

Holocaust and World War II Timeline

1933

- January 30 German President Paul von Hindenburg appoints Adolf Hitler Chancellor of Germany
Feb. 27-28 German *Reichstag* (Parliament) mysteriously burns down, government treats it as an act of terrorism
Feb. 28 Decree passed which suspends the civil rights granted by the German constitution
March 22 Dachau concentration camp opens as a prison camp for political dissidents
March 23 *Reichstag* passes the Enabling Act, empowering Hitler to establish a dictatorship
April 1 Nationwide Nazi organized boycott of Jewish shops and businesses
April 7 Laws for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service bars Jews from holding civil service, university, and state positions
April 26 Gestapo established
May 10 Public burning of books written by Jews, political dissidents, and others
July 14 Law on the Revocation of Naturalization stripping East European Jewish immigrants, as well as Roma (Gypsies), of German citizenship

1934

- June 30 Night of the Long Knives – members of the Nazi party and police murdered members of the Nazi leadership, army and others on Hitler's orders. Ernst Röhm, leader of the SA was killed.
August 2 President von Hindenburg dies. Hitler proclaims himself Führer. Armed forces must now swear allegiance to him
Oct. 7 Jehovah's Witness congregations submit standardized letters to the government declaring their political neutrality

1935

- April 1 Nazis ban the Jehovah's Witness organization
May 31 Jews barred from serving in the German armed forces
June 28 Ministry of Justice revises Paragraph 175 and 175a, providing the police with broader means of prosecuting homosexual men
Sept. 15 **Decree of the Reich Citizenship Law and the Law for the Protection of the German Blood and Honor, otherwise known as the Nuremberg Laws. These anti-Jewish racial laws defined who was a Jew, stripped Jews of their German citizenship and said that Jews could not marry Aryans.**

1936

- March 3 Jewish doctors barred from practicing medicine in German institutions
March 7 Germans march into the Rhineland, previously demilitarized by the Versailles Treaty
June 17 Heinrich Himmler appointed the Chief of German Police
July 12 Construction begins on Sachsenhausen concentration camp
August Berlin hosts the 1936 Olympic Games. Anti-Jewish signs are temporarily removed to present a more favorable picture to foreign tourists.