

<p>a) <b>Victims of Nazi Genocide</b></p> <p>As the German army and Nazi SS advanced into Soviet territory in 1941, it waged a "war of annihilation". Between June 1941 and December 1942, a "Holocaust by bullets" was conducted, as German army soldiers and members of SS "Action Groups" (Einsatzgruppen) rounded up and murdered local Jews. Rather than being murdered in death camps, Soviet Jews were typically shot almost face to face. Of all the mass killings, the largest was at <b>Babi Yar</b> in Ukraine, where 33,771 Jews were shot. By 1944, an estimated 2,200,000 Jews had been murdered by shooting. They were targeted above all other groups by the Nazis, because of their "race".</p>	<p>b) <b>Victims of Collaborators/Nazi Allies</b></p> <p>While the German army and Nazis committed most of the killing of Jews in the occupied USSR, they were helped extensively by local collaborators and countries allied to Nazi Germany. The highly antisemitic <b>Romanian</b> army, in particular, became notorious for its brutality, even irritating Nazi officials who thought that their killings were too disorganised. In Soviet territories including Lithuania and Ukraine, Jews were beaten to death by local antisemitic mobs. They were unique in being targeted not only by the occupying army, but also by their neighbours and fellow citizens.</p>
<p>c) <b>Religious Jews</b></p> <p>Those Jews who were deported from eastern Poland into Russia and Siberia were often far more religiously active than Jews who had lived since 1917 in the Soviet Union – a result of Poland not having had vigorous anti-religious campaigns. As they arrived in Russian and Siberian towns and villages, they helped connect some local Jews with their old religious traditions.</p>	<p>d) <b>Refugees in the USSR</b></p> <p>Many Jews who had fled from eastern Poland were viewed with suspicion in the USSR, and antisemitism in many places increased. It was commonly believed that Jews who were not (or weren't allowed) in the Red Army to fight were "shirkers". One saying went "the Jews fought the war in <b>Tashkent</b>" (Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, had a large number of Jewish refugees during the war). For those Jews who knew of the Holocaust already, this would have been unbearable.</p>
<p>e) <b>Jewish Red Army soldiers</b></p> <p>An estimated 500,000 Jews served in the Red Army, the USSR's military, during the war. Thousands of others served in the Polish and Czechoslovak armies in the USSR that fought alongside the Red Army to defeat the Nazis. Alongside huge numbers of non-Jews, they fought and died in combat. Perhaps as many as 180,000 Red Army soldiers, sailors, and airmen were killed. 160,000 received medals for their fighting, making Jews the fourth-most-decorated nationality in the USSR.</p>	<p>f) <b>Jewish Partisans</b></p> <p>Behind Nazi lines, a bitter campaign was fought by Communist Partisans, irregular guerilla bands of soldiers. The Soviet partisan movement included as many as 900,000 people, according to Soviet historians (fewer, according to western historians). Most were not just Jewish groups of fighters, but it seems thousands of Jews did join them. They included desperate escapees from ghettos in Poland, escaped POWs.</p>

g) **Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee**

Jewish writers and artists within the USSR actively organised against Nazism, despite many not fighting in the military. In August 1941, the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee was established by two-dozen Jewish cultural figures. They called on Jews around the world to unite in the struggle against Nazi Germany. It was extraordinary for Stalin to allow Jews to speak directly to fellow Jews outside the USSR, but he recognised the need to unite with the west, and accepted this as one way to do so. The Committee's chairman, **Solomon Mikhoels**, was allowed to tour the USA, where he met with Jewish figures including Albert Einstein.

h) **Jewish reporters**

The Jewish report, **Ilya Ehrenburg**, waged his own kind of cultural campaign. Travelling with Soviet troops, he encountered and wrote horrifying accounts of Nazi genocide. Much of his writing documented the Holocaust, although a lot was not printed in the USSR, as Stalin chose to portray the war as one against the whole Soviet people, not specifically affecting Jews. Ehrenburg's most famous poem of the war, widely published and repeated in the USSR, urged Soviet citizens to "Count only the Germans you have killed."