

# Holocaust Timeline

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- 1933 **Hitler** becomes Chancellor.  
**Dachau**, the first concentration camp, established.  
**Enabling Act** which suspends civil liberties.  
First anti-Jewish decrees.  
Burning of books written by Jews and anti-Nazis.  
Jewish professors expelled from universities; artists prohibited from practicing as artists.
- 1935 **Nuremberg Laws**: Jews could not be German citizens, marry “Aryans,” fly German flag, hire German maids under forty-five.
- 1936 Jewish doctors barred from practicing medicine in government institutions.
- 1937 **Buchenwald** concentration camp opens
- 1938 **Anschluss**: Annexation of Austria by Germany.  
**Kristallnacht** (Night of Broken Glass).  
Decree forcing all Jews to transfer businesses to Aryan hands. All Jewish pupils expelled from German Schools.
- 1939 Germany invades Poland.  
Jews in German occupied Poland forced to wear distinguishing badge.
- 1940 **Lodz Ghetto** established.  
Germany invades Holland, Belgium, France.  
**Auschwitz** concentration camp established.  
**Warsaw Ghetto** established.
- 1941 Germany invades the Soviet Union.  
Nazi **Einsatzgruppen**, special mobile killing squads, carry out mass murder of Jews in German-occupied areas of Soviet Union.  
Jews in **Third Reich** must wear yellow **Star of David**.  
Japanese attack Pearl Harbor; America enters the war.
- 1942 **Wannasee** Conference: **Heydrich** reveals official plan to murder all Jews on European continent.  
Jewish underground organizations established in **Vilna** and **Kovno Ghettos**. Fighting organizations established in **Warsaw Ghetto**.  
Extermination by gas begins in **Sobibor** extermination camp.  
Deportation of Jews to extermination camps from Holland, Poland, France, Belgium, Croatia, Norway, Germany, and Greece.  
**Treblinka** extermination camp begins operation.
- 1943 Liquidation of **Krakow Ghetto**.  
**Warsaw Ghetto** revolt.  
Liquidation of **ghettos** in **Minsk, Vilna, and Riga**.
- 1944 Germany occupies Hungary and begins deportation of Hungarian Jews.  
Red Army repels Nazi forces.  
Allied invasion of Normandy.  
Liquidation of **ghettos** in **Kovno, Shavli, and Lodz**.  
Revolt by **Auschwitz** inmates.
- 1945 Beginning of **Death Marches**.  
Germany surrenders.
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# Holocaust Terms

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## **Antisemitism**

Hostility towards Jews as an ethnic or religious group, often accompanied by social, economic and political discrimination. Nazi antisemitism was racial in nature; Jews were viewed as racially inferior to Aryans and destructive of the world order.

## **Bystander**

Those who stand by while a crime or wrongful deed is being committed and do nothing to stop it and look the other way.

## **Concentration Camp**

Camps established by the Nazi regime, which eventually became a major instrument of terror, control, punishment, and killing performed through both deliberate means as well as attrition by hunger and/or disease.

## **Discrimination**

Action based on prejudice or racist beliefs that results in unfair treatment of individuals or groups, unjust conditions in areas such as employment, housing and education.

## **Genocide**

The deliberate and systematic attempted annihilation of a national, racial, ethnic or religious group of people. Genocide includes mass murder and the destruction of cultural and political institutions.

## **Ghetto**

Sections of towns and cities that the German occupation authorities and their allies used to concentrate, exploit, and starve regional Jewish populations. Originally, a ghetto was a section of a European city in which all Jews were forced to live. Today, a ghetto is a section of a city that is inhabited primarily by a single minority group, to which the group is restricted socially or economically.

## **Nazi**

Short for *Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter-Partei*, the political party that emerged in Munich, Germany after World War I. The party was taken over by Adolf Hitler in the early 1920's.

## **Perpetrators**

Those who actively and willingly performed the crimes against humanity.

## **Prejudice**

A preconceived attitude, opinion or feeling, usually negative, formed without adequate knowledge, thought or reason. Prejudicial thinking is often based on stereotypes.

## **Propaganda**

The deliberate spreading of ideas or information, true or untrue, with the purpose of manipulating public opinion to gain support for one's cause or to discourage support for another.

## **Racism**

1. A set of beliefs based on perceived 'racial' superiority and inferiority.
2. A system of domination that is played out in everyday interactions, and the unequal distribution of privilege, resources and power.

## **Reich, Third Reich**

The official name of the Nazi regime, ruled from 1933 to 1945 under the command of Adolf Hitler.

## **Scapegoat**

An individual or group unfairly blamed for problems not of their making.

## **Stereotype**

A simplistic, firmly held belief, often negative, about individual characteristics generalized to all people within that group.

## **Tolerance**

1. A fair and objective attitude toward those whose opinions and practices differ from one's own.
2. The commitment to respect human dignity.

# Definitions of the Holocaust

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1.) Under the cover of the Second World War, for the sake of their “new order,” the Nazis sought to destroy all the Jews of Europe. For the first time in history, industrial methods were used for the mass extermination of a whole people. Six million were murdered, including 1,500,000 children. This event is called the Holocaust.

The Nazis enslaved and murdered millions of others as well. Gypsies, people with physical and mental disabilities, Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, trade unionists, political opponents, prisoners of conscience, homosexuals, and others were killed in vast numbers.

Imperial War Museum, London, UK

2.) The Holocaust refers to a specific genocidal event in twentieth-century history: the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Jews were the primary victims —6 million were murdered; Gypsies, the handicapped, and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C., USA

3.) The Holocaust was the murder of approximately six million Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators. Between the German invasion of the Soviet Union in the summer of 1941 and the end of the war in Europe in May 1945, Nazi Germany and its accomplices strove to murder every Jew under their domination. Because Nazi discrimination against the Jews began with Hitler’s accession to power in January 1933, many historians consider this the start of the Holocaust era. The Jews were not the only victims of Hitler’s regime, but they were the only group that the Nazis sought to destroy entirely.

Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, Israel

