

Concentration Camps from the Perspective of both Prisoners and the SS

This study day examines survivors' reports against the background of data on the history of concentration and extermination camps. The key information revealed by these reports, the difficulty in conveying such experiences, and the different ways of communicating these experiences are discussed.

Points

- The history and system of concentration and extermination camps
- Key dates in the history of the camps
- Prisoner categories
- Selection and extermination process in the diaries and recollections of the perpetrators
- Prisoners' experiences
- Communicating experiences: written reports, audio interviews, video recordings
- Life after survival

Methods

- Looking at photos and eliciting associations and questions
- Topic-related guided tour of the permanent exhibition
- Illustrated talk on the National Socialist camp system
- Listening to reports by survivors and recorded eyewitness interviews
- Short presentation of survivor biographies
- Presentation and discussion of selected passages from survivors' reports
- Comparison and discussion of different forms of communication

This study day can assist with preparations for a visit to a concentration camp memorial site. Historical descriptions and support material can be selected to refer specifically to the site to be visited.
