

Deportation is the act of expelling a person from one's home.

One of the most horrible aspects of the Holocaust was the deportations of Jews from their home countries. This took place from German-occupied countries, and from states allied with Germany. By giving the Jews these “**choice-less choices**”*, Nazis revealed that their goal was not only to deprive Jews of their human rights, but also their human dignity. This is called ‘dehumanization’.

*These were **the choice-less choice** destinations:*

Choice-less choice 1 - GHETTOS:

At first, Jews were rounded up in closed off sections of a city called the Ghetto. Here Jews had to crowd themselves into single rooms, scavenge for food, and try to survive as best they could. If you had a friend or relative already in the area, they might let you live together in their house. But, if you didn't know anyone, you probably would have to live in the streets. **If you were caught escaping, you were shot. No questions asked.**

Choice-less choice 2 - CATTLE CARS:

From 1942 up until the very end of World War II, trains stuffed with starving Jews rolled throughout Europe herding Jews like cattle (for days without food nor toilets) to unknown destinations. **Starving people do not have strength to rebel.**

Choice-less choice 3-CONCENTRATION/ DEATH CAMPS:

For millions of Jews the **unknown destinations** were overcrowded work camps in Germany or its occupied territories or death camps in Poland where they were murdered off. Because these destinations were unknown, **Jews had no idea they were being sent to extermination camps**, especially since the Germans tried to camouflage their actions.

Most of the time being shot was the only other choice.

* ”Choice-less choice” - a term coined by Holocaust scholar Lawrence Langer to describe the situation where no matter what action one took, the consequence was abnormal and could lead to death.