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**Memorium Nürnberger Prozesse**

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**Memorial Nuremberg Trials  
 Overall Concept of Permanent Exhibition, Scientific Advisory  
 Committee**

**Documentation exhibition, authentic historical location  
 and venue for contemporary jurisdiction**

On 21 November, 2010, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Free State of Bavaria and the City of Nuremberg will open the Memorial Nuremberg Trials – in the location which was the venue for the International Military Tribunal’s trial of the main war criminals of the Nazi regime. This new institution of *museen der stadt nürnberg* (Nuremberg Municipal Museums) provides new access to the world-famous Court Room 600 in the Nuremberg Palace of Justice.

The **documentation exhibition** gives a vivid description of the history leading up to this international trial, of its course and its repercussions. Here, for the first time, individuals had to answer personally for their crimes against international law. Across an area of 750 square metres, the unique historical trial is illustrated by comprehensive photographic, word, film and sound documents. The design was inspired by a photograph from the time of the "Trials of the Main War Criminals" showing secretaries surrounded by a paper mountain of minutes and translations. The exhibition panels are backlit parallelograms tilting in different directions which appear to float like translucent sheets of paper.

Court Room 600 in the Nuremberg Palace of Justice is an **authentic historical location**, and has also remained a **venue for contemporary jurisdiction**. Capital crimes in particular are tried in this court room by a "Schwurgericht" (criminal court with 3 professional and 2 lay judges). The dramatic highlight of exhibition tours – exclusively on days when the court is not in session – will be a visit to Court Room 600 itself. If the court room is in use, window openings will still allow a view of the court room, unless the judge or any party to the trial objects.



### **The Documentation Exhibition**

The exhibition space provided for the permanent exhibition comprises four rooms on the attic floor above Court Room 600. The first and largest room (350 square meters) will be dedicated to the trial of the main war criminals by the International Military Tribunal (IMT) of 1945/46. Apart from the genesis of the trial, its course and outcome, those involved in the trial are introduced. Short biographies provide information about the role of the 23 defendants in the National Socialist hierarchy, and the crimes for which they were indicted.

In addition, the first room will explain the special legal aspects of the trial. This includes information about the Anglo-American legal traditions on which the trials were based and on the importance of the trial of the main war criminals as a legal first – the first time in world history that individuals were sentenced on the basis of international law.

The three smaller adjacent rooms will present examples of the follow-up trials which were also held in Nuremberg, as well as further legal proceedings dealing with the Nazi regime. This section will also describe the development started in Nuremberg which eventually led from the Nuremberg Trials to an International Criminal Court. The first ad-hoc criminal tribunal for former Yugoslavia was established in 1993. The International Criminal Court has existed as a permanent institution in The Hague since 2003.

### **Media Become Documents of History**

The IMT left a wealth of material: meticulously collected evidence and the Allied powers' film and sound recordings which documented the trial, all of which served as the basis for the exhibition. Text panels, supplemented by numerous illustrations give an insight into the trials' context, and excerpts from film and sound archives create a very vivid impression of the trial proceedings. Audio-guides in English and German make it possible to integrate original sound sources. In addition media terminals provide further comprehensive information. This gives visitors the opportunity to obtain in-depth information which builds on the exhibition content.



## **museen** der stadt nürnberg

### **Scientific Advisory Committee**

A scientific advisory committee oversaw the development of the exhibition content.

Members:

Prof. Dr. Manfred Görtemaker

Chair for Modern History, Historical Seminar at the University of Potsdam

Dr. Matthias Henkel

Director *Nuremberg Municipal Museums*

Prof. Dr. Klaus Kastner

Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg

Dr. Peter März

Bavarian State Centre for Political Education

Prof. Dr. Christoph Safferling

Institute for Criminology and Institute for Comparative Law, Philipps University Marburg

Dr. Wolfgang Stäbler

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### **Opening Times**

Wednesday to Monday 10 a.m. -6 p.m.

Closed on Tuesdays

(Further Information under “Visitor Service”)

