

Name

Date

Social Studies-8

Chapter 18 – World War II: Americans at War

Section 3 – The Holocaust

Reading Objectives

- In what ways did Germany persecute Jews in the 1930s?
- How did Germany's policies toward Jews develop from murder into genocide?

Persecution in Germany

- ♦ Jews in Europe faced persecution for their religious beliefs for centuries. In the 1800s, some thinkers developed the theory that European peoples, whom they called "Aryans" were superior to Middle Eastern peoples, called Semites. Europeans began to use the term _____ to describe discrimination or hostility, often violent, directed at Jews.
- ♦ When Hitler became Germany's leader in 1933, he made anti-Semitism the official policy of the nation. No other persecution of Jews in modern history equals the extent and brutality of the _____, Nazi Germany's systematic murder of European Jews. In all, some 6 million Jews would lose their lives.
- ♦ Repressive policies against Jews escalated during the 1930s. In 1935, for example, the Nuremberg laws _____. Some other policies included: exclusion from public schools, forced sale of Jewish businesses, and marked identity cards. Jews were also forced to sew yellow stars marked "Jew" on their clothing.

Further Persecution in Germany

- ♦ When Hitler came to power he formed the SS, or the Schutzstaffel, an elite guard that became the private army of the Nazi Party. The SS guarded the _____, or places where political prisoners are confined under harsh conditions. Nazi camps held people whom they considered undesirables—mainly Jews, but also Communists, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Gypsies, and the homeless.
- ♦ Any hopes among Jews that they could survive German persecution under Hitler were dashed when, on the night of November 9, 1938, Nazi thugs throughout Germany and Austria looted and destroyed Jewish stores, houses, and synagogues. This incident became known as Kristallnacht, or "_____." Nearly every synagogue was destroyed and thousands of Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps. After Kristallnacht many Jews sought any possible means to leave the country.
- ♦ Jewish refugees were not welcomed in many nations, in part because of the Depression. To deal with this problem, FDR called the Evian Conference in 1938. But still, most nations, including the United States, refused to open their doors to more immigrants.

From Murder to Genocide

- ♦ As German armies invaded other European countries, more and more Jews (even those who had escaped) came under German control. Nazis dealt with these Jews by confining them in _____, areas in which minority groups are concentrated. Nazis confined more than 400,000 Jews in the _____ in Poland. Thousands of Jews died in the ghetto as a result of disease.
- ♦ In 1942, Nazi officials met at the Wannsee Conference outside Berlin. They developed their plan to commit genocide, or _____, against the Jewish people.
- ♦ To carry out their plan, the Nazis outfitted six camps in Poland with gas chambers. Unlike concentration camps, these death camps existed primarily for mass murder.
- ♦ The U.S. government knew about the mass murder of Jews for two years before President Roosevelt created the War Refugee Board (WRB) in January 1944. Despite its late start, the WRB's programs helped save some lives.
- ♦ Horrified by the German death camps, the Allies conducted the Nuremburg Trials in November 1945. They charged a number of Nazi leaders with crimes against peace, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.