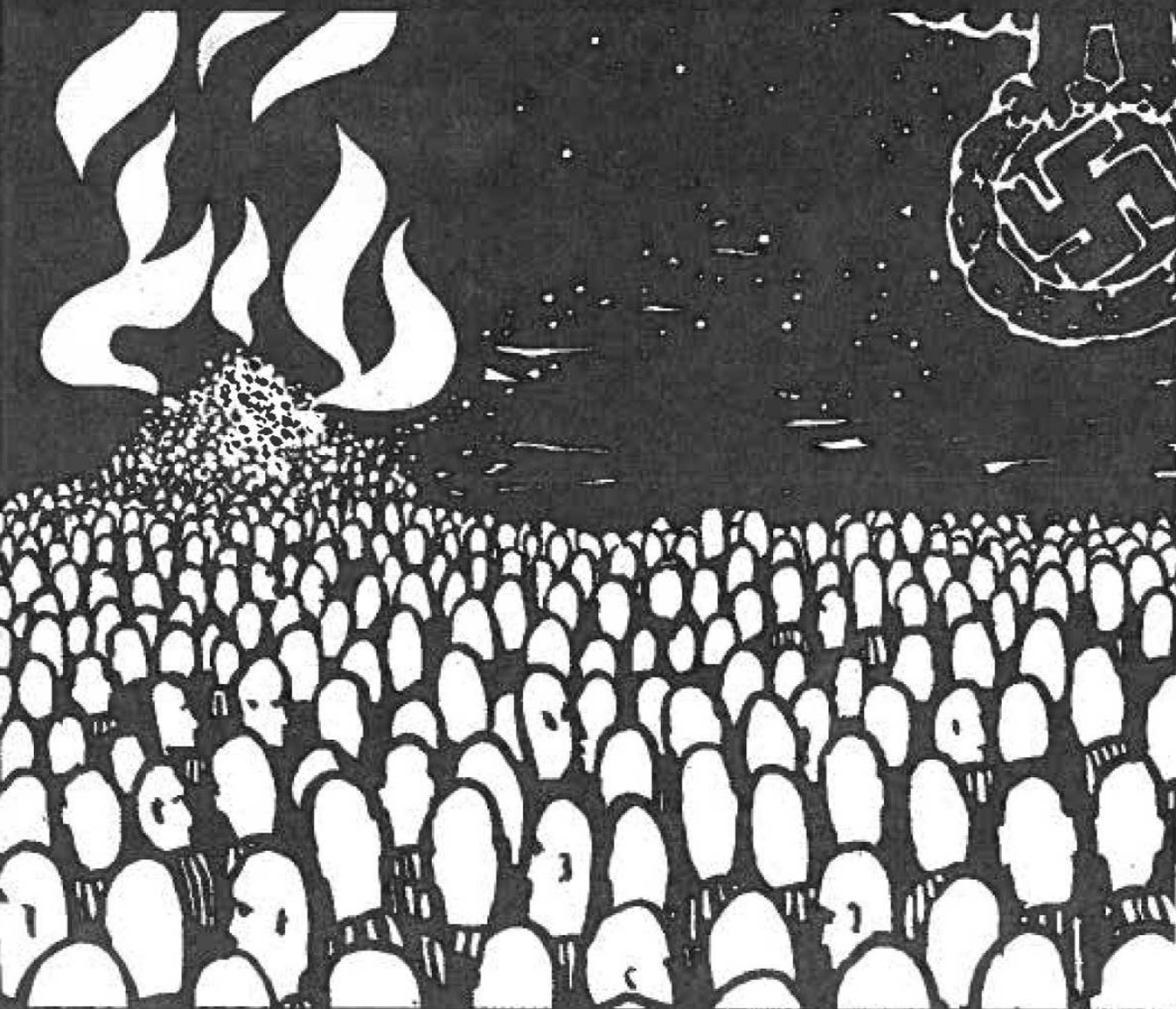


THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Day 5: The Holocaust



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On the cover: Painting by Joseph Bau, poet, graphic artist and former inmate at Plaszow concentration camp in Poland

Illustration: From the book "Dear God! Have you ever gone hungry?" by Joseph Bau
www.josephbau.com

The Holocaust, the state-sponsored destruction of Jews and other groups deemed inferior by Hitler, makes the second world war a war like no other, raising an already brutal conflict to a new level of barbarity. The fifth part of our series traces the origins of antisemitism in Germany, details the rising terror inflicted on German Jews in the 1930s and analyses the bureaucratic organisation of the 'final solution'. Victims, politicians, writers, and Guardian and Observer correspondents bear witness to the key events: read Elie Wiesel on the horror of the transports, Primo Levi on the last days in the camps, and a soldier's moving first-hand account of the liberation of Belsen.

Today's supplement begins with an essay by historian Deborah Lipstadt. If you would like to buy a full set of all seven supplements in the series, log on to guardian.co.uk/readeroffers/secondworldwar.