



1933-1945

HOW DID NAZI ANTISEMITISM EVOLVE INTO GENOCIDE?



1. EXCLUSION

April 1, 1933

State-Sponsored Boycott: The Nazi party organized a countrywide, one-day boycott of Jewish-owned businesses, lawyers, and doctors. Announced Jews and newspapers trying to destroy Germany's reputation. Stormtroopers (SA) stood outside businesses, defaced them with Star of David, and accosted potential customers. The purpose was to begin to destroy the economic basis of Jewish life in Germany. 600,000 Jews in Germany at time. Next week, Jewish gov't workers fired!!! End to prosperity of Jews foreshadowed.



2. THE NUREMBURG LAWS

September 15, 1935

For the first time in history, Jews faced victimization not for religious beliefs but for who they—or their parents/grandparents—were according to birth. In Nazi Germany, Jews were now a non-Aryan race and held no political rights. But many Germans had never been practicing Jews or had not been for years, yet they found themselves caught up in traumatic times. There were 2 separate laws. If 3 of 4 grandparents were Jewish—you were Jewish. Second, being German and married to a Jew or having sexual relations with Jews was illegal; kids were mixed race. More exclusive laws to come leading to yellow badges, loss of jobs ghettos. The road to separation and extinction was not far. Roma and Blacks affected also.



3.

PASSPORT INVALIDATION

October 5, 1938



4. KRISTALLNACHT

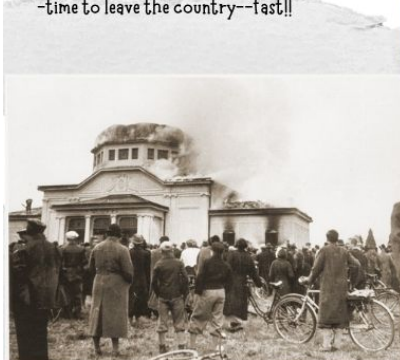
NOVEMBER 9-10, 1938

The Night of Broken Glass or The November Program was actually planned, state-sponsored violence. 1,400 synagogues were destroyed and many people killed, burned and humiliated. Torahs were desecrated and homes burned to the ground as neighbors watched. 26,000 Jewish men were imprisoned in concentration camps and the community had to pay atonement money for damage done to them. For many Jewish families, it was the last straw—time to leave the country--fast!!

The Reich Minister of the Interior invalidated all German passports held by Jews. Jews must surrender old passports, which will be valid after letter "J" stamped on front.

Additional restrictions followed. On January 1, 1939, Jewish men forced to add "Israel" and women "Sara" to their first names further marking them. Make them stand out.

This was part of a larger, systemic campaign to deny civil rights and persecute Jewish citizens following 1935 Nuremberg Laws. More humiliation and shame. People began to ask themselves if they should leave the country. Maybe America? A friend or relative could help. Maybe go to England? How long would the doors be open? German Jews never felt unwelcome in the country. Now there were ads and political cartoons demeaning Jews everywhere. Travel was frightening! What to do especially if intermarriage. Divorce? They were being forced out of the country they loved?



EXCLUSION NUREMBURG LAWS PASSPORT INVALIDATION KRISTALLNACHT GHETTOS
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