



1933 – 1945.

The Holocaust

Genocide

As defined by the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide:

“Genocide means any of the following **acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group**, such as:

- (a) **Killing** members of the group;
- (b) Causing **serious bodily or mental harm** to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group **conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part**;
- (d) Imposing **measures intended to prevent births** within the group...”



The Holocaust

Beginning after the Nazi rise to power in 1933, the Holocaust was **the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of approximately eleven to seventeen million individuals** belonging to other groups who were deemed “inferior” or dangerous to the stability of the Nazi regime. The group most virulently targeted by this genocide was the Jewish population within German-held territories; **over six million** of the victims of the Holocaust were Jewish.

- Translated directly from the Greek, *Holocaust* means “burnt whole,” or a sacrifice by fire.



Targeted Groups

While Jews made up the vast majority of the victims of the Holocaust, the Nazi regime also targeted many other groups, particularly:

- Communists
- Slavic individuals
- Africans
- Disabled persons
- Socialists
- The Roma
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- homosexuals



Discrimination to Execution

- In 1935, a collection of anti-Semitic laws known as the **Nuremberg Laws** were passed in Germany. These laws:
 - Prohibited marriage and extramarital relationships between Jewish and non-Jewish Germans
 - Prohibited Jewish individuals from hiring non-Jewish German women as domestic servants
 - Prohibited Jews from being allowed to display the national flag
 - Prohibited Jews from working as doctors, lawyers, or journalists
 - Prohibited Jews from using state hospitals
 - Banned Jews from using public parks, libraries, and beaches

Die Nürnberger Gesetze

Deutschblütiger



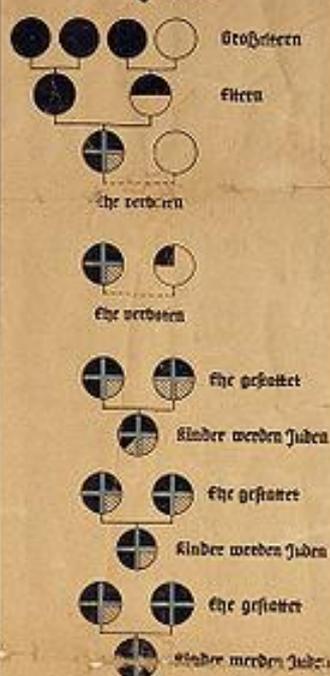
Mischling 2. Grades



Mischling 1. Grades



Jude



Jude



Zeichenerklärung



Sonderfälle bei Mischlingen 1. Grades



Reichsbürgergesetz vom 15. 9. 1935

1. Verordnung vom 14. 11. 1935

Das Reichsbürgerrecht ist in jedem einzelnen Falle von der Reichsregierung abhängig

Gesetz zum Schutze des deutschen Blutes und der deutschen Ehre vom 15. 9. 1935

1. Verordnung vom 14. 11. 1935

Reichsraße ist lebenslang unerblich

Reichsbürgergesetz I
 15. 9. 1935, 1. 11. 1935
 11. 11. 1935, 14. 11. 1935

DEUTSCHES REICH 

16. 5. 34
J



(Stempelmarken)
Gebühr:

3 RM bezahlt

REISEPASS

Nr. 1393

NAME DES PASSINHABERS

Ernst Para Löwenstein

geb. Schridde

BEGLEITET VON SEINER EHEFRAU

UND VON  KINDERN

STAATSANGEHÖRIGKEIT:

DEUTSCHES REICH

Kristallnacht

On November 9, 1938, the Nazis began a widespread series of **pogroms** against the Jewish population within Germany. The pretext for the widespread violence was the assassination of a German diplomat by a Jewish teenager. While the massacres that followed were portrayed as spontaneous reactions by the German state press, they were largely calculated and planned attacks by local Nazi party organization.

- At least 91 individuals were killed, thousands of synagogues and Jewish businesses were destroyed, and many homes were burnt to the ground.







Emigration

With the situation in Germany rapidly deteriorating, many Jews made the decision to flee Germany in the months following Kristallnacht. In 1939 alone, **27,370 individuals** from Germany applied for immigration papers to the United States—most of them Jews.



Removal to Ghettos

Following the German invasion of Poland, the occupying Nazi forces established the first ghetto in the city of Piotrkow Trybunalski in October of 1939.

- Ghettos were city districts— sometimes fully enclosed and isolated— in which the Germans concentrated the Jewish population of a city or region.
- Conditions in the ghettos were crowded, unsanitary, and often lacking the basic necessities.

The Holocaust

-  Extermination camp
-  Concentration camp*
-  City with ghetto
-  Transit city
-  Major massacre
-  Major deportation route

Regions: German name (PRESENT COUNTRY)

- Axis country/annexed by Axis
- Occupied by Axis
- Italy (Axis) at height of occupation
- Allied country
- Neutral

* Includes labor-, prison- & transit camps.
 Note: Not all camps & ghettos are shown.
 Borders are at the height of Axis domination (1942).
 Dotted borders are present (2007) borders.





Concentration Camps

Concentration camps were not a new idea during World War II; they had been used in Cuba during the Spanish-American War, and in South Africa during the Boer War. However, the use of concentration camps— **prison camps for undesirable persons**— accelerated during the Nazi regime.

- Individuals held in concentration camps were expected to work to the point of exhaustion or death with little or no food, poor housing, and extreme physical abuse.
- The first concentration camp opened in Germany in 1933 was at Dachau, for political prisoners.
- Nearly **3.5 million people died** in concentration camps between 1933 and 1945.





Final Solution

The euphemistic name for **the plan to annihilate the Jewish population of Europe**, the “Final Solution” was designed by Heinrich Himmler. The plan required the construction of **industrialized extermination camps**, such as Auschwitz and Treblinka.



Extermination Camps

The primary function of extermination camps was genocide. They were built in areas that had the highest numbers of the intended victims— thus, as Poland had the highest population of Jews in Europe, **most of the extermination camps were built in Poland.** The first extermination camp opened in 1941.

While each camp functioned differently, they were all designed for maximum efficiency, using poison gas for mass executions, and crematoria for the disposal of bodies.

Many individuals sent to extermination camps were subject to involuntary medical experiments, torture, and brutal physical mistreatment.





Death Marches

As the Allies advanced from the west and east during 1944, orders to erase all evidence of the crimes perpetrated at extermination and concentration camps were issued by high-ranking members of the German government.

Some camps were evacuated, the prisoners forced to march until they dropped. Other camps were abandoned by their administrators, leaving the inmates— often weakened and nearly dead from starvation— unable to flee on their own.



