

TIMELINE OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

- Jan. 30, 1933 Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany.
- March 23, 1933 Dachau concentration camp opens. Its first prisoners are political opponents.
- April 1, 1933 A nation-wide boycott of Jewish businesses is ordered by the Nazi Party. Nazi guards stand in front of Jewish-owned stores and discourage people from shopping there. Often the German word for Jew (*Jude*) is smeared on the store window with a Star of David painted in black and yellow graffiti. People shopping at the stores are threatened and physically molested. Signs often stated that Germans buying at Jewish-owned shops would be photographed and their pictures and names published in the local press. The boycott does not receive widespread support.
- April 25, 1933 The law against "overcrowding in German schools and universities" is adopted, restricting the number of Jewish children allowed to attend. Children of war veterans and those with one non-Jewish parent are initially exempted.
- May 10, 1933 The Nazis declare that any books they disapprove of should be banned. They burn tens of thousands of books in huge bonfires. This includes many popular children's books, since the authors were Jewish.
- July 14, 1933 Law for the Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary (Genetic) Diseases is adopted. As a result, German doctors sterilize many disabled adults and children, and also Jewish, Gypsy, and Afro-German children.
- 1933 – 1935 In German schools it is officially taught that "non-Aryans" are racially inferior. Jewish children are prohibited from participating in "Aryan" sport clubs, school orchestras, and other extracurricular activities. Jewish children are banned from playgrounds, swimming pools, and parks in many German cities and towns.
- May 1935 "No Jews" signs & notices are posted outside German towns and villages, and outside shops and restaurants.
- May 21 & 31, 1935 Jews are prohibited from serving in the German armed forces.
- Sept. 15, 1935 The Nüremberg Laws: laws proclaimed at Nüremberg stripped German Jews of their citizenship even though they retained limited rights.
- Oct. 15, The Ministry of Science and Education prohibits teaching by

- 1936 "non-Aryans" in public schools and bans private instruction by Jewish teachers.
- July 2, 1937 Further restrictions are imposed on the number of Jewish students attending German schools.
- March 11–13, 1938 Germany occupies and incorporates Austria as a German province called the *Ostmark*.
- May 13, 1938 The German government passes a decree requiring the registration of all Gypsies without a fixed address living in the *Ostmark*; by June 1938, all Gypsy children above the age of 14 have to be fingerprinted. This is a central part of the growing racial definition of Gypsies as "criminally asocial."
- May 17, 1938 Special questionnaires for the registration of Jews and *Mischlinge* (people of part-Jewish origin) are used for the national census.
- June 12 – 18, 1938 The Germans launch the first major wave of arrests of German and Austrian Gypsies, including male Gypsy teenagers (14 and older). They are sent to Dachau, Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen, and Mauthausen. Females above age 14 are sent to Lichtenburg and its successor concentration camp at Ravensbruck.
- July 11, 1938 Jews are prohibited from going to German spas and vacationing at German beaches. Thus, German Jews can no longer go to the beach at Danzig, but are forced into a somewhat smaller enclave at the adjacent town of Zoppot, where oil and commercial barges are anchored.
- July 23, 1938 A decree is issued that Jews older than the age of 15 must carry, at all times, identity cards that mark them as Jews. The decree goes into effect January 1, 1939.
- Aug. 17, 1938 A decree makes it mandatory for Jews to insert the middle names of "Israel" and "Sara" into all official documents. The decree goes into effect January 1, 1939. Thus, Jews are always identifiable.
- Sept. 29 – 30, 1938 Munich Conference: World powers allow Germany to annex Czechoslovakia.
- Oct. 5, 1938 Jewish passports must be stamped with a red "J" at the request of the Swiss government.
- Nov. 9 – 11, 1938 *Kristallnacht* ("Night of Broken Glass"): organized nationwide pogroms (anti-Jewish riots) result in the burning of hundreds of synagogues, the looting and destruction of many Jewish homes, schools, and community offices, vandalism (including broken glass of store windows), and the

looting of 7,500 Jewish stores. Many Jews are beaten, and more than 90 are killed. 30,000 Jewish men are arrested and imprisoned in concentration camps. Several thousand Jewish women are arrested and sent to local jails. This is followed by a punitive fine to be paid by the Jewish community for the damages done to their businesses and the accelerated "Aryanization" of Jewish businesses (Jews are forced to sell their businesses to non-Jews at arbitrarily low prices).

- Nov. 15, 1938 An official decree prohibits Jews from attending German public schools; thereafter, they can attend only separate Jewish schools.
- Dec. 2 – 3, 1938 Decrees ban Jews from public streets on certain days; Jews are forbidden driver's licenses and car registrations.
- Dec. 3, 1938 Jews must sell their businesses and real estate and hand over their securities and jewelry to the government at artificially low prices.
- Dec. 8, 1938 Jews may no longer attend universities as teachers and/or students.
- April 30, 1939 German Jews lose all legal protection as renters; many are expelled from their apartments and forced to move to smaller residences in less desirable neighborhoods.
- June 5, 1939 2,000 Gypsy males above the age of 16 are arrested in Burgenland province (formerly Austria) and sent to Dachau and Buchenwald concentration camps; 1,000 Gypsy girls and women above the age of 15 are arrested and sent to the Ravensbruck concentration camp.
- Sept. 1, 1939 Germany invades Poland; World War II begins. German and Austrian Jews are subjected to a night curfew and restricted shopping hours in stores during the day.
- Sept. 23, 1939 Jews are forced to turn in radios, cameras, and other electric objects to the police. Jews receive more restrictive ration coupons than other Germans. They do not receive coupons for meat, milk, etc. Jews also receive fewer and more limited clothing ration cards than other Germans.
- Nov. 23, 1939 Germans force Jews in Poland to wear a yellow Star of David on their chests or a blue-and-white Star of David arm band.
- April – June, 1940 Germany conquers Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, and France.
- May 1 – 7, 1940 Approximately 164,000 Polish Jews are concentrated and imprisoned in the Lodz ghetto which is established and sealed off from the outside world.

May 20, 1940	A concentration camp is established at Auschwitz, Poland.
July 29, 1940	German Jews are denied telephones.
March 22, 1941	The Ministry of Research and Education prohibits Gypsy and Afro-German children from attending German schools because of the ostensible danger to Aryan children.
April 6, 1941	Germany, joined by Italy and Bulgaria, invades Yugoslavia and Greece.
June 22, 1941	Germany invades the Soviet Union; mobile killing squads accompany the army and murder millions of Jews, Communists, and Gypsies in mass graves.
Sept. 1, 1941	German Jews above the age of 6 are forced to wear a Yellow Star of David sewed on the left side of the chest with the word " <i>Jude</i> " printed on it in black.
Oct. 1941	Construction begins on an addition to the Auschwitz camp, known as Birkenau. Birkenau includes a killing center which begins operations in early 1942.
Oct. 14, 1941	Deportation of German Jews to Poland begins, including the first transports to the Lodz ghetto.
Nov. 5 – 9, 1941	Five thousand Gypsies are deported from labor and internment camps in Austria to the Lodz ghetto in Poland.
Dec. 8, 1941	First killing center (Chelmno) begins operation; the United States declares war on Germany. First gassing of victims in mobile gas vans.
Late Dec. 1941 to January 1942	Five thousand Austrian Gypsies confined in the "Gypsy camp" in the Lodz ghetto are deported to the killing center at Chelmno where they all are killed in mobile gas vans.
Jan. 16, 1942	Deportation of Jews from the Lodz ghetto to the killing center at Chelmno begins.
Jan. 20, 1942	Wannsee Conference: senior German government officials discuss the details of their plan for carrying out the "Final Solution" to kill all Jews in Europe.
Feb. – March 1942	The "evacuation" of the major Jewish ghettos in the General Government in Poland begins. This marks the launching of the systematic deportation and murder of the Jews in occupied central Poland.
May 4 – 12,	Approximately ten thousand Jews, who had arrived in the

1942	Lodz ghetto some six months earlier from Germany, Luxembourg, Vienna, and Prague, are deported to Chelmno. Before they board the trains, their baggage is confiscated.
June 1942	All Jewish schools in Germany are closed by the government.
Summer 1942	Jews are deported from Nazi-occupied countries throughout Europe to ghettos, concentration camps, and killing centers in Poland.
Sept. 5 – 12, 1942	Approximately fifteen thousand Jews in the Lodz ghetto are deported to Chelmno, mostly children under ten and individuals over sixty-five, but also the deportations include others who are too weak or ill to work. By September 16, approximately fifty-five thousand Jews have been deported to the killing center at Chelmno.
Dec. 1, 1942	A special internment camp for non-Jewish Polish youths is opened in Lodz.
March 1, 1943	All Gypsies in Germany, with a few exceptions, are arrested and deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau.
March 7, 1943	Gypsies in Nazi-occupied countries are deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau.
June 1943	Heinrich Himmler orders the liquidation (destruction) of all ghettos in Poland and the USSR; the last to be liquidated is the Lodz ghetto in August 1944.
May 6, 1944	A soup strike by younger workers begins in the Lodz ghetto nail and leather (tannery) workshops; the workers refuse to accept watery soup rations. This hunger strike spreads and continues for several days.
June 23 – July 14, 1944	Seven thousand one hundred and ninety-six Jews are deported from the Lodz ghetto to Chelmno, where they are killed.
July 24, 1944	Advancing Soviet troops liberate the killing center at Majdanek.
Aug. 2 – 3, 1944	The Gypsy-family camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau is liquidated, and its inhabitants are killed.
Aug. 7 – 30, 1944	Remaining Lodz ghetto Jews are deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau as Soviet troops continue their advance into Poland.
Oct. 1944	The Nazis deport some prisoners from Auschwitz westward to be used in German camps and factories for forced labor.
Oct. 7, 1944	Members of the <i>Sonderkommando</i> (camp prisoners forced to burn corpses) stage a rebellion at Auschwitz-Birkenau. They

succeed in blowing up a gas chamber and crematoria.

- Jan. 17, 1945 With the Soviet army only ten days away, remaining camp inmates are evacuated from Auschwitz; "death march" to concentration camps inside of Germany begins.
- Jan. 27, 1945 Soviet troops liberate the camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- April 11 – 12, 1945 American troops liberate the camp at Buchenwald. Some of the prisoners are former inmates of Auschwitz.
- May 8, 1945 The war and the Nazi regime end.