

Timeline to Genocide

The Nazis in Power, 1933-1938 Building a Racial State

1933

January: The Nazi party takes power in Germany. **Adolf Hitler becomes chancellor.**

February: Hitler is granted **dictatorial powers** after the Reichstag building goes up in flames. He retains those powers throughout his rule.

March: The Nazis set up the first **concentration camp at Dachau**. The first inmates are 200 Communists.

April: Germany announces a one-day **boycott of Jewish businesses**. The Nazis enact the Civil Service Law, requiring proof of Aryan ancestry and political reliability to hold a government job.

May: The Nazis publicly **burn books** in Berlin and throughout Germany.

July: The Nazi Party is declared the **only legal political party** in Germany. The Nazis pass the "Law for the Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Offspring," allowing for the compulsory **sterilization** of the "feebleminded, schizophrenics, alcoholics, and other carriers of supposedly single-gene traits.

September: Jews are **excluded from the arts** and are **prohibited from owning land**.

Upstander Marta Appel decides not to meet with her non-Jewish friends after the Nuremberg Laws come into effect (See *Facing History and Ourselves: Holocaust and Human Behavior*, "The People Respond" pg. 203)

1934

The government offers special loans to "racially sound" married men whose wives agree to give up jobs outside the home. For each child the government forgives 25 percent of the principal owed on the loan.

August: Hitler combines the positions of chancellor and president to become "Führer." Ninety percent of German voters give Hitler's new powers their approval.

November: The Law against Dangerous Career Criminals permits the detention and castration of sex offenders and others guilty of "racial-biological" crimes.

1935

May: The Nazis ban Jews from serving in the military.

June: The Nazis pass a law allowing forced abortions on women to prevent them from passing on hereditary diseases

September: The "Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor" bars marriage and sexual relations between Aryans and Jews, Gypsies, and Africans. The "Citizenship Law" distinguishes between citizens and **Jews and other non-Aryans who are deprived of citizenship rights**.

October: The "Law for the Protection of the Hereditary Health of the German People" requires the registration and exclusion of "alien" races and the "racially less valuable" from the "national community." Before a marriage can take place, public health officials have to issue a "**certificate of fitness to marry**."

Upstander *Helene Jacobs refuses to comply with Nazi racial policy in schools (See Facing History and Ourselves: Holocaust and Human Behavior, "A Refusal to Compromise" pg. 193)*

1936

February: **The Gestapo, the secret police, is placed above the law.**

March: German soldiers occupy the Rhineland, a buffer zone between Germany and France and Belgium established after World War I.

October: Hitler and German form the Rome-Berlin Axis.

1937

January: Jews are banned from many professions, including teaching, accounting, and dentistry.

November: The "Eternal Jew" traveling exhibition opens in Munich.

1938

January: The government withdraws the licenses of all Jewish physicians.

March: Germany takes over Austria.

April: **Jews are banned from almost every profession** in Germany and Austria. Jews are required to carry passports stamped with a "J," identifying them as Jews.

July: **Delegates from 32 countries meet in Evian, France, to consider aiding Jews fleeing from Germany and Austria, but no country is willing to accept them.**

October: Germany annexes the Sudetenland, northwest Czechoslovakia.

November: **Kristallnacht.** On the night of the 9th-10th, **Nazi gangs attack Jews** throughout Germany and Austria, looting and then burning homes, synagogues, and businesses. They kill over 90 Jews and send over 30,000 others to concentration camps. Jews are ordered to pay one billion marks for damages from the events of Kristallnacht. Jews are barred from theaters, concerts, and other public places.

Upstander *Andre, a school child, refuses to take part in Hitler Youth activities on Kristallnacht (See Facing History and Ourselves: Holocaust and Human Behavior, "Taking a Stand," pg. 268)*