

HISTORICAL EVENTS TIMELINE



January 30, 1933 Hitler Appointed Chancellor

- In the November 1932 elections, the Nazi Party won 33% of the vote, more than any other party.
- President Paul von Hindenburg appointed Adolf Hitler, the head of the National Socialist German Workers Party (Nazi Party), as the new chancellor of Germany
- Conservative politicians thought they could control Hitler and his followers.



March 22, 1933 Dachau Opens

Dachau was the first
concentration camp opened
by the Nazi government.



August 2, 1934 Hitler Becomes Führer

- President Paul von Hindenburg died.
- With support of the German military, Hitler became the new president of Germany, in addition to being chancellor.
- On August 19, Hitler abolished the office of the president and announced that he was the Führer, or supreme leader of Germany.
- Germany became a complete dictatorship.

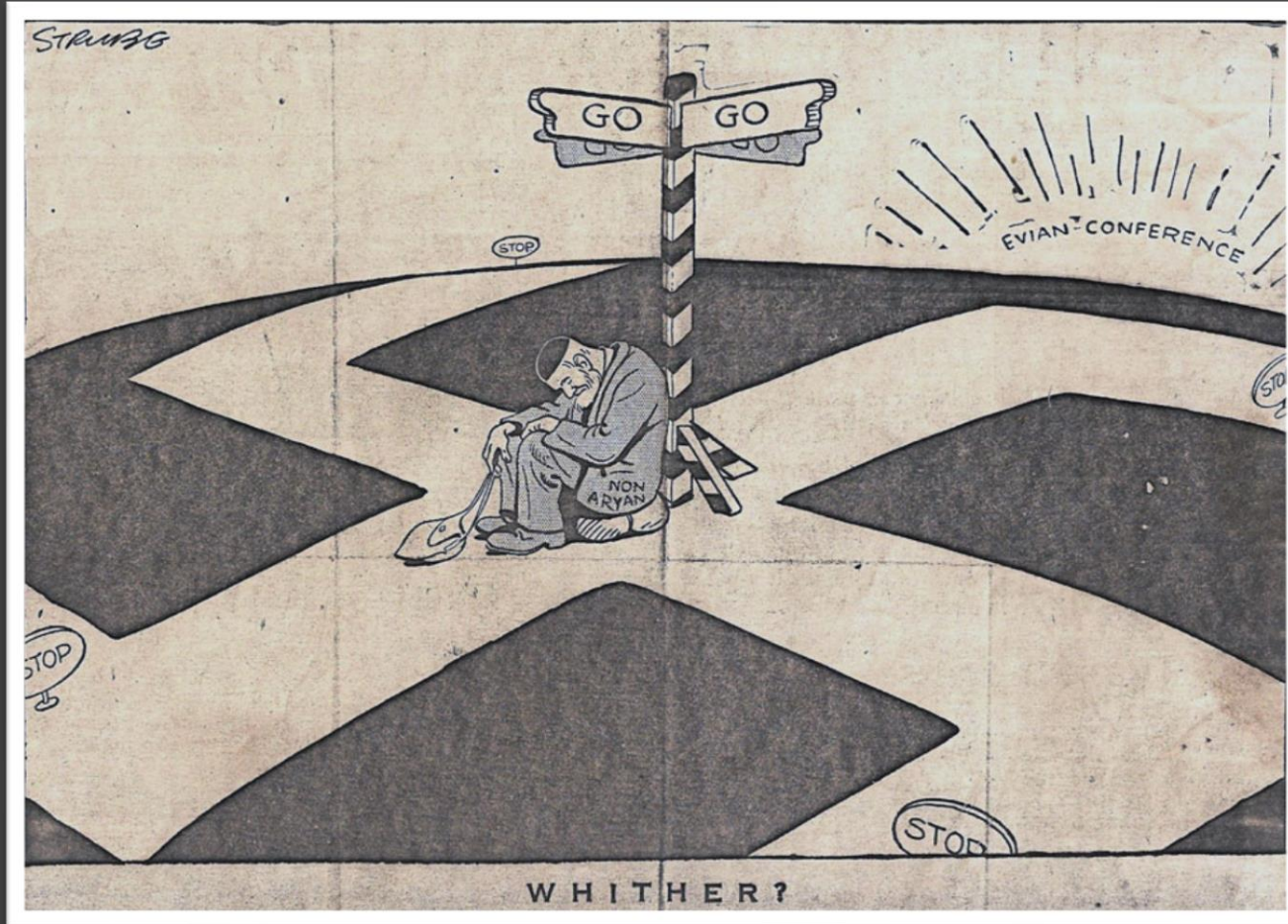


March 12, 1938

Germans Invade Austria

- The next day, Germany officially annexed the country and incorporated it into the Third Reich.
- This event is called the *Anschluss*.
- 192,000 Jews lived in Austria in 1938. They were immediately subjected to the Third Reich's antisemitic laws.

July 6, 1938



- President Roosevelt called an international conference to discuss the refugee crisis. Diplomats and representatives from 32 countries met.
- Most representatives said their country was sympathetic, but would not admit more refugees. Some claimed that an increase would hurt their economy. Others simply did not want the Jews.



November 9-10, 1938 / *Kristallnacht*

- 30,000 Jewish men/boys were arrested and sent to concentration camps.
- Hundreds of synagogues and more than 7,000 businesses were damaged or destroyed.
- Nazi Germany fined the Jewish community one billion Reichsmarks (72 billion dollars today) to pay the damage.

December 2, 1938 - September 1, 1939 Kindertransport



- Effort by the British government to bring an unspecified number Jewish children, under the age of 17, from Nazi-controlled territory to safety.
- Organized transports brought children to live in individual or group homes in Great Britain.
- In return for temporary travel visas, private citizens or organizations guaranteed costs for care, education, and eventual return.
- Between 9-10,000 children were saved by the *Kindertransports*.



December 15, 1938
Dutch Close Their Borders

May 1939

British White Paper Restricts Immigration to Palestine



- After prolonged Arab violence against the British and Zionists, the British rejected the establishment of an independent Jewish state and severely restricted Jewish immigration and land purchase in Palestine.
- Immigration would be limited to 75,000 over the next 5 years.
- These policies remained in force until the establishment of Israel in 1948.

Sept. 1, 1939

Germans Invade
Poland &

World War II Begins

Sept. 17, 1939

Soviet Union
Invades Eastern
Poland





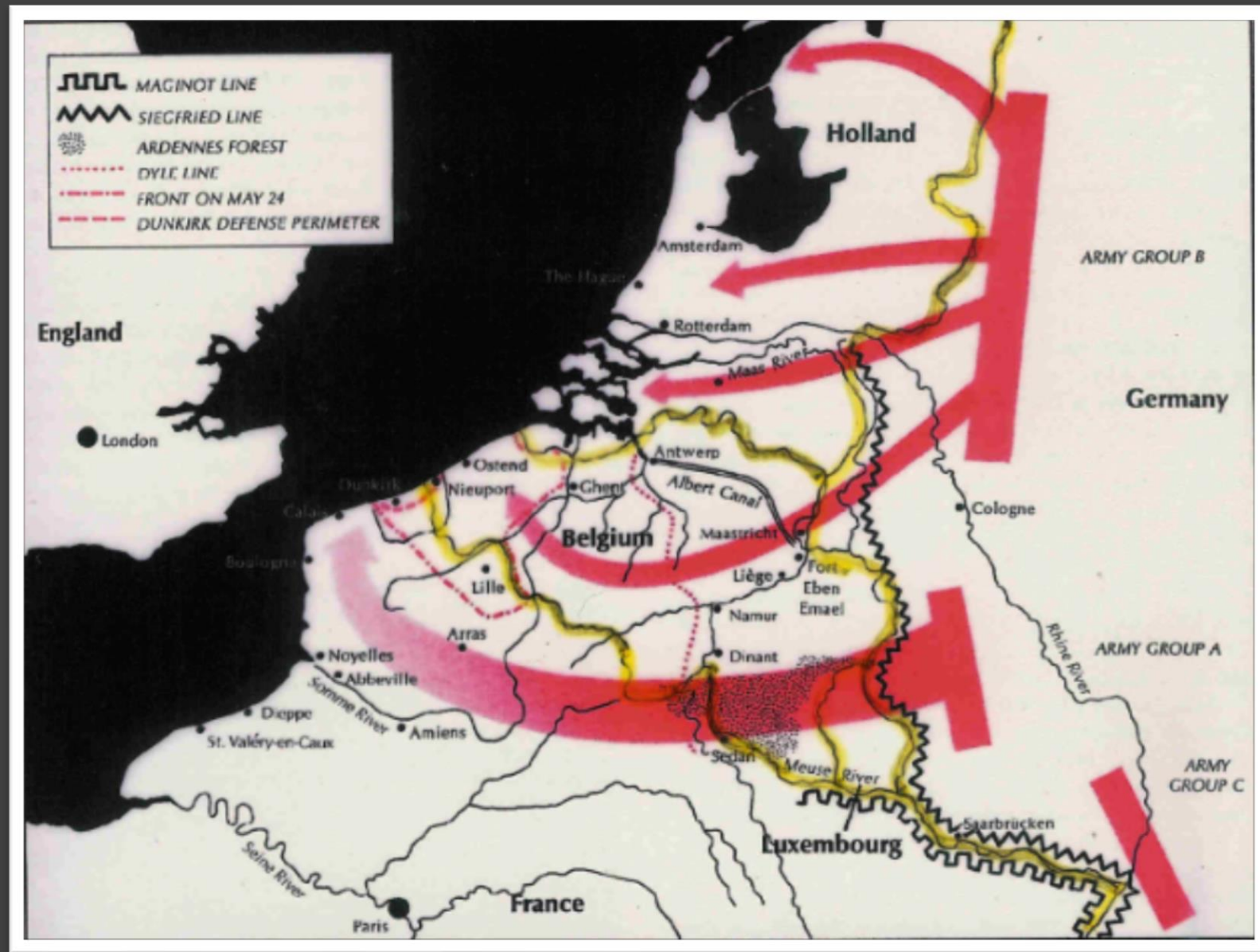
October, 1939
Dutch Open Westerbork
for Refugees



May 1940 Auschwitz Opens

- The camp was located near the town of Oswiecim, in Nazi-occupied Poland.
- The first prisoners were German and Polish men (both Christian and Jewish). Most were political opponents of the Nazis.

May 10, 1940 Germans Invade Luxembourg, Netherlands, Belgium





May 13, 1940

Germans Invade France

France was split in two:

- Germany occupied the north.
- A Nazi-collaborating French Government controlled the south.



May 14, 1940
Germany Bombs
Rotterdam



July 10, 1940
Battle of Britain



November 1940
Warsaw Ghetto is
Sealed

June 22, 1941

Germans Invade the Soviet Union

- Mobile killing squads, called *Einsatzgruppen*, followed behind the military, rounding up Jews and murdering them in mass shootings. Approximately two million Jews died this way.
- The German military captured millions of Soviet POWs.





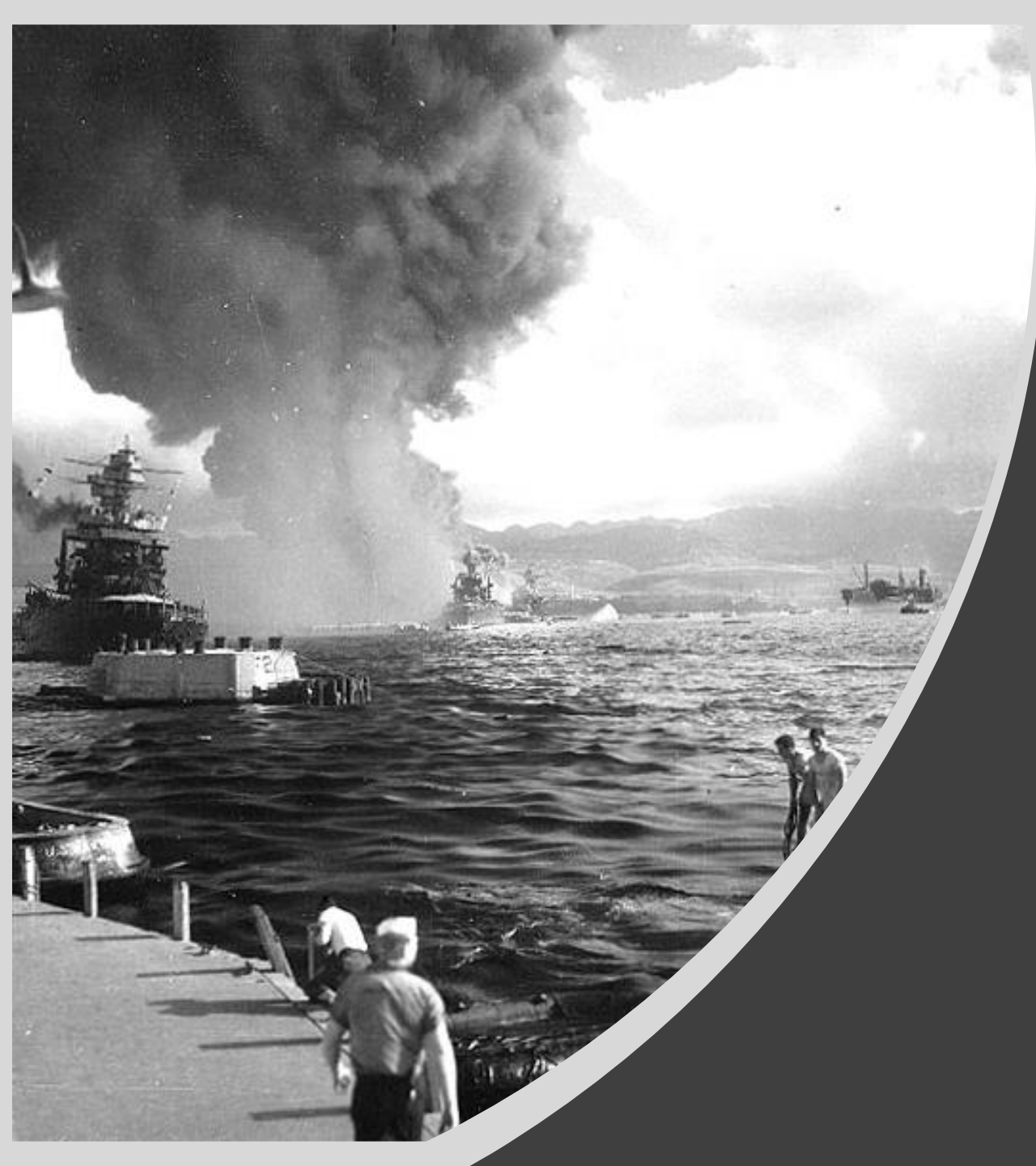
July 1941
Germany Orders
Closure of ALL
US Embassies in
Nazi Territory



November 24, 1941

Theresienstadt Opens Outside of Prague

- It served as a camp-ghetto, with features of both.
- It functioned as a tool of propaganda deception, cynically being called a “spa town.”



December 7, 1941
Japanese Attack
Pearl Harbor



December 8, 1941

Mass Murder Begins at Chelmno

- Chelmno was the first stationary facility where the Nazis used poison gas for mass murder.
- At least 152,000 people were murdered there.



January 20, 1942

Wannsee Conference

- At this villa outside Berlin, German government and Nazi Party officials discussed the logistics of the “Final Solution” – the code name for the mass murder of European Jewry.
- Mass murder was already occurring. Here the Nazis discussed how to coordinate the expansion of the killing.



Spring 1942

Birkenau Opens

March 17, 1942

Operation Reinhard Begins

- Code name for the murder of approximately two million Jews in the *Generalgouvernement* area of southern Poland.
- Named after Reinhard Heydrich, the Nazi officer responsible for organizing the deportations & murders. He was assassinated in 1942.
- Nazis murdered at least 1.5 million Jews at the Operation Reinhard Killing Centers: Treblinka, Belzec, and Sobibor. The Belzec killing center began gassings on this day.





July 15, 1942

Systematic Deportations
from The Netherlands Begin



February 12, 1943
Germans Surrender
at Stalingrad

April 19, 1943

Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Begins



- In summer 1942, the Nazis deported around 300,000 Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto and murdered them at Treblinka.
- When German troops entered the ghetto to deport the remaining Jews, armed Jewish resistance fighters attacked, even though they were greatly outnumbered.
- Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto fought for 28 days, using makeshift weapons, before they were defeated by the Nazis.



March 19, 1944

German Forces Occupy Hungary

- Nazi Germany invaded Hungary to prevent the country from leaving the Axis.
- Hungary had the largest Jewish population remaining in Europe.
- Within two months, Nazi authorities and Hungarian police began deporting more than 437,000 Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz.



June 6, 1944

Allied Invasion of Normandy - “D-Day”

American, British, and Canadian naval and air forces invaded the beaches of Normandy, France, opening a long-awaited “second front” in the war against Nazi Germany.



January 27, 1945

Soviet Troops Liberate Auschwitz

In mid-January 1945, the SS evacuated nearly 60,000 prisoners from Auschwitz, on foot and in open train cars. As many as 15,000 of the prisoners died during these “death marches” into Germany.



April 15, 1945
British Forces Liberate
Bergen-Belsen



May 7-9, 1945
Germany
surrenders to
Western Allies and
Soviets