



## Historical Timeline

1914-1918: Austria-Hungary belongs to the Central Powers in World War I, fighting alongside Germany, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire. The Central Powers are defeated by the Allied Powers of Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Romania, Japan and the United States.

June 4, 1920: The Treaty of Trianon is signed, formally ending WWI between the Allies and the Kingdom of Hungary. This results in redrawing the borders of Hungary, reducing its land by two-thirds of its previous territory. The Treaty also enforces restrictions on Hungary's armed forces and the payment of reparations.

January 30, 1933: Adolf Hitler is sworn in as Chancellor of Germany. Radical nationalists and fascists in Hungary pressure the government to work alongside Nazi Germany for ideological and economic reasons, and in hopes of regaining territory lost in the Treaty of Trianon.

March 1938: Nazi Germany annexes Austria, known as the Anschluss. Hungary begins issuing anti-Jewish legislation.

Fall 1938-1941: Hungary, with support from Germany and Italy, annexes provinces including a part of southern Slovakia (1938), Subcarpathian Russia, also previously a part of Czechoslovakia, (1939), northern Transylvania (1940), and Yugoslavia (1941). The addition of these provinces doubles the amount of Jews living in Hungary, which by 1941 totals approximately 825,000. Jews consist of less than 6 percent of the total population in Hungary.

May 29, 1938: The First Jewish Law is passed, allowing companies in many professions to employ a maximum of 20% Jewish employees.

May 5, 1939: The Second Jewish Law is passed, defining Jews as a race and further restricting employment of Jews. As a consequence of the First and Second Jewish Laws, over 90,000 Jews lose their employment, affecting around 220,000 people.

November 1940: Hungary joins the Axis alliance.

Summer 1941: Hungary deports 20,000 "alien Jews" to Nazi-occupied Ukraine, where they are shot by the Einsatzgruppen, or mobile killing squads.

August 8, 1941: The Third Jewish Law is passed, prohibiting marriage and sexual relations between Jews and non-Jews.

1942: Mounting pressure from Germany and Hungary's racial right to deport Hungarian Jews is met with resistance. Most Hungarian Jews are not deported until Germany's invasion/occupation in 1944.



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February 1943: The Axis powers are defeated at Stalingrad. Realizing that Germany would eventually lose the war, Hungary tries to distance itself from Germany and begins negotiating with the western Allies.

March 19, 1944: In response to Hungary's efforts to negotiate with the Allies, Germany occupies Hungary. Key government officials are replaced with pro-Nazi radicals, who reinforce Hungary's commitment to the Nazi war effort and agree to cooperate with the deportation of Hungarian Jews. The German occupation forces include a unit headed by Adolf Eichmann, who is tasked with implementing the "final solution," or the systematic murder of Jews in Hungary. With only a 150 SS officers assisting him, Eichmann depends on the collaboration of Hungarian authorities. Jews are immediately forced to identify themselves by wearing the Star of David on their clothing, their movement is restricted, and their property and businesses are seized.

April 16, 1944: The first ghetto is established. Armed Hungarian police, or gendarmes, round up Jews, often stealing their personal possessions. Over 200 camps and ghettos are created in Hungary but only occupied temporarily, with Jews staying on average two to six weeks before they are deported.

Mid-May 1944: Systematic deportations begin. Over the course of the next 56 days, over 430,000 Jews are deported on 147 trains. All but 15,000 are sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where the majority are gassed upon arrival.

July 7, 1944: Hungary stops deportations due to pressure from Allies threatening war crimes trials after their increasingly likely victory. Only the Jews residing in Budapest remain and the rest of the country is considered "Jew-free." Hungary attempts once again to negotiate with the Allies, this time with the Soviet Union.

October 1944: Hungary announces it is leaving the Axis alliance. Germany sponsors a coup d'état, replacing the Hungarian government with the fascist and violently antisemitic Arrow Cross party.

November 8, 1944: Approximately 70,000 Jews from Budapest are sent on a Death March by foot to Austria. Those who survive the Death March are taken to concentration camps. The Jews who remain in Budapest are put into a ghetto.

December 1944 and January 1945: The Hungarian Arrow Cross murders around 20,000 Jews on the banks of the Danube River.

December 26, 1944: The Soviet Army begins the Siege of Budapest.

January 1945: Hungary signs an armistice.



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April 1945: Soviet forces liberate Hungary from the last of the German and Arrow Cross units. Of the approximately 825,000 Jews living in Hungary in 1941, around 255,000 (less than one-third) survived.