



Timeline of Holocaust Events

Student Name _____ Date _____

This chronicle is based on Lucy S. Dawidowicz, *The War Against the Jews, 1933-1945* [New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1975] and on the [Brief History of the Holocaust](#) at the [U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum](#) website.

1933

- Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party gains control of the German government.
- The Nazis decree a 3-day boycott of Jewish businesses.
- The Nazis establish a concentration camp at Dachau, the first of many prison camps where they will confine communists, socialists, trade unionists, homosexuals, Gypsies, Jews, Jehovah's Witnesses, and other "undesirables."
- Nazi laws remove Jews from German courts and civil service positions, limit the number of Jews who can attend German universities, remove Jews from German college faculties, and expel Jews from German cultural life (i.e., film, theater, literature, music, journalism).
- Jewish food preparation rituals are outlawed.
- Nazi laws require involuntary sterilization of mixed race children, the physically or mentally handicapped, Gypsies, Blacks, and others deemed racially or genetically "inferior."

1935

- The Nazi's "Nuremberg Laws" prohibit marriage and extramarital relations between Jews and non-Jews, revoke the citizenship and civil rights of German Jews, and forbid Jews to display the German flag.

1938

- Nazi laws require Jews to report their financial assets and property.
- The Nazi government assumes control of all Jewish religious institutions.
- Nazi laws forbid Jews to practice law or medicine, and require Jews to carry special identification cards at all times.
- Jews are ordered to turn in their passports so they can be stamped "Jew."

- **Kristallnacht** ("The Night of Broken Glass," November 9): a government-sanctioned night of anti-Jewish riots, during which synagogues are burned, Jewish homes looted, Jewish businesses destroyed, and thousands of Jews beaten, tortured, arrested, or killed.
- Nazi police arrest approximately 30,000 Jewish men for deportation to concentration camps.
- Nazi laws ban Jewish newspapers and journals, expel Jewish children from German schools, and bar Jews from theaters, museums, and other public gathering places.
- The Nazi government closes all Jewish businesses and prohibits further Jewish business activity.
- The government imposes a tax on Jews to pay for Kristallnacht property damage.

1939

- The Nazi Gestapo (a secret police force) assumes control of all Jewish affairs.
- The Nazis establish detailed procedures for confiscating Jewish property.
- **Nazi Invasion of Poland** (September 1): Nazi Einsatzgruppen (mobile killing squads) follow the advancing German army and execute thousands of Poles, whom the Nazis regard as "subhuman." Thousands more are shipped to Germany as slave laborers or relocated within Poland to provide open space for German settlement.
- Nazi forces round up approximately 3 million Polish Jews and confine them in urban ghettos.
- Polish Jews are required to wear the Star of David.
- In Germany, the Nazis initiate a euthanasia program to kill institutionalized and handicapped patients who are deemed incurable.

1940

- **Nazi Conquest of Europe:** Anti-Jewish policies are imposed in Nazi-occupied Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, and in other European countries under Nazi domination.

1941

- **Nazi Invasion of the Soviet Union** (June 22): Einsatzgruppen following the advancing army exterminate Jews, Gypsies, communists, and other "undersirables"; more than one million people are massacred.
- Extermination camps with gas chambers for mass executions are constructed in Poland at Auschwitz-Birkenau, Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor, Majdanek, and Treblinka.

1942

- Nazi leaders, meeting in Wannsee outside Berlin, adopt a policy of mass execution as "the final solution of the Jewish question."
- Deportation of Jews from Nazi-occupied and Nazi-dominated countries across Europe to the extermination camps in Poland begins.

1945

- The Nazi's extermination camps, concentration camps, and forced labor camps remain in operation until Germany surrenders on May 7.