

# GHETTOS IN THE HOLOCAUST



A 90' film

Written and directed by Barbara Necek



Unlike a widely held belief, it was not at the Wannsee Conference in January 1942 that the extermination of the Jews was decided, but long before. This idea had been haunting the minds of the leaders since 1938 without having been formulated directly. In order not to shock public opinion, the regime's high dignitaries chose to accustom their subordinates to this funereal idea in a progressive way: first by a series of anti-Semitic laws that excluded the Jews from society, then by the decision to lock them up in ghettos.

From the outset, the ghettos were seen as a temporary measure, to give the leaders in Berlin time to find solutions to achieve the final goal they had set themselves: to exterminate the Jews of Europe. But their role goes far beyond the temporary solution... The 2.000 ghettos will be part of the logic of killing in a perennial way, taking the life of at least 800.000 Jews.

This new historical perspective on the chronology of the Shoah allows us to consider the ghettos in a new light: these spaces have been an integral part of the Holocaust and its macabre process from the beginning.



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