

Munich

Capital of the Bavaria region of Germany. In 1933, 9,005 Jews lived in Munich. Jews played an important role in Munich life. At the same time, Munich was the center of the Nazi Party, founded there in 1922. Because of this, the Jews of Munich were subjected to especially harsh torment during the Nazi regime.

The Nazis rose to national power in January 1933. In May police confiscated property belonging to 50 Jewish organizations. Members of the SS Storm Troopers (SA), Hitler Youth (Hitlerjugend), and employees of the Nazi newspaper, *Der Stuermer*, attacked Jewish-owned businesses and beat up on Jews. Jewish business owners were pressured to dissolve their enterprises, and Germans were discouraged from patronizing those still in business. The Jewish Community Organization responded proactively to the persecution by setting up hospitals and welfare services, schools, an orchestra and theater, clubs, and an adult education institute. However, many Munich Jews responded differently: from March 1933 to May 1938, 3,574 Jews left the city, 3,130 of them moving abroad.

In June 1938 Hitler decided to tear down Munich's Great Synagogue because it was situated next to the German Art House. During the *Kristallnacht* pogrom of November 9--10, 1938, a synagogue, chapel, and Jewish library were burnt down and many Jewish businesses, homes, and institutions were harmed. About 1,000 Jewish men were arrested and sent to Dachau. The next day, the municipal government stepped up the aryanaization process.

By the fall of 1941, 1,500 Jewish homes had been confiscated. Their occupants were forced to build an assembly and transit camp in a Munich suburb to accommodate Jews before their deportation. In November 1941, 980 Jews were deported from there to Riga and in April 1942, 343 were sent to a ghetto near Lublin. That summer, the remaining 300 Jews were sent to the Berg-am-Leim Ghetto. From May to August 1942, 1,200 Jews from Munich were sent to Theresienstadt. Another 200 Jews were deported to Theresienstadt from June 1943 to February 1945. In all, 2,991 Munich Jews

were deported. Of those who were sent to Theresienstadt, only 297 survived the war.