



INCLINE TON DEBANT
CHEMINE EN RESPECT
DOULOUREUSE

Mémorial
de la SHOAH
Musée,
Centre
de documentation

PRESENTATION DOCUMENT

A museum, a documentation centre and a memorial

Opened in 2005, the Shoah Memorial is today the institution of reference in Europe on the history of the Holocaust. It incorporates the Memorial of the Unknown Jewish Martyr, of which the facades, the courtyard and the crypt were preserved, and the Contemporary Jewish Documentation Centre (CDJC-French acronym) created in 1943 by Isaac Schneersohn.

Three historic missions: to preserve, commemorate and transmit

Rare documents preserved at the Documentation Centre

Documents have been collected by the CDJC ever since it was secretly established in 1943. While the war had only just ended, previously unpublished documents were recovered thanks to the links with the Resistance. They included documents from the Germany embassy in Paris, the military headquarters, the general delegation of the Vichy government and, most importantly, those from the anti-Jewish section of the Gestapo. The CDJC was requested by the French government, through Edgar Faure, to support the French case at the Nuremberg trials where the CDJC had permanent representation which meant it received all the official documents being circulated. In conjunction with its role to assist the court, which it continued to hold during the Nazi war crime trials, the CDJC participated, during the 1950's, in the erection in Paris of the first European monument dedicated to the memory of the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust: "The Tomb of the Unknown Jewish Martyr" which later became known as "The Memorial of the Unknown Jewish Martyr" and then "The Shoah Memorial". Today the Memorial is the principal information centre on the subject in Europe and each day continues in its task of collecting documents.

A burial place for the victims of the Holocaust

At the entry to the Memorial, on the courtyard, a Wall has been erected which has the names of 76,000 Jews deported from France between 1942 and 1944. The realisation of this project required four years of work, involving the cross-checking of archival sources and the verification of each name. The names are engraved by year of deportation and in alphabetical order. At the centre of the Shoah Memorial, a flame burns in memory of the victims in the crypt where the ashes, recovered from the extermination camps and the ruins of the Warsaw ghetto, are laid with soil from Israel. Outside the Memorial, is the Wall of the Righteous, with the names of those who put their own lives at risk in order to save Jews during the Second World War. Throughout the year, the Memorial follows the cycle of commemorations.

Passing on the history of the Holocaust

The Shoah Memorial offers activities adapted to all ages and sensibilities: guided visits, temporary exhibitions, regular conferences and symposia... For school children, educational workshops, visits in partnership with other cultural institutions or study tours are available. The Memorial also organises training programmes for teachers and a broad spectrum of other jobs ranging from new police recruits to journalists.

Key Figures

5,000 m² total area of the building / **1,000 m²** of permanent exhibition space / **120-seat** auditorium / **220,000** visitors per year on average at the two sites (Paris and Drancy) / **50,000** school children / **3,600** French teachers and **1,800** foreign teachers

Key Dates

28 or 29 April 1943	Isaac Schneersohn organises a meeting, at his home in Grenoble, of 40 leaders and activists from the Jewish community to create the Contemporary Jewish Documentation Centre (CDJC) whose objective is to put in place a structure which brings together evidence of the persecution of the Jews in order to bear witness and demand justice as soon as the war ends
April 1945	First issue of the CDJC bulletin
20 November 1945	Opening of the Nuremberg trials in the presence of two CDJC members, Leon Poliakov and Joseph Billig
August 1946	The first issue of the " <i>Le Monde juif</i> " journal published, it would later be renamed the " <i>Revue d'histoire de la Shoah</i> "
17 May 1953	The first stone is laid for the Tomb of the Unknown Jewish Martyr, in the Rue Geoffroy L'Asnier
30 October 1956	Inauguration of the Tomb of the Unknown Jewish Martyr The CDJC moves into the monument building
9 May 1961	Georges Wellers, a CDJC member, gives evidence at the trial of Eichmann
27 February 1974	"The Tomb of the Unknown Jewish Martyr" becomes officially known as "The Memorial of the Unknown Jewish Martyr"
11 May 1987	Opening of the Klaus Barbie trial. He was charged thanks to the <i>Telex from Izieu</i> found in the CDJC archives
1991	The Memorial of the Unknown Jewish Martyr building is classified as an historical monument
1994	The Memorial of the Unknown Jewish Martyr' association is recognised by the French government as being of "public benefit", an official acknowledgement of its legitimacy and importance
5 December 1997	The deposit of the "Jewish file" in the crypt of the Memorial of the Unknown Jewish Martyr in the presence of French President Jacques Chirac
25 January 2005	Enlarged and renovated, the Memorial of the Unknown Jewish Martyr, is renamed The Shoah Memorial. It is inaugurated, as well as the Wall of Names, by French President Jacques Chirac
14 June 2006	Inauguration of the Wall of the Righteous
21 September 2012	Inauguration of the Drancy Shoah Memorial (Seine-Saint-Denis) by French President François Hollande, including a documentation centre attached to the Shoah Memorial in Paris
1st January 2013	The Shoah Memorial becomes a foundation
1st January 2018	The Study and Research Centre on the Internment Camps of the Loiret region (CERCIL), Vél'd'Hiv Children's Museum-Memorial integrates the Shoah Memorial

A vibrant institution with a diverse audience

A place to debate

The 120-seat auditorium welcomes visitors each day for meetings with witnesses, seminars and film projections.... The topics concern the history of the Holocaust and the genocides of the 20th century. Eminent writers, historians and film makers explain the subjects and answer questions from the public with clear analysis and powerful testimonies.



A permanent exhibition, an educational visit



The Memorial's permanent exhibition is about the history of the Jews during the Second World War. It also covers the history of anti-Semitism and the mechanisms which resulted in the extermination of nearly six million Jews. With different levels of interpretation, the exhibition aims to give visitors the tools to think about history and to ask themselves questions about the present so that they remain vigilant against the potential return of intolerance in whatever form.



At the end of the permanent exhibition, is the Memorial to the Children, comprising 3,000 photographs of Jewish children who were deported. These photographs, collected and arranged in alphabetical order by Serge Klarsfeld, were taken from the book "*Memorial to the Jewish Children deported from France*" (eds: The Sons and Daughters of Jews Deported from France 1995).

The Memorial also has two spaces dedicated to temporary exhibitions, which concern more specific topics, such as the trial of Adolf Eichmann, photos of the ghettos or the Cinema and the Holocaust.

A reading room for the general public and researchers

The Shoah Memorial is the leading centre of information and documentation on the history of the Holocaust in Europe. It has more than 40 million pages of archives, 280,000 photographs, 5,000 postcards, 4,000 posters and 80,000 books, periodicals and library documents. Each year, the Documentation Centre welcomes more than 5,000 people who come to undertake research at the heart of its collections.



The Memorial also has a Multimedia Learning Centre for listening and watching audio-visual documents, and a Room of Names which is dedicated to those people needing advice on how to produce a compensation document.

A Specialist Bookshop

The Memorial's bookshop is the leader on the topic and offers 10,000 references. This comprehensive and up to date catalogue covers all types of works: scientific, (history, philosophy, psychology...) eye-witness accounts, essays, biographies, books for the general public, fiction and youth titles.

Books are available at the Bookshop or on:
librairie-memorialdelashoah.org



A place to raise awareness and understanding

The learning activities are conducted by the Shoah Memorial's educational service – The Edmond J. Safra Educational Institute.

Activities for school students



A workshop for school children



High school students during a visit

Designed to provoke questions and develop logical reasoning, the activities for school students allow the discovery of the history of the Jewish people during the Second World War and more broadly an examination of the nature and forms of prejudice, the links with discrimination and the rejection of hatred towards others. Depending on the age and the sensibility of the students, the activities approach the subject through the production of art, a meeting with a witness or historians, a visit to two different institutions, analysis of documents or research at the Documentation Centre. The Memorial welcomes school students from CM2 (9 years old).

Each year 50,000 school students come to the Shoah Memorial to undertake one of these activities. In addition, when students and teachers cannot come to the Memorial sites at Paris and Drancy, the Memorial teams can come to them and present these activities in the

schools. Beyond these proposed activities, the Memorial also organises study trips to Auschwitz which are part of its collaborative educational approach with students and teachers.

A web site, www.grenierdesarah.org, allows children from 8 to 12 years-old, either accompanied by their parents or on their own, to discover the history of the persecution of the Jews in France. This site was created with the assistance of the Ministry of National Education.

Activities for the general public

Each Sunday at 3pm, the Memorial offers a free guided visit of the institution and the permanent exhibition while on certain Thursday evenings there are guided visits of temporary exhibitions. There are also workshops (choir, painting and writing...) available in the evenings for adults and during the school holidays for children. Finally, several Sundays in the year are dedicated to the journeys of remembrance to Auschwitz and intended for individuals and include an organised visit accompanied by the Memorial's historians.



A recognised training institution

The Shoah Memorial has been authorised to undertake training by the Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research.

A teacher training centre



Primary and secondary school teachers can gain a deeper knowledge of the history of the Holocaust and educational methods through short courses organised by the Memorial. The week-long training sessions are offered in summer and autumn, in Paris, Poland and Israel. Theme days are organized as well as study tours to Auschwitz. The study of genocides is integrated in all of these trainings and, from time to time, other mass violence are also covered.

Benefitting from a system of information sharing at the heart of most academic institutions thanks to partnership agreements, the Memorial welcomes nearly 3,600 teachers each year and also conducts a number of training course at other locations.

Created in partnership with the Ministry of National Education, the web site www.enseigner-histoire-shoah.org is dedicated to teachers and includes news, educational activities for use in the classroom and practical information about how to organise visits to the Memorial sites in France and Europe.

A place for exchanges between different groups

Training for each type of career

The Memorial offers specific training for a number of different types of professions. It has put in place special days of exchange with witnesses and historians for carers of the dying, social workers, journalists, new police recruits, senior police officers (as part of a partnership with the Paris Police Headquarters), magistrates, and also senior administrative officials from the Ministry of Defence.



Police trainees and Jacques Altmann, former deported at Auschwitz camp, during a day course.

Citizenship internships

As part of the development of alternative sentencing options with an educational value, the Memorial has put in place partnership agreements with the Court of Appeal in Paris, Lyon and Aix-en-Provence. It has developed a citizen's internship aimed at people responsible for racist or anti-Semitic offences. For two days, these individuals participate in an educational seminar comprising different workshops which deal with the historical processes at work in the development and consequences of racism, anti-Semitism and genocides. Conducted by the Shoah Memorial and financed by DILCRA, this internship has the objective of raising awareness about the damaging effects of racism and anti-Semitism, at whatever level, and to emphasise that these are not opinions but offences which are contrary to the republican values of tolerance and fraternity of our country.

Development of Research



Right from the beginning, when the Contemporary Jewish Documentation Centre was created, a journal on the history of the Holocaust, “*Le Monde juif*” was published. Several years later, its name was changed to the “*Revue d'histoire de la Shoah*”. The leading journal on this subject, it gives an outline of the current projects in the historiography of the judeocide and other genocides of the 20th century.

Equipped with a documentation centre and an exceptional archive on the subject, the Memorial welcomes students from across Europe for research visits as part of the EHRI program (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure), a project financed by the European Commission, which has the objective of preserving and transmitting the history of the Holocaust.

Finally, the Memorial organises regular symposia with international participants, in partnership with French and foreign research centres.

The history of the Holocaust and other genocides

For a number of years now, the Memorial has been engaged in the transmission of knowledge about the history of other 20th century tragedies: the genocides of the Tutsi in Rwanda, the Armenians during the Ottoman Empire and the genocidal politics against the Roma people. It offers consultations of specific archives at the documentation centre, the organisation of temporary and travelling exhibitions, meetings, symposia and publishes works on these subjects (exhibition catalogues, issues of the *Revue d'histoire de la Shoah*) while working hand in hand with international experts, cultural institutions and victims' associations.

As part of this work, the Memorial signed, in 2015, a cooperation agreement with the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute at Erevan for the development of exchanges between the two countries on education and research.

The Shoah Memorial in France and abroad

Using a local approach allows the Memorial to develop partnerships in regional areas as well as internationally and to organise presentations, exhibitions and seminars which link directly to local history.

The Shoah Memorial at Drancy



The Drancy Shoah Memorial

The Shoah Memorial at Drancy (Seine-Saint-Denis) was inaugurated in September 2012. It is situated in front of La cité de la Muette which served as an internment and transit camp for Jews from France before their deportation during the Second World War. It was constructed on the initiative of the Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah and includes a documentation centre, a permanent exhibition, educational rooms and an auditorium.

The Memorial is open from Sunday to Thursday, 10am to 6pm, closed Fridays and Saturdays, national holidays, the month of August and certain Jewish holidays.

The Memorial's southern regional branch

In partnership with local groups, the southern regional branch of the Memorial has the mission to coordinate initiatives which develop the local heritage resources and to assist with the activities of the Shoah Memorial. Situated at Toulouse, the regional branch organises conferences, projections, commemorations, historical visits and travelling exhibitions in bookshops, cinemas, cultural centres and schools. Educational workshops for school students and training for primary and secondary teachers are also conducted by the team at the Toulouse office.

Expertise in relation to remembrance sites

In France and other countries, the Memorial supports the activities and the development of institutions and organisations responsible for memorial sites: It is involved in the groups which manage various including: the Study and research Centre internment camps of the Loiret region (CERCIL), the Foundation of the Camp des Milles, the Chambon-sur-Lignon memorial site, the Montluc prison Memorial and the Association of the Gurs camp.

It is also a UNESCO expert on the committee for the renovation of the building dedicated to the ex-Yugoslavia at Auschwitz and provides its expertise to other sites such as the creation of a museum and education centre dedicated to the Holocaust at Thessaloniki in Greece.

Travelling exhibitions



In order to make the history of the Holocaust accessible to everyone, the Memorial produces travelling exhibitions which are presented each year at more than 80 sites across France, Europe and the United States. These sites include schools, councils, community centres, universities or other museums.

History study trips

For school students, the Memorial organises study trips to Auschwitz. They are part of the educational program and include more than a day on the site for the students and the Memorial's educational team with preparation and discussion sessions before and after the trip. The Memorial also organises longer trips for teachers to Poland. For individuals, the Memorial offers history and memorial trips throughout the year to sites where Jews were exterminated in Europe.



International Relations

The Holocaust Memorial, at the international level, aims to have an impact on the memorial policy in European states with high stakes such as the western Balkans, the Baltic countries, the Ukraine. It seeks to include the Holocaust in an open discussion about genocide which emphasises regional problems. It has developed structured partnerships with local and national ministries of education, diplomatic and French cultural networks, history teachers' associations and NGOs engaged in the issue of memorials. Training seminars, research workshops, conferences and exhibitions in other countries are, for the most part, undertaken with the support of international donors. The Memorial emphasises a multilateral approach and encourages different perspectives on common themes. Finally, the geographic expansion to Africa has led the Memorial, at the request of UNESCO, to organise training

sessions to assist the educational authorities in Cameroon, Central Africa and Congo in their commitment to introduce the teaching of the Holocaust and genocides into their peace education programmes.

International branches

For several years now, the Memorial has been assisted by a number of branch offices in Italy, Poland and the United States. They allow the organisation, in Paris or their respective countries, of training seminars which are designed specifically for teachers and managers of museums, memorials and institutes on the history of the resistance as well as the presentation of translated travelling exhibitions. Each year, more than 100,000 people visit these exhibitions and 1,800 foreign teachers take part in the seminars organised by the Memorial, such as the Italian universities' seminar "Thinking and Teaching the history of the Holocaust" which takes place each June at the Shoah Memorial in Paris, or "Rethinking and teaching the history of Nazism", which is held every two years in Berlin.

Practical Information

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Open every day, except Saturday, from 10am to 6pm, and at night on Thursdays until 10pm (7:30pm for the documentation centre and the bookshop).

Museum, documentation centre, temporary exhibition: free entry

Education activities for school students, adults, trips, training, hiring travelling exhibitions: prices, information and reservations at www.memorialdelashoah.org

Thanks to our partnership with the Region Île-de-France, a number of activities are free for greater Paris high school or apprenticeship training centre students (CFA), information on www.memorialdelashoah.org

Training Authorisation number 11 75 43 938 75

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The Shoah Memorial receives support from



The Shoah Memorial is member of



Social networks and web sites

Talk with the Shoah Memorial every day



Find the Memorial activities

www.memorialdelashoah.org

For young people

www.grenierdesarah.org

For teachers

www.enseigner-histoire-shoah.org

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