

# Intro Question

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- What is genocide? Why do societies sometimes stand by and allow genocide to happen?

## **Main Idea:**

*During the Holocaust, Hitler's Nazis killed six million Jews and five million other "non-Aryans."*

## **Why it Matters Now:**

*The violence against the Jews during the Holocaust led to the founding of Israel after WWII.*

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## The Holocaust

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# Introduction



- Nazis proposed a new racial order for Europe
  - Proclaimed Germanic peoples (**Aryans**) a “master race”
  - Nazis claimed all non-Aryan peoples inferior
    - Jews, Roma (gypsies), Poles, Russians
    - The insane
    - The disabled and incurably ill
  - Hitler **blamed the Jews** for Germany’s defeat in WWI & for its resulting economic problems
  - Many Germans looked for someone to blame for their failures and thus supported Hitler
- Racist message would lead to the **Holocaust**
  - Systematic mass slaughter of Jews and other groups judged inferior by the Nazis

# The Holocaust was caused by

## HATRED

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Hitler

Anti-Semitism

Totalitarianism

Racist Genocide

Economic Depression

Defeat in WWI

# Jewish Persecution

- 1935: **Nuremberg Laws**



- Stripped Jews of their civil rights & property if they tried to leave Germany
- Limited the work of Jews
- Made it illegal to marry a Jew
- Jews over the age of six had to wear a yellow Star of David on their clothing

# Jewish Persecution

November 9, 1938: **Kristallnacht**, or “crystal night” - the night of broken glass

- Nazis burned synagogues all over Germany and Austria, smashed shop windows, looted stores, ransacked Jewish homes, and killed dozens of Jews
- 20,000 Jews were arrested
- **Purpose: confiscate firearms to prevent any significant armed resistance**



Germans pass by the broken shop window of a Jewish-owned business that was destroyed during Kristallnacht, Berlin, Germany, November 1938

# Jewish Persecution

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- Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>: German gov't imposed an "**atonement fine**" of a billion marks on the Jews to pay for the damages
- Several weeks later: announced Jewish assets would be confiscated
- A few days later: forbade Jews to drive cars, use public transportation, visit public parks and museums, or attend plays or concerts
- It was a prelude to the horrors of the Nazi concentration camps to come and is often considered the beginning of the Holocaust.

# A Flood of Refugees

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- By the end of 1939: a number of German **Jews had fled to other countries**
  - At first, Hitler favored emigration to “the Jewish problem”
- **After admitting tens of thousands of Jewish refugees, France, Britain, and the U.S. closed their doors**
  - Reason: Fear
    - Widespread anti-Semitism (worldwide)
    - More refugees during the Great Depression would increase competition for jobs
    - Might open doors to “enemy agents”
- **Hitler** next isolated the remaining Jews in conquered territories by **forcing them into segregated overcrowded ghettos in Polish cities, which were sealed off with barbed wire and stone walls.**

# The Killings Begin

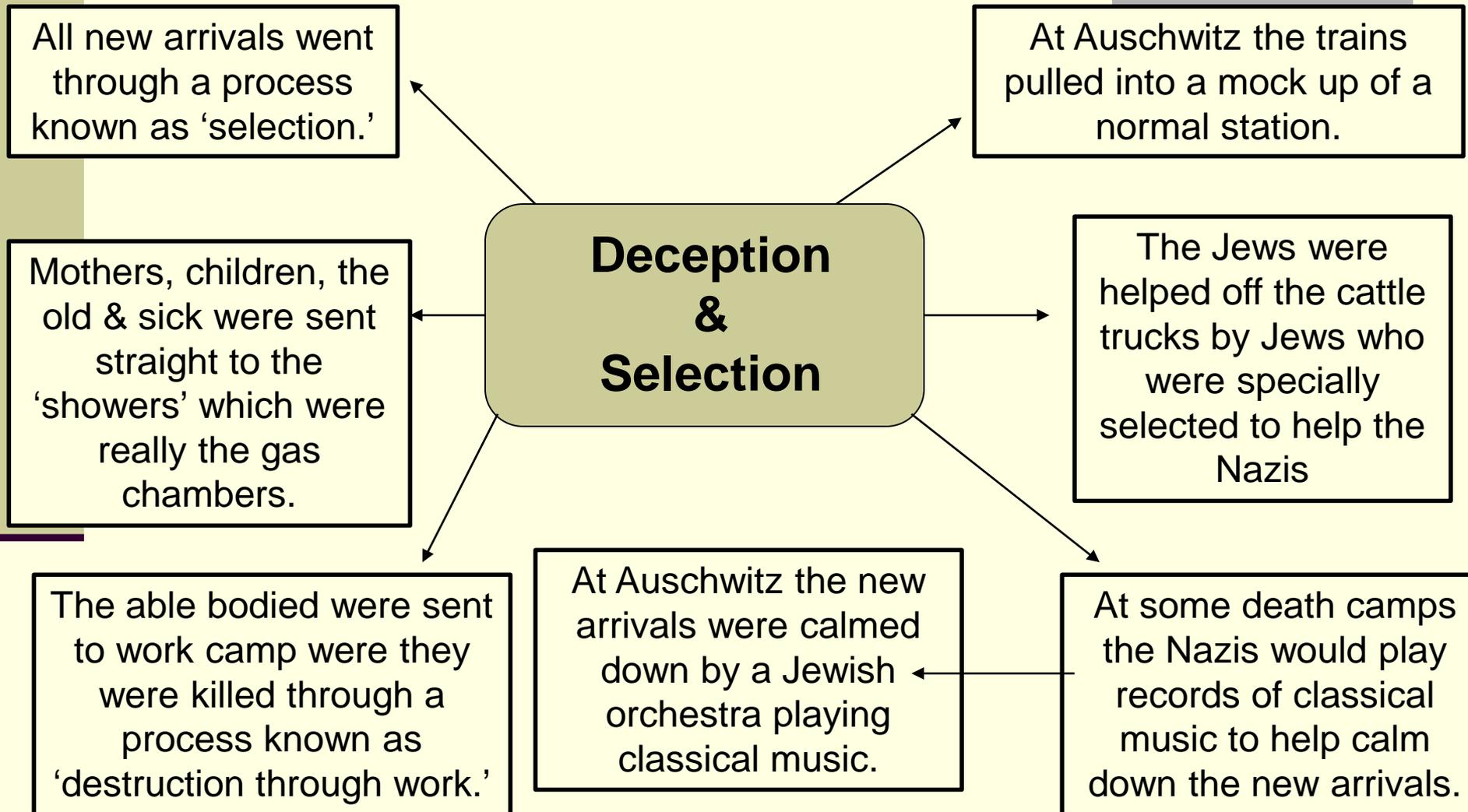


- **“Final Solution”**
  - Hitler’s genocidal plan to kill an entire race of people
    - Nazis SS killing squads rounded up men, women, children, and even babies and shot them in pits where they were buried.
- Other Jews were rounded up and herded into **concentration camps** where they were used as slave labor.
  - Inmates would work 7 days a week for the SS or German businesses.
  - Food consisted of thin soup, scraps of bread, and potato peelings.
  - Most inmates lost 50 lbs. quickly.
- Others sent to **extermination camps**, where they were killed in gas chambers.

# MAP OF THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND DEATH CAMPS USED BY THE NAZIS



# Tactics: What happened to new arrivals?



# Entrance to Auschwitz



Notice how it has been built to resemble a railway station

# The Gas Chambers

The SS would try and pack up to 2,000 people into this gas chamber

Victims moving towards the gas chamber in Auschwitz

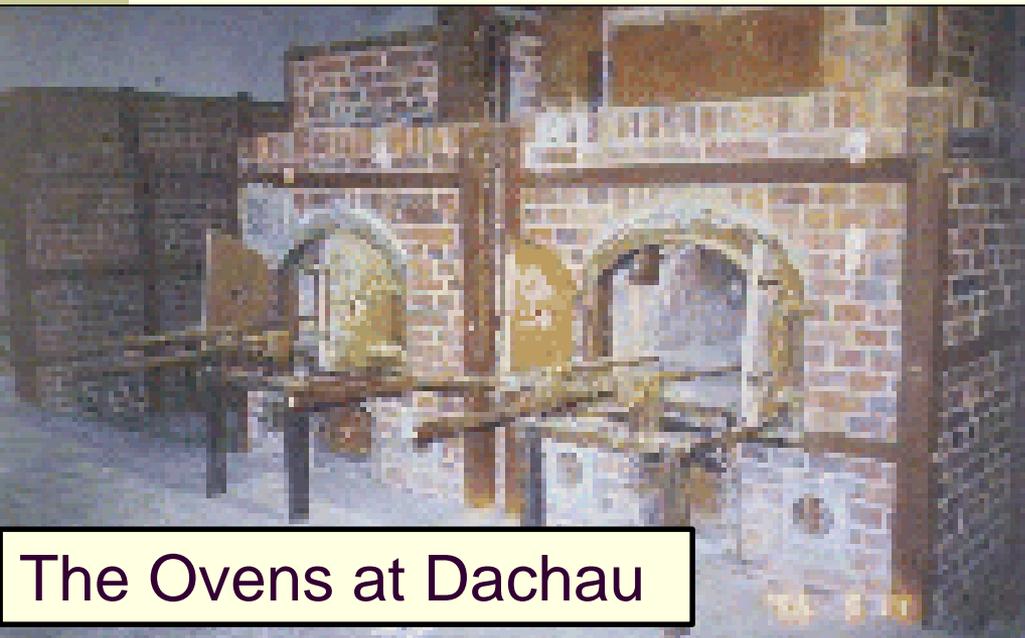


KL I (AUSCHWITZ) CREMATORIUM I KILLING ROOM

- The Nazis would force large groups of prisoners into small cement rooms and drop canisters of Zyklon B, through small holes in the roof.
- These gas chambers were sometimes disguised as showers or bathing houses.



This is the crematoria at Buchenwald. The remains left inside are women who were murdered.

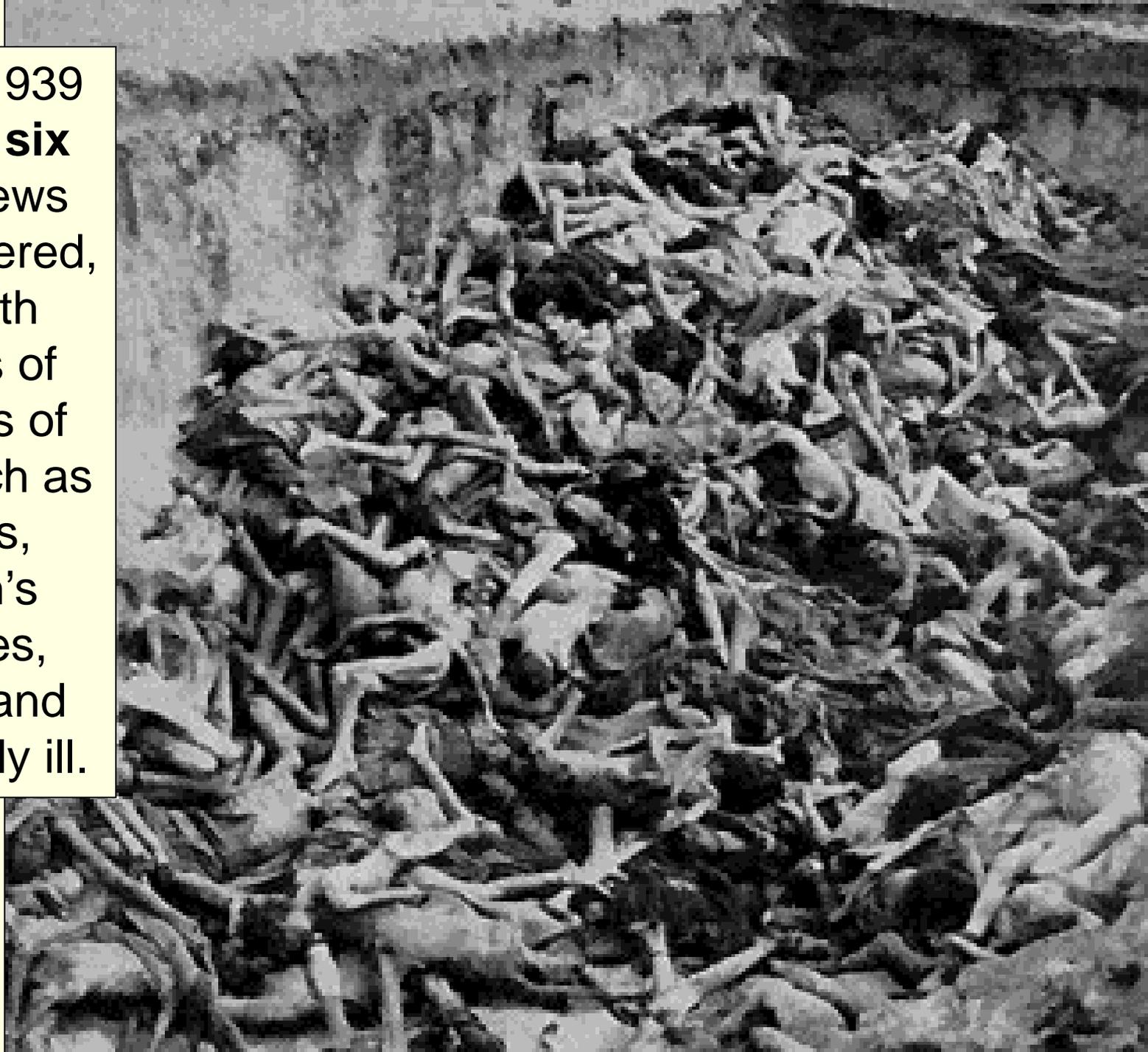


The Ovens at Dachau



Dead bodies waiting to be processed

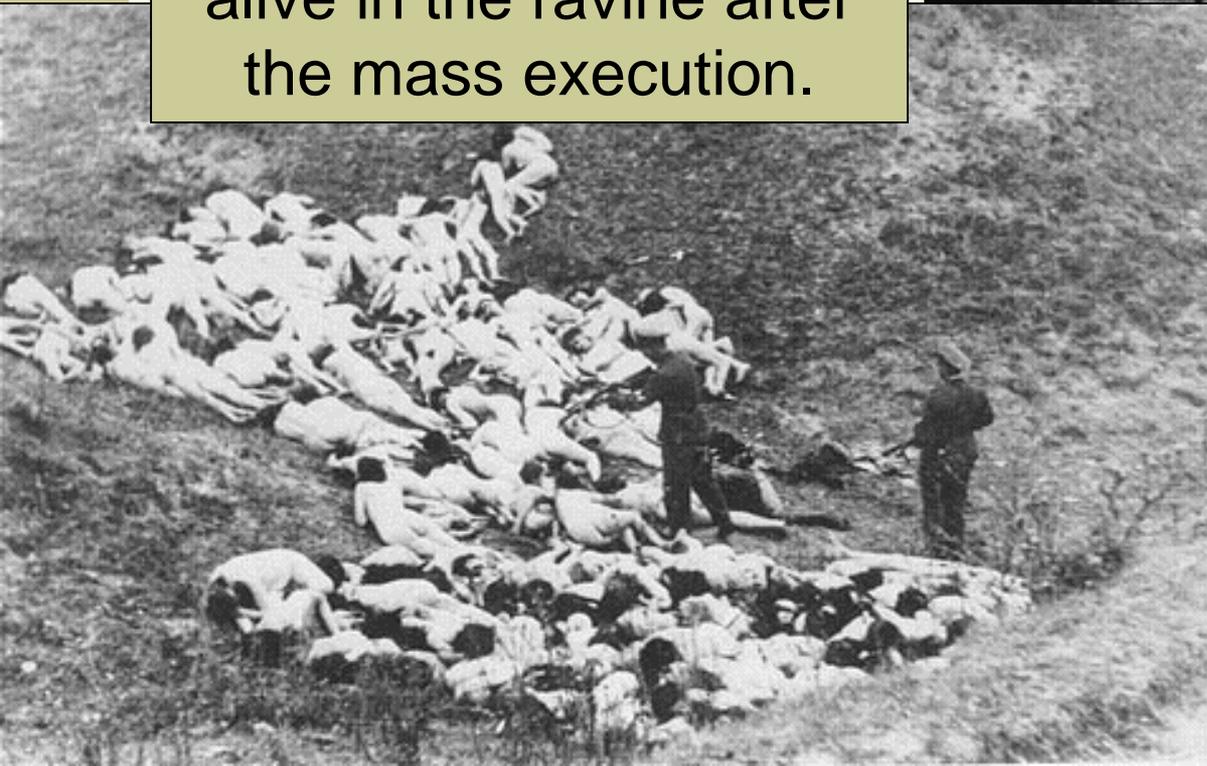
Between 1939 and 1945 **six million** Jews were murdered, along with hundreds of thousands of others, such as Romanis, Jehovah's Witnesses, disabled and the mentally ill.



A German policeman shoots individual Jewish women who remained alive in the ravine after the mass execution.



German soldiers cutting the beard of an elderly Jew in Poland.





Children subjected to medical experiments in Auschwitz.



Survivors found by American soldiers





- 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.



# The Survivors

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- About six million European Jews were killed during the Holocaust.
- Less than four million European Jews survived.
- Some Jews were helped by non-Jews who risked their lives, hid Jews in their homes, and helped them escape to neutral countries.

# Jews Killed Under Nazi Rule\*

	Original Jewish Population	Jews Killed	Percent Surviving
Poland	3,300,000	2,800,000	15%
Soviet Union (area occupied by Germans)	2,100,000	1,500,000	29%
Hungary	404,000	200,000	49%
Romania	850,000	425,000	50%
Germany/Austria	270,000	210,000	22%

\*Estimates

Source: Hannah Vogt, *The Burden of Guilt*