

## Handout 2.8: The November pogrom, *Kristallnacht*



After the destruction of *Kristallnacht*

On 9/10 November 1938, the state-sponsored pogrom known as *Kristallnacht* erupted against the Jews of Germany and Austria. The Hitler Youth, bolstered by the SS, SA and locals, unleashed a night of terror, violence and destruction. Synagogues and Jewish schools, shops and businesses were wrecked and set ablaze. Windows were smashed, leaving the streets strewn with glass. Homes were looted, and cemeteries were desecrated. Recent research estimates that over 1,000 Jews were beaten to death or subsequently died from their injuries and maltreatment.

Some 35,000 Jewish men were thrown into concentration camps. After the destruction, the Jewish communities were fined 1 billion Reichsmark to pay for the damage! For many Jews, it became clear that they had to leave, and offices were set up to speed Jewish emigration. The violence of *Kristallnacht* marked the acceleration of Jewish persecution that would ultimately lead to the Holocaust.