



Chelmno:

Experiment in Murder

The Nazi Need for “Death Camps”

- August 1941 = Himmler’s visit to Minsk
 - Uneasy about executions
 - Ineffective
 - Psychologically damaging to Germans
- SS encouraged to explore options
 - Arthur Nebe (1894-1945) and dynamite
- November 1941 = first gas vans at Sachsenhausen
 - Deployed to Eastern Front



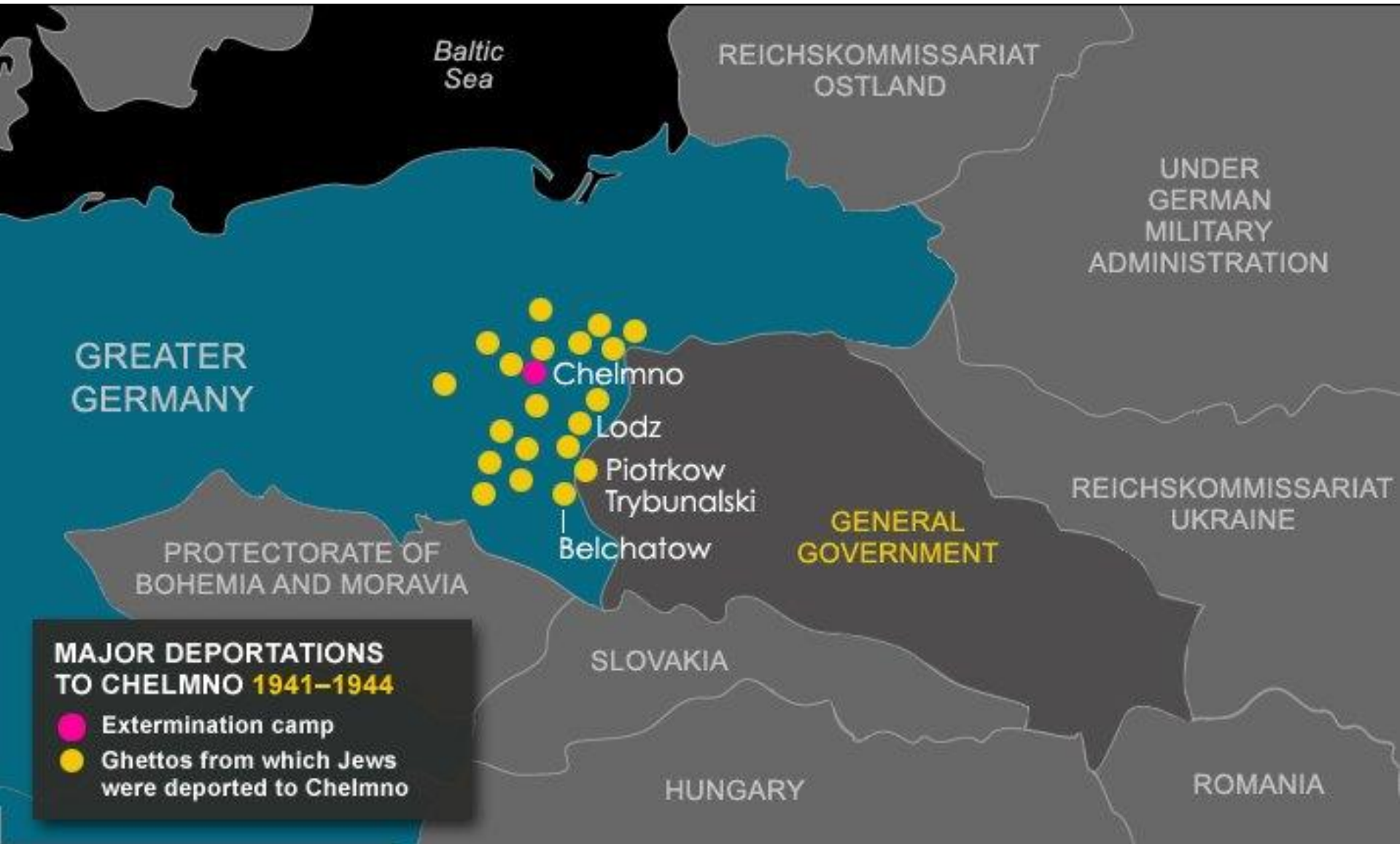
Chelmno, Death Camp

EXTERMINATION CAMPS IN OCCUPIED POLAND 1942



- Extermination Camps
- Poland 1939 Boundary
- Pre German-Soviet Pact





Chelmno, Death Camp

- German name = Kulmhof
- First camp to use poison gas for mass murder
- Used to exterminate Jews in surrounding region
 - Particularly focused on Łódź ghetto and Wartheland



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- Killed people with gas vans



Operations at Chelmno

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 - 8 Dec. = first killings
- Most victims were Jews
 - But also ca. 5000 Austrian gypsies
 - Some POWs and Poles
- Ca. 320,000 killed
 - Only seven known survivors
- March 1943 = transports to Chelmno stopped



Chelmno Re-opens (Summer 1944)

- June-July 1944 = killings resume
 - Liquidation of Łódź ghetto
- After July 1944, Jews deported to Auschwitz
- September 1944 = group of Jews forced to exhume and cremate bodies
 - Use of “grilles”



Death Toll at Death Camps

- Auschwitz = ca. 1,100,000 killed
- Treblinka = 900,000 killed
- Belzec = 600,000 killed
- Majdanek = 360,000 killed
- Chelmno = 320,000 killed
- Sobibor = 250,000 killed
- TOTAL = 3-3.5 million Jews killed *in the camps*

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