The first and best known of *Nuremberg Trials* was the trial of the major war criminals before the *International Military Tribunal* (IMT), which tried 24 of the most important captured leaders of Nazi Germany. It was held from November 20, 1945 to October 1, 1946. It must be mentioned that several of the most important war criminals of the war, such as, Hitler, Himmler and Goebbels, were not tried. This is due to the fact that they had committed suicide before the trials had begun. At the *Nuremburg Trials*, 24 of the most important captured leaders (military superiors) of Nazi Germany were tried by the International Military Tribunal of whom 12 received the death sentence.

The second set of Nuremberg Trials of lesser war criminals was conducted under the *Control Council Law No. 10* at the *US Nuremberg Military Tribunals* (NMT); among them included the *Doctors' Trial* and the *Judges' Trial*. The *Doctors' Trial* (officially *United States of America v. Karl Brandt, et al.)* was the first of 12 trials for war crimes that the United States authorities held in their occupation zone in Nuremberg, Germany after the end of World War II. These trials were held before U.S. military courts, not before the International Military Tribunal, but took place in the same rooms at the Palace of Justice. At the *Doctors' Trial*, 20 out of the 23 defendants were medical doctors (civilian superior) and all were accused of having been involved in Nazi human experimentation. Of the 23 (civilian superior) defendants, seven were acquitted and seven received death sentences; the remainder received prison sentences ranging from 10 years to life imprisonment.

Similarly, the *Judges' Trial (The United States of America v. Josef Altstötter, et al.)* was the third of the abovementioned 12 trials. The defendants in this trial were 16 German jurists and lawyers (civilian superiors). They were tried, inter alia, for implementing and furthering the Nazi 'racial purity' programme through the eugenic and racial laws. Out of these 16 (civilian superior) defendants, 10 were found guilty -- of them, four received sentences for lifetime imprisonment, and the rest prison sentences of varying lengths. Four persons were acquitted of all charges.

It must be mentioned that as civilian superiors, a number of industrialists did also receive jail sentences at various *Nuremburg Trials* (namely, *Flick Trial, IG Farben Trial* and *Krupp Trial).*

The contemporary formulation of the doctrine of command or superior responsibility was established during the prosecution and trial of the Imperial Japanese Army General Tomoyuki Yamashita by a US Military Commission in Manila. From October 29 to December 7, 1945, an American military tribunal in Manila tried General Yamashita for the war crimes relating to the *Manila Massacre* (the February 1945 atrocities conducted against Filipino civilians in Manila, Philippines by Japanese troops during World War II) and many atrocities in the Philippines and Singapore against civilians and prisoners of war, such as the *Sook Ching Massacre.* (The *Sook Ching Massacre* was a systematic extermination of perceived hostile elements among the Chinese in Singapore by the Japanese military during the Japanese Occupation of Singapore, after the British colony surrendered on February 15, 1942 during the Second World War. The massacre was later extended to include Chinese Malayans as well. The massacre took place from February 18 to March 4, 1942 at various places in the region.) This *Yamashita Trial* has become a precedent regarding the command responsibility for war crimes and became to be known as the *Yamashita Standard.*

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For a long period, *Yamashita Standard* was thought to be directed against a military superior. However, we have seen in previous occasions that civilian superiors were found guilty for their breach of duty to 'prevent and punish' the acts or offences of their subordinates.