

# Refugees From Hitler In New Zealand 1936-46: A Journey of Hope and Integration

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The rise of the Nazi regime in Germany in the 1930s cast a dark shadow over Europe, forcing millions of people to flee their homes in search of refuge. Among those who found sanctuary in distant lands were a small but significant number of Jewish refugees who made their way to New Zealand. This article explores the experiences of these refugees, their journey to New Zealand, and their contributions to the country's social and cultural fabric.



## A Small Price to Pay: Refugees from Hitler in New Zealand 1936–46 by Ann Beaglehole

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
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\*\*The Shadow of Nazism\*\*

The Nazi Party's rise to power in 1933 marked a turning point in German history. The regime's anti-Semitic policies and persecution of Jewish

citizens created an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty. As the situation deteriorated, many Jews realized that they had no choice but to leave Germany.

### **\*\*New Zealand's Response\*\***

New Zealand's response to the refugee crisis was initially cautious. The government was concerned about the potential economic and social impacts of accepting a large number of refugees. However, there was also a growing sense of sympathy for the plight of those fleeing persecution.

In 1936, the government agreed to accept a small number of Jewish refugees from Germany. The first group of refugees arrived in New Zealand in 1938, and over the next eight years, a total of approximately 1,100 Jewish refugees found refuge in the country.

### **\*\*The Journey to New Zealand\*\***

The journey to New Zealand was long and arduous for the refugees. Many had to leave behind their homes, families, and possessions. They traveled by ship, often in crowded and unsanitary conditions.

Once they arrived in New Zealand, the refugees faced a new set of challenges. They had to adapt to a new language, culture, and way of life. Many of them had lost everything they owned, and they had to start over from scratch.

### **\*\*Integration and Contributions\*\***

Despite the challenges they faced, the refugees gradually integrated into New Zealand society. They learned English, found work, and established new lives for themselves and their families.

The refugees brought with them a wealth of skills and knowledge. They played a significant role in New Zealand's economic and cultural development. Many of them became successful in business, the arts, and academia.

### **Notable Refugees**



**Ernst Bollinger** was a Jewish refugee from Germany who arrived in New Zealand in 1938. He established a successful furniture business in

Auckland, which became one of the largest furniture stores in New Zealand.



Karl-Heinz Barck

**Karl-Heinz Barck** was a Jewish refugee from Germany who arrived in New Zealand in 1940. He became a renowned artist, known for his abstract expressionist paintings.



**Otto Frohlich** was a Jewish refugee from Germany who arrived in New Zealand in 1939. He became a prominent academic, specializing in German literature and philosophy.

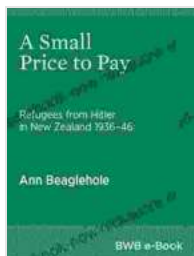
**\*\*Legacy and Impact\*\***

The Jewish refugees who arrived in New Zealand in the 1930s and 1940s made a significant contribution to the country. They brought with them their skills, knowledge, and culture, which enriched New Zealand society. They also played a role in raising awareness of the horrors of the Holocaust and the importance of human rights.

The legacy of the Jewish refugees can still be seen in New Zealand today. Many of their descendants have become prominent members of New Zealand society, and the country continues to welcome refugees from all over the world.

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The story of the Jewish refugees who fled Nazi Germany and found refuge in New Zealand is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. Despite the challenges they faced, they were able to rebuild their lives, contribute to their new country, and leave a lasting legacy.



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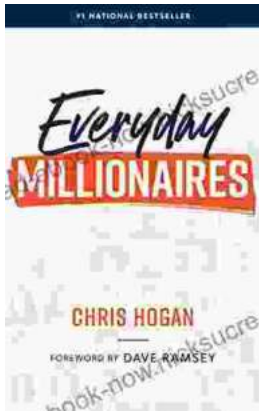
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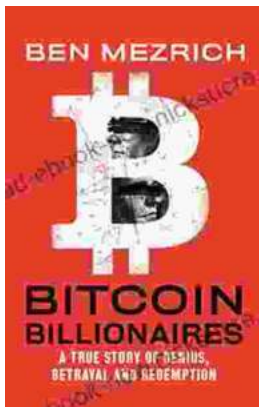
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