Anti-Semitism

This is the term given to political, social and economic agitation against Jews. In simple terms it means ‘Hatred of Jews’.

Aryan Race

This was the name of what Hitler believed was the perfect race. These were people with full German blood, blonde hair and blue eyes.
For hundreds of years Christian Europe had regarded the Jews as the Christ-killers. At one time or another Jews had been driven out of almost every European country. The way they were treated in England in the thirteenth century is a typical example.

In **1275** they were made to wear a yellow badge.

In **1287** 269 Jews were hanged in the Tower of London.

This deep prejudice was still strong in the twentieth century in Germany, Poland and Eastern Europe, where the Jewish population was very large.

After the First World War hundreds of Jews were blamed for the defeat in the War. Prejudice against the Jews grew during the economic depression which followed. Many Germans were poor and unemployed and wanted someone to blame. They turned on the Jews, many of whom were rich and successful in business.
Between 1939 and 1945 six million Jews were murdered, along with hundreds of thousands of others, such as Gypsies, Jehovah’s Witnesses, disabled and the mentally ill.
A Total of 6,000,000 Jews

Percentage of Jews killed in each country:

- POLAND 91%
- AUSTRIA 35%
- USSR 36%
- BELGIUM 45%
- NORWAY 45%
- LUXEMBOURG 55%
- ROMANIA 84%
- ESTONIA 44%
- YUGOSLAVIA 81%
- HUNGARY 74%
- LATVIA 84%
- NETHERLANDS 71%
- LITHUANIA 85%
- GERMANY 36%
- GREECE 87%
- FRANCE 22%
A MAP OF THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND DEATH CAMPS USED BY THE NAZIS.
16 of the 44 children taken from a French children’s home.

They were sent to a concentration camp and later to Auschwitz.

ONLY 1 SURVIVED

A group of children at a concentration camp in Poland.
Part of a stockpile of Zyklon-B poison gas pellets found at Majdanek death camp.

Before poison gas was used, Jews were gassed in mobile gas vans. Carbon monoxide gas from the engine’s exhaust was fed into the sealed rear compartment. Victims were dead by the time they reached the burial site.
Smoke rises as the bodies are burnt.

The smoking chimney of the Hadamar Killing Center.
Jewish women, some holding infants, are forced to wait in a line before their execution by Germans and Ukrainian collaborators.
A German policeman shoots individual Jewish women who remain alive in the ravine after the mass execution.
Portrait of two-year-old Mania Halef, a Jewish child who was among the 33,771 persons shot by the SS during the mass executions at Babi Yar, September, 1941.
Nazis sift through a huge pile of clothes left by victims of the massacre.

Two year old Mani Halef’s clothes are somewhere amongst these.
After liberation, an Allied soldier displays a stash of gold wedding rings taken from victims at Buchenwald.

Bales of hair shaven from women at Auschwitz, used to make felt-yarn.
In 1943, when the number of murdered Jews exceeded 1 million. Nazis ordered the bodies of those buried to be dug up and burned to destroy all traces.

Soviet POWs at forced labor in 1943 exhuming bodies in the ravine at Babi Yar, where the Nazis had murdered over 33,000 Jews in September of 1941.
“Until September 14, 1939 my life was typical of a young Jewish boy in that part of the world in that period of time.

I lived in a Jewish community surrounded by gentiles. Aside from my immediate family, I had many relatives and knew all the town people, both Jews and gentiles. Almost two weeks after the outbreak of the war and shortly after my Bar Mitzvah, my world exploded.

In the course of the next five and a half years I lost my entire family and almost everyone I ever knew. Death, violence and brutality became a daily occurrence in my life while I was still a young teenager.”

Leonard Lerer, 1991