

# St. Louis

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## Basic Informations:

- During ww2 (1939)
- Captain: Gustav Schroeder
- German ocean liner carrying more than 900 Jewish refugees from Germany —> first goal was Havana, Cuba
- Permission to land in Cuba was denied, so they went to the States and Canada —> both nations refused to take them up
- After that they shipped back to Europe —> a few countries (f.e. UK, Belgium, Netherlands, France) took a few refugees
- Many Jews were caught while Nazi roundups in occupied countries, and approximately a quarter of them were murdered in death camps during (254 passengers were killed during holocaust)

## Key Facts:

- After St. Louis arrived Havana the Cuban Government had canceled their land permits
- The ship went to Florida coast but the US government did not allowed them to land because they did not have US immigration visas or passed a security control—> many Americans sympathized with the passengers after American Newspaper published the story
- In June 1939 few European countries admitted a percentage of the passengers after America rejected them
- Most passengers were able to get immigration visas for the United States before the German invasion of Western Europe in May 1940 started—> 254 passengers couldn't made it and were killed in Holocaust

The St. Louis ship started 1939 from Hamburg during World War 2. Its first goal was Havana in Cuba with the promise, that all of the 937 Jewish refugees on board the St. Louis can land there and stay during World War 2 to escape the Holocaust against the Jews in Germany.

After reaching Havana they heard that the Cuban Government canceled their land permits, so the refugees couldn't land in Havana.

The captain Gustav Schroeder decided to ship to Florida. Although many Americans sympathized with the passengers after American Newspaper published the story, the US government didn't let them to land because they did not have US immigration visas or passed a security control. St. Louis shipped to Canada but the minister of Justice Ernest Lapointe was "emphatically opposed" to admitting the refugees because the refugees did not qualify under current immigration laws. Another argument was that no country could open its doors wide enough to take in the hundreds of thousands of Jewish people who want to leave Europe.

So the St. Louis took course of Europe. Gustav Schroeder refused to bring the refugees back to Nazi Germany so he shipped to other European countries where the Jews can stay. A few countries (UK, France, the Netherlands and Belgium) left refugees in their land so there where no more refugees left on the ship.

Nevertheless just over half, 278 survived the Holocaust. 254 died while Nazi roundups in occupied countries in Western Europe.

## An average 16,280 immigrants were admitted to Canada each year between 1931 and 1938.

I think this event is significant because many countries made "false decisions" and many people died in case of the decisions of the governments.

Moreover a "similar event" is happening right now with the refugees for example out of Syria trying to land in Europe.

I chose this topic because I find it interesting, how the relation between Canada and Germany was and why refugees were allowed to land anywhere. I want to know the reasons why every country declined the refugees which were persecuted by the state. Moreover it's important why the Jews tried to escape.