

# Year 9 History: World Conflict



## Key Questions:

1. How were people ruled?
2. What was life like?
3. What did people believe?
4. What continued and changed?
5. How significant was the period?
6. How do we know about the period?



What were the causes of WWI and what was life like?



What impact did WWI have on Europe and the rest of the world?



How did dictators come into power?



What are the lessons to be learnt from WWII?



How did the persecution of the Jews escalate over time?



Why didn't WWII end world conflict?

1882: Triple Alliance formed.  
1907: Triple Entente formed.

28<sup>th</sup> June 1914: Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassinated.

1914 – 1918: The Great War, later known as World War One.

1<sup>st</sup> July – 18<sup>th</sup> November 1916: Battle of the Somme

1917: Russian Revolution.

1929 – 1933: Hitler's rise to power.

1922 – 1943: Benito Mussolini dictator – or 'il Duce' – of Italy.

1923 & 1929-1933: Economic Turbulence

1920: League of Nations established

June 28<sup>th</sup> 1919: Signing of the Treaty of Versailles

1939 – 1945: World War Two

1940: Operation Dynamo  
1941: Operation Barbarossa and Pearl Harbour

1942: Battles of Midway and El-Alamein  
1943: Battle of Stalingrad

1944: D-Day  
1945: Atomic Bomb

1935: Nuremburg Laws passed.

1954 – 1968: American Civil Rights Movement

1945 – 1968: Arms Race  
1957 – 1969: Space Race

1945 – 1949: Soviet Expansion  
1946: Term 'Iron Curtain' coined by Churchill

February 1945: Yalta Conference  
July 1945: Potsdam Conference

1942 – 1945: The Final Solution

**TOPIC: Appeasement and World War 2 (1935-45)** This period of history charts the road to WW2 through the period of ‘appeasement’ during the 1930s and then on to the war itself. You will study some of the major events of WW2, including Dunkirk, the Battle of Britain, Pearl Harbour the Battle of Midway, The Battle for Moscow, Stalingrad, Operation Barbarossa, Operation Torch, and the D-Day landings. You will have the opportunity to study life on the Home Front, including evacuation, rationing and Britain in the Blitz. At the end of the unit you will study events around the controversial dropping of the Atomic Bombs on Japan and form your own opinion of these events as well as look at women’s role in WWII including the role of Violette Szabo.



Timeline:		Key Words:	
1935	Hitler begins German rearmament and announces conscription	Auxiliary Services	Volunteer groups - helped regular firemen, ambulance drivers, etc
1936	Hitler orders German troops to re-militarise the Rhineland	Allies	United States of America, Great Britain and the USSR (Russia)
1938	<i>Anschluss</i> Germany/Austria united (April) & Munich Crisis (Sept)	Anderson	Pre-fabricated air raid shelter, put in garden, with corrugated steel roof
1938-39	German invasion of Sudetenland & Czechoslovakia (Sept & Mar)	AFS / ARP	Auxiliary Fire Service & Air Raid Precaution – volunteers in the Blitz
Sept. 1939	Germany invades Poland / Britain declares war on Germany	Appeasement	Policy of avoiding war by making concessions to an aggressor
1939-45	Battle of the Atlantic: German U-Boats attack British shipping	Atomic Bomb	Worlds first nuclear weapons dropped on Hiroshima & Nagasaki (Japan)
May 1940	Chamberlain resigns and Churchill becomes Prime Minister	Axis Powers	Germany, Italy and Japan (Hitler, Mussolini and Emperor Hirohito)
Spring 1940	Blitzkrieg in western Europe: Belgium, Denmark, Holland, France	Blitzkrieg	Literally “lightning war” using Stukas, Paratroopers & Panzer tanks
June 1940	Dunkirk ‘Operation Dynamo’ / France surrenders to Germany	Conscription	Compulsory military service, e.g. to be conscripted into the Army
Summer 1940	Battle of Britain / Operation Sea-Lion abandoned by Hitler	Convoy system	Organising merchant ships into groups under Royal Navy escort
1940/41	The Blitz: <i>Luftwaffe</i> bombs British industrial cities and London	Evacuation	To move civilians, usually women & children, to safety in the countryside
June 1941	Operation Barbarossa: Germany invades USSR ( <i>Lebensraum</i> )	Home Front	People engaged in war activity at home, e.g. Women’s Land Army
Dec 1941	Pearl Harbour: Japanese surprise attack US Pacific fleet (Hawaii)	Home Guard	Volunteer army recruited for local and home defence in case of invasion
Aug 1942	Battle of Midway: Japanese aircraft carriers sunk by US carriers	Incendiary bombs	Special bombs designed to start fires in built-up areas, not explode
1942/43	Battle of Stalingrad fought between German and Russian troops	Isolationism	US policy where they withdrew from European affairs after WW1
Summer 1943	Battle of <i>El Alamein</i> (North Africa) and Italy surrenders to allies	League Of Nations	International peace-keeping organisation set up after WW1 (and failed)
June 1944	Allied ‘D-Day’ landings on Normandy coast / France liberated	<i>Luftwaffe</i>	The German Air Force - fought the RAF during the Battle of Britain
Jan 1945	Auschwitz (in Poland) is liberated by advancing Russian troops	Maginot Line	Strong line of defences built by the French to stop German attack
Feb 1945	Allied air power (RAF/USAAF) bombing of Dresden – fire storm!	Rationing	Limit the amount of food, water & other commodities in wartime
8th May 1945	VE Day – Germany surrenders after Hitler’s suicide in Berlin	Spitfire	Famous WW2 fighter plane - helped the RAF win Battle of Britain
14 <sup>th</sup> Aug 1945	VJ Day – Japan surrenders after USA drops the Atomic Bombs	U-Boat	Literally “undersea boat” or submarine as used by the Germans



**Violette Szabo** was a British/French Special Operations Executive agent during the Second World War and a posthumous recipient of the George Cross



*‘History will be kind to me for I intend to write it.’*  
**Churchill**



Key People:		Key People:	
What they did?		What they did?	
Neville Chamberlain	Prime Minster of Britain during appeasement period	Field Marshall Montgomery	British General who won the Battle of <i>El Alamein</i>
Sir Winston Churchill	Prime Minister of Britain and iconic WW2 leader	Benito Mussolini	‘Duce’ (dictator) of Italy & Hitler’s ally in the Axis
General Eisenhower	Supreme Commander of Allied Forces D-Day (1944)	Franklin D. Roosevelt	President of the USA throughout most of WW2
Arthur ‘Bomber’ Harris	Head of Bomber Command – ordered Dresden bombing	Joseph Stalin	Ruthless dictator of the USSR during WW2 (allied leader)
Adolf Hitler	Fuhrer (supreme leader) of Germany during WW2	Harry Truman	President of USA - ordered dropping of Atomic Bombs

## Battle of Britain

July - September 1940

The German air force fails in its attempt to destroy the Royal Air Force. The planned invasion of Britain is cancelled. Attacks on Britain continue in the form of night time bombing of cities.



## Germany Invades Poland

1 September 1939

France and the British Empire declare war on Germany two days later. Two weeks later Soviet troops invade the eastern half of Poland. Poland is defeated in just over four weeks.



## Axis Invade USSR

22 June 1941

German forces together with Italy, Romania, Hungary and Finland invade the USSR. Determined resistance and the size of the USSR prevent the Axis forces from achieving a decisive victory.

Volunteers from occupied countries also form their own contingents to fight against communism.



## Germany Declares War on USA

11 December 1941

Following Japan's attack on the USA and Allied forces in the Pacific, Germany and Italy declare war on the USA. Although not bound by treaty with Japan, Hitler sees war with the USA as inevitable.



## Battle of El Alamein

23 October 1942

British Empire forces attack Axis forces in Egypt. After a 10 day battle the axis forces are decisively defeated and forced to retreat westwards.

"This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."  
Winston Churchill



## Axis forces surrounded in Stalingrad

23 November 1942

265,000 Axis soldiers are cut off in Stalingrad by a Soviet counter attack. Attempts to relieve them fail and the planned supply by air is inadequate. Stalingrad finally surrenders after a 5 month siege.



## Operation Overlord

6 June 1944

Allied forces land in Normandy. After two months of heavy fighting, German forces retreat eastwards out of France.



## Assassination Attempt on Hitler

10 July 1944

Hitler survives an explosion from a bomb planted in his conference room, and the planned coup to overthrow the Nazi government by German commanders fails.



## Hitler Commits Suicide

30 April 1945

As Soviet troops close in on Hitler's bunker in Berlin, and two days after Mussolini is killed, Hitler kills himself. Hitler's body is burnt. Admiral Donitz becomes head of state.



## VE Day

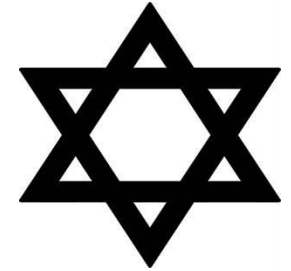
8 May 1945

8 May is proclaimed "Victory in Europe Day". A public holiday is declared in the UK.





**TOPIC: Hitler and the Holocaust (1933-45)** Just 1% of the German population were Jews and Hitler saw them as the enemy who had to be deprived of power and privileges, and if possible, driven out of the country. Once Hitler became Chancellor in 1933, he began to turn the law against them. They were dismissed from the armed forces and the civil service, and people were encouraged to boycott Jewish owned businesses. Jews were made to wear a Star of David to make it easy to recognise them. Jews lost their German citizenship, they were banned from attending schools and universities, and increasingly, violence was used against them in the late 1930s including concentration camps for some. But there was no plan for mass-murder until World War 2 began. Jews under Nazi rule were rounded up during WW2, personal belongings were seized, and they were moved into ghettos and concentration camps and also used as slave labour. Jews were eventually sent to death camps in Poland where they were murdered in the 'Final Solution.' There was a similar fate for many gypsies, homosexuals and Jehovah's Witnesses.



TIMELINE:		KEY VOCABULARY:	
1933	Hitler is Chancellor and first concentration camp at Dachau	Anti-Semitism	Prejudice against the Jews in either words or deeds
1933-4	Hitler establishes his 'dictatorship' and rules by decree	Auschwitz	Biggest death camp built in Poland during WW2
1933	The SA (brown shirts) organise a boycott of Jewish shops	Aryan	A stereotypical German with blonde hair and blue eyes
1935	Nuremburg Laws remove citizenship & rights for Jews	Concentration camp	Big prison camps built all over Germany after 1933
1938	<i>Kristallnacht</i> violence – the Night of the Broken Glass	Death camps	Built in Poland (6) during WW2 to murder Europe's Jews
1939	Britain declares war on Germany after invasion of Poland	<i>Einsatzgruppen</i>	SS killing squads sent to murder Jews in Russia in WW2
1940	First ghettos built in Polish cities - Krakow, Warsaw & Lodz	Final Solution	SS plan to murder every European Jew during WW2
1941	<i>Einsatzgruppen</i> (death squads) begin shooting Jews in the east	Genocide	To murder an entire race of people, e.g. the Jews
1941	German Jews forced to wear the Star of David on their clothes	Ghetto	Walled-off part of a city where Jews were forcibly moved
1942	Wansee Conference plans 'Final Solution' – death camps	Holocaust	Murder of Europe's Jews during WW2 – "death by fire"
1942	Auschwitz-Birkenau developed into the biggest death camp	Kinder-transport	Evacuation of 10,000 Jewish children to the UK in 1939
1944	Treblinka camp dismantled & hidden before Soviet liberation	<i>Kristallnacht</i>	"Night of Broken Glass" - violence against Jews across Germany
1945	Death camps liberated by the allies from January onwards	Liberation	When advancing allied forces freed Nazi camp prisoners
KEY PEOPLE:		WHAT THEY DID?	
Adolf Hitler	Supreme leader of Germany who hated Jews	Persecute	To taunt, discriminate against or attack another group
Adolf Eichmann	SS man who organised transportation of Jews to death camps	Pogroms	Random anti-Jewish attacks by mobs, e.g. <i>Kristallnacht</i>
Anne Frank	Dutch Jewish girl who hid in an attic for 4 years during WW2	Stormtroopers (SA)	Rohm's Brownshirts – thugs who taunted and attacked Jews
Joseph Goebbels	Hitler's Minister of Propaganda who spread hatred of Jews	Selection	Jews were 'selected' for death or work on arrival at a camp
Heinrich Himmler	Head of the SS - in charge of concentration and death camps	<i>Shoah</i>	Means "calamity" in Hebrew – Jewish reference to Holocaust
Reinhard Heydrich	Evil Nazi general – leader and planner of the Final Solution	<i>Sonderkommando</i>	Units of camp prisoners forced to dispose of the bodies
Rudolf Hoess	SS Commandant of Auschwitz Death Camp (1942-45)	SS	Hitler's elite - organised Final Solution & ran death camps
Primo Levi	Italian Jew who wrote books about his time in Auschwitz	Synagogue	Jewish religious temple (like a church or a mosque)
Ernst Rohm	Head of SA (Brownshirts) - taunted & persecuted Jews	Treblinka	Death camp - dismantled and hidden by the SS in 1944
Elie Wiesel	Hungarian Jew - wrote book "Night" about Auschwitz	Wansee Conference	1942 meeting where Nazi officials planned Final Solution
		Zylon-B gas	Industrial pesticide used to suffocate the Jews at Auschwitz



# The Holocaust

## What was the Holocaust?

**Stages 1**      1933-39    **Nazi remove Jewish influences from society**, eg. the **Nuremberg laws** removing their German citizenship & banning marriages & relationships with Jews. **Kristallnacht** saw over **100 Jews killed** in 1938. By 1939 over half of the Jewish population in Germany have left. (250,000+)

**Stage 2**      1939 – **The Nazi occupy Poland**, where 10% of the population are Jews, over 3.3 million. They change their strategy. Jews are forced from their properties and moved into over **1000 ghettos** across Eastern Europe, awaiting for a later move to a “reservation” which never happened.

**Stage 3**      1941- **The Nazi invade the Soviet Union** – Hitler talks of removing “hostiles” – The **Einsatzgruppen** killing squads of Jews and other groups deemed to be “subhuman” began on an industrial scale. It involved the **SS with locals**. About **1000 men**. The victims were forced to build large pits before they met their fate. Between **autumn and winter of 1941** – over **1 million Jews** were victims of this. The **Babi Yar** is just **1** massacre from many more.

**Stage 4-** - Autumn 1941 Top secret **Operation Reinhard** begins, managed by 20-35 officers. The new weapon of terror was **gas** and the **first death camps** were created in wooded areas, away from towns. Trains brought Jews from ghettos, they would be stripped and gassed in showers immediately after arrival. **Over 1.7 million Polish Jews** were murdered in camps like **Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka**. There was little evidence because there were no survivors. The ash from the crematoriums was used as fertilizer. Any records were from a few who escaped. The Nazis flattened the land by 1944 and converted it to farm land.

**Stage 5** – January 1942 – **Heydrich** organises the “**Final Solution**” at the **Wannsee conference in Berlin** where the Nazis agree to the coordination of mass murder of Jews across Europe. Many death & slave labour camps were set up, **Auschwitz** was the most notorious because **over 1.1 million Jews** were killed here. Historian **Christian Browning** estimated “In March 1942 – 80% of all those killed in the Holocaust were still alive, just 11 months later, February 1943 80% of them were already dead. (over 4 million)

## What was life like in the Ghettos

Ghettos had to set up a **Judenrat**, a Jewish council that would be responsible for enforcing German orders. The largest ghetto was in **Warsaw**. It was completed in **Nov 1940**. The ghetto had 3 metres high wall with barbed wire. **March 1941 – 445,000 inhabitants** – a third of the cities population – in just **2.4 % of its area**. On average 15 people live in a small apartment. By 1941, 7 per room. These conditions lead to disease. Autumn **1941 - 900 cases of typhus** – severe infection – fatal without antibiotics. **Over 140,000** died here of the poor living conditions.

The **Lodz ghetto** was the **second largest** in Poland. It was a huge **labour camp** and essential to Germany, **making the Reich with garments, shoes** and other necessary goods, particularly **for the military**. But the **work conditions** were excruciatingly cruel for the Jews. By the end of **1941**, Jews from **Austria, Czechoslovakia, Luxemburg and Germany** were brought to Lodz, along with more than **5,000 Gypsies**. In total, **more than 200,000 people** would pass through the Lodz ghetto. Approximately **45,000 people** died of **starvation, cold and emaciation** here.

By 1942 ghettos began to be liquidized and their inhabitants were unknowingly forced into cattle trucks to death camps. When rumours leaked out uprisings did appear in the ghettos like Warsaw.

Internationalist historians argue that mass murder was planned from the beginning in 1933. Functionalist historians believe it was not planned and developed as the Nazi advanced across Europe.



## Who were the victims of the Nazis vast operation of genocide?

**Jews** – An estimated 6 millions  
**Soviet prisoners of war** – over 3 million +  
**Soviet civilians** – 2 million +  
**Polish civilians** – over 1 million  
**Men, women and children with mental and physical deformities**. 70,000-170,000  
**Gypsies** – over 200,000  
**Political prisoners** – unknown  
**Resistance fighters** – unknown  
**Deportees** – unknown  
**Homosexuals** – Estimates are 15,000+



## How do we know about the Holocaust?

Many survivors have spoken of their memories. The Nazis also documented a lot but many of those who didn't survive at great risk left records to ensure we would find out.

**Emanuel Ringelblum** – hid records underground in the Lodz ghetto.

**Wladyslaw Szpilman** – “The Pianist” wrote a book of his experience in Poland from 1939-45.

**Ziggy Shipper** – Auschwitz survivor  
**Hannah Lewis** – watched her Mum killed at Adampol concentration camp.