Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson, who claimed nearby Jamestown, NY, as his home, gained international acclaim as the chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials. Appointed by President Truman as the on May 2, 1945 on the eve of the German unconditional surrender.

Jackson’s brilliance and courage in bringing Nazi war criminals to justice set a new standard in international law, the standard to which the world looks today. After Nuremberg, Justice Jackson returned to the bench of the U. S. Supreme Court.

Shortly after participating in the unanimous decision in the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education case he suffered a fatal heart attack. He is buried in nearby Frewsburg, NY, under a simple headstone that reads: “He kept the ancient landmarks and built the new.”

Justice Jackson viewed his work establishing the standards of international law as a result of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg work as his crowning achievement. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, at the inauguration of the judges of the International Criminal Court at The Hague in March 2003, on of the Nuremberg and Tokyo tribunals, “Those tribunals established a principle of vital importance: that those who take part in gross violations of international humanitarian law cannot shelter behind the authority of the State in whose name they did so. They must take personal responsibility for their acts, and face the consequences.”

The Conference Presenters
SUNY Fredonia, Fredonia, NY
With a rich tradition of teaching and learning, the State University of New York (SUNY) at Fredonia is a leading Comprehensive II college, offering a wide variety of majors in the arts, humanities, and the natural and social sciences, as well as professional programs in many areas. One of sixty four SUNY campuses and the largest of the thirteen SUNY Arts & Science colleges, the institution school joined the newly-formed SUNY system in 1948 as one of the 11 teacher’s colleges and in 1961 became the State University of New York College at Fredonia. Fredonia’s history dates back to its roots as the 1826 Fredonia Academy, established by the citizens of Fredonia. In 1867 it was named one of the new State Normal Schools.

The Robert H. Jackson Center, Jamestown, NY
The Robert H. Jackson Center was established as a research and policy center relating to Justice Jackson’s legacy. Robert H. Jackson’s work and writings about Nuremberg have played and continue to play a significant role in discussions about these issues.

The Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY
The internationally renown Chautauqua Institution was founded in 1874 and is a National Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Originally founded as an educational experiment in out-of-school, vacation learning, the Institution is 750-acre educational center beside Chautauqua Lake in southwestern New York State, with a nine week summer season and post-season events.

For more information visit: http://www.fredonia.edu/jacksonsymposium

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http://www.fredonia.edu/jacksonsymposium

Presented by:
The State University of New York at Fredonia, The Robert H. Jackson Center, Jamestown, NY and The Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY
This conference will examine the legacy of Robert H. Jackson and the Nuremberg Trials, and undertake to set forth the theoretical foundations and practical implications for U.S. foreign policy, emphasizing the crucial areas of ‘Crimes against Humanity and Peace.’

The International Military Tribunal’s authority, under whose auspices the Nuremberg trials were held, was limited to three categories of crimes: Crimes against Peace, War Crimes, and Crimes against Humanity. In the sixty years since Nuremberg, there have been significant developments in international law regarding these types of crimes. For example, the Hague International Criminal Tribunal has heard a number of cases, including that of Slobodan Milosevic, that have seemingly legitimized the notion of ‘Crimes against Humanity’. This charge in reality has questionable groundings in policy and ethical principles.

Of the three categories Nuremberg addressed, ‘War Crimes’ is the least problematic in origin, since most nations had agreed to treaties, such as the Geneva Convention, defining appropriate actions during war. However, for the Crimes against Peace category (i.e., aggressive war), no similar international agreements defining specific “crimes” existed.

‘Crimes against Humanity’ covers actions committed by sovereign nations against their own people that did not violate domestic law. Nowhere in international law was there such an injunction prior to Nuremberg. The Nuremberg Trials introduced the idea that citizens may, by following their nation’s laws, violate international law.

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The three-day conference will be structured around concurrent panel sessions with presenters from all over the world, including New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Canada and Germany, will take place in the mornings and afternoons with keynote speakers at lunches and dinner. A pre-conference event on Monday, September 26th will feature Richard Sonnenfeldt, the Chief Interrogator at the Nuremburg trials. A capstone event for the conference is “An Evening with Abby Mann,” Academy Award and New York Film Critics Award for his screenplay for Judgment at Nuremberg (1961).

Keynote speakers currently include:
- Dr. John Q. Barrett, Robert H. Jackson scholar and Professor of Law at St. John’s University. Whitney R. Harris, staff of Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson in the trial of the major German war criminals at Nuremberg, Germany;
- Henry T. King, United States Director of the Canada/United States Law Institute, a professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, and counsel to the law firm of Squire, Sanders and Dempsey, a former U.S. Prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials
- Dr. Christoph Safferling, Assistant Professor, Institute for Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure and Criminology, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, member of the German Law Journal editorial board.
- Michael P. Scharf, Professor of law at Case Western Reserve law school, co-founder of the Public International Law & Policy Group, Director of Case Western’s Frederick K. Cox International Law Center and its War Crimes Research Office, a nominee for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize and current instructor for the judges at the Sadam Hussein trial.
- Promising discussions from among the world’s most knowledgeable scholars and speakers, participants will enjoy a blend of history, international law, U.S. foreign policy, issues of genocide, just and unjust wars and crimes against humanity.

The historic Atheneum Hotel will be the site the conference activities starting at noon on September 26, and the full conference program. The hotel sits grandly on a tree-shaded hill overlooking picturesque Chautauqua Lake on the grounds of the world-renowned Chautauqua Institution in the southwestern corner of New York State. Serving guests in style since 1881, and now listed on the National Historic Register, this Victorian treasure is a full-service hotel appointed to make your stay a relaxing respite. Reservations 1.800.821.1881

Map and Directions
The Chautauqua Institution is located in the southwestern corner of New York state. From the New York State Thruway (Interstate 90), take exit 60, turn left onto NY-394/North Portage Street. Continue to follow NY-394.

From the Southern Tier Expressway (Interstate 86/Route 17) – if eastbound, take Exit 7 (Panama/Chautauqua Institution), turn left onto CR-33, then right onto West Lake Rd./NY-394.

Chautauqua is served by the Chautauqua County Airport at Jamestown, NY (15 miles south of the Institution) via USAirways Express commuter from Pittsburgh, PA. Other nearby airports are the Buffalo (NY) Niagara international airport (70 miles northeast of Chautauqua) and the Erie (PA) international airport (40 miles southwest of Chautauqua).

Privately owned transportation services for travel to and from the Chautauqua County Airport are available.