

## 1933

**January 30, 1933:** Adolf Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany by President Paul von Hindenburg securing power for the Nazi Party.

**February 27, 1933:** The Reichstag (German parliament) building is burned down. Following this event, on February 28 an emergency decree is passed that suspends civil rights in Germany and allows for imprisonment without trial. It also gives the central government the authority to overrule state and local laws and overthrow state and local governments.

**March 22, 1933:** Dachau concentration camp is established for political opponents of the regime.

**April 1, 1933:** Nazi-organized nationwide boycott of Jewish-owned businesses in Germany.

**April 25, 1933:** Law against Overcrowding in Schools and Universities limits the number of Jewish students attending public schools in Germany.

**May 10, 1933:** University student organizations across Germany supported by the Nazi Party burn books they declared “un-German.”

**July 14, 1933:** Law for the Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Diseases mandates the forced sterilization of certain individuals with physical and mental disabilities. It also provides the basis for the involuntary sterilization of Roma (Gypsies), “asocial elements,” and Afro-Germans.

## 1934

**August 19, 1934:** After the death of President Paul von Hindenburg, Hitler abolishes the office of President and declares himself Führer of the German Reich and People, in addition to his position as Chancellor. Hitler now becomes the absolute dictator of Germany.

## 1935

**May 1, 1935:** Ban on Jehovah’s Witness organizations.

**June 28, 1935:** Revision of Paragraphs 175 and 175a of the German criminal code banning and criminalizing homosexuality.

**September 15, 1935:** The Nuremberg Race Laws are instituted. Jews are stripped of their German citizenship, forbidden to marry non-Jewish Germans, and are classified as a racial group rather than a religious or cultural group.

### 1936

**August 1, 1936:** The Olympic Games open in Berlin, attended by athletes and spectators from countries around the world.

### 1938

**March 11-13, 1938:** German troops invade Austria and incorporate Austria into the German Reich in what is known as the Anschluss.

**July 6-15, 1938:** Delegates from thirty-two countries and representatives from refugee aid organizations attend the Evian Conference in Evian, France. The United States and most other countries, however, are unwilling to ease their immigration restrictions.

**November 9-10, 1938:** Nazi Party officials, members of the SA and the Hitler Youth carry out a wave of violent anti-Jewish pogroms throughout Greater Germany.

**1938-1940:** Following the Kristallnacht pogrom, the British government allows an unspecified number of children to enter Great Britain from Germany and German-annexed territories. In all, the rescue operation brought about 9,000-10,000 children from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland to Great Britain. Some 7,500 of these children were Jewish.

### 1939

**May 13, 1939:** The German transatlantic liner St. Louis with over 900 refugees, most of them Jewish, leaves Germany for Cuba. Cuba and the United States will refuse to accept the refugees, forcing them to return to Europe.

**September 1, 1939:** Germany invades Poland, starting World War II in Europe.

**October 1939:** The Nazi Euthanasia Program is authorized and thousands of physically and mentally disabled men, women, and children are killed in Germany and German-annexed territories.

## 1940

**May 20, 1940:** SS authorities establish the Auschwitz camp (Auschwitz I).

## 1941

**June 22, 1941:** Nazi Germany invades the Soviet Union in “Operation Barbarossa.” German mobile killing units called Einsatzgruppen follow the frontline troops into the Soviet Union and are tasked with identifying, concentrating, and killing Jews, Soviet officials, and other persons deemed potentially hostile to German rule in the east.

**September 29-30, 1941:** German SS and police units, supported by Ukrainian auxiliaries and German military personnel, murder a large portion of the Jewish population of Kiev at Babi Yar, a ravine northwest of the city.

**December 7, 1941:** Japan bombs Pearl Harbor. A day later, the United States enters World War II.

**December 8, 1941:** Killing operations begin at the Chelmno killing center.

## 1942

**January 20, 1942:** The Wannsee Conference is held and plans for the “Final Solution” are discussed and implemented.

## 1943

**April 19-May 16, 1943:** In the Warsaw ghetto uprising, Jewish fighters resist the German attempt to liquidate the ghetto.

**August 2, 1943:** Deportations and gassing operations halt at Treblinka. About 1,000 prisoners used for forced labor stage a revolt, but SS guards discover the plot before it's implemented. Many are killed by SS and police guards. More than 300 prisoners are able to escape. About two thirds of the prisoners in this group are recaptured and killed.

**October 14, 1943:** Jewish prisoners at the Sobibor killing center begin an armed revolt. Approximately 300 escape. SS functionaries and police units, with assistance from German military units, recapture about 100 and kill them.

## 1944

**June 6, 1944:** D-Day, Allied forces invade Normandy, France.

**Summer 1944 – April 1945:** As Allied forces close in on the German Army in the last year of the war, Nazi officials order the forced evacuations of all concentration camps and subcamps.

## 1945

**January 27, 1945:** Soviet troops liberate the Auschwitz camp complex (Auschwitz, Birkenau, and Monowitz).

**April 29, 1945:** American forces liberate Dachau.

**May 7-9, 1945:** Germany surrenders, World War II ends in Europe.

**November 20, 1945:** The International Military Tribunal (IMT), made up of U.S., British, French, and Soviet judges, begins a trial of major Nazi leaders at Nuremberg, Germany.

**\*The timeline and explanations of events are adapted from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's resources:**

- [www.ushmm.org/learn/timeline-of-events/before-1933](http://www.ushmm.org/learn/timeline-of-events/before-1933)
- <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/1933-key-dates>
- <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/1934-key-dates>
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