WEIMAR: RALLY

NS IN WEIMAR

STATIONEN stops
/ DEUTSCHES NATIONALTHEATER / MARSTALL
/ GHETTOHAUS / HAUPTBAHNHOF
ANDERE TOUREN OTHER TOURS

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Weimar 2011
Find out something about the work of the Secret State Police (Geheime Staatspolizei, “Gestapo”) in Weimar!

Gain an idea of the means used by the National Socialists and their concept of the human being!

“We didn’t have any idea about that!” Do you think this claim made by many Weimar citizens could be true? What could this statement be good for?

Later on tell the others about the Gestapo’s methods. Develop a suggestion about how the main station could be used to supply information about the history of the location.

Have a look at the city map and start your tour! Your first stop is the German National Theatre.
Find out which tour stop this detail belongs to!
The Court Theatre was founded in 1791 under Goethe's direction. In 1919 it was named the German National Theatre. The same year, the National Assembly met here and ratified the German constitution of the Weimar Republic. In memory of that, there was a plaque on the outside of the building that the National Socialists removed in 1933. They tried to use the theatre for their own aims. They wanted to utilise the culture of “Weimar Classicism” to their own benefit and extinguish the political heritage of the Weimar Republic.
The German National Theatre at Theaterplatz, around 1938
In September 1900 the Romanian musician Eduard Rosé (born 1859) joined the Staatskapelle Weimar (State Orchestra Weimar) as the solo cellist. He had given up his position in the USA for his wife’s sake. He worked until his retirement in 1926 as a musician at the German National Theatre. In addition, he gave cello and piano lessons at the state music school. Although Rosé had already converted to the protestant religion in 1891, the National Socialists persecuted him as a Jew.
Eduard Rosé when he was solo cellist of the Staatskapelle Weimar, portrait from around 1924
From 1941 on, the National Socialists forced all Jews to wear a yellow star on their clothing. The 82-year-old Rosé protested against this practice, whereupon the Secret State Police (Gestapo) put him into pre-trial custody. Rosé had had to move out of his flat, because the house was demolished for the sake of the construction of the National Socialist Gauforum. After his wife died and his sons emigrated, the musician led an increasingly reclusive life. He was forced to spend his last months in Weimar in the two “Judenhäuser” (Jews’ Houses).
The so-called Marstall, the outbuildings and stables of the grand-ducal palace, was built between 1873 and 1878; its main façade with the gateway faces the palace. In 1936 the Gestapo moved into the building and installed their headquarters here; prisoners were interrogated in the cellar. Prison cells and a provisional barrack were constructed in the courtyard. Nowadays the Marstall is used by the Thuringian State Archive Weimar.
The Gestapo was a central instrument of terror employed by the National Socialists. Spying, detention and torture were part of the daily work routine. The Gestapo persecuted and murdered opponents of National Socialism and deported all Jewish inhabitants to the death camps. The riding-hall at the Marstall served as a gathering place before such transports. The political department of the Buchenwald concentration camp answered directly to the Gestapo, which continually had people imprisoned and executed there.
Gestapo barrack in the courtyard of the Marstall, 1996
In 1941 the Weimar Gestapo summoned Eduard Rosé for interrogation several times. He had protested against wearing the Jews’ Star in a letter to the president of the police, and signed his name, Eduard Rosé. However, beginning in 1938 all Jewish men were obligated to use Israel as their middle name. Rosé would have had to sign as Eduard Israel Rosé. Eyewitnesses report that the 82-year-old Rosé was beaten. He was imprisoned here from 2nd until 10th October and from 4th to 6th November 1941.
All Jewish families were listed in a separate section of the Weimar City register in 1939/40. The women were forced to use the name Sara, and the men Israel as their middle name.
The residential home had been the property of the Jewish family Ortweiler/Appel since 1894. Beginning in 1941, the National Socialists converted it into a so-called “Jews’ House”. They forced Jews to leave their flats and houses and move into these ghetto houses. They had to live here together with complete strangers in cramped quarters. The members of a total of eight families shared the upper storey of this house. These ghetto houses were the first step towards the deportation of Jews to death camps.
The last residents were deported in September of 1942.
It was easy for the Gestapo to observe the residents. They used even the slightest misconduct to arrest people. Susanna Appel was arrested for the illegal possession of a few eggs and was murdered one year later at Auschwitz. Martin Wolff was deported to the Buchenwald concentration camp because he rode his bicycle without permission. Most residents were deported to German-occupied Poland in 1942. Eduard Rosé was deported from the house at Brühl 6 to Theresienstadt, where he was murdered a short time later.
Beginning in 1938, thousands of prisoners arrived at the Weimar Main Station. Often they were forced to walk the eight-kilometre long distance to the Buchenwald concentration camp. In front of everyone else, SS troops and reserve policemen herded them from the platform through the east tunnel (today: night exit of the station) and beat them. The survivors remember terrible violent scenes at the main station. At the entrance to the tunnel there is a commemorative plaque about the history of this place.

Look for the commemorative plaque! Whose words are quoted on the plaque?
“But my most terrible memories date back to the year 1938. Back then we still lived on Brehmestraße. Among us children, the news that Jews were being “unloaded” at the main station spread like wildfire. When I see films on this subject nowadays, I remember the sight in Weimar: how the well-dressed, bearded people were beaten onto the trucks with sticks.”

KLAUS ENGELHARDT, nearby resident at that time, about his experiences as a seven-year-old child
The Main Station is festively decorated in July of 1936 for the 10th anniversary of the NSDAP annual party convention in Weimar.
Even today, political right-wing organisations try to parade through the city with their misanthropic or inhuman slogans. Many Weimar citizens successfully ward them off again and again. A broad spectrum of citizens is actively engaged for the respect of human rights and personal dignity in particular. In the past the city was the source of many state-organised crimes. Today, there shall no longer be space here for inhuman ideologies.
For the 1st of May the extreme right-wing party NPD (Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschland, National Democratic Party of Germany) had planned a large-scale event in Weimar.

“At Baudertplatz in front of the main station, where the right-wing march was to begin until the NPD demonstration was prohibited, the members of the City Council and numerous citizens gathered for a public meeting of the City Parliament. The personnel carriers of the police, who were there to enforce the demonstration ban, were highly visible. The City Council’s presence relaxed the tension.”

Think about what the City Council wanted to achieve with this public meeting!
YOUR STOPS:
1 German National Theatre
Theaterplatz
2 Marstall
Marstallstr. 2
3 Ghetto House
Am Brühl 6
4 Main Station
August-Baudert-Platz