

Ch 24 Section 3 The Holocaust

The Persecution Begins

Jews Targeted

- Europe has long history of anti-Semitism
- Germans believe Hitler's claims, blame Jews for problems
- Nazis take away citizenship, jobs, property; require Star of David
- **Holocaust**—murder of 11 million people, more than half are Jews

Kristallnacht

- ***Kristallnacht***—Nazis attack Jewish homes, businesses, synagogues
- About 100 Jews killed, hundreds injured, 30,000 arrested

The Plight of the *St. Louis*

- Coast Guard prevents passengers on *St. Louis* from disembarking
- Ship forced to return to Europe; most passengers killed in Holocaust

Hitler's "Final Solution"

The Condemned

- Hitler's Final Solution—slavery, genocide of "inferior" groups
- **Genocide**—deliberate, systematic killing of an entire population
- Target Jews, gypsies, freemasons, Jehovah's Witnesses, unfit Germans
- Nazi death squads round up Jews, shoot them

Forced Relocation

- Jews forced into **ghettos**, segregated areas in Polish cities
- Some form resistance movements; others maintain Jewish culture

Concentration Camps

- Many Jews taken to **concentration camps**, or labor camps
 - families often separated
- Camps originally prisons; given to SS to warehouse "undesirables"
- Prisoners crammed into wooden barracks, given little food
- Work dawn to dusk, 7 days per week
- Those too weak to work are killed

The Final Stage

Mass Exterminations

- Germans build death camps; gas chambers used to kill thousands
- On arrival, SS doctors separate those who can work
- Those who can't work immediately killed in gas chamber
- At first bodies buried in pits; later cremated to cover up evidence
- Some are shot, hanged, poisoned, or die from experiments

The Survivors

- About 6 million Jews killed in death camps, massacres
- Some escape, many with help from ordinary people
- Some survive concentration camps
 - survivors forever changed by experience