The Holocaust refers to Nazi Germany’s attempt to annihilate the Jewish population of Europe. Adolf Hitler, leader of the Nazi Party, saw Jews as the primary enemy of the “Aryan” race and believed that Germany would become powerful only by ridding itself of Jews. Starting in 1933, Nazi Germany took measures to humiliate, isolate, and persecute Jews. The Nazis also targeted other groups in Germany, including Roma and Sinti, people with disabilities, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Afro-Germans, homosexuals, and political opponents. With the outbreak of World War II in September 1939, Nazi policies and violence extended to each country occupied by Germany. During the war, the Nazis and their collaborators began systematically killing Jews and other target groups. By the time World War II ended in 1945, six million Jews had been murdered in the Holocaust.