

The Holocaust

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The Final Solution

•The term "Final Solution" referred to the extermination of the Jews, or Hitler's *final solution* to the Jewish problem. Hitler implemented this solution in phases or stages.

•**Phase I (1933-34):** Between April & October of 1933, laws were enacted to prevent anyone of Jewish descent from holding positions in the civil service, the legal profession, the teaching profession, the medical profession and in the press. Basically Jews were eliminated from the most visible positions of power.

•The laws also began to restrict Jews from attending German high schools and universities.



Phase II (1935)

•At first, German people were outraged, but as time went by and nothing worse seemed to happen, they deluded themselves into believing that perhaps the worst was over.

•Then in March 1935, the boycotts of Jewish businesses began again, and by September, the Nuremberg Laws were passed. The laws specifically:

-Denied Jews the right to German citizenship

-Forbid marriage between Germans and Jews

•After the implementation of the anti-semitic laws, Hitler began to tone it down. The world was coming to visit Germany in the summer of 1936. Berlin was hosting the Olympics.



Phase III (1938-39)

•After the lull created by the Olympics, this phase was marked by an increase in violence.

•In May of 1938, thousands of Jews were arrested and sent "temporarily" to concentration camps.

•By July 1938, Jews were required to carry a special identification card. This made it easier for the police to control the Jews.

•November 9 & 10, 1938 has come to be known as **Kristallnacht** – Crystal night (or the night of broken glass).

For two nights the fury of the anti-semitic S.A. was let loose.

•By November 28, 1938, Jews were barred from attending schools, excluded from public places, and had curfews.



Phase IV (1939-45) Death Camps

•Death Camps were placed in Poland, out of view of most Germans' eyes. Some of the most infamous camps were Auschwitz, Treblinka & Belzec. Jews were shipped by railway from their homes to the camps.

•Once at the camp (if they survived the train trip), Jews were herded in a long line toward the Director. They were selected for work or for death. Those selected for death were sent to the *showers* where they were executed using *Zyklon B* gas. The bodies were then cremated in large ovens.

•Those chosen for work had their heads shaved, were tattooed with a number, and were given a uniform. They were de-humanized, forced to do hard labor and given very little to eat. Six million died.

