

## Appendix **Timeline 1933–1939**

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Below is a list of key events that took place in Germany as well as in other parts of Europe and the world, between 1933 and 1939. This list is in no way comprehensive; however, it does illustrate the speed at which Germany's democratic system was dismantled, setting the stage for the Holocaust.

1933 | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 | 1938 | 1939

### **1933**

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- January 30–February 1 Adolf Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany.
- February 27–March 5 Reichstag (German Parliament) arson leads to state of emergency. Hitler presents an emergency order that voids important basic civil rights.
  - March 5 Reichstag elections: The Nazis gain 44 percent of the vote.
  - March 22 The Nazis establish the Dachau (Germany) concentration camp to imprison (without any trial) people they consider their enemies.
  - March 24 The Nazis sponsor the Enabling Act, a bill that would give Hitler's government dictatorial powers for four years. To make sure the law passes, the Nazis imprison Communists and potential opposition.
    - April 1 The Nazis declare a boycott of all Jewish businesses in Germany.
    - April 7 The Nazi government declares that Jews are debarred from working in the civil service and strips them of their equal rights.
    - April 21 Jewish dietary laws prohibited; no kosher butchering allowed.
    - April 25 The school quota system limits the number of Jewish high school and university students in Germany.
    - May 10 The Nazis burn thousands of anti-Nazi Jewish-authored and "degenerate" books.
    - July 14 Forced sterilization of German citizens with congenital disabilities begins.
    - July 14 Germany is proclaimed a one-party state.
- October 14–19 Germany quits the League of Nations and disarmament talks.
- November 12 The Nazi party gets 92 percent of the vote in one-party elections.

### **1934**

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- January 26 The German-Polish Non-Aggression Pact is signed.
- June 30 “Night of the Long Knives”: Hitler orders the elimination of the main figures in the SA to prevent rivalry between the SA and the SS and the German army.
- August 2 German president Hindenburg dies: Hitler merges the offices of chancellor and president and becomes the Reichsfuehrer, thereby making him the sole and unrivalled leader of Germany.

### **1935**

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- January 13 Germany reclaims the Saar region in accordance with the Treaty of Versailles.
- March 16 Military conscription in Germany begins, violating the Treaty of Versailles.
- May 31 The German army becomes “all-Aryan,” meaning Jews are not allowed to serve.
- September 15 The Nuremberg Laws are enacted, defining who is a Jew according to racial theory, banning marriage between Jews and non-Jews, and making Jews second-class citizens.

### **1936**

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- March 7 The German army enters the Rhineland, violating the Treaty of Versailles.
- July 16 The Spanish Civil War begins.
- August 1 The Olympic Games begin in Berlin (Germany).
- September 9 The Four-Year Plan (the economic plan to prepare Germany for war) is unveiled.
- October 25 The Rome-Berlin Axis Agreement is signed between Italy and Germany based on political interests.
- November 25 Germany and Japan sign a military pact.

### **1937**

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- March 21 Pope Pius XI issues a statement against racism.
- July 19 Buchenwald (Germany) concentration camp is established.
- November 5 The German army is ordered to prepare for war.

### **1938**

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- March 13 *Anschluss*: Germany annexes Austria.
- March 23 Recognition of Jewish organizations in Germany is revoked.
- June 14 Jewish businesses have to register as such.
- June 15 “Operation June”: Mass arrests of Jews in the Reich and banishment to concentration camps begin.
- July 6 Anti-Jewish economic policies restrict Jews’ access to many fields of activity.
- July 6–15 Representatives of Great Britain, United States, France, and other countries meet in Evian, France, to discuss the problem of Jewish refugees trying to emigrate from the Reich. The conference is concluded with no practical outcome.
- August 17 Compulsory middle names (Sarah for women and Israel for men) for Jews in Germany are required in order to identify them as Jews.
- September 29 The Munich Agreement: England and France accept German annexation of parts of Czechoslovakia.
- October 5 Passports of German Jews are marked with the letter “J.”
- October 28 17,000 Polish-born Jews are expelled from Germany to Poland; most are interned in Zbaszyn (Poland).
- November 7–10 The *Kristallnacht Pogrom*: About one hundred Jews are murdered and Jewish synagogues and Jewish businesses are burned and vandalized across Germany and Austria.
- November 10 Italy adopts antisemitic racial laws.
- November 12 All Jewish businesses are forcibly handed over to Germans; Jews are forbidden from practicing medicine or law or attending universities; a fine of one billion Reichsmarks is imposed on Jews.
- November 15 Jewish children are banned from German schools.

### **1939**

- March 15 Germans occupy Bohemia and Moravia, thus liquidating the Czechoslovak Republic.
- March 28 The civil war in Spain ends.
- June 6 The MS *St. Louis*, a ship crowded with 937 Jewish refugees, is turned away by Cuba, the United States, and other countries, and returns to Europe.
- August 23 Germany and the Soviet Union sign the Non-Aggression Pact; the pact includes a secret section that determines the partition of Poland.
- September 1 Germany invades Poland, beginning World War II.
- September 3 Great Britain, France, India, Australia, and New Zealand declare war on Germany.
- September 17 The Soviets invade Poland.
- September 21 Reinhard Heydrich (head of security police) orders the establishment of Jewish councils (*Judenrate*) and the concentration of Jews in the larger cities of Poland.
- September 28 Poland is partitioned between Germany and the Soviet Union.
- October 4 The Warsaw (Poland) *Judenrat* is established.
- October 7 Jewish “resettlement” in the Lublin District of Poland begins; plans are made to establish a Jewish “reservation.”
- October 8 The first ghetto is established in Piotrkow Trybunalski, Poland.
- October 26 Civil administration (*Generalgouvernement*) is established in Poland; Polish elite are persecuted and murdered; slave labor is imposed on Jews between the ages of 14–60.
- November 23 Jews in Poland are required to wear the Jewish Badge (Star of David).
- November 30 The Soviets invade Finland.
- December 2 The Nazis initiate use of gas vans to eliminate patients with mental disabilities.

## Appendix **Timeline 1940–1945**

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Below is a list of key events that took place during the Holocaust and World War II. While not comprehensive, this timeline does illustrate many of the turning points for Jews in Europe and the speed at which events spiraled out of control, leading to the murder of six million Jews.

1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945

### **1940**

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- January 24 Jewish property in *Generalgouvernement* is registered.
- March The Katyn Massacre: The Soviets execute thousands of Polish officers in the Soviet-occupied part of Poland.
- April 9 Germany invades Denmark and Norway.
- April 30 The Lodz (Poland) ghetto is sealed.
- May 10 Germany invades Belgium and the Netherlands; Chamberlain resigns; Winston Churchill becomes the prime minister of England.
- May 26 The Allies evacuate forces to England at Dunkirk.
- June 14 Germany occupies Paris; the first deportation of Polish political prisoners to Auschwitz (Poland) concentration camp begins.
- June 18 Hitler presents Mussolini with the Madagascar Plan, to deport all Jews to the island near the shores of Eastern Africa.
- July 10 The Vichy (France) government is formed.
- August 8 The Battle of Britain begins.
- August 17 Germany declares the “total blockade of Britain.”
- September 7 The German “Blitz” on England reaches a climax with massive air raids on British cities.
- October 3 The French government sets fierce anti-Jewish legislation.
- October 22 Jewish businesses in occupied Netherlands are registered.
- October 28 Jewish property in Belgium is registered.
- November 15 The Warsaw ghetto is sealed.

### **1941**

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- March 20 The Krakow (Poland) ghetto is sealed.
- April 6 Germany invades Yugoslavia and Greece.
- April 9 Germany occupies Salonika, the largest Jewish community in Greece.
- April 24 The Lublin (Poland) ghetto is sealed.
- June 6 “Commissar Order”: Prior to the German invasion of the Soviet Union, the Wehrmacht high command authorizes its soldiers to murder any “suspect” of opposition, mainly Jews and Communists, thereby making the German army involved in war crimes in the occupied territories.
- June 22 “Operation Barbarossa”: The German invasion of the Soviet Union marks the beginning of the “Final Solution.”
- June 23 The Einsatzgruppen begin mass killings in the Soviet Union.
- June 28 The Romanian “Iron Guard” kill 1,500 Jews in Iasi, Romania.
- June 30 Germany occupies Lvov, Poland; 4,000 Jews are killed by July 3.
- July 1 Einsatzgruppe D begins operating in Bessarabia (Romania); 160,000 Jews are shot by August 31.
- July 24 The Kishinev (Romania) ghetto is established; 10,000 Jews are murdered.
- July 31 Hermann Goering orders Heydrich to plan the “Final Solution.”
- July The murder of the Jews of Vilna (Lithuania) begins at Ponary, south of Vilna.
- August 1 50,000 Jews are confined in the Bialystok (Poland) ghetto.
- August 5 Murders in Pinsk (Belorussia); 10,000 are Jews killed in three days.
- September 1 Jews in Slovakia and the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia are ordered to wear the Jewish Badge.
- September 3 The first experimental gassings are conducted at Auschwitz.
- September 8 The siege of Leningrad (Russia) begins.
- September 15 150,000 Jews are deported to Transnistria between Romania and the Soviet Union; 90,000 die.

### **1941**

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September 19 German Jews are ordered to wear the Jewish Badge.

September 29–30 33,771 Jews are murdered at Babi Yar near Kiev (Ukraine).

October 8 The Vitebsk (Belorussia) ghetto is liquidated; Germans murder more than 16,000 Jews.

October 15 Deportation of German and Ustrian Jews to ghettos in the East begins.

October 24 20,000 Jews are transported to Dalnik (Ukraine); Germans and Romanians murder all of them.

October 28 Germans murder thousands of Kovno (Lithuania) Jews.

October The first transport (of prisoners of war) reaches Majdanek (Poland) extermination camp.

November 24 A ghetto-camp is established in Theresienstadt, near Prague (Czechoslovakia).

November 30 30,000 Riga (Latvia) Jews are arrested and subsequently shot at Rumbuli.

December 6 The Soviets launch a counteroffensive at Moscow.

December 7 The Japanese attack Pearl Harbor; the United States enters World War II; four days later, Germany and Italy declare war on the United States.

December 7 The German army issues the “Night and Fog” order prescribing repressive measures against resistance movements in the German-occupied countries of Western Europe.

December 8 Gas vans are introduced at Chelmno (Poland) extermination camp.

December 21 Romanians murder more than 40,000 Jews at the Bogdanovka (Romania) camp.

December 22 33,500 of 57,000 Jews in Vilna have been murdered.

December 31 The Jewish underground in Vilna issues a partisan manifesto calling Jews to fight back against the Germans.

### **1942**

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- January 14 The concentration and expulsion of Dutch Jewry begins.
- January 16 Germans begin deportation of more than 10,000 Jews from Lodz to Chelmno.
- January 20 The Wannsee Conference takes place.
- January 21 The Jewish underground is established in Vilna.
- February 24 The Germans deport more than 30,000 Jews from Lodz to their deaths in Chelmno.
- March 26 58,000 Slovakian Jews are deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- March 28 The first transport of approximately 1,000 French Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau begins.
- April 8 The Einsatzgruppen report that there are no Jews left in the Crimea.
- Early May The first mass killing in Sobibór (Poland) extermination camp occurs.
- May 3 Jews in Holland are ordered to wear the Jewish Badge.
- May 27 The Czech underground assassinates Reinhard Heydrich; in retaliation, the Germans obliterate the Czech village of Lidice.
- June 1 Jews in Belgium and France are ordered to wear the Jewish Badge.
- June 2 The BBC announces 700,000 Jews have been killed in Poland.
- June 22–July The first transports of Jews from Drancy Camp in France to Auschwitz-Birkenau begin; Germans begin deporting Belgian and Dutch Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- July 19 Himmler orders elimination of all Jews in *Generalgouvernement* by the end of 1942.
- July 22 The mass deportation from the Warsaw ghetto to Treblinka (Poland) extermination camp begins.
- July 28 The Jewish Fighting Organization (Z.O.B.) is founded in Warsaw.
- August 8–13 The U.S. delays information on a plan to annihilate Jews to verify sources. Germans and Croatians begin deporting Croatian Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- August 10 Deportations from Lvov to Belzec (Poland) extermination camp begin; 50,000 Jews are gassed.
- September 12 The Battle of Stalingrad (Russia) begins.

### **1942**

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- October 23 The British begin a counteroffensive at El Alamein, Egypt.
- October 28 The first deportations from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz-Birkenau begin.
- November 8 The Allies invade North Africa.
- November 19 The Soviets counterattack near Stalingrad.
- November 25–26 A massive round-up of Norwegian Jewry by Germans and Norwegian collaborators begins.
- December Deportations to Belzec stop.
- December 17 The Allies condemn German mass murder.

### **1943**

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- January 18 Jews launch an armed resistance to deportations from the Warsaw ghetto.
- February 2 The Germans surrender at Stalingrad.
- February 5 The deportation of 10,000 Jews from Bialystok to Treblinka begins.
- February 25 The first transports from Salonika to Auschwitz-Birkenau begin.
- February 26 The first transport of Sinti-Roma reaches Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- March 4 Jews of Thrace (Greece) are deported to Treblinka.
- March 20 The first deportations from Salonika arrive at Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- April 19 The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising begins.
- May 8 The leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising die.
- June 1 The Lvov ghetto is liquidated.
- June 21 Himmler orders liquidation of all ghettos in occupied Soviet territories.
- June 28 Four crematoria are completed at Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- July 10 The Allies invade Sicily.

### **1943**

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- July 25 Mussolini is deposed.
- August 2 The uprising at Treblinka begins.
- August 8 The first of five organized groups leave the Vilna ghetto to join the partisans.
- August 15 The Bialystok ghetto is liquidated.
- September 1 The Vilna underground uprising fails.
- September 3 Belgian Jews are arrested for deportation to Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- September 23 The Vilna ghetto is liquidated.
- October 1–2 Danish Jews are rescued.
- October 14 The uprising at Sobibór begins.
- October 18 Jews of Rome are deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- October 21 The Minsk (Belorussia) ghetto is liquidated.
- October 25 Dnepropetrovsk (Ukraine) is liberated; 15 of 80,000 Jews remain.
- November 3 Germans launch “Operation Harvest Festival” (*Erntefest*).
- November 17 Jewish partisans liberate Jews in Borshchev (Ukraine).

### **1944**

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- January 26 The War Refugee Board is established.
- January 27 The Siege of Leningrad ends.
- March 18 Hitler orders German troops into Hungary.
- March 24 Roosevelt warns Hungary to refrain from anti-Jewish measures.
- April 7 Two Jewish prisoners deliver “Auschwitz Protocols.”
- April 16 The Hungarian government registers Jews and confiscates their property.
- May 11 Allied forces mount a major offensive in central Italy.

### **1944**

- May 15 Mass deportations of Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau begin.
- June 4 Americans occupy Rome.
- June 6 D-Day
- June 13 Germany launches the first V-1 rockets at England.
- July 3 Minsk is liberated; few of 80,000 Jews survive.
- July 7 The Hungarian government halts deportations.
- July 8 The Kovno ghetto is liquidated.
- July 13 Jewish partisans help liberate Vilna; 2,500 of 57,000 Jews survive.
- July 20 An attempt to assassinate Hitler fails.
- July 22 Lvov is liberated; 110,000 Jews are dead.
- July 23 The Red Cross mission visits Theresienstadt.
- July 25 The Soviet Army liberates Majdanek.
- August 7 The liquidation of the Lodz ghetto begins; 74,000 Jews are deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- August 28 The Slovak National Uprising begins.
- September 4 Antwerp is liberated; fewer than 5,000 Jews survived.
- September 28 Churchill announces formation of Jewish Brigade.
- October 3 The Polish uprising in Warsaw is crushed.
- October 7 The Sonderkommando uprising at Auschwitz-Birkenau begins.
- November Germans stop gassings at Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- November 8 Deportations from Budapest (Hungary) resume.
- December 16 The Battle of the Bulge

### **1945**

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- January 16 The Soviets liberate half of Budapest.
- January 17 The Soviets liberate Warsaw; few Jews remain.
- January 18 Auschwitz-Birkenau is abandoned; the death march of prisoners begins.
- January 19 The Soviets liberate Lodz.
- January 27 The Soviets liberate Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- February 1 40,000 prisoners are marched out of Gross-Rosen (Poland).
- February 13–14 RAF and USAF air raids devastate Dresden (Germany).
- April 11 Americans liberate Buchenwald.
- April 12 FDR dies; he is succeeded by Truman.
- April 15 British forces liberate Bergen-Belsen (Germany).
- April 25 American and Soviet troops meet at the River Elbe.
- April 28 Mussolini is shot.
- April 30 Hitler and Eva Braun commit suicide.
- May 2 The Soviets occupy Berlin.
- May 5 Mauthausen (Austria) concentration camp is liberated by the U.S. Army.
- May 7 Germany surrenders to the Allies.
- May 8 V-E Day
- July 16 The Potsdam Conference
- August 6 and 9 Atomic bombs are dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Japan).
- October 18 The Nuremberg Trials begin.