

Anti-Semitism in Germany: Key events

Jewish business, Economic – 1933

Jewish shops and businesses were boycotted in 1933. The SA stood outside Jewish owned shops, cafes and businesses in order to boycott them, and painted the word 'Jude' on their windows.



Limited professions, Economic – 1933

Jews were banned from working in the civil service, as teachers, doctors, dentists and judges in 1933.

Cultural activities, Cultural/Social – 1933

In 1933 the Nazis banned Jews from involvement in theatre, film, literature and music.



Nuremberg Laws, Political – 1935

The 1935 Nuremberg Laws removed the rights of Jews to German citizenship. Jews were not allowed to marry Aryans.

Jewish forenames, Cultural/Social – 1938

By 1938 Jews were now forced to use Jewish forenames such as Israel and Sara, as well as having a large 'J' printed on their passport.



Kristallnacht, Economic – 1938

Kristallnacht saw 7,500 shop windows smashed, 400 synagogues burned and 30,000 Jews arrested and imprisoned in concentration camps.

Hitler's speech in the Reichstag, Political – 1939

On 30th January 1939 Hitler announced to the Reichstag:
"If the international finance Jewry inside and outside Europe should succeed in plunging the nations into a world war yet again, then the outcome will not be the victory of Jewry, but rather the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe!"



Over 400 separate regulations shaped life for German Jews and banned everything from performing in a symphony orchestra to owning a pet cat. Violence at the beginning of Nazi rule was followed by 'quiet years' after the Nuremberg laws established the legal status of Jews and so-called 'half-breeds'.