

Case Study – Dachau Chart

**Kennzeichen für Schutzhäftlinge
in den Konz. Lagern** EXHIBIT "N"

Form und Farbe der Kennzeichen

	Politisch	Berufs- Verbrecher	Emigrant	Bibel- forscher	Homo- sexuell	Asozial
Grund- farben						
Abzeichen für Rückfällige						
Häftlinge der Straf- kompanie						
Abzeichen für Juden						
Besondere Abzeichen	 Jüd. Rasse- schänder	 Rasse- schänderin	 Flucht- verdächtig	 Häftlings- nummer	 Beispiel Häftlinge Nr. 2307 Wachkammer Schutzhaft-Jacke Haupt- & Strafbewahrung Hauptverwahrung A.C. 11160 1944. 1. 27. 1944. 1. 27. 1944. 1. 27. 1944. 1. 27. 1944. 1. 27. 1944. 1. 27.	
	 Pole	 Tscheche	 ehemaliger Wehrmacht- angehöriger	 Häftling Ia		

Dachau Chart
Sydney Jewism Museum collection

This official SS chart was designed in Dachau – the model camp for all other Nazi concentration camps. It displays the symbols - both shape and colour – used to categorise ‘protective custody prisoners’ incarcerated as ‘enemies of the German people’. Nazi concentration camp badges, primarily triangles, were part of the system of identification in Nazi camps.

The triangles were made of fabric and were sewn on jackets and trousers of the prisoners. These mandatory badges of shame had specific meanings indicated by their colour and shape. Emblems helped guards assign tasks to the detainees: for example, a guard at a glance could see if someone were a convicted criminal (green patch). The use of a triangle was visual shorthand to symbolize all camp inmates.

Questions for your classroom:

In what ways does Dachau serve as a prototype for the concentration camp system?

Research which categories of inmates are represented. What purpose does it serve to categorise inmates by “type”?

Why was it important for the Nazis to publicise this camp and the Communists as the first inmates?



View of the Dachau concentration camp, after liberation. Germany, April 29, 1945. Courtesy USHMM