

TIMELINE OF LAWS AND EVENTS

January 30, 1933

Adolph Hitler appointed Chancellor of Germany

March 23, 1933

First concentration camp - Dachau - established

April 1, 1933

Boycott of Jewish shops and businesses; Jewish professionals barred from entering office

April 21, 1933

Ritual slaughter of animals in accordance with Jewish dietary laws prohibited in Germany

May 10, 1933

Public burning of books authorized by Jews, those of Jewish origin and opponents of Nazism

Spring / Summer 1933

Universities and the arts "cleansed" of Jewish influence. Jewish professors expelled. Jewish writers and artists prohibited from practicing their professions

May 31, 1935

Jews barred from serving in German Armed Forces

September 15, 1935

"Nuremberg Laws"; anti-Jewish racial laws enacted. Jews could no longer be German citizens, marry Aryans, fly the German flag, and hire German maids under the age of 45

November 14, 1935

Germany defines Jews as anyone with three Jewish grandparents or someone with two Jewish grandparents who has identified self as a Jew in one of the following ways:

- (a) belonging to the official Jewish religious community
- (b) married to a Jew
- (c) child of a Jewish parent

March 3, 1936

Jewish doctors barred from practicing medicine in government institutions

July 1 & 1937

Buchenwald Concentration Camp opens

April 26, 1938

Jews in Reich must register all property with authorities

November 12, 1938

Decree forcing all Jews to transfer retail businesses to Aryan hands

November 15, 1938
All Jewish pupils expelled from German schools

September 1, 1939
Beginning of World War II; Germany invades Poland

October, 1941
Establishment of Birkenau camp: site of mass exterminations of Jews, Gypsies, Poles, Russians and others

Excerpted from the book Genocide: Critical Issues of the Holocaust, a Simon Wiesenthal Center publication

In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me and by that time no one was left to speak up.

- *Martin Niemöller*

DANISH PASTORAL LETTER

The following pastoral letter was issued by the head of the Lutheran Church in Denmark and read on October 3, 1942 in all the Lutheran Churches in Denmark as a result of the German/Nazi arrest and imprisonment of Danish Jews.

The Danish Bishops have forwarded the following communication to the leading German authorities through the heads of government departments.

Wherever Jews are persecuted as such on racial or religious grounds the Christian church is duty bound to protest against this action:

1. *Because we can never forget that the Lord of the Christian Church, Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary according to God's promise to His Chosen People, Israel. The history of the Jewish people before the birth of Jesus contains the preparation for the salvation God has prepared for all mankind in Christ. This is shown by the fact that the Old Testament is part of the Bible.*
2. *Because persecution of the Jews conflicts with that recognition and love of man that are a consequence of the gospel which the church of Jesus Christ was founded to preach. Christ is no respecter of persons, and He has taught us to see that every human life is precious in the eyes of God.*
3. *Because it conflicts with every concept of justice which prevails in the Danish people, settled in our Christian culture for centuries. In consequence of this, equal rights and responsibility before the law, and freedom of religion. These are secured to all Danes according to the constitution.*

The leaders of the Danish Church are fully aware of our duty to be law abiding citizens, who do not set themselves up against those exercising authority against us, but at the same time we are in conscience bound to assert the law and to protest against any violation of it. Therefore, we shall unequivocally acknowledge the words that we should obey God rather than Man.

H. Fuglsang Damgaard
Archbishop of Copenhagen

Countersigned by all the Bishops of the Lutheran Church in Denmark.