

The Wannsee Conference

The Wannsee Conference was held on 20 January 1942, in a villa owned by the SS-Nordhav Foundation in the attractive Berlin lakeside suburb of Wannsee. It was presided over by SS-Lieutenant General Reinhard Heydrich, Chief of the Security Police and Security Service. Heydrich summoned fourteen men representing the governmental and military branches most involved in implementing the practical aspects of the 'Final Solution'. Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring had charged him with arranging all practical matters concerning the implementation of the Final Solution of the Jewish question. Heydrich was an ambitious and meticulous officer who relished the responsibility of power. One of Heydrich's foremost intentions was to make sure that all these men understood perfectly what duties and responsibilities their office was expected to fulfill.

Heydrich's assistant, SS Lt-Colonel Adolf Eichmann tells us in testimony at his trial in 1961, that the meeting was relatively brief, lasting only an hour to an hour and a half, and that the atmosphere of the meeting was one of cooperation and agreement. These high-ranking members of the Nazi government met at mid-day over a buffet luncheon to discuss the annihilation of an entire people.

Those attending were:

- Gauleiter Dr. Alfred Meyer and Reichamtsleiter (Chief Officer) Dr. Georg Leibbrandt – Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories
- State Secretary Dr. Wilhelm Stuckart – Reich Ministry of the Interior
- State Secretary Dr. Erich Neumann – Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Four Year Plan
- State Secretary Dr. Roland Freisler – Reich Justice Ministry
- State Secretary Dr. Josef Bühler – Office of Governor General (Poland) representing Hans Frank
- Under State Secretary Martin Luther – Foreign Office
- SS Senior-Colonel Gerhard Klopfer – Party Chancellery representing Martin Bormann
- Ministerial Director Friedrich Kritzinger – Reich Chancellery
- SS Major-General Otto Hofmann – Race and Resettlement Main Office
- SS Major-General Heinrich Müller – Reich Security Main Office
- SS Lt-Colonel Adolf Eichmann – Reich Security Main Office
- SS Senior-Colonel Dr. Eberhard Schöngarth – Commander of the Security Police and the SD in the General Government [Poland]
- SS Major Dr. Rudolf Lange – Commander of Security Police and Security Service for General Commissariat Latvia, as Deputy of Commanding Officer of Security Police and Security Service for Reich Commissariat Ostland (Baltic States and White Russia) Security Police and Security Service.

Approximately 11 million Jews will be involved in the final solution of the European Jewish question, distributed as follows among the individual countries:

Country	Number
A. Germany proper	131,800
Austria	43,700
Eastern territories	420,000
General Government	2,284,000
Bialystok	400,000
Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia	74,200
Estonia - free of Jews -	
Latvia	3,500
Lithuania	34,000
Belgium	43,000
Denmark	5,600
France / occupied territory	165,000
unoccupied territory	700,000
Greece	69,600
Netherlands	160,800
Norway	1,300
B. Bulgaria	48,000
England	330,000
Finland	2,300
Ireland	4,000
Italy including Sardinia	58,000
Albania	200
Croatia	40,000
Portugal	3,000
Rumania including Bessarabia	342,000
Sweden	8,000
Switzerland	18,000
Serbia	10,000
Slovakia	88,000
Spain	6,000
Turkey (European portion)	55,500
Hungary	742,800
USSR	5,000,000
Ukraine	2,994,684
White Russia excluding Bialystok	446,484
Total over	11,000,000

The number of Jews given here for foreign countries includes, however, only those Jews who still adhere to the Jewish faith, since some countries still do not have a definition of the term "Jew" according to racial principles.

The influence of the Jews in all walks of life in the USSR is well known. Approximately five million Jews live in the European part of the USSR, in the Asian part scarcely 1/4 million.

The breakdown of Jews residing in the European part of the USSR according to trades as approximately as follows:

Agriculture	9.1%
Urban workers	14.8%
In trade	20.0%
Employed by the state	23.4%
In private occupations such as medical profession, press, theater, etc.	32.7%

“MONSTERS EXIST, BUT THEY ARE TOO FEW IN
NUMBER TO BE TRULY DANGEROUS.
MORE DANGEROUS ARE THE COMMON
MEN... READY TO BELIEVE AND TO ACT
WITHOUT ASKING QUESTIONS.”

— PRIMO LEVI