

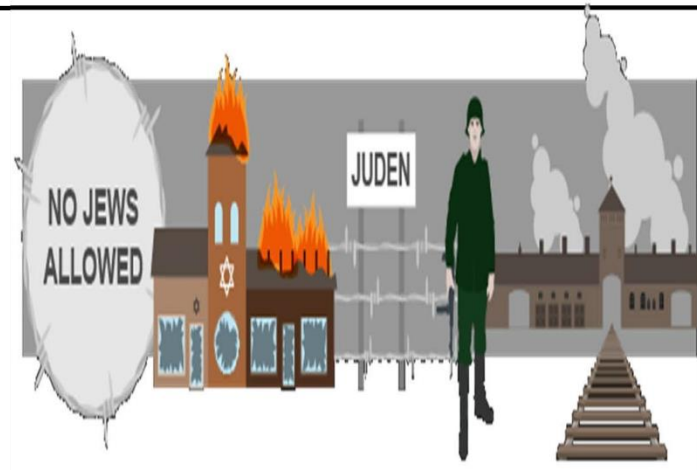
The Holocaust: How and why did it occur?



Key word	Definition
Antisemitism	Hostility and prejudice towards Jews
Concentration camp	A place where large numbers of people are imprisoned to provide labour
Genocide	The deliberate killing of a large group of people
Ghetto	A part of a city occupied by a minority group, usually by force
Holocaust	The mass murder of Jews and other minorities during the 1940s
Kindertransport	The British operation to evacuate Jewish children from Germany
Persecution	Hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race or religion
Prejudice	A preconceived opinion not based on facts
Stereotype	A widely-held but generalised image of a type of person

The Holocaust illustrates the consequences of prejudice, racism and stereotyping on a society. It forces us to examine the responsibilities of citizenship and confront the powerful ramifications of indifference and inaction. The future can only be secured if communities are prepared to set aside all political, cultural and religious differences and work together.

Kitty Hart-Moxon



What do I need to know?	
	Before 1933 Jews lived throughout Europe- around 9 million people in countries that would later be occupied by the Nazis. Those in the East were fairly traditional and kept themselves segregated, but in Western Europe they were more modern and integrated.
	The Nazis began a systematic persecution of the Jews from the beginning. The Nuremberg Laws allowed them to do this legally. Jews were fired from their jobs, their businesses destroyed and forced to live in cramped, dirty ghettos where many died of starvation.
	There are plenty of instances of resistance , most famously the Warsaw Ghetto uprising where Jews attempted to fight back. The British government did some to help by organising the Kindertransport , and many individuals helped to rescue and hide Jewish families, like that of Anne Frank.
	Concentration camps were where prisoners were forced to live and work in appalling conditions until they died of disease, starvation or exhaustion. Death camps were where Jews were murdered in gas chambers as soon as they arrived. Around 11 million people died in the camps during the Holocaust. 6 million of them were Jewish.
	Most people blame Hitler and his deputies for this genocide , but blame can also be laid at the feet of perpetrators like the camp guards and those who took part in violence and persecution against Jews. There is also an argument that bystanders were also to blame as they did nothing to stop what they saw happening to Jews and others.

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