

Objectives

- Trace the roots and progress of Hitler's campaign against the Jews.
- Explore the goals of Hitler's "final solution" and the nature of the Nazi death camps.
- Examine how the United States responded to the Holocaust.



Terms and People

- **Holocaust** – Nazi attempt to kill Jews and others considered “undesirable”
- **Nuremberg Laws** – German laws discriminating against Jews
- **Kristallnacht** – night of organized violence in which Jews were arrested and killed and synagogues and Jewish businesses destroyed
- **genocide** – willful annihilation of a racial, political, or cultural group

Terms and People (continued)

- **concentration camp** – camp where members of specially designated groups were confined
- **death camp** – concentration camp where prisoners were systematically exterminated
- **War Refugee Board** – U.S. board that worked with the Red Cross to save Jews



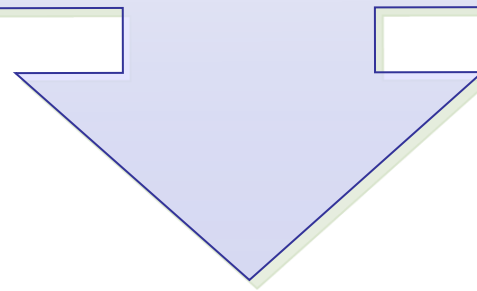
How did the Holocaust develop and what were its results?

Hitler found a target for his anger and hatred in Jews and other “undesirables.”

Nazi persecution resulted in the deaths of millions of people.

Roots of the **Holocaust**:

- Racist belief that proclaimed Aryans superior to other people
- Desire by Hitler and others to blame someone for Germany's problems following World War I



Hitler found someone to blame: the Jews.

At first, the focus of persecution was economic.



- Jewish **businesses** were **boycotted**.
- Jews were **fired** from their **jobs**.
- Jews were **barred** from **working** in fields such as banking, law, and medicine.

In time, laws were passed that broadened the persecution.

Nuremberg Laws

- Denied Jews German citizenship
- Banned marriage between Jews and non-Jews
- Segregated Jews at every level of society

The hatred directed against Jews soon turned violent.



Hitler's **secret police** carried out vicious attacks.

During **Kristallnacht**, hundreds of **Jews** were killed and Jewish businesses and synagogues burned.

Hitler's "final solution to the Jewish question" was **genocide**—extermination of all Jews.

Beginning in the 1930s, Jews were forced from their homes, put onto trains, and taken to **concentration camps**.

Political opponents and anyone labeled "undesirable" also were imprisoned.

Some concentration camps were **death camps.**

There, prisoners were killed in **gas chambers** or **shot**, and their bodies burned.



Prisoners in other camps were forced to perform **heavy labor**, often **brutalized** by the guards.

Some were **tortured** or subjected to horrible **medical experiments**.

Death by **starvation** and **disease** was common.

Millions of people died in concentration camps.



For years, the Allies had received reports of Jews being killed in Nazi camps.

Yet little was done to stop it.

- A 1943 conference to discuss possible rescue plans ended with no concrete action being taken.
- The U.S. and other countries blocked Jews fleeing Germany from immigrating.

Though they expressed concern, American leaders remained **focused on their war plans.**

Some suggested they **bomb the rail lines** leading to the camps.

But the military hesitated to **divert resources** needed in battle.

In 1944, Roosevelt created the **War Refugee Board** in an attempt to help Jews in Eastern Europe. Sadly, **too few were saved.**

When Allied soldiers liberated the camps at war's end, they were stunned by the horror before them.

Americans reacted with an **outpouring of sympathy** and a **desire to help.**

Many survivors eventually **found homes in the U.S.**



The enormity of the Nazi crime led to renewed calls for an independent Jewish state.



- The **state of Israel** was founded in 1948.
- Truman immediately recognized the new nation, and the **U.S. became a staunch ally.**