

Holocaust Timeline

1933

- 30 Jan** Adolf Hitler appointed Chancellor of Germany
- 22 Mar** Dachau concentration camp opens for political prisoners
- 1 Apr** Boycott of Jewish shops and businesses
- 7 Apr** Laws for Re-establishment of the Civil Service bars Jews from holding civil service, university and state positions
- 26 Apr** Gestapo (secret state police) established
- 10 May** Public burning of books written by Jews, political dissidents, and others not approved by the state
- 14 Jul** Law stripping East European Jewish immigrants of German citizenship
Laws are passed in Germany that permit the forced sterilisation of Roma, the mentally and physically disabled, African-Germans, and others considered "inferior" or "unfit"

1934

- 2 Aug** Hitler proclaims himself Führer und Reichskanzler (Leader and Reich Chancellor). Armed forces must now swear allegiance to him

1935

- Apr** Jehovah's Witnesses are banned from all civil service jobs and are arrested throughout Germany
- May** "No Jews" signs are posted outside German towns and villages and outside shops and restaurants
- 31 May** Jews barred from serving in the German armed forces
- 15 Sep** "Nuremberg Laws": anti-Jewish racial laws enacted; Jews no longer considered German citizens; could not marry Aryans; nor could they fly the German flag
- 15 Nov** Germany defines a "Jew": anyone with three Jewish grandparents; someone with two Jewish grandparents who identifies as a Jew

1936

- 3 Mar** Jewish doctors barred from practicing medicine in German institutions
- 7 Mar** Hitler invades the Rhineland
- 17 Jun** Himmler appointed the Chief of German Police
- 12 Jul** First German Roma are arrested and deported to Dachau concentration camp
- July** Sachsenhausen concentration camp opens
- 25 Oct** Hitler and Mussolini form Rome-Berlin Axis

1937

- 15 Jul** Buchenwald concentration camp opens

1938

- 13 Mar** Anschluss (incorporation of Austria): all anti-Semitic decrees immediately applied in Austria
- 26 Apr** Mandatory registration of all property held by Jews inside the Reich
- 13 May** German government passes a decree requiring the registration of all Roma without a fixed address living in Austria; by June 1938, all Roma children above the age of 14 have to be fingerprinted. This is a central part of the growing racial definition of Roma as “criminally asocial”
- 6 Jul** Evian Conference held in Evian, France on the problem of Jewish refugees
- 1 Aug** Adolf Eichmann establishes the Office of Jewish Emigration in Vienna to increase the pace of forced emigration
- 3 Aug** Italy enacts sweeping anti-Semitic laws
- 30 Sep** Munich Conference: Great Britain and France agree to German occupation of the Sudetenland, previously Western Czechoslovakia
- 5 Oct** Following request by Swiss authorities, Germans mark all Jewish passports with a large letter “J” to restrict Jews from emigrating to Switzerland
- 28 Oct** 17,000 Polish Jews living in Germany expelled; Poles refuse to admit them; 8,000 are stranded in the frontier village of Zbaszyn
- 7 Nov** Assassination in Paris of German diplomat Ernst vom Rath by Herschel Grynszpan a Polish-Jewish refugee

- 9-10 Nov** Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass): anti-Jewish pogrom in Germany, Austria and the Sudetenland; 200 synagogues destroyed; 7,500 Jewish shops looted; 30,000 male Jews sent to concentration camps (Dachau, Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen)
- 12 Nov** Decree forcing all Jews to transfer retail businesses to Aryan hands
- 15 Nov** All Jewish pupils expelled from German schools
- 8 Dec** Jews may no longer attend universities as teachers or students
- 12 Dec** One billion Mark fine levied against German Jews for the destruction of property during Kristallnacht

1939

- 30 Jan** Hitler in Reichstag speech: if war erupts it will mean the Vernichtung (extermination) of European Jews
- 15 Mar** Germans occupy Czechoslovakia
- Jun** Cuba and the United States refuse to accept Jewish refugees aboard the ship S.S. St. Louis, which is forced to return to Europe
- 5 Jun** Two thousand Roma males above the age of 16 are arrested in Burgenland Province (formerly Austria) and sent to Dachau and Buchenwald concentration camps; 1,000 Roma girls and women above the age of 15 are arrested and sent to the Ravensbruck concentration camp
- 23 Aug** Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact signed: non-aggression pact between Soviet Union and Germany
- 1 Sep** Beginning of World War II: Germany invades Poland
- 21 Sep** Heydrich issues directives to establish ghettos in German-occupied Poland
- Oct** Hitler extends powers to doctors to kill institutionalised mentally and physically disabled persons in the "euthanasia" programme
- 12 Oct** Germany begins deportation of Austrian and Czech Jews to Poland
- 28 Oct** First Polish ghetto established in Piotrków
- 23 Nov** Jews in German-occupied Poland forced to wear an arm band or yellow star

1940

- 9 Apr** Germans occupy Denmark and southern Norway
- 7 May** Lodz Ghetto (Litzmannstadt) sealed, 165,000 Polish Jews in 1.6 square miles (4.1 square kilometres)

- 10 May** Germany invades the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France
- 20 May** Concentration camp established at Auschwitz
- 22 Jun** France surrenders
- 8 Aug** Battle of Britain begins
- 27 Sep** Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis
- 16 Nov** Warsaw Jews forced into the Warsaw Ghetto: ultimately contains 500,000 people

1941

- 21-26 Jan** Anti-Jewish riots in Romania, hundreds of Jews butchered
- 1 Feb** German authorities begin rounding up Polish Jews for transfer to Warsaw Ghetto
- 6 Apr** Germany attacks Yugoslavia and Greece; occupation follows
- 22 Jun** Germany invades the Soviet Union
- 31 Jul** Goring authorises Heydrich to coordinate resources of the Reich for a "solution of the Jewish Question" throughout Europe
- 1 Sep** German Jews above the age of six are forced to wear a yellow Star of David sewed on the left side of their clothes with the word "Jude" printed in black
- 28-29 Sep** 34,000 Jews massacred at Babi Yar outside Kiev
- Oct** Establishment of Auschwitz II (Birkenau) for the extermination of Jews, Roma, Poles, Russians and others
- 5-9 Nov** 5,000 Roma are deported from labour and internment camps in Austria to the Lodz ghetto in Poland
- 7 Dec** Japanese attack Pearl Harbour
- 8 Dec** United States declares war on Japan. The Axis nations of Germany and Italy, in retaliation, declare war on the United States.
Chelmno (Kulmhof) extermination camp begins operations: 340,000 Jews, 20,000 Poles and Czechs murdered by April 1943
The first gassing of victims in mobile gas vans occurs
- 11 Dec** United States Congress, responding to declaration from the Axis, declares war on Germany
- Dec-Jan** 5,000 Austrian Roma from the Lodz ghetto are deported to the killing centre at Chelmno where they are all killed in mobile gas vans

1942

- 20 Jan** Heydrich convenes the *Wannsee Conference*, presenting his plans to coordinate a European-wide “Final Solution of the Jewish Question” to key officials from Reich Ministries
- 17 Mar** Extermination begins in Belzec; by end of 1942 600,000 Jews murdered
- May** Extermination by gas begins in Sobibor killing centre; by October 1943, 250,000 Jews murdered
- Jun** Jewish partisan units established in the forests of Byelorussia and the Baltic States
- 22 Jul** Germans establish Treblinka concentration camp
- Summer** Deportation of Jews to killing centres from Belgium, Croatia, France, the Netherlands and Poland; armed resistance by Jews in ghettos of Kletzk, Kremenets, Lachva, Mir and Tuchin
- Winter** Deportation of Jews from Germany, Greece and Norway to killing centres; Jewish partisan movement organised in forests near Lublin

1943

- Jan** German 6th Army surrenders at Stalingrad
- Mar** Liquidation of Kraków ghetto
All Roma in Germany and Nazi occupied countries, with few exceptions, are arrested and deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau
- 19 Apr** Warsaw Ghetto revolt begins as Germans attempt to liquidate 70,000 inhabitants; Jewish underground fights Nazis until early June
- Jun** Himmler orders the liquidation of all ghettos in Poland and the Soviet Union
- Summer** Armed resistance by Jews in Bedzin, Bialystok, Czestochowa, Lvov and Tarnów ghettos
- 2 Aug** The prisoners at Treblinka rebel
- Autumn** Liquidation of large ghettos in Minsk, Vilna and Riga
- 14 Oct** Armed revolt in Sobibor extermination camp
- Oct/Nov** Danish citizens smuggle most of the nation’s Jews to neutral Sweden

1944

- 19 Mar** Germany occupies Hungary
- 15 May** Nazis begin deporting Hungarian Jews; by 27 June, 380,000 sent to Auschwitz
- 6 Jun** D-Day: Allied invasion at Normandy
- Spring/
Summer** Red Army repels Nazi forces
- Jun/Jul** 7,196 Jews are deported from the Lodz ghetto to Chelmno death camp where they are killed
- 20 Jul** Group of German officers attempt to assassinate Hitler
- 24 Jul** Russians liberate Majdanek killing centre
- 7 Oct** Revolt by prisoners at Auschwitz; one crematorium blown up
- Nov** Last Jews deported from Terezin to Auschwitz
- 8 Nov** Beginning of death march of approximately 40,000 Jews from Budapest to Austria

1945

- 17 Jan** Nazis empty Auschwitz and start prisoners on 'death marches' to Germany
- 27 Jan** The Soviet army liberates Auschwitz
- Apr** Troops from the United States liberate survivors from the Buchenwald and Dachau concentration camps
- 6-10 Apr** 'Death March' of prisoners from Buchenwald
- 11 Apr** Troops from the United States liberate Buchenwald
- 15 Apr** British troops liberate Bergen-Belsen
- 30 Apr** Hitler commits suicide
- 5 May** Troops from the United States liberate Mauthausen concentration camp
- 8 May** V-E Day: Germany surrenders; end of Third Reich
- 6 Aug** Bombing of Hiroshima
- 9 Aug** Bombing of Nagasaki
- 15 Aug** V-J Day: Victory over Japan proclaimed
- 2 Sept** Japan surrenders; end of World War II
- Nov** The war crimes tribunal is convened at Nuremberg, Germany