

Nazi Actions Against Jews, 1933-39

1. When and how were the Jews persecuted?

	How is Hitler attacking the Jews? (tick as appropriate)		
	Mental Health	Material Comforts	Physical Health
1933: Early Moves			
▪ Jewish teachers and civil servants were sacked.			
▪ Jews were banned from public places like parks / cafes.			
▪ Hitler declared a one-day boycott of Jewish businesses			
1935: The Nuremberg Laws:			
▪ Jews were not allowed to marry non-Jews.			
▪ Jews had to wear the 'Star of David'.			
▪ Jewish children were expelled from non-Jewish schools.			
▪ Jews were banned from being German citizens.			
1938: Kristallnacht			
▪ 91 Jews were murdered			
▪ 20,000 Jews were put into concentration camps			
▪ 200 Jewish synagogues were burnt.			
▪ Jews were fined 1 billion marks			

Discussion points:

1. Do the actions of this table suggest that Hitler's policies were mainly motivated by religious, racial, political or economic factors? Explain your answer.

2. Over half of German Jews emigrated 1933-39. When would you have left as a Jew, and why?

3. Many Jews nevertheless chose to stay. Why do you think that this was?

2. Did other countries do enough to help the Jews?

A. Kindertransport

▪ Between 1938-39 10,000 Jewish children were sent from Germany, Poland, Austria and Czechoslovakia to England and taken in by generous families.

"I am proud that the Government of the time offered you refuge and help... You came to us as homeless children and grew up to enrich the life of this country with your courage and fortitude."

Margaret Thatcher, British PM, speaking at a reunion of the Kinder in 1989

B. The Evian Conference

- Many Jews tried to flee Germany, but many countries refused to accept them.
- An international conference in 1938 failed to agree on even a partial 'open-door' policy. The European and American delegates argued that their economy would not be able to support more immigrants.

"As we have no racial problem, we are not desirous of importing one."

The Australian Representative at the Evian Conference, 1938

1. According to Margaret Thatcher, what are the benefits of immigration?
2. According to the Australian Representative, what are the disadvantages?
3. Provide a definition for each of the following:
 - (a) Asylum Seeker
 - (b) Economic Migrant
 - (c) Illegal Immigrant

3. How should we deal with immigrants today?

Homework / Extension Task

- Imagine you are the Prime Minister. Produce a document to help the government decide whether a person entering the country from abroad should be allowed to stay there permanently.
- This could be in the form of a "decision tree" which starts with one simple question; a "yes" takes you one direction, a "no" a different direction. Through a series of questions in this format, you can guide the person using it to a decision.

Things you may wish (or not!) to think about to get you started:

- Are they claiming asylum (= they are being unfairly persecuted at home) ▪ What religion are they? ▪ Do they come from a wealthy / aristocratic family? ▪ What country are they from? ▪ What is the colour of their skin? ▪ Do they have any family they want to bring across? ▪ Do they have a criminal record? ▪ Do they understand English? ▪ Do they have a trade or profession? ▪ Are they likely to be able to contribute to the economy? ▪ Why do they want to be here? ▪ Did they come into the country legally? ▪ Do we know anything about their past?