

ANTI-JEWISH LAWS TIMELINE



This Jewish storefront was vandalised during Kristallnacht in Magdeburg, Germany, November 9-10, 1938. (Montreal Holocaust Museum Collection)



1933

January 30, 1933
Adolf Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany.

February 28, 1933
Using the Reichstag (German parliament) fire as pretext, Hitler issues emergency decrees that mark the end of all basic freedoms, including freedom of speech, press, assembly and protection from arbitrary arrest.

March 23, 1933
The German parliament passes the Enabling Act, which empowers Hitler to establish a dictatorship in Germany.

April 1, 1933
One-day boycott against Jewish businesses in Germany.

April 7, 1933
The Law for the Restoration of the Professional Service excludes Jews and political opponents from university and government positions. Similar laws enacted in the following weeks affect Jewish lawyers, judges, doctors and teachers.

1935

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The Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honour and the German Citizenship Law are passed. Known as the "Nuremberg Laws", they prohibit marriage and sexual relationships between Germans and Jews and state that only persons of "German or related blood" can be citizens.

1938

April 26, 1938
Nazis force Jews to register their assets, a first step toward total exclusion from the German economy.

July 25, 1938
Jewish doctors are forbidden to treat 'Aryan' patients

August 17, 1938
Any Jew whose name does not clearly identify him or her as Jewish is required to add the name "Israel" or "Sarah" to passports and identity papers.

October 5, 1938
Following a request from Switzerland, passports of German Jews are marked with "J" for Jude (Jew). Jews must surrender their old passports, which will become valid only after the letter "J" has been stamped on them

1939

November 9-10, 1938
Kristallnacht: A wave of state-organised attacks target Jewish businesses, synagogues, apartments across Germany and Austria. Jews are forced to pay fines of over one billion German marks.

November 15, 1938
The German Reich Ministry of Education expels all Jewish children from public schools.

November 28, 1938
The German Reich Ministry of Interior restricts the freedom of movement of Jews.

1939

September 1, 1939
Invasion of Poland: Germany attacks Poland and World War II begins. By the end of the month, Poland is divided between Germany and the USSR. Jews on the German side are almost immediately subjected to anti-Jewish measures.

October 28, 1939
The first Jewish ghetto in Poland is established in the town of Piotrkow.

November 23, 1939
In occupied Poland, Jews aged ten and older are forced to wear a yellow star or armband, identifying them as Jewish.

1940

May 20, 1940
The Auschwitz concentration camp opens in occupied Poland. It will eventually become a mixed camp (concentration and death camp) where nearly 1 million Jews are murdered.

1941-1942

June 1941 to January 1942
Following the German invasion of the Soviet Union, four Einsatzgruppen (mobile killing units) massacre 1 million Jews.



This identification card belonged to Elise Eggers. Because she was Jewish, Nazi officials stamped her card with a "J" and added "Sara" to her name. (MHM Collection, donated by Edith Borenstein)

Between 1933 and 1945 Nazi Germany establishes over 20,000 camps and sub-camps in order to imprison "enemies of the State". Death, disease, starvation, overpopulation, torture, and unsanitary conditions are part of everyday life in the camps.