

The Holocaust year by year

1946 Justice at Nuremberg: video transcript

Twelve million murders; two thirds of the Jews in Europe exterminated; more than 6 million on the killers' own figures. Murder conducted like some mass production industry in the gas chambers and ovens of Auschwitz, Dachau, Treblinka, Buchenwald, Mauthausen, Majdanek and Oranienburg.

For such crimes these men might well have been proceeded against by summary executive action and had the treatment which they had been parties to meting out against so many millions of innocent people been meted out to them they could hardly have complained. But this tribunal is to adjudge their guilt not on any moral or ethical basis alone but according to law. That natural justice which demands that these crimes should not go unpunished at the same time insists that no individual should be punished unless patient and careful examination of the facts shows he shared the guilt for what has been done.

And so during these many months this tribunal has been investigating the facts and has now to apply the law in order both that justice may be done to these individuals as to their countless victims and also that the world may know that in the end the predominance of power will be driven out and law and justice shall govern the relations between states.