

Knowledge Organiser: Living Under Nazi Rule 1933-1945: Topic 5 Occupation

Europe in 1942 at the height of Nazi control



Responses to Nazi Rule

André Trocmé	French protestant pastor Arranged for Jews in his area, mainly children to be hidden.
Coco Chanel	French fashion designer who began a romance with a leading Nazi. She attempted to persuade the Nazis to remove Jewish directors from her perfume company.
Danish people	Allowed to keep their government during the war in return for establishing favourable relations with the Germans.
Ustasa, Croatia	Extreme right wing party in Croatia: followed the Nazis, built concentration camps and killed 25,000 Jews.
Chetniks	Group of Serbian nationalists who helped Nazi forces invade Yugoslavia in 1943.
Bielski partisans	Escaped from Jewish ghetto in Poland and lived in the forest. At its peak, the group numbered 1,236.

The Holocaust

The first solution 1938-39	Nazi attempt to force Jews to leave Nazi held lands. As soon as the Nazis took over Austria Jews were beaten and humiliated. The Nazis helped Jewish people leave Austria through the Central Office for Jewish Emigration. 110,000 Jews emigrated in 2 years. This was called the ' Vienna model '.
The second solution 1939-1941	When the Nazis invaded Poland in Sep 1939, this changed the scale of the 'Jewish problem'. Jews were concentrated into ghettos which were enclosed districts of towns and cities where Jews were isolated.
The final solution: murder phase one 1941-1945	The Nazis invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941. This is when the mass murder of Jews began. Mobile killing squads called Einsatzgruppen followed the German army into Russian territory they rounded up Jews and Communists and murdered them in secluded areas.
The final solution: death by gas Phase two	Autumn 1941, the Nazis decided that the Jews of Poland's ghettos would be exterminated by gas in specially made camps. Their sole purpose was to murder. Jan 1942: the Wannsee Conference : Heydrich laid out plans for the mass murder of every single Jew from all across Europe. They would all be transported in trains to Poland. There they would be murdered by gassing. Auschwitz Birkenau II was created by late 1941, the Nazis had a special purpose for this site: all Jews of Europe would be brought here to die. Four gas chambers and crematoria were built. At its height, this industrialised murder process was killing 12,000 people a day.

Nazi occupation of Poland from 1939

- Country split into different regions. All became part of Germany. Largest region = General Government.
- From 1940s 100,000's of Polish Slavs were forced to leave their properties. 500,000 'ethnic' Germans moved into their houses and took their land.
- Many Poles were forced to move to the **General Government** region. Governor = **Hans Frank** who ruled by terror & set out to destroy Polish culture.
- The Nazis considered all Slavic Poles to be racially inferior '**Dungervolk**'
- By 1945 the Wehrmacht/SS had executed 1.9 million non-Jewish Poles and deported over 1.5 million to Germany who were forced to work in labour camps.
- In 1939, there were roughly 3.5 million Jews living in Poland. The Nazis murdered 3 million of these.
- The Poles formed one of the largest resistance movements.
- Polish leaders in exile helped to set up **Delegatura**, a secret state within Poland.

Nazi occupation of the Netherlands from 1940

- The Nazis saw the people of the Netherlands as Aryans = treated them much better than the Poles:
- No mass murder of Dutch people at the time of invasion, no land lost to Germany, no Germans emigrated to live in Dutch land, education and culture not changed.
- Turning point 1941-42
- First Jewish men were rounded up for deportation. A strike was called by the Dutch Communists: the Germans abandoned their 'friendly attitude'.
- Nazi intimidation & violence
- Deportations of Dutch Jews began, Dutch ex-soldiers sent to Germany for forced labour, later changed to all Dutch men aged between 16 and 60 = increase in Dutch resistance movement.

TIMELINE OF MAJOR EVENTS

1939 9.5 million Jews lived across Europe	1 Sep 1939 Germany invaded Poland. SS/Wehrmacht started to execute Polish citizens	Oct 1939 Poland ceased to exist. Country split into different regions.	.1940 onwards Polish Slavs forced to leave their homes. 500,000 'ethnic' Germans moved in Polish Jews were concentrated into ghettos	1941 First death sentences issued against Dutch citizens.	Jun 1941 Nazis invaded the Soviet Union, this is when the mass murder of Jews began.	Late 1941 Second site at Auschwitz: Auschwitz II- Birkenau	20 Jan 1942 The Wannsee Conference	By 1942 Extermination camps Belzec, Sobibor, and Treblinka were all operational.	April 1942 Dutch Jews had to wear the Star of David	Apr 1943 Nazis announced 300,000 Dutch ex-soldiers would be sent to Germany for forced labour	Aug 1944 Polish uprising in Warsaw which lasted for 2 months.	Sep 1944 Dutch railway strike	1945 The Nazis had murdered 11 million Jews, Slavs, Gypsies, Communists and homosexuals
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