

Third Reich

- 1939 September 21: Reinhard Heydrich, head of the RSHA and co-ordinator of the “*Final Solution*”, holds a meeting/conference in Berlin.
- **1939 October 17: The RSHA (Main Office for State Security) orders all Gypsies to be profiled and then confined to specific locations from which they are forbidden to move. The same order also contains the names of internment camps for Gypsies, transportation methods and provisioning.**
- 1939 end of October: some hundred “Gypsy fortune tellers”, who Himmler considers a moral threat to the nation, are arrested.
- 1940 January 20: in a progress report to the DFG, Dr. Ritter writes: "Through our work we have been able to establish that more than ninety per cent of so-called native Gypsies are of mixed blood... The Gypsy question can only be considered solved when the main body of asocial and good-for-nothing Gypsy individuals of mixed blood is collected together in large labour camps and kept working there, and when the further breeding of this population of mixed blood is stopped once and for all."
- **1940 April 27: Himmler issues a decree for the deportation of 2,500 Gypsies from the boundaries of the Reich to the General Gouvernement. Deportations begin in May.**
- **1940: for the first time at the Buchenwald Concentration Camp, the deadly effects of Zyklon-B gas are tested on 250 Roma children from the Czech town of Brno.**
- 1941 March 28: Brack, who has been placed in charge of the "euthanasia" program, writes from the *Reich* Chancellery to *Reichsfuehrer* -SS, Himmler, that the problem of sterilizing large numbers of individuals has been solved using X-ray
- **1941 August 7: Himmler issues a circular classifying Gypsies on a biological basis: Z (pure Gypsies), ZM+ (born from marriages with more than 50 percent of Gypsy blood), ZM (with equal percentages of German and Gypsy blood), ZM- (mixed race Gypsies of predominantly Aryan blood) .**
- 1941 October 10: in a “Conference on the Final solution of the Jewish Question”, Reinhard Heydrich tells his subordinates that Gypsies “must also be subject to evacuation”.
- 1942 March 14: In his report to the DFG, Ritter mentions “the definitive investigation of almost 15,000 Gypsies.”

Italy

- 1940 August 8: the Ministry of Interior sets the objective of cleansing Italy of Gypsy caravans, considered a danger to public safety and hygiene
- **1940 September 11: Arturo Bocchini, Italian Chief of Police, issues a circular ordering that Gypsies living freely be “rounded up” as quickly as possible and concentrated under strict surveillance in a suitable locality in every province. Italian and foreign Gypsies are commonly targeted for persecution.**
- 1940 September: beginning of **deportation to the Italian concentration camps** of Gonars (Udine) and Arbe (Croatia), Perdasdefogu (Nuoro), Boiano and Vinchiaturro (Campobasso). Specific lists documenting the internment of “Gypsies” were traced back

to Tossicia (Teramo), Prignano (Modena) and Agnone (Isernia), the latter most certainly designated as a concentration camp “reserved solely for Gypsies”, at least from 1941 onwards.

- **1942 May 14:** The Italian Embassy in Berlin writes to the Italian Ministry of Interior (in particular to the Demographic and Race Headquarters, Public Safety and the Ministry of Popular Culture) informing them that **Gypsies residing in the Reich have been equated with the Jews and therefore subjected to anti-Semitic laws.** Gypsies considered include “not only pure Gypsies but also those with part Gypsy blood”.

Other European Countries

- **1941 April 27: first transport of 500 Gypsies from Zagabria to the Jasenova (Croatia) concentration and extermination camp.**
- 1941: 5,007 Gypsies are transported to the **Lodz ghetto**: almost all prisoners die during the winter from typhus fever while, in January of the following year, survivors are transferred to Chelmno and gassed.
- 1941 June 22. Germany invades Soviet Russia. Special groups begin the mass extermination of Jews, Gypsies and the mentally deficient.
- 1942 July 31: the German Ministry for Occupied Territories of the East writes to the Polish authorities stating that the same laws issued against Jews also apply to the Gypsies.