

# CHRONOLOGY

## Chronology

### 1933

**Jan. 30** Hitler appointed Reich Chancellor of Germany (Prime Minister)

**Feb. 27** *Reichstag* fire

**Feb. 28** Hitler given emergency powers by presidential decree

**Mar. 5** *Reichstag* elections; Nazis win 44% of vote

**May 20** Established of the first concentration camp in Nazi Germany at Dachau

**Mar. 24** "Enabling Law" passed by *Reichstag*; used to establish dictatorship.

**Apr.** Jews excluded from government employment; includes teachers and university professors

**Apr. 1** Nationwide boycott of Jewish owned businesses

**Apr. 26** Formation of the Gestapo

**May 10** Public burning of books by Jews and opponents of Nazis

**Jul. 20** Concordat signed in Rome between Vatican and the Third Reich

**Oct. 14** German withdrawal from the League of Nations

**Nov. 12** *Reichstag* elections; Nazis "win" 93% of the vote

**Dec. 1** Legal unity of German state and Nazi Party declared

### 1934

**Jan. 26** Ten-year nonaggression pact signed with Poland

**Mar. 9** Outbreak of rioting against German Jews by members of S.A. and Stahlhelm

**May 10** Public burning of Jewish books and of books by opponents of Nazism

**Jun. 30 to July 2** "Night of the Long Knives"; Ernst Roehm, head of the SA, is murdered; SA purged

**Aug. 2** Death of President von Hindenburg; Hitler declares himself Fuehrer of the German State; armed forces are required to take a personal oath of loyalty to Hitler

**Aug. 20** Boycott of Nazi Germany declared by American Jewish Congress

**Oct. -Nov.** First major arrests of homosexuals throughout Germany

### 1935

**Jan. 7** Mussolini and Laval sign French-Italian Agreement in Rome

**Jan. 13** Saar region annexed to Germany.

**Mar. 16** In violation of the Treaty of Versailles, military conscription introduced

**Apr.** Jehovah Witnesses banned from civil service jobs; many arrested throughout Germany

**Sep. 15** Nuremberg Laws announced; Jews deprived of citizenship

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### 1936

**Mar. 7** Germany army enters Rhineland in violation of Treaty of Versailles

**Jul. 12** First arrest of German Gypsies; sent to Dachau

**Aug. 1** In anticipation of 1936 Berlin Olympics, anti-Semitic signs removed from most public places

**Oct. 25** Rome-Berlin Axis agreement signed

### 1937

**Jul. 16** Establishment of Buchenwald concentration camp

**Nov. 25** Political and military pact signed by Germany and Japan

### 1938

**Mar. 13** Anschluss: Austria is annexed by Germany

**Jul. 6-15** Evian Conference: thirty-two countries discuss refugee policies; most countries refuse to let in more Jewish refugees

**Aug. 17** All Jewish men in Germany will be required to add "Israel" to their names; all Jewish women will be required to add "Sarah."

**Sep. 29** Munich Agreement is signed by Germany, France, Italy and Great Britain; Czechoslovakia loses Sudetenland to Germany

**Oct.** "Aryanization" of property of German Jews begins

**Oct. 28** First deportation of Polish Jews from Germany.

**Nov. 9** *Kristallnacht* a nationwide pogrom in Germany and Austria; 30,000 Jews sent to concentration camps, 191 synagogues destroyed, 75,000 shops looted

**Nov. 15** All Jewish children expelled from public schools

**Dec. 2-3** Gypsies in Germany required to register with police.

### 1939

**Mar. 15** Nazis invade Czechoslovakia. Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia established.

**May 15** Ravensbruck concentration camp for women established

**June** Jewish refugees aboard the *SS St. Louis* denied entry to the United States and Cuba; forced to return to Europe

**Aug. 23** Hitler-Stalin Pact signed

**Sep. 1** Germany invades Poland; World War II begins

**Sep. 2** Stutthof concentration camp established in Poland

**Sep. 3** Britain and France declare war on Germany

**Sep. 21** Reinhard Heydrich (SS) order establishment of *Judenrate* and concentration of Polish Jews

**Sep. 28** Partition of Poland between Germany and USSR

**Oct.** Hitler authorized "euthanasia program" (T-4) in Germany; doctors to kill institutionalized mentally and physically disabled

**Oct. 8** First Polish ghetto established in Piotrkow Trybunalski

**Nov. 23** Distinctive identifying armband made obligatory for all Jews in Central Poland

### 1940

**Feb. 8** Establishment of Lodz Ghetto

**Apr. 27** Heinrich Himmler (SS) orders establishment of Auschwitz concentration camp; first prisoners, mostly Poles, arrive in early June.

**Apr. 30** Lodz Ghetto is sealed

**Spring** Nazis conquer Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland, and France

**Sep. 27** Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis established

**Oct. 3** Anti-Jewish laws passed by Vichy government in France

**Nov. 15** Warsaw Ghetto is sealed

**Nov. 20** Hungary, Rumania, and Slovakia join the Nazis and Italians

### 1941

**Mar. 1** Himmler orders construction of camp at Birkenau (Auschwitz II); construction begins in October 1941 and continues until March 1942

**Mar. 3-20** Krakow Ghetto established and sealed

**Mar. 24** Nazis invade North Africa

**Apr. 6** Germany invades Yugoslavia and Greece

**Apr. 24** Lublin Ghetto is sealed

**Jun. 22** Operation "Barbarossa" the Nazis invasion of the USSR

**Jun. 23** Einsatzgruppen begin their mass murder of Jews, Gypsies, and Communist leaders in the USSR

**Jul. 20** Minsk Ghetto established

**Jul. 21** Hermann Goering gives Reinhard Heydrich the authority to prepare a "total solution" to the "Jewish Question" in Europe

**Aug. 1** Bialystok Ghetto established

**Sep. 1** "Euthanasia program" (T-4) in Germany ended; between 70,000 and 93,000 people had been murdered in Germany during the course of this program

**Sep. 3** The first experimental gassing of Soviet prisoners of war at Auschwitz

**Sep. 3-6** Two ghettos established at Vilna (Lithuania)

**Sep. 19** German Jews required to wear yellow badge in public

**Sep. 29-30** At Babi Yar, 33,771 Kiev Jews murdered

**Oct. - Nov.** First deportation of German and Austrian Jews to ghettos in Eastern Europe

**Oct.** Construction of Majdanek-Lublin extermination camp

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**Nov. 1** Construction of Blezecz extermination camp begins

**Nov. 24** Theresienstadt (Terezin) concentration camp established

**Dec. 7** Japan attacks Pearl Harbor

**Dec. 8** Gassing operations begin at Chelmno extermination camp

**Dec. 11** Germany and Italy declare war on the United States

### 1942

**Jan. 20** Wannsee Conference; plans for the "Final Solution" are drafted

**Feb. 8** First Jews from Salonika, Greece sent to Auschwitz

**Mar. 1** Construction of Sobibor extermination camps begins

**Mar. 28** First Jews from France sent to Auschwitz

**Jul. 22** Treblinka extermination camp completed

**Jul. 22 - Sept. 12** Mass deportations from Warsaw Ghetto to Treblinka

**Jul. 28** Jewish fighting organizations set up in Warsaw Ghetto

**Nov. 24** Knowledge of extermination of the Jews of Europe publicly announced in U.S. by Rabbi Stephen S. Wise

### 1943

**Jan. 18-22** First Warsaw Ghetto Uprising breaks out

**Feb. 2** Nazis defeated at Battle of Stalingrad

**Feb. 26** First transport of Gypsies arrive at Auschwitz; Gypsy camp established

**Apr. 19 - May 16** Warsaw Ghetto uprising; Jews resist Nazis' effort to deport them to death camps

**Jul. 21** Himmler orders the liquidation of all ghettos in Poland and USSR

**Oct. 2** Nazis attempt round-up of Danish Jews; Danish people use boats to smuggle most of Danish Jews (7,200) to neutral Sweden

### 1944

**Mar. 19** Nazis occupy Hungary

**May 2** First transport of Hungarian Jews reach Auschwitz; by July 9, over 437,000 Hungarian Jews are sent to Auschwitz; most of them are gassed

**Jun. 6** Allied invasion of Normandy

**Aug. 2** Gypsy camp at Auschwitz destroyed by Nazis; 3,000 gassed

**Oct. 7** Prisoners blow up one of the gas chambers at Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp

## Chronology

### 1945

**Jan. 17** Nazis evacuate Auschwitz; "death marches" toward Germany

**Jan. 27** Soviet army liberates Auschwitz

**Feb. 4-11** Yalta Conference

**Apr. 11** American army liberates Buchenwald concentration camp

**Apr. 15** British army liberated Bergen-Belsen concentration camp

**Apr. 29** American army liberates Dachau concentration camp

**Apr. 30** Hitler commits suicide in Berlin

**May 2** Soviet troops capture Berlin

**May 7** Nazi Germany surrenders; end of World War II in Europe

**Aug. 14** Japan surrenders; end of World War II

**Nov. 20** First major Nuremberg War Crimes Trials begin

### 1946

**Oct. 1** Conclusion of first major Nuremberg Trials; twelve Nazis to be executed, three sentenced to life imprisonment, four receive various prison terms, and three are acquitted

### 1948

**May 14** State of Israel established

**Oct. 16** Execution of Nazi war criminals

Sources: *Feinberg, Stephen. SE, Classroom Focus - "Holocaust Chronology:"* October 1995.  
*Holocaust Chronology*, Yad Vashem, Israel