1. Allies: The nations that fought against Germany, Japan, and Italy during World War II were called the Allies.
2. Anti-Jewish laws: Nazi discriminatory laws denied Jews many rights and privileges, including citizenship, civil rights, and property ownership.
3. Anti-Semitism: This term is often used to mean hateful feelings for or actions against Jews.
4. Aryan: During the Hitler era, the Nazis incorrectly used the term “Aryan race” to mean “German race.” Actually, Hitler and his men were confused in two ways. First, there is no such thing as an “Aryan” or “German” race. Second, “Aryan” really means a family of languages often referred to as Indo-European. Not just Germans but half the world’s population speaks a language belonging to this group, including English, French, Polish, Italian, and many others.
5. Atrocity: an atrocity is a cruel and brutal act.
6. Black market: Goods sold at illegal prices or in illegal amounts are sold on the black market. Jews in hiding had to secure food and other necessities through the black market.
7. Blitzkrieg: a German word meaning “lightning war.” It is used to describe a rapid, overwhelming attack.
8. Boycott: to boycott is to refuse to do business with a specific group. The Nazis boycotted Jewish businesses and kept all Germans from buying from or selling to Jewish merchants.
9. Bystander: A person who is present at an event without participating in the central actions of the event. Bystanders sometimes actively or passively condone or condemn the central actions by their words or actions, or alternately, by their silence or inaction.
10. Complicity: complicity is a partnership in crime.
11. Concentration camp: a place where political enemies and prisoners of war are held. Without trial or explanation, the Nazis imprisoned Jews and everyone else they wanted out of the way. They used their camps to terrorize people and silence opposition.
12. Crematories: crematories are furnaces for burning bodies to ashes. At all the death camps, crematories were used to dispose of gas-chamber victims.
13. Death camp: A death camp is a place expressly designed for the purpose of killing.
14. Death march: a death march was a long forced march of concentration camp prisoners led by Nazi guards retreating from Allied invasion. Death marches were so named because weak and starving prisoners who could not keep up the pace were shot instantly. The marches—generally dozens of miles long—ended at prison camps farther away from front lines than the original camps.
15. Deport: to exile or remove that person from a country. Nazis deported European Jews from their native lands to concentration camps and ghettos.
16. Discriminate: to act on the basis of prejudice or unfairness.
17. Einsatzgruppen: The Einsatzgruppen consisted of four SS squads of 3,000 men assigned to shoot Jewish men, women, and children living in western Poland (then under Russian occupation) and other Russian territories.
18. Emigrate: to move from one’s own country to live in another. Thousands of Jewish refugees emigrated to escape Nazi terror.
19. Fascism: fascism is a reactionary or totalitarian system of government. A fascist government controls the economy, encourages extreme nationalism, and suppresses all opposition.
20. “final solution to the Jewish question”: this was a Nazi euphemism, or inoffensive term, for the extermination of all Jewish people in Europe.
21. Gas chamber: an airtight room designed with gas jets that secreted lethal fumes to kill the occupants within.
22. Genocide: the planned killing of an entire racial or cultural group of people.
23. Gestapo: A division of the SS. A plain-clothes secret police force, the Gestapo was in charge of imprisoning all Nazi enemies, including Jews.
24. Ghetto: a part of a city where Jews were forced to live.
25. Hitler youth: Hitler Youth was a Nazi organization of the Third Reich for German boys aged six to 18. A similar organization for German girls was called League of German Maidens.
26. Jew: A Jew is a person whose religion is Judaism, a member of a group that once lived in Palestine but now lives in many countries throughout the world. German Jews comprised barely one percent of the total German population when Hitler came to power.
27. Kapos: Kapos were prisoners of concentration camps who agreed to supervise other prisoners inside the camps in exchange for special privileges from the Nazis.
28. Labor camps: Nazi prisons where inmates were forced to work.
29. Liberate: liberate means to set free. Allied troops eventually liberated all the Nazi concentration camps.
30. Martial law: during a time of war or trouble, soldiers and military authorities might rule a country.
31. Minority group: a minority group is comprised of a number of people who differ in some way from the dominant group that has greater control in society.
32. Nazi: Nazi is an acronym, or abbreviated name, for the Nazionalsozialische Partei, or National Socialist German Workers’ party. This was a fascist group under the leadership of Adolf Hitler.
33. Oppressor: one who keeps another down by severe and unjust use of force or authority.
34. Persecute: to harm often and unjustly.
35. Pogrom: a pogrom is an organized and, often, officially approved attack on a minority group. The first Nazi pogrom against all the Jews of Germany and Austria occurred November 9-10, 1938. It was called *Kristallnacht*, or “night of Broken Glass.”
36. Prejudice: an opinion or judgment made in advance without good reason.
37. Propaganda: propaganda is a plan for spreading opinions. Nazi propaganda to discredit Jews and to promote the master race theory bombarded the German public through every communication channel possible: schools, the press, radio, books, magazines, paintings, stage plays, films, songs, etc.
38. Racist: A racist is a person who believes that by nature some races are superior to others built on falsehood.
39. Refugee: a person who flees for safety in times of war or persecution is a refugee.
40. Retribution: retribution is punishment for evil done.
41. SS: SS was the acronym for Schutzstaffel. The SS was a private army of elite, highly trained Nazi guards.
42. Sabotage: to undermine or interfere in a cause is to sabotage. The Dutch resistance, which included both Jews and non-Jews, sabotaged Nazi efforts in many ways, such as giving false information, blocking military efforts, making defective war equipment in factories, helping refugees to get food and supplies, and destroying enemy forces.
43. “selection”: this was a term used by Nazis to describe the process of choosing incoming Jewish prisoners for immediate death or forced labor.
44. Storm troopers: Hitler created a private army who helped him to power by fighting opposing political parties like the Communists and Democrats.
45. Third Reich: The German government under Nazi control between 1933 and 1945 was called the Third Reich.
46. Transit camp: Transit camps were Nazi concentration camps, set up mainly in western European countries that served as temporary collection centers for Jews on their way to the death camps of Poland. While held here, Jewish prisoners were put to forced labor.
47. Underground: a secret organization that resists foreign domination and works to free its country.
48. Victim: one who is harmed, killed, or made to suffer by another.