**Chapter 24, Section 3: The Holocaust**

**I. Nazi Persecution of the Jews** *(pages 719–722)*

**A.** The Nazis killed nearly 6 million Jews and millions of other people during the **Holocaust.** The Hebrew term for the Nazi campaign to exterminate the Jews before and during World War II is **Shoah.**

**B.** The Nazis persecuted anyone who opposed them, as well as the disabled, Gypsies, homosexuals, and Slovic peoples. The Nazis’ strongest hatred was aimed at all Jews.

**C.** In September 1935, the **Nuremberg Laws** took citizenship away from Jewish Germans and banned marriage between Jews and other Germans. German Jews were deprived of many rights that citizens of Germany had long held. By 1936 at least half of Germany’s Jews were jobless.

**D.** Anti-Jewish violence erupted throughout Germany and Austria on November 9, 1938, known as ***Kristallnacht,*** or “night of broken glass.” Ninety Jews died, hundreds were badly injured, thousands of Jewish businesses were destroyed, and over 180 synagogues were wrecked.

**E.** Between 1933 and the beginning of World War II in 1939, about 350,000 Jews escaped Nazi-controlled Germany. Many of them emigrated to the United States. Millions of Jews remained trapped in Nazi-dominated Europe because they could not get visas to the United States or to other countries.

**Discussion Question**

What factors limited Jewish immigration to the United States? *(Nazi orders limited Jews from taking more than four dollars out of Germany. The United States had laws restricting a visa to any one “likely to become a public charge,” which many assumed the Jews would become because they would have almost no money if they left Germany. Immigration was unpopular in the U.S. because unemployment was high during the 1930s. The U.S. immigration policy allowed only 150,000 immigrants annually.)*

**II. The Final Solution** *(pages 723–724)*

**A.** On January 20, 1942, Nazi leaders met at the **Wannsee Conference** to decide the “final solution” of the Jews and other “undesirables.” The plan was to round up Jews and other “undesirables” from Nazi-controlled Europe and take them to **concentration** **camps**—detention centers where healthy individuals worked as slave laborers. The elderly, the sick, and young children were sent to **extermination camps** to be killed in large gas chambers.

**B.** After World War II began, Nazis built concentration camps throughout Europe. Extermination camps were built in many concentration camps, mostly in Poland. Thousands of people were killed each day at these camps.

**C.** In only a few years, Jewish culture had been virtually obliterated by the Nazis in the lands they conquered.

**Discussion Question**

What factors led to the Holocaust? *(The German people’s sense of injury after World War I; severe economic problems; Hitler’s grip on the German nation; the lack of strong tradition of representative government in Germany; German fear of Hitler’s secret police; and a long history of anti-Jewish prejudice and discrimination in Europe.)*