Chronology of Laws and Actions Directed Against the Jews in Nazi Germany 1933-1945
Dates Given for Laws, Decrees, Regulations, World Events, and Dates of Public Announcements

1933
January 30: President Hindenburg appoints Adolf Hitler as Reich Chancellor (Prime Minister) of the German Reich, he is the Supreme Leader of the NSDAP (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei) (National Socialist German Workers Party) and the SA (Storm Troopers).
March 5: Hitler receives a strong vote of confidence from the German people in the Reichstagswahl (Parliamentary Elections).
March 22: Dachau Concentration Camp Opens (First Concentration Camp is established)
March 24: The Reichstag (German Parliament) empowers Hitler to enact Laws on its behalf.
April 1: Nazis proclaim a general boycott of all Jewish owned businesses.
April 7: Laws for Reestablishment of Civil Service barred Jews from holding civil service, university, state positions and denied admission to the bar. Also, all Non-Aryan civil servants, with the exception of soldiers, are forcibly retired.
April 21: Kosher Butchering is Forbidden by Law.
April 25: Fewer Non-Aryan children are admitted to German schools and universities.
April 26: Formation of the Gestapo.
May 2: Dissolution of free trade unions.
May 10: Public Burning of Books written by Jews, political dissidents, and others not approved by the state (opponents of Nazism).
June 16: There are 500,000 Jews living in the Third Reich.
July 14: Laws stripping East European Jewish immigrants of German citizenship. German Nationality can be revoked for those considered undesirable by the government.

1934
August 2: Death of Paul Von Hindenburg, second President of the German Republic. Hitler becomes Head of State, proclaims himself Fuhrer and Reich Chancellor, and the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. Armed forces must now swear allegiance to him.
August 3: Hitler declares himself both President and Chancellor of the Third Reich.

1935
March 16: Compulsory military service is reinstated in Germany in open defiance of the Versailles Treaty.
May 31: Jews barred from serving in the German armed forces.
Summer 1935: Juden Verboten (No Jews) signs increase in number outside towns, villages, restaurants and stores.
September 6: Jewish newspapers can no longer be sold in the street.
September 15: Reichstag passes anti-Semitic “Nuremberg Laws”: anti-Jewish racial laws enacted. Jews no longer considered German citizens and are, could not have marriage or sexual relations between Jews and Aryans; forbid Aryan servants under the age of 35 or fly the German flag. Nuremberg Laws deprive Jews and reduce them to the status of “subjects”.

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.
March 7: Jews no longer have the rights to participate in Parliamentary elections (voting).
June 17: Himmler appointed the Chief of German Police.
August 1: The Olympic Games are opened in Berlin. Signs reading “Jews Are Not Welcome” are temporarily removed from most public places by order of the Fuhrer to present a favorable and misleading picture to foreign tourists.

October 25: Hitler and Mussolini form Rome-Berlin Axis.

November 25: Germany and Japan sign a military pact.

1937

July 2: More Jewish students are removed from German schools and universities.

July 16: Jews can obtain passports for travel abroad only in special cases.

Buchenwald Concentration Camp opens.

1938

March 11: German troops march into Austria.

March 13: Anschluss: Incorporation of Austria: anti-Semitic decrees immediately applied in Austria. Annexation of Austria to the Third Reich.

April 26: Mandatory registration of all property held by Jews inside the Reich.

July 6: Jews may no longer follow certain occupations such as broker, matchmaker, tourist guide, real estate agent. International conference at Evian, France, fails to provide refuge for German Jews.

July 23: As of January 1, 1939 All Jews must carry identification cards.

July 27: All Jewish street names are replaced.

August 1: Adolf Eichmann establishes the Office of Jewish Emigration in Vienna to increase the pace of forced emigration.

August 17: As of January 1, 1939 All Jews must have only Jewish first names. If a Jew has a German first name, “Israel” or “Sarah” must be added to it.

September 30: Munich Agreement: Britain and France accept German annexation of Sudetenland, part of western Czechoslovakia.

October 5: Following a request from the Swiss authorities, Germans mark all Jewish passports with a large “J” to restrict Jews from immigrating to Switzerland.

October 28: 17,000 Polish Jews living in Germany expelled. Poles refused to admit them and 8,000 are stranded in the frontier village of Zbaszyn.

November 7: Herschel Grynszpan, whose parents were deported from Germany to Poland, assassinates Ernst Von Rath, Third Secretary (attache) of the German Embassy in Paris.

November 9: Von Rath dies. Gobels, recognizing the propaganda value, issues instructions that “Spontaneous Demonstrations” against Jews are to be “Organized and Executed” throughout Germany – in retaliation the Pogrom begins. This became known as KRISTALLNACHT (Night of Broken Glass): anti-Jewish pogrom in Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland. 200 synagogues destroyed, 7,500 Jewish shops looted, 30,000 male Jews sent to concentration camps (Dachau, Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen).

November 10: Progroms Continues.

November 11: Jews may no longer own or bear arms. Destruction of synagogues in entire Reich.

November 12: Following the Nazi organized pogroms, reparations of ONE BILLION Reichmarks are imposed on the German Jews, and they must further repair all the damages at their own cost. Jews may no longer head businesses and a decree forcing all Jews to transfer retail businesses to Aryan hands. Jews may no longer attend plays, concerts, movies, and other entertainment.

November 15: All Jewish children expelled from German schools.

December 13: Decree on “Aryanization” (compulsory expropriation of Jewish industries, businesses, and shops) is enacted.

1939

January 30: Hitler in Reichstag speech: if war erupts it will mean the vernichtung (extermination) of European Jews.

March 15: Germans occupy Czechoslovakia.

July 26: Adolf Eichmann is placed in charge of Prague branch of the emigration office.
August 23: Molotov – Ribbentrop Pact (Soviet-German Non Aggression Pact).
September 1: Beginning of WWII: Germany invades Poland.
September 3: Britain and France declare war on Germany.
September 17: Soviet occupation of Eastern Poland.
September 21: Heydrich issues directives to establish ghettos in German occupied Poland.
October 12: First deportation of Jews from Austria and Moravia to Poland.
October 28: First Polish ghetto established in Piotrkow.
November 23: Wearing of Judenstern (six- pointed Star of David) is made compulsory throughout Poland (forced to wear this as an arm band).

1940
April 9: Germans occupy Denmark and Southern Norway.
April 30/ May 7: Ghetto at Lodz is sealed off. 165,000 people in 1.6 square miles.
May 10: Germany invades Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, and France.
May 20: Concentration camps established at Auschwitz.
June 4: British army evacuates its forces from Dunkirk, France.
June 22: France surrenders.
August 8: Battle of Britain Begins.
September 27: Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis is established.
November 15: Warsaw ghetto sealed: Ultimately contained 500,000 people.

1941
January 21-26: Anti-Jewish riots in Rumania, hundred of Jews butchered.
March: Adolf Eichman appointed Head of Gestapo Department for Jewish Affairs.
April 6: Germany attacks Yugoslavia and Greece, occupation follows.
June 22: Germany invades Soviet Union.
July 31: Heydrich appointed by Goering to implement the “Final Solution” (extermination of all the Jews in Europe).
September 15: Wearing of the Jewish star is decreed throughout the Greater Reich.
September 23: First experiments with gassing are made at Auschwitz.
September 28-29: 34,000 Jews massacred at Bari Yar outside Kiev.
October 10: Theresienstadt Ghetto in Czechoslovakia is established. Establishment of Auschwitz II (Birkenau) for the extermination of Jews, Gypsies, Poles, Russians, and others were also murdered at the camp.
October 14: Deportation of German Jews begins.
October 23: Massacre Odessa – 34,000 dead.
November 6: Massacre Rovno -15,000 dead.
December 7: Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.
December 8: USA enters the war.
December 8: Chelmno (Kulmhof) extermination camp on the Ner River in Poland is opened and begins operations: 340,000 Jews, 20,000 Poles and Czechs murdered by April 1943.
December 8: Massacre Riga - 27,000 dead.
December 22: Massacre Vilna – 32,000 dead.

1942
January 21: Unified resistance organization is established in Vilna Ghetto. Jewish resistance groups expand in numbers throughout Europe.
March 17: Extermination begins in Belzec; by end of 1942 600,000 Jews murdered.
May: Extermination by gas begins in Sobibor killing center; by October 1943 – 250,000 Jews murdered.
June 1: Treblinka death camp opens. Wearing of the Jewish star is decreed in Nazi occupied France and Holland. * Jewish partisan unit established in the forests of Belorussia and Baltic States.

Summer: Deportation of Jews to killing centers from Belgium, Croatia, France, Holland, and Poland. Armed resistance by Jews in ghettos of Kletzk, Kremenetes, Lachwa, Mir, Tuchin, Weizweiz.

July 23: 3000,000 Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto are deported to Treblinka.

July 28: Jewish resistance organization is established in the Warsaw Ghetto.

October 17: Allied nations pledge to punish the Germans for their policy of genocide.

Winter: Deportation of Jews from Germany, Greece and Norway to killing centers. Jewish partisan movement organized in forests near Lublin.

1943

January 18: Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto launch uprising against Nazi deportations. Street fighting lasts for four days.

February 2: German 6th Army surrenders at Stalingrad. This marks the turning point in the war.

March: Liquidation of Cracow Ghetto.

April 19: Warsaw Ghetto revolt begins as Germans attempt to liquidate 70,000 inhabitants. Fighting continues for weeks. Jewish underground fights Nazis until early June.

May 16: Liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto.

June 11: Himmler orders the liquidation of all Polish Jewish ghettos and the Soviet Union.

June – September: Hundreds of Jewish partisans leave the Vilna Ghetto for the forest where they continue their resistance to the Nazis. Armed resistance by Jews in Czestochowa, Lvov, Bedzin, Bialystok and Tarnow ghettos.

August 2: Revolt at Treblinka death camp.

August 16: Revolt in Bialystok Ghetto.

September 23: Liquidation of the Vilna Ghetto.

Fall: Liquidation of large ghettos in Minsk, Vilna and Riga.

October 14: Armed revolt in Sobibor extermination camp.

October 20: United Nations War Crimes Commission is established.

1944

March 19: Germany occupies Hungary.

May 15: Nazi begin deportations of Hungarian Jews; by June 27- 380,000-476,000 sent to Auschwitz.

June 6: D-DAY, Allied Invasion of Nazi-occupied Western Europe begins at Normandy, France.

June 23: Soviet summer offensive begins.

Spring/Summer: Red Army repels Nazi forces.

July 20: Group of German officers attempt to assassinate Hitler.

July 24: Soviet troops liberate Maidanek death camp.

October 7: Revolt by inmates at Auschwitz; one crematorium blown up.

October 23: Paris is liberated by Allied armies.

November: Last Jews deported from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz.

November 8: Beginning of death march of approximately 40,000 Jews from Budapest to Austria.

November 24: Himmler orders destruction of Auschwitz crematoria as Nazis try to hide evidence of the death camps.

1945


January 25: Beginning of death march for inmates of Stutthof.

February 4-11: Yalta Conference in the Crimea.

March 5: American troops reach the Rhine River.

April 11: American troops liberate Buchenwald death camp.

April 6-10: Death march of inmates of Buchenwald.

April 15: American and British troops liberate Bergen-Belsen death camp. (picture of General
Eisenhower examining the bodies of victims).
April 25: American and Soviet troops meet at the Elbe River.
April 30: Hitler commits suicide.
May 7: Germany surrenders unconditionally. End of war in Europe.
August 15: Japan surrenders unconditionally. End of World War II.
November 22: Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal commences.
Then Nuremberg Trials conclude on October 1, 1946, which happened to be the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), with a judgment in which twelve defendants were sentenced to death, three to life imprisonment, four various prison terms, and three acquitted.