

Timeline of the Holocaust: 1933 – 1945

1933

January 30	Adolf Hitler appointed Chancellor of Germany
March 22	Dachau concentration camp opens
April 1	Boycott of Jewish shops and businesses
April 7	Laws for Reestablishment of the Civil Service barred Jews from holding civil service, university, and state positions
April 26	<i>Gestapo</i> established
May 10	Public burnings of books written by Jews, political dissidents, and others not approved by the state
July 14	Law stripping East European Jewish immigrants of German citizenship

1934

August 2	Hitler proclaims himself <i>Führer und Reichskanzler</i> (Leader and Reich Chancellor). Armed forces must now swear allegiance to him
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1935

May 31	Jews barred from serving in the German armed forces
September 15	"Nuremberg Laws": anti-Jewish racial laws enacted; Jews no longer considered German citizens; Jews could not marry Aryans; nor could they fly the German flag
November 15	Germany defines a "Jew": anyone with three Jewish grandparents; someone with two Jewish grandparents who identifies as a Jew

1936

March 3	Jewish doctors barred from practicing medicine in German institutions
March 7	Germans march into the Rhineland, previously demilitarized by the Versailles Treaty
June 17	Himmler appointed the Chief of German Police
July	Sachsenhausen concentration camp opens
October 25	Hitler and Mussolini form Rome-Berlin Axis

1937

July 15	Buchenwald concentration camp opens
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1938

March 13	<i>Anschluss</i> (annexation of Austria by Germany): all antisemitic decrees immediately implemented in Austria
April 26	Mandatory registration of all property held by Jews inside the Reich
July 6	Evian Conference held in Evian, France on the problem of Jewish refugees
August 1	Adolf Eichmann establishes the Office of Jewish Emigration in Vienna to increase the pace of forced emigration
August 3	Italy enacts sweeping antisemitic laws
September 30	Munich Conference: Great Britain and France agree to German occupation of the Sudetenland, previously western Czechoslovakia
October 5	Following request by Swiss authorities, Germans mark all Jewish passports with a large letter "J" to restrict Jews from immigrating to Switzerland
October 28	17,000 Polish Jews living in Germany expelled; Poland refused to admit them; 8,000 are stranded in the village of Zbaszyn
November 7	Assassination in Paris of German diplomat Ernst vom Rath by Herschel Grynszpan
November 9-10	<i>Kristallnacht</i> (Night of Broken Glass): anti-Jewish pogrom in Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland; 200 synagogues destroyed; 7,500 Jewish shops looted; 30,000 male Jews sent to concentration camps (Dachau, Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen)
November 12	Decree forcing all Jews to transfer retail businesses to Aryan hands
November 15	All Jewish students expelled from German schools
December 12	One billion <i>marks</i> fine levied against German Jews for the destruction of property during <i>Kristallnacht</i>

1939

January 30	Hitler in <i>Reichstag</i> speech: “If war erupts it will mean the <i>Vernichtung</i> (extermination) of European Jews”
March 15	Germans occupy Czechoslovakia
August 23	Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact signed: non-aggression pact between Soviet Union and Germany
September 1	Beginning of World War II: Germany invades Poland
September 21	Heydrich issues directives to establish ghettos in German-occupied Poland
October 12	Germany begins deportation of Austrian and Czech Jews to Poland
October 28	First Polish ghetto established in Piotrków
November 23	Jews in German-occupied Poland forced to wear an armband or yellow star

1940

April 9	Germans occupy Denmark and southern Norway
May 7	Lodz Ghetto (Litzmannstadt) sealed: 165,000 people in 1.6 square miles
May 10	Germany invades the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and France
May 20	Concentration camp established at Auschwitz
June 22	France surrenders
August 8	Battle of Britain begins
September 27	Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis
November 16	Warsaw Ghetto sealed: ultimately it contained 500,000 people

1941

January 21-26	Anti-Jewish riots in Romania, led by the Iron Guard (Romanian fascist organization); hundreds of Jews butchered
February 1	German authorities begin rounding up Polish Jews for transfer to Warsaw Ghetto
March	Adolf Eichmann appointed head of the Department for Jewish Affairs of the Reich Security Main Office (<i>Gestapo</i>), Section IV B 4.
April 6	Germany attacks Yugoslavia and Greece; occupation follows
June 22	Germany invades the Soviet Union
July 31	Heydrich appointed by Göring to implement the "Final Solution"
September 1	German Jews required to wear yellow star of David with the word <i>Jude</i>
September 28-29	34,000 Jews massacred at Babi Yar outside Kiev
October	Establishment of Auschwitz II (Birkenau) for the extermination of Jews; Gypsies, Poles, Russians, and others were also murdered at the camp
December 7	Japanese attack Pearl Harbor
December 8	Chelmno (Kulmhof) extermination camp begins operations: 340,000 Jews, 20,000 Poles and Czechs murdered by April 1943
December 11	United States declares war on Japan and Germany

1942

January 20	Wannsee Conference in Berlin: Heydrich outlines plan to murder Europe's Jews
March 17	Extermination begins in Belzec; by end of 1942, 600,000 Jews murdered
May	Extermination by gas begins in Sobibor killing center; by October 1943, 250,000 Jews murdered
June	Jewish partisan units established in the forests of Byelorussia and the Baltic States
July 22	Germans establish Treblinka concentration camp
Summer	Deportation of Jews to killing centers from Belgium, Croatia, France, the Netherlands, and Poland; armed resistance by Jews in ghettos of Kletzk, Kremenets, Lakhva, Mir, Tuchin, Weisweiz
Winter	Deportation of Jews from Germany, Greece and Norway to killing centers; Jewish partisan movement organized in forests near Lublin

1943

January	German 6th Army surrenders at Stalingrad (Volgograd)
March	Liquidation of Craców Ghetto
April 19	Warsaw Ghetto revolt begins as Germans attempt to liquidate 70,000 inhabitants; Jewish underground fights Nazis until early June
May	Liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto. On May 16, 1943, SS and Police Chief Jürgen Stroop proclaimed, "180 Jews, bandits, and subhumans were destroyed. The Jewish quarter of Warsaw is no more."
June	Heinrich Himmler orders the liquidation of all ghettos in Poland and the Soviet Union
Summer	Armed resistance by Jews in Bedzin, Bialystok, Czestochowa, Lvov, and Tarnów ghettos
Fall	Liquidation of large ghettos in Minsk, Vilna (Vilnius) and Riga
October 14	Armed revolt in Sobibor extermination camp
October-November	Rescue of Danish Jewry

1944

March 19	Germany occupies Hungary
May 15	Nazis begin deporting Hungarian Jews; by June 27, 380,000 sent to Auschwitz
June 6	D-Day: Allied invasion at Normandy
Spring/Summer	Red Army repels Nazi forces
July 20	Group of German officers attempts to assassinate Hitler
July 24	Russians liberate Majdanek killing center
October 7	Revolt by inmates at Auschwitz; one crematorium blown up
November	Last Jews deported from Theresienstadt (Terezin) to Auschwitz
November 8	Beginning of death march of approximately 40,000 Jews from Budapest to Austria

1945

January 17	Evacuation of Auschwitz; beginning of death march
January 25	Beginning of death march for inmates of Stutthof
April 6-10	Death march of inmates of Buchenwald
April 30	Hitler commits suicide
May 8	V-E Day: Germany surrenders; end of Third Reich
August 6	Bombing of Hiroshima
August 9	Bombing of Nagasaki
August 15	V-J Day: Victory over Japan proclaimed.
September 2	Japan surrenders; end of World War II