

## CHRONOLOGY

### Nazi Germany's War and the Holocaust in Eastern Europe

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#### 1939

- 24 January 30 Heydrich assigned by Goering to remove all Jews from the Reich through emigration, with the assistance of the Reichsvereinigung (State Association of Jews in Germany)
- January Hitler delivers Reichstag speech in which he threatens that if international Jewry plunges the world into war (*sic*), the Jews of Europe will be annihilated
- 21 February Decree demanding Jews to surrender all gold and silver in their possession  
German troops enter Prague, taking Bohemia and Moravia.
- 15 March Eichmann sets up a Jewish emigration office Prague. Slovakia becomes an independent ally of Nazi Germany
- 22 August Hitler's speech to generals urges liquidation of Poles in forthcoming war in order to gain Lebensraum for Germany
- 23 August Non-aggression Pact between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union, which includes secret conditions for the division of Eastern Europe, prepares the way for attack on Poland
- 1 September Nazi invasion of Poland. Einsatzgruppen begin executions of Polish intelligentsia, clergymen and Jewish leaders
- 28 September Total defeat of Poland, and partition between Nazi Germany and Soviet Union
- October Euthanasia program (T-4) begins, leading to the deaths of over 70,000 mentally and physically disabled people by August 1941 ; Plans underway for the creation of a Jewish reservation near Lublin, deportations of Reich Jews to Nisko Reservat
- 23 November
- 12 December All Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe required to wear the yellow Star of David
- Labor camps set up throughout German-occupied Poland. All Jewish males between 14 and 60 required for forced labor

#### 1940

- 9 April
- 22 July German Blitzkrieg in the West begins
- German Foreign Office proposes that 4 million European Jews be deported to French Madagascar
- Oct-Nov Warsaw Ghetto Established
- Dec Hitler Orders Plans for Operation Barbarossa

#### 1941

- Mar/Apr Himmler plans expansion of Auschwitz complex to include Birkenau
- German invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece triggers pogroms against Jews, Serbs, carried out by Wehrmacht, Croatian Ustashe, SS-Police

<sup>1</sup> Many entries from Landau's Studying the Holocaust (1998) and Yad Vashem's Encyclopedia of the Holocaust(2000).

4 June	German Army directive to troops about to invade the Soviet Union to eliminate all resistance with Jews included as a category. Commissar Order two days later spells out that all Soviet officials are to be liquidated
22 June	Operation Barbarossa, the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union, precipitates pogroms in the Baltic States, western Ukraine and NE Romania (Iasi). Four Einsatzgruppen begin massacres of Jews, Gypsies, Soviet Officials and other targeted groups
31 July	Heydrich receives order from Goering on Hitler's instructions to begin preparations for the "intended Final Solution of the Jewish Question"
12-15 August	Himmler visits Minsk massacre, prompting gassing experiments in Mogilev and Auschwitz
27-28 August	Mass shooting of 23,600 Jews in Kam'iantes'-Podil's'kyi Ukraine
3 September	Zyklon B pesticide (hydrogen cyanide) tested on Soviet POWs at Auschwitz
15-19 September	Some 30,000 Jews killed in mass shootings at Zhytomyr, Vinnytsia, Berdychiv
29-30 September	Over 33,000 Jews killed at Babi Yar, Kiev Ukraine
October	Construction plans drawn up for killing center at Belzec
October/Nov	Mass deportations of Jews from Altreich to Byelorussia and Baltic ghettos
23 Oct	Nazi emigration policy towards Jews officially ends. No more Jews allowed to leave the Reich or Nazi sphere of influence
Nov	Nazi gassing of Poltava's Jews in vans (had been used in Reich and Poland)
December	Himmler orders a revised, expanded General Plan Ost to include colonization of former Soviet territories Nazi murder of Jews in Chelmno using gas vans

## **1942**

January	Wannsee Conference Jewish Zionist Youth in Vilna Ghetto (led by Abba Kovner) declare that Ponary Forest means death, exhort fellow Jews to not go like sheep to the slaughter, Resist!
March	First Gassings at Belzec, Jewish deportees arrive in Auschwitz
June	Gestapo Chief Mueller establishes Sonderkommando 1005 to hide traces of mass graves
July	Himmler orders "elimination" of all Jews in Ukraine and all ghettos liquidated in Poland by the end of 1942, necessary Jewish laborers shifted to camps Thirty Thousand German Jews killed at Maly Trostinets, near Minsk
Aug-Nov	In Ukraine Volhynian ghettos and Pinsk ghetto destroyed, in Poland mass deportations to Treblinka, Sobibor, Belzec

## **1943**

Feb	German Defeat at Stalingrad
April	Warsaw Ghetto Uprising
June	Himmler orders liquidation of ghettos in the Ostland (Riga, Vilna, Minsk), placing remaining laborers in camps. Forbids use of Jewish laborers by private firms, and orders the killing of families of Jewish laborers
July	First war crimes trial in Krasnodar against indigenous auxiliaries of sk10a
August/September	Vilna and Minsk ghettos destroyed. 10,000 laborers sent to Estonian camp, Jewish revolts in and around ghetto aided by communist partisan movement
October	Uprising at Sobibor
November 6	Kiev liberated by Red Army

## **1944**

January	Red Army enters Berdychiv
July	Soviet offensive in Galicia, Lviv liberated Kovno Ghetto liquidated, 2000 Jews killed, and 4000 sent to camps. 2000 Kovno Jews survived.

## **1945**

January	Evacuation of Auschwitz, Death Marches
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