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After Hitler took over Austria, in 1938, Nazi policies against Jews made their way to Vienna. This image depicts Jews, on their hands and knees, cleaning streets in Vienna while Austrian Nazis and local residents watch. The event took place sometime between March and April of 1938. The public-domain image is online via the U.S. National Archives and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Five years after Hitler took power, the German leader gave a speech to the Reichstag. He announced the "peaceful" acquisition ("Anschluss") of Austria, his homeland,* during March of 1938. The party faithful gave him a standing ovation, and Austria - annexed and renamed "Ostmark" - became a Third-Reich province.

Soon thereafter, the Nazis also "acquired" a German-speaking part of Czechoslovakia, known as the Sudetenland. Tears and grimaces - from women and men - were typical reactions there.

During the Night of Broken Glass - known as Kristallnacht in German - Jewish synagogues were destroyed on November 9-10 (1938), including this one in Berlin. For millions of people, much more heartache would soon follow. Franklin Roosevelt would later say:

I myself could scarcely believe that such things could occur in a twentieth century civilization.
(FDR, Press Conference, November 15, 1938.)

When Germany took over Poland, in 1939, a world war erupted. Hitler's conquests continued, further carving up European territories. A Frenchman, dismayed when German soldiers marched into Paris on the 14th of June, 1940, wept as France fell.

As Nazi tyranny worsened on the continent - which its leaders called "The New Europe" - propaganda posters kept coming:

- 1942 - The bottom-line, in English, says: "The New Europe cannot be defeated."
- "One Battle, One Will, One Goal: Victory at any Price!"

By late April of 1945, however, Hitler's battles were finished, his will was gone and his goal was to die by his own hand.

What had changed? The terror of war had moved to Dresden (where massive Allied bombing "smashed the city to atoms") and to Berlin, where the Nazi leader was living in a bunker. Victory would *not* be his - "at any price" - as Soviet forces moved into the city.

*These photographs, many never previously published, were taken by Hugo Jaeger, one of Hitler's personal photographers.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/TERROR-ACROSS-EUROPE-Victory-in-Europe-End-of-WWII>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/TERROR-ACROSS-EUROPE-Victory-in-Europe-End-of-WWII>

Questions 2 Ponder

When Should Citizens Oppose Blatant Civil-Rights Abuse?

What expressions do we see on the faces of the crowd-watchers who are observing Jewish people on their hands and knees, cleaning one of Vienna's streets?

Do those expressions tell us how these individuals view the situation?

Did those citizens have it in their collective power to oppose what was happening to the Jewish population? If they had tried to stop it, what do you think what have happened to them?

Did President Roosevelt Know about Nazi Abuses as Early as 1938?

When President Roosevelt commented at a 1938 press conference—following Kristallnacht ("The Night of Broken Glass")—that "I myself could scarcely believe that such things could occur in a twentieth century civilization," do we get a clue whether the American leader could expect an ever-worsening situation to develop if the Nazis remained in power?

If so, what do you think leaders like FDR could have done to prevent all the abuses which followed in the wake of the Nazi regime?

When Voters No-Longer Trust Political Propaganda ... What Then?

Nazi propaganda posters had rallied the German people, to vote for Hitler and his political party, but how effective were those political messages as the war dragged on and the German people suffered under their national leadership?

Media Stream



Hitler's Speech to the Reichstag

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Hitler-s-Speech-to-the-Reichstag>



Anschluss

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Anschluss>



Map Depicting German Aquisition in Czechoslovakia

Image online, courtesy the Highline Community College website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Depicting-German-Aquisition-in-Czechoslovakia>



Map Depiction the Czech Partition Plans

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Depiction-the-Czech-Partition-Plans>



Czech Reaction to German Acquisition

Image online, courtesy Columbia College website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Czech-Reaction-to-German-Acquisition>



Map Depicting Lands Surrendered to German Control

Image online, courtesy the Department of History, University of San Diego.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Depicting-Lands-Surrendered-to-German-Control>



Reaction to German Troops Entering Paris

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Reaction-to-German-Troops-Entering-Paris>



Synagogue in Berlin

Image online, courtesy Center for Jewish History, New York.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Synagogue-in-Berlin>



Nazi Poster: The New Europe Can Not Be Defeated

Image online, courtesy the holocaustresearchproject.org website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Nazi-Poster-The-New-Europe-Can-Not-Be-Defeated>



Nazi Poster: Victory At Any Price!

Image online, courtesy the Calvin.edu website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Nazi-Poster-Victory-At-Any-Price->



Russian Soldiers in Berlin

Image online, courtesy the European Center of Military History website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Russian-Soldiers-in-Berlin>



Soviet Soldiers Entering Berlin

Image online, courtesy the European Center of Military History website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Soviet-Soldiers-Entering-Berlin>



TERROR ACROSS EUROPE

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Allied Bombing of Berlin

March 20, 1944 Universal Newsreel - "Blast Berlin by Daylight."

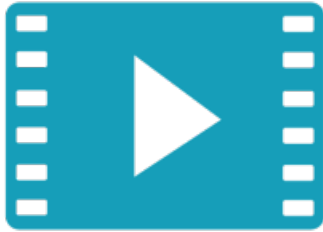
View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Allied-Bombing-of-Berlin>



Hitler Invades Poland

Historical footage, online courtesy Britannica.com at Google Video.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Hitler-Invades-Poland>



Allied Invasion of Germany - April, 1945

5 April 1945, Universal Newsreel.

Public Domain, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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