

Hamburg

Second-largest city in Germany and fourth-largest German Jewish community during the early 1930s. In 1933 there were 16,885 Jews living in Hamburg. Most were well-integrated in city life and were quite assimilated. After the Nazis rose to power in January 1933, incidents of persecution increased. During the anti-Jewish boycott of April 1, 1933, some parts of Hamburg's population did not participate in ostracizing the Jews (see also Boycott, Anti-Jewish). However, Jews were soon removed from government positions, the court system, health service institutions, and the city's university. Between 1933 and 1937, 5,000 Hamburg Jews left Germany.

During the *Kristallnacht* pogrom of November 1938, most of Hamburg's synagogues were vandalized. Jewish community organizations were soon shut down, and in April 1939, the two Jewish schools were combined into one, which stayed open until late 1942.

From 1941--1945, Jews were deported on 17 transports to Lodz, Minsk, Riga, Auschwitz, and Theresienstadt. More than 300 of the city's Jews committed suicide; 80 during the height of the deportations in late 1941. By 1943, there were only 1,800 Jews left in Hamburg, most of whom were married to non-Jews. The Jewish community was officially liquidated in June of that year. In all, about 7,800 Hamburg Jews were murdered in the Holocaust.