

1938

ERINNERUNG  
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## THE VIENNA PROJECT POLITICAL SYSTEMS: NATIONAL SOCIALISM IN VIENNA

### Site 1: Palais Rothschild, Eichmann's Central Office for Jewish Emigration Prinz- Eugen-Straße 20-22, 1040 Wien



This spot was the location of the Palais (Albert) Rothschild, of the famous Jewish banking family. The building was “aryanized” by the Nazis after the “Anschluss” and in August 1938, Adolf Eichmann opened the “Central Office for Jewish Emigration”, which operated until the “Final Solution” was implemented in 1942. The office used bureaucratic processes to emigrate thousands of Jews as quickly as possible, while making sure that their property and money remained in Austria.

#### Questions to Consider

How did the Central Office for Jewish Emigration work? Describe the process and the goals of the organization.

Why did the Nazis want to make sure that they controlled the process of Jewish emigration, instead of just letting Jews leave?

Who was Adolf Eichmann? What was his role during the Holocaust?

This building used to belong to Baron von Rothschild. How was it taken from him in 1938, and what happened to the building after WWII?

**Site 2: The Chinese Consulate General (Dr. Feng Shan Ho, First Secretary)**  
Beethovenplatz 2, 1010 Wien

In the first couple of years after the Anschluss, the annexation of Austria, various persecuted groups still had the hope of being able to escape abroad, as long they could pay the Reich emigration taxes. It was of course necessary to first get a visa to a foreign country. This particular building was the seat of the Chinese Consulate, from where Consul Feng Shan Ho (1901-1997) was able to save thousands of people to whom he issued visas to Shanghai, against the instructions from his superiors.

**Questions to Consider**

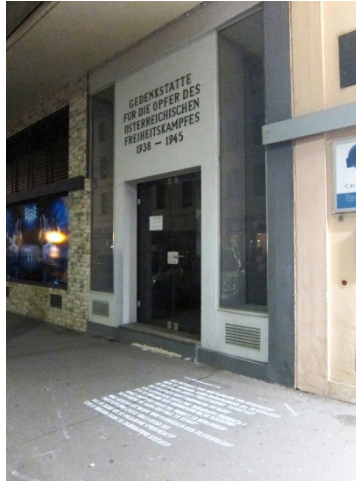
What were some of the steps that people had to go through before they could leave the country?

Where did refugees emigrate to? How willing were other countries to accept refugees? (ex. Look at the Évian Conference of 1938, where nations met to discuss how to respond to the increasing number of Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi-occupied Europe)

Who was Dr. Feng Shang Ho? What does it mean to be named “Righteous Among the Nations”, and why was Dr. Ho given that title?

Why didn't all Jews, Roma and Sinti, and other targeted peoples simple leave Austria after the Nazis annexed the country? What were some of the reasons that people did not/could not emigrate?

**Site 3: Morzinplatz--Hotel Metropol (Gestapo Leitstelle Wien/  
Gestapo Headquarters in Vienna)**  
Salztorgasse 6, 1010 Wien



The Hotel 'Metropol', which was originally owned by a Jewish man from Berlin, was confiscated by the Nazis and from 1938 served as the Gestapo headquarters in Vienna. The Gestapo investigated, spied on, interrogated, and tortured anyone perceived to be "potentially dangerous" to the Nazi State. The entrance for prisoners was on Salztorgasse—prisoners were often tortured for weeks on end, and many died, committed suicide, or were sent to concentration camps after being interrogated.

### Questions to Consider

Who worked in the Viennese Gestapo headquarters? Where did the employees come from?

What were the responsibilities of the Gestapo? What duties did they carry out? Which actions did they have the right to take against people they suspected?

Who did the Gestapo target? Who were their victims?

A lot of Gestapo information came from "private **denunciations**" (Brandmarkungen) which were tips and reports made against people by their neighbors/friends/coworkers/families/etc. What were some of the reasons that people might denounce other people that they knew?

**Site 4: Morzinplatz Memorial**  
1010 Wien

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The headquarters of the Viennese Gestapo were located in the former Hotel Metropol on Morzinplatz from 1938 to 1945. The Federation of Concentration Camp Survivors (KZ-Verband) first **erected** (aufgestellt) a memorial stone in April 1951 without permission from the City of Vienna, which later accepted the monument as official. The memorial stone was replaced by the current monument in 1985.

**Questions to Consider**

Describe the memorial. What does the text say? Who does the monument commemorate? What materials is it made out of? Who is the figure in the center, and who does he represent?

There are two symbols on the top of the memorial—a red triangle and a yellow six-sided star. Who do those symbols represent? What is their connection to Nazi symbolism?

Which groups that suffered interrogation from the Gestapo are NOT represented on this monument? Why do you think that is the case?

In 1990 the Morzinplatz memorial was vandalized. Describe what happened and the response from the public. Why do you think this event took place?

**Site 5: Wiener Landesgericht /Tribunal of Vienna**  
Langesgerichtsstrasse 11, 1080 Wien



From 1938 to 1945, the Tribunal of Vienna was the seat of National Socialist court justice in Vienna, and was responsible for persecuting, imprisoning, and executing thousands of “enemies of the state”. Some of these convictions, such as sentences against homosexual men and women, stayed on the victim’s criminal record even after WWII ended. During the time of National Socialist rule, the Land court (equiv. to State court) of Vienna was responsible for the execution of 1,184 persons. The court, during that time, was directly responsible to the Reich ministry of justice in Berlin.

Questions to Consider

Who were some of the people/victim groups who were charged here? Who were some of the victims of execution? What were their “crimes”?

What did the judges working in the courts do when the Nazis introduced new laws to Austria? Did any of the judges protest?

What happened to the judges who worked in the court after WWII ended? Were any of them charged with crimes, or did they continue to work? Why is this the case?

Do you think that judges following Nazi legal guidelines deserved to be punished? Were they just doing their jobs? What do you think?

**Site 6: Justizanstalt Josefstadt/Prison Josefstadt**  
Wickenburggasse 18, 1080 Wien



The Judicial facility Vienna-Josefstadt was and still is attached to the Land Court Vienna. The Vienna-Jopsefstadt facility was infamous for being the location of execution of political prisoners. After moving into the prison in 1938, one of the first things the Nazis did was create an execution space with a guillotine sent from Berlin. During the time of National Socialist rule, the Land court (equiv. to State court) of Vienna was responsible for the execution of 1,184 persons. Among them were 537 political death sentences of civilians, 67 beheadings of military personnel, 49 other war-related proceedings, and 31 criminal cases.

**Questions to Consider**

Who were some of the people/victim groups who were charged here? Who were some of the victims of execution? What were their “crimes”?

Are there any examples of specific people who went through the prison and their stories? Find one or two examples to share with your classmates.

There is a memorial to the execution victims in the Prison Josefstadt. Describe the memorial and who it commemorates. Who organized the memorial and when?