

ANSWERS

Dates

January 30, 1933 – May
8, 1945

What does Holocaust mean?

destruction or slaughter on a mass scale, especially caused by fire or nuclear war.

What happened during the Holocaust?

The Holocaust was a period of time during World War II when Adolf Hitler, the leader of Germany and the head of the Nazi party, murdered approximately seventeen million people. Hitler and the Nazis targeted Jewish people, Polish people, Catholics, Serbs, and the handicapped, including children.

Describe how conditions in Germany contributed to Hitler's rise to power.

Conditions in Germany at the time were dire. The economy was in bad shape after the Stock Market Crash of 1929. When America recalled Germany's loans, the German economy went into a deep depression. Wages plummeted and unemployment rose, leaving much of Germany in poverty. The German people associated the decline in their living condition to the Weimar democracy, making the Nazi propaganda all the more effective. The conservative ruling class felt that only a return to authoritarian rule would restore the stability needed to protect their power and money, and their support helped to elect the Nazi Party in November 1932.