

Good Morning (or Afternoon)!

- You need your binder.
- Please pick up a copy of the notes packet and *Lectures 1 – 3 Review*.
- Reminder: Turn in your missing assignments and test corrections.
- Bell Ringer: What role(s) did the United States play in the war prior to entry into the fighting? Why was Pearl Harbor attacked?

World War II

Adolf Hitler, Nazis and the Holocaust

The Holocaust - Nazi Persecution of Jews

- **The Holocaust** was a **genocide**, or the systematic murder of members of a group with the intent to destroy the existence of a group.
- During the Holocaust, the Nazis killed nearly 6 million Jews and millions of other people.
- Although the Nazis persecuted anyone who dared oppose them, as well as the disabled, Gypsies, homosexuals and Slavic peoples, they reserved their strongest hatred for the Jews.

The Nuremberg Laws

- After the Nazis took power, German Jews were deprived of many rights that citizens of Germany had long held.
- In September 1935, the Nuremberg Laws took citizenship away from Jewish Germans and banned marriage between Jews and other Germans.
- Two months later, another decree barred Jews from holding public office or voting.
- Another law forced Jews with German-sounding names to adopt “Jewish” names.
- Soon the passports of Jews were marked with a red J to identify them as Jewish.
- By 1936, at least half of Germany’s Jews were jobless.
- In 1938, the Nazis also banned Jews from practicing law and medicine and from operating businesses.

The Nuremberg Laws

- With no source of income, life for Jews in Germany became very difficult.
- Although conditions were worsening, many Jews decided to remain in Germany during the early years of the Nazi rule, as they were reluctant to leave and give up the lives they had built there.
- Many also thought conditions would improve, but they didn't.

Kristallnacht - The Night of Broken Glass

- On November 7, 1938, a young Jewish refugee shot and killed a German diplomat in Paris, as a source of revenge for his parents and 14,000 other Jews being deported to Poland.
- Using this as propaganda, Hitler ordered his Minister of Propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, to stage attacks against the Jews that would seem like a spontaneous popular reaction to news of the murder.
- Anti-Jewish violence erupted throughout Germany and Austria on November 9, 1938. This was known as the ***Kristallnacht***, or “night of broken glass,” as broken glass littered the streets afterwards.

Kristallnacht - The Night of Broken Glass

- More than 90 Jews died, hundreds were badly injured, thousands of Jewish businesses were destroyed, and over 180 synagogues were wrecked.
- Following the initial night of violence, the **Gestapo**, the government's secret police, arrested about 30,000 Jewish men.

Jews Attempt to Flee

- Kristallnacht and its aftermath marked a significant escalation of Nazi persecution against the Jews.
- Between 1933 and the beginning of World War in 1939, about 350,000 Jews escaped Nazi-controlled Germany. Many of them emigrated to the United States.
- Millions of Jews remained trapped in Nazi-dominated Europe because they could not get visas to the United States or to other countries.

The Final Solution

- On January 20, 1942, Nazi leaders met at the **Wannsee Conference** to coordinate a “final solution of the Jewish question.”
- Previous solutions had included rounding up Jews and other “undesirables” from conquered areas, shooting them and piling them into mass graves.
- Another method was to force them into trucks and then pipe in exhaust fumes to kill them.
- These methods, however, had proven too slow and inefficient for the Nazis.

The Final Solution

- At the Wannsee Conference, the Nazis made up plans to round up Jews from the vast areas of Nazi-controlled Europe.
- Jews were to be taken to detention centers known as **concentration camps**.
 - Healthy Jews would work as slave laborers until they dropped dead of exhaustion, disease or malnutrition.
 - The elderly, young children and the ones who could no longer work would be sent to **extermination camps**, to be executed in massive gas chambers.

The Final Solution – Concentration Camps

- In 1933, the Nazis built the first concentration camp to jail political opponents, but after the start of war, camps were built throughout Europe for their use in the Final Solution.
- **Buchenwald**
 - 200,000 prisoners working 12-hour shifts
 - More than 150 prisoners lived in a room built to house 50
 - 100s died each month from exhaustion and horrible living conditions

The Final Solution – Extermination Camps

- In late 1941, the Nazis built extermination facilities at the Chelmno and Auschwitz camps in Poland.
- After the Wannsee Conference, four more were built throughout Poland.
- **Auschwitz**
 - Auschwitz alone housed 100,000 people in 300 prison barracks.
 - Gas chambers, built to kill 2,000 people at a time, could gas 12,000 people a day.
 - It is estimated that 1,600,000 people died at Auschwitz.
 - Upon arrival, healthy prisoners were selected for slave labor. The others were immediately sent to the gas chambers, after which their bodies were burned.
- In only a few years, Jewish culture had been virtually obliterated by the Nazis in the lands they conquered.