

Timeline of the Holocaust

This timeline is to be used in conjunction with the profiles issued to students after they have completed the readings. As each group stands, read the following timeline of events. Ask the students to sit down when the cumulative situation

Emigration

(Teacher note: option only available to German and Austrian Jews prior to September 1, 1939.)

- January 30, 1933 - Adolf Hitler comes to power in Germany
- March 1933 - Hitler succeeds in assuming the power of the legislative branch
- April 1933 – one day boycott of Jewish stores
- May 1933 – organized burning of books by Jewish authors as well as political dissidents
- Jews (“non-Aryans”) were dismissed from government jobs
- Jews were prevented from belonging to professional organizations
- The number of Jewish students in public schools was severely restricted
- Laws made it hard to observe traditional Jewish dietary laws
- September 1935 – Nuremberg Laws
 - Stripped Jews of German citizenship
 - Forbid marriages and relationships between Jews and non-Jews
 - Results in segregated facilities, transportation, etc.
- German Jews have their passports stamped with a red J to identify them as Jews
- German Jews must adopt the middle name of Sarah or Israel to identify them as Jews
- Jewish students removed from schools and universities
- Jews are gradually forced to transfer their wealth and businesses to non-Jewish control
- November 9-10, 1939 – Kristallnacht
 - Organized violence against German Jewish community
 - 30,000 Jewish men arrested and temporarily sent to concentration camps
 - Approximately 100 Jewish men murdered
 - Large scale destruction of Jewish businesses, synagogues and homes
- Jewish publications and newspapers banned.
- Jewish children expelled from public schools and only allowed to attend segregated Jewish schools.
- All unemployed Jews who were fit for work had to register for forced labor, where they were kept segregated from both the general community and non-Jewish laborers.
- September 1, 1939 – Germany invades Poland. World War II begins.

Going into hiding

(Teacher note: viable option of Jews after occupation of their country. Please note that hiding in Eastern Europe was a very different experience than hiding in Western Europe.)

- German army occupies country.
- SS and Gestapo agencies establish offices in the country.
- Anti-Jewish measures go into effect against the local population.
 - Forced to wear identifying badge or arm band (Star of David)
 - Students forced out of school
 - Adults stripped of business ownership
 - Adults removed from most professions
 - Segregated facilities
- In the East (as in Poland), Jews forced to relocate into ghettos
 - Stripped of many belongings, wealth, property
 - Either unemployed or doing slave labor which benefits the Nazis
- In the West, Jews still largely in their own homes, but late gradually being moved into transit and/or labor camps.
 - Eventually stripped of many belongings, property, wealth
 - Receive call up notices to report for relocation
- Deportations “to the East” begin to an unknown destination. The first people sent East are the elderly, the very young, and those unable to provide substantive labor in their current location.
- As large scale deportations East begin work permits provide increasingly little protection.
- Ghettos and transit camps are liquidated to the death camps.

Mounting an Armed Resistance

(Teacher note: viable option of Jews after occupation of their country. Usually seen as a last resort when there was no longer any hope. This is primarily a phenomenon of the eastern occupied countries where Jews were held as communities and gradually deported. For the purposes of this exercise, the timeline below refers to ghetto experiences in the east.)

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 - Forced to wear identifying badge or arm band (Star of David)
 - Students forced out of school
 - Adults stripped of business ownership
 - Adults removed from most professions
 - Segregated facilities
- In the East (as in Poland), Jews forced to relocate into ghettos
 - Stripped of many belongings, wealth, property
 - Either unemployed or doing slave labor which benefits the Nazis
- Deportations “to the East” begin to an unknown destination. The first people sent East are the elderly, the very young, and those unable to provide substantive labor in their current location.
- Deportations happen more frequently, but those with work permits (and their families) still enjoy relative protection.
- As large scale deportations East begin work permits provide increasingly little protection.
- Ghettos and transit camps are liquidated to the death camps.