

## The Holocaust

### Key terms:

1. **Holocaust**- the deliberate murder by the Nazi regime of 6 million Jewish individuals, including millions of other people groups, including Russians, Polish, political prisoners, and homosexuals.
2. **Anti-Semitism**- hostility, hatred, and prejudice directed toward Jewish people.
3. **The Final Solution**-the Nazi plan for the genocide (deliberate murder) of Jews during World War II.

### Assignment

**Directions:** Source #1- Read pages 824-825 of textbook (section of “The Horrors of the Holocaust”) together as a class. Choose 1 phrase from the text to write a 3 sentence reaction to.

Phrase #1:

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Reaction:

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Source #2: Kristallnacht (taken from <https://www.ushmm.org/collections/bibliography/kristallnacht>)

On the night of November 9, 1938, violent anti-Jewish demonstrations broke out across Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia. Nazi officials depicted the riots as justified reactions to the assassination of German foreign official Ernst vom Rath, who had been shot two days earlier by Herschel Grynszpan, a 17-year old Polish Jew distraught over the deportation of his family from Germany. Over the next 48 hours, violent mobs, spurred by anti-semitic exhortations from Nazi officials, destroyed hundreds of synagogues, burning or desecrating [to treat something sacred with disrespect] Jewish religious artifacts along the way. Acting on orders from Gestapo headquarters, police officers and firefighters did nothing to prevent the destruction. All told, approximately 7,500 Jewish-owned businesses, homes, and schools were plundered, and 91 Jews were murdered. An additional 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and sent to concentration camps. Nazi officials immediately claimed that the Jews themselves were to blame for the riots, and a fine of one billion reichsmarks (about \$400 million at 1938 rates) was imposed on the German Jewish community.

The Nazis came to call the event *Kristallnacht* (“Crystal Night,” or, “The Night of Broken Glass”), referring to the thousands of shattered windows that littered the streets afterwards, but the euphemism does not convey the full brutality of the event. Kristallnacht was a turning point in the history of the Third Reich, marking the shift from antisemitic rhetoric [speech] and legislation to the violent, aggressive anti-Jewish measures that would culminate with the Holocaust.

**Question:** In what ways would attacks on someone’s business, home, and schools have an effect upon them? (3 sentences)