



**Ryoanji (Kyoto), Zen rock garden**  
Karesansui (dry landscape), dated from the late 1400s

# Konrad-Adenauer Foundation: Expert Talk

- **Talking about the History of Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity and Remembrance**
- **Dr. Thomas Lutz**
- **Topographie of Terror Foundation, Berlin**

# What does it need to come to terms with a violent past?

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1. **Short History of Nazi-Persecution**
2. **Acknowledgment of Victims?**
3. **Handling of the Perpetrators?**
4. **Learning from History?**

# Victims of the Nazi-Regime

## 1. mainly from Germany

- **Political Opponents**
- **Jews from Germany (150.000 killed of 500.000)**
- **Sinti (German Roma, 25.000 killed)**
- **„Euthanasia“ (forced sterilized: 360.000, killed: Action T 4: 70.000, 1942-45: 130-200.000, occupied countries: plus ~ 200.000)**
- **„Asocials“ (25.000 killed)**
- **Homosexuals (persecuted: 90.000, KZ: 10.000)**
- **Jehovahs Witnesses (persecuted: up to 43.000, killed: 1.200)**
- **Justice of the German Armed Forces (killed: 15-20.000)**

# Victims of the Nazi-Regime

## 2. mainly from occupied countries

- **Political Opponents**
- **Intellectuals**
- **Jews (6 Mio. killed)**
- **Roma (220-500.000 killed)**
- **Prisoners of War (Soviet Union: up to 3.3 Mio. killed)**
- **Military Internees from Italy (since Sept. 1943: 600.000 soldiers, around 45.000 killed till 1945)**
- **Forced Laborers (> 12 Mio. deported)**
- **Civilian Victims (SU: > 20 Mio. killed)**

# Germany (after WW II)

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## GDR:

- **Antifascist Resistance Movement**
- **Different State: Social System: Communist:**  
**Has nothing to do with Nazi-Crimes 1933-45**

## FRG:

- **Up to four Decades of Mostly Silence**
- **Student-Movement 1968, „Dig Where You Stand“-Movement since End of the 1970ies:**
- **Crime Sites close to Actual Vicinity**
- **Acknowledgement of ALL Groups of Victims**
- **Years later: Question: Who was responsible?**
  - **Self-Critical,**
  - **Important Impact to Sociatal Developments**

# Perpetrators

- **Different levels**
  - **High ranking members of the regime, structures, ideology**
  - **Real murderer (CC guards, members of extermination units, doctors in hospitals, etc.)**
  - **Based on a division of labor: Administration, Universities, Hospitals, Army ....**
  - **Decision who becomes groups of victims:**
    - **Ideology, „Hitlers order“ and constitutional state**
    - **Decentralised decisions connected with the specific historical situation, the personal actively engaged**
      - **Sometimes opposite to the ideology**

# Germany (after WW II)

## International Restitution:

**1952: London Agreement on German External Debts (Allies)**

**1952: Luxembourg Agreement with the State of Israel and the Jewish Claims Conference**

## Compensation in Germany:

**GDR: Fighters against or Victims of the National Socialist Regime**

**FRG: Federal Compensation Act, 1. Oktober 1953: only**

**„Germans who persecuted because of political, racial or religious“**

**Many groups of persecutees have received compensation since the 1980s: Sinti and Roma, Victims of Forced Sterilisation, Homosexuals, „Asocials“, Victims of the Army Justice, Jehovah's Witnesses, Forced Labourers**

## International:

- Few Specific Agreements during the 1960s**
- Forced and Slave Labourers since 2000**



# Germany (after WW II)

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- **200 – 250.000 Murderers**
- **Division of Power: Doctors and Psychiatrists, Civil Servants, Railroder etc., etc.**
- **1. Phase: Under the Auspices of the Allies**
  - **Nuremberg Trails**
  - **Court Proceedings against SS, Concentration Camp Officers and Guards, Prison Centence**
  - **No German Citicens extradited**

# Germany (after WW II)

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## 2. Phase: Sovereign German States

### East Germany:

- **Some trials against perpetrators,**
- **Governmental and Social Change of Elites**

### West Germany:

- **Successor State of the Nazi-Regime (Legal importance)**
- **Until 1959 no Prosecution of State Crimes 33-45**
- **Only a very small number indicted**

