



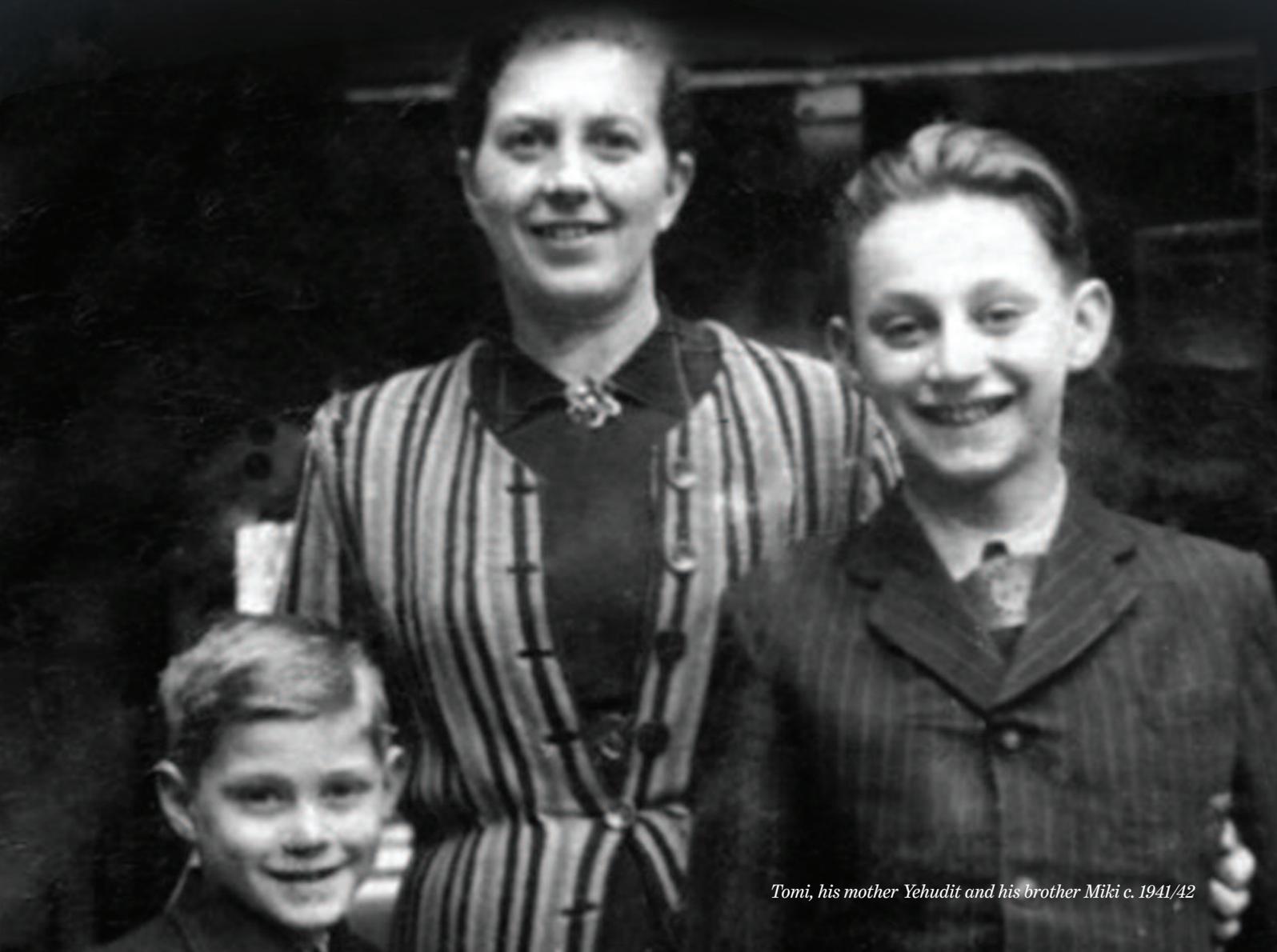
Holocaust Education Trust
Ireland

'Till the Tenth Generation'

The story of Tomi Reichental

DVD & TEACHER'S GUIDE

(includes CD of teaching materials)



Tomi, his mother Yehudit and his brother Miki c. 1941/42

Tomi Reichental

Tomi Reichental is a Holocaust survivor. Born in Slovakia in 1935, he was arrested and sent to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1944, when he was nine years old. Tomi, his mother, his brother, his aunt and his cousin survived the concentration camp. Thirty-five members of his family perished in the Holocaust.

For over fifty years, Tomi did not speak about his experience during the Holocaust. He now speaks to students in schools, recounting his story and helping them to understand the human face of this tragic event of European and world history.



For 55 years, I did not talk about it, I could not talk about it. And now I am fulfilling a mission that I speak and lecture in schools. It is something that I owe to the victims, that their memory is not forgotten.

Till the Tenth Generation follows Tomi Reichental as he retraces his wartime experiences. Supported by relevant archival footage, the film provides a moving and informative account of the Holocaust as experienced by one survivor and his family.

This story is so important, it must be told.

Oliver Donohoe, Producer of the documentary



This photo shows three generations of Tomi's family taken in 1934, before he was born.

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Contents of CD of teaching materials

The accompanying CD contains: expanded glossary, worksheets, resources and teaching notes that correspond to the lessons in the handbook.

Additional notes on: Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps.

Exemplar lesson 1: Historical context of the Holocaust in Slovakia

Maps and student worksheets on CD of teaching materials

Aim:

To introduce the students to the information which will contribute to a contextualized understanding of the documentary.

Materials:

- **Teaching notes:** Glossary of Terms
- **Student worksheets** (on CD): Maps of: Czechoslovakia 1933
Partition of Czechoslovakia 1938–39
Slovakia 1942
Charting the sequence of events
Expanded glossary

Suggested procedure:

The students are introduced to the historical context of the documentary through the construction of a display, charting the sequence of events surrounding Tomi Reichental's story.

The display can be created as a small group exercise, in which case, the worksheets need to be cut up. It can also be done as a co-operative exercise involving the entire group, in which case enlarged photocopies of the information cards will be helpful. [These are available for printing on the CD of classroom materials.](#)

Distribute the cards to the students along with the glossary and encourage them to use the glossary to clarify what each piece of information means. When they have read all of the information cards, they should use them to construct their display.

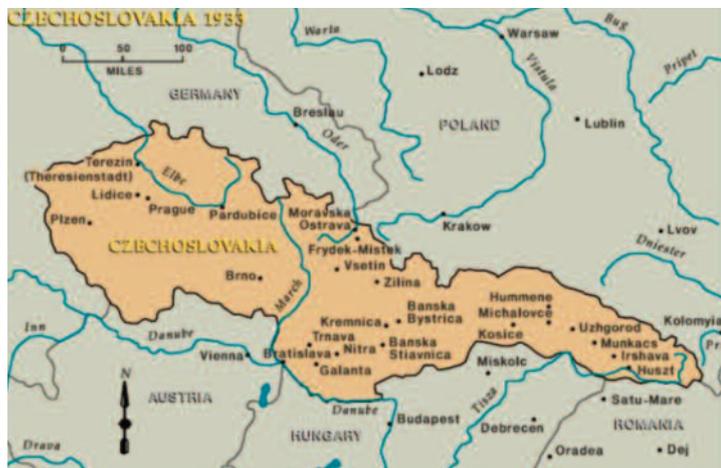
Using this, the teacher can outline the events which form the backdrop to the documentary. To make the connections, the students can then map the events from the documentary. It may be useful to attach post-its to the timeline, identifying where Tomi's story intersects with it. For example, Tomi's father was forced to give up his shop and his land as a result of the anti-Jewish laws, which forced the 'Aryanization' of property in 1939; his grandparents were among those sent to Auschwitz with the first transports.

Please note: The 'sequence of events' relates specifically to the Holocaust in Slovakia. It is not a complete Holocaust timeline. Events in Germany are included where there is a direct link with those in Slovakia: e.g. the 'Jewish Codex' is derived almost completely from anti-semitic legislation in Germany. For a complete Holocaust timeline, please see ['Resources for Holocaust educators'](#), page 26.

Historical context of the Holocaust in Slovakia

Maps on CD

Czechoslovakia came into existence in 1918, at the end of World War I, after the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian state. It comprised the Czech provinces of Bohemia and Slovakia, the province of Subcarpathian Rus and portions of Austrian Silesia. Despite internal tensions, it remained a functioning democracy until the Munich crisis of 1938.



Annexation of the Sudetenland

After the Nazi rise to power in 1933, Germany demanded the return of the Sudetenland, an area on the border of Czechoslovakia with a predominantly ethnic German population. The leaders of Britain, France, Italy and Germany held a conference in Munich on 29–30 September 1938. They agreed to the German annexation of the Sudetenland in exchange for a pledge of peace from Hitler. This became known as the Munich Pact.

The collapse of Czechoslovakia



Following the Munich Pact, the government of Czechoslovakia resigned. The state was re-structured, and re-named Czecho-Slovakia. This arrangement gave significant autonomy to Slovakia. In the autumn of 1938, Hungary annexed territory in southern Slovakia, and Poland annexed the Tešín District of Czech Silesia.

On 15 March 1939, in violation of the Munich Pact, Nazi Germany invaded and occupied the Czech provinces of Bohemia and Moravia.

These provinces became a German protectorate, annexed directly to the Reich.

Slovakia became an independent state under the leadership of a Catholic priest, Jozef Tiso. Tiso and his followers instituted a single-party dictatorship, allied to Germany.

Historical context of the Holocaust in Slovakia

From March 1939, when the independent Slovak state was proclaimed, a number of restrictions were placed on Jews, aimed at ensuring their exclusion from the economic life of the State. In 1940, Slovakia joined the Axis, when its leaders signed the Tripartite Pact. The 'Jewish Codex', which was promulgated in September 1941, contained 270 articles and was based largely on that adopted in Germany. Following a meeting between Tiso and Hitler in October 1941, Slovakia was the first Axis partner to consent to the deportation of its Jewish citizens. According to a census of 15 December 1940, there were 88,950 Jews in Slovakia. The Slovak government agreed to pay 500 Reichsmarks for every Jew deported to the Reich. In all, Slovakia paid 40 million Reichsmarks to the SS for the deportation of its Jews.



At the beginning of March 1942, five assembly points were established where Jews were to be concentrated before deportation. Between March and October, Slovak gendarmes, Slovak military personnel, the Hlinka Guard, and members of the Slovak ethnic German paramilitary formation Freiwillige Schutzstaffel (Volunteer SS), organised the concentration of some 57,000 Slovak Jews in labour and concentration camps at Sered, Novaky, and Vyhne.

The Slovak Jews were then transported to the Polish border or elsewhere in the Reich and handed over to the German SS. The first transport of 999 young Slovak women left for Auschwitz on 26 March 1942. Further transports left regularly. From April onwards, whole families were deported. Almost all of these Jews were murdered in Auschwitz, Majdanek, Sobibor and other death camps located in German-occupied Poland.

Two Slovak Jews, Alfred Wetzler and Walter Rosenberg (alias Rudolf Vrba) escaped from Auschwitz in the spring of 1944 and brought first-hand reports of the fate of the Jews. Their reports were sent to England, the United States and the Vatican via the Papal Nuncio. Under pressure from Rome, Tiso halted the deportation of the remaining Slovak Jews.

Several thousand Slovak Jews survived in hiding in the forests, and many joined the partisans.

In all, the German and Slovak authorities deported approximately 70,000 Slovak Jews. More than 60,000 of them were murdered.

Slovakia was liberated by the Soviet army following the fall of Bratislava on 4 April 1945.

Maps by kind permission of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, www.ushmm.org

Glossary

An expanded description of these terms is in the glossary on the CD of materials

Please note: This glossary does not aim to be exhaustive. It focuses on the information necessary for an understanding of the documentary. (See additional notes on CD of materials)

Auschwitz – Located at Oświęcim, west of Krakow, in German-occupied Poland, this was the largest combined concentration, labour and death camp established by the Nazis. (See additional notes on CD of materials)

Axis – The three principal partners in the Axis Alliance were Germany, Italy and Japan. Slovakia, Romania and Hungary later joined the Axis Alliance.

Bergen-Belsen – Originally established in northern Germany as a Soviet POW camp and as a prisoner exchange camp. It became a concentration camp in 1943. (See additional notes on CD of materials)

Buchenwald – Established in 1937 and functioned as a slave labour camp during the war.

Concentration Camp – A camp in which people are detained or confined, usually under harsh conditions.

Czechoslovakia – Czechoslovakia came into existence in 1918, after the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

Death Camps – Six camps were established by the Nazis on Polish soil specifically as death camps.

Displaced Persons – commonly called DPs – usually refers to refugees from Eastern Europe at the end of World War II.

Hlinka Guard – Slovakia's State Police.

Munich Pact of 1938 – A settlement reached in Munich on 30 September 1938, by leaders of Germany, France, Great Britain and Italy, to allow German annexation of the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia.

National Socialists – The National Socialist German Workers' Party. Generally referred to as **Nazis**.

Nuremberg Laws – These laws, announced on 15 September 1935, defined Jews in terms of race and revoked many of their civil and political rights.

Reichsmark – referred to in the documentary as 'German marks' – the German monetary unit.

Righteous Among the Nations – referred to in the documentary as 'Righteous Gentiles' – Non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust.

Slovakia – An independent state, which came into being following the break-up of Czechoslovakia in 1939.

Slovak Jewish Codex – A series of 270 laws, passed in September 1941, which declared that Jews were no longer citizens of Slovakia, and removed many of their civil and political rights.

Sudetenland – A border area of Czechoslovakia with a largely ethnic German population.

Tiso, Josef – President of the Independent Slovak Republic from 1939 to 1945.