

**SYDNEY
JEWISH
MUSEUM**

WHERE HISTORY HAS A VOICE

KRISTALLNACHT

A Turning Point in the German war against Jews

KRISTALLNACHT

What do you think
this word means?

Use these three images to explain why it might be known as the night of broken glass



Image A

Use these three images to explain why it might be known as the night of broken glass



Image B

Use these three images to explain why it might be known as the night of broken glass



Image C

Record this explanation of Kristallnacht in your notes:

On November 9–10, 1938, Nazi leaders unleashed a night of violence against the Jewish population in Germany and German-controlled territories. It involved the vandalism and destruction of Jewish-owned businesses, synagogues, and homes.

This event has called *Kristallnacht* (The Night of Broken Glass) because of the shattered glass that littered the streets afterwards. It is now known as the November Pogrom.

Joseph Goebbels, Minister for Propaganda

November 9, 1938, public speech:

“the Führer has decided that ... demonstrations should not be prepared or organized by the Party, but insofar as they erupt spontaneously, they are not to be hampered.”



306185-4

Geheim!

Abchrift des Blitz-Fernschreibens aus München vom 10.11.38

1 Uhr 20.

2

An alle

Staatspolizeileit = und Staatspolizeistellen

An alle

SD -Oberabschnitte und SD-Unterschnitte.

Dringend: Sofort dem Leiter oder
seinem Stellvertreter vorlegen!

Betrifft:

Maßnahmen gegen Juden in der
heutigen Nacht.

✓
Aufgrund des Attentats gegen den Leg. Sekretär von
R a t h in Paris sind in Laufe der heutigen Nacht - 9. auf 10.
11.1938 - im ganzen Reich Demonstrationen gegen die Juden zu er-
warten. Für die Behandlung dieser Vorgänge ergehen die folgenden
Anordnungen:

1) Die Leiter der Staatspolizeistellen oder ihre Stell-
vertreter haben sofort nach Eingang dieses Fernschreibens mit
den für ihren Bezirk zuständigen politischen Leitungen - Gau -
leitung oder Kreisleitung - fernmündlich Verbindung aufzu-
nehmen und eine Besprechung über die Durchführung der Demon-
strationen zu vereinbaren, zu der der zuständige Inspekteur
oder Kommandeur der Ordnungspolizei zuzuziehen ist. In dieser

A 306185

646

MOST URGENT TELEGRAM
10 November 1938, 1:20 am
From: Chief of Police,
Reinhard Heydrich
To: All Headquarters and
States of the State Police and
All Local and Regional Offices
of the Security
Re: Measures against the
Jews Tonight

The telegram noted that ‘demonstrations’ were expected, and included the following instructions:

- 1a)** Only such actions may be carried out which do not threaten German lives or property (e.g., burning of synagogues only when there is no threat of fire to the surroundings).
- 1b)** Stores and residences of Jews may only be destroyed but not looted.
- 1c)** Special care is to be taken on commercial streets that non-Jewish businesses are completely secured against damage.
- 2)** Demonstrations in progress should not be prevented by the police but only supervised for compliance with the guidelines.

The telegram noted that ‘demonstrations’ were expected, and included the following instructions:

5) As soon as the course of events during this night allows the assigned police officers to be used for this purpose, as many Jews as can be accommodated – particularly affluent Jews – are to be arrested in all districts and placed in existing detention facilities. For the time being, only healthy male Jews, whose age is not too advanced, are to be arrested. Immediately after the arrests have been carried out, the appropriate concentration camps should be contacted to place the Jews into camps as quickly as possible. Special care should be taken that Jews arrested on the basis of this instruction are not mistreated.

Based on the last two sources (Goebbels' speech and Heydrich's telegram), answer:

To what extent was the Kristallnacht pogrom ordered by the Nazi leadership?

Holocaust Survivor, Eddie Jaku, OAM



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to view
video on
YouTube



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to view
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“It took a direct threat to their lives to make most German Jews realise that their ties to Germany could no longer be maintained. This occurred in the form of *Kristallnacht*. After this, most Jews were obliged to give up the notion that they still had any right of domicile in Germany. No longer could they reasonably hope for better times. Their pessimism was justified: in quick succession there followed the measures that destroyed their economic existence through forced labour and ghettoization.

The old debate over whether to leave or stay now ceased. In its place came the imperative: “Get out, at all costs!” A mass panic to flee ensued. Rescue operations began in all the Jewish communities. Priority was given to sending children and young people to the West, particularly to England.”

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THANK YOU