

I should already know:

How the Nazis controlled Germany
The Nazis' racist ideology on Aryan 'superiority'

I will learn:

- What Jewish life was like in Europe before World War Two
- How the Nazi used their political power to remove Jewish rights in Germany
- How discrimination led to genocide, the Nazis' invasion of Eastern Europe and the establishment of death camps

This will help in the future:

ETP unit on democracy and dictatorships
Y8 Summer unit on the Cold War

Key Words

Holocaust - the systematic murder of millions, mostly Europe's Jews, by the Nazis and their collaborators during World War Two

Shoah – A Hebrew word for the Holocaust.

Genocide -deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular nation or ethnic group.

Übermensch – Nazis used this word for their idea of an Aryan 'master race'

Untermensch – Nazi term for inferior people, seen as sub-human or degenerates

Eugenics: The principle of being able to 'breed' in or 'breed' out certain genetic qualities of people; in an extreme case to remove an entire ethnicity.

Einsatzgruppen – SS killing squads.

Ghettos: Before death camps were set up, Jews were forced into isolated Jew-only areas. They had no control over this, and living conditions were very bad.

Death Camps: Set up to increase the speed of killing people. This was mostly done by deadly gas, but prisoners also died from hard work and being fed almost no food.

Who were the victims of the Nazis' genocide?

Jews – An estimated 6 millions

Soviet prisoners of war – over 3 million

Soviet civilians – 2 million +

Polish civilians – over 1 million

Men, women and children with mental and physical deformities 70,000-170,000

Gypsies – over 200,000

Political prisoners – unknown

Resistance fighters – unknown

Deportees – unknown

Homosexuals – Estimates are 15,000+

Greater Depth Challenge

How does Psychologist Stanley Milgram's 'obedience to authority' experiment relate to this unit of work?

Further Reading

Imperial War Museum website on the Holocaust

What was the Jewish population of Europe in 1933?

Germany: Less than **0.75%** was Jewish. **500,000**. Most Jewish families were totally assimilated and spoke German. Jewish communities found in towns but mostly in large cities. They had been in Germany around **1600 years**.

Poland About **10%** were Jews, around **3,300,000** people. The Nazis occupied Poland -1st Sept 1939 - until May 1945. Jews has been here around **800 years**.

Norway: About **0.05%** of the pop was Jewish – **1400** people There had been a Jewish community here for **80 years** Young community, the 3 synagogues were named in Norwegian. Concentrated in 2 cities, most from Eastern Europe.

Greece: Approx **1.25%** were Jews, around **73,000**. Jews had lived here for over **2,200 years**



This map shows the placement of the Death Camps, as the Nazis invaded Eastward

How did Nazis remove Jewish influences?

1933 –Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany. Jewish Lawyers banned from practice in Germany. Aryan & non Aryan children to have separate play. Mass boycott of Jewish shops. (People refusing to use them)

1935: Jews excluded from choirs, orchestras. Race studies becomes part of the school curriculum and exams. Jews banned from going hiking in groups of more than 20. **Nuremberg laws** – Jews had their citizenship removed and marriage and sexual relations between Germans and Jews illegal. Below is a chart the Nazis used to check people’s families, to determine if they were an ‘untermenschen’.



1936:- Jews banned from being vets, surgeons, doctors and journalists

1938 – Jewish passports have to be stamped with a **J**. Passports belonging to Jews whose emigration is undesirable were confiscated. – eg) members of political groups, journalists. **Kristallnacht** – Goebbels organised mass vandalism of Jewish homes, properties, synagogues and businesses.

1939 – Jews not allowed out after 8pm. Jewish emigrants are not allowed to take their valuables. Jews removed from all medical professions. Jews can be evicted from their homes without a reason.

Stage 1: 1933-39 **Nazis removed Jewish influences from society**, eg. the **Nuremburg laws** removed their German citizenship & banned marriages & relationships with Jews. **Kristallnacht** saw over **100 Jews killed** in 1938. By 1939 over half of the Jewish population in Germany had left. (250,000+)

Stage 2: 1939 **Nazis occupied Poland**, where 10% of the population are Jews, over 3.3 million. They change their strategy. Jews are forced from their properties and moved into over **1000 ghettos** across Eastern Europe, awaiting a later move to a “reservation” which never happened.

Stage 3: 1941- **Nazis invaded the Soviet Union** – Hitler talks of removing “hostiles” –The **Einsatzgruppen** killed Jews and other groups deemed to be “subhuman”, on an industrial scale. It involved the **SS with locals**. The victims were forced to build large pits to act as their own graves. Between the **autumn and winter of 1941, over 1 million Jews were victims** of this. The **Babi Yar is just 1** massacre amongst many.

Stage 4: Autumn 1941. Top secret **Operation Reinhard** began, managed by 20-35 officers. The new weapon of terror was **gas** and the **first death camps** were created in wooded areas, away from towns. Trains brought Jews from ghettos. They would be stripped and gassed in showers. **Over 1.7 million Polish Jews were murdered** in camps like **Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka**. The ash from the crematoriums was used as fertilizer. What little evidence remained came from the few who escaped. The Nazis flattened the land by 1944 and converted it to farm land.

Stage 5: January 1942 – **Heydrich** organised the “**Final Solution**” at the **Wannsee conference in Berlin**, where the Nazis agreed to the coordinated mass murder of Jews across Europe. Many death & slave labour camps were set up, **Auschwitz** was the most notorious because **over 1.1 million Jews were killed here**. Historian Christian Browning **estimated “In March 1942 – 80% of all those killed in the Holocaust were still alive, just 11 months later, February 1943 80% of them were already dead. (over 4 million)**

Key words

Key facts

Removing Jewish influence in Germany:

Escalation of persecution from 1933: