KRISTALLNACHT - 1938

Causes:
On 7th November 1938 a young polish Jew, Hershel Grynszpan, went into the German embassy in Paris and shot a German Ernst von Rath. Grynszpan hated the way the Germans treated Jews.
A wave of anger swept over Germany on 9th November when von Rath died. Hitler announced that if Germans took revenge on Jews for this, the government would do nothing to prevent it. This was printed in the Nazi paper.

Content:
The result was a storm of attacks on Jews. Some Nazis stood back from the events, and others, especially the SA, took it as an order to attack the Jews. Some SS groups were ordered to ‘organise demonstrations’ and arrest ‘as many Jews as we can fit into prisons’.
So on 9th and 10th November, gangs smashed up Jewish property and attacked Jews. Some Germans were horrified and some watched with pleasure. Shops, homes and even synagogues were destroyed, and at least 100 Jews were killed.

Consequences:
Goebbels blamed the Jews for Kristallnacht. As a result he said Jews would be:
- Fined 1 billion marks for the damage
- Banned from running businesses or shops
- Banned from German schools and universities

The SA and SS also started to round up Jews as punishment. By 12th November 1938, 20,000 Jews had been sent to concentration camps.
Persecution increased in 1939:
- In January the Reich office for Jewish Emigration was set up to rid Germany of its Jews altogether- by enforced emigration. However progress was slow.
- So in April orders went out that all Jews were to be evicted from their homes. They were forced to move into particular areas of some cities (often walled or fenced off) called ghettos. Here they had to wait to be deported.