

The War Begins

Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact

- 23 August 1939
- German-Soviet neutrality pact
- Agree to carve up Poland
 - Germany gets western Poland
 - USSR gets eastern Poland, Baltic republics
- Germany invades 1 September

Invasion

- Demanded “Polish corridor” to German territories, Danzig
- Without declaration of war
- German tanks vs. Polish cavalry
- *Blitzkrieg*, „lightning war”
- Poles surrendered on 27 September
- Poland redivided between Germans and Soviets

GERMAN INVASION OF POLAND SEPTEMBER 1, 1939



Invasion Routes

- Greater Germany
- Soviet Union

Berlin
GREATER GERMANY
German forces invaded Poland September 1, 1939

Soviet Union occupied Eastern Poland September 17, 1939



Cast of Characters

- Heinrich Himmler: commander of the SS
- Reinhard Heydrich: head of Reich Security Main Office (RSHA), chair of Wannsee conference
 - Reports to Himmler
- Hans Frank: Governor-General of occupied Poland
- Hermann Goering: 2nd in command, commander of Luftwaffe (air force)
- Joseph Goebbels: Hitler's propaganda minister

Polish Territories

- *Lebensraum*: “living space”
- Areas belonging to Germany before 1918, other areas with significant German population become part of the German Reich
- Other Polish areas under occupation become part of the General Government (*Generalgouvernement*) under Hans Frank

Polish Jewry

- 3.3 million Jews in Poland by 1939
- Overwhelmingly poor
 - 1/3 of Jewish families received assistance for the High Holidays from Jewish communal organizations
 - Concentrated commerce, cottage industry
 - Many Jews under- or unemployed
- Anti-Semitism before the war



23 November 1939:
Jews must wear Star
of David



Krakow, 1 March 1940: Tram segregation



Why Ghettoize Jews?

- Easy access to Jews for future plans
 - Labor and deportations
 - Jews concentrated in places with access to rail lines
- Emigration of Jews seems to be first plan
- Resettlement in “the East”—Lublin or Russian territories—another possibility
 - Jewish “reservations”
- Madagascar Plan

Establishing Ghettos

- 21 September 1939: Heydrich orders the concentration of Jews in large towns
 - Jews in communities of 500 or less required to move to established concentration points
- A Jewish Council (Judenrat) to be established in each ghetto
 - Up to 24 Jewish Men
 - Fully responsible for complying with Nazi directives

Conditions in the Ghettos

- Located in pre-existing slums
- Non-Jews living there relocated
- Overcrowding: 15.1 people per apartment, 6.7 people per room
- Unsanitary conditions
- Epidemics
- Intended to kill as many Jews as possible

GHETTOS IN OCCUPIED EUROPE 1939-1944



1944 INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES



ATLANTIC OCEAN



SPAIN (Neutral)

-  Ghettos Established 1939-May 1941
-  Ghettos Established June 1941-1943
-  Ghettos Established 1944
-  German-Occupied
-  German Ally
-  Liberated/Allies

Front Line January 1944

OCCUPIED EASTERN TERRITORY

Black Sea

Mediterranean Sea

GHETTOS IN OCCUPIED EASTERN EUROPE 1941-1942



★ Select Ghettos



Relocation to the Warsaw Ghetto





Ghetto Walls, Warsaw



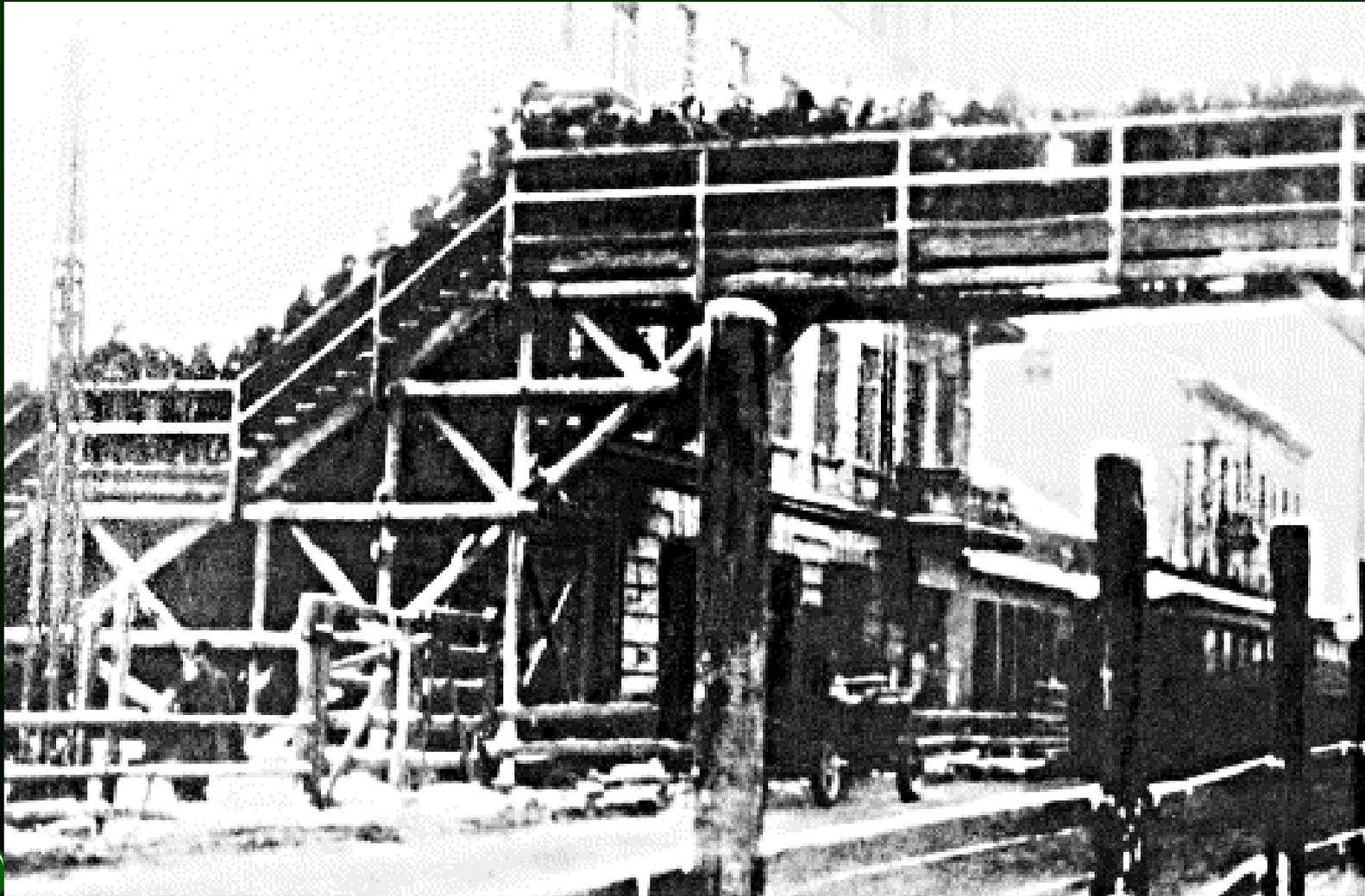




Jewish Police Officer, Warsaw Ghetto



Bridge in the Warsaw Ghetto



Ghetto Money

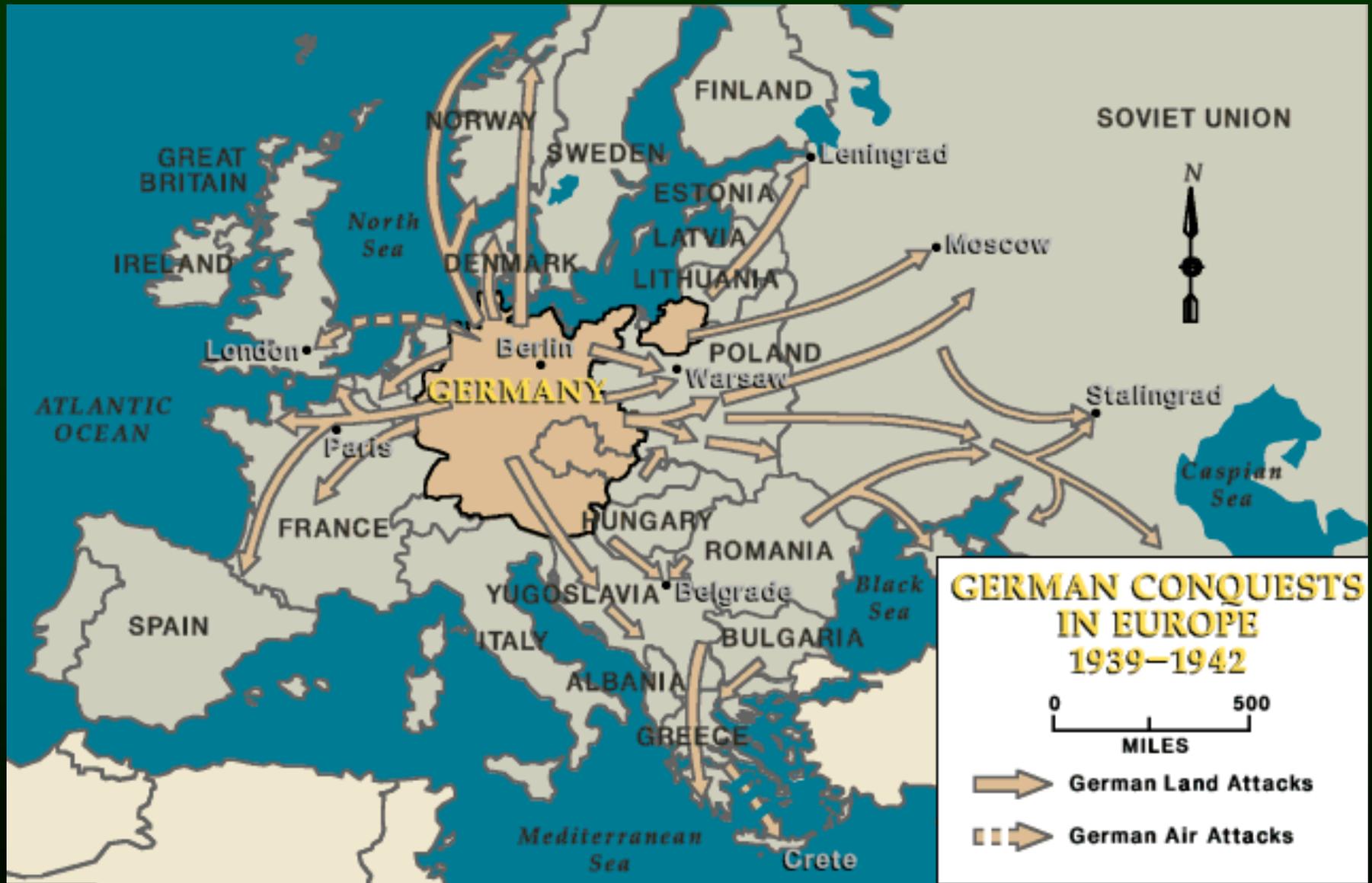


Cultural Activities in the Ghetto

- Education was illegal for Jews by the end of 1942, but secret schools continued in the ghetto
 - High school classes, university courses, vocational ed
- Orchestras
- Religious life: banned by Nazis
- Underground press

Operation Barbarossa

Invasion of the Soviet Union



GERMAN CONQUESTS IN EUROPE 1939-1942

0 500
MILES

-  German Land Attacks
-  German Air Attacks

Invasion

- 22 June 1941
- War becomes a 2-front war for Germany
- Stalin unprepared for war
- Hitler expected a quick victory
- Soviet “scorched earth” policy

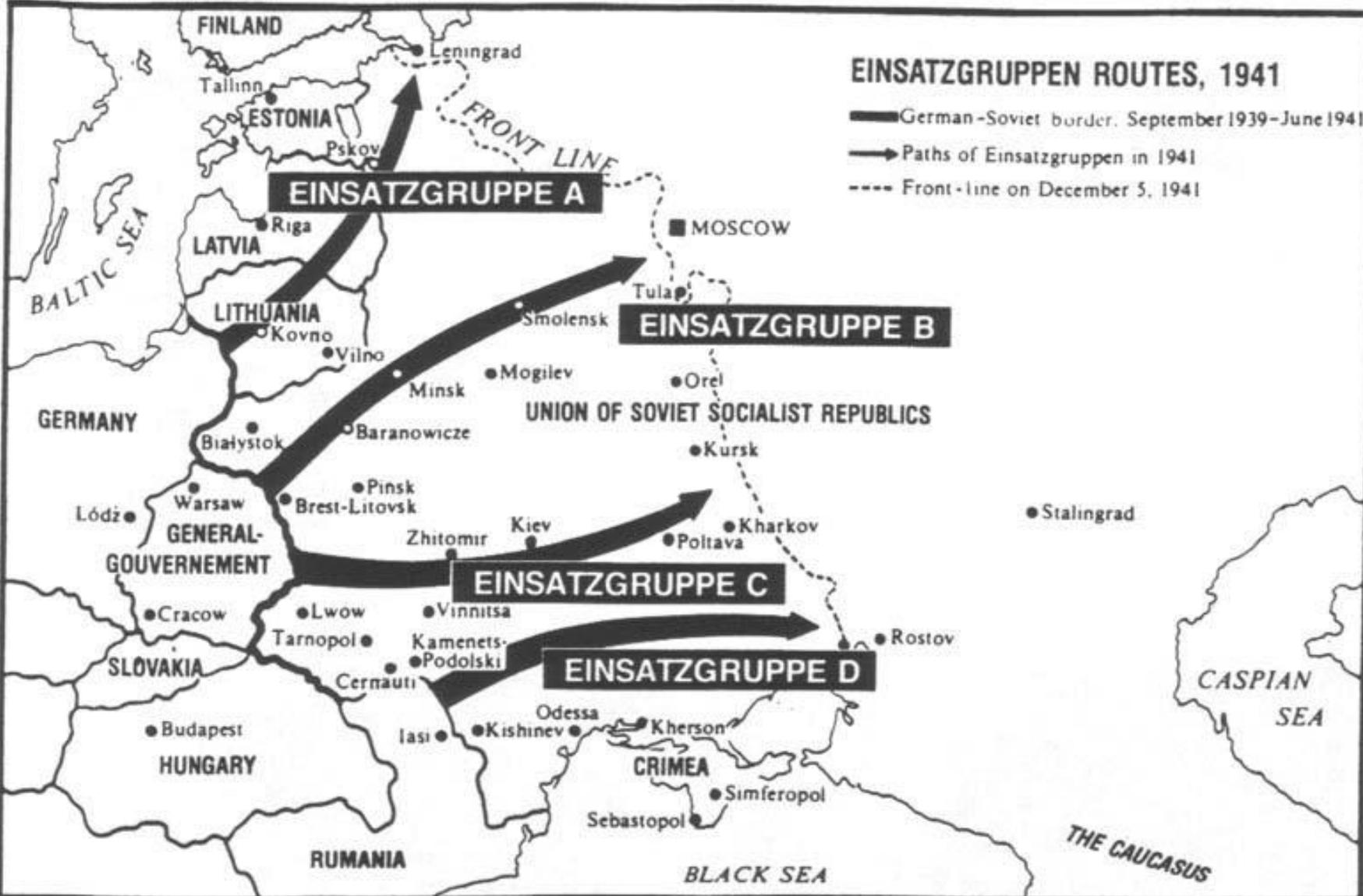


Einsatzgruppen

- “Special-Duty Groups” under Heydrich
- Originally part of A-B Aktion, killing Polish intellectuals and political enemies of the Reich
- After invasion of USSR in 1941, used to eliminate “undesirables,” including communists, Roma, and Jews
- 4 main groups: A, B, C, and D

EINSATZGRUPPEN ROUTES, 1941

- German-Soviet border. September 1939–June 1941
- Paths of Einsatzgruppen in 1941
- - - Front-line on December 5, 1941



Einsatzgruppen Operations

- Order those to be murdered to gather in a central location
- Taken to an open, isolated area
- Forced to undress
- Lined up along a ditch or natural pit
- Shot

Babi Yar



Mobile Killing Units

- Mid-August 1941: Himmler realizes that killing is taking its toll on the soldiers
- Gas vans: exhaust piped into the sealed interior
- Gas vans tried out in Mauthausen and Sachsenhausen concentration camps, used in Chelmno

Wannsee Conference

- 20 January 1942
- A meeting to determine the “Final Solution” to the Jewish Question
- The entire bureaucracy became involved in the extermination of Jews
- SS in control of all operations under Heydrich

Auschwitz

- Established in 1940 as a concentration camp for Poles, later Soviet POWs
- Became a death camp for Jews in 1942
- About 1.5 million Jews killed in Auschwitz
- Gassing occurred using Zyklon B
 - 5 gas chambers disguised as shower rooms
 - Gas was dropped in through a pipe from the outside

MAJOR DEPORTATIONS TO AUSCHWITZ 1941-1944



At least 1.1 million people were killed at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Cities and Camps from which Jews were Deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

- Cities or Places
- Transit Camps

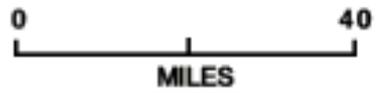
German Reich & Occupied Territories

German-Allied or Dependent States



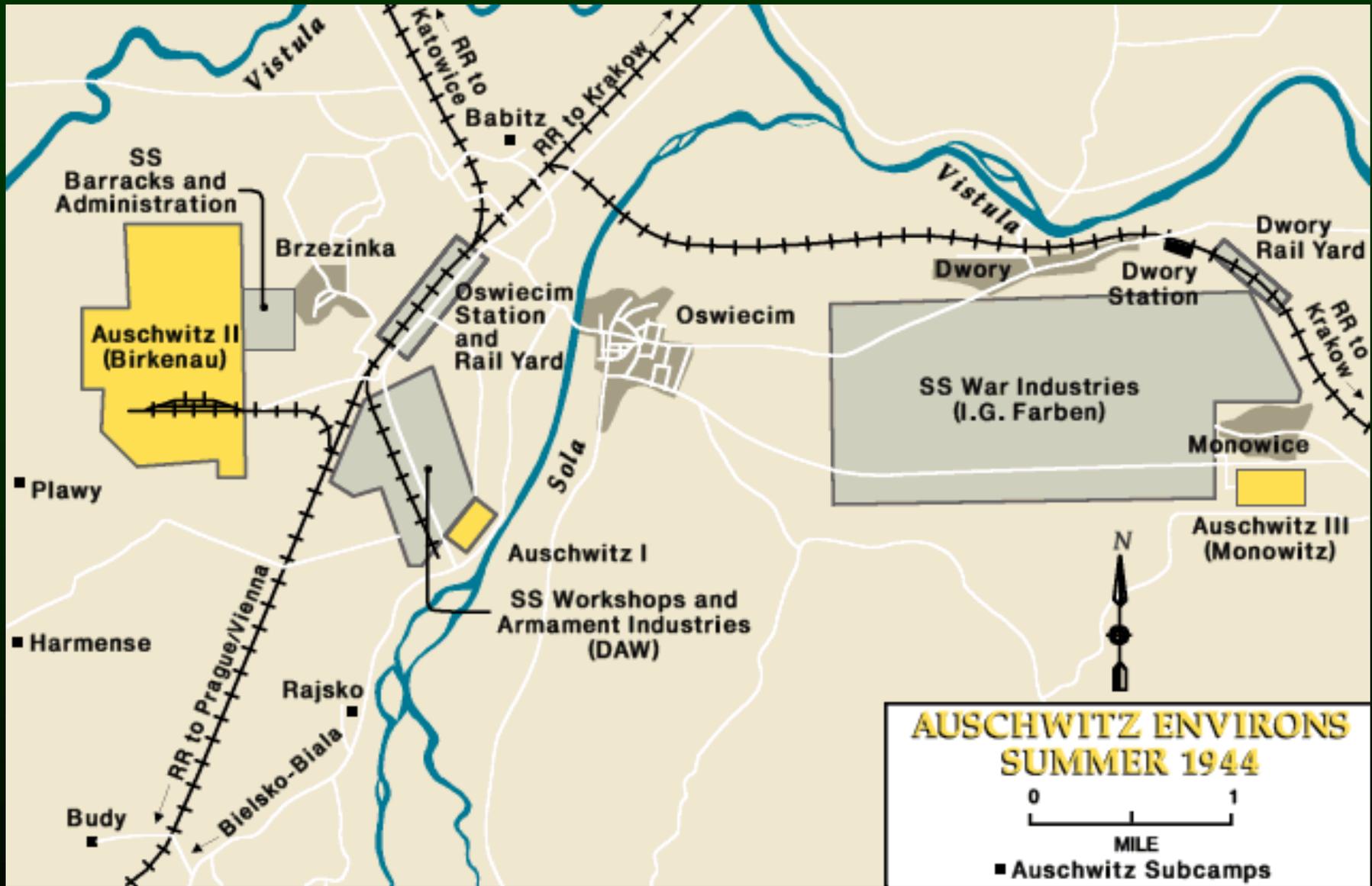
Because of map scale, not all sites or camps can be shown or labeled.

AUSCHWITZ SUBCAMP SYSTEM UPPER SILESIA 1941-1945

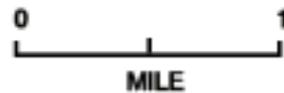


Open squares represent major subcamps of Auschwitz.
Because of map scale, not all camps can be shown or labeled.





AUSCHWITZ ENVIRONS SUMMER 1944



■ Auschwitz Subcamps

Zyklon B

- An insecticide
- Contains: Prussic acid (hydrocyanic acid), stabilizer
- Patent holder: I.G. Farben
- First tests of Zyklon B:
 - 250 Roma children in Buchenwald (early 1940)
 - 600 Soviet POWs in Auschwitz I (September 1941)

