Olympic Games of 1936

Olympic Games held in Germany in 1936, often called the "Nazi Olympics." The winter games took place in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and the summer games in Berlin.

In 1931 the International Olympic Committee assigned the 1936 games to Germany. However, when Adolf Hitler rose to power in 1933, it was unclear whether he would go ahead with the plan. Ultimately swayed by the opportunity to show off the new Germany to the world and use the Olympics for their propaganda value, Hitler finally agreed to host the games. Germany went all out in preparation for the big event: a new stadium was built, Berlin was cleared of its antisemitic billboards, and anti-Jewish persecution was even decelerated.

For the West, the hero of the 1936 Olympics was the African-American runner, Jesse Owens, who won four gold medals (much to the chagrin of Hitler and his racist associates). However, Germany still outscored the United States. On the whole, Hitler succeeded in hiding the terrible truth about the Nazi regime and its persecution of Jews during the games, and his routine appearances at the Olympic stadium and the reverence and adoration from the German crowds made a very strong impression on visitors from all over the world.