

The outbreak of the war transformed the treatment of the Jews.

Firstly, the war meant that restrictions on their treatment that may have been in place in peace time for example media scrutiny were much more controlled.

Secondly, the Germans could portray the Jews as the cause of the war - just like the stab in the back myth. This could be used to legitimise their harsh treatment

Thirdly, the war would stop other avenues apparently being pursued such as emigration to countries like Madagascar

Finally, the war would lead to the conquest of vast amounts of land and people- millions of them Jewish

### SEVERE RESTRICTIONS

Hitler, had always warned that any future war would lead to the 'destruction of the Jews' as they would be blamed.

The SS were placed in charge of Jewish policy and soon draconian restrictions began

- Rations were severely restricted for Jews
- Radio sets were removed
- Jews were forced to wear Star of David badges in Sept 1941 prior to deportation plans. Failure to comply could lead to a concentration camp

### DEPORTATION - October 1941

Goebbels had always wanted policies towards the Jews being more severe. In October 1941 deportations to the east began. The Nazis realised they could do what they liked there.

The Jewish population of Greater Germany shrank from 318,000 to only 15,000 in 1945- many of whom had been sheltered by very brave Germans who faced concentration camp and death

Towards the end of the war, in November 1942 Himmler began to cover his own back. He ordered an end to genocide and the destruction of the gas chambers or any form of proof of guilt.

Death marches were carried out by the SS at the end of the war. These were attempts by the SS to keep their crimes hidden by marching their remaining inmates across the bitter winter to the camp again.

UP TO 6 MILLION Jews died in the Holocaust.

War conditions made the fate of the Jews controversial with many Nazis suggesting that they could be used for vital war work. There were increasing labour shortages as the demands of war increased. Many Jews were employed in some of these areas as slave workers. Many died under the very poor working conditions.



### Nazi treatment of the Jews 1941-45

### Fate of the Jews

### Initial impact of the war on Jews

### Eastern Europe

### GHETTOS

The conquest of large areas of Eastern Europe transformed the amount of Jews under Nazi control Jews from all over the occupied territories were transported to areas of Nazi occupied Poland on the orders of Himmler and Heydrich. They were to be concentrated in Ghettos- areas of towns and cities which were sealed off and Jews moved in until the 'next stage' was worked out. There were over 300 Ghettos. These Ghettos were notoriously overcrowded, with terrible living conditions, lack of food and medicines and high incidences of disease. Examples include **WARSAW**, **LVOV** and **LODZ**. The ghetto in Warsaw alone held up to 500,000 people in a tiny area of under 4 km square

### EINSATZGRUPPEN

These specialised SS units (called One Sentence Groups) were set up with the Prime role of eradicating the Jews in the occupied territories. They set up mobile gas units at CHELMNO in 194. This killed up to 150,000 Jews alone in its operation. Hitler ordered that during his invasion of the Soviet Union 'Jewish Bolshevism be eradicated' this promoted Himmler and Heydrich to encourage these SS mobile killing units to wipe out whole communities of Jews using mass killings. This was to become known as the **HOLOCAUST BY BULLETS**. in the first few months of the invasion of the USSR it is estimated that up to 700,000 Jews were murdered. One notorious site was at BABI YAR near Kiev, Ukraine. Up to 34,000 were killed here.

### WANNSEE Conference Jan 1942



The Wannsee conference was perhaps the most chilling in history as it was established to set up the so called '**FINAL SOLUTION**' to the Jewish problem. From this conference the mechanisms of mass killing were established. The term final solution had been mentioned by Goering to Heydrich in July 1941. By Jan 1942 at the small lakeside villa of **Wannsee** at least 15 top Nazis met up to discuss how to implement this plan. This included the head of the Gestapo, the heads of Nazi controlled areas in the east, the head of the railways etc. It was a coordinated and planned outline of mass murder. It took 90 minutes to discuss and agree the fate of well over 6 million people.

The first thing agreed was that ALL European Jews were to be deported to Eastern Europe.

### DEATH CAMPS

Death camps were set up as part of the huge concentration camp network. All were connected by railways to make transportation easier in wartime. There was even a price per 'passenger' agreed by German railways.

Death camps included, Treblinka, Sobibor, and Belzec. Up to 2 million were killed in these camps alone.



### AUSCHWITZ BIRKENAU

Auschwitz was a camp like no other designed as a mixture of a huge work camp and mass killing centre. It was in Poland but connected to the railway system and close to Berlin, and other countries such as USSR, Hungary, Czechoslovakia etc. It's vast camp was built to house slave workers selected from the transports. However, gas chambers were constructed along with crematoria and these were kept continually processing. They were manned by SS guards but these were augmented by Jewish Sonderkommando- these were Jewish recruits who would sign up to do the dirty work in the camps in return for having their life prolonged. Over 1 million would die in this one camp!

