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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.

The History of the Concentration Camp and Memorial

The Flossenbürg Cemetery and Memorial functions primarily as a graveyard and park-like cemetery. It is not well known as a memorial in West Germany and was previously hidden from the East German and Czech public.

In the town of Flossenbürg, close to the Czech border, the first of the so-called "new generation" of camps was built after April 1938. There, the prisoners, mostly political and ideological opponents of the Nazis, were not only isolated, but were also to be used as cheap labor, including "being worked to death" for Germany's war of conquest. The heaviest physical labor was assigned to prison inmates and those belonging to socially marginal groups (for the Nazis these were so called asocials, the homeless, homosexuals, and Roma and Sinti). After the beginning of war in the East, young men from the Czech Republic, Poland, and the Soviet Union were deported to camps like Flossenbürg or Mauthausen for forced labor. Initially working in the stone quarries, and after 1942 in the armaments industries, these men were driven to their deaths. The concentration camp was also a place of execution for members of the resistance movement in occupied Europe, for the sick, prisoners of war, racially persecuted Jews and "Gypsies," and members of the German military resistance. More than 100,000 men and women were imprisoned and exploited in Flossenbürg and its more than 100 subcamps; more than 30,000 were killed there. A substantial number were killed on so-called "death

marches," just days and hours before liberation by the Allies.

After the war, a preparatory committee of survivors erected a small memorial at the crematorium in the so-called "Valley of Death," just outside the concentration camp. For various reasons, a survivors organization – later called the International Camp Survivors Committee – did not exist at that time. The barracks of the former concentration camp were used by the U.S. Army as a prisoner compound, as housing for "displaced persons," and as homes for German returnees. Over the years, the latter erected private homes where barracks once stood. The Bavarian government rented or sold commercially usable property, such as the stone quarries or the stone barracks at the roll call square, to German businesses.

After 1955 and extensive exhumations of thousands of corpses in eastern Bavaria, a cemetery with anonymous graves was built. Simultaneously, many small memorials and graves in small east Bavarian towns were abandoned. Thereafter, local memory faded steadily. Under international pressure did the Bavarian state government support and develop Dachau as the state's only central memorial.

Apart from occasional visits by western European survivors who came without invitation, there were scarcely any commemorative meetings or events at Flossenbürg. Only on November 9, the anniversary of the November 1938 pogrom, did the German trade union youth organization invite guests to a commemoration.

At the beginning of 1998, it appeared that the efforts, undertaken in close cooperation with survivors, had been successful. The Free State of Bavaria, after many starts and frequently intense disagreements, had finally agreed to an annual survivors' meeting, began to repurchase parts of the former concentration camp terrain, and guaranteed the construction of a research and documentation center. This fulfilled the demands of the project "Regional Memorial Work," and future goals will hopefully be achieved.