



S - Shanghai City by the sea. The only escape route open to Jewish refugees. No visas or passports were required of the 20,000 fortunate to make their way there. Most refugees lived in China from 1938 to 1949.



H - Helme/Home Multiple families shared living quarters in a cramped, overpopulated, poverty-stricken one-mile area. Many homes had no indoor plumbing or cooking facilities.



A - Antisemitism Nazis revoked the citizenship of Jews in Nazi controlled areas. The Jews were now considered stateless. The Nazis pressured Japan to adapt the German model of anti-Semitism with the goal of killing the refugees. Misinformation and lies about the Jews were spread to the Japanese people.



N - Nippon/Japan Japan, a Nazi ally, invaded China in 1937 and controlled Shanghai. The ghetto residents lived under strict curfew and armed Japanese guards who restricted their movement. Permits were required to leave the ghetto for any reason and were often difficult to obtain.



G - Hongkew Ghetto The bombed-out slums in Hongkew were the only housing most refugees and the relief agencies could afford. Five blocks wide and twelve blocks long, initially 8,000 refugees and 100,000 Chinese lived in the ghetto. In 1943, Japan decreed all stateless refugees had to live within the ghetto boundaries.



H - Health Bed bugs, lice, malaria, cholera, typhus, malnutrition, poor sanitation, as well as new diseases the immigrants were not familiar with caused many to be sick. All food and water had to be boiled prior to consumption otherwise people could become seriously ill.



A - Air Raids Japan thought the allies would not target their radio tower or the ammunition they stored within the ghetto boundaries. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the allies targeted the radio tower resulting in many casualties.



I - Israel As the Communist took control over China in 1948, the refugees were forced to flee once again. When Israel became a state in 1948, many refugees finally found a safe haven.