

# **FORMATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL (IMT)**

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# BACKGROUND

- In the winter of 1942, the governments of the Allied powers announced their intent to punish Nazi war criminals.
- In October 1943, US President *Franklin Roosevelt*, British Prime Minister *Winston Churchill*, and Soviet Premier *Stalin* signed the Moscow Declaration of German Atrocities.



On August 8, 1945, the French Republic, the USSR, the United Kingdom, and the United States signed the London Agreement and Charter, also referred to as the **Nuremberg Charter**. The Charter created an **International Military Tribunal** to try German leaders.

## ON THE SIDE OF THE TRIBUNAL SAT:

Mr. Francis Biddle, member for the U.S., and his alternate, judge John J. Parker;

M. le Professeur Donnedieu de Vabres, member for France, and his alternate, M. le Conseiller Falco;

Major-General I.T. Nikitchenko, member for the USSR, and his alternate, Lieutenant-Colonel L.T. Volchkov;

Sir Geoffrey Lawrence (now Lord Oaksey), member for the United Kingdom, and his alternate, Sir William Norman Birkett (now Lord justice).

# THREE CLASSES OF ACCUSATIONS:

- Crimes against peace;
- War crimes in a more restricted sense, e.g., violations of the laws and customs of war;
- Crimes against humanity.



On October 18, 1945, the chief prosecutors of the IMT indicted 24 leading Nazi officials on four charges related to the three crimes originally defined in the Nuremberg Charter:

- Conspiracy to commit crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity
- Crimes against peace
- War crimes
- Crimes against humanity

## GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- the Reich Cabinet;
- the Leadership Corps of the Nazi Party;
- the Schutzstaffel (referred to as the SS, literally "protection squadron");
- the SS intelligence service, called the Sicherheitsdienst (often referred to as the SD or the Security Service of the Reichsführer SS);
- the Geheime Staatspolizei (known as the Gestapo [View This Term in the Glossary](#) or Secret State Police);
- the Sturmabteilungen (referred to as the SA or Stormtroopers);
- the General Staff and High Command of the German Armed Forces.
- The trial began on November 20, 1945, in the Palace of Justice in Nuremberg, Germany.

# THE TRIAL HEARINGS ENDED ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1946.

the following Nazi party organizations as criminal organizations:

the Leadership Corps of the Nazi Party;

the Gestapo;

the SS;

the SD (SS intelligence service).