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Das mehrsprachige Webportal publiziert fortlaufend Informationen zur historisch-politischen Bildung in Schulen, Gedenkstätten und anderen Einrichtungen zur Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts. Schwerpunkte bilden der Nationalsozialismus, der Zweite Weltkrieg sowie die Folgegeschichte in den Ländern Europas bis zu den politischen Umbrüchen 1989.

Dabei nimmt es Bildungsangebote in den Fokus, die einen Gegenwartsbezug der Geschichte herausstellen und bietet einen Erfahrungsaustausch über historisch-politische Bildung in Europa an.

"We Had Barely Begun to Live"

Exhibition on the youth concentration camp Moringen and Uckermark, 1940 - 1945

The exhibit on the concentration camp for teenagers and youth in Moringen and Uckermark, entitled "We Had Barely Begun to Live," was conceived as a traveling exhibition, and has been shown all over Germany since 1993. It was produced by Martin Guse, sponsored by the Survivors Association for a Memorial at Moringen, and the Hans Böckler Foundation of the German trade unions. The biographical approach of this exhibit catches young people's interest, and is easy to follow. There are 33 panels that tell this story of boys and girls in the youth concentration camp through photographs, documents, and explanatory text.

The exhibit has five main sections:

- 1 **"Youth under the Nazis"** gives an overview of life for young people during the Nazi period.
- 2 **"Creation and Rationalization"** explains how the camp got started.
- 3 **"Sent to the Youth Concentration Camp"** provides case studies of individual prisoners.
- 4 **"Arrest Conditions"** documents living conditions in the camp, the way it was governed, and the work and punishment system.
- 5 **"1945 to the Present"** discusses the story of this camp after 1945 and the "second guilt" of decades of silence and suppression.

The youth concentration camps in Moringen, near Göttingen, Lower Saxony (1940-1945) and in Uckermark near Fürstenberg in Brandenburg (1942-1945), which until 1991 was part of the German Democratic Republic, belonged to the "forgotten places" of the Nazi period until only recently. Girls were sent to Uckermark and boys to Moringen for political, religious, racial, and social reasons, arrested as "aliens to the community." They were torn from their families and daily lives, and subjected to Nazi terror and forced labor. Nearly 3,000 children over the age of ten were deported to these camps from all parts of Germany and from occupied countries. Welfare authorities, police, youth offices, and juvenile homes used the camps as a chance to get rid of youngsters who displeased them. These camps were widely ignored well into the 1980s. In East Germany, such imprisoned young people were not considered to have been part of the anti-fascist resistance, and therefore were never recognized as victims of fascism. In West Germany, Moringen was not even mentioned in a city chronicle written in the mid-1980s, which described World War II as "the German war of self-determination." Only in 1993 could the exhibit "We Had Just Begun to Live" become part of the permanent displays at the Ravensbrück and Moringen memorials.

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