

## Never Forget Nuremberg Series: Introduction

By Jim Myers

The history of Nuremberg contains stories about people and events that have – and still are – influencing the lives of people in many other countries. Many of the people and events in Nuremberg were influenced by people from other countries – *and events of nature*. I will be focusing on **Nuremberg between 1900 – 1949 CE**.

This series is about things that happened in Nuremberg between 1050 and 1949. They reveal extremes in human behaviors at that place during those times. **The stories provide valuable insights for identifying signs of those behaviors and ways to prevent similar behaviors from happening in our world**. However, you should also be aware of important events between 1050 and that are given below.

1. From **1050 to 1572 CE**, Nuremberg expanded and rose dramatically in importance **due to its location on key trade-routes**. **Nuremberg** and **Augsburg** became the two **great trade-centers on the route from Italy to Northern Europe**.
2. In 1144 the origin of the **blood libel** took place in Norwich, England. A dead body was found in the forest outside the town of Norwich. No one paid much attention to it at first. England was in the middle of a civil war. In East Anglia, where Norwich is located, the war was particularly violent. The large library in Norwich was burned; a kidnapping ring terrorized the surrounding area. It wasn't unusual for dead bodies to turn up without much explanation. So when a peasant came across a corpse in the forest underbrush one day, he simply avoided it and continued on with his chores. The body was that of a young man named **William of Norwich**, and **the debate over his death eventually became the basis for one of the most heinous and lasting accusations against the Jews: that they conspired to kill children and use their blood for religious rites**. It became a mainstay of anti-Semitic thought and a justification for atrocious crimes against Jews in the Middle Ages and beyond.
3. A series of **blood libels** took place in **Mainz** (1281, 1283), **Munich** (1285), **Oberwesel** (1287), and **Paris** (1290).
4. In 1298, Rindfleisch a German knight, was the instigator of **blood libels** that resulted in **the massacre of thousands of Jews in 146 localities** in southern and central Germany. In Nuremberg **698 Jews were killed**.
5. In 1349, Nuremberg's **Jews suffered a pogrom**. They were **burned at the stake or expelled**, and a marketplace was built over the former Jewish quarter.
6. In 1356, **Charles IV** issued the **Golden Bull**, which named Nuremberg as the city where **newly elected kings of Germany must hold their first Imperial Diet** (Latin: *Dieta Imperii* or *Comitium Imperiale*; German: **Reichstag**). It was the deliberative body of the Holy Roman Empire. It was not a legislative body in the contemporary sense; *its*

*members envisioned it more like a central forum where it was more important to negotiate than to decide.*

7. The plague returned to Nuremberg in 1405, 1435, 1437, 1482, 1494, 1520, and 1534.
8. In the 1520's **secularization of the monasteries** began.
9. In 1525 Nuremberg accepted the **Protestant Reformation**.
10. In 1532 the **Nuremberg Religious Peace** was signed there, preventing war between Lutherans and Catholics for 15 years.
11. From 1618 to 1648, Central Europe was involved in the **Thirty Years' War**. An estimated 4.5 to 8 million soldiers and civilians died as a result of battle, famine, and disease, while some areas of what is now modern **Germany experienced population declines of over 50%**.
12. Between 1740 and 1748, the **War of the Austrian Succession** was a European conflict that took place. Fought primarily in Central Europe, the Austrian Netherlands, Italy, the Atlantic and Mediterranean, related conflicts included **King George's War** in North America, the **War of Jenkins' Ear**, the **First Carnatic War** and the **First and Second Silesian Wars**.
13. Between 1756 and 1763, the **Seven Years' War** was a **global conflict** that involved most of the **European great powers**, and was fought primarily in **Europe**, the **Americas**, and **Asia-Pacific**. Other conflicts include **French and Indian War** (1754–1763), **Carnatic Wars** (1744–1763) and **Anglo-Spanish War** (1762–1763).
14. Between 1871 and 1918, the **German Empire** governed **Germany**. It ended when Germany was defeated in World War I. The **German Reich as a Republic** replaced it.
15. From November 9, 1918 to March 23, 1933, Germany was governed by the **Weimar Republic**.
16. January 30, 1933, after the **Nazi Party** won the two general elections of 1932, **Adolph Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany**.
17. On September 15, 1935, the Nazi Party implemented two new laws related to race: **The Reich Citizenship Law** and **The Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor**. These laws informally became known as the **Nuremberg Laws or Nuremberg Race Laws**.
18. May 1945, Adolf Hitler committed suicide and Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz took control of the German government. **Soviet troops** conquered Berlin and accepted **the surrender of Nazi Germany**.
19. Between 1945 and 1949 the **Nuremberg Trials** were held. (**BHC Nuremberg Trials Overview Attachment**).