

The Holocaust

The Persecution Begins

Jews Targeted

- Europe has long history of anti-Semitism
- Germans believe Hitler's claims, blame Jews for problems
- Nazis take away citizenship, jobs, property; require Star of David
- **Holocaust**—murder of 11 million people, more than half are Jews – the rest were the disabled, homosexual, gypsies

Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass)

- ***Kristallnacht***—Nazis attack Jewish homes, businesses, synagogues on November 9 – 10, 1938.
- Attack was carried out because a young Jewish boy at killed a German embassy official in France.
- About 100 Jews killed, hundreds injured, 30,000 arrested

continued The Persecution Begins

A Flood of Jewish Refugees

- 1938, Nazis try to speed up Jewish emigration
- France has 40,000 refugees, Britain 80,000; both refuse more
- U.S. takes 100,000, many “persons of exceptional merit”
- Americans fear strain on economy, enemy agents; much anti-Semitism

The Plight of the *St. Louis*

- Coast Guard prevents passengers on *St. Louis* from disembarking in the United States in 1939.
- The ship carried 943 Jewish refugees – Western European countries gave them asylum but more than half were killed in Holocaust

Hitler's "Final Solution"

The Condemned

- Hitler's Final Solution—slavery, genocide of “inferior” groups
- **Genocide**—deliberate, systematic killing of an entire population
- Target Jews, gypsies, freemasons, Jehovah's Witnesses, unfit Germans
- Nazi death squads round up Jews, shoot them

Forced Relocation

- Jews forced into **ghettos**, segregated areas in Polish cities
- Some form resistance movements; others maintain Jewish culture through underground newspapers and secret schools to educate Jewish children.

continued Hitler's "Final Solution"

Concentration Camps

- Many Jews taken to **concentration camps**, or labor camps
 - families often separated
- Camps originally prisons; given to SS to warehouse "undesirables"
- Prisoners crammed into wooden barracks, given little food
- Work dawn to dusk, 7 days per week
- Those too weak to work are killed

The Final Stage

Mass Exterminations

- Germans build death camps; gas chambers used to kill up to 5,000 at a time
- On arrival, SS doctors separate those who can work
- Those who can't work immediately killed in gas chamber
- At first bodies buried in pits; later cremated to cover up evidence
- Some are shot, hanged, poisoned, or die from experiments

The Survivors

- About 6 million Jews killed in death camps, massacres
- Some escape, many with help from ordinary people
- Some survive concentration camps
 - survivors forever changed by experience

Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp

- Located 22 miles north of Berlin, Germany
- It was opened in 1936 to hold mainly political prisoners
- It was also a training camp for SS officers
- Early executions were done by shooting prisoners in trenches or hanging but eventually most prisoners were sent to extermination camps like Auschwitz in Poland.
- Many of the prisoners died because of the poor living conditions and treatment
- Prisoners were hired out to private companies to work or were forced to test military supplies like shoes by walking across various surfaces
- Station Z is where the prisoners were executed
- About 30,000 to 35,000 were killed in the camp

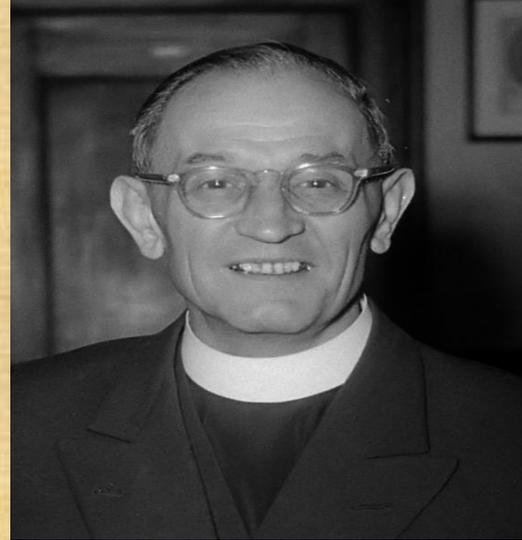
MARTIN NIEMÖLLER

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.



- Was a Lutheran pastor who opposed the Nazis' state control of the churches and was sent to Sachsenhausen where he was nearly executed.
- He went on to become a pacifist and antiwar advocate.



