

Abbreviated Timeline of the Holocaust (1933-1945)

1933

January 30	Adolf Hitler appointed chancellor of Germany
February 27	<i>Reichstag</i> fire; Nazis unleash terror to ensure election results
March 20	First concentration camp - Dachau - established
March 23	Enabling Act - suspending civil liberties - passed by Nazi-dominated <i>Reichstag</i>
April 1	Boycott of Jewish shops and businesses; Jewish professionals barred from entering their offices and places of employment
April 7	First anti-Jewish decree, the "Law for the Reestablishment of the Civil Service"
April 26	<i>Gestapo</i> established
May 10	Public burnings of books authored by Jews, those of Jewish origin, and opponents of Nazism
Spring/Summer	Universities and the arts "cleansed" of Jewish influence; Jewish professors expelled; Jewish writers and artists prohibited from practicing their professions
Spring/Summer	Jewish organizations in America and Western Europe protest Nazi persecution of the Jews; a few call for boycott of Nazi Germany

1934

June 30	"Night of the Long Knives;" Nazis purge leadership of storm troopers (SA) and opponents of Nazism
August 2	Hitler named president and commander-in-chief of the armed forces following death of von Hindenburg

1935

- May 25 Germany renews conscription, in violation of the Treaty of Versailles
- September 15 "Nuremberg Laws," anti-Jewish racial laws, enacted. Jews could no longer be German citizens, marry Aryans, fly the German flag or hire German maids under the age of 45
- November 14 Germany defines Jews as anyone with three Jewish grandparents or someone with two Jewish grandparents who has identified himself/herself as a Jew in one of the following ways:
(a) belongs to the official Jewish community
(b) is married to a Jew
(c) is a child of a Jewish parent

1936

- March 7 Germans march into the Rhineland, which had been demilitarized according to Treaty of Versailles
- Summer Berlin Olympics held

1938

- March 13 *Anschluss*, annexation of Austria by Germany; all German antisemitic decrees immediately applied in Austria
- April 26 Jews in Reich must register all property with authorities
- August 17 Decrees revoke all name changes by Jews and force those Jews who did not have names recognized as Jewish by German authorities to add "Israel" (for males) and "Sarah" (for females) as middle names
- September 29-30 At Munich Conference, England and France agree to turn over Sudetenland (part of Czechoslovakia) to Germany
- October 5 Following request by the Swiss authorities, Germans order all Jews' passports marked with a large red "J" to prevent Jews from smuggling themselves into Switzerland
- October 28 Jews with Polish citizenship living in Germany are expelled to Polish border; Poles refuse to admit them; Germans refuse to allow them back into Germany, 17,000 stranded in frontier town of Zbaszyn

- November 9-10 *Kristallnacht* (Night of the Broken Glass); anti-Jewish pogrom in Germany and Austria; 200 synagogues destroyed; 7,500 Jewish shops looted and 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 *Numerus Nullus* decree expels all Jewish pupils from German schools

1939

- January 30 Hitler threatens in *Reichstag* speech that, if war erupts, it will mean the *Vernichtung* (extermination) of European Jews
- March 15 Nazis occupy part of Czechoslovakia (Bohemia and Moravia)
- August 23 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact signed; nonaggression pact between Russia and Germany
- September 1 Beginning of World War II; Germany invades Poland
- September 17 Russia invades Eastern Poland
- September 27 Jews in German-occupied Poland forced to wear distinguishing badge
- November 28 First ghetto in Poland established in Piotrków

1940

- April 9 Germans occupy Denmark and southern Norway
- April 27 Himmler issues directive to establish a concentration camp at Auschwitz
- May 7 Lodz ghetto closed off; approximately 165,000 inhabitants in 1.6 square miles
- May 10 Germany invades Holland, Belgium and France
- June 22 France surrenders to Nazi Germany
- August 8 Battle of Britain begins
- September 27 Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis forms
- November 15 Warsaw Ghetto sealed off; approximately 500,000 inhabitants

1941

January 21-26	Anti-Jewish riots in Romania by Iron Guard; hundreds of Jews butchered
March	Adolf Eichmann appointed head of <i>Gestapo</i> section for Jewish affairs
April	Germany occupies Greece and Yugoslavia
June	Vichy government deprives Jews of French North Africa of their rights as citizens
June 22	Germany invades the Soviet Union
End of June	Nazi <i>Einsatzgruppen</i> (special mobile killing units) carry out mass murder of Jews in areas of Soviet Union occupied by German army with the assistance of local police
July 31	Heydrich appointed by Goering as responsible for implementation of Final Solution
September 1	Jews in Third Reich obligated to wear yellow Star of David as distinguishing mark
September 3	First gassing with Zyklon B performed on 600 Soviet prisoners of war at Auschwitz
September 28-29	Massacre of 34,000 Jews at Babi Yar, a ravine outside Kiev
October	Establishment of Auschwitz-Birkenau camp; site of mass extermination of Jews, Gypsies, Poles, Russians and others
December 7	Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor
December 8	Chelmno extermination camp begins operation; 340,000 Jews, 20,000 Poles and Czechs murdered there by April 1943

1942

January 20	Wannsee Conference; Heydrich reveals official, systematic plan to murder all Jews
January	Jewish underground organizations established in Vilna Ghetto and Kovno Ghetto
March 1	Extermination by gas begins at Sobibor extermination camp; by October 1943, 250,000 murdered

Later March	Deportations to Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp begin
June 1	Treblinka extermination camp begins operation; by August 1943, 700,000 Jews murdered
June	Jewish Partisan unit established in forests of Byelorussia
July 28	Jewish fighting organization (ZOB) established in Warsaw Ghetto
Summer	Deportation of Jews to extermination camps from Holland, Poland, France, Belgium and Croatia; armed resistance by Jews in ghettos of Kletzk, Wieswiew, Mir, Lackwa, Krements and Tuchin
November	Allied forces land in North Africa
Winter	Deportation of Jews from Norway, Germany and Greece to extermination camps; Jewish partisan movement organize in forests near Lublin

1943

February 2	German advance in Russia stopped at Stalingrad
March	Liquidation of Krakow Ghetto
April 19	Warsaw Ghetto revolt begins as Germans attempt to liquidate 70,000 ghetto inhabitants; Jewish underground fights Nazis until early June
June	Himmler orders the liquidation of all the ghettos in Poland and the Soviet Union
Summer	Armed resistance by Jews in Czestochowa, Lvov, Bedzin, Bialystok and Tarnow ghettos
August	Armed revolt in Treblinka extermination camp
Fall	Liquidation of large ghettos: Minsk, Vilna and Riga
October 14	Armed revolt in Sobibor extermination camp

1944

March 19	Germany occupies Hungary
May 15	Nazis begin deporting Hungarian Jews; by June 27, 38,000 sent to Auschwitz

June 6	Allied invasion of Normandy (D-Day)
Spring/Summer	Soviet Army repels Nazi forces
July 20	Group of German officers attempts to assassinate Hitler
July 24	Russians liberate Majdanek extermination camp
Summer	Liquidation of ghettos in Kovno (Kaunas), Shavil (Siauliai) and Lodz; inmates sent to extermination camps
October 7	Revolt by inmates in Auschwitz results in one crematorium being blown up
October 31	Remnants of Slovakian Jews deported to Auschwitz
November 2	Gassing ceases at Auschwitz
November 8	Beginning of death march for approximately 40,000 Jews from Budapest to Austria
November	Last Jews deported from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz

1945

January 17	Evacuation of Auschwitz; beginning of death march for 66,000 camp inmates
January 25	Beginning of death march for 50,000 inmates of Stutthof
April 3-4	Beginning of death march for 30,000 inmates of Buchenwald
April	Soviet Army enters Germany from East; Allies enter from West
April 30	Hitler commits suicide
May 8	Germany surrenders; ending the Third Reich

Source: Grobman, Alex and Daniel Landes, eds. "Genocide: Critical Issues of the Holocaust," Los Angeles: Simon Wiesenthal Center, 1983, pp. 134-140.