

Module Title: 6. "Comparison between Germany and Latvia"

Module Learning Outcome: Understands the events of World War II in Latvia, Liepāja, recognizes the connection Between these events and those in Germany.

The total number of lessons: 30

Subject	Lessons	Learning Outcomes	Concepts	Available sources
Nazi Occupation in Latvia, Liepāja	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draws connections between the Nazi occupation of Latvia and other Nazi occupations in Europe, identifying similarities and unique features of the occupation in Liepāja. Explains the effects of Nazi policies on the local population in Liepāja, including social, cultural, and economic changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reichskommissariat Ostland Einsatzgruppen Cultural suppression 	<p><i>History of Latvia:</i> https://okupacijasmuzejs.lv/en/history</p> <p><i>Latvia during World War II. The Legal Status of Latvia:</i> https://vecais.okupacijasmuzejs.lv/en/history/nazi-occupation/latvia-during-world-war-ii</p> <p><i>Latvian Television has another in its series of short documentary films prepared, complete with English-language subtitles:</i> https://eng.lsm.lv/article/features/video/documentary-chronicles-nazi-occupation-of-latvia-in-1941.a365063/</p> <p><i>Liepāja in Nazi occupation:</i> https://militaryheritagetourism.info/en/military/stories/view/253?0&a=od</p>

Life under occupation - massacres and anti Jewish measures	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyses the anti-Jewish measures implemented in Liepāja, including the establishment of ghettos and the legal restrictions imposed on Jewish residents. Understands the scale and nature of mass killings that occurred in and around Liepāja, understands both the perpetrators and victims involved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arajs Kommando Ghettoization Anti-Jewish Regulations Yellow Badge Mass Executions Collaboration 	<p><i>Jews In Nazi-occupied Latvia in 1941-1945:</i> https://www.ebrejumuzejs.lv/en/exhibitions/jews-in-nazi-occupied-latvia-1941-1945/</p> <p><i>Holocaust Encyclopaedia. Latvia:</i> https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/latvia</p> <p><i>Extermination of the Latvian Jews in 1941:</i> http://lpra.vip.lv/vestermanis.htm</p> <p><i>Harrowing Šķēde massacre photos help reframe Holocaust in German - occupied Latvia (Liepāja):</i> https://www.timesofisrael.com/harrowing-skede-massacre-photos-help-reframe-holocaust-in-german-occupied-latvia/</p> <p><i>The German Occupation and the First Aktionen in Liepāja:</i> https://www.yadvashem.org/communities/liepaja/german-occupation.html</p> <p><i>Liepāja:</i> https://www.liepajajews.org/LGhetto.pdf</p> <p><i>Liepāja Ghetto:</i> http://liepajajewishheritage.lv/en/sliepaja-ghetto/</p> <p><i>The Establishment of the Getto in Liepāja and the Liquidation of Jewish Community:</i> https://www.yadvashem.org/communities/liepaja/ghetto.html</p>
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Resilience movements	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies examples of local resistance against Nazi forces in Liepāja, as well as instances of collaboration, and analyses the motivations behind these actions. Discusses the impact of these actions on the local population and the legacy they left within the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latvian Central Council (LCC) Roberts Sedols Kurelians Civic Resistance 	<p><i>Resistance Movement in Latvia During Nazi German Occupation (1941-1945): Research Problems and Achievements:</i> https://dom.lndb.lv/data/obj/file/185293.pdf</p> <p><i>The Linkimer Diary: How 11 Jews Survived the Holocaust:</i> https://ruor.uottawa.ca/server/api/core/bitstreams/922f0f40-0164-4b04-87c8-bcefb1d10101/content</p> <p><i>The National Resistance Movement During WWII The "Latvian Central Council" turns 70:</i> https://www2.mfa.gov.lv/en/israel/publications/the-national-resistance-movement-during-wwii-the-latvian-central-council-turns-70</p> <p><i>Memorial to the Kurelians:</i> https://liepaja.travel/en/see-and-do/memorial-to-the-kurelians/</p> <p><i>He had faith in the future of Latvia:</i> https://www.cikaga.com/copy-of-dozenberg</p>
"Latvian Legion"	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands historical circumstances that led to the formation of the Latvian Legion, including the impact of previous occupation and the geopolitical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latvian Legion Waffen-SS Conscription War Crimes Nationalism Historical Revisionism 	<p><i>History of the Occupation of Latvia (1940-1991):</i> http://lpra.vip.lv/nollend_hist.htm</p> <p><i>The Occupation of Latvia (1940 - 1990):</i> https://www.onlatvia.com/the-occupation-of-latvia-1940-1990-78</p> <p><i>Latvia & World War II:</i></p>

		<p>landscape of World War II</p> <p>✚ Critical evaluation of the controversies surrounding the Latvian Legion, including acquisition of war crimes and its association with Nazi ideology.</p>		<p>https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2022/09/22/latvia-world-war-ii/?srsltid=AfmBOorcMPOktpzSLSrj4tYb27IA8fhqA1iGX6aLSCBhe9d5it2MxS</p> <p><i>Latvian Legion: Controversial Points:</i> https://www.karamuzejs.lv/lkm/latvian-legion-controversial-points</p> <p><i>The Latvian Legion: The Most Topical Research Problems:</i> https://www2.mfa.gov.lv/en/stockholm/bilateral-relations-of-latvia-and-sweden/the-latvian-legion-the-most-topical-research-problems</p> <p><i>Who rewrites history? The portrayal of the Legionnaire Day in pro-Kremlin media:</i> https://www.debunk.org/who-rewrites-history-the-portrayal-of-the-legionnaire-day-in-pro-kremlin-media</p>
Evaluation task	2	<p>✚ Compares and analyses the differences between the Nazi occupation in Latvia and Germany,</p>		

Table for tasks

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Module Learning Outcome: Understands the events of World War II in Latvia, Liepāja, recognizes the connection between these events and those in Germany.

Topic	Lessons	Task
Nazi Occupation in Latvia, Liepāja	10	<p>1) <u>Research the events of the Nazi occupation In Latvia and create a timeline marking the most significant ones. What conclusions can you draw?</u></p> <p>2) 1. <u>Watch the movie</u></p> <p>2. Imagine you are the resident of Liepāja during that time and write a diary entry for one week, imagining what daily life might be like in such a military and political situation.</p>
Life under occupation - massacres and anti Jewish measures	5	<p>1) 1. <u>Understand the effects of Nazi policies on the local population in Liepāja, including social, cultural, and economic changes, therefore, split into groups representing different community members (e.g. Jewish residents, local Latvians, Nazi officials).</u></p> <p>2. Each group will research their character's perspective on the occupation and prepare a short presentation or skit that illustrates their experiences and reactions to Nazi policies.</p>

		<p>3. After presentations, hold a class discussion on how these perspectives highlighted the social and cultural changes in Liepāja during the occupation.</p> <p>2) <u>Visual art project: please create a visual representation of the impact of Nazi policies on Liepāja local population:</u></p> <p>Create a mural or collage that depicts key events and themes from Nazi occupation in Liepāja.</p> <p>3) <u>1. Create a map that highlights key locations related to anti-Jewish measures and mass killings in Liepāja.</u></p> <p>2. Use online mapping tools (e.g., Google Maps) to create a map marking significant sites such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location of ghetto. - Mass execution sites. - Areas where anti-Jewish laws were enforced. <p>3. Choose one of the locations and prepare a brief informative report about the main events associated with it.</p> <p>4) <u>1. Use previous links (or choose others) and choose one picture of Liepāja in Nazi occupation.</u></p> <p><u>2. Analyse the chosen picture and write the answers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How does this image relate to the broader events of the Nazi occupation in Liepāja? - What are key visual elements in this photo (e.g., people, buildings, symbols)?
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How do these elements contribute to the overall message or feeling conveyed by the image? - Who are the subjects in the photo? What can you infer about their identities (e.g., Jewish residents, local Latvians, Nazi officials)? - What emotions do you think the subjects are experiencing? How do you interpret their expressions and body language? - How does this image symbolize the experiences of Jews or the groups during the Nazi occupations? - What legacy does this image convey about the events it depicts? How might it influence collective memory regarding the Holocaust in Liepāja? - What personal feelings or thoughts does this image evoke for you? How do you think it affects you in this way?
Resilience movements	7	<p>1) 1. Please read the text.</p> <p>2. Answer the questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What historical events led to the formation of the Latvian Central Council in 1943? How did the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact influence Latvia's situation during World War II? - What were the main objectives of the Latvian Central Council as outlined in the text? How did these objectives reflect the desires of the Latvian people during this period?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - According to the LCC's political platform of 1944, what stance did the organization take regarding dependency on Germany and the USSR? How does this stance illustrate their vision for Latvia's future? - How did the LCC address issues such as the Holocaust and unlawful mobilization of Latvian citizens? What significance does this condemnation hold in terms of moral and ethical leadership? - In what ways did the LCC attempt to engage with Western governments and other national resistance movements? Why was establishing these connections important for their cause? - How did the actions and groundwork laid by the LCC contribute to Latvia's eventual restoration of independence after the collapse of the USSR? What role did they play in shaping modern Latvian identity? - Reflect on the fate of Konstantins Čakste, Chairman of the LCC, who perished in a concentration camp. How do personal stories like his contribute to our understanding of resistance movements during WWII? <p>2) 1. <u>Please review the memory excerpts</u></p> <p>2. Create 3-5 drawings reflecting your thoughts on what you have read.</p> <p>3. Share with others the thoughts on what you have read.</p> <p>3) 1. <u>Create small groups and collectively find answers to the questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What were the main challenges faced by <i>Kurelians</i> and the Latvian resistance during World War II? - How did external factors, such as support from Western powers, influence Latvia's struggle for independence?
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		<p>- In what ways do you think <i>Kurelians'</i> actions reflect broader themes of resilience and national identity?</p> <p>2. Discuss the answers you found together in the class.</p> <p>3. Discuss whether you know any similar examples of resistance.</p> <p>4) <u>After previous task about Kurelians, write a short reflection paper (1 - 2 paragraphs) discussing:</u></p> <p>1. What you found most interesting about Kurelians' life and actions.</p> <p>2. How understanding their story contributes to your knowledge of Latvia's history during World War II.</p> <p>3. Any lessons you think can be applied to contemporary issues regarding national identity and resilience.</p>
"Latvian Legion"	6	<p>1) <u>1. Please familiarize yourself with the aspects of the issue related to the Latvian Legion:</u></p> <p>2. Split into groups and choose one of them.</p> <p>3. Gather information that could serve as a reason for such a perception of the Latvian legionnaires.</p> <p>4. In your group, create a presentation that reflects your research and present it to the others.</p>
Evaluation task	2	<p>1) <u>1. Draw connections between the Nazi occupation of Liepāja (Latvia) and Nazi occupations in Germany, for example:</u></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The similarities in occupation strategies, such as ghettoization and anti-Jewish measures. - Unique features specific to Liepāja, such as the scale of massacres and local collaboration etc. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Create a comparative table based on the task requirements, choose comparison criteria, and compare Liepāja (Latvia) and Germany. 3. At the end of the table, draw conclusions.
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Task 1

Research the events of the Nazi occupation in Latvia and create a timeline marking the most significant ones. What conclusions can you draw?

<https://okupacijasmuzejs.lv/en/history>

<https://vecais.okupacijasmuzejs.lv/en/history/nazi-occupation/latvia-during-world-war-ii>

Task 2

1) Watch the movie

<https://eng.lsm.lv/article/features/video/documentary-chronicles-nazi-occupation-of-latvia-in-1941.a365063/>

2) Imagine you are the resident of Liepāja during that time and write a diary entry for one week, imagining what daily life might be like in such a military and political situation.

Task 3

1) Understand the effects of Nazi policies on the local population in Liepāja, including social, cultural, and economic changes, therefore, split into groups representing different community members (e.g. Jewish residents, local Latvians, Nazi officials).

<https://www.yadvashem.org/communities/liepaja/german-occupation.html>

<https://www.yadvashem.org/communities/liepaja.html>

and other sources.

2) Each group will research their character's perspective on the occupation and prepare a short presentation or skit that illustrates their experiences and reactions to Nazi policies.

3) After presentations, hold a class discussion on how these perspectives highlighted the social and cultural changes in Liepāja during the occupation.

Task 4

Visual art project: please create a visual representation of the impact of Nazi policies on Liepāja local population:

Create a mural or collage that depicts key events and themes from Nazi occupation in Liepāja.

Task 5

Create a map that highlights key locations related to anti-Jewish measures and mass killings in Liepāja.

1) Use online mapping tools (e.g., Google Maps) to create a map marking significant sites such as:

- Location of ghetto.
- Mass execution sites.
- Areas where anti-Jewish laws were enforced.

2) Choose one of the locations and prepare a brief informative report about the main events associated with it.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liep%C4%81ja_massacres

<https://www.yadvashem.org/communities/liepaja.html>

Task 6

1) Use previous links (or choose others) and choose one picture of Liepāja in Nazi occupation.

2) Analyse the chosen picture and write the answers:

- How does this image relate to the broader events of the Nazi occupation in Liepāja?
- What are key visual elements in this photo (e.g., people, buildings, symbols)?
- How do these elements contribute to the overall message or feeling conveyed by the image?
- Who are the subjects in the photo? What can you infer about their identities (e.g., Jewish residents, local Latvians, Nazi officials)?
- What emotions do you think the subjects are experiencing? How do you interpret their expressions and body language?
- How does this image symbolize the experiences of Jews or the groups during the Nazi occupations?

- What legacy does this image convey about the events it depicts? How might it influence collective memory regarding the Holocaust in Liepāja?
- What personal feelings or thoughts does this image evoke for you? How do you think it affects you in this way?

Task 7

1) Please read the text.

<https://www2.mfa.gov.lv/en/israel/publications/the-national-resistance-movement-during-wwii-the-latvian-central-council-turns-70>

2) Answer the questions:

- What historical events led to the formation of the Latvian Central Council in 1943? How did the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact influence Latvia's situation during World War II?
- What were the main objectives of the Latvian Central Council as outlined in the text? How did these objectives reflect the desires of the Latvian people during this period?
- According to the LCC's political platform of 1944, what stance did the organization take regarding dependency on Germany and the USSR? How does this stance illustrate their vision for Latvia's future?
- How did the LCC address issues such as the Holocaust and unlawful mobilization of Latvian citizens? What significance does this condemnation hold in terms of moral and ethical leadership?
- In what ways did the LCC attempt to engage with Western governments and other national resistance movements? Why was establishing these connections important for their cause?
- How did the actions and groundwork laid by the LCC contribute to Latvia's eventual restoration of independence after the collapse of the USSR? What role did they play in shaping modern Latvian identity?
- Reflect on the fate of Konstantins Čakste, Chairman of the LCC, who perished in a concentration camp. How do personal stories like his contribute to our understanding of resistance movements during WWII?

Task 8

1) Please review the memory excerpts.

2) Create 3-5 drawings reflecting your thoughts on what you have read.

3) Share with others the thoughts on what you have read.

<http://liepajajewishheritage.lv/en/shelter-at-johanna-and-roberts-seduls/>

Task 9

1) Create small groups and collectively find answers to the questions:

- What were the main challenges faced by Kurelians and the Latvian resistance during World War II?
- How did external factors, such as support from Western powers, influence Latvia's struggle for independence?
- In what ways do you think Kurelians' actions reflect broader themes of resilience and national identity?

2) Discuss the answers you found together in the class.

3) Discuss whether you know any similar examples of resistance.

Task 10

After previous task about Kurelians, write a short reflection paper (1 - 2 paragraphs) discussing:

- 1) What you found most interesting about Kurelians' life and actions.
- 2) How understanding their story contributes to your knowledge of Latvia's history during World War II.
- 3) Any lessons you think can be applied to contemporary issues regarding national identity and resilience.

Task 11

These challenges illustrate the difficult circumstances under which the Latvian Legion operated during World War II, highlighting their struggle for independence amidst external pressures and internal conflicts.

1) Please familiarize yourself with the aspects of the issue related to the Latvian Legion:

1. Complex Political Landscape:

The Latvian Legion operated in a chaotic political environment characterized by shifting alliances and multiple governing bodies claiming legitimacy over Latvia. This instability complicated their mission and objectives.

2. Pressure from German Authorities:

As the war progressed, the German military became increasingly wary of the motives of the Kurelians (the group associated with the Legion). They imposed demands for control over the Kurelians, leading to tension and conflict between the two groups.

3. Desertion and Internal Discipline Issues:

The Legion faced challenges with desertion, particularly as soldiers from the primarily conscript-based Latvian Legion sought to join Kurelians' group. This influx created internal discipline problems and divergent views on how to achieve their goals.

4. Lack of Clear Strategy:

There was uncertainty about the ultimate goal and strategy for achieving independence. While the desire for independence was clear, the methods to attain it—whether through guerrilla warfare or other means—were not well-defined.

5. Military Engagements and Retreats:

The Kurelians were involved in military engagements against German forces as they retreated. They faced significant risks during these confrontations, which culminated in being surrounded by a large German force in November 1944.

6. Arrests and Executions:

Many leaders and members of the Kurelians were arrested by German authorities, leading to executions and imprisonment in concentration camps. This crackdown severely weakened their ranks and morale.

7. Post-War Repression:

After the war, those associated with the Kurelians faced persecution under Soviet rule, including executions and deportations to Gulags, as they were viewed as threats to Soviet authority.

8. Legacy of Controversy:

The legacy of the Latvian Legion remains controversial, particularly regarding its association with Nazi Germany. This has led to complex discussions within Latvia about national identity and historical memory.

- 2) Split into groups and choose one of them.
- 3) Gather information that could serve as a reason for such a perception of the Latvian legionnaires.
- 4) In your group, create a presentation that reflects your research and present it to the others.

Task 12

- 1) Draw connections between the Nazi occupation of Liepāja (Latvia) and Nazi occupations in Germany, for example:
 - The similarities in occupation strategies, such as ghettoization and anti-Jewish measures.
 - Unique features specific to Liepāja, such as the scale of massacres and local collaboration etc.
- 2) Create a comparative table based on the task requirements, choose comparison criteria, and compare Liepāja (Latvia) and Germany.
- 3) At the end of the table, draw conclusions.

	Started to Learn	Continues to Learn	Learned	Learned in Depth
Historical Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic awareness of Nazi occupation in Liepāja and Germany. - Limited details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some understanding of key events and their timelines. - Recognizes significant impacts on local populations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear understanding of the historical context. - Can articulate major events and their effects on Jewish communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprehensive grasp of the historical context. - Able to connect broader European events to specific local experiences in Liepāja and Germany.
Comparison of Occupation Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifies basic similarities in ghettoization and anti-Jewish measures. - Minimal detail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognizes some specific strategies used in both locations. - Can provide examples but lacks depth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clearly outlines similarities and differences in occupation strategies. - Provides specific examples of ghettoization and anti Jewish measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thoroughly analyses occupation strategies including nuanced differences and contextual factors influencing their implementation in each location.
Unique Features of Liepāja	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acknowledges that there were unique features in Liepāja but lacks specific examples. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifies some unique aspects, such as local collaboration or massacres, but needs further detail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clearly articulates unique features of the Liepāja occupation, including scale of massacres and local collaboration efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides an in-depth analysis of unique features, including detailed accounts of massacres and the roles played by local collaborations, contextualizing them

				within broader Nazi policies.
Primary Sources and Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited reference to primary sources. - May mention a few documents without analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some use of primary sources with basic analysis. - Recognizes their importance but lacks depth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effectively uses primary sources to support arguments. - Analyses evidence to draw connection between events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrates advanced critical thinking by synthesizing multiple primary sources. - Provides a comprehensive analysis that enhances understanding of occupation's impact.
Conclusions Drawn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Makes basic statements about similarities and differences without depth or critical analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Begins to draw conclusions about implications but lacks thoroughness or clarity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draws well-supported conclusions about the significance of similarities and differences. - Connects findings to broader historical narratives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offers insightful conclusions that reflect deep analysis. - Discusses broader implications for understanding Nazi occupations across Europe, incorporating multiple perspectives.