The Holocaust

Background

* Goal of Nazi Germany: extermination of all Jews in Europe
* Out of 8.3 millions Jews, 6 million were killed
* Other victims of Nazi Germany:
  + Gypsies
  + Christians suspected of Jewish ancestry
  + Homosexuals
  + Handicapped
  + Anyone opposing the Nazis
  + Anyone considered “inferior” to the Aryan race
* Total estimated # of people killed: 15 million

Initial Treatment of Jews

* Jewish businesses were boycotted and vandalized
* Fired from jobs in government and universities
* Lost citizenship and all rights
* Kristallnacht—Nov. 9,10, 1938—Nazi attack on Jewish homes, businesses and synagogues
* Forbidden to intermarry with Germans
* Evicted from their homes and forced to live in the ghettos

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