

ADOLF HITLER

(1889 - 1945)

GENERAL

TIMELINE

Compiled by

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(This material has been compiled from various sources, physical and electronic)

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Table: Key Dates

| Key Dates | |
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| Date | Event |
| 1930 - 1938 | Stalin's Purge - during Joseph Stalin's reign of terror in Russia and in the Soviet Republics (1930-1938), his regime killed or starved an estimated 15 million peasants, 5 million Ukrainians, 200,000 Jews, and as many as 3 million "enemies of the state". The total could be as many as 23.2 million victims. |
| 1933 (January) | Hitler becomes chancellor of a coalition government |
| 1933 (March) | The Enabling Act passed - powers of legislation pass to Hitler's cabinet for four years, making him a virtual dictator |
| 1933 (March - April) | 1st set of Anti-Jewish legislation enacted |
| 1933 (July) | Sterilization Law for the "Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Offspring" |
| 1935 (September) | 2nd set of Anti-Jewish Legislation enacted - "Nuremberg Laws" |
| 1938 (November) | 3rd set of Anti-Jewish Legislation enacted |
| 1939 (October) - 1940 (April) | Nisko and Lublin Plan (1st Jews Transported - October, 1939. Plan cancelled April 1940) |

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| 1939 | In a 1939 conference with health minister Leonardo Conti and the head of the Reich Chancellery, Hans Lammers, a few months before the euthanasia decree, Hitler gave as examples of "life unworthy of life" severely mentally ill people who could only be bedded on sawdust or sand because they "perpetually dirtied themselves", or who "put their own excrement into their mouths, eating it and so on". |
| 1939 (October) - 1941 (August) | The "T4" Euthanasia Program - In October 1939, the German government established, under the Reich Chancellery, the <i>Euthanasie Programme</i> under the direction of Philip Bouhler and Dr. Karl Brandt. As well as killing patients from mental homes, nursing homes and sanatoria, Euthanasia centres were also used to kill prisoners transferred from concentration camps in Germany and Austria. |
| 1940 (Summer) | Madagascar Plan - Cancelled October, 1940 because of defeat in the "Battle of Britain" (10 July 1940 - 31 October 1940) |
| 1941 (July) | In July 1941 Hermann Goering ordered Reinhard Heydrich to coordinate a plan for the "Final Solution." Heydrich's Einsatzgruppen had been murdering Russian Jews by firing squad since the war against the Soviets started in 1941. However, this was not a suitable way to kill the Jews outside the war zone. Thus, Reinhard Heydrich had to create something "new". In November 1941 extermination camps in Chelmno and Belzec were already being built with facilities for murder by poison. |
| 1941 (07 December) - 1943 (March) | Chelmno - 1st extermination camp (Poland) operational. The camp began operations 07 December 1941, and ended operations March 1943. It resumed operations 23 June 1944, and finally ceased operations 17 January 1945. The estimated number of deaths is 150-300,000, mainly Jews. Chelmno operated three gas vans using carbon monoxide (tested in the T4 Euthanasia program). |
| 1942 (20 January) | Wannsee Conference (Final Solution) - originally called for 09 December 1941 |
| 1942 (March to November 1944) | Auschwitz operational |
| 1945 (30 April) | Death of Hitler |

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Adolf Hitler - Time Line

(Picture Below - Adolf Hitler (1889-1945))



1889 - 20 April - At 6:30 pm on the evening of April 20, 1889, Adolf Hitler was born in the small Austrian village of Braunau Am Inn, just across the border from German Bavaria. His parent's families are both of poor peasant backgrounds. His father, Alois, was regarded as strict and distant. He becomes a customs official, and he expects Adolf to follow a career into the civil-service. Hitler's mother, Klara, is of a compassionate nature, adoring, and indulging her son.

1895 - At the age of six Adolf attends school, and while clearly intelligent, he is uninterested in formal education - eventually leaving with a poor scholastic record of achievement.

[Future Influence on Hitler:1899 Houston Stewart Chamberlain (Wagner's son-in-law), writes *Die Grundlagen des 19 Jahrhunderts (The Foundations of the Nineteenth Century)*, in which he demands the "elimination" of the "Jewish infection". This work influences many people, among them Adolf Hitler, who, in *Mein Kampf* laments "the indifference with which governments passed by [Chamberlain's] observations."]

1902 - The death of his father, when Adolf was 13, releases the pressure on him to get a job working for the civil service. Adolf is now able to pursue his preferred choice of study, that of art. He attends art school and regards himself as an artist - absorbing diverse cultural influences, the opera, theatre, reading and drawing.

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1907 - Hitler moves to Vienna with the aim of attending the Vienna Academy of Art, but his application is rejected. His disappointment is compounded by his failure to also get into the Vienna School of Architecture because of his inability to provide a school leaving certificate.

1907-1913 - (1897-1910) Karl Lueger, the mayor of Vienna, is the first politician to be elected to office in Europe on an explicitly anti-Semitic platform. He greatly influences the young **Adolf Hitler**, who is in Vienna from 1907-1913, by showing him the extent to which anti-Semitism is popularly accepted.

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1909 - 1913 - Without any means of money, Hitler struggles to survive in Vienna, living in a men's hostel. He sells postcards, which he has drawn, of famous sights and undertakes a series of menial jobs, to earn money. During this period of poverty, Hitler engages in much political activity, attending meetings, absorbing political newspapers, and literature.

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1913 - Faced with military service for the Habsburg Empire, Hitler takes action to evade this by moving to Munich in Southern Germany. This move is possible in part due to his inheritance of a small legacy from his father's estate. Here his life continues much as before, until the outbreak of the First World War.

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1914 - At the outbreak of the First World War, Hitler volunteers for service in the German army, and joins the 16th Bavarian Reserve Infantry Regiment. He distinguishes himself in service, is promoted to corporal, and is decorated with the Iron Cross for services as a runner on the western front.

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1918 - At the time of the armistice, Hitler is in a military hospital suffering from temporary blindness because of a British gas attack in Ypres Salient. Hitler returns to his regiment in Munich, later in 1918.

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1919 - Intent on remaining in the army, having found real purpose to his life, Hitler is appointed to the Intelligence/Propaganda section where he undertakes political training. His activities involve making speeches to the troops advocating German nationalism and anti-Socialism, where he further develops his oratory skills. He also acts as an army informer, spying on small political parties. He joins the German Workers' Party, an extreme anti-communist, anti-Semitic right wing organisation.

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1920 - Hitler is discharged from the army. In the German Worker's Party Hitler undertakes responsibility for publicity and propaganda. He changes the party's name to the "National Socialist German Workers Party", (or Nazi for short). The party represents a combination of intense hatred for the politicians, who they considered had dishonoured Germany by signing the Versailles Treaty and exploited local grievances against a weak federal government.

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1921 - Hitler challenges Anton Drexler to become leader of the Nazi party. After initial resistance, Drexler agrees and **Hitler becomes the new leader of the Nazi party.**

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1923 - 08 November - Along with other right wing factions and General Ludendorff Hitler attempts to overthrow the Bavarian government with an armed uprising. The event became known as "**The Beer Hall Putsch**". Hitler and 2000 Nazi's march through Munich to the Beer Hall, to take over a meeting chaired by three of the most important individuals in Bavarian politics.

The following day (**09 November 1923**), the Nazi's march in the streets, and the police open fire. Hitler escapes but is captured. He is tried for treason and serves 9 months in Landsberg prison. It was during his imprisonment that he began dictating his thoughts to Rudolf Hess, which emerged in the book **Mein Kampf (my struggle)**. It is a combination of autobiography, political ideology, and an examination of the techniques of propaganda.

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1925 - Hitler re-founds the Nazi party

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1928 - Hitler's half-sister (Angela Raubal) and her daughter Geli, move into Hitler's home on the Obersalzberg. Hitler's relationship towards Geli initially kindly, eventually borders on the obsessive, fuelling rumours that they were romantically linked, Hitler denied this. Geli commits suicide (age 23) in Hitler's flat, 19 September 1931.

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1930 - 1938 - Stalin's Purge. During Joseph Stalin's reign of terror in Russia and in the Soviet Republics (1930-1938), his regime killed or starved an estimated 15 million peasants, 5 million Ukrainians, 200,000 Jews, and as many as 3 million "enemies of the state". The total could be as many as 23.2 million victims.

1930 - September - In the General Election, the Nazi Party increases its representatives in parliament from 14 to 107. **Hitler is now the leader of the second largest party in Germany.**

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1931 - Hitler challenges Paul von Hindenburg for the presidency, but fails to win.

1931 - 19 September - Geli Raubal (Hitler's half-sister's daughter) found dead in her room at Hitler's flat in Munich. Death was from a gunshot wound to the lung, her room door was locked from the inside - she was 23 - verdict: suicide. Hermann Göring would later tell attorneys at the Nuremberg trials that Geli's death had devastated Hitler to such an extent that it "changed his views and relationships with all other people".

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1932 - Hitler becomes a German citizen - enabling him to stand in the Presidential election against Hindenburg. Hitler becomes the first person to electioneer by aircraft - the campaign (masterminded by Josef Goebbels) was entitled '*Hitler over Germany*'

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1933 - January - Hitler becomes chancellor of a coalition government, where the Nazis have a third of the seats in the Reichstag. Hitler is appointed chancellor by German President, Paul von Hindenburg.

1933 - February - The German Reichstag is destroyed by fire. The plot, and execution, is almost certainly due to the Nazi's; but they point the finger at the communists and trigger a General Election.

1933 - March - The Enabling Act passed - powers of legislation pass to Hitler's cabinet for four years, making him a virtual dictator. He proclaims the Nazi Party is the only political party permitted in Germany. All other parties and trade unions are disbanded. Individual German states lose any autonomous powers, while Nazi officials become state governors.

1933 - MARCH 22 - The SS (Schutzstaffel), Hitler's "elite guard," established a concentration camp outside the town of Dachau, Germany, for political opponents of the regime. It was the only concentration camp to remain in operation from 1933 to 1945. By 1934, the SS had taken over administration of the entire Nazi concentration camp system.

1933 - March-April - 1st set of anti-Jewish legislation enacted.

1933 - April - Communist party banned.

1933 - May - Socialists, Trade Unions, and strikes banned.

1933 - MAY 10 - Nazi party members, students, teachers, and others burned books written by Jews, political opponents of Nazis, and the intellectual avant-garde, during public rallies across Germany.

1933 - July -Sterilization "Law for the Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Offspring". The July 1933 "Law for the Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Offspring" prescribed compulsory sterilization for people with a range of conditions thought to be hereditary such as schizophrenia, epilepsy, Huntington's chorea and "imbecility". Sterilization was also mandated for chronic alcoholism and other forms of social deviance.

This law was administered by the Interior Ministry under Wilhelm Frick through special Hereditary Health Courts (Erbgesundheitsgerichte), which examined the inmates of nursing homes, asylums, prisons, aged care homes and special schools to select those to be sterilized.

The law institutionalized the eugenic concept of "life undeserving of life" and provided the basis for the involuntary sterilization of the disabled, Roma (Gypsies), "social misfits," and black people residing in Germany.

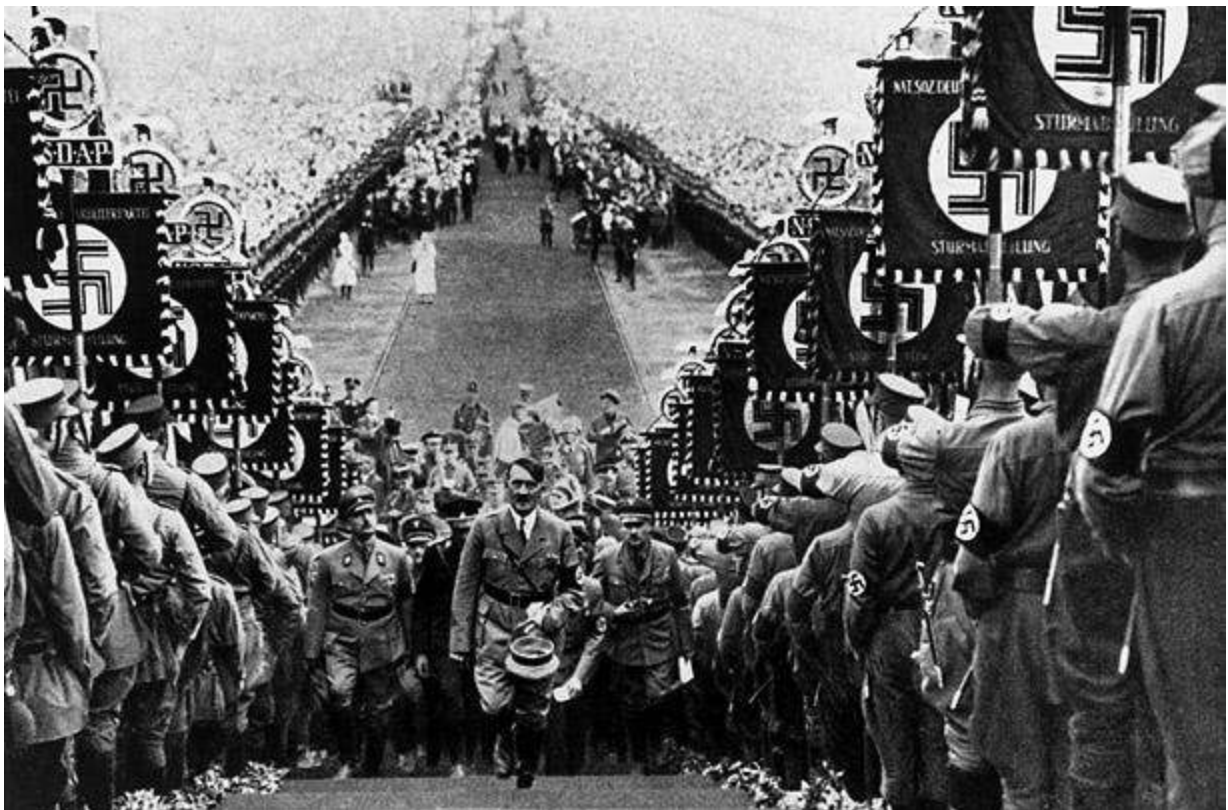
1933 - October - Hitler withdraws from the League of Nations. In the following months, Hitler trebles the size of the German Army and ignores the arms restrictions imposed by the Treaty of Versailles.

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1934 - June - *Night of the Long Knives*; Hitler crushes all opposition within his own party - thus eliminating all of his rivals.

1934 - July - After the death of President Hindenburg, Hitler becomes "Fuehrer and Reich Chancellor" and abolishes the title of President. Because there was no legal or constitutional limit to Hitler's power as Führer, he became absolute dictator of Germany.

(Picture below - 1934 - Nazi Rally in Buckeberg)



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1935 - Hitler rearms Germany with the aim of undoing the Treaty of Versailles and uniting all the German peoples. Military conscription is introduced.

1935 - September - 2nd set of Anti-Jewish Legislation enacted - called, the "Nuremberg Laws":

1. A Reich citizen is a subject of the State who is of German or related blood, who proves by his conduct that he is willing and fit faithfully to serve the German people and Reich.
2. Reich citizenship is acquired through the granting of a Reich Citizenship Certificate.
3. The Reich citizen is the sole bearer of full political rights in accordance with the Law.

The Nazi government later applied the laws to Roma (Gypsies) and to black people residing in Germany.

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1936 - 12 July - Prisoners and civilian workers began construction of the concentration camp Sachsenhausen at Oranienburg near Berlin. By September, German authorities had imprisoned about 1,000 people in the camp.

1936 - 01-16 August, - Olympic Games.

1936 - November - the "Racial Hygiene" Institute was set up within the Reich Health Ministry, headed by Robert Ritter, a paediatrician and neurologist from Tübingen. The Institute collected data on the approximately 30,000 Sinti and Roma living in Germany. These were to be isolated in work camps and sterilised so that they would die out.

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1938 - 12-13 March - The Austrian Chancellor, leader of the Austrian Nazi Party, invites the German army to occupy Austria and proclaim a union with Germany. German troops occupy Austria, and Germany incorporates Austria into the German Reich in what was called the Anschluss.

1938 - September - British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain meets Hitler in Germany. Britain, France and Italy sign the *Munich Agreement* which gives the Sudetenland (the German populated boarder lands of Czechoslovakia), to Germany.

1938 - October - German troops occupy the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia under the stipulations of the Munich Agreement.

1938 - November - 3rd set of Anti-Jewish Legislation enacted - Reinhard Heydrich becomes the chief of the Central Office for Jewish Emigration. The creation of this office empowered the SS to make all decisions regarding the Jews and their fate.

1938 - November - In what is historically referred to as *Crystal Night*, 7,500 Jewish shops are destroyed, and 400 synagogues are burnt. The attack is portrayed as a spontaneous reaction to the death of a German diplomat by a Jewish refugee in Paris. It is actually orchestrated by the Nazi party who also kill many Jews and send 20,000 to concentration camps.

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1939 - Peace treaty with Russia secured with the Molotov-Ribbentrop peace pact:

Article I - Both High Contracting Parties obligate, themselves to desist from any act of violence, any aggressive action, and any attack on each other, either individually or jointly with other powers.

Article II - Should one of the High Contracting Parties become the object of belligerent action by a third power, the other High Contracting Party shall in no manner lend its support to this third power.

Article III - The Governments of the two High Contracting Parties shall in the future maintain continual contact with one another for the purpose of consultation in order to exchange information on problems affecting their common interests...

1939 - March - Czechoslovakia is occupied.

1939 - 01 September - Adolf Hitler's secret memo regarding the T4 Euthanasia Program.

Wording of memo: *"Reichsleiter Bouhler and Dr Brandt MD have the responsibility of increasing the authority of certain doctors to be designated by name so that persons who, according to human judgement, are incurably ill can, upon a most careful diagnosis of their condition, be granted a mercy death."*

(Important Note: In October 1939, Hitler actually signed the secret Euthanasia authorization in order to protect participating physicians, medical staff, and administrators, in the T4 Program, from prosecution. However, the authorization was backdated to 01 September 1939 (coinciding with the invasion of Poland), to suggest that the program was related to "wartime measures".).

1939 - October - Nisko and Lublin Plan - 1st Jews Transported - October, 1939. Plan cancelled April 1940.

1939 - 01 September - Hitler invades Poland, WWII begins, and after 3 weeks of lightning war or 'blitzkrieg', the country is divided between Russia and Germany.

1939 - 1941 - The "T4" Euthanasia Program - In October 1939, the German government established, under the Reich Chancellery, the *Euthanasie Programme* under the direction of Philip Bouhler and Dr. Karl Brandt. As well as killing patients from mental homes, nursing homes and sanatoria, Euthanasia centres were also used to kill prisoners transferred from concentration camps in Germany and Austria.

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1940 - Summer - Madagascar Plan - Cancelled October, 1940 because of defeat in the "Battle of Britain" (10 July 1940 - 31 October 1940).

1940 - The Nazis occupy Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, France; while Romania, and Yugoslavia are invaded.

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1941 - June - Germany attacks Russia, ignoring the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact; Operation Barbarossa - **The German invasion of Russia begins.**

1941 - July - Hermann Goering ordered Reinhard Heydrich to coordinate a **plan for the "Final Solution."** Heydrich's Einsatzgruppen had been murdering Russian Jews by firing squad since the war against the Soviets started in 1941. However, this was not a suitable way to kill the Jews outside the war zone. Thus, Reinhard Heydrich had to create something "new". In November 1941 extermination camps in Chelmno and Belzec were already being built with facilities for murder by poison.

1941 - 07 December - Japanese Air Force bombs Pearl Harbour and war is declared on the US.

1941 - 07 December - Chelmno - 1st extermination camp operational. The camp began operations 07 December 1941, and ended operations March 1943. It resumed operations 23 June 1944, and finally ceased operations 17 January 1945. The estimated number of deaths is 150-

300,000, mainly Jews, but includes an undetermined number of Roma (Gypsies) and Poles. Chelmno operated three gas vans using carbon monoxide (tested in the T4 Euthanasia program).

1941 - 11 December - Germany and Italy declare war on the United States.

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1942 - January - the beginning of the systematic deportation and transporting of Jews to Chelmno death camp. This is expanded as the other Death Camps become operational.

1942 - 20 January - Wannsee Conference (Final Solution). Senior Nazi officials met at a villa in the outskirts of Berlin at the Wannsee Conference to discuss and coordinate implementation of the “Final Solution.”

1942 - March - Auschwitz operational.

Table - Polish Extermination Camps

| Polish Extermination Camps | | | |
|--|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| (Germany Invaded Poland - September 1, 1939) | | | |
| Camp | Date Instituted | Date Closed | Victims[*] |
| Chelmno (1st Extermination Camp) | 07 December 1941 | March 1943 | 320,000 |
| Auschwitz Birkenau | March 1942 | November 1944 | 1,000,000 |
| Belzec[**] | March 1942 | December 1942 | 600,000 |
| Sobibor[**] | April 1942 | October 1943 | 250,000 |
| Treblinka[**] | July 1942 | August 1943 | 870,000 |
| Majdanek | September 1941 | July 1944 | 360,000 |

[*] It is suggested that altogether, about 3.5 million Jews were killed in extermination camps as part of the "final solution".

1942 - 04 May - SS officials performed the first selection of victims for gassing at the Auschwitz-Birkenau killing center. Weak, sick, and “unfit” prisoners were selected and housed in an isolation ward prior to being killed in the gas chambers. Between May 1940 and January 1945, more than one million people were killed or died at the Auschwitz camp complex. Close to 865,000 were never registered and most likely were selected for gassing immediately upon arrival. Nine out of ten of those who died at the Auschwitz complex were Jewish.

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1943 - February - Although commanded by Hitler to stand and fight, the Germans surrender in the battle of Stalingrad. From this point on, Germany is in retreat.

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1944 - 06 June - D Day. British and American troops launched an invasion of France.

1944 - July - Hitler survives an assassination attempt by Colonel Stauffenberg, who places a bomb in a briefcase under a table close to Hitler. As a result, Hitler purges the army of all possible suspects.

1944 July – Winston Churchill wrote:

"There is no doubt this is the most horrible crime ever committed in the whole history of the world, and it has been done by scientific machinery by nominally civilised men in the name of a great State and one of the leading races of Europe. It is quite clear that all concerned in this crime who may fall into our hands, including the people who only obeyed orders by carrying out the butcheries, should be put to death after their association with the murders has been proved."

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1945 - January - Soviet troops enter Nazi Germany

1945 - 22 April - Hitler decides to stay in Berlin to the last.

1945 - 26 April - Berlin completely besieged by the Soviet Army Fronts of Marshals Koniev and Zhukov.

1945 - 29 April - Hitler marries Eva Braun.

1945 - 30 April - Hitler commits suicide with his wife, Eva Braun. They committed suicide together in a sitting room of the bunker - Hitler (56 years old) shot himself in the head, and Eva Braun (33 years old) bit into a capsule of cyanide.

Adolf and Eva Hitler were cremated by Martin Bormann and other Nazis; though there are unconfirmed reports that parts of Hitler's charred body are in Russia (however, this could be Stalinist propaganda).

Eva Braun's mother, Franziska, who lived in an old farmhouse in Ruhpolding, Bavaria, died at the age of ninety-six, in January 1976.

1945 - 02 May - German units in Berlin surrender to Soviet forces.

1945 - 07-09 May - German forces surrendered unconditionally in the West on 07 May, and in the East on 09 May.

Allied and Soviet forces proclaimed May 8, 1945, to be Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day).

End

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