

Holocaust Chronology

1933

- January 30 Adolf Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany.
- February 28 Reichstag Fire – German government takes away freedoms.
- March 20 First concentration camp, Dachau opened for opponents of the Nazis.
- April 1 Boycott of Jewish businesses.
- April 7 Jewish Germans are fired from government jobs.
- May 10 Book burning.
- July 14 New laws allow forced sterilization of Roma and Sinti (Gypsies) the disabled and Afro-Germans.

1934

- June 30 Night of the Long Knives – Hitler orders the purge of the leadership of the SA, the Nazi Party paramilitary organization.
- August 2 President Von Hindenburg dies.
- August 19 Hitler becomes Führer, absolute dictator of Germany.

1935

- March 17 Nazis invade the Rhineland.
- April 1 Ban on Jehovah's Witnesses.
- June 28 Paragraph 175 allows persecution of homosexual men.
- Sept. 15 Nuremberg Race Laws identify who is Jewish and removes rights and citizenship protections from Jews.

1936

- August 1 Olympic Games open in Berlin. Anti-Jewish signs are temporarily removed.

1937

- July 15 Buchenwald concentration camp opens.

1938

- March 13 Anschluss - Germany "invades" Austria and annexes it as part of Germany.
- July 6-15 Evian Conference - Delegates from 32 countries attend a conference in Evian, France, to discuss the growing refugee crisis; most countries refuse to allow in more Jewish refugees.
- August 17 New law requires male Jews to add Israel, and females, Sarah, to their names.
- October 5 Jewish passports are stamped with the letter J.

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	Nov. 9-10	Throughout German controlled territory, Nazis burn synagogues, loot German homes and businesses and arrest nearly 30,000 Jewish men and send them to concentration camps. These pogroms are called Kristallnacht .
	Nov. 15	Jewish children are expelled from public schools.
	December 2	Jewish parents send their unaccompanied children to safe countries to escape Nazi persecution; the first Kindertransport arrives in Great Britain.
1939	March 15	German troops invade Czechoslovakia.
	June	The S.S. St. Louis – Cuba and the United States refuse to accept refugees on the ship which is forced to bring most of its passengers back to Europe.
	Sept. 1	Germany invades Poland; World War II begins.
	October	Hitler, in writing, gives doctors permission to kill disabled people.
1940	Spring	Germany invades Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and France.
	May 20	Auschwitz Camp is established in Poland.
	October	Warsaw Ghetto is established.
	Nov. 15	Warsaw Ghetto is sealed.
1941	March 24	Germany invades North Africa.
	April 6	Germany invades Yugoslavia and Greece.
	June 22	Operation Barbarossa – Germany invades the Soviet Union; The Einsatzgruppen, mobile killing squads, begin mass shootings of Jews, Roma and Sinti and Communists.
	Sept. 1	All Jews over six years old in German controlled territory are required to wear an identifying badge; many are now forced to wear the yellow star.
	Sept. 28-29	Babi Yar - Over 33,000 Jews are murdered by mobile killing squads near Kiev.
	December 7	Japan attacks Pearl Harbor; The United States enters the war the next day.
	December 8	Chelmno killing center begins operations, using poison gas for mass murder.
1942	January 20	Wannsee Conference – Plans are presented to coordinate the murder of the Jews of Europe, the “Final Solution to the Jewish Question”.
	1942	Nazi killing centers in occupied Poland, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, Sobibor, Belzec and Majdanek begin mass murder of Jews in gas chambers.
	July 15	Deportations of Dutch Jews begins.

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Oct. 26 Roundups of Norwegian Jews.

1943

March 13 Liquidation of the Krakow Ghetto.

April 19- Warsaw Ghetto Uprising - Vastly outnumbered and outgunned, individuals and small groups of May 16 Jews hid or fought the Germans for almost a month.

Sept. 20 Danes use fishing boats to smuggle Danish Jews to neutral Sweden; 7200 are saved.

Oct. 14 Sobibor Uprising - Jewish prisoners at the Sobibor killing center begin an armed revolt.

1944

January 27 President Roosevelt sets up the War Refugee Board.

March 19 Germany occupies Hungary.

May 15 Deportations from Theresienstadt - German authorities deport thousands of German, Austrian, and Czech Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

May 15 – July 9 Hungarian police and German officials deport almost 440,000 Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where most of them are murdered in the gas chambers.

June 6 D-Day – The Allies invade Western Europe. US, British, and Canadian troops land on the beaches of Normandy, France.

July 23 Liberation of Majdanek-Lublin by Soviet troops.

August 2 “Gypsy Camp” at Auschwitz-Birkenau is destroyed; over 3000 Roma and Sinti are gassed.

August 9 Liquidation of the Lodz Ghetto.

October 7 Prisoner revolt at Auschwitz-Birkenau; a crematorium is blown up.

1945

January 17 Death March - As Soviet troops approach, SS begins the evacuation of prisoners from Auschwitz.

January 27 Soviet troops liberate Auschwitz.

April 11 U.S. troops liberate survivors at Buchenwald.

April 12 Canadian troops liberate Westerbork.

April 15 British forces liberate Bergen-Belsen.

April 29 U.S. forces liberate Dachau.

April 30 Hitler commits suicide in his bunker in Berlin.

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| May 5 | U.S. troops liberate Mauthausen. |
| May 7 | Germany surrenders. |
| Sept. 2 | Japan surrenders; World War II officially ends. |
| Nov. 20 | The International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg begins the trial of 21 major Nazi leaders. |