



The Holocaust: Causes, Events, and Effects

A Visual Study of One of History's Darkest Chapters
Jonathan Meyer

Cause – Antisemitism Before 1933



Even before the rise of the Nazi Party, antisemitism had a strong presence in Europe. Jews had come to be blamed unjustly for Germany's loss of the First World War and the resulting economic devastation.

Event – Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass), 1938



Kristallnacht was a night of violent assault on Jewish households, synagogues, and stores that was carried out in Germany and Austria. It was the point when antisemiticism evolved to open, state-sanctioned violence.

Event – Auschwitz Concentration Camp



One of the largest and best-known of the concentration camps at which mass murder was carried out was Auschwitz. More than one million Jews and other targeted populations were murdered here in gas chambers, through forced labor, and by starvation.

Effect – Liberation of the Camps (1945)



When Allied troops liberated concentration camps in 1945, they discovered gaunt survivors and heaps of dead bodies. What they saw horrified the world and uncovered the true scale of the genocide.



Reflection – Preventing Future Genocides

To end future genocides, the global community must act in a timely manner against initial warning indicators of hate speech, discriminatory legislation, and political scapegoating. Education is the key we need to educate generations to come about the facts of previous genocides and teach empathy and critical thinking skills. Governments and organizations need to backup policies of defending human rights and holding the leaders responsible before violence mounts. Genocide doesn't occur overnight, it starts in small hateful acts that go unpunished. We can prevent genocide by being up to the task of standing up to injustice wherever it starts.