

# THE TATTOOIST OF AUSCHWITZ

## Background Information

### Information about Heather Morris

(Author of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*)

Heather Morris was born in Te Awamutu, New Zealand. In 1971, she moved to Melbourne, Australia after graduating from college. She did a B.A degree (majoring in Political Science) in 1986 and then began working in the Social Work Department at Monash Medical Centre until 2017. In 1996, she enrolled in a scriptwriting course through the Australian College of Journalism. Morris met Lale Sokolov in 2003 to hear his story about being a tattooist at the age of 25 in Auschwitz, and later wrote and published her novel: *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* in 2018.



### What was the Final Solution?

Hitler's final solution was to commit mass murder of the European Jews. The final stage of the holocaust took place between 1941 and 1945. Many Jews were killed prior to the Final Solution, but most were killed during it. The Nazi's goal was to murder 11 million Jews during this period, they got away with 6 million.

### What were the Nazi's goals prior to and during WWII?

- To prove German superiority and to rule over the world.
- The implementation of lebensraum to obtain land for the German people.
- Eradication of Jews in Europe.
- Eradication of Communism and Communist states such as the U.S.S.R.



### What was life like in a concentration camp or under Nazi occupation?

Often in concentration camps, the prisoners did not have furniture of any kind, beds or blankets. Prisoners were put in rooms with leaking ceilings that were very overcrowded. The conditions were horrible, and there was mass starvation throughout concentration camps. The camps were filled with diseases and sick prisoners, who were executed or deported to die in other camps.

### What was Hitler's Initial plan with The Jewish people?

After Germany's defeat from WWI, Hitler, along with many others, bought into the idea that Jewish people betrayed them and were the reason they lost the Great War. Taking advantage of the economic crisis Germany was in and the desperation of the people, in the 20s and 30s Nazis argued expelling Jewish people from Germany was the solution to all their problems.



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