

Year 9 History Unit 3: The Holocaust

Key Words

Blood Libel: The belief that Jews were ritualistically killing Christian children

Pogrom: a violent riot aimed at the massacre of a religious or ethnic group

Holocaust: Mass murder of 6 million Jews and 5 million others during WWII

Genocide: deliberate extermination of a group, race and religion

Shoah: Jewish name for the Holocaust

Ghetto: Set up across Germany and Poland. Where the Jews were sent

Persecution: to target a particular group

Anti-Semitism: Anti-Jewish

Aryan: The Nazi's idea of a superior race

Boycott: to stop doing something as a protest

Final Solution: The 'Final Solution' of the Jewish Question was the organised murder of every Jew in Europe.

Wannsee Conference: Where it was decided the most efficient way to mass murder the Jews

Why were the Jews persecuted?

- Hitler thought that the Jews were an inferior (lower) race
- He believed that the Aryan race should be pure and not 'contaminated' with inferior blood
- They were blamed for the loss of World War One and the problems Germany faced

Timeline of key events

1933-5: Boycott of Jewish owned shops. The Nazis stood outside Jewish shops and threatened those who shopped there. It was designed to put the shops out of Business.

Lawyers, judges, teachers all lost their jobs

Non-Aryan children were not allowed to play with Aryan children

1935: The Nuremberg Laws

These laws stated that:

- Jews were forbidden from having sexual relations with Aryans
- Jews were forbidden to marry Aryans
- Jews were no longer German citizens

1938: Kristallnacht

A German man working for the German government in Paris was shot dead by a Jew. On the 9th November, Jewish homes, shops and synagogues across Germany were attacked. The Nazis said the ordinary people of Germany did this. 91 people died, 30,000 were arrested and taken to concentration camps.

1940-2: Warsaw Ghetto

- Forced all Jews into a tiny section of the city of Warsaw and then built a large wall to stop them getting out and 'infecting' the non Jews.
- Made at least 7 people live in every room
- Only allowed them 300 calories of food a day (this was the equivalent of two slices of bread and margarine per day – and nothing else)
- Wouldn't allow heating in the house
- Allowed dirty water to enter all the washing and drinking systems
- Took all their money, belongings and jobs

Anti-Semitism in History

Anti-Semitism existed in Medieval Europe. In 1290, Jews were forced to leave England. By the 16th century the Spanish Inquisition tortured and murdered Jews in Spain. In the 19th century pogroms swept across Russia. By the 20th century new stereotypes had emerged:

- Many people believed that there was a hierarchy of races with the white races at the top and other 'inferior races', such as Jews underneath
- New political ideas promoted the idea that Jews were too powerful in some professions.
- Some people started to believe that the Jews were part of a secret conspiracy to take over the world.

Concentration and Extermination camps 1942

In 1942, the Nazis began the systematic deportation of Jews from all over Europe to six extermination camps. Trains from every country under Hitler's control were crowded with men, women and children to death camps located in Poland. This final journey could take days in crowded trucks.

Once they arrived at the camps they were sorted into those who could work and those who were sent to die. Those sent to die were told they were taking showers but were instead sent to the gas chambers.