



TEACHER'S GUIDE

Timeline

THE JEWISH FOUNDATION *for the righteous*

How Was it Possible?

A HOLOCAUST CURRICULUM FOR AND BY TEACHERS™

Timeline

DISCLAIMER

On the few occasions where there is no consensus regarding the exact date of an event, we have made every effort to validate dates as accurately as possible. Where there are conflicts, we have chosen to use the date published by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

1880s Anti-Jewish **pogroms** break out across Russia.

1881 – 1906 Violent **pogroms** against Jews sweep through Poland and the Ukraine.

1894 The **Dreyfus** Affair begins and sparks a wave of **antisemitism** across France.

1914

June 28 Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand is assassinated in Sarajevo, precipitating a series of events which spark World War I.

July 28 Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia and within a week, Germany declares war on France and invades Belgium. World War I begins.

1917

November 2 The **Balfour Declaration** is published, affirming British support for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

1918

November 9 Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates, and the German Republic (later known as the **Weimar Republic**) is established.

November 11 The armistice ending World War I is signed.

1918 – 1921 A wave of **antisemitic pogroms** sweeps through Poland and the Ukraine, killing more than a hundred thousand Jews.

1919

January 5 German Workers' Party, soon to be renamed "**National Socialist German Workers' Party**" (or "**Nazi Party**," for short), is founded in Munich.

June 28 Germany signs the **Treaty of Versailles**.

1922

October 30 **Benito Mussolini** and the **Fascists** seize power in Italy.

Timeline

1923

November 8 – 9 **Adolf Hitler’s “Beer Hall Putsch”** fails. For his participation, Hitler is sentenced to five years imprisonment, of which he serves nine months. During his imprisonment, he writes *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle).

1925

July 18 **Adolf Hitler’s *Mein Kampf*** is published.

1928

May The **Nazi Party** wins more than 2.6 percent of the vote in the **Reichstag** election.

1929

January 6 **Heinrich Himmler** is appointed head of the **SS** (*Schutzstaffel*, or Protection Squad).

1930

September 14 The **Nazi Party** receives over 18 percent of the vote in the **Reichstag** election and becomes the second largest political party in Germany.

1932

July 31 The **Nazi Party** receives 37.3 percent of the votes cast in the **Reichstag** election and now holds 230 of the Reichstag’s 608 seats.

1933

January 30 President **Paul von Hindenburg** appoints **Adolf Hitler** chancellor of Germany following a **Reichstag** election on November 6, 1932, in which Hitler’s **Nazi Party** received approximately 33 percent of the vote.

February 27 The **Reichstag** building is set on fire.

February 28 Emergency powers are granted to **Hitler** as a result of the **Reichstag** fire. The government abolishes freedom of speech, assembly, and press, freedom from searches without warrants, and freedom from invasion of privacy.

March 22 The first prisoners are brought to **Dachau**, the first **concentration camp** established by the **Nazis**.

March 23 The **Reichstag** passes the **Enabling Act** giving **Hitler’s** government dictatorial powers. The Act is published March 24.

Timeline

April 1	A Nazi -promoted nationwide one-day boycott of Jewish-owned shops and businesses in Germany is carried out.
April 7	“Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service” is enacted, barring Jews and other non- Aryans from civil service, teaching, and state employment.
April 11	In the “First Regulation for the Implementation of the Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service,” Nazis define a non- Aryan as “anyone descended from non-Aryan, especially Jewish, parents or grandparents. One parent or grandparent classifies the descendant as non-Aryan...especially if one parent or grandparent was of the Jewish faith.”
April 26	The Gestapo (Secret State Police) is established.
May 10	Books written by Jews or political opponents of the Nazis and books deemed of “un-German spirit” are burned at Nazi-organized political rallies throughout Germany.
July 14	The Nazi Party is declared the only legal political party in Germany. The Nazis pass a law stripping Eastern European immigrants of German citizenship. The Nazis pass legislation authorizing the forced sterilization of the physically and intellectually disabled, the mentally ill, and of others considered “inferior” or “unfit.”
July 20	The Vatican and Germany sign the Concordat of 1933 , supposedly guaranteeing the legal status of the Catholic Church in Germany.
September 22	The Reich Chamber of Culture excludes Jews from the fields of journalism, the arts, literature, music, broadcasting, and theater.
October 19	Germany withdraws from the League of Nations.

1934

January 26	Germany and Poland sign a ten-year non-aggression pact.
April 20	Himmler is appointed head of the Gestapo and in July is appointed head of the concentration camp system.
June 30	Hitler orders the SS to purge the leadership of the SA (<i>Sturmabteilung</i> , or Storm Troopers). Hundreds are murdered – including Ernst Röhm, chief of the SA – in what becomes known as the “ Night of the Long Knives .”
August 2	German President Paul von Hindenburg dies.

Timeline

August 19 In a **plebiscite**, 90 percent of German voters approve the granting of **Hitler's** new powers. Hitler becomes **Führer und Reichskanzler** (Leader and **Reich** Chancellor) of the German state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, whose members are now required to take a personal oath of loyalty to Hitler. As Führer, Hitler's personal power is unlimited.

1935

March 16 Germany reintroduces conscription in violation of the **Treaty of Versailles**.

April 1 German law prohibits **Jehovah's Witnesses** from practicing their religion. Throughout the year Jehovah's Witnesses are arrested and incarcerated in prisons and in **concentration camps**. By 1939, nearly 6,000 Jehovah's Witnesses are imprisoned in concentration camps.

May 21 Jews are barred from serving in the German armed forces.

June 28 Paragraph 175, the law criminalizing homosexuality and all homosexual acts, is radically expanded and will go into effect in September.

September 15 The **Nuremberg Laws** are announced at a **Nazi Party** rally in Nuremberg. These anti-Jewish racial laws include the "**Reich** Citizenship Law," which deprives Jews and other non-**Aryans** of German citizenship, and the "Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honor," which forbids intermarriage between Jews and Aryans. In addition, Jews can no longer fly the German flag.

November 14 In an effort to clarify the **Nuremberg Laws**, Germany defines a Jew as someone with three or four Jewish grandparents. A person with two Jewish grandparents is deemed a first-degree **Mischling** (half-Jew) and a person with one Jewish grandparent is deemed a second-degree **Mischling** (quarter-Jew).

1936

March 7 Germany remilitarizes the **Rhineland** in violation of the **Treaty of Versailles**.

July 12 The **Sachsenhausen concentration camp** is established near Berlin.

July 16 The first group of German **Roma/Sinti** is arrested and deported to **Dachau concentration camp**.

August 1 – 16 The Summer Olympic Games are held in Berlin.

October 25 **Hitler** and **Mussolini** form the Rome-Berlin **Axis** alliance.

November 25 Germany and Japan sign the **Anti-Comintern Pact**, a military and political pact.

Timeline

1937

- July 15 A **concentration camp** is established at **Buchenwald**, outside Weimar.
- November 6 Italy joins Germany and Japan in the **Anti-Comintern Pact**.

1938

- March 11 – 13 German troops enter Austria, and **Hitler** announces the annexation of Austria to Germany, known as the “**Anschluss**.” All anti-Jewish decrees are now applied in Austria.
- March* **Feng Shan Ho**, Chinese Consul General in Vienna, acting against orders, issued visas to hundreds of Jews enabling them to go to Shanghai, China. He also issued visas to Jews who requested to immigrate to countries other than China.
- March 23 Jewish communal organizations in Germany are no longer recognized by the government.
- April 26 Jews are required to register all property held inside the **Reich**.
- May 29 The first anti-Jewish law is passed in Hungary.
- July 6 – 15 At the behest of the United States, a conference is convened in Évian, France where delegates from thirty-two countries discuss refugee policies impeding Jewish emigration from Germany and Austria. The **Évian Conference** fails to provide meaningful assistance to Jews seeking refuge.
- July 25 A law prohibiting Jewish doctors from practicing medicine is passed in Germany and will take effect on September 30, 1938.
- August 8 The first prisoners are deported from **Dachau** to **Mauthausen concentration camp** near Linz, Austria. They are put to work in the construction of the camp and in the quarry.
- August 17 Jews in Germany are required to add “Israel” (for men) and “Sarah” (for women) as their middle name on all official documents.
- August 20 **Adolf Eichmann** establishes the **Office of Jewish Emigration** in Vienna to increase the pace of forced emigration.
- September 27 Jews are barred from practicing law in Germany.
- September 29 – 30 At the **Munich Conference**, Great Britain, France, and Italy agree to permit Germany to annex the **Sudetenland** in Czechoslovakia.
- October 5 At Switzerland’s request, the passports of German Jews are required to be marked with the letter “J” for *Jude* (Jew).

Timeline

October 6	Following the Munich Conference , Germany annexes the Sudetenland .
October 26 – 28	Approximately 17,000 Polish Jews living in Germany are expelled to Poland, where they are refused admittance. Most are stranded in the Polish border town of Zbąszyń.
November	A concentration camp for women is established at Ravensbrück , fifty miles north of Berlin. The first prisoners are brought in the spring of 1939.
November 7	Upon hearing that his family was deported from Germany to Zbąszyń, seventeen-year-old Herschel Grynszpan shoots Ernst vom Rath, the third secretary of the German Embassy in Paris. Vom Rath dies two days later.
November 9 – 10	In what will later become known as Kristallnacht or the Night of Broken Glass, Nazis burn synagogues and loot Jewish homes and businesses in pogroms throughout Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland . Over 1,000 synagogues are destroyed and 7,500 Jewish shops are looted. Nearly 30,000 Jewish men are sent to concentration camps and 91 Jews are killed.
November 10	Italy issues anti-Jewish legislation.
November 12	German Jews are fined one billion Reichsmarks for damages related to Kristallnacht .
November 15	Jewish students in Germany are expelled from public schools and are permitted to attend only segregated Jewish schools.
December 3	Germany decrees the compulsory “ Aryanization ,” i.e., expropriation, of all Jewish businesses and other assets.

1939

January 30	Hitler declares in a speech to the Reichstag that if war erupts it will mean the extermination of European Jewry.
<i>February 4</i>	<i>Martha and Waitstill Sharp leave the United States for Prague, Czechoslovakia. Representing the Unitarian church, they engaged in direct relief and emigration assistance for refugees. Over the next six years, the Sharps travelled between Europe and the United States helping thousands of people, including many Jews.</i>
March 15	German troops occupy Prague and the remainder of Czechoslovakia.
May 17	A British White Paper is issued, severely limiting Jewish immigration to Palestine.
May 13 – June 17	The MS St. Louis , a ship carrying 937 refugees, almost all Jews, sails from Hamburg, Germany to Havana, Cuba. Both Cuba and the United States refuse to accept the refugees and the ship is forced to return to Europe.

Timeline

August 23	The Soviet Union and Germany sign the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact , a non-aggression pact containing a secret protocol for the partition of Poland.
September 1	Germany invades Poland, precipitating World War II.
September 3	Great Britain and France declare war on Germany.
September 17	Soviet troops invade eastern Poland.
September 21	Reinhard Heydrich decrees the establishment of ghettos and governing councils (<i>Judenräte</i>) in German-occupied Poland.
September 28	Warsaw surrenders.
September 29	Germany and the Soviet Union partition Poland.
October	Hitler authorizes the adult “ euthanasia ” program known as Operation T-4 . The program, which actually had begun with child euthanasia months earlier, allowed doctors to kill the institutionalized mentally and physically ill. The authorization, signed by Hitler, was backdated to September 1, 1939.
October 8	The first German-enforced ghetto is established in Piotrków Trybunalski, Poland.
November 23	All Jews in Poland over the age of ten are required to wear a six-pointed identification star.
December	<i>Jan Karski joined the Polish underground. He secretly visited the Warsaw ghetto and the Izbica Lubelska sorting camp. In July 1943, he met with President Roosevelt and informed him about the situation in Poland and what was happening to the Jews.</i>
December 19	Eichmann is appointed head of the Gestapo’s Department for Jewish Affairs within the Reich Security Main Office (RSHA).

1940

February 8	The order for the establishment of the Łódź ghetto is issued.
February 12	The deportation of Jews from Germany to occupied Poland begins.
April	Himmler decides that a concentration camp is to be established at Auschwitz .
April 9	Germany invades Denmark and Norway.
April 30	The Łódź ghetto , holding approximately 200,000 Jews, is sealed.

Timeline

May	<i>Aristides de Sousa Mendes, a Portuguese diplomat stationed in Bordeaux, France, issued transit visas to thousands of Jewish refugees enabling them to escape Nazi-occupied France. Recalled by his government within months, Mendes was dismissed from the diplomatic service and stripped of his pension.</i>
May 4	Rudolf Höss is appointed <i>Kommandant</i> (or commander) of Auschwitz and converts the complex of former Polish army barracks into a concentration camp . The first prisoners were thirty German criminals from Sachsenhausen , who were transferred to become the first functionary prisoners of the camp.
May 10	Germany invades the Netherlands, Belgium, France, and Luxembourg and within weeks, defeats and occupies each country.
June 10	Italy enters the war on the side of Germany, declares war on Great Britain and France, and invades France.
June 14	German troops occupy Paris. The first transport of Poles arrives at Auschwitz from a prison in Tarnów. Among 728 people there were some 20 Jews. This date is considered to be the beginning of the functioning of Auschwitz.
June 22	France surrenders, signs an armistice with Germany, and is partitioned between German-occupied northern France and the southern, unoccupied Vichy zone, a puppet state.
August	<i>Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese consul in Kovno, Lithuania, began issuing transit visas to Jewish refugees in defiance of his government's orders. He issued an estimated 2,139 visas. Each visa permitted an entire family to travel via Russia and Japan, to safety in other countries. For his insubordination, Sugihara was dismissed from the Japanese Foreign Service after the war.</i>
August 4	<i>Varian Fry arrived in Marseilles as a representative of the Emergency Rescue Committee, an American relief organization. Fry stayed thirteen months and helped more than 1,000 people flee by providing forged documents and establishing clandestine escape routes. Among those Fry rescued were prominent European artists, authors, and cultural figures, many of them Jews, including the painter Marc Chagall and writer Hannah Arendt.</i>
August 8	In an effort to forge stronger ties with Germany, Romania enacts The Jewish Statute, revoking most Romanian Jews' civil rights, and forbidding mixed marriages.
September	<i>Abbé René de Naurois joined the French resistance and provided many Jews with false papers so they could cross the border into Spain and hid Jews in mountains and in Catholic Institutions. As a member of the Free French, returned to France with General de Gaulle during the Allied invasion of Normandy.</i>

Timeline

September 27	Germany, Italy, and Japan sign a ten-year Tripartite (Axis) Pact .
October 3	The French Vichy government enacts its first anti-Jewish legislation (“ <i>Statut des Juifs</i> ”), modeled after Germany’s Nuremberg Laws .
October 12	The order for the creation of the Warsaw ghetto is issued. On November 15, the ghetto is sealed. The number of Jews forced to live in the ghetto would exceed 400,000.
November 20 – 24	Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia become members of the Tripartite (Axis) Pact .
December	<i>Led by their Protestant ministers André Trocmé and Édouard Theis, the people of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon and the surrounding villages in south-central France began to provide refuge to approximately 5,000 people, including more than 3,500 Jews.</i>
December 1	The “ Oneg Shabbat ” clandestine archives were established in the Warsaw ghetto . Dr. Emanuel Ringelblum and his team began gathering testimonies to analyze and write about the realities of ghetto life.

1941

February	Germany invades North Africa.
March 1	Heinrich Himmler makes his first inspection visit to Auschwitz . After his inspection, Himmler: 1) confirmed his desire to expand Auschwitz to accommodate 30,000 prisoners; 2) ordered the camp to supply some 10,000 prisoners to IG Farben for the construction of an industrial plant in Dwory near Auschwitz; 3) develop the entire camp area both agriculturally and in every other respect; and 4) expand the camp’s workshops. Himmler pointed out that large armaments’ companies should be setup in the vicinity of the camp so the SS could take a leading position in rearming the German army.
March 3 – 20	A ghetto in Kraków is established and sealed.
April 6	Germany invades Yugoslavia and Greece.
April 24	The ghetto in Lublin, Poland, established in late March, is sealed.
May 14	More than 3,600 Jews are arrested in Paris.
June	<i>Aron Yerushalmi, Moshe Weinbaum, and Asher Schwarz, Jews from Palestine, volunteered to serve in the British army. They were captured by the Germans in Greece but managed to escape. The men searched for shelter. Being Jews, they received little assistance until they met Panayotis Giortsas and his father, Leonidas, who agreed to give them shelter. They all survived the war.</i>

Timeline

June 22	Germany launches a massive invasion of the Soviet Union, called Operation Barbarossa . The <i>Einsatzgruppen</i> , who follow regular army troops into Soviet territory, begin mass murders of Jews, Roma/Sinti , and Communist officials.
June 24	Germans occupy Vilna, Lithuania. In July, killings begin at Ponar, a forest outside of Vilna. The Germans began taking Jewish victims to Ponar, where they were led in groups of hundreds and thousands to enormous pits, and shot by SS men, German police, and Lithuanian collaborators.
June 29 – 30	In a pogrom , approximately 15,000 Jews are either shot in the courtyard of the (Iasi) Jassy, Romania police headquarters by Romanian police, gendarmerie, armed civilians, and Romanian and German soldiers or murdered in the aftermath of the pogrom.
July 8	A ghetto is established in the city of Kovno, Lithuania.
July 19	A ghetto is established in the city of Minsk, Belorussia, (today Belarus).
July – August	Hundreds of thousands of Jews are murdered throughout the western Soviet Union, Lithuania, Romania, Latvia and Poland by <i>Einsatzgruppen</i> and local collaborators.
July 24	A ghetto is established in Kishinev, Romania.
July 29	A ghetto is established in Bialystok, Poland.
July 31	Hermann Göring instructs Reinhard Heydrich to implement the “ Final Solution .”
August	<i>Valentin Mamchenko and his mother, Maria, were helping their Jewish neighbors, Manya Gershunova and her three children. Manya had not obeyed the German order to move to the ghetto. The family was denounced and was marched to the pits to be shot. Two of Manya’s children escaped the killing and went to the Mamchenko family. Maria and Valentin took the two children in and provided for them until the end of the war.</i>
August 14	Winston Churchill and Franklin Delano Roosevelt issue a joint declaration, known as the Atlantic Charter , establishing a vision for the post-World War II world. This agreement will become one of the first steps in the formation of the United Nations charter.
August 20	Internment and transit camp established at Drancy , near Paris, France. It would become the major transit camp for deportations of Jews from France.
August 23	Ustaša authorities establish the Jasenovac concentration camp, the largest camp complex in Croatia. Over the next four years, the camps will be used to isolate and murder tens of thousands of Serbs, Jews, Roma/Sinti , Muslims, and other non-Catholic minorities.

Timeline

August 24	Hitler officially ends Operation T4 , as public protest concerning the “ euthanasia ” program grows. Approximately 70,000 people were killed in the German Reich during the course of the T4 Program. The program nevertheless continues clandestinely. It is estimated that another 150,000 were killed in the continuation of the program between 1941 and 1945.
September 1	German Jews over the age of six are ordered to wear the yellow identity star.
September 1 – December 31	Approximately 40,000 Jews are killed in Vilna , Lithuania.
September 3	The first experimental gassing using Zyklon B is carried out at Auschwitz on approximately 600 Soviet prisoners of war and 250 Polish prisoners.
September 3 – 6	Two ghettos are established in Vilna , Lithuania.
September 15	Romanian authorities begin deportations of approximately 150,000 Jews from Bessarabia to Transnistria, 90,000 will die.
September 29 – 30	The Einsatzgruppen murder 33,771 Jews at Babyn Yar (Babi Yar) , a ravine outside Kyiv, Ukraine. <i>Raisa Dashkevich climbed out of the mass grave at Babyn Yar (Babi Yar) and escaped to the home of Natalia Bondarenko and her family. The Bondarenko family hid and protected Raisa until the liberation of Kyiv on November 6, 1943.</i>
October	Construction of Auschwitz II-Birkenau camp begins. Himmler ordered construction of a second, much larger facility three kilometers away from the original camp known as Auschwitz I .
October	Construction begins on the Majdanek concentration camp near Lublin.
October	<i>Olga Kukovic sheltered Isidor and Hanna Baruh in Sarajevo, Croatia when the Ustaša, the fascist pro-Nazi regime in Croatia, began rounding up the remaining Jews of Sarajevo. Kukovic disguised the siblings as Muslims and smuggled them to Mostar in the Italian-occupied zone of Yugoslavia, where they survived.</i>
October 8	The first architectural plans for the future Auschwitz II camp are made. It was planned as a camp for Soviet POWs. In the future the second part of the Auschwitz complex would become the primary killing center for European Jews.
October 15	The systematic deportation of Jews from Germany to ghettos in the East begins.
October 15	Himmler initiates Operation Reinhard , a plan to systematically murder the remaining Jews in the General Government .
October 23	The Nazis prohibit Jewish emigration from the Reich .

Timeline

November 1	Construction of a death camp in Belżec , Poland begins.
November 7 – 20	Approximately 20,000 Jews from Minsk, Belorussia (today Belarus) are killed.
November 20 – December 7	30,000 Jews from Riga, Latvia are killed in the Rumbula Forest.
November 24	A ghetto is established in Theresienstadt , near Prague. Germany will use this “model ghetto” for propaganda purposes.
December 7	Japanese forces attack the American naval base at Pearl Harbor.
December 8	The United States and Great Britain declare war on Japan. Gassing operations at Chełmno death camp, near Łódź , Poland, begin. Approximately 167,000 Jews and several thousand Roma/Sinti were murdered.
December 11	Germany and Italy declare war on the United States, and the United States declares war on them.
December 13	Bulgaria and Hungary declare war on the United States.
December	By the end of December, 80 percent of Lithuanian Jews have been killed near their homes.
December 31	Abba Kovner , a resistance leader from the Vilna ghetto , called for resistance to the Nazis , saying: “Let us not go like sheep to the slaughter.”

1942

January 20	The Wannsee Conference , attended by senior Nazi and German government officials, is held outside Berlin. The conference is convened to determine who would be in charge of the “ Final Solution .”
February	<i>Eugenia Golberg went to the Tashtshiyen family seeking shelter for her two children, Rita and Anatoly. The Tashtshiyens were Armenians who had escaped genocide decades earlier. They took in the Golberg children. Tigran and Hasmik Tashtshiyen, brother and sister, built several hiding places. Rita and Anatoly hid with the Tashtshiyen family until liberation in 1944.</i>
March – July	Killing centers in occupied Poland at Auschwitz-Birkenau , Belżec , Sobibór , and Treblinka become operational and begin mass murder of Jews in gas chambers.

Timeline

March	<i>Dervis Korkut and his wife Servet were ethnic Albanian Muslims who lived in Sarajevo. As chief librarian at the Bosnian National Museum, Dervis took and hid the Sarajevo Haggadah to protect it from the German occupation forces. The Korkuts also hid and cared for Mira Papos, a young Jewish woman whose parents had been murdered. They dressed Mira in traditional Muslim clothes and told people she had been hired to care for their baby. Mira stayed with the Korkuts until she was able to obtain false papers, which allowed her to pass as a non-Jew for the remainder of the war.</i>
March 26	The deportation of Slovakian Jews to Auschwitz begins.
March 27	The deportation of French Jews to Auschwitz begins.
Spring 1942	<i>Oskar Schindler, a German businessman, went to Kraków in October 1939 to take advantage of cheap Jewish labor and confiscated property. In January 1940 he acquired a Jewish-owned business. In the spring of 1942, the SS began to deport Jews from the Kraków ghetto. He decided that he would do what he could to save his Jewish workers. In 1944, Oskar Schindler was ordered to close his factory in Poland. Realizing that his employees, Jewish men and women, were in grave danger, he persuaded the SS to allow him to transfer nearly 1,100 Jews to a new factory in Czechoslovakia. He compiled a list of “indispensable” Jewish workers, thus saving over 1,000 people from being deported to labor and death camps.</i>
March – May	Jews in the Netherlands, Belgium, and occupied France are required to wear identifying yellow stars.
May 4	The first selection of Jews takes place at Auschwitz II-Birkenau among the registered prisoners of the camp. The selection process separated those camp prisoners deemed fit to work from those who are to be killed.
May 27	Reinhard Heydrich is mortally wounded in an assassination attempt by members of the Czech underground. He dies on June 4, 1942.
June 10	Nazis destroy the Czechoslovakian village of Lidice and kill all of its male inhabitants in retaliation for Heydrich ’s assassination.
July 4	The first selection among the Jews deported to Auschwitz II-Birkenau was made.
July 6	Anne Frank and her family go into hiding in Amsterdam. <i>Miep Gies, who worked for Anne Frank’s father Otto, began helping the Frank family while they were in hiding in Amsterdam. She and three other non-Jews brought food, supplies, and information to the family and the others hiding with the Frank family until August 1944, when they were caught and deported.</i>
July 15	The deportation of Dutch Jews via Westerbork to Auschwitz begins.

Timeline

July 19	Himmler orders the mass deportation of Jews in Poland to death camps, code-named Operation Reinhard .
July 22	Large-scale deportations of Jews from the Warsaw ghetto to Treblinka begin.
July	<i>Irena Sendler became the head of Żegota's Children's Bureau. In this position, she smuggled Jewish children out of the Warsaw Ghetto to safe hiding places. In October 1943, she was arrested by the Gestapo, tortured, and sentenced to death. Irena was saved at the last minute when Żegota members bribed a German official to allow her to escape the day before her scheduled execution.</i>
July 28	The Jewish Fighting Organization (<i>Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa; Ż.O.B.</i>) is established by young residents of the Warsaw ghetto .
August	<i>Ilana was two years old when her mother and her mother's family disappeared into the Radom ghetto. Ilana and her father managed to get to the home of Marrianna Kopyt, a friend. Marrianna agreed to hide them. They remained hidden in Marrianna's apartment until they were liberated by the Soviet army.</i>
August 8	Gerhart Riegner, a representative of the World Jewish Congress in Switzerland, cables Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, President of the World Jewish Congress in New York, and Sidney Silverman, a member of the British Parliament in London, to inform them of Germany's plan to annihilate European Jewry. The United States Department of State withholds the cable from Wise, who finally receives it from Silverman on August 28.
August 26	<i>Marie-Rose Gineste of Montauban, France began a four-day journey by bicycle to deliver copies of a letter to all the priests within 100 kilometers of Montauban. This letter, written by Monsignor Pierre-Marie Théas, condemned the deportation of Jews and urged Catholics to resist German orders and protect Jews. The letter was read from the pulpits on Sunday, August 30.</i>
September	The Jews of Macedonia are required to wear identifying yellow stars.
September 12	The Battle of Stalingrad begins.
November 5	Himmler orders the deportation of all Jews in concentration camps in Germany to Auschwitz and Majdanek .
October 28	The first transport of Jews from Theresienstadt arrives at Auschwitz .
November 11	German and Italian troops occupy the southern Vichy zone of France.
November 19	The Soviet army counterattacks at Stalingrad.
November 24	Rabbi Stephen S. Wise releases to the press the information contained in the Riegner cable (see August 8 above) and estimates, in what turns out to be an understatement, that the Germans have already murdered two million Jews.

Timeline

November 26	The deportation of Jews from Norway to Germany begins.
December	Gassings at Belzec end after an estimated 434,508 Jews are murdered there.
December 16	Himmler orders the deportation of all Roma/Sinti from Germany, except former soldiers, important war industry workers, and those who are “socially adapted.” In January 1943, it was specified that Roma/Sinti be deported to Auschwitz .
December 17	In the first official recognition by the Allied governments of German atrocities against the Jews, British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden tells the House of Commons that Nazis are “now carrying into effect Hitler’s oft repeated intention to exterminate the Jewish people of Europe;” and the United States declares that those crimes will be avenged.

1943

January 18	In response to a massive deportation Aktion by the Germans, Mordecai Anielewicz organizes a Jewish armed response in the Warsaw ghetto .
February 2	The German Sixth Army surrenders at Stalingrad, marking the turning point of the War on the Eastern Front.
February 25	A ghetto is established in Salonika, Greece. The deportations of Greek Jews to Auschwitz begin the following month.
February 26	The first transport of Roma/Sinti arrived in Auschwitz from Germany. They are placed in a separate section of Auschwitz II-Birkenau , the so-called “ Gypsy camp .”
<i>March</i>	<i>Jacob, Shalom, and David Gutgelt’s aunt smuggled the three young boys out of the Warsaw Ghetto to the home of Alexander Roslan. Although he had children of his own, Alexander Roslan agreed to care for the children. The youngest boy died from disease. The two surviving brothers were reunited with their father after liberation.</i>
March 1	American Jews hold a mass rally at Madison Square Garden in New York City to urge the United States government to help the Jews of Europe.
March 13 – 14	The Kraków ghetto is liquidated. Ghetto inhabitants who are not shot on site are sent to Auschwitz .
March 31 – June 28	Four new crematoria together with gas chambers began operating at Auschwitz II-Birkenau . According to the producer, Topf & Söhne, all five sets of crematoria ovens at Auschwitz had a daily incineration capacity of 4,756 corpses.
April 11	The killings at Chelmno end. The camp is reactivated in the spring of 1944 to aid in the liquidation of the ghettos .

Timeline

April 19 – May 16	The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising begins as Germans attempt to deport the ghetto's remaining inhabitants to death camps. Armed resistance continues for nearly four weeks.
April 19 – 30	At the Bermuda Conference , representatives from the United States and Great Britain meet to discuss the wartime refugee crisis, but produce no meaningful assistance for Europe's remaining Jews.
May	Berlin is declared Judenfrei (free of Jews).
May 8	Mordecai Anielewicz and other leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising are killed fighting the Germans.
May 30	SS Captain Dr. Josef Mengele arrives at Auschwitz to begin his medical experiments on camp inmates.
June 23	Heinrich Himmler orders the liquidation of all remaining ghettos in Poland and the deportation of their inhabitants to death camps. In July, Himmler issues a similar order for the ghettos in the German-occupied territories of the Soviet Union.
July 25	Benito Mussolini is removed from power. Pietro Badoglio forms a new government in Italy.
August 2	Jewish inmates at Treblinka II stage a violent armed revolt that allows the escape of a few hundred inmates, most of whom are captured and killed, and also damages the gas chambers, which nevertheless continue to function.
August 16 – 21	The ghetto at Bialystok, Poland is liquidated. The underground rises in rebellion. The remaining 30,000 inhabitants of the ghetto are sent to death camps.
September 8	After the Allied landings on the Italian peninsula, Italy surrenders to the Allies .
September 10	Germany occupies Rome and northern and central Italy.
October 1	Germans begin rounding up Jews for deportation from Denmark. The Danish resistance begins to rescue Denmark's 7,200 Jews.
October	<i>Jørgen Kieler was active in the Danish resistance. Kieler was captured by the Germans and sent to Neuengamme and Porta Westphalica concentration camps. Jørgen Kieler helped rescue nearly 1,000 Danish Jews.</i>
October 13	Italy declares war on Germany.

Timeline

October 14	A violent revolt by inmates of the Sobibór death camp results in the escape of 300 camp prisoners, the majority of whom are later killed. Two days after the revolt, and after an estimated 250,000 deaths at Sobibór, Himmler orders the camp to be destroyed.
October 16	More than 1,000 Jews are arrested in Rome and deported to Auschwitz two days later on October 18.
November	<i>Mosa and Gabriela Mandil were photographers who lived in Yugoslavia. When the Germans invaded in April 1941, Mosa and Gabriela and their two children fled south and escaped to Tirana, Albania. In Albania, Mosa worked in a photography studio where Refik Veseli was an apprentice. When the Germans invaded Albania, Refik's family, who were Muslim, agreed to hide the Mandil family. The Mandil children were dressed as Muslim villagers, and the parents were hidden in the barn. They remained with the Veseli family until liberation in October 1944.</i>
November 3	SS and police units implement Aktion Erntefest Operation Harvest Festival , killing approximately 42,000 in Majdanek , Trawniki and Poniatowa in the largest German-perpetrated massacre of the Holocaust .
November 17	The killings at Treblinka II cease after an estimated 925,000 deaths there.

1944

January 22	President Franklin D. Roosevelt establishes the War Refugee Board by executive order at the urging of Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
March 19	Germany occupies Hungary.
March	<i>Maria and Zsuzsa Farkas and their family began helping the Jakab family by obtaining false documents and agreeing to hide them. The Farkas family hid Dr. and Mrs. Jakab and their daughter Zsuzsanna, and two other Jews, in their home until liberation in January 1945.</i>
April 5	Jews in Hungary are required to wear the yellow identification star.
May 15 – July 9	During this time, approximately 420,000 Hungarian Jews are deported to Auschwitz , where some 75 percent are gassed immediately.
May	<i>Magdalena Maria Ana Stroe was friends with Hanna Hamburg, a Jewish classmate. In the spring of 1944, when the Jews were ordered into the ghetto, Hanna went to see Magdalena to say goodbye. Magdalena gave Hanna her birth and baptism certificates. These documents enabled Hanna to leave the city. Hanna made her way to Budapest where she survived posing as a Christian using Magdalena's documents.</i>
June 4	American troops enter Rome.

Timeline

June 6	D-Day – Allies invade Western Europe at Normandy.
July 9	<i>Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg arrived in Budapest, Hungary to help protect the 260,000 Jews who remained in the city. During a six-month period, Wallenberg and his colleagues saved tens of thousands of Jews by issuing protective documents, by securing the release of Jews from deportation trains, death march convoys, and labor service brigades, and by establishing what came to be known as the International Ghetto, a network of protected houses.</i>
July 20	A group of German officers fails in an attempt to assassinate Hitler .
June 23	A Red Cross delegation visits the Theresienstadt ghetto/concentration camp after the Germans have carefully prepared the camp and its Jewish inmates. After this visit, the Red Cross issues a favorable report on the camp.
July 23	Soviet troops arrive at the abandoned Majdanek concentration camp .
August	<i>At the end of August 1944, Harry Dash and his parents escaped from the Novaky labor camp in central Slovakia. They were in desperate need of food and shelter. They met Ondrej Sulaj and his wife Maria, who was expecting their second child in weeks. They sheltered the Dash family until liberation.</i>
August 1	The Polish underground rebellion against German occupiers of Warsaw begins.
August 2	Germans destroy the Gypsy Camp at Auschwitz and gas its last 4,200 occupants.
August 4	Anne Frank and her family are denounced to the SS . Anne is sent from her hiding place in Amsterdam to Westerbork , then to Auschwitz , and eventually to Bergen-Belsen , where she and her sister die of typhus in the spring of 1945. Of the eight people in hiding for more than two years, only Anne's father, Otto, survived.
August 9 – 28	The last remaining ghetto in occupied Poland, in the city of Łódź , is liquidated, and its more than 60,000 inhabitants are deported to Auschwitz .
August 25	Paris is liberated by the Allies .
October 7	Members of the Sonderkommando (special labor units, consisting mainly of Jewish prisoners, assigned to dispose of corpses) at Auschwitz revolt and set one of the crematoria on fire.
November	At the beginning of November, the gas chambers at Auschwitz are used for the last time.
November 25	Himmler orders the destruction of the crematoria at Auschwitz . The last crematorium is destroyed in January 1945.

Timeline

December

Master Sgt. Roddie Edmonds was captured and sent to Stalag IXA, along with other captured non-commissioned officers (NCOs). As the highest-ranking NCO, he was in charge. The camp commandant ordered all Jewish POWs to present themselves. Master Sgt. Edmonds ordered all American POWs to stand in formation. When the commandant saw that all 1,292 GIs were present, he turned to Edmonds and demanded: “They cannot all be Jews!” Master Sgt. Edmonds said, “We are all Jews here.” There were 200 Jewish GIs among the American POWs. This act by Master Sgt. Edmonds saved the lives of these 200 Jewish GIs.

1945

January 17

The Soviet army enters Warsaw and Budapest.

The Soviets accuse **Raoul Wallenberg** of spying for the Germans and arrest him. His fate remains unknown, although the Soviet Union will announce in 1956 that he died in a Soviet prison in 1947.

The Germans begin the evacuation of **Auschwitz**. Tens of thousands of inmates begin forced “**death marches**” towards the West, during which many will die of exposure, exhaustion, starvation, brutality, or simple murder by their captors.

January 27

Soviet troops liberate **Auschwitz**.

February 4 – 11

Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin meet at Yalta. In a joint statement, they announce their commitment to the removal of the **Nazi Party**, organizations, and institutions from public office.

April 11

U.S. troops liberate the **Buchenwald concentration camp**.

April 12

President **Franklin D. Roosevelt** dies. Harry S. Truman succeeds him.

April 15

British troops liberate 40,000 inmates of **Bergen-Belsen concentration camp**.

April 21

Soviet armed forces reach the outskirts of Berlin.

April 28

Italian **partisans** shoot **Mussolini**.

April 29

U.S. army liberates **Dachau**.

April 30

Hitler commits suicide in his Berlin bunker.

The Soviet army liberates **Ravensbrück**.

May 2

Germans cede control of **Theresienstadt concentration camp** to the International Red Cross.

May 5

U.S. troops liberate **Mauthausen concentration camp** near Linz, Austria.

Timeline

May 7	Germany surrenders unconditionally to the Allies .
May 8	The Allies formally celebrate the defeat of Nazi Germany with Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day). The War in Europe ends.
May 23	Himmler commits suicide.
June 26	The United Nations charter is signed in San Francisco to go into effect on October 24, 1945.
August 6	The United States drops the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan.
August 9	The United States drops the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan.
September 2	Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day). Japan signs American and British surrender terms. World War II ends.
November 1945 – October 1946	After a formal opening in Berlin on October 18, 1945, war crimes trials are held at Nuremberg, Germany.

1946

March 11	The British arrest former Auschwitz Kommandant (commander) Rudolf Höss . He testifies at the Nuremberg Trials , is later tried in Warsaw, found guilty, and hanged at the site of the former camp Auschwitz in April.
July 4	Pogroms erupt in Kielce, Poland. Forty-two Jews are killed.
October 16	Hermann Göring commits suicide two hours before the scheduled execution of major Nazi war criminals sentenced at the Nuremberg Trials .
December 9	Twenty-three former SS doctors and scientists go on trial before a U.S. Military Tribunal at Nuremberg. Sixteen are found guilty and seven are hanged.

1948

May 14	The State of Israel is established.
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1951

October 25 – 26	Twenty-three Jewish organizations and the government of Israel gather in New York to determine how to negotiate with Germany for reparations for the suffering and losses of Holocaust victims. The Conference on Jewish Materials Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) is established.
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Timeline

1953

August 19 Israel's Parliament, the *Knesset*, establishes **Yad Vashem** (The World **Holocaust** Remembrance Center) in Jerusalem, and authorizes it to bestow the honor "**Righteous Among the Nations**" to non-Jews who saved Jews during the **Holocaust**.

1960

May 11 Israeli secret service agents capture **Adolf Eichmann** in Argentina and take him to Israel.

1961

April 11 Israel puts **Adolf Eichmann** on trial for crimes against the Jewish people, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. In December 1961, he is found guilty and hanged at midnight between May 31 and June 1, 1962. His ashes are sprinkled over the Mediterranean Sea, outside of Israel's territorial waters.

1993

April 22 The United States **Holocaust** Memorial Museum is opened in Washington, D.C.