

# WHAT WAS LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY LIKE FOR JEWS FROM 1933 TO 1938?



## 1933 - THE NAZIS RISE TO POWER

From the moment the Nazis gained power, they orchestrated a campaign to deprive German Jews of their place in society.

They did this by:

- Encouraging boycotts of Jewish-owned businesses
- Staging book burnings
- Enacting anti-Jewish legislation

**BY 1938, GERMAN JEWS HAD LOST THEIR CITIZENSHIP AND LEGAL PROTECTIONS**

## 1935 - THE NUREMBERG LAWS

The Nazis passed two laws in 1935 providing legal framework for the systematic persecution of Jews in Germany.

### The Reich Citizenship Law

Defined Jews by 'blood' and removed their German citizenship.

- 3 or more Jewish grandparents? Considered to be Jewish, even if no connection to Jewish religious or cultural life.
- 1 or 2 Jewish grandparents? Considered Mischlinge (mixed-race).

### The Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honour

Banned relationships between Jews and non-Jewish Germans.



# KRISTALLNACHT - 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1938



## WHAT WAS KRISTALLNACHT?

The 'night of the broken glass' - a series of antisemitic pogroms across Germany and German-controlled Austria and the Sudetenland.

Kristallnacht refers to the shards of glass in the streets from the synagogues, homes and Jewish-owned businesses that were plundered and destroyed.

Over 1400 synagogues were destroyed.

Around 7,500 Jewish businesses were looted.

30,000 Jewish males rounded up and taken to concentration camps.

At least 91 Jews died, although there may have been hundreds more.

The Nazis blamed the Jews for the violence and imposed a fine of one billion Reichsmarks on the Jewish community.

## WHY DID IT HAPPEN?

German diplomat Ernst vom Rath died in Paris on 9th November after being shot by a Polish Jew.

The Nazis used this as justification for the violence that broke out against Jews, which was primarily instigated by Nazi Party officials and members of the SA and Hitler Youth.

In reality, it allowed the Nazis to shift their actions against Jews from their legal exclusion from society to genocide.

## WHAT WAS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF KRISTALLNACHT?

**Kristallnacht was the start of a period of destruction, when genocide became the main focus of Nazi antisemitism.**

First time that Jews were arrested purely because they were Jews.

Jews understood that they would no longer be allowed to live in peace in Nazi Germany - many of those who could fled.

Jews were banned from schools on 15th November 1938.

Curfews were imposed on Jews in late November 1938.

By December 1938, Jews were banned from most public places in Germany.



# WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

12<sup>th</sup> February 1940

First deportation of German Jews to Poland

15<sup>th</sup> November 1940

Warsaw Ghetto sealed off with over 400,000 Jews inside

7<sup>th</sup> March 1941

German Jews ordered into forced labour

January 1942

Gas chamber at Auschwitz used to commit mass murder for the first time

1st September 1941

All Jews in the Reich aged 6 years and above ordered to wear a badge with the word 'Jew' inscribed on a yellow Star of David.

July 1941

SS Einsatzgruppen murders large groups of Jews in occupied lands as it follows the advance of the German Army

20th January 1942

The 'Final Solution to the Jewish Question' agreed at the Wannsee Conference

19th July 1942

Mass deportation of Polish Jews to extermination camps – Operation Reinhard

5th October 1942

Himmler orders all Jews imprisoned in concentration camps in Germany to be sent to Auschwitz and Majdanek

27th January 1945

Auschwitz is liberated

24th July 1944

Majdanek becomes the first concentration camp to be liberated

19th May 1943

Berlin is declared Judenfrei – free of Jews

7th May 1945

Germany surrenders unconditionally and the Holocaust ends

**6 MILLION JEWS WERE MURDERED IN THE HOLOCAUST.**

**THOSE WHO SURVIVED HAD OFTEN LOST MOST, IF NOT ALL OF THEIR FAMILY, AND HAD BEEN DISPLACED FROM THEIR HOMES.**