Transition to the Final Solution

- Rudolf Hoss, comadante of Auschwitz and the Final Solution
- We believe Hitler gave a verbal order to kill the Jews
  - We have never found a signed order
- Himmler visits Einsatzgruppen leaders about how to kill the Jews and order them to put in more effective places and techniques
- Meets with Hoss in the summer of 1941 to establish Auschwitz as not only a concentration camp but also an extermination center
- Eichmann was sent to Auschwitz to meet with Hoss to discuss how the trains would get to Auschwitz and how the Jews would be rounded up, along with the use of poison gas
- Late July 1941: Himmler goes to Lublin to meet with Odilo Globocnik
  - Globocnik was considered to be the worst or the worst of the Nazis
  - Helped to build more camps to kill Jews
  - Treblinka, Sobibor, and Belzec were his; this is where a huge portion of Polish Jews were killed
  - Given the task of exterminating all Jews in the gov, which was Aktion Reinhard, after Reinhard Heydrich who was eventually assassinated in May of 1942
- Hermann Goring, leader of the Luftwaffe (German Air Force)
  - Given a special task by Hitler to carry out the Final Solution
  - Himmler had to consult Goring; written directive that Hitler most definitely knew about it
- Arthur Nebe, head of Einsatzgruppen
  - Walked a group of mentally handicapped captives where they were blown up with grenades
  - Led to the use of carbon monoxide
- Sept. 1941: A stock order by Hitler came for the gassing specialist could be moved to the East (i.e. Poland)

Gassing Begins

- Christian Wirth
  - One of the top technicians of Euthanasia
- SS Economic-Administrative Main Office
  - Ran by Oswald Poll
- Belzec became the first facility dedicated to the extermination of Jews
- First large gassing locations took place at Chlemno (Kulmhof)

Deportation Begins

- Adolf Eichmann's transportation efficiency

Clearing the Ghettos

- Jews were sent to death camps
  - Auschwitz- Birkenau and Treblinka are the most prominent