

- 0. DEATH OF WARSAW - Story Preface
- 1. JEWS IN WARSAW
- 2. THE LAST BROADCAST
- 3. GERMANY INVADES POLAND
- 4. WARSAW GHETTO
- 5. EVACUATION of the WARSAW GHETTO
- 6. DESTROY THE GHETTO
- 7. WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING
- 8. THE WARSAW GHETTO IS NO MORE
- 9. DEATH OF WARSAW**
- 10. ALONE IN WARSAW
- 11. WILM HOSENFELD
- 12. HOSENFELD'S DIARY
- 13. THE REST OF THE STORY

When Himmler ordered the ghetto destroyed, Wladyslaw was existing outside the Jewish Quarter. With the help of Polish people, he continued to survive. Sometimes German troops searched the building where he was living, but they always stopped short of his hiding place.

It wasn't just Jewish people who suffered in Poland. The country itself endured the worst wartime occupation conditions in modern European history.

For five years Poles lived under Hitler's control. A brutal Nazi colonial government (whose expressed goal was to forever erase the concept of a Polish nation in favor of an expanding German empire) was in charge of western Poland (which Hitler had annexed).

Essentially reduced to slave status, all Poles, including children, lived under severe restrictions enforced with savage punishment. About a million of them were uprooted from their homes and land as German settlers moved in to take their place. Another 2.5 million Poles were sent to forced labor camps in Germany.

As the main center of European Jewry, Polish soil was turned into the most notorious of the Nazi killing grounds. Several of the worst death camps (including Auschwitz, Treblinka and Majdanek) were in Poland. Between 1939-1945 about six million people, or 15% of Poland's population, perished under the Nazi occupation. Roughly half were Jews.

In the summer of 1944 - as the tide of war turned against Hitler and German soldiers passed through Warsaw as they returned from the Russian front - the Polish Home Army (*Armia Krajowa*) rebelled. The focus of their attacks were the German garrisons in Warsaw. The insurgents held their best position in the city on August 5.

The Poles *thought* they would have help from the Soviet Union. But when the Red Army halted its advance just short of Warsaw (on Stalin's orders), the Poles could not maintain their uprising. By the first of September, Old Town had fallen.

After sixty-three days of intense fighting, their rebellion was crushed. A furious Hitler ordered his troops to demolish Warsaw before they retreated. Ninety percent of the city (beautifully depicted here in 1770) was decimated.

During the disastrous fight for Warsaw, Szpilman managed to stay alive. He watched his beloved Warsaw reduced to ruins.

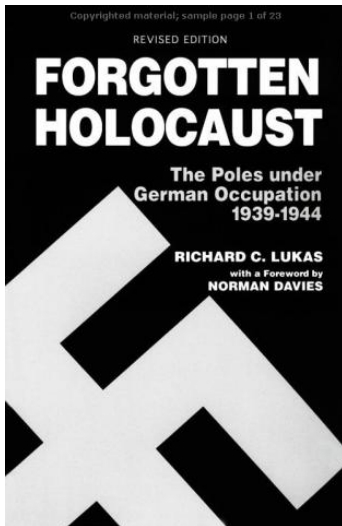
It was, he said, like "seeing the life-blood flow from the body of a murdered man." (*The Pianist*, page 166.)

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/DEATH-OF-WARSAW-Pianist-The)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/DEATH-OF-WARSAW-Pianist-The>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/DEATH-OF-WARSAW-Pianist-The)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/DEATH-OF-WARSAW-Pianist-The>



Forgotten Holocaust - by Richard C. Lukas

Book-cover image online, courtesy Amazon.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Forgotten-Holocaust-by-Richard-C.-Lukas>

Did the Children Cry? - by Richard C. Lukas

Hitler and the Nazis did not spare children during their quest to rule Poland. In this work, Dr. Richard Lukas examines the cost for Jewish and Gentile children living in Poland at the time of Hitler's madness.

The publisher provides more information about [the subject of this book](#):

*An unprecedented aspect of Nazi genocide in World War II was the cold and deliberate decision not to spare the children. Jewish children, first driven into the ghettos, were marked for total destruction as part of the "Final Solution" once it was put into effect, in 1942.*

*Gentile children were starved, killed, or Germanized in order to reduce the Polish nation to a small complement of semi-literate slaves tending the Herrenvolk in their thousand-year Reich.*

*This record also includes accounts of how they fought back by working for the underground, smuggling food into the ghettos, attending secret classes to continue their forbidden education.*

*Included are stories of villains like Mengele who selected children for execution during Jewish religious holidays; Rudolph Hoess, Auschwitz's commandant who admitted his own discomfort when he witnessed the gassing of prisoners with the excuse: "I was a soldier and an officer";*

*a heroic Dr. Janusz Korczak [the pen name of Henryk Goldszmit] who was in charge of an orphanage in the ghetto, but refused to leave his orphans, and at the head of a contingent of 192 children and 8 staff members, erect, his eyes looking into the distance, held the hands of two children as he led them to the railroad platform where trains took them [all] to certain death.*

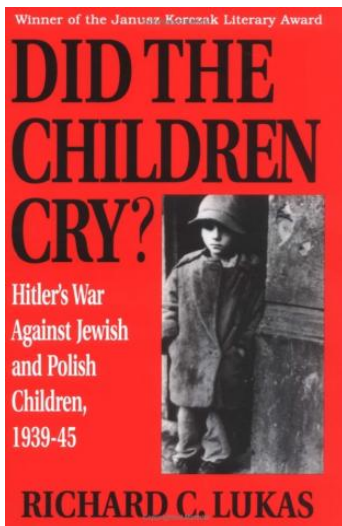
*Based on vast research in the United States, Great Britain, and Poland, many interviews, theses and other papers, documents and official histories, memoirs, autobiographies, articles, periodicals and newspapers, "Did the Children Cry?" stands as a monument to millions of children who were bombed, wounded, deported, raped, starved, maimed, subjected to "medical" experimentation, and killed in German-occupied Poland.*

Click on the image for a better view.

Book-cover image online, courtesy Amazon.

View this asset at:

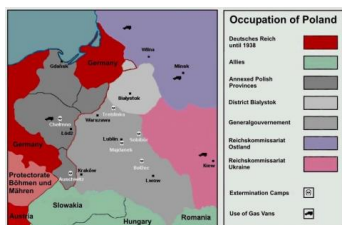
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Did-the-Children-Cry-by-Richard-C.-Lukas>



Occupation of Poland - Map

Image online, courtesy DeathCamps.org.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Occupation-of-Poland-Map>

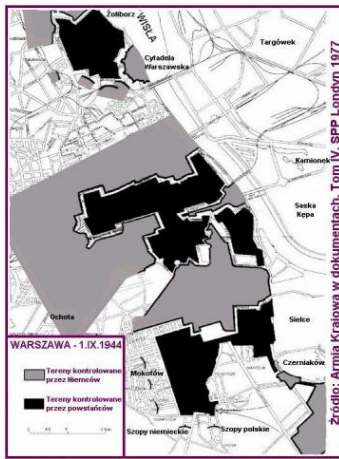


Treblinka - Map Locator

Image online, courtesy the Jewish Community House Project in Breisach website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Treblinka-Map-Locator>



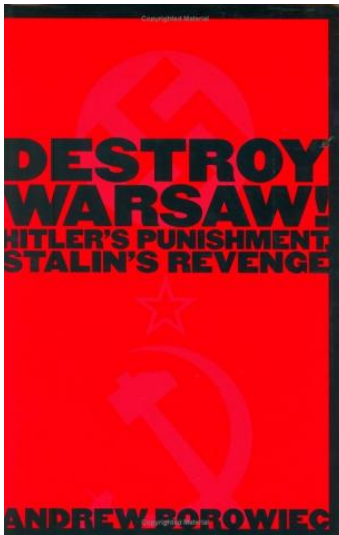


### Warsaw Uprising: Home Army Loses Ground

Map image, depicting gains made by the Home Army after five days of fighting, copyright London Branch of the Polish Home Army Ex-Servicemen Association. NOTE that copying permission is granted provided that you provide reference to the source and authors.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Warsaw-Uprising-Home-Army-Loses-Ground>



### Destroy Warsaw! Hitler's Punishment, Stalin's Revenge

Book-cover image online, courtesy Amazon.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Destroy-Warsaw-Hitler-s-Punishment-Stalin-s-Revenge>



### 1773 Painting of Warsaw

Image, described above, online courtesy Web Gallery of Art.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/1773-Painting-of-Warsaw>



### Warsaw - Bombed Out

Image of Warsaw, after Hitler's order to destroy the city, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Warsaw-Bombed-Out>



### Warsaw During World War II

Video clip, courtesy Alireza - online at YouTube.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Warsaw-During-World-War-II->