Section 5 – 1933 – 1941 – the racial state

**1933** – 1934 – legal revolution

**1934** – 1937 – creating the new Germany

**1936** – Olympic games in Berlin – anti-Semitism put under wraps

**1938 – 1939** – radicalisation of the state – Hitler took control of the army

* Social Darwinism and race theory used to justify idea of racial superiority and theory of Eugenics
* Key Nazi idea to ‘purify’ stronger races by eliminating the ‘germs’ that threatened to poison them – through inter-marriage with so called degenerate races
* Nazi principles of ‘racial hygiene’ justified the sterilisation of the mentally and physically disabled, and other ‘racial undesirables’, homosexuals, pacifists and Jehovah’s witnesses

**1920s** – theme of removing racial enemies ran through much of the more extreme Nazi propaganda

* Mentally ill and physically disabled considered to be ‘biological outsiders’ from the Volksgemeinshaft because their hereditary ‘defects’ made them a threat to the future of the Aryan race

**July 1933** – sterilisation law introduced compulsory sterilisation for certain categories of ‘inferiors’

**1935** – law amended to permit abortions in cases where those deemed for suitable for sterilisation were already pregnant

**1936** – x-ray sterilisation of women over 38 years was introduced – ban on abortion and contraception for Aryan women and girls in an attempt to increase the birth rate

* Decisions about sterilisation were made at Hereditary Health Courts
* 60% of those sterilised were feeble minded – categorised as suffering from idiocy
* The idea of ‘moral insanity’ as also used as a basis for sterilisation – excuse to prevent births among ‘criminal underclass’ and ‘anti-socials’
* 400,000 people were sterilised

**October 1939** – regime had authorised Euthanasia for the mentally and physically disabled

**1939** – Hitler issued a directive announcing that he would personally protect from persecution the doctors who carried out ‘mercy killings’

* Philip Bouhler given authority to deal with similar cases in the future
* Over 5000 children killed
* Bouhler and Brandt used their authority to extend Euthanasia to adults

**October 1939** – programme rapidly extended – moved to headquarters in Berlin – T4 – made judgements

**1941** – rumours about the policy of Euthanasia were spreading widely and aroused opposition

**July 1940** – many protests made from the Churches

**July 1940** – Protestant Pastor Braune wrote a long memorandum, protesting about the T4 programme

**12th August 1940** – Braune was arrested by the Gestapo

**2nd December 1940** – an official statement from Rome pronounced that the direct killing of people with mental or physical defects was against the ‘natural and positive law of God’

**3rd August 1941** – Catholic Archbishop Galen of Munster preached a sermon making an emotive attack on euthanasia – backed by specific evidence provided by local congregation members – thousands of copies of Galen’s sermons were printed and distributed – this sparked further protests and public demonstrations

**24th August 1941** – Hitler halted the programme

September 1933 – mass round up of ‘tramps and beggars’ – orderly and disorderly

**1936** – before Olympic Games were held in Berlin – the police rounded up large numbers of ‘tramps and beggars’ to project an image of a hardworking and dynamic society to the world

**1936** – ‘asocial colony’ was set up – known as Hashude, in northern Germany, the aim of the colony was to re-educate the asocials so that they could be integrated into society

**1938** – bigger round up of beggars, tramps, pimps and gypsies – most of these were sent to Buchenwald concentration camp, where few survived the harsh treatment

**1933** – Nazis began a purge of homosexual organisations and literature – clubs were closed down, organisations for gay people were banned and gay publications were outlawed

**May 1933** – Nazi students attacked the Institute of Sex Research, a gay organisation, and burned its library – they also seized the Institute’s list of names and addresses of gay people

**1934** – Gestapo began to compile lists of gay people – in the same year the SS eliminated Rohm and other leaders of the Nazi SA who were homosexuals

**1935** – law on homosexuality amended to widen definition and impose harsher penalties for those convicted –

**1936 – 1938** – after law was changed – over 22,000 men arrested and imprisoned between 1936 and 1938

**1936** – Himmler created the Reich Office for the Combatting of Homosexuality and Abortion

* Overall, 100,000 men were arrested for homosexuality – 50,000 were convicted – even men who served their sentences were rearrested by Gestapo or SS and held in concentration camps under ‘preventive custody’

**November 1933** – most Christian sects were banned – international links aroused suspicions – ban on some sects lifted when they demonstrated their willingness to cooperate with the regime – Gestapo agents attended and reported on their services

**1945** – by 1945 around 10,000 Jehovah’s witnesses had been imprisoned and many had died

**1935** – growing persecution of Germany’s 30,000 gypsies – Nazi legal experts ruled that Nuremburg laws applied to gypsies as well even though they were not specifically mentioned

**December 1938** – Himmler issued a decree for the struggle against the Jewish plague – led to more systematic classification of Gypsies

**September 1939** – after the war broke out, Gypsies were deported from Germany to Poland

**1st April 1933** – Boycott of Jewish shops and businesses – Hitler claimed it was a retaliation against Jews in Germany and abroad who called for a boycott of German goods – featured in news coverage in Germany and abroad – abandoned after 1 day

**April 1933** – Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service – requiring Jews to be dismissed from the Civil Service

* President Hindenburg insisted on exemptions for German Jews who had served in the first world war – and for those whose fathers had been killed in the war – kept in place until death
* Exemptions lessened impact of law as it applied to two thirds of Jews in the Civil Service

**1933** – 37,000 Jews left Germany – most Jews stayed behind

**1933** – 60% of non-Aryan lawyers were able to continue in spite of the new regulations – 16% of lawyers were Jews

**April 1933** – regime announced a ban on Jewish doctors – more than 10% of German doctors were Jews – propaganda – many Jewish doctors carried on their normal practice for several years after 1933

**April 1933** – Law against overcrowding of German Schools and Universities – restricted number of Jewish children who could attend

**October 1933** – Reich Press Law – enabled regime to apply strict censorship and close down publications they disliked

**October 1933** – Exclusion of German Jews from the press

**1935** – many fanatical anti-Semites were restless because they believed the Nazi persecution of the Jews had not gone far enough

**1935** – at the Nuremburg Party Rally, Hitler announced that the Communist International had declared war on Nazism and that it was time to ‘deal once and for all with Jewish-Bolshevism’

**15th September 1935** – the Nuremburg Laws introduced

* Reich Citizenship Law – meant that someone could be a German Citizen only if they had pure German blood
* The Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honour outlawed marriage between Aryans and non-Aryans – it was made illegal for German citizens to marry Jews – and sexual relations with Jews also illegal
* Law later extended to cover any physical contact between Jews and Aryans
* Aryan women pressured to leave Jewish husbands

**November 1935** – Supplementary Decree on the Reich Citizenship Law – defined what constituted a ‘full Jew’ – someone who had 3 Jewish grandparents and was married to a Jew

* Mischlinge were able to continue relatively normal lives

**March 1938** – although Austria was banned under Treaty of Versailles – it was achieved – German takeover of Austria was achieved without a shot being fired and German troops were welcomed enthusiastically by the Austrian people

**September 1938** – Hitler risked war with Britain and France over his demand for the Sudetenland to be handed over to Germany

**March 1939** – Hitler achieved another success with the occupation of the rest of Czechoslovakia

**August 1939** – Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia signed a non-aggression pact – in which the USSR agreed not to oppose the German invasion of Poland

**1st September 1939** – German invasion of Poland led to war between Germany and Britain and France two days later

**March 1938** – occupation of Austria led to rapid acceleration of the economic campaign against the Jews as the Nazis in Austria were able to act against the Jews with no restraint – this prompted Goering to take more radical action in Germany

**April 1938** – the Decree of Registration of Jewish Property provided for the confiscation of all Jewish-owned property worth more than 5000 marks – starting point of Aryanisation of Jewish property and businesses

**April 1938** – roughly 40,000 Jewish owned businesses in Germany

**1939** – only 8000 had avoided being closed down or ‘Aryanised’

**1938** – Jews lost their entitlement to public welfare – Jews depended on charities set up by Jewish community

**October 1938** – Jewish passports stamped with a large ‘J’ – stripped individuality

**1939** – new law compelling all Jewish men to adopt the additional first name of ‘Israel’, all Jewish women took the additional first name of ‘Sarah’ – Hitler turned down suggestion of making all Jews wear a yellow star in public which did not come into practice until 1941

**November 1938** – Jews forbidden visit theatres, etc

**November 1938** – Reichkristallnacht – Jewish homes and businesses were looted and vandalised – synagogues were set ablaze – thousands of Jews were arrested, beaten up and killed – pogrom can be viewed as uncontrollable outpouring of anti-Semitic feeling amongst radical elements of the Nazi movement

November 1938 – Hitler gave Goering coordinating role to sort things out – situation similar to April 1933

9th November 1938 – Nazis seized opportunity presented by murder of Ernst vom Rath – he was a minor German official in Paris who was killed by a Jew angry at the treatment of his parents by the Nazi regime

* In violence, 91 Jews were killed – thousands injured
* Goering moved quickly to prevent insurance companies from paying out compensation to Jewish victims
* The Jews had to pick up the cost of repairs
* Jewish community also made to pay a 1 billion Reichsmark contribution in compensation for the disruption to the economy

**1938 – 1941** – emigration was seen as the ‘solution to the Jewish problem’ by the Nazi leadership– contradictory as they stripped them of their assets making it more difficult

**March 1933 – November 1938** – 150,000 Jews voluntarily left Germany

**1938 – 1939** – 9000 Jews were sent to Britain

March 1938 – after the union with Austria – Heydrich used Austria as a laboratory for developing SS policy – the central office for Jewish emigration was set up

* 45,000 of Austria’s 180,000 were forced to emigrate
* the illegal seizure of Jewish property was used to fund the emigration of poorer Jews

**January 1939** – Heydrich took charge of the Reich Office for Jewish Emigration – with the task of promoting the emigration of Jews

**November 1938** – Expulsion of all Jewish pupils from schools

**December 1938** – compulsory sale of all Jewish businesses

**September 1939** – German invasion of Poland

**September 1939** – Ghettoisation of Jews in Poland

**October 1939** – Euthanasia programme authorised by Hitler

**November 1939** – Jews in occupied Poland made to wear Star of David

**April 1940** – German invasion of Western Europe

**September 1939** – Poland was carved into three separate areas – Eastern Poland was occupied by the USSR in accordance with the Nazi-Soviet Pact of August 1939 – the west parts of Poland were incorporated into the German Reich – the area in between was designated the ‘general government’ of Poland under a Nazi governor Hans Frank

* the Nazi master plan was to drive Jews and Poles out of the western parts of Poland so that the empty lands could be completely Germanised
* the conquest of Poland enormously increased the number of Jews under Nazi control
* general government district – dumping ground for Poles and Jews

**September 1939** – Hitler informed Alfred Rosenburg, his minister for the eastern occupied territories, that all Jews, including those from the Reich were to be moved to the area between the river Vistula and the river bug

**September 1939** – in area between Warsaw and Lublin, a Ghetto was established to contain deported Poles and Jews – conditions intended to be bad so most would die

**November 1939 – February 1940** – SS attempted to deport 1 million people eastwards – they were transported to the General Government where they faced terrible conditions

* authorities could not cope with mass deportations of Jews from Germany and Austria at the same time as many people were already entering this area
* Hans Frank complained vigorously to his superiors in Berlin that the General Government could not take any more Jews

**May – June 1940** – rapid conquest of France by German armies

**1936** – Reich Security Head Office led by Eichmann had been working on schemes for mass emigration of Jews to Palestine

**1940** – Madagascar plan – decision to exterminate Jews had not been made at this point – ‘final solution’ was not inevitable – plan is proof they wanted to send Jews somewhere to die

* Germany’s failure to end the war with Britain – either by military victory or a peace agreement – meant the British Royal Navy was able to disrupt mass transportation of Jews by sea to Madagascar

**October 1940** – Hitler was already planning for Operation Barbarossa – plan to send Europe’s Jews deep into Siberia, once the conquest of USSR was complete

**October 1940** – Hitler won a series of Blitzkrieg victories in the west, defeating France and leaving Britain isolated

* France came under a Nazi puppet regime ruled from the town of Vichy

**August 1939** – Hitler and Stalin, the leader of the communist USSR, had concluded the Nazi-Soviet Pact, which guaranteed that the USSR would not intervene when Germany invaded Poland – temporary truce

**October 1940** – Hitler started detailed planning for conquest of the USSR

**June 1941** – Hitler launched operation Barbarossa – German armies swept across the USSR – occupying vast territories in eastern Poland, the Baltic States, western Russia and Ukraine

* The war in the east was to be a war of racial annihilation, fought with a savagery and ideological intensity on a completely different scale than the relatively civilised struggle against the western allies

**1941** – German invasion deep into western parts of the USSR immediately brought more than 3 million Soviet Jews under German rule – the war was especially brutal – before invasion launched, Hitler issued instruction to ‘eliminate’ the ‘Bolshevik-Jewish intelligentsia

**June 1941** – no explicit order from Hitler to kill all the Jews in the Soviet Union

**July 1941** – killing mission was made clear when Goering issued a general order to kill. Communist commissars and Jewish sympathisers

**November 1939** – radio sets were confiscated from Jews and Jews were banned from buying radios

**December 1939** – Jews were banned from buying chocolate

**1940** – Jews excluded from wartime rationing allowances for clothing and shoes

**July 1940** – order limited Jews to entering shops at restricted times only – Berlin 4 – 5

**1941** – regulations were tightened up to require Jews to have a police permit to travel

**December 1941** – an order compelled the Jews in Germany to wear the yellow Star of David – as was already the case with Jews in occupied territories

**October 1940** – largest Ghetto was established in Warsaw, Poland

**1940 – 1941** – more than 100,000 people died in the Warsaw Ghetto

**February 1940** – first Ghetto set up in Lodz – 320,000 Jews were living in the city – their immediate evacuation was impossible

* In total 500,000 Jews died in Ghettos
* Nazis massively restricted amount of food, medical supplies and other goods that entered the overcrowded Ghettos

**June – July 1941** – as German forces overran the western territories of the USSR, ‘special groups’ called Einsatzgruppen were sent in to eliminate communist officials, Red army commissars, partisans and the Jewish Bolshevist intelligentsia

**1941** – in the second half of 1941, the Einsatzgruppen carried out numerous mass killings of soviet Jews

**June – July 1941** – possibly half a million soviet Jews killed were killed by the Einsatzgruppen

* The Einsatzgruppen were temporary units made up of police and regular troops commanded by men from the Gestapo, the SD and the criminal police under the overall direction of the SS
* Einsatzgruppen had been in operation before 1941

**1938 – 1939** – Heydrich and the RSHA had organised Special Groups to secure government buildings and to seize official files at the time of the union with Austria and when Germany occupies Prague

**1939** – special groups were used extensively in support of military operations in the invasion of Poland, where they were involved in special actions against Jews and many Poles – local volunteers were often recruited to assist them

* Key responsibilities of Einsatzgruppen included the mass shooting of Jews and forcing Jews into Ghettos in the cities
* In total it is believed the Einsatzgruppen in Poland killed 15,000 people

**1939** – it is estimated that 7000 Jews were killed in Poland

**1941** – four Einsatzgruppen of between 600 and 1000 men, followed behind the first wave of the German army as it swept into the Soviet Union

* The Einsatzgruppen were supported by police reserve army units
* Police battalions included many ordinary men conscripted into the police instead of the regular army
* The total number of men now involved in the mass killing of Jews and communist party officials rose to 400,000 men
* The Einsatzgruppen were also supported by auxiliary groups that they recruited from the local populations – there were many eager volunteers

**December 1941** – outbreak of war between Hitler and USA