



# THE HOLOCAUST



# Early Events

- Within months of taking over the Chancellery, Hitler and the Nazis began locking up political prisoners
  - **DACHAU** – opened and operated by the SS to terrorize people into submission and settle scores
- By Summer 1933 the Nazis began a program of sterilizing and then murdering mentally disabled adults and children
- **THE NUREMBURG LAWS** (Sept 1935) – changed citizenship laws to deny Jews of German citizenship; drastically limited the role Jewish people could play in public life
  - Official title “Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor”
  - One goal of the laws – to get as many Jews as possible to emigrate

# **Kristallnacht -- Nov 1938**

- Allegedly carried out as revenge for killing of a German diplomat in France by a Jewish person
- The SS and SA (along with other Germans) smashed up German businesses, attacked and raped people, murdered people and committed other acts of violence against Jews across Germany
- Roughly 100 murdered, thirty thousand sent to concentration camps, 267 synagogues destroyed, thousands of Jewish businesses destroyed

# Concentration Camps, Ghettos and Pogroms

- After the war began new camps and ghettos were created in occupied territory – especially Poland
- The **WARSAW GHETTO** was the largest with 350,000 people walled off into a small area inside the city
- “**WORK CAMPS**” created to use people as slave labor until they died
- In some places Jewish populations were just murdered straight away – often by local people with German support
  - At **BABI YAR** (in Kiev) 33,000+ people were murdered in September 1941

# The “Final Solution”

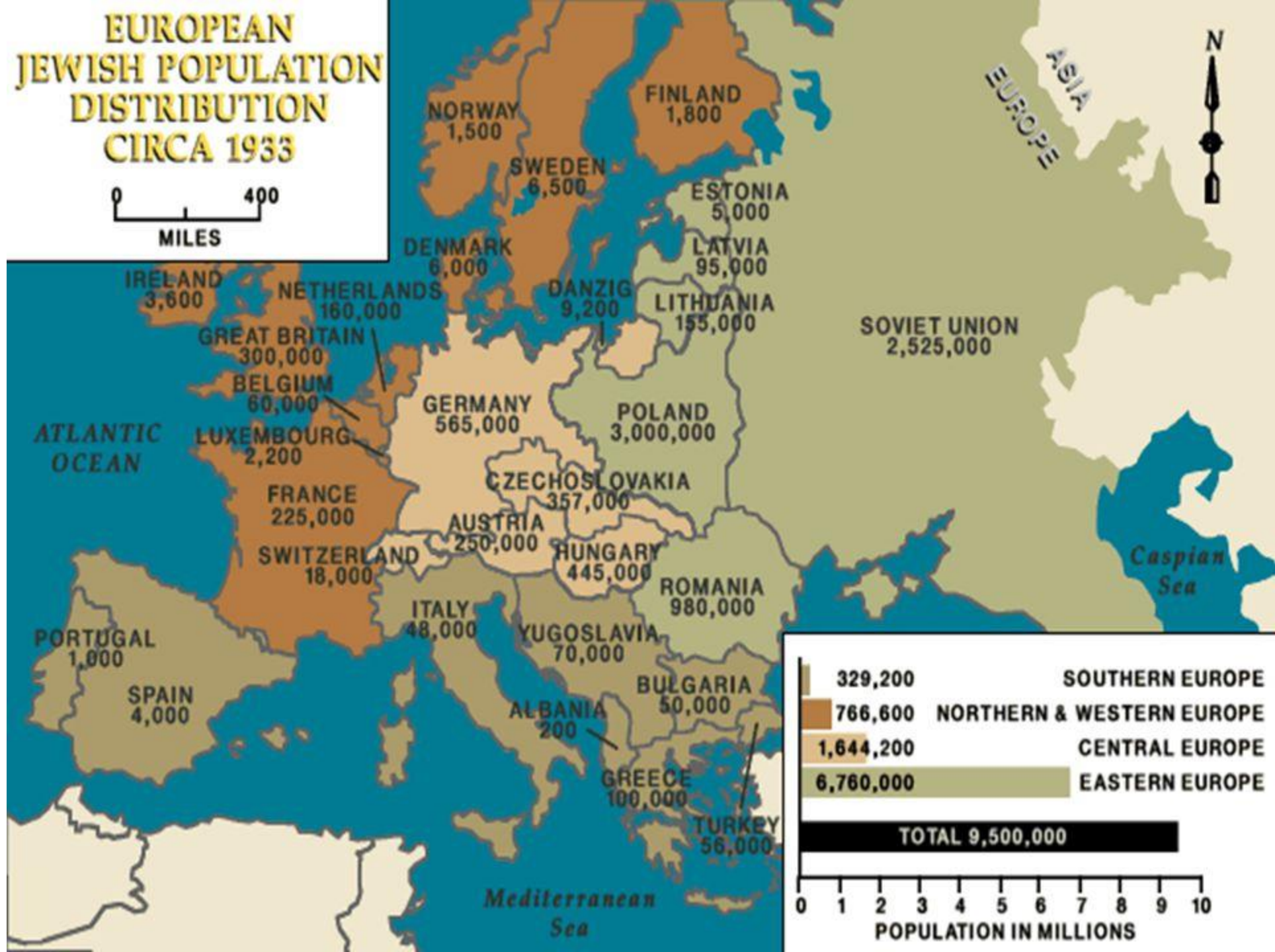
- As killings mounted and ghetto/concentration camp populations swelled the SS leadership sought a more efficient method
- Hitler also sought the elimination of all Jews following the entry of the US into the war – which he blamed on American Jews
- Early experiments using car exhaust to kill people
- Evolved into gas chambers using poison gas eventually killing millions



# Holocaust Map: Location of the Camps



# Pre-War Jewish Population





# Jewish population by region, 1933 and 1950

## Southern Europe



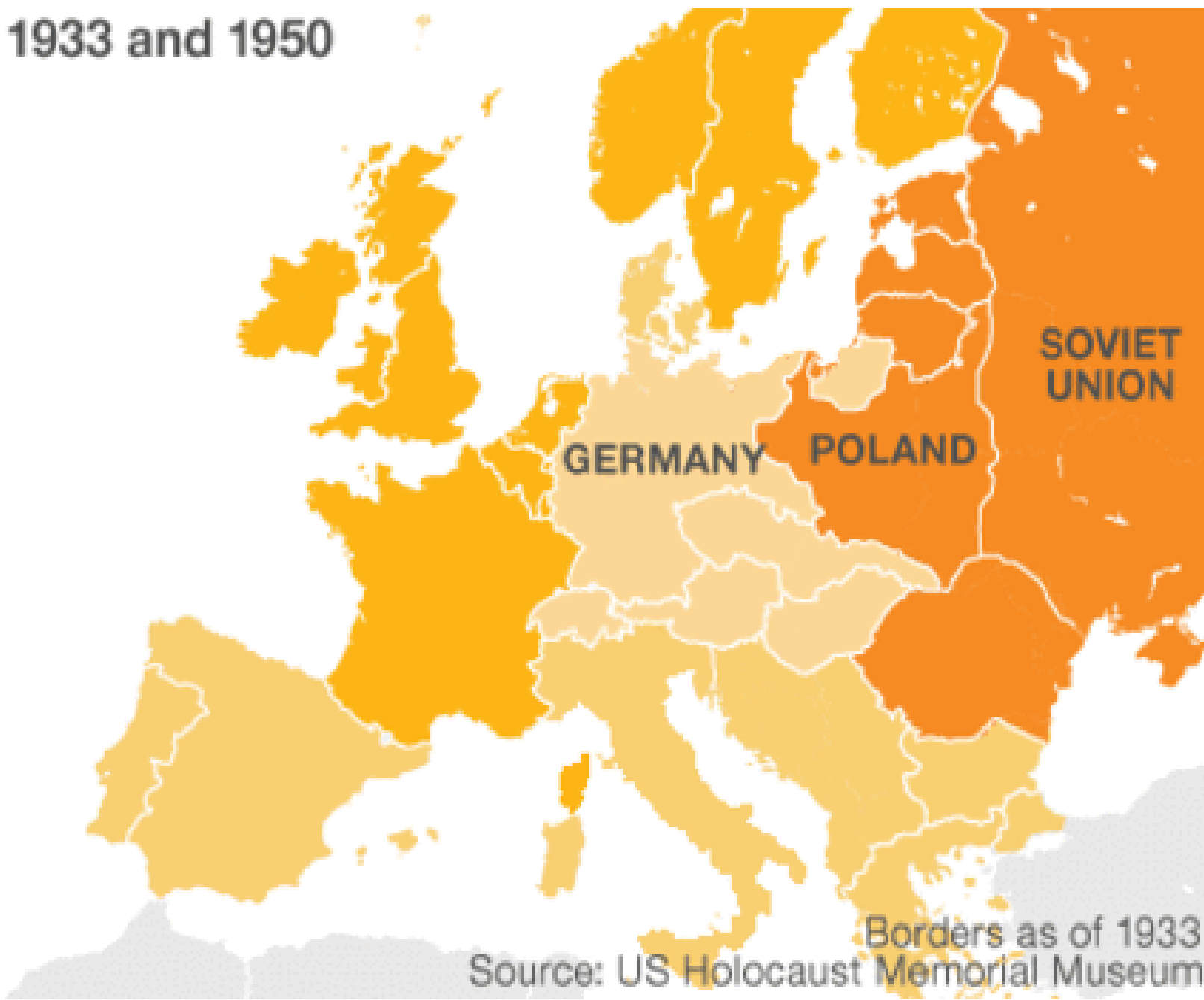
## Northern & Western Europe



## Central Europe



## Eastern Europe





# Post War Liberation and Trials

- The **NUREMBERG TRIALS** were held following the war to hold those responsible accountable
  - Nearly 200 tried from 1945 to 1949; some executed
  - Finding Nazi war criminals continued well past the end of WWII and into the 2000's
  - Most major Nazi figures committed suicide prior to capture
- Formation of the **STATE OF ISRAEL** came out of the British Mandate of Palestine
  - State of Israel not official until 1949 following the 1947-49 Palestine War/War of Independence

# Questions to Answer from the Reading

1. Briefly describe the Holocaust. What was it, who was impacted, when and where did it occur?
2. What was the “Final Solution”? How did it become a policy and how was it carried out?
3. How did the killing of Jews and others under the Nazi régime evolve from before the war to 1945?
4. Who was incarcerated in the concentration camps? What was the process for ending up there?
5. How did the concentration camp/death camp system come to an end?