945.

Nuremberg was chosen as the venue for the trial, partly because the courthouse there had not been destroyed despite heavy Allied bombardment. Secondly, the city was a center of Nazi ideology, a place where the Nazis held large demonstrations and

promulgated the Anti-Semitic Laws in 1931. It all began here, and now it would all end here.

For the first time in world history, an international tribunal was established to try those who committed war crimes after a war.

Although the court was formally held as a military court, the judges, with the exception of the Soviet judge, were civilians from the United States, Britain, and France. The court was presided over by an English

Judge Lord Justice Lawrence was brought in. The prosecution office also had one prosecutor representing each of the four countries.

The Nuremberg Tribunal's jurisdiction extended to all of Germany, occupied territories, and the high seas. Its temporal jurisdiction extended from September 1, 1939, to August 8, 1945 (the date of Japan's surrender, and a similar trial was to be held in Tokyo for Japanese war criminals).

The trial would follow a criminal procedure consistent with Anglo-Saxon law. Accordingly, judges would act as arbitrators between the prosecution and the defendants and would not be able to question them. Unlike this system, the verdict at the end of the trial would be rendered by the judges, not the jury (there was no jury anyway). The court's decision was final and could not be appealed.

In accordance with Article 6 of the Nuremberg Tribunal Statute, the indictment would contain the following charges:

- a) Crimes against peace, violating the Briand-Kellogg Pact signed by Germany, which stipulated that the parties would not declare war on each other.
- b) War crimes committed against the Hague and Geneva Conventions, to which Germany was a party, and finally, crimes against humanity, including mass killings, murders, forced labor, enslavement, etc. Crimes against humanity were being regulated as crimes for the first time in human history, and they would not be the last.

The number of defendants was set at 24, but Himmler and Goebbels committed suicide, and Robert Ley hanged himself in his cell. Martin Borman was never found. Ultimately, the trial, which included prominent Nazi leaders such as Doenitz, included 21 defendants, including Goering, Hess, Keitel, Ribbentrop, Jodl, and Doenitz. The trial began on November 20, 1945.

American Prosecutor Jackson included the following words in his indictment: "We are not asking you to convict the defendants on the basis of the testimony given against them by their enemies. The Germans have always been meticulous archivists. The defendants had a passion for keeping meticulous records of everything. They were also not shy about boasting about their deeds. They often had their own photographs taken during their actions. I will show you their own films. You will see on the screen how they acted while doing these things... I cannot believe that anyone could be so stupid as the Germans to put some of their deeds in writing. The stupidity and cruelty of their work will simply horrify you."

During the trial, thousands of films, photographs and documents belonging to the Nazis, most of which were taken by them, were taken into custody.

