Holocaust Timeline: Evolution of the Treatment of the Jewish Population

Background

- ▶ Jewish less than 1% of population
- Jewish had fought alongside Germans in WWI
- Some discrimination (racism) from Germans, but relationships improving

This Year: Concentration Camps begin to be established and opened.

April 1 – Boycott of Jewish shops and businesses

- Nazi organized
- Revenge for criticizing the Nazi's
- Storm troopers stood in front of Jewish owned shops
- "Don't buy from Jews" signs
- One day boycott, not very successful
- Marked beginning of Nazi campaign against the Jewish population



April 7 – Laws for Reestablishment of the Civil Service barred Jews from holding civil service, limited the number permitted to universities, and state positions May 10: Public burnings of books written by Jews, political dissidents, and others not approved by the

state.



July 14: Law excluding East European Jewish immigrants of German citizenship.

No significant specific changes for the Jewish People

► Hilter is officially in charge of Germany, he is the leader and chancellor

May 31: Jews barred from serving in the German armed forces



September 15: "Nuremberg Laws": first anti-Jewish racial laws enacted which legalized Germany radical theories

- > Jews no longer considered German citizens
- Jews could not marry Aryans (persons of Germany of related blood)
- > Jews could no longer fly the German flag



November 15: Germany defines a "Jew": anyone with three Jewish grandparents; someone with two Jewish grandparents who identifies as a Jew.

March 3: Jewish doctors barred from practicing medicine in

German institutions.



No significant specific changes for the Jewish People

April 26: Mandatory registration of all property held by Jews inside the Reich

October 5: Following request by Swiss authorities, Germans mark all Jewish passports with a large letter "J" to restrict Jews from immigrating

to Switzerland.



October 28: 17,000 Polish Jews living in Germany expelled

- ▶ Poles refused to admit them
- ► About half are stranded in the frontier village
- They are now a group of people with no home or country to belong to

November 9-10: Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass)

- Anti-Jewish pogrom in Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland
- Coordinated attacks
- ► At night on November 9th
- ▶ The attack came after a 17 year old Jew living in Paris, shot and killed a member of the German Embassy staff there in retaliation for the poor treatment his father and his family suffered at the hands of the Nazis in Germany
- Turning point in the treatment of Jewish community
- ▶ 200 synagogues destroyed / 7,500 Jewish shops looted / 30,000 male Jews sent to concentration camps

November 9-10: Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass)





November 12: Decree forcing all Jews to transfer retail businesses to Aryan hands

November 15: All Jewish pupils expelled from German schools

January 30: Hitler in Reichstag speech

▶ If war erupts it will mean the extermination of European Jews



September 1: Beginning of World War II

November 23: Jews in Germanoccupied Poland forced to wear an arm band or yellow star.





May 20: Concentration camp established at Auschwitz.



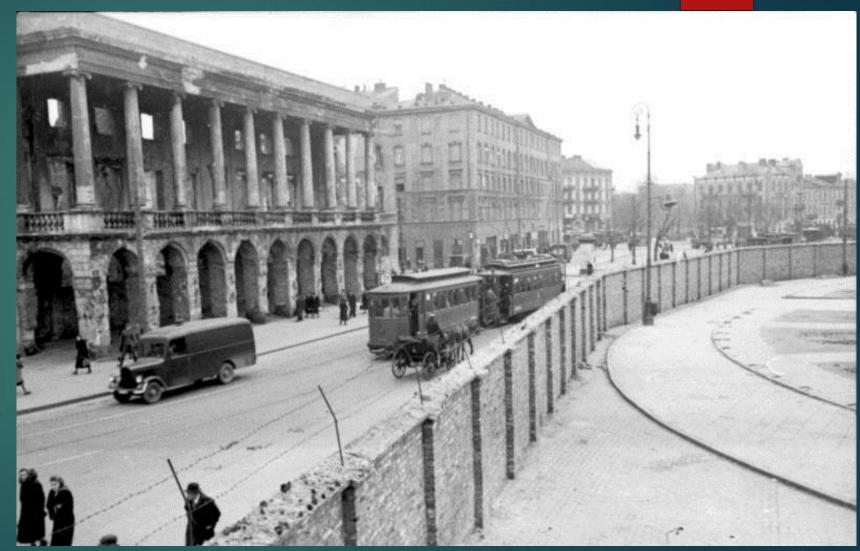


"work sets you free"

November 16: Warsaw Ghetto

sealed

- Ultimately contained 500,000 people
- Forced Jewish community to live within the ghetto walls, a confined space that was not suited for these vast numbers
- The Jewish Council (community leaders) believed that a policy of co-operation with the Nazis was better than a policy of fighting back as the latter would only lead to worse situations



February 1: German authorities begin rounding up Polish Jews for transfer to Warsaw Ghetto

10,000 Jews died by starvation in the ghetto between January and

June 1941.





March: Adolf Eichmann appointed head of the department for Jewish affairs of the Reich Secur

- One of the most pivotal actors in the deportation of European Jewry during the Holocaust
- On December 15, 1961, Eichmann was found guilty of crimes against the Jewish people. He was hanged at midnight between May 31 and June 1, 1962



July 31: Heydrich appointment to implement the "Final Solution".

Exterminate the Jewish population in Nazi-controlled Europe



July - August: Dozens thousands of Russian and Jews are murdered by the Einzatzgruppen (extermination squads) in the occupied territories.

Mass killings to limit responsibility



January 20: Wannsee Conference in Berlin

▶ Heydrich outlines plan to murder Europe's Jews (Final Solution)

Winter: Deptation of Jews from Germany, Greece and Norway to killing centers

April 19: Warsaw Ghetto revolt

- ► Germans attempt to liquidate 70,000 inhabitants
- Jewish refused to surrender
- Germans began burning the Ghetto block by block
- ▶ 13,000 Jews died, about half of them burnt alive or suffocated
- Single largest revolt by Jews during World War II
- After the uprising was over, most of the incinerated houses were razed
- Concentration camp was established on the grounds



October 7: Revolt by inmates at Auschwitz

- Organized by Sonderkommanos, Jewish prisoners who worked in the death camps
- Through small steps and careful planning, they prepared for the revolt and escape attempt
- An especially sadistic Nazi guard in Crematorium 1 is disarmed and stuffed into an oven to be burned alive
- The guards counterattack and penetrate the buildings, indiscriminately shooting at all prisoners they encounter
- The revolt is quickly suppressed and the escaped men recaptured with the help of local citizens
- The men give up names, including those of some women who were engaged in smuggling gunpowder. Despite months of beatings and rape and electric shocks to their genitals, the only names given up by the women are those of already dead sonderkommando
- ▶ On January 5, 1945, the four women are hanged in front of the assembled women's camp
- Roza Robota shouts "Be strong and be brave" as the trapdoor drops

November 8: Beginning of death march of approximately 40,000 Jews from Budapest to Austria.



Throughout April: Liberation of camps



April 30: Hitler commits suicide



September 2: Japan surrenders; end of World War II

