

Y9 Knowledge Organiser – Genocide

How does persecution lead to genocide?



Enquiry question: How does persecution lead to genocide?

1. What prejudice have Jewish people faced in the past?	2. How were Nazi 'enemies' persecuted under Nazism?	3. How did Jewish people resist persecution?	4. Were ordinary Germans responsible for the Holocaust?	5. How did Britain & its allies respond to the Holocaust?	6. Does genocide ever just 'happen'?
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Key Words

Term	Definition
Alien	A foreigner.
Anti-Semitism	Hostility or prejudice towards Jewish people.
Aryan	Considered by Hitler to be the 'master race'. Typically had northern European facial features (i.e. tall, blonde, blue eyed).
Asylum	Protection given to someone who is in danger / a refugee.
Boycott	Refusal to participate in an event or to buy certain goods in protest.
Bystander	Someone who is present witness to an event, but does not take part.
Collaborator	A person who cooperates or works together with others to help or allow something to happen.
Culpability	Responsibility for a fault or wrong; blame.
Euthanasia	Painlessly killing a person with a terminal (incurable) and painful illness. This is done with patient consent, but under the Nazis it was forced.
Genocide	Deliberate attempt to exterminate an ethnic or racial group of people.
Ghetto	Part of a city, usually poor conditions, occupied by a minority group.
Inferior	Lower in rank, status or quality.
Internment	Being imprisoned, usually for political or military reasons.
Jehovah's Witness	A type of Christian. They are pacifists, meaning they refuse military service on religious grounds.
Kindertransport	Operation to transport Jewish children from Nazi-occupied Europe to the United Kingdom from 1938 to 1940.

Term	Definition
Partisan	Armed resistance groups who escaped imprisonment and usually hid in the forests of Eastern Europe.
Persecution	hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race or political or religious beliefs; oppression.
Persecutor	Someone who actively persecutes others.
Pogrom	Organised massacre of an ethnic group, especially Jews.
Refugee	Someone forced to leave their home or country to escape war, persecution or natural disaster.
Resistance	Refusal to cooperate or to fight back against authority, especially in the face of persecution or occupation.
Roma	Romani people – an ethnic group found throughout Europe. Sometimes referred to as gypsies, although many find this term offensive.
Scapegoat	A person or group blamed for the mistakes or misfortunes of others.
Sinti	A Romani (see Roma) group, mainly found in Germany.
Slavs	People belonging to the various Slavic ethnicities in Europe; Central and Eastern Europeans.
Sterilisation	To remove or block sex organs to stop someone being able to have children.
Superior	Higher in rank, status or quality.
Synagogue	Jewish place of worship.
Treaty of Versailles	Peace treaty imposed upon Germany at the end of the First World War. Contained the terms of German surrender.
Untermenschen	Groups of people considered racially inferior by the Nazis; 'sub-human'.
Uprising	Act of resistance or rebellion; a revolt.

Terminology reminders

- Judaism is the Jewish religion; **not all Jewish people are religious**. *Some Jewish people consider Jewishness as a matter of **ancestry and culture** rather than religion. Some people identify themselves as ‘culturally Jewish’, meaning that they connect through history, arts, language, food, celebrations.*
- There is **no homogenous (single) Jewish culture**.
- There are different denominations [groups] within Judaism, for example Orthodox Judaism and Liberal Judaism.
- The word ‘Jew’ is a noun, a person’s identity. It is never a verb or an adjective.
- **Anti-Semitism** still occurs today. You may not realise this.

Timeline of Key Events

1878	Adolf Stricker called Jewish people ‘a drop of foreign blood in the German body’.
1924	Hitler writes <i>Mein Kampf</i> in prison. In it, he calls the Jews an inferior race and blames them for Germany’s defeat in WWI.
30 Jan. 1933	Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany. Jewish persecution begins.
1 April 1933	Boycott of Jewish shops & businesses began in Germany.
Sept. 1935	Nuremberg Laws passed.
March 1936	Jewish doctors were banned from practicing medicine in German public hospitals and were prevented from training for certain professions.
March 1938	Anschluss with Austria – 150,000 Jewish Austrians come under Nazi control.
April 1938	Jewish possessions over 5,500 Reichsmarks had to be registered.
Oct. 1938	Jewish identity cards had to be marked and carried.
Nov. 1938	Jewish people were excluded from schools, universities, cinemas and sports facilities.
9 Nov. 1938	Kristallnacht (Night of the Broken Glass) takes place in Germany.
Sept. 1939	Invasion of Poland – 3 million Jewish Poles come under Austrian control. Jewish people in Germany were placed under a curfew.
Oct. 1939	Jewish people in Poland are forced into ghettos.
Sept. 1941	All Jewish people over the age of 6 years old who were living in German occupied territory were forced wear a yellow Star of David on their clothes.
Oct. 1941	Jewish people are forbidden from leaving the German Reich.
20 Jan. 1942	Wannsee Conference: Nazi officials plan the ‘final solution to the Jewish question’.
1942-1944	Liquidation of the ghettos and mass deportation of Jewish people to death camps.
1945-46	Nuremberg Trials are held between Nov. 1945 to Oct. 1946.

Nuremberg Laws

Laws that placed specific restrictions on Jewish people living in Germany.

- ‘Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honour’ – banned marriage and sex between Aryan Germans and Jewish Germans.
- ‘Reich Citizenship Law’ – stripped Jewish people of their German citizenship.

Kristallnacht

Night of violence against Germany’s Jewish population following the assassination of a German diplomat in Paris by a Polish-Jew.

Thousands of Jewish businesses were attacked, synagogues were burnt, 91 Jewish people were murdered and 20,000 were sent to concentration camps.

Wannsee Conference

Meeting of senior Nazis and SS leaders in the Berlin suburb of Wannsee to decide on the ‘final solution to the Jewish question’.

Plans were made for the liquidation (closing down) of the ghettos, and the mass transportation of Europe’s Jewish population to labour camps.

Nuremberg Trials

Military tribunals (courts) held after WWII to prosecute Nazi leaders for their role in the holocaust and other war crimes committed.

It is the first time the word ‘genocide’ is used in international law.