Nazi Measures against German Jews: 1933-1941

* The Hitler Youth was the only youth organization allowed so Jews could not belong to any clubs or social groups or play on any sports teams.
* Many friendships between Jews and non-Jews were torn apart (often from fear of being associated with Jews) so one’s choice of friends became limited or cut off.
* Friendships were also destroyed between those who supported and those who did not support the Nazi regime- many kids found themselves dumped by their friends or avoided by neighbors simply because of who they were.
* By 1938 all the following measures were enacted:
* Jews were fired from government jobs, their businesses were boycotted, they could not be teachers, university professors, doctors, lawyers, engineers, they could not work in radio, theater, arts, media, could not practice law, Jewish owned shops had to be closed by December 31, 1938. Courts declared that being a Jew was cause for dismissal from a job. These measures made it nearly impossible to earn a living and provide for families. By early 1939, only about 16 percent of Jewish breadwinners had steady employment of any kind. It became futile for many Jews to secure any type of employment and provide for their families. Eventually, Jews were forced to deposit all their money in banks, then forbidden to take their money out. The money was eventually confiscated by the Nazis.
* Jews could no longer attend plays, movies or concerts.
* Jewish children were removed from German schools.
* Jews could not go to health spas.
* All Jews had to add the names “Israel” for men and “Sarah” for women to their identification papers and have passports stamped with a “J”.
* Jews were expelled from universities.
* Jews were required to turn over all precious metals to the government.
* Pensions for Jews dismissed from civil service jobs were arbitrarily reduced
* Jewish drivers’ licenses were suspended.
* In November 9-10, 1938 during Kristallnacht, hundreds of synagogues were destroyed. Jews were blamed and had to pay large fines. They could also not collect insurance money for destroyed property.
* 30,000 Jewish men were consequently arrested and incarcerated in concentration camps.
* By 1939, once WWII began, Jews were ordered to turn in their radio sets (the only real form of home entertainment at the time). Telephones, cameras, bicycles, electrical appliances, and other valuables were also taken away.
* Jews could not have pets- cherished pets were taken from them. Jews were banned from most restaurants and cafes and restrictions were put on groceries that Jews could buy. Further decrees limited the time periods in which Jews could purchase food and other supplies and restricted access to certain stores, with the result that Jewish households often faced shortages of the most basic essentials.
* Strict curfews were imposed on Jews so eventually they were forbidden to leave their homes except for a few hours each day. Jews were prohibited from entering designated areas of German cities.
* By 1941 Jews were forbidden to use public transportation and all Jews over the age of six had to wear the yellow star so they could be immediately identified as Jews.
* Jews were forced to live in designated areas of German cities, concentrating them in “Jewish houses” (“Judenhäuser”).
* Jews fit for work were subject to compulsory forced labor.