War crimes are military violation of the rules of warfare. Since World War II (1939-1945), the term has referred to any crime, atrocity, or persecution committed during the course of a war. Many people have suffered war crimes throughout history and many others have been tried for war crimes after World War II. In 1943, during World War II, the United Nations War Crimes Commission was established. The commission collected evidence and made lists of war criminals. War crime trials took place in Nuremberg, Germany, Tokyo and Japan after the Second World War. Many people were charged with initiating wars and violating the rules of war. Some were also charged with war crimes against humans. Some trials continued into the 1980's. Some countries that had been occupied by German or Japanese troops held their own trials of those that had occupied their countries.

War crimes were committed in countries such as Japan and against the Jews in Germany and in a document published by the Nazi party in 1920 it is decreed that, “only members of the VOLK (German people) may be citizens of the State...no Jew may be a member of the nation.” A former German officer Adolf Eichmann was held responsible for deporting Jews to Nazi extermination camps. In 1960 a court found him guilty of war crimes against Jews, and crimes against humanity.

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