

US History World War II - Europe

Learning Target:

I can examine the causes behind the holocaust and analyze the different methods used for the attempted genocide of the Jewish population of Europe.

6. The Holocaust

- Nazi Germany's systematic slaughter of the European Jewish community
- As the allies marched towards Germany they discovered the horror of the Holocaust
- Germany domination of France and Western Europe as well as Poland and parts of the Soviet Union put millions of Jews under German control

Nazi Actions During The Holocaust –

Four Phases of the Holocaust:

1. Planning & Propaganda (1933-1939)

Jews Targeted –

- Anti-Semitism had a long history in Europe
- Hitler found that the German people were willing to support his belief that the Jews were responsible for German's defeat in WWI and their economic problems
- Nuremberg Laws stripped Jews of their citizenship in 1935

Kristallnacht "*Night of Broken Glass*" (Nov. 9-10, 1938) –

- Nazi troops attacked Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues
- Claimed it was in response to a Nazi soldier being killed by a Jewish teenager
- 100s of Jews either killed or injured and 30,000 arrested
- Over 100,000 Jews escaped Europe at this time
- Many Jews could not leave because European countries and the U.S. did not want them

2. Expansion & Violence (September 1939 – June 1941)

Military Executions –

- Occurred in many German controlled regions of Eastern Europe
- Einsatzgruppen – Mobile killing units of Nazi soldiers
- Murdered millions of Jews and other targeted groups

Ghettos –

- In other regions, Jews were forced to live in isolated parts of cities
- These parts of the cities became extremely poor ghettos
- Jews received little food or supplies and many starved to death

3. Dedication to Genocide (1941 – 1944)

Concentration Camps & Genocide –

Genocide –

- The deliberate annihilation of an entire people
- 1941 the Germans began constructing the concentration camps to perform genocide or “the final solution of the Jewish question”

The Death Camps –

- Auschwitz in Poland is one of the most famous death camps of Hitler
- Jewish men, women, & children were transported to the camps in sealed railroad cars
- Marched into rooms disguised as shower facilities, gassed, and cremated
- 6 million Jews died in camps along with hundreds of thousands of Poles, mentally disabled people, religious, and political prisoners

4. Death Marches (January 1945 – May 1945)

- Germany is losing the war and the Soviets are pushing westward
- As camps are closed and liberated the Nazi’s evacuate the prisoners
- Prisoners are forced to march from eastern Europe towards Germany
- Hundreds of thousands die during these death marches

How Could The Holocaust Happen?

- Nazi’s took advantage of the long history of anti-Semitism found in Europe
- Nazi’s flooded Europe with anti-Semitic propaganda stirring up hatred towards the Jews
- This hatred often caused non-Jews to either help the Nazis or look the other way

Holocaust Survivors

1. Identify the account.
2. Which phase of the holocaust is the survivor describing?
3. What is this survivor describing about the holocaust?
4. What is your reaction to these accounts?

