

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**).