

Anne Frank Historical Context

- An estimated that 11 million people were killed during the Holocaust. Six million of these were Jews. (How many people live in Tigrard?)
- The Nazis killed approximately two-thirds of all Jews living in Europe. (Think of your classroom--2 of every 3 gone)
- An estimated 1.1 million children were murdered in the Holocaust.

World War II was started by Germany and lasted from 1939 - 1945.

Why? Germany wanted revenge for WWI. Also blamed Jews for post-war problems, including financial.

1930, Hitler, with his **totalitarian regime**, (meaning dictator) **assumed total control of the country**.

He immediately **outlawed all other political parties, churches, and labor unions**.

He also formed the **Gestapo**, a regimented military police organization, and he controlled the radio, newspaper, and even movies (to enable his propaganda). (**No free press like we have in the U.S.**)

Hitler believed in **ethnic cleansing**. To purify Germany – planned to destroy all but true “Aryan” (Germanic) race.

False arrests, tortures, illegal imprisonments, and even murders were commonplace. He then created **concentration camps** to house **Jews, Gypsies, gays, blacks, Jehovah’s Witnesses, people with mental or physical handicaps, and resisters of any race**.

The camps: Prisoners had their heads shaved and their arms tattooed with their identification number. People died of starvation, sickness, unmerciful beatings, firing squads, and gas chambers. Those who were not killed (including children) were humiliated and forced into hard labor. The women were often sexually abused and raped.

In 1938, he invaded and took over Austria and Czechoslovakia, **telling the world it was a move towards peace**.

In 1939 Hitler invaded Poland which caused France and Britain to declare war on Germany, beginning **World War II**.

By 1940, Hitler had overrun Poland, Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, and France. In 1941, Hitler launched an attack against Russia. Throughout the next few years, the persecution of the Jews intensified, and virtually all of Europe was controlled by the brutal Nazis.

America joined the war in 1941 because Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. If we hadn't, Hitler likely would have won.

The war lasted until 1945.

Based on information from
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