

what happened in 1938 in american history

what happened in 1938 in american history was a year marked by significant events that shaped the nation's social, political, and cultural landscape. From landmark legislative actions and turbulent economic developments to pivotal moments in civil rights, science, and entertainment, 1938 stands out as a year of transformation and resilience for the United States. This article explores the key happenings of the year, including the Fair Labor Standards Act, the impact of the Great Depression, the growing tension in international affairs, and the rise of American entertainment. Whether you are interested in historical legislation, cultural milestones, or the broader context of American society in the late 1930s, this comprehensive overview provides valuable insights into the events that defined 1938 in American history. Continue reading to discover the major turning points, influential figures, and lasting legacies from this remarkable year.

- Legislative Landmarks of 1938
- Economic and Social Challenges
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Legislative Landmarks of 1938

The Fair Labor Standards Act

One of the most significant legislative events in 1938 in American history was the passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the FLSA established critical regulations for American workers. The act set the national minimum wage, regulated child labor, and mandated overtime pay for certain jobs, marking a major advancement in labor rights. The FLSA was a response to years of worker advocacy and was instrumental in improving working conditions across the

country. By establishing standards for wages and hours, the law helped protect vulnerable workers and contributed to a more equitable economic environment.

Other Key Legislation

In addition to the FLSA, Congress passed several other important laws in 1938. The Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act was enacted, giving the federal government greater authority to regulate the safety of consumer products. This law was a direct response to public health concerns and aimed to protect citizens from dangerous or mislabeled products. These legislative milestones reflected a broader commitment to reform and regulation, which was a hallmark of the New Deal era.

- Fair Labor Standards Act: Minimum wage, maximum hours, child labor regulation
- Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act: Product safety and labeling standards
- Wage and Hour Division: Federal department created for labor enforcement

Economic and Social Challenges

The Great Depression's Continuing Impact

Although the worst years of the Great Depression had passed, 1938 was marked by a severe economic downturn, often referred to as the "Roosevelt Recession." Unemployment rates spiked again, and industrial production slowed, causing hardship for millions of Americans. The government responded with increased public works spending and new federal programs aimed at stimulating the economy. Despite these efforts, economic recovery remained slow, and many families continued to struggle.

Labor Strikes and Worker Advocacy

Labor unrest was a defining feature of 1938. Workers across multiple industries went on strike demanding better wages, safer working conditions, and fair treatment. Major strikes included those in the automobile, steel, and textile sectors. These actions not only pressured employers but also advanced the cause of organized labor, helping to secure future gains for American workers.

1. Automobile industry strikes for union recognition
2. Steelworker protests for wage increases
3. Textile worker actions against unfair practices

International Affairs and American Response

Growing Tensions in Europe

In 1938, global events began to overshadow domestic concerns. In Europe, Germany's annexation of Austria and the Munich Agreement signaled rising tensions that would eventually lead to World War II. While the United States maintained an official policy of neutrality, the government closely monitored developments overseas. American leaders debated how to respond to aggression abroad, balancing isolationist sentiment with concerns about international stability.

Immigration and Refugee Policy

As the situation in Europe worsened, the United States faced increasing pressure to accept refugees fleeing Nazi persecution. The Evian Conference, held in France, highlighted the global refugee crisis and posed moral challenges for American policymakers. While immigration quotas remained strict, some voices within the government and public advocated for greater humanitarian support.

Civil Rights and Social Movements

Racial Inequality and Activism

Civil rights struggles continued to shape American society in 1938. African Americans faced segregation, discrimination, and economic hardship, but grassroots activism gained momentum. Organizations such as the NAACP expanded their efforts to challenge unjust laws and practices. Legal battles over equal access to education and public services laid the groundwork for future progress, although significant barriers remained.

Women's Rights and Changing Roles

The role of women in American society was also evolving in 1938. The economic demands of the Great Depression and the labor movement encouraged more women to enter the workforce, although they often faced lower wages and limited opportunities. Women's organizations advocated for greater rights and recognition, contributing to gradual social change.

Science, Technology, and Innovation

Breakthroughs in Medicine and Research

1938 saw notable advancements in American science and technology. The Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act spurred increased research and development in medicine. Scientists made progress in understanding diseases, leading to improved treatments and public health policies. Innovations in pharmaceuticals and medical equipment began to enhance the quality of life for many Americans.

Technological Progress

Technological innovation was another hallmark of the year. Advances in aviation, telecommunications, and manufacturing helped lay the foundation for future industrial growth. American inventors and researchers contributed to global progress, ensuring that the country remained a leader in science and technology.

American Entertainment and Culture

Hollywood and the Film Industry

The entertainment industry flourished in 1938, with Hollywood producing some of its most memorable films. Moviegoers flocked to theaters to see new releases featuring stars like Judy Garland and Clark Gable. The year also saw the continued rise of animated films and serials, reflecting America's love for storytelling and visual spectacle.

Radio and Popular Music

Radio remained a dominant force in American culture, providing news, music, and entertainment to households across the nation. Programs such as "The Mercury Theatre on the Air" became iconic, with Orson Welles' dramatic broadcast of "The War of the Worlds" causing widespread panic and demonstrating the power of mass media.

Notable Figures and Their Impact

Franklin D. Roosevelt's Leadership

President Franklin D. Roosevelt played a central role in shaping American policy in 1938. His administration navigated the challenges of economic recovery, labor reform, and growing international tensions. Roosevelt's leadership during this period set the stage for future developments in both domestic and foreign affairs.

Cultural and Scientific Leaders

Other notable figures made lasting contributions in 1938. Scientists, activists, and entertainers influenced American culture and society, from pioneering medical researchers to celebrated artists and writers. These individuals helped define the spirit of innovation and resilience that characterized the year.

Questions and Answers about what happened in 1938 in american history

Q: What was the most significant law passed in 1938 in the United States?

A: The Fair Labor Standards Act was the most significant law, establishing minimum wage, maximum working hours, and regulations against child labor.

Q: How did the Great Depression affect Americans in

1938?

A: The economic downturn known as the "Roosevelt Recession" led to increased unemployment and hardship, prompting the government to introduce new public works programs.

Q: What notable event occurred in American radio in 1938?

A: Orson Welles' broadcast of "The War of the Worlds" famously caused panic among listeners, demonstrating radio's influence on the public.

Q: How did international events influence America in 1938?

A: Growing tensions in Europe, especially Germany's expansion, led to debates on American neutrality and increased attention to refugee policies.

Q: What advancements in science and medicine took place in 1938?

A: The Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act improved safety standards, and research in medicine advanced treatment for diseases and public health.

Q: Which social movements were active in 1938 American history?

A: Civil rights activism, labor strikes, and women's advocacy groups pushed for equality and better working conditions throughout the year.

Q: Who were some influential American leaders in 1938?

A: President Franklin D. Roosevelt, labor leaders, scientists, and entertainment figures like Orson Welles and Judy Garland were highly influential.

Q: What impact did Hollywood have on American culture in 1938?

A: Hollywood produced major films and expanded animated features, shaping entertainment preferences and cultural trends nationwide.

Q: How did America respond to the European refugee crisis in 1938?

A: While immigration quotas remained strict, there was growing advocacy for humanitarian support and debate over accepting more refugees.

Q: What were some key labor actions in 1938?

A: Major strikes occurred in the automobile, steel, and textile industries, highlighting demands for fair wages, safer conditions, and union recognition.

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What Happened in 1938 in American History? A Year of Contrasts

1938. The Great Depression still cast a long shadow over the United States, yet a sense of cautious optimism flickered amidst the hardship. This year witnessed a complex tapestry of events, from landmark legislative actions and social movements to international tensions that foreshadowed the looming global conflict. This comprehensive guide delves into the significant happenings of 1938 in American history, offering a nuanced understanding of a pivotal year in the nation's journey.

The Economic Landscape: Navigating the Depression's Aftermath

While the New Deal initiatives of the Roosevelt administration had provided some relief, the Great Depression's grip remained tenacious in 1938. The economy experienced a significant recession, often referred to as the "Roosevelt Recession," marked by a sharp rise in unemployment and a drop in industrial production. This downturn highlighted the ongoing challenges in overcoming the economic crisis and led to intense political debate regarding the effectiveness of New Deal policies.

The Fair Labor Standards Act: A Step Towards Worker Protection

Amidst the economic turmoil, Congress passed the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), a landmark piece of legislation establishing minimum wage, maximum hours, and child labor restrictions. This act, while not eliminating all exploitative labor practices, represented a crucial step towards improving working conditions and protecting vulnerable workers. Its impact reverberated through American society, shaping labor relations for decades to come.

Social and Cultural Shifts: A Nation in Transition

1938 saw continued cultural shifts reflecting the changing social landscape. The burgeoning popularity of radio and cinema further cemented their roles as powerful mediums of entertainment and information dissemination. While racial segregation remained deeply entrenched, the burgeoning Civil Rights movement began to gain momentum, with activists continuing their fight for equality and justice.

The Rise of Radio and its Impact on American Culture

Radio broadcasts dominated the airwaves, providing news, entertainment, and shaping public opinion. Popular radio programs became integral parts of American culture, showcasing diverse genres and contributing significantly to the development of a shared national identity. This era also saw the development of significant radio technology that improved broadcasting quality and reach.

The Continued Fight for Civil Rights: Small Victories, Large Challenges

Despite persistent discrimination, African Americans continued their struggle for civil rights. While major legislative victories remained elusive, grassroots organizations and individual activists persisted in their efforts to challenge segregation and inequality, laying the groundwork for future movements. This period saw increased activism and a growing awareness of the need for systemic change.

International Affairs: A World on the Brink

The growing threat of fascism in Europe cast a long shadow over American society in 1938. The annexation of Austria by Nazi Germany in March and the Munich Agreement in September, which ceded the Sudetenland to Germany, signaled the escalating crisis and raised concerns about the potential for a wider European war. While officially maintaining a policy of neutrality, the United States began to take notice of the growing threat to global peace and democracy.

The Munich Agreement and its Impact on American Foreign Policy

The Munich Agreement, while aiming to appease Hitler, is widely viewed as a failed attempt to prevent war. It underscored the limitations of appeasement and heightened anxieties within the United States about the potential for involvement in a European conflict. This event significantly influenced American foreign policy discussions in the years leading up to World War II.

Conclusion

1938 in American history was a year of profound contrasts. Economic hardship intertwined with social and cultural changes, while the looming threat of global war cast a long shadow over the nation. This period serves as a reminder of the complexities and challenges faced by the United States during a pivotal era, shaping its future trajectory both domestically and internationally. Understanding the events of 1938 provides valuable context for comprehending the subsequent decades of American history and its ongoing role in the world.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. What was the most significant economic event of 1938? The most significant economic event was undoubtedly the Roosevelt Recession, a sharp downturn that highlighted the ongoing challenges of the Great Depression and spurred debate on New Deal policies.
2. How did the Fair Labor Standards Act impact American workers? The FLSA established minimum wage, maximum working hours, and child labor restrictions, offering crucial protections to workers, particularly in low-wage industries. However, its impact was uneven, with many workers still facing economic hardship.
3. What role did radio play in American society during 1938? Radio became a dominant form of media, shaping public opinion, providing news and entertainment, and fostering a sense of national unity.
4. How did the events in Europe affect the United States in 1938? The annexation of Austria and the Munich Agreement heightened concerns about the growing threat of fascism and the potential for a wider European war, influencing American foreign policy debates.
5. What were some of the key social movements active in 1938? While facing significant challenges, the Civil Rights movement continued to gain momentum, with activists persistently fighting for equality and justice despite widespread discrimination. Labor movements also remained active, advocating for better working conditions and fair wages.

what happened in 1938 in american history: Historical Gazetteer of the United States

Paul T. Hellmann, 2006-02-14 The first place-by-place chronology of U.S. history, this book offers the student, researcher, or traveller a handy guide to find all the most important events that have occurred at any locality in the United States.

what happened in 1938 in american history: Hitler's American Friends

Bradley W. Hart, 2018-10-02 A book examining the strange terrain of Nazi sympathizers, nonintervention campaigners and other voices in America who advocated on behalf of Nazi Germany in the years before World War II. Americans who remember World War II reminisce about how it brought the country together. The less popular truth behind this warm nostalgia: until the attack on Pearl Harbor, America was deeply, dangerously divided. Bradley W. Hart's Hitler's American Friends exposes the homegrown antagonists who sought to protect and promote Hitler, leave Europeans (and especially European Jews) to fend for themselves, and elevate the Nazi regime. Some of these friends were Americans of German heritage who joined the Bund, whose leadership dreamed of installing a stateside Führer. Some were as bizarre and hair-raising as the Silver Shirt Legion, run

by an eccentric who claimed that Hitler fulfilled a religious prophecy. Some were Midwestern Catholics like Father Charles Coughlin, an early right-wing radio star who broadcast anti-Semitic tirades. They were even members of Congress who used their franking privilege—sending mail at cost to American taxpayers—to distribute German propaganda. And celebrity pilot Charles Lindbergh ended up speaking for them all at the America First Committee. We try to tell ourselves it couldn't happen here, but Americans are not immune to the lure of fascism. Hitler's American Friends is a powerful look at how the forces of evil manipulate ordinary people, how we stepped back from the ledge, and the disturbing ease with which we could return to it.

what happened in 1938 in american history: *The Truth According to Us* Annie Barrows, 2015-06-09 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • From the co-author of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* comes a wise, witty, and exuberant novel, perfect for fans of Lee Smith, that illuminates the power of loyalty and forgiveness, memory and truth, and the courage it takes to do what's right. Annie Barrows once again evokes the charm and eccentricity of a small town filled with extraordinary characters. Her new novel, *The Truth According to Us*, brings to life an inquisitive young girl, her beloved aunt, and the alluring visitor who changes the course of their destiny forever. In the summer of 1938, Layla Beck's father, a United States senator, cuts off her allowance and demands that she find employment on the Federal Writers' Project, a New Deal jobs program. Within days, Layla finds herself far from her accustomed social whirl, assigned to cover the history of the remote mill town of Macedonia, West Virginia, and destined, in her opinion, to go completely mad with boredom. But once she secures a room in the home of the unconventional Romeyn family, she is drawn into their complex world and soon discovers that the truth of the town is entangled in the thorny past of the Romeyn dynasty. At the Romeyn house, twelve-year-old Willa is desperate to learn everything in her quest to acquire her favorite virtues of ferocity and devotion—a search that leads her into a thicket of mysteries, including the questionable business that occupies her charismatic father and the reason her adored aunt Jottie remains unmarried. Layla's arrival strikes a match to the family veneer, bringing to light buried secrets that will tell a new tale about the Romeyns. As Willa peels back the layers of her family's past, and Layla delves deeper into town legend, everyone involved is transformed—and their personal histories completely rewritten. Praise for *The Truth According to Us* "As delightfully eccentric as *Guernsey* yet refreshingly different . . . an epic but intimate family novel with richly imagined characters . . . Willa's indomitable spirit, keen sense of adventure and innate intelligence reminded me of two other motherless girls in literature: Scout Finch in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Flavia de Luce in Alan Bradley's big-hearted British mystery series."—*The Washington Post* "The *Truth According to Us* has all the characteristics of a great summer read: A plot that makes you want to keep turning the pages; a setting that makes you feel like you're inhabiting another time and place; and characters who become people you're sad to leave behind—and thus who always stay with you."—*Miami Herald* "It takes a brave author to make the heroine of a new novel an observant and feisty girl . . . like Scout Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. . . . But Barrows . . . has created a believable and touching character in Willa."—*USA Today* "[A] heartwarming coming-of-age novel [that] sparkles with folksy depictions of a tight-knit family and life in a small town . . . full of richly drawn, memorable characters."—*The Seattle Times* "A big, juicy family saga with warm humor and tragic twists . . . The story gets more and more absorbing as it moves briskly along."—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch* "Annie Barrows leaves no doubt that she is a storyteller of rare caliber, with wisdom and insight to spare. Every page rings like a bell."—Paula McLain, author of *The Paris Wife*

what happened in 1938 in american history: *The Holocaust Averted* Jeffrey S. Gurock, 2015-04-03 In *The Holocaust Averted*, Jeffrey Gurock imagines what might have happened to the Jewish community in the United States if the Holocaust had never occurred and forces readers to contemplate how the road to acceptance and empowerment for today's American Jews could have been harder than it actually was.

what happened in 1938 in american history: *Three Minutes in Poland* Glenn Kurtz, 2014-11-18 The author's search for the annihilated Polish community captured in his grandfather's

1938 home movie. Traveling in Europe in August 1938, one year before the outbreak of World War II, David Kurtz, the author's grandfather, captured three minutes of ordinary life in a small, predominantly Jewish town in Poland on 16 mm Kodachrome color film. More than seventy years later, through the brutal twists of history, these few minutes of home-movie footage would become a memorial to an entire community--an entire culture--that was annihilated in the Holocaust. *Three Minutes in Poland* traces Glenn Kurtz's remarkable four-year journey to identify the people in his grandfather's haunting images. His search takes him across the United States; to Canada, England, Poland, and Israel; to archives, film preservation laboratories, and an abandoned Luftwaffe airfield. Ultimately, Kurtz locates seven living survivors from this lost town, including an eighty-six-year-old man who appears in the film as a thirteen-year-old boy. Painstakingly assembled from interviews, photographs, documents, and artifacts, *Three Minutes in Poland* tells the rich, funny, harrowing, and surprisingly intertwined stories of these seven survivors and their Polish hometown. Originally a travel souvenir, David Kurtz's home movie became the sole remaining record of a vibrant town on the brink of catastrophe. From this brief film, Glenn Kurtz creates a riveting exploration of memory, loss, and improbable survival--a monument to a lost world--

what happened in 1938 in american history: *The Night of Broken Glass* Uta Gerhardt, Thomas Karlauf, 2021-09-11 November 9th 1938 is widely seen as a violent turning point in Nazi Germany's assault on the Jews. An estimated 400 Jews lost their lives in the anti-Semitic pogrom and more than 30,000 were imprisoned or sent to concentration camps, where many were brutally mistreated. Thousands more fled their homelands in Germany and Austria, shocked by what they had seen, heard and experienced. What they took with them was not only the pain of saying farewell but also the memory of terrible scenes: attacks by mobs of drunken Nazis, public humiliations, burning synagogues, inhuman conditions in overcrowded prison cells and concentration camp barracks. The reactions of neighbours and passersby to these barbarities ranged from sympathy and aid to scorn, mockery, and abuse. In 1939 the Harvard sociologist Edward Hartshorne gathered eyewitness accounts of the Kristallnacht from hundreds of Jews who had fled, but Hartshorne joined the Secret Service shortly afterwards and the accounts he gathered were forgotten - until now. These eyewitness testimonies - published here for the first time with a Foreword by Saul Friedländer, the Pulitzer Prize historian and Holocaust survivor - paint a harrowing picture of everyday violence in one of Europe's darkest moments. This unique and disturbing document will be of great interest to anyone interested in modern history, Nazi Germany and the historical experience of the Jews.

what happened in 1938 in american history: *Kristallnacht 1938* Alan E. Steinweis, 2009-11-15 On November 7, 1938, a Jewish teenager, Herschel Grynszpan, fatally shot a German diplomat in Paris. Within three days anti-Jewish violence erupted throughout Germany, initially incited by local Nazi officials, and ultimately sanctioned by the decisions of Hitler and Goebbels at the pinnacle of the Third Reich. As synagogues burned and Jews were beaten in the streets, police stood aside. Men, women, and children—many neighbors of the victims—participated enthusiastically in acts of violence, rituals of humiliation, and looting. By the night of November 10, a nationwide antisemitic pogrom had inflicted massive destruction on synagogues, Jewish schools, and Jewish-owned businesses. During and after this spasm of violence and plunder, 30,000 Jewish men were rounded up and sent to concentration camps, where hundreds would perish in the following months. Kristallnacht revealed to the world the intent and extent of Nazi Judeophobia. However, it was seen essentially as the work of the Nazi leadership. Now, Alan Steinweis counters that view in his vision of Kristallnacht as a veritable pogrom—a popular cathartic convulsion of antisemitic violence that was manipulated from above but executed from below by large numbers of ordinary Germans rioting in the streets, heckling and taunting Jews, cheering Stormtroopers' hostility, and looting Jewish property on a massive scale. Based on original research in the trials of the pogrom's perpetrators and the testimonies of its Jewish survivors, Steinweis brings to light the evidence of mob action by all sectors of the civilian population. Kristallnacht 1938 reveals the true depth and nature of popular antisemitism in Nazi Germany on the eve of the Holocaust.

what happened in 1938 in american history: *A Guide Book of Buffalo and Jefferson Nickels* Q. David Bowers, 2007-01-30 Become a smarter buyer and collector of the popular buffalo and Jefferson nickels. Bowers provides historical background, grading, and collecting information.

what happened in 1938 in american history: *Gene Vincent & Eddie Cochran* John Collis, 2011-08-19 The United Kingdom had never seen anything like it, as two rock'n'roll legends rampaged around the country on Britain's first-ever rock tour. Gene Vincent and Eddie Cochran lived the rock'n'roll lifestyle to the full, bringing to an end the monochrome 1950s and ushering in the swinging 60s. John Collis has traced the story of the UK tour that was a defining moment in British popular culture to its tragic climax with the death of Eddie Cochran. He looks back on the contrasting backgrounds of the two stars, follows the tale onwards to Gene Vincent's death from alcohol and drug abuse, and examines the lasting legacy of their music.

what happened in 1938 in american history: *Taking Flight* M. Houston Johnson, 2019-02-21 Taking Flight explores the emergence of commercial aviation between the world wars—and in the midst of the Great Depression—to show that the industry's dramatic growth resulted from a unique combination of federal policy, technological innovations, and public interest in air travel. Historian M. Houston Johnson traces the evolution of commercial flying from the US Army's trial airmail service in the spring of 1918 to the passage of the pivotal Air Commerce Act of 1938. Johnson emphasizes the role of federal policy—particularly as guided by both Herbert Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt—to reveal the close working relationship between federal officials and industry leaders, as well as an increasing dependence on federal assistance by airline, airframe, and engine manufacturers. Taking Flight highlights the federal government's successful efforts to foster a nascent industry in the midst of an economic crisis without resorting to nationalization, a path taken by virtually all European countries during the same era. It also underscores an important point of continuity between Hoover's policies and Roosevelt's New Deal (a sharp departure from many interpretations of Depression-era business history) and shows how both governmental and corporate actors were able to harness America's ongoing fascination with flying to further a larger economic agenda and facilitate the creation of the world's largest and most efficient commercial aviation industry. This glimpse into the golden age of flight contributes not only to the history of aviation but also to the larger history of the United States during the Great Depression and the period between the world wars.

what happened in 1938 in american history: *Americans and the Holocaust* Daniel Greene, Edward Phillips, 2021-11-30 This edited collection of more than one hundred primary sources from the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s—including newspaper and magazine articles, popular culture materials, and government records—reveals how Americans debated their responsibility to respond to Nazism. It includes valuable resources for students and historians seeking to shed light on this dark era in world history.

what happened in 1938 in american history: *Hitler in Los Angeles* Steven J. Ross, 2017-10-24 A 2018 FINALIST FOR THE PULITZER PRIZE “[Hitler in Los Angeles] is part thriller and all chiller, about how close the California Reich came to succeeding” (Los Angeles Times). No American city was more important to the Nazis than Los Angeles, home to Hollywood, the greatest propaganda machine in the world. The Nazis plotted to kill the city's Jews and to sabotage the nation's military installations: Plans existed for murdering twenty-four prominent Hollywood figures, such as Al Jolson, Charlie Chaplin, and Louis B. Mayer; for driving through Boyle Heights and machine-gunning as many Jews as possible; and for blowing up defense installations and seizing munitions from National Guard armories along the Pacific Coast. U.S. law enforcement agencies were not paying close attention—preferring to monitor Reds rather than Nazis—and only attorney Leon Lewis and his daring ring of spies stood in the way. From 1933 until the end of World War II, Lewis, the man Nazis would come to call “the most dangerous Jew in Los Angeles,” ran a spy operation comprised of military veterans and their wives who infiltrated every Nazi and fascist group in Los Angeles. Often rising to leadership positions, they uncovered and foiled the Nazi's disturbing plans for death and destruction. Featuring a large cast of Nazis, undercover agents, and colorful

supporting players, the Los Angeles Times bestselling *Hitler in Los Angeles*, by acclaimed historian Steven J. Ross, tells the story of Lewis's daring spy network in a time when hate groups had moved from the margins to the mainstream.

what happened in 1938 in american history: Sudden Sea R. A. Scotti, 2008-12-02 The massive destruction wreaked by the Hurricane of 1938 dwarfed that of the Chicago Fire, the San Francisco Earthquake, and the Mississippi floods of 1927, making the storm the worst natural disaster in U.S. history. Now, R.A. Scotti tells the story.

what happened in 1938 in american history: *New Perspectives on Kristallnacht* Steven J. Ross, Wolf Gruner, Lisa Ansell, 2019 On November 9 and 10, 1938, Nazi leadership unleashed an unprecedented orchestrated wave of violence against Jews in Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland, supposedly in response to the assassination of a Nazi diplomat by a young Polish Jew, but in reality to force the remaining Jews out of the country. During the pogrom, Stormtroopers, Hitler Youth, and ordinary Germans murdered more than a hundred Jews (many more committed suicide) and ransacked and destroyed thousands of Jewish institutions, synagogues, shops, and homes. Thirty thousand Jews were arrested and sent to Nazi concentration camps. Volume 17 of the *Casden Annual Review* includes a series of articles presented at an international conference titled *New Perspectives on Kristallnacht: After 80 Years, the Nazi Pogrom in Global Comparison*. Assessing events 80 years after the violent anti-Jewish pogrom of 1938, contributors to this volume offer new cutting-edge scholarship on the event and its repercussions. Contributors include scholars from the United States, Germany, Israel, and the United Kingdom who represent a wide variety of disciplines, including history, political science, and Jewish and media studies. Their essays discuss reactions to the pogrom by victims and witnesses inside Nazi Germany as well as by foreign journalists, diplomats, Jewish organizations, and Jewish print media. Several contributors to the volume analyze postwar narratives of and global comparisons to *Kristallnacht*, with the aim of situating this anti-Jewish pogrom in its historical context, as well as its place in world history.

what happened in 1938 in american history: *FDR and the Jews* Richard Breitman, Allan J. Lichtman, 2013-03-19 Nearly seventy-five years after World War II, a contentious debate lingers over whether Franklin Delano Roosevelt turned his back on the Jews of Hitler's Europe. Defenders claim that FDR saved millions of potential victims by defeating Nazi Germany. Others revile him as morally indifferent and indict him for keeping America's gates closed to Jewish refugees and failing to bomb Auschwitz's gas chambers. In an extensive examination of this impassioned debate, Richard Breitman and Allan J. Lichtman find that the president was neither savior nor bystander. In *FDR and the Jews*, they draw upon many new primary sources to offer an intriguing portrait of a consummate politician-compassionate but also pragmatic-struggling with opposing priorities under perilous conditions. For most of his presidency Roosevelt indeed did little to aid the imperiled Jews of Europe. He put domestic policy priorities ahead of helping Jews and deferred to others' fears of an anti-Semitic backlash. Yet he also acted decisively at times to rescue Jews, often withstanding contrary pressures from his advisers and the American public. Even Jewish citizens who petitioned the president could not agree on how best to aid their co-religionists abroad. Though his actions may seem inadequate in retrospect, the authors bring to light a concerned leader whose efforts on behalf of Jews were far greater than those of any other world figure. His moral position was tempered by the political realities of depression and war, a conflict all too familiar to American politicians in the twenty-first century.

what happened in 1938 in american history: *Burying the Beloved* Amy Motlagh, 2011-12-14 *Burying the Beloved* traces the relationship between the law and literature in Iran to reveal the profound ambiguities at the heart of Iranian ideas of modernity regarding women's rights and social status. The book reveals how novels mediate legal reforms and examines how authors have used realism to challenge and re-imagine notions of the real. It examines seminal works that foreground acute anxieties about female subjectivity in an Iran negotiating its modernity from the Constitutional Revolution of 1905 up to and beyond the Islamic Revolution of 1979. By focusing on marriage as the central metaphor through which both law and fiction read gender, Motlagh critically engages and

highlights the difficulties that arise as gender norms and laws change over time. She examines the recurrent foregrounding of marriage at five critical periods of legal reform, documenting how texts were understood both at first publication and as their importance changed over time.

what happened in 1938 in american history: The Boys in the Boat (Movie Tie-In) Daniel James Brown, 2023-12-05 The inspiration for the Major Motion Picture Directed by George Clooney—exclusively in theaters December 25, 2023! The #1 New York Times bestselling true story about the American rowing triumph of the 1936 Olympics in Berlin—from the author of *Facing the Mountain* For readers of *Unbroken*, out of the depths of the Depression comes an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate account of how nine working-class boys from the American West showed the world at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin what true grit really meant. It was an unlikely quest from the start. With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler. The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world. Drawing on the boys' own journals and vivid memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, Brown has created an unforgettable portrait of an era, a celebration of a remarkable achievement, and a chronicle of one extraordinary young man's personal quest.

what happened in 1938 in american history: Race and History John Hope Franklin, 1991-12-01

what happened in 1938 in american history: December 1941 Evan Mawdsley, 2011-12-01 An account of the dramatic turning point in World War II that marked "the dawn of American might and the struggle for supremacy in Southeast Asia" (Times Higher Education). In far-flung locations around the globe, an unparalleled sequence of international events took place between December 1 and December 12, 1941. In this riveting book, historian Evan Mawdsley explores how the story unfolded . . . On Monday, December 1, 1941, the Japanese government made its final decision to attack Britain and America. In the following days, the Red Army launched a counterthrust in Moscow while the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and invaded Malaya. By December 12, Hitler had declared war on the United States, the collapse of British forces in Malaya had begun, and Hitler had secretly laid out his policy of genocide. Churchill was leaving London to meet Roosevelt as Anthony Eden arrived in Russia to discuss the postwar world with Stalin. Combined, these occurrences brought about a "new war," as Churchill put it, with Japan and America deeply involved and Russia resurgent. This book, a truly international history, examines the momentous happenings of December 1941 from a variety of perspectives. It shows that their significance is clearly understood only when they are viewed together. "Marks the change from a continental war into a global war in an original and interesting way."—The Sunday Telegraph Seven (Books of the Year) "Suspenseful . . . Mawdsley embarks on the action from the first day and never lets up in this crisp, chronological study . . . A rigorous, sharp survey of this decisive moment in the war."—Kirkus Reviews

what happened in 1938 in american history: Guidelines for Teaching about the Holocaust United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 1993 This pamphlet is intended to assist educators who are preparing to teach Holocaust studies and related subjects.

what happened in 1938 in american history: Hitler's American Model James Q. Whitman, 2017-02-14 How American race law provided a blueprint for Nazi Germany Nazism triumphed in Germany during the high era of Jim Crow laws in the United States. Did the American regime of racial oppression in any way inspire the Nazis? The unsettling answer is yes. In *Hitler's American Model*, James Whitman presents a detailed investigation of the American impact on the notorious Nuremberg Laws, the centerpiece anti-Jewish legislation of the Nazi regime. Contrary to those who have insisted that there was no meaningful connection between American and German racial repression, Whitman demonstrates that the Nazis took a real, sustained, significant, and revealing interest in American race policies. As Whitman shows, the Nuremberg Laws were crafted in an

atmosphere of considerable attention to the precedents American race laws had to offer. German praise for American practices, already found in Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, was continuous throughout the early 1930s, and the most radical Nazi lawyers were eager advocates of the use of American models. But while Jim Crow segregation was one aspect of American law that appealed to Nazi radicals, it was not the most consequential one. Rather, both American citizenship and antimiscegenation laws proved directly relevant to the two principal Nuremberg Laws—the Citizenship Law and the Blood Law. Whitman looks at the ultimate, ugly irony that when Nazis rejected American practices, it was sometimes not because they found them too enlightened, but too harsh. Indelibly linking American race laws to the shaping of Nazi policies in Germany, Hitler's American Model upends understandings of America's influence on racist practices in the wider world.

what happened in 1938 in american history: *Encyclopaedia Britannica* Hugh Chisholm, 1910 This eleventh edition was developed during the encyclopaedia's transition from a British to an American publication. Some of its articles were written by the best-known scholars of the time and it is considered to be a landmark encyclopaedia for scholarship and literary style.

what happened in 1938 in american history: *Erie Lackawanna* H. Roger Grant, 1996-10-01 This 50-year saga of the Weary Erie describes in vivid detail the turbulent last decades of a colorful, spunky, and innovative railroad. It also tells us much about what happened to American railroading, during this period: technological change, governmental over-regulation, corporate mergers, union featherbedding, uneven executive leadership, and changing patterns of travel and business. The book is illustrated with 45 photographs and drawings and 4 maps.

what happened in 1938 in american history: Super-History Jeffrey K. Johnson, 2012-04-03 In the less than eight decades since Superman's debut in 1938, comic book superheroes have become an indispensable part of American society and the nation's dominant mythology. They represent America's hopes, dreams, fears, and needs. As a form of popular literature, superhero narratives have closely mirrored trends and events in the nation. This study views American history from 1938 to 2010 through the lens of superhero comics, revealing the spandex-clad guardians to be not only fictional characters but barometers of the place and time in which they reside. Instructors considering this book for use in a course may request an examination copy [here](#).

what happened in 1938 in american history: In the Garden of Beasts Erik Larson, 2012-05-01 Erik Larson, New York Times bestselling author of *Devil in the White City*, delivers a remarkable story set during Hitler's rise to power. The time is 1933, the place, Berlin, when William E. Dodd becomes America's first ambassador to Hitler's Nazi Germany in a year that proved to be a turning point in history. A mild-mannered professor from Chicago, Dodd brings along his wife, son, and flamboyant daughter, Martha. At first Martha is entranced by the parties and pomp, and the handsome young men of the Third Reich with their infectious enthusiasm for restoring Germany to a position of world prominence. Enamored of the "New Germany," she has one affair after another, including with the surprisingly honorable first chief of the Gestapo, Rudolf Diels. But as evidence of Jewish persecution mounts, confirmed by chilling first-person testimony, her father telegraphs his concerns to a largely indifferent State Department back home. Dodd watches with alarm as Jews are attacked, the press is censored, and drafts of frightening new laws begin to circulate. As that first year unfolds and the shadows deepen, the Dodds experience days full of excitement, intrigue, romance—and ultimately, horror, when a climactic spasm of violence and murder reveals Hitler's true character and ruthless ambition. Suffused with the tense atmosphere of the period, and with unforgettable portraits of the bizarre Göring and the expectedly charming--yet wholly sinister--Goebbels, *In the Garden of Beasts* lends a stunning, eyewitness perspective on events as they unfold in real time, revealing an era of surprising nuance and complexity. The result is a dazzling, addictively readable work that speaks volumes about why the world did not recognize the grave threat posed by Hitler until Berlin, and Europe, were awash in blood and terror.

what happened in 1938 in american history: Kristallnacht Martin Gilbert, 2007-05-29 In the early hours of November 10, 1938, Nazi storm troopers and Hitler Youth rampaged through Jewish neighborhoods across Germany, leaving behind them a horrifying trail of terror and destruction.

More than a thousand synagogues and many thousands of Jewish shops were destroyed, while thirty thousand Jews were rounded up and sent to concentration camps. Kristallnacht—the Night of Broken Glass—was a decisive stage in the systematic eradication of a people who traced their origins in Germany to Roman times and was a sinister forewarning of the Holocaust. With rare insight and acumen, Martin Gilbert examines this night and day of terror, presenting readers with a meticulously researched, masterfully written, and eye-opening study of one of the darkest chapters in human history.

what happened in 1938 in american history: The War of the Worlds Illustrated H G Wells, 2021-03-30 The War of the Worlds is a science fiction novel by English author H. G. Wells, first serialised in 1897 by Pearson's Magazine in the UK and by Cosmopolitan magazine in the US. The novel's first appearance in hardcover was in 1898 from publisher William Heinemann of London. Written between 1895 and 1897, it is one of the earliest stories to detail a conflict between mankind and an extraterrestrial race. The novel is the first-person narrative of both an unnamed protagonist in Surrey and of his younger brother in London as southern England is invaded by Martians. The novel is one of the most commented-on works in the science fiction canon.

what happened in 1938 in american history: The Oster Conspiracy of 1938 Terry Parssinen, 2004-03-30 September 1938. In power more than five years, Hitler unilaterally dismantled the Treaty of Versailles, provision by provision, daring Britain and France to stand up to him. Earlier that year, he forced Austria into his Third Reich without firing a single shot. Now his sights were set on Czechoslovakia. It was in this dangerous climate that the first anti-Nazi coup was born. The plot was spearheaded by Lieutenant-Colonel Hans Oster, and its members included top German military leaders, the Berlin police, local troop commanders, civil authorities, religious leaders, and a group of resisters whose names have been wiped from the pages of history. Their mission was to kill Hitler and to overthrow the Nazi regime. Using British and German sources and previously unknown documents in the Military History Institute of the U.S. Army War College, historian Terry Parssinen has documented this conspiracy. Illustrated with photographs and maps, this highly provocative work is narrative history at its best.

what happened in 1938 in american history: The Fair Labor Standards Act Ellen C. Kearns, Monica Gallagher, 1999

what happened in 1938 in american history: Swastika Nation Arnie Bernstein, 2013-09-03 A history of the German-American Bund traces the efforts of Fritz Kuhn and his followers to overthrow the U.S. government with a fascist dictatorship, tracing their private and public meetings, the development of their own version of the SS and Hitler Youth and the politicians, lawyer, journalist and criminals who used respective means to counter the movement.

what happened in 1938 in american history: The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion Sergei Nilus, Victor Emile Marsden, 2019-02-26 The Protocols of the Elders of Zion is almost certainly fiction, but its impact was not. Originating in Russia, it landed in the English-speaking world where it caused great consternation. Much is made of German anti-semitism, but there was fertile soil for The Protocols across Europe and even in America, thanks to Henry Ford and others.

what happened in 1938 in american history: The Second World War Antony Beevor, 2012-06-05 A masterful and comprehensive chronicle of World War II, by internationally bestselling historian Antony Beevor. Over the past two decades, Antony Beevor has established himself as one of the world's premier historians of WWII. His multi-award winning books have included Stalingrad and The Fall of Berlin 1945. Now, in his newest and most ambitious book, he turns his focus to one of the bloodiest and most tragic events of the twentieth century, the Second World War. In this searing narrative that takes us from Hitler's invasion of Poland on September 1st, 1939 to V-J day on August 14, 1945 and the war's aftermath, Beevor describes the conflict and its global reach -- one that included every major power. The result is a dramatic and breathtaking single-volume history that provides a remarkably intimate account of the war that, more than any other, still commands attention and an audience. Thrillingly written and brilliantly researched, Beevor's grand and provocative account is destined to become the definitive work on this complex, tragic, and endlessly

fascinating period in world history, and confirms once more that he is a military historian of the first rank.

what happened in 1938 in american history: *Hitlerland* Andrew Nagorski, 2012-03-13 In this work, Nagorski chronicles Hitler's rise to power and Germany's march to the abyss, as seen by Americans--diplomats, military, expats, visiting authors, Olympic athletes--who watched horrified and up close.

what happened in 1938 in american history: *Brown v. Board of Education* James T. Patterson, 2001-03-01 2004 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Supreme Court's unanimous decision to end segregation in public schools. Many people were elated when Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren delivered *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* in May 1954, the ruling that struck down state-sponsored racial segregation in America's public schools. Thurgood Marshall, chief attorney for the black families that launched the litigation, exclaimed later, I was so happy, I was numb. The novelist Ralph Ellison wrote, another battle of the Civil War has been won. The rest is up to us and I'm very glad. What a wonderful world of possibilities are unfolded for the children! Here, in a concise, moving narrative, Bancroft Prize-winning historian James T. Patterson takes readers through the dramatic case and its fifty-year aftermath. A wide range of characters animates the story, from the little-known African Americans who dared to challenge Jim Crow with lawsuits (at great personal cost); to Thurgood Marshall, who later became a Justice himself; to Earl Warren, who shepherded a fractured Court to a unanimous decision. Others include segregationist politicians like Governor Orval Faubus of Arkansas; Presidents Eisenhower, Johnson, and Nixon; and controversial Supreme Court justices such as William Rehnquist and Clarence Thomas. Most Americans still see *Brown* as a triumph--but was it? Patterson shrewdly explores the provocative questions that still swirl around the case. Could the Court--or President Eisenhower--have done more to ensure compliance with *Brown*? Did the decision touch off the modern civil rights movement? How useful are court-ordered busing and affirmative action against racial segregation? To what extent has racial mixing affected the academic achievement of black children? Where indeed do we go from here to realize the expectations of Marshall, Ellison, and others in 1954?

what happened in 1938 in american history: Munich, 1938 David Faber, 2009-09-01 On September 30, 1938, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain flew back to London from his meeting in Munich with German Chancellor Adolf Hitler. As he disembarked from the aircraft, he held aloft a piece of paper, which contained the promise that Britain and Germany would never go to war with one another again. He had returned bringing "Peace with honour--Peace for our time." Drawing on a wealth of archival material, acclaimed historian David Faber delivers a sweeping reassessment of the extraordinary events of 1938, tracing the key incidents leading up to the Munich Conference and its immediate aftermath: Lord Halifax's ill-fated meeting with Hitler; Chamberlain's secret discussions with Mussolini; and the Berlin scandal that rocked Hitler's regime. He takes us to Vienna, to the Sudetenland, and to Prague. In Berlin, we witness Hitler inexorably preparing for war, even in the face of opposition from his own generals; in London, we watch as Chamberlain makes one supreme effort after another to appease Hitler. Resonating with an insider's feel for the political infighting Faber uncovers, *Munich, 1938* transports us to the war rooms and bunkers, revealing the covert negotiations and scandals upon which the world's fate would rest. It is modern history writing at its best.

what happened in 1938 in american history: *The Future of Public Health* Committee for the Study of the Future of Public Health, Division of Health Care Services, Institute of Medicine, 1988-01-15 The Nation has lost sight of its public health goals and has allowed the system of public health to fall into 'disarray', from *The Future of Public Health*. This startling book contains proposals for ensuring that public health service programs are efficient and effective enough to deal not only with the topics of today, but also with those of tomorrow. In addition, the authors make recommendations for core functions in public health assessment, policy development, and service assurances, and identify the level of government--federal, state, and local--at which these functions would best be handled.

what happened in 1938 in american history: The War of the Worlds: Large Print H. G. Wells, 2019-03-30 No one would have believed in the last years of the nineteenth century that this world was being watched keenly and closely by intelligences greater than man's... So begins H. G. Wells' classic novel in which Martian lifeforms take over planet Earth. As the Martians emerge, they construct giant killing machines - armed with heatrays - that are impervious to attack. Advancing upon London they destroy everything in their path. Everything, except the few humans they collect in metal traps. Victorian England is a place in which the steam engine is state-of-the-art technology and powered flight is just a dream. Mankind is helpless against the killing machines from Mars, and soon the survivors are left living in a new stone age. Includes the original Warwick Goble illustrations.

what happened in 1938 in american history: Meet Kit, an American Girl Valerie Tripp, 2000 For more than 15 years, The American Girls Collection has captivated readers with its tales of heart, hope and history. Millions of girls have fallen in love with the series' strong, appealing heroines

what happened in 1938 in american history: Jewish Emigration from 1933 to the Evian Conference of 1938 Donald S. Detwiler, 2010 Volume 5, The Holocaust: Selected Documents in Eighteen Volumes. Once the Nazis gained power, they lost no time in exploring means of eliminating Jews from the German scene. At times, Nazis encouraged Jews who could afford it to emigrate; at other times, they blocked them. Responding to their plight, the nations represented at an international conference held at Evian-les-Bains in France considered facilitating Jewish emigration from Germany. But the failure of most countries to accept large numbers of penniless Jews prevented them from escaping, and so condemned them to near-certain death. The records reproduced in this volume pertain to the Evian-les-Bains conference, a report on Eichmann's trip to Palestine, emigration of Jews to Palestine and various transfers of Jewish capital out of Germany. Contains 19 documents of source materials, carefully chosen from the thousands preserved at the U.S. National Archives. A detailed table of contents lists and provides the source for each document. The volumes in the series are organized topically: PLANNING AND PREPARATION 1. Legalizing the Holocaust: The Early Phase, 1933-1939 2. Legalizing the Holocaust: The Later Phase, 1939-1943 3. The Crystal Night Pogrom 4. Propaganda and Aryanization, 1938-1944 5. Jewish Emigration from 1933 to the Evian Conference of 1938 6. Jewish Emigration 1938-1940: Rublee Negotiations and the Intergovernmental Committee 7. Jewish Emigration: The S.S. St. Louis Affair and Other Cases THE KILLING OF THE JEWS 8. Deportation of the Jews to the East: Stettin, 1940, to Hungary, 1944 9. Medical Experiments on Jewish Inmates of Concentration Camps 10. The Einsatzgruppen or Murder Commandos 11. The Wannsee Protocol and a 1944 Report on Auschwitz by the Office of Strategic Services 12. The Final Solution in the Extermination Camps and the Aftermath 13. The Judicial System and the Jews in Nazi Germany RESCUE ATTEMPTS 14. Relief and Rescue of Jews from Nazi Oppression, 1943-1945 15. Relief in Hungary and the Failure of the Joel Brand Mission 16. Rescue to Switzerland: The Musy and Saly Mayer Affairs PUNISHMENT 17. Punishing the Perpetrators of the Holocaust: The Brandt, Pohl, and Ohlendorf Cases 18. Punishing the Perpetrators of the Holocaust: The Ohlendorf and von Weizsaecker Cases.

what happened in 1938 in american history: Anne Frank's Tales from the Secret Annexe Anne Frank, 2010 In these tales the reader can observe Anne's writing prowess grow from that of a young girl's into the observations of a perceptive, edgy, witty and compassionate woman--Jacket flaps.

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