

Aim: How did the Holocaust affect the world?

A. What was the Holocaust?

- Nazi genocidal policy: Referred to as the “Final Solution”
- Began in 1939-1945
- 11 million were killed: 6 million Jews
- 5 million Slavs, Gypsies, homosexuals, disabled, political dissidents

I. STEPS LEADING TO THE HOLOCAUST

- Nazi’s targeted a number of ethnic and cultural groups
 - Jews were the most hated
 - Hitler wanted a master “Aryan” race: pure German blood
1. 1933: Nuremberg Laws
 2. November 1938: Kristallnacht
 3. 1939-1940: Anti-Semitic policy escalated to the point of genocide

II. Identifying Jews

- 1938 identification cards
- "J Stamp" based on the religion of grandparents was added to ID cards and passports of Jews
- They had to take a "Jewish middle name" (Sara for women, and Israel for men)
- Jews were forced to wear the yellow star to identify themselves

III. The Ghettos

- Jews were rounded up and placed in ghettos
- Some Jews were sporadically executed or died by random violence
- Other Jews were placed into concentration(labor) camps

IV. Medical Experiments

- Zyklon-B was chosen as most efficient gas
- Nazi’s used Jews to test medical experiments
- Jews (especially twins and dwarfs) were dissected for organs, and infected with diseases

V. 1942: The Beginning of the Final Solution

- Hitler implements his Final Solution at the Wannsee Conference
- The creation of Death or extermination camps began
- The largest and most famous was Auschwitz in Poland
- Between 1943-1945 Jews from all over Europe were shipped to death camps
- Victims were gassed, and their bodies were cremated

VI. The Aftermath

- Soviets liberate camps in Poland in 1944 and Auschwitz was liberated in 1945
- An estimated 6 million Jews and 5 million others were killed
- 1946: Nuremberg Trials:
- They tried Nazi’s for “crimes against humanity”
- 1948: UN adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

VII. War Crimes Trials

- In 1945 and 1946, as a result of the **Nuremberg Trials**, 12 Nazi leaders were sentenced to death for their war crimes.
- Thousands of other Nazis were found guilty of war crimes and were imprisoned, and in some cases, executed.