

JEWISH PERSECUTION

HITLER'S ANTISEMITISM

- For hundreds of years, Jews have suffered from antisemitism
 - Treated unjustly in courts, forced to live in ghettos
- Reason
 - Religious
 - Jewish people blamed for death of Christ
 - Nazis promoted the idea that Jewish people were better off, running the economy
- In Vienna, Hitler became obsessed with the fact that the Jews ran most successful businesses and large department stores
 - Offended his idea of superiority of Aryan people
 - He also blamed Jewish businessmen and bankers for the defeat of Germany in WWI
 - Believed they had forced the surrender

EARLY MEASURES

- As soon as Hitler took power in 1933, he mobilised full powers of state against
 - Immediately banned from the **Civil Service** and **public jobs** such as broadcasting and teaching
 - SA and SS organised **boycotts** of Jewish shops and businesses
 - Marked with star of David
 - Goebbels' **propaganda** experts bombarded German children and families with anti-Jewish messages
 - Daily **discrimination** against Jewish people
 - Refused jobs
 - Refused service in shops
 - Humiliated and segregated in school

THE NUREMBERG LAWS

- Announced **September 1935** at annual **Nuremberg Rally**
- 2 laws
 - The 'Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honour'
 - Made it illegal for Jews to marry or have sex with Aryans
 - The 'Reich Citizenship Law'
 - Classified Germans into different racial groups
 - Aryans of pure German blood
 - Mischling mixed race
 - Non-Aryans, including Jews
 - later in the year, further decree added Roma and black people

Only Aryans were given full German citizenship

KRISTALLNACHT

The Night of Broken Glass

- In November 1938 a young Jewish man killed a German diplomat in Paris
 - Nazis used this as an excuse to launch a violent revenge on Jewish people
- SS troopers issued plain clothed
 - Pickaxes and hammers
 - Ran riot and smashed Jewish businesses
- Damage
 - 91 Jewish people murdered
 - Hundreds of synagogues burned
 - 21,000 Jews taken to camps
 - Thousands more left the country
- Reactions
 - Nazi-controlled press presented this as the spontaneous reaction of ordinary Germans
 - Most Germans did not believe this
 - Few protested (those who did murdered)