

1935

Nuremberg Racial Laws

- Adoption of swastika as official flag of Nazi Germany
- Nuremberg Race Laws
- Jews discriminated by law
- Jews not allowed to be Reich citizens
- Jews forbidden to marry non-Jews
- Jews excluded from German society



'Jews are not wanted here', Franconia, 1935



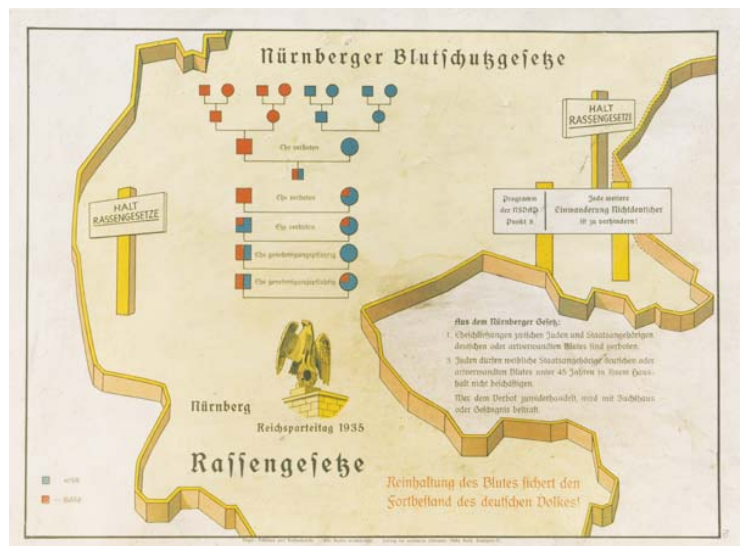
A Jew forced to carry sign: 'I am a racial defiler'



Park bench "not for Jews"
Hulton archive



The swastika, which became Germany's new flag, is displayed at a Nazi rally in Nuremberg



Stylised map illustrating the Nuremberg Law for the Protection of Blood and German Honour
© USHMM

1938

- March – The *Anschluss*, the annexation of Austria as part of Nazi Germany. 120,000 more Jews now under Hitler's rule. Persecution of Austrian Jews begins
- Jewish passports in Germany and Austria have to be stamped with a red letter **J**
- July – *Evian Conference*
- October – Jews with Polish citizenship resident in Germany declared 'stateless' and sent to Polish border to await 'resettlement'
- 9/10 November – *Kristallnacht*, Night of Broken Glass. Nationwide pogrom against the Jews of Germany and Austria. Large numbers of Jews flee
- *Kindertransports* – evacuation of 10,000 children from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland to Britain
- Jews are banned from cinemas, theatres and other public places
- Jewish children are forbidden to attend State schools



Jews being forced to scrub the streets in Vienna with toothbrushes and nailbrushes



Passport issued to Inge Franke from Vienna with "J" clearly stamped on it in red

Kristallnacht



Destruction of the synagogue in Euskirchen on the afternoon of 10 November 1938

Thousands of Jewish synagogues, homes, and businesses destroyed; Ninety-one Jews murdered; nearly 30,000 Jewish men thrown into concentration camps; Jewish communities fined to pay for the damage.

Kindertransports

The impact of *Kristallnacht* prompts Britain to accept 10,000 child refugees from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland. They arrive via Holland on special trains known as *Kindertransports*.



Kindertransport child

Evian Conference

6–15 July – Evian Conference convened by Franklin D Roosevelt to consider Jewish refugee policies. Out of all of the delegates from 32 countries including United States, Britain, France, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Ireland and others, none was willing to take in more Jewish refugees.

1941

- 6 April – Germany invades Greece and Yugoslavia
- **Operation Barbarossa** 22 June – Germany invades Soviet Union. New levels of terror and systematic mass murder against the Jews by special Nazi killing squads called *Einsatzgruppen*
- More than 33,000 Jews murdered in just two days in Babi Yar, near Kiev
- All Jews in Germany forced to wear the yellow star
- All Jewish emigration banned
- Deportation of Jews from Germany, Austria and the Protectorate to Polish ghettos begins
- First killing centre established at Chelmno. Gassing of Jews begins
- **PEARL HARBOR** – America enters the war



Hanna Lerner from Munich wearing the Star of David. She was deported to Riga and killed.

KILLING SQUADS – *Einsatzgruppen*

With the invasion of the Soviet Union, German mobile killing squads (*Einsatzgruppen*) murdered Jews throughout the Eastern front in towns, villages, fields and cemeteries. They shot mainly Jews but also Gypsies, Communists and others on racial and ideological grounds. *Einsatzgruppen* comprised German police and SS units; they often used local collaborators and were supported by officers and soldiers of the German army. German police and SS continued to operate in the occupied territories of the Soviet Union parallel to exterminations taking place in the death camps.



Einsatzgruppen in action, Dubossari, 1941

- **7 December 1941 – Japan attacks American fleet in Pearl Harbor
America enters the war**

Warsaw Ghetto uprising, 19 April 1943

In July 1942 the Nazis began to destroy the population of the Warsaw Ghetto, transporting more than 300,000 to the gas chambers at Treblinka.

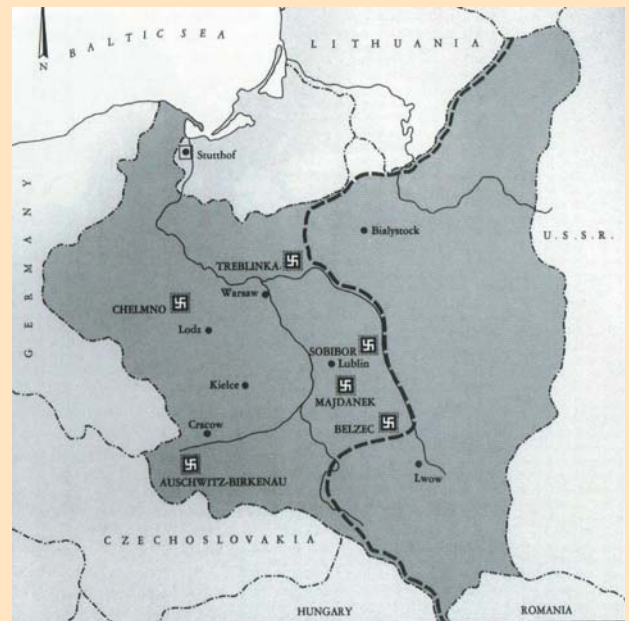
On 19 April 1943, realising their fate, a group of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto rebelled against their Nazi oppressors, determined to die with honour. The desperate Jewish uprising of the Warsaw Ghetto was led by Mordechai Anielewicz. 7,000 Jews died in the uprising, which lasted until May. In the end, the Nazis razed the Warsaw Ghetto to the ground. The vast majority of its population had been murdered. Many thousands were transported to the death camps. Few survived.

Operation Reinhard

Between March 1942 and August 1943, three death camps were built at Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka. Some 1,700,000 Jews, mostly from Poland, were murdered in gas chambers in these camps. Corpses were burnt to eliminate all evidence of the murders. These camps were dismantled on completion of their function and all traces of their existence were destroyed. The lands where they had stood were planted as forests, farms and grasslands.

Death Camps/Killing Centres

There were six death camps, all of them in Nazi-occupied Poland. The only purpose of four of these camps, Chelmno, Treblinka, Sobibor and Belzec, was murder. Most people died within a few hours of arrival. As a result, the names of these camps are generally unfamiliar. The other two death camps, Majdanek and Auschwitz, also functioned as POW, slave-labour and concentration camps and were more widely known.



Map of the death camps in the Nazi-occupied territories



Belzec extermination camp stood at this place. A memorial has since been erected on this site
Photographing Traces of Memory, Chris Schwartz, Galicia Jewish Museum, Krakow

■ RESCUE OF DANISH JEWS

Fishermen and citizens of Denmark smuggle most of the nation's Jews in boats to neutral Sweden