



**The National  
Holocaust  
Museum  
and the  
Hollandsche  
Schouwburg  
Observe,  
reflect,  
act**

1940 10-05-1940: Nazi Germany invades the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Luxembourg. 13-05-1940: the Dutch government, including Queen Wilhelmina, leaves for London. 14-05-1940: Nazi Germany bombs Rotterdam's city centre. 14-05-1940: the Dutch armed forces surrender. 14-05-1940: thousands of Jews unsuccessfully attempt to flee to England via the port city of IJmuiden. 15-05-1940: beginning of the German occupation. 15-05-1940: ahead of expected German measures, the Dutch news agency ANP is pressured to lay off all Jewish employees. The ANP complies. Several radio broadcasters follow suit. 29-05-1940: the German military authority is replaced by a civil occupation authority. 29-05-1940: the newly-appointed Reich Commissioner Arthur Seyss-Inquart, in his inaugural address, emphasises the brotherly bond between the Germans and the Dutch. 31-05-1940: German authorities in the seaside town of Zandvoort demand that Jewish shopkeepers hang signs indicating 'Jewish business'. 01-07-1940: Jews may no longer be members of the Dutch air-raid protection service. 02-07-1940: Jews are not allowed to take part in the Arbeitseinsatz, the deployment of jobless Dutch men to work as labourers in Germany. 31-07-1940: German ordinance to prohibit the un-stunned slaughter of cattle, an antisemitic measure aimed at making Jewish ritual slaughter impossible. 05-08-1940: Zandvoort's synagogue is blown up before dawn. 05-08-1940: Jews may no longer practice ritual slaughter. 20-08-1940: Seyss-Inquart is authorised to appoint, promote or dismiss senior government officials, contrary to the existing Dutch law up until then. 22-08-1940: all anti-German literature must be removed from libraries. 28-08-1940: the College van Secretarissen-Generaal - the highest-ranking civil servants of the Dutch ministries - is instructed not to appoint any more Jews to government agencies nor to promote them. At that time, a violation of Article 5 of the Dutch Constitution. 06-09-1940: despite earlier legal objections, for now the College van Secretarissen-Generaal agrees not to employ or promote Jews. 13-09-1940: Article 5 of the Dutch Constitution is invalidated, opening the door for the future dismissal of Jewish civil servants. 14-09-1940: Jews are no longer welcome at Amsterdam street markets. 20-09-1940: non-profit associations and foundations must register in writing with the Procurator-General, who oversees the police departments of municipalities across the country. 26-09-1940: all Jewish media is banned. 30-09-1940: Jews are now defined as individuals with at least one grandparent who has ever been a member of a Jewish religious congregation. 01-10-1940: a nationwide requirement to carry identification is implemented for everyone age 15 and older. 05-10-1940: all civil servants must complete an Aryan declaration. By doing this, they officially confirm they and their spouses are not Jewish. 18-10-1940: establishment of the Rijksbureau voor Diamant, a government-controlled diamond bureau. Every business owner working in the diamond industry or trade is required to register. They must also provide an inventory of their stock. 22-10-1940: all businesses with a Jewish owner or Jewish board member must be registered. A new definition of who is Jewish now applies: Jews have at least three Jewish grandparents. Or they have two Jewish grandparents and are either a member of a Jewish religious congregation or married to a Jew. 21-11-1940: as a consequence of the Aryan declaration, Jewish civil servants are suspended from their positions. Three months later, they are all officially fired. 23-11-1940: the established association of Dutch journalists, the Nederlandse Journalistenkring, is disbanded and replaced by a new association, the Verbond van Nederlandse Journalisten. Jews are denied membership. 26-11-1940: in a public speech, Leiden University Professor Rudolph Cleveringa protests the forced resignation of a Jewish colleague. This inspires students in Leiden and Delft to go on strike, leading to the temporary shutdown of both

# The National Holocaust Museum and the Hollandsche Schouwburg

Observe, reflect, act  
Edited by Annemiek Gringold  
Edited by Asjer Waterman

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- A book supporting the opening of the National Holocaust Museum, Amsterdam

**The National Holocaust Museum** tells the story of the Nazi persecution and murder of the Jews of the Netherlands. Before the Second World War, Jews and non-Jews lived side by side. They had the same rights. But during the war, the Nazis and their collaborators killed around six million Jews in Europe. That was the Holocaust or Shoah. This is the first and only museum to relate the history of the persecution of the Jews of the entire Netherlands. Including the day-to-day life of Jews on the eve of the Second World War, the liberation as Jews experienced it, and how the Holocaust has been treated in our national culture of remembrance: all this is examined in the museum and this book.

Text in English and Dutch.