

Anti-Semitism before 1933

Before 1933, there were many examples of Anti-Semitism, mainly based in religious differences, such as the belief that it was Jews who killed Jesus and even that Jewish people would sacrifice non-Jewish children in rituals known as the Blood Libel.

Nazi Ideology

The Nazi Party developed new ideology which focused on racial and biological factors. In their theory of race, Jews were a separate “inferior” race and were blamed for all of Germany’s problems. They believed Jews should be removed from society.

Forms of Nazi persecution before 1939

Laws

Between 1933-39 more than 400 anti-Semitic regulations were passed in Germany including controlling where Jews could work, who they could marry.



Propaganda

Nazi posters, films, and newspapers constantly attacked Jews, blaming them for Germany’s problems.



Boycotts

The Nazis organised a national boycott of Jewish shops and businesses, telling people not to buy from them.



Violence

The SA, also known as the Brownshirts, attacked Jewish shops, synagogues, and even individuals on the street.



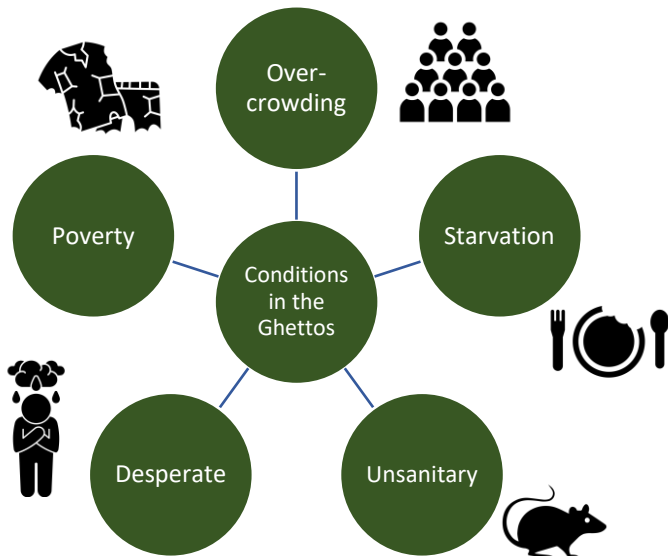
Kristallnacht

Night of Broken Glass, 9–10 November, Jewish homes, shops, and synagogues were attacked and destroyed in violent riots encouraged by the Nazis.



Ghettos

From 1939, the Nazi Party began forcibly moving Jews into specific areas in towns and cities known as Ghettos.



In Warsaw Ghetto, Poland, over 400,000 Jews were forced to live in an area of 1.3 Sq. miles.

The Final Solution

From 1941, Jews who had been forced into overcrowded ghettos in cities like Warsaw and Łódź were rounded up and taken away.

The Nazis organised large-scale deportations, transporting Jews by train in terrible conditions to camps in the east.



Some Jews were sent first to transit or concentration camps, where families were separated, and many died from starvation, disease, and overwork.

The Final Solution focused on specially built extermination camps such as Auschwitz and Treblinka. These camps were designed for mass killings rather than imprisonment

Jews were taken straight to gas chambers, often under the pretence of “showers.” Millions were murdered quickly and systematically, while others were shot in mass executions.



Before being killed, victims’ belongings, hair, and even gold teeth were taken. Towards the end of the war, the Nazis tried to cover up their crimes by destroying camps and records.



Jewish resistance



In ghettos such as Warsaw, underground groups organised secret schools, smuggled food, and eventually led armed uprisings. In concentration and extermination camps, some prisoners staged revolts where inmates killed guards and escaped. Others resisted through spiritual and cultural acts, keeping traditions alive, writing diaries, or preserving evidence of Nazi crimes. Though resistance was often small and brutally crushed, it showed courage, determination, and the refusal of many Jews to submit to Nazi terror.