

HOLOCAUST TIME LINE

North Carolina Council on the Holocaust, N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction

1932

- March 13 In the presidential election in Germany, Adolf Hitler, leader of the Nazi (National Socialist) Party, receives 30% of the vote, and President Hindenburg receives 49.6%. In an April run-off election, Hitler receives 37% and Hindenburg 53%.
- July 31 In elections for the Reichstag (parliament), the Nazi Party receives 38%, the Social Democrats 22%, the Communists 14%, the Catholic Center Party 12%, and other parties 14%.

1933

- Jan. 30 Hitler is appointed chancellor of Germany by President Hindenburg.
- Feb. 28 The Nazis use the burning of the Reichstag (parliament) building in Berlin as an excuse to suspend civil rights of all Germans in the name of national security.
- March 4 Franklin D. Roosevelt is inaugurated president of the United States. He remains president until his death less than one month before the end of the war in Europe.
- March 5 In the last free election in Germany until after World War II, the Nazis receive 44% of the popular vote in parliamentary elections. Hitler arrests the Communist parliamentary leaders in order to achieve a majority in the Reichstag.
- March 22 **FIRST CONCENTRATION CAMP**, Dachau, is opened in Nazi Germany to imprison political prisoners, many of them dissidents of the regime.
- March 24 **HITLER BECOMES DICTATOR**. The Reichstag gives Hitler power to enact laws without a parliamentary vote, in effect creating a dictatorship (Enabling Act).
- April 1 The Nazi government orders a one-day boycott of all Jewish businesses. In the next six years over 400 Nazi decrees remove Jewish citizenship and civil rights, and put severe limitations on their participation in German public and economic life.
- April 7 Nazis begin banning Jews, Communists, and other "undesirables" from the German civil service, including doctors, lawyers, and teachers. All Jewish judges are forced to resign.
- April 26 The Gestapo (secret police) is established, taking over all local police.
- May 2 The Nazi government bans German labor unions and arrest their leaders.
- May 10 Thousands of books considered "un-German," including many written by Jews and political dissidents, are destroyed in public burnings across Germany.
- July 14 The Nazi government institutes the forced sterilization of those with physical and mental disabilities, mental illness, and other conditions considered detrimental to the creation of a supreme "Aryan race."
- July 14 The Nazi Party declares itself the only legal political party in Germany. All other parties are banned.
- Sept.-Oct. The Nazi government bans all Jewish performers from participating in theater, opera, and other cultural activities. Jews are barred from being news reporters and editors.
- Oct. 14 Hitler announces Germany's withdrawal from the League of Nations.

1934

- May 17 Jews are banned from receiving national health insurance.
- May 17 Mass pro-Nazi rally is held in New York City by the Friends of New Germany.
- June 30 **NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES**. Hitler orders the execution of hundreds of suspected opponents of his regime, including many top officers of the Nazi Storm Troopers (SA).

- Aug. 2 **HITLER DECLARES HIMSELF FUEHRER** (leader) after President Hindenburg dies.
- Aug. 19 With 90% approval, the German people vote to support Hitler's dictatorial powers.
- Oct. 1 Hitler orders the expansion of the army and the navy, and the creation of an air force, in violation of the Versailles Treaty that concluded World War I.

1935

- March 16 Hitler renews the draft in violation of the Versailles Treaty, with no response from Britain, France, and the U.S.
- Sept.-Nov. **NUREMBERG RACE LAWS** deprive Jews of citizenship; they are banned from voting, holding public office, marrying non-Jews, and exercising other civil rights. The legal definition of a "Jew" is someone with three or four Jewish grandparents.

1936

- March 7 **NAZI INVASION OF THE RHINELAND** between Germany and France. Nazi military aggression for territory begins.
- July 12 Sachsenhausen concentration camp is opened in Germany.
- Aug. 1 The Olympic Games open in Berlin. Signs reading "Jews Not Welcome" are temporarily removed from most public places by Hitler's orders.
- Oct. 25 Rome-Berlin Axis. Germany and Italy form alliance.
- Nov. 25 Anti-Comintern Pact. Germany and Japan create alliance against the Soviet Union.

1937

- July 15 Buchenwald concentration camp is opened in Germany.
- Nov. 5 German army is ordered to prepare for war.

1938

- March 13 **NAZI OCCUPATION OF AUSTRIA**, which is annexed to Germany (the Anschluss).
- June-Dec. **RESTRICTIONS ON JEWS ESCALATE**, e.g., Jews are barred from public schools and universities, and from public cultural and sports events. They are excluded from economic professions such as bookkeeping, selling real estate, loaning money, peddling (and any work outside their area of residence). Jewish doctors are forbidden from treating non-Jewish patients. Jews are ordered to have the letter "J" stamped on their passports.
- July 6-14 **EVIAN CONFERENCE**. Delegates from 32 countries meet in France to consider ways to help European Jews, but no nation agrees to accept any refugees.
- Aug. 8 Mauthausen, the first concentration camp in Austria, is opened.
- Sept. 29 **MUNICH AGREEMENT**. Great Britain and France agree to the German takeover of the Sudetenland in western Czechoslovakia in return for Hitler's promise to demand no more territory.
- Oct. 6 **NAZIS OCCUPY SUDETENLAND** in western Czechoslovakia as permitted by the Munich Agreement.
- Oct. 28 17,000 Polish-born Jews are rounded up and expelled at the border with Poland.
- Nov. 9-10 **KRISTALLNACHT: The Night of Broken Glass**. Nazis initiate anti-Jewish riots in Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland. 257 synagogues are destroyed, 7,500 Jewish stores are looted, 91 Jews are killed, and 30,000 Jewish men are sent to concentration camps.
- November Nazis escalate policies to force Jews to decide to emigrate. Jewish-owned businesses are ordered closed. German Jews are ordered to pay 1,000,000,000 (one billion) Reichsmarks in reparations for the damages of Kristallnacht.
- Dec. 2 **FIRST KINDERTRANSPORT** arrives in England with Jewish and other endangered children escaping Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia.

1939

- Jan. 30 **REICHSTAG SPEECH.** Hitler threatens that a world war initiated by “international Jewish financiers” would bring on the “annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe.”
- Feb. 9 A bill to permit the entry of 20,000 Jewish refugee children into the U.S. is introduced in Congress. The bill lacks support and dies in committee.
- Feb. 20 22,000 members of the German-American Bund attend a pro-Nazi rally in Madison Square Garden in New York City.
- Feb. 21 Nazis order Jews to turn over all of their gold, silver, platinum, and precious stone items to the government, as well as fur coats, radios, bicycles, and typewriters.
- March 4 Nazis initiate policy to use German Jews for forced labor.
- March 15 **NAZIS OCCUPY CZECHOSLOVAKIA** in violation of the Munich Agreement.
- March 25 Half a million people attend a massive “Stop Hitler” parade in New York City.
- April 30 German landlords are given the right to evict Jewish tenants.
- May-June The ship *St. Louis*, carrying almost 1,000 Jewish refugees from Germany, is turned away from Cuba, the U.S., and other countries before returning to Europe.
- Aug. 23 Germany and the Soviet Union sign a nonaggression pact, which Germany will break by invading the Soviet Union in June 1941.
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- Sept. 1 **WORLD WAR II BEGINS. GERMANY INVADES POLAND.** Britain and France declare war on Germany on Sept. 3. The U.S. declares its neutrality.
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- Sept. 17 Soviet army invades western Poland as agreed with Germany a month earlier.
- October **EUTHANASIA PROJECT.** Nazis begin forced euthanasia of patients with mental illness, hereditary diseases, and physical disabilities.
- Oct-Dec. **GHETTOS ARE CREATED IN POLAND** to isolate the Jewish populations into small enclosed sections of the cities.
- Dec. 18 Nazis severely restrict food rations for Jews in Germany.

1940

- April-May **NAZIS INVADE WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.** Denmark, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and France are defeated and occupied.
- May 14 Last transport of children escaping Nazi-occupied Europe leaves the Netherlands.
- May 20 **AUSCHWITZ** concentration camp is opened in Poland.
- Aug. 8 **NAZIS BEGIN AIR ATTACKS ON BRITAIN.** The Germans fail to defeat Britain by aerial bombing and never invade the island.
- Aug. 15 The Nazis announce plan to deport all European Jews to the island of Madagascar, off southeastern Africa, over four years. The plan is postponed and then abandoned in 1942 with the adoption of the Final Solution.
- Sept. 27 **THE AXIS IS FORMED** as Germany, Italy, and Japan sign the Tripartite Pact.
- Nov. 16 The Jewish ghetto in Warsaw is sealed, enclosing 450,000 Jews inside its walls. Other ghettos in Poland are sealed by the Nazis in the following months.

1941

- April 6 Germany invades Yugoslavia and Greece.
- June 22 **GERMANY INVADES THE SOVIET UNION** in violation of the nonaggression pact.
- June 23 **EINSATZGRUPPEN** (mobile killing squads) begin murdering hundreds of thousands of Jews in the western Soviet Union.

- Sept. 1 German and Austrian Jews are ordered to wear armbands with the Star of David.
- Sept. 3 The Nazis initiate use of Zyklon-B gas to kill prisoners in Auschwitz.
- Sept. 29 **BABI YAR MASSACRE.** 34,000 Jews of Kiev, Ukraine (Soviet Union), mostly women, children, the ill, and the elderly, are massacred by German troops in the ravine of Babi Yar. Many brutal massacres of Jews occur throughout the Soviet war zone.
- Oct. 12 German army reaches outskirts of Moscow but fails to take the city.
- Oct. 15 Nazis begin mass deportations of German Jews to ghettos in Poland.
- Oct. 22 Over 30,000 Jews are killed by the Romanian government over two days, and many more are left to die or are deported to extermination camps.
- Nov. 24 Theresienstadt is created as a “model camp” in Czechoslovakia.
- Nov. 30 Germans begin mass shootings of 30,000 Jews of Riga, Latvia (Soviet Union).
- Dec. 7 **THE U.S. ENTERS WORLD WAR II.** The U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, is bombed by the Japanese air force. The U.S. declares war on Japan the next day.
- Dec. 8 **CHELMNO** extermination camp is opened in Poland.
- Dec. 11 Germany and Italy declare war on the U.S. The U.S. declares war on Germany and Italy.

1942

- Jan. 5 German Jews are ordered to turn in their winter clothing to be sent to German troops fighting in the Soviet Union.
- Jan. 16 First deportation of Jews in the Lodz ghetto to Chelmno extermination camp, where the Nazis had first used gas to kill prisoners.
- Jan. 20 **“THE FINAL SOLUTION”** to exterminate European Jews is planned at the Wannsee Conference near Berlin. More death camps are opened in the following months.
- March 17 **BELZEC** extermination camp begins operation in Poland.
- March 25 First deportation of Slovakian Jews to Auschwitz.
- March 27 First deportation of French Jews to Auschwitz.
- May 16 **SOBIBOR** extermination camp begins operation in Poland.
- May 18 The *New York Times* reports mass killings of Jews by the Nazis in Poland and the Soviet Union.
- June 2 BBC radio (London) reports the killing of 700,000 Jews in Poland since the war began, as documented by a Polish underground leader.
- June 2 First deportation of German Jews to Theresienstadt.
- July 15 First deportation of Dutch Jews to Auschwitz.
- July 21 20,000 American Jews hold a mass rally in New York City to urge the U.S. and its allies to rescue the Jews of Europe.
- July 22 **TREBLINKA** extermination camp begins operation in Poland. First transport of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto arrives in Treblinka.
- Aug. 14 Switzerland bars all Jewish refugees from crossing its border with France.
 - Oct. 4 All Jews in German camps are sent to Auschwitz.
 - Oct. 9 German Jews are forbidden to buy books.
- Oct. 25 First deportation of Norwegian Jews to Auschwitz.
- Nov. 8 **ALLIED INVASION OF NORTH AFRICA BEGINS.** Allied forces land on the coast of Morocco.
- Nov. 24 An American Jewish leader publicizes a telegram sent by a Jewish diplomat in Switzerland conveying evidence of the Nazi plan to completely exterminate the Jews of Europe (Reigner Telegram).

- Dec. 17 Allied nations issue statement confirming that Germany is conducting the mass murder of Jews and “will not escape retribution.”

1943

- Feb. 2 **NAZI RETREAT BEGINS.** German army surrenders at Stalingrad, Soviet Union.
- Feb. 26 First deportation of Roma (Gypsies) to Auschwitz.
- April 19 U.S. and British officials meeting in Bermuda fail to devise an effective plan for rescuing the victims of the Nazis in Europe.
- April 19 **WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING** begins. Armed Jewish resistance continues for 28 days after the Nazis began to liquidate the ghetto. 50,000 Jews are killed; the survivors are sent to Auschwitz.
- May 13 **ALLIES ARE VICTORIOUS IN NORTH AFRICA** with the Axis surrender in Tunisia.
- June 21 Liquidation of all ghettos in Soviet-occupied territory is ordered by Himmler.
- June 28 Four crematoria are completed at Auschwitz. Nazis estimate that 2,000 persons can be killed at one time in each crematorium.
- June-July Nazis order all ghettos in Poland and the Soviet Union to be liquidated. Armed resistance by Jewish fighters occurs in five ghettos.
- July 10 **ALLIES INVADE SICILY**, beginning the military campaign to free continental Europe.
- July 25 As the Allies invade Sicily, Italians revolt and depose Mussolini. German army soon occupies Italy from the north.
- Aug. 2 **TREBLINKA UPRISING.** Camp inmates revolt and escape; only 70 survive.
- Aug.-Sept. The Jewish ghettos in Vilna, Minsk, and Bialystok, Poland, are liquidated. All Jews are deported to extermination camps.
- Sept. 3 **ALLIES INVADE THE MAINLAND OF ITALY**, landing at Salerno.
- Sept. 3 First deportation of Belgian Jews to Auschwitz.
- Sept. 15 First deportation of Italian Jews to Auschwitz.
- Sept. 20 Danish underground begins to evacuate over 7,000 Jews by sea to Sweden.
- Oct. 14 **SOBIBOR UPRISING.** 300 camp inmates escape; 100 are recaptured and killed.
- November U.S. Congress holds hearings on the State Department’s willful inaction in response to the mounting evidence of the Nazi extermination of the Jews.

1944

- Jan. 2 **WAR REFUGEE BOARD.** Pres. Roosevelt creates the War Refugee Board to remove responsibility for Jewish relief from the State Dept. The Board escalates efforts to secure refuge for Jews in the U.S. and to provide aid and food for Jews in occupied Europe.
- Jan. 27 Nazi siege of Leningrad, Soviet Union, ends after 900 days (2½ years).
- March 18 Germany invades Hungary.
- May 2 First deportation of Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz.
- June 4 American forces capture Rome, Italy.
- June 6 **D-DAY. THE ALLIES INVADE NORTHERN EUROPE** at Normandy, France.
- June-Nov. **EUROPEAN CITIES ARE LIBERATED FROM NAZI CONTROL.** U.S., British, and Canadian armies progress from the west and south, liberating Rome, Florence, Paris, Lyon, Brussels, Antwerp, and Strasbourg. The Soviet army progresses from the east, liberating Minsk, Brest-Litovsk, Vilnius, Bucharest, and Sofia.
- July-Jan. Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg saves nearly 33,000 Jews in Hungary by giving them visas and setting up “safe houses.” Other diplomats save Hungarian Jews with similar efforts.

- July 20 Attempt by German officers to assassinate Hitler fails.
- July 25 **SOVIETS LIBERATE MAJDANEK**—the first major camp to be liberated.
- Aug. 4 **ANNE FRANK** and her family are arrested in their hiding place in Amsterdam, Holland, and sent to Auschwitz. In October, Anne and her sister Margot are sent to Bergen-Belsen in Germany where they die of typhus (most likely in February 1945).
- Aug. 6 The last major ghetto in Poland, the Lodz Ghetto, is liquidated, its 60,000 Jewish residents deported to Auschwitz.
- Oct. 7 **AUSCHWITZ UPRISING**. Inmates revolt and destroy Crematorium IV and kill several guards. They are all executed.
- Oct. 21 Aachen is taken by U.S. troops—the first major German city to be captured.
- Nov. 26 The *New York Times* publishes the “Auschwitz Protocols,” three eyewitness reports detailing Nazi atrocities in Auschwitz.
- Dec. 16 **BATTLE OF THE BULGE** begins. The last German offensive campaign in western Europe (in the Ardennes Forest in Belgium and Luxembourg) is halted on January 27, 1945, after successful Allied counteroffensive action.

1945

- Jan.-April The Soviet army liberates the cities of Warsaw, Danzig, Budapest, and Vienna.
 - Jan.-April **DEATH MARCHES**. Thousands of prisoners die on forced marches from concentration camps to central Germany as the Nazis retreat from advancing Allied armies.
 - Jan. 18 Nazis evacuate Auschwitz as the Soviet army approaches from the east.
 - Jan. 27 **AUSCHWITZ IS LIBERATED** by Soviet troops.
 - Jan.-May **CONCENTRATION CAMPS ARE LIBERATED** across Europe by Allied troops.
 - April 11 Buchenwald concentration camp is liberated by U.S. forces.
 - April 12 U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt dies. Vice President Harry Truman becomes president.
 - April 15 Bergen-Belsen is liberated by British forces. Of the 58,000 survivors, nearly 30,000 die in the following weeks from disease and the effects of chronic malnutrition.
 - April 16 The Battle of Berlin begins as Soviet forces encircle the city. The city surrenders May 2.
 - April 25 American and Soviet troops meet at the Elbe River in Germany.
 - April 28 Italian dictator Benito Mussolini is captured and killed by Italian partisans.
 - April 30 **HITLER COMMITS SUICIDE** as Allied armies continue assault on Berlin. Other top Nazi officials commit suicide in the following days.
 - May 5 Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria is liberated by U.S. troops.
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- May 8 **WAR IN EUROPE ENDS**. Germany surrenders: V-E Day (Victory in Europe).
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- Aug. 15 **WORLD WAR II IS OVER**. Japan surrenders: V-J Day (Victory in Japan).
 - Oct. 18 **NUREMBERG WAR CRIMES TRIALS BEGIN** in Germany. In the first trials of top Nazi officials, each of the four Allied nations provides two judges. Twelve further trials of Nazi officials are conducted between 1946 and 1949.

1946

- Oct. 1 **VERDICTS DELIVERED** in first Nuremberg Trials. Of the 22 major Nazi officials who are tried, twelve are sentenced to death by hanging, three are sentenced to life in prison, four receive sentences of 10 to 20 years, and three are acquitted. Many other Nazi war criminals are tried in later years. Many escape capture.

1948

- Dec. 9 **CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT OF GENOCIDE** is adopted by the United Nations and, by December 2017, ratified by 149 nations. Genocide and mass atrocities continue in the postwar era and are met with differing levels of resistance by the world community of nations.

1960s

- 1960 **ADOLF EICHMANN**, the Nazi officer most responsible for implementing the Final Solution, is captured in Argentina where he and many fellow Nazis had escaped after the war. In 1961, in Israel, he is tried and convicted of war crimes and hanged June 1, 1962.
- 1963-65 **FRANKFURT AUSCHWITZ TRIALS**. 18 of 22 SS officers in Auschwitz are found guilty in war crimes trials in Germany. Most Nazi officials at Auschwitz are never brought to trial.

1970s

- 1975-79 **GENOCIDE IN CAMBODIA**. More than two million people are killed by the Khmer Rouge regime in a campaign to purge the country of Western influence and create an authoritarian agrarian state.
- 1979 The U.S. Attorney General creates the Office of Special Investigations to investigate possible Nazi war criminals living in the U.S. Over 100 former Nazis are deported or deprived of citizenship in subsequent years.

1990s

- 1992-95 **GENOCIDE IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**. With the dissolution of Communist Yugoslavia in 1991, Bosnian Serb extremists launch a program of "ethnic cleansing" to eliminate the Muslim Bosnians (Bosniaks) and the Bosnian Croats, murdering up to 100,000 people.
- 1994 **GENOCIDE IN RWANDA**. 500,000 to one million minority Tutsis are killed in a 100-day period by the majority Hutus in a government-initiated program of extermination.
- 1995 In the largest massacre in Europe since the Holocaust, Bosnian Serbs murder 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys near the city of Srebrenica. [July]

2000s

- 2002 The International Criminal Court begins operation in The Hague, Netherlands, to prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. [July 1]
- 2003-present **GENOCIDE IN THE DARFUR REGION OF SUDAN**. Nearly 500,000 of the non-Arab people of Darfur in western Sudan have been killed in a genocidal campaign by the Arab government of Sudan.

2010s

- 2011 John Demjanjuk is convicted in Germany of war crimes as a guard at the Sobibor death camp and is sentenced to five years in prison. He dies in a nursing home the next year. The search for living Nazi war criminals who have escaped justice continues.
- 2016/2017 Bosnian Serb commanders Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić are convicted in separate trials of genocide and crimes against humanity by the U.N. Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, for atrocities committed during the Bosnian War of 1992-95. Karadžić is sentenced to 40 years in prison, Mladić to life.
- 2016 **GENOCIDE IN SYRIA AND IRAQ**. The U.S. State Dept. announces that the mass killing by the Islamic State (ISIS) of Yezidi, Christian, and Shia Muslim peoples in Syria and Iraq qualifies as genocide. [March 17]
- 2018 **GENOCIDE IN MYANMAR**. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum concludes that the persecution and murder of the Muslim Rohingya minority in Burma (Myanmar) qualifies as genocide. [December]

Holocaust Time Lines

- **U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC**
www.ushmm.org/learn/timeline-of-events/before-1933
- **Yad Vashem, World Holocaust Remembrance Center, Israel**
www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/holocaust/timeline/timeline.asp
- **Jewish Virtual Library**
www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/timeline-of-jewish-persecution-in-the-holocaust

Genocide

- **Definition and Discussion**
 - ◆ **United Nations Office on Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect**
www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/genocide.html
 - ◆ **U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC**
www.ushmm.org/confront-genocide/defining-genocide
- **Cases of Genocide since World War II**
 - ◆ **U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC**
www.ushmm.org/confront-genocide/cases
 - ◆ **Interparliamentary Alliance for Human Rights and Global Peace**
www.ipahp.org/index.php?en_acts-of-genocide



Inmates greet U.S. Seventh Army troops upon their arrival at the Allach concentration camp, Germany, April 30, 1945.

 Original caption

“After American troops arrived, homemade American flag was raised by the prisoners of Dachau prison camp. As it waved in the breeze, it seemed to reflect the joy of inmates who realize freedom for the first time in many years.”