THE HOLOCAUST

DEFINITIONS:

- **HOLOCAUST**
  - A PROGRAM OF MASS MURDER

- **GENOCIDE**
  - THE ANNIHILATION OF ENTIRE RACE OF PEOPLE

HOLOCAUST STATISTICS

PROGRESSION OF DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS JEWS

- The NAZI party and Adolf Hitler seized power in 1933 and slowly began their program against the Jews of Germany.
- In 1933 there were 566,000 Jews living in Germany.
- Each new year in Germany led to harsher policies directed towards the Jews.

1933

- NAZIS boycott Jewish businesses
- issue decree that defines non-Aryans
- Hermann Goering creates the GESTAPO
- first concentration camps are built
- Dachau - 3/22/33

1934

- Jews are not allowed to have national health insurance
- the SS (Schutzstaffel) is formed
- Hitler becomes Der Fuherer and receives a 90% approval rating from the people
1935 - Nuremberg Race Laws

- Jews are not allowed to:
  - Marry or have sex with Aryans
  - Hire Aryan women as maids
  - Have rights of citizenship

1936

- SS Death's Head division is created to guard camps
- Heinrich Himmler is appointed Chief of the German Police
- Olympic games in Berlin, Jews treated better - briefly.

1937

- Jews are not allowed to teach Germans
- Not allowed to be accountants or dentists
- "Eternal Jew" exhibit opened in Germany
- This promoted stereotypes of Jews and warned Germans

1938

- Nazi troops enter Austria
- League of Nations considers helping Jews fleeing Hitler, but no country will take them
- Jews are not allowed to practice medicine

1939 - Kristallnacht

- Night of Broken Glass
- Jewish stores, shops and synagogues burned down
- Took place because a German official was killed in Paris by a Jew
- November 9, 1939

1939

- Reinhard Heydrich is ordered to speed up emigration of Jews
- The St. Louis is turned away from the US.
- Jews must hand over all gold and silver.
- Nazi troops seize Czechoslovakia
- 350,000 Jews
POLAND 1939
- Sept. 1, 1939 Nazis invade Poland
- 3.35 million Jews
- Hans Frank becomes governor of Poland
- Forced labor decree issued and all Jews must wear yellow stars

“I ask nothing of Jews except that they should disappear”

1940
- German Jews are deported to Poland
- Ghettos of Lodz, Krakow and Warsaw are sealed off.
- Total of 600,000 Jews
- These ghettos will be liquidated starting in 1942

German soldiers rounding up Jews to be placed in ghettos

1941
- Nazis invade the Soviet Union
- Jewish population of 3 million
- Hitler issues infamous “Commissar Order”
- SS Einsatzgruppen follow advance of German Army

“Liquidate all Communist officials you encounter!”

Einsatzgruppen
- SS “Special Action Groups” organized in early years of war by Reinhard Heydrich
- Heydrich organized 4 large groups (A,B,C,D) in Soviet Union
- Competition between group leaders to see who could kill the most Jews
- 1,300,000 Russian Jews killed by end of war by these “mobile killing units”

Wannsee Conference
- Heydrich was ordered by Hermann Goering to prepare a “final solution” to the Jewish question
- Heydrich organized a meeting with 15 top Nazi officials in Berlin = Jan. 20, 1942
- Nazis would attempt to exterminate the entire Jewish population of Europe, an estimated 11 million persons
Reinhard Heydrich

- Nicknamed “The Blond Beast” and “Hangman Heydrich”
- Second in command of Gestapo and SS
- Principle planner of the Final Solution
- Brigadier General in SS at the age of 30

Heydrich and Final Solution

- “Europe would be combed of Jews from East to West”
- “Madagascar Plan”
- Ordered Einsatzs to round up and kill Jews in occupied countries
- Leader of RSHA

Heydrich assassinated 1942

- Czech underground agents bombed his car
- SS hunted down and killed 1000 suspects
- Czech town of Lidice was liquidated
- Hitler called him “The man with the iron heart.”

FINAL SOLUTION

- “Now judgement has begun and it will reach its conclusion only when the knowledge of the Jews has been erased from the earth!” Nazi Newspaper
- There were 3 phases of the Nazi plan to wipe out the Jewish population of Europe

Phase 1 = Shooting

- Jews were rounded up and told they were to be relocated
- They were taken to the woods and were shot one by one
- Their bodies were buried in mass graves

Phase 2 = Gas Vans

- Again, Jews were rounded up and told they were to be relocated in vans
- The vans were equipped so that the van’s exhaust was piped back into the van

700,000 Jews killed in Vans
**Problems with Phases 1,2**

- The Nazis encountered several problems with the executions and gas vans
- First, they were both taking to much time
- Second, resources such as gas and munitions were becoming scarce
- Third, soldiers involved were beginning to have psychological problems with what they were doing.

**Phase 3 = The Camps**

- Nazi leaders decided to drastically speed up the Final Solution
- There were two different types of camps:
  - CONCENTRATION CAMPS
  - EXTERMINATION CAMPS
- Jews from all over occupied Europe were to be brought here.

**CONCENTRATION**

- 100 of these in Nazi-occupied Europe
- Prisoners used for forced labor
- Prisoners usually lasted less than 1/2 year
- Communists, homosexuals, criminals, social-democrats, artists.
- First camp was opened in 1933, right after Nazis came to power

**RAVENSBRUCK**

- Camp for women only
- Run by German women who were criminals
- Prisoners worked on remodeling furs
- 50,000 killed
- 14,000 rescued by Swedish diplomat

**THERESIENSTADT**

- Most humane camp
- Well connected Jews and war veterans
- Jews married to Aryans could pay to go to this camp
- Red Cross inspected this camp, good rating
- Stop over on the way to Auschwitz

**Map of Germany and Poland**

- Various concentration camps marked:
  - Ravensbrück
  - Auschwitz
  - Theresienstadt
  - Holland
  - Brussels
  - Munich
  - Vienna
  - Poland
  - Czechoslovakia

- Various countries marked:
  - Germany
  - Poland
  - Czechoslovakia
  - Austria
  - France
  - Netherlands
  - Belgium

- Various cities marked:
  - Theresienstadt
  - Auschwitz
  - Ravensbrück
  - Holland
  - Brussels
  - Munich
  - Vienna
  - Poland
  - Czechoslovakia
  - Austria
  - France
  - Netherlands
  - Belgium
EXTERMINATION

- Started out as ordinary concentration camps
- Later modified with gassing installations for use on humans, now “DEATH CAMPS”
- Two sub-groups:
  1. Majdanek and Auschwitz, Birkenau
  2. Operation Reinhard camps and Chelmno

“NAZIS GET CLOSE TO CREATING HELL ON EARTH!!”

CHELMNO

Jews from the Lodz ghetto in Poland sent here
First death camp built ~ 1941

CAMPS IN POLAND

EXTREMATION CAMPS IN OCCUPIED POLAND

MAJDANEK

- Established in 1941 as a POW camp
- Started its part in the Final Solution in 1942
- Jews, Poles and Soviet POW’s sent here
- Had two gas chambers to exterminate

AUSCHWITZ

- Started operations in January 1940 (Poland)
- Himmler chose Auschwitz as the place for the Final Solution
- Had 4 gas chambers/crematories by 1943
- Mass killings with Zyklon B gas
- Commanded by Rudolph Hoess
- Recorded 12,000 kills in one day

THE SS AT AUSCHWITZ

ORDERED TO TAKE ALL POSSESSIONS FROM JEWS

TEETH WITH GOLD

PILES OF GLASSES
ZYKLNON-B
GAS USED TO KILL VERMIN. IT WAS INEXPENSIVE COMPARED TO GAS. DROPPED FROM CEILINGS

Dr. Josef Mengele
•Arrived in Auschwitz in May of 1943
•SS Doctor who had power of life/death
•performed medical experiments on Jewish children

“ANGEL OF DEATH”

MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS
- Sterilization of men and women
- endurance of pain to high and low temperatures and pressure
- experiments on twins to increase number of multiple births to Aryan women
- injections of phenol to kill patients
- Dr. Mengele attempted to sew children together to make Siamese twins

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OPERATION REINHARD
- Largest single massacre of Holocaust
- March 1942-November 1943
- named after Reinhard Heydrich
- carried out at three camps, run by the SS
- every Jew that arrived at one of the camps would be dead in 2 hours.
- Total of 1,700,000 Jews killed

BELZEC
- March 1942
- Jews from Lubin Ghetto- Poland
- Operations stop December 1942
- Camp was dismantled and plowed over and planted on

EXTRACTED HUMAN ORGANS
SOBIBOR
- MAY 1942
- 3 GAS CHAMBERS
- ESCAPE OF 300 JEWS AND SOVIET POW'S
- ONLY 50 LIVE
- GAS CHAMBERS SHUT DOWN AFTER ESCAPE

TREBLINKA
- JEWS FROM WARSAW GHETTO
- 10 GAS CHAMBERS
- LOCATED EAST OF WARSAW
- BODIES WERE BURNED IN OPEN PITS
- AUGUST 1943

Camp Totals

STATISTICS BY COUNTRY
- Jewish population before, Jewish population after Holocaust