

Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Free Tour Factsheet

- 1933 Adolf Hitler becomes Reich Chancellor leading to the creation of a National Socialist dictatorship. On 22nd March, the Dachau Concentration Camp opens for political prisoners.
- 1934 21 Nazi functionaries and political prisoners are murdered during the "Rohm Putsch" . As a result SS power is increased and the SA terminated.
- 1935 The Nuremberg Race Laws lead to an influx of new prisoner groups into the camps, thus creating increased diversity in the camp population.
- 1936 SS power increases due to Heinrich Himmler becoming German Police Chief.
- 1937 SS force the prisoners to reconstruct the camp with an increased capacity. The Memorial today still very much corresponding to how the new camp looked after reconstruction.
- 1938 The annexation of Austria in March leads to an influx of Austrian prisoners. Significantly on November 8th a pogrom against German Jews is initiated, the "Night of Broken Glass." 11,000 Jews were brought to Dachau.



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- 1939 German invasion of Poland initiates the Second World War, new prisoners from the occupied territories brought to the camps.
- 1940 With the capitulation of France, Germany dominates in Western Europe. This is reflected in the number of different Nationalities amongst the prisoner population.
- 1941 Attack on the Soviet Union is instigated in June, leading to 4000 soviet prisoners of war being murdered at Dachau.
- 1942 The "final Solution To The Jewish Question" is decided at the Wansee Conference near Berlin. This acted as the catalyst to an organised genocide and the murder of 6 million Jewish people in continental Europe. Dachau was not used as an extermination camp for this purpose.
- 1943 In his speech in Berlin, Joseph Goebbels declares "Total War" leading to sub camps being setup mainly for armaments production.
- 1944 10,000 Jewish prisoners in the sub camps of Dachau are murdered through forced labour. The Allied forces close in on Germany.
- 1945 Dachau is liberated on April 29th by US forces. Over 31,000 prisoners at Dachau remain in appalling conditions, with starvation and disease rife in the camp. An estimated 41,500 prisoners perished over the 12 year life span of the camp, and thousands more suffered a lifetime of suffering and pain.

Recommended reading:

"The Dachau Concentration Camp 1933 to 1945" is a book of text and photo documents from the museum which can be purchased at the Memorial.

"That was Dachau"	by Stanislav Zamecnik
"The coming of the Third Reich"	by Richard J. Evans
"The Third Reich in power"	by Richard J. Evans
"Legacies of Dachau"	by Harold Marcuse
The Order of Terror the Concentration Camp	by Wolfgang Sofsky