

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3up5SZBZdY&feature=related>

The Wannsee Conference January 20, 1942

The Nazi “Final Solution” to the
Jewish Question







Gauleiter
Dr. Meyer



Reichsamtsleiter
Dr. Leibbrandt



Staatssekretär
Dr. Stuckart



Staatssekretär
Neumann



Staatssekretär
Dr. Freisler



Staatssekretär
Dr. Bühler



Unterstaatssekretär
Luther



SS-Oberführer
Klopfer



Ministerialdirektor
Kritzinger



SS-Gruppenführer
Hofmann



SS-Gruppenführer
Müller



SS-Obersturmbannführer
Eichmann



SS-Oberführer
Dr. Schöngarth



SS-Sturmbannführer
Dr. Lange



SS-Obergruppenführer
Heydrich

Source: Haus der Wannsee-Konferenz

Participants in the conference

SS- Obergruppenführer **Reinhardt Heydrich** (head of the RSHA)
Gauleiter Dr **Alfred Mayer** (Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories)
Reichsamtleiter Dr **Georg Leibbrandt** (ditto)
Dr **Wilhelm Stuckart** (Reich Ministry for the Interior)
Dr **Erich Neumann** (Head of the Four Years Plan Office)
Dr **Roland Freisler** (Reich Ministry of Justice)
Dr **Josef Bühler** (Director General of the General government)
Dr **Martin Luther** (Foreign Office)
SS- Oberführer **Gerhard Klopfer** (NSDAP Chancellery)
Ministerialdirektor **Friedrich Wilhelm Kritzinger** (Reich Chancellery)
SS- Gruppenführer **Otto Hofmann** (Race and Settlement Main Office)
SS- Gruppenführer **Heinrich Müller** (Reich Main Security Office)
SS- Obersturmbannführer **Adolf Eichmann** (Reich Main Security Office – IV B4)
SS- Oberführer Dr **Karl Eberhard Schöngarth** (Commander SD / SIPO Krakow)
SS- Sturmbannführer Dr **Rudolf Lange** (Commander SD Latvia)



The Wannsee Conference, named for the resort district in southwestern Berlin where it was held, took place in January 1942.

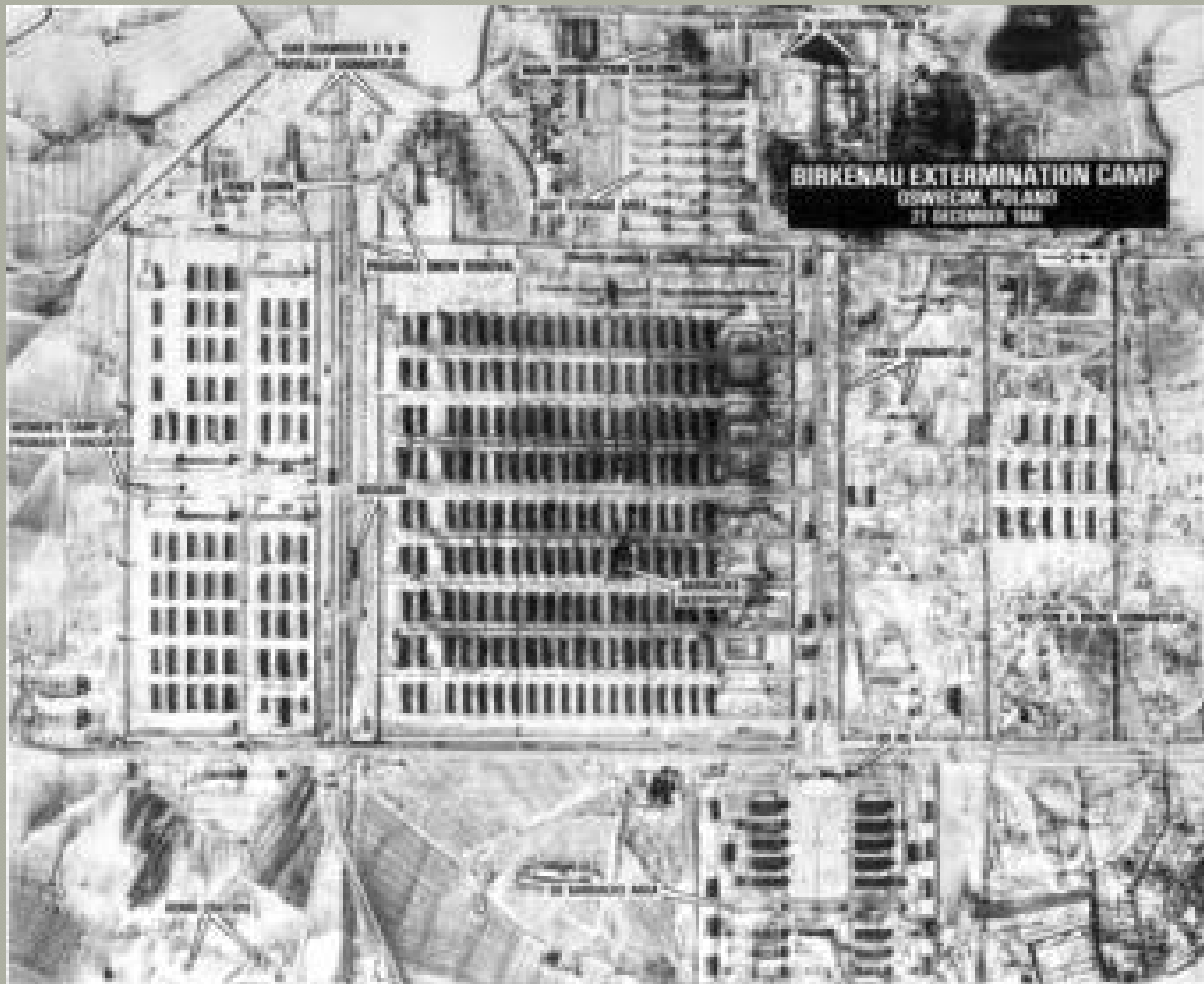
- The "Final Solution" was the code name for the systematic, deliberate, physical annihilation of the European Jews.
- At some still undetermined time in 1941, Hitler authorized this European-wide scheme for mass murder.
- Heydrich convened the Wannsee Conference:
 - (1) to inform and secure support from government ministries and other interested agencies relevant to the implementation of the "Final Solution,"
 - (2) to disclose to the participants that Hitler himself had tasked Heydrich and the RSHA (Reich Head Security Office) with coordinating the operation.
- The men at the table did not deliberate whether such a plan should be undertaken, but instead discussed the implementation of a policy decision that had already been made at the highest level of the Nazi regime.

- At the time of the Wannsee Conference, most participants were already aware that the National Socialist regime had engaged in mass murder of Jews and other civilians in the German-occupied areas of the Soviet Union and in Serbia.
- Some had learned of the actions of the Einsatzgruppen and other police and military units, which were already slaughtering tens of thousands of Jews in the German-occupied Soviet Union.
- Others were aware that units of the German Army and the SS and police were killing Jews in Serbia.
- None of the officials present at the meeting objected to the Final Solution policy that Heydrich announced.



Adolf Eichmann

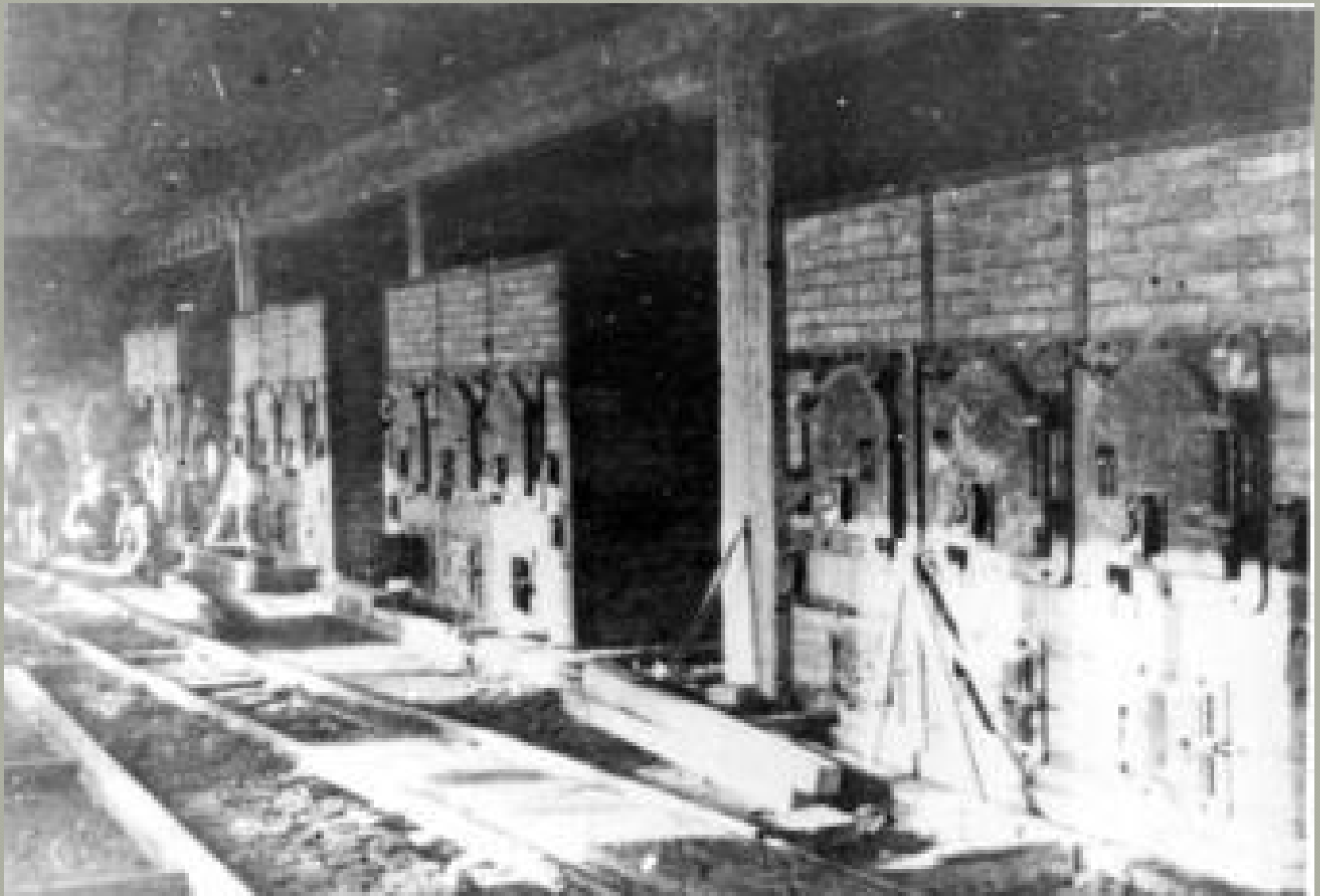
- Reinhard Heydrich led the meeting
- Adolf Eichmann produced the official report and was later in charge of transporting Jews to the killing centers
- The conference focused on the Jews as the top priority of Nazi destruction
- 11 million Jews throughout Europe were targeted for annihilation
- Included Jewish populations of the United Kingdom, and the neutral nations (Switzerland, Ireland, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, and European Turkey). For Jews residing in the Greater German Reich and holding the status of subjects of the German Reich, the Nuremberg Laws would serve as a basis for determining who was a Jew.



Architectural Plans for Auschwitz-Birkenau



Housing for prisoners at Auschwitz-Birkenau



Industrialized Gas-Fueled Crematorium (Ovens)