

The Holocaust 1933-1945

Nazi beliefs about race

The Nazis believed in a hierarchy of races. These ideas came from Victorian ideas in England and Darwin. Hitler and the Nazi's believed that the Aryan Race was superior and destined to control. They believed that other ethnicities were inferior, in particular Jews. Nazis believed that inferior races were meant to either be ruled or destroyed by the "master race". This informed much of Nazi Policy.

Nazi persecution of Jews

Nazi persecution of Jews started when Hitler took power in January 1933. Firstly, it started with the boycotting of Jewish shops and businesses, attempting to deport Jews, and pogroms. As the Second World War started, the Nazis became more aggressive with their policies, with forced deportations to ghettos. As they expanded eastwards, the Nazis started to encounter more Jews and started to murder thousands. After the Wannsee conference, the Nazis started the final solution, which ended in 1945 after over 6 million Jews and other minorities were murdered by the Nazis.

Map of Nazi Death Camps



Key dates, people and vocabulary.

Key Terms	Definitions	Key Terms	Definitions
Pogrom	When Jews are attacked on mass through a country	Einsatzgruppen	Mobile death squad of the SS that followed the German army, executing Jewish residents.
Kristalnachtt	Night of the Broken Glass. 1933-When Jewish businesses and homes were attacked and destroyed in Germany	Final Solution	Agreed at the Wannsee Conference, designed to end the Jewish Presence in Europe.
Genocide	When one ethnic group are indiscriminately persecuted and killed.	Ghetto	A section of a city where Jews were forced to live, usually with several families living in one house, separated from the rest of the city by walls or wire fences.
Auschwitz	The Largest death camp used by the Nazis in Southern Poland. Over 1 million Jews and other minorities were murdered.	Mein Kampf	Hitler's memoirs, written in Munich whilst imprisoned by Hitler.
Gestapo	The secret state police of the German army, organized to stamp out any political opposition.	SA (Storm troopers)	The terrorist branch of the Nazi army, was formed in 1923 and was used to help secure Hitler's rise to power.
Aryan race	Term used by the Nazis to describe northern European physical characteristics (such as blonde hair and blue eyes) as racially "superior".	SS	The German army's elite guard, organized to serve as Hitler's personal protectors and to administer the concentration camps.
Untermenschen	Translates as lesser people. Refers to groups that Nazis believed were racially inferior to Aryans.	Third Reich	Name given to Hitler's Germany.
Volksdetuch	The collective name for the German People.	Wannsee Conference	December 1940-A meeting of the most Senior Nazi officials, where they agreed on the Final Solution to the "Jewish problem".
Greater Germany	An idea of a united Germany, including all German speaking people.	Anti-Semitism	Persecution of Jews.