



United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Washington, D.C.

Introduction and Instructions

The factors that led to the rise of the Nazi Party and eventual appointment of its leader, Adolf Hitler, as Chancellor of Germany, are long and complex. The period in Germany between the two World Wars, known as the Weimar Republic, was tumultuous and marked by cross-party conflict that pitted various factions against each other. Out of this chaos, the Nazis and the far-right seized power and plunged the world into another war. In the end, millions of Jews and others who resisted fascism were murdered in concentration camps and brutal warfare. In addition to any prior knowledge you may have, use your research skills and the resources provided here to answer the questions below.



How did Hitler become Chancellor of Germany? Read more to find out.

READ: <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/the-nazi-rise-to-power>



Learn about what the Holocaust was and the events that led up to it.

WATCH: <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/world-history/euro-hist/human-rights/v/the-holocaust>

1. What were two events that helped set the stage for the rise of the far-right and the Nazi Party?

2. Why did President Paul von Hindenburg appoint Adolf Hitler chancellor of Germany?

3. Who did the Nazis blame for all of Germany's problems?

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4. How did the Nazi party gain more power? What tactics did they use?

5. Which groups collaborated with Hitler and the Nazi Party?

6. Name the force that acted as Hitler's personal body guard and eventually controlled the concentration camps.

7. By 1935, how were the rights of Jews restricted in Germany?

8. What was Kristallnacht? What does this word mean in English and why was it called this?

9. What were the Nuremberg Laws?

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10. What was the “Final Solution”?

11. What were the “killing centers” and what happened there?

12. How did the Jews resist?

13. Who liberated the camps?

14. Where did many of the Jewish displaced persons end up immigrating?

15. About how many Jews were killed in the Holocaust?

16. What other major groups were also persecuted during the Holocaust?

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WHAT DO YOU THINK? *This is your chance to share your opinions, make connections, and apply what you've learned!*

1. Why do you think so many countries were reluctant to take in Jewish refugees during the rise of Hitler?

2. The phrase “never again” is often used by Jewish people to memorialize their struggle during the Holocaust and as a reminder to ensure that racist and xenophobic nationalism never takes hold again. Would you be able to recognize this kind of nationalism if it existed in your own country? What are some of the signs and lessons we can learn from studying the rise of the Nazi Party?

3. Why is it important to capture the stories of those who survived the Holocaust?