



After the Holocaust

Survivors and Refugees. 1944 – 1947

Exhibition / films and discussions

27 January to 30 October 2016

Exhibition prolonged until November 20

After. After the catastrophe. Returning to a normal life barely seemed possible for the Jews of Europe who somehow survived the Holocaust against all odds. Although victims of a specific persecution, their fate was just one problem among many on a continent in ruins.

This bilingual exhibition featuring archival documents, films and nearly 250 photographs — most of them from the collections of the Mémorial de la Shoah — sheds light on the diversity of situations in the general chaos as Europe emerged from war. Refugees, camp survivors, hidden children and members of the Resistance aspired to be reunited with their loved ones, to return home or find shelter, to imagine a new life. Who could they turn to for help? Where could they turn to seek justice? How could they preserve the remnants of a vanished world and collect evidence of the crime that had been committed against them?

The first thing that comes to mind when we think of the period immediately after the Holocaust is searing images of the newly opened camps. But the months from late July 1944, when the first camp was liberated by the Soviets, to autumn 1947, the eve of Israel's independence, are a historical period in their own right. Uncertainty prevailed everywhere, especially the three countries that are the exhibition's main focus. **In Poland**, over half the refugees returning from the USSR and most of the few survivors left a country that was hostile to them. **In Allied-occupied Germany**, around 250 000 Jewish refugees fleeing Eastern Europe found themselves in camps opened up to take in millions of "displaced persons" awaiting the possibility to emigrate to a country willing to accept them. **In France**, most Jews were out of danger by September 1944. Most of the country had been liberated by then, but the road back to a new life was often long and hard. No sooner had the war ended than France had to cope with an influx of two very vulnerable Jewish populations: the camps' few survivors and numerous refugees from Central and Eastern Europe.

Mutual aid, solidarity and support from Jewish organisations, especially American ones, helped decimated Jewish communities rebuild religious, cultural and political institutions. With testimonies and documents collected during and just after the war, they produced the first accounts and compiled a "first memory". **The years 1944-47 were a time when Jewish survivors sought to take their destinies back into their own hands.**

Curators:

Henry Rousso, (CNRS) with Laure Fourtage and Julia Maspero (Paris 1), Constance Pâris de Bollardière (EHESS) and Simon Perego (IEP Paris).

Mémorial de la Shoah

17, rue Geoffroy-l'Asnier - 75004 Paris
Phone: 01 42 77 44 72
Metro: Saint-Paul or Hôtel-de-Ville
Free admission

Open every day except Saturday from
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and until 10 p.m.
on Thursday
www.memorialdelashoah.org



Polish survivors alighting from a train, Nachod, Czechoslovakia, 1945. Yad Vashem.

Photo: Arthur Zegart.

Around the exhibition

A series of screenings and panel discussions with many historians, specialists, witnesses and filmmakers in attendance will begin on 28 January. There will also be free guided tours on certain Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., an exhibition catalogue and a dedicated website.

Press contact

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#AfterTheHolocaust