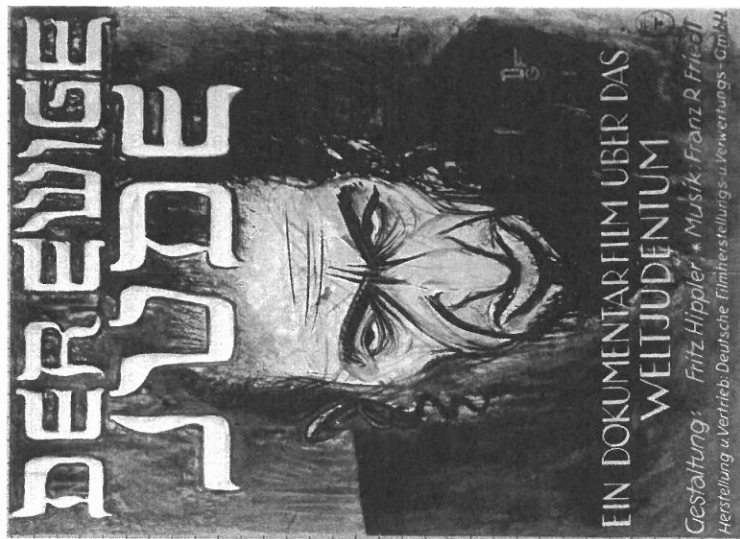


**SOURCE E**

? According to Source E, how were the Jews portrayed in Nazi Germany?



Poster for the anti-Semitic film *The Eternal Jew*. The caption reads: 'A Documentary about World Jewry'.

**Terror and violence**

In the early years of the regime, the SA, as the radical left wing of the Nazis, took advantage of their power at local level to use violence against Jews, for example damage to property, intimidation and physical attacks. However, after the Night of the Long Knives in June 1934 (see page 146), anti-Semitic violence became more sporadic for two probable reasons. First, in 1936 the anti-Semitic campaign was suspended because of the Berlin Olympics and the need to avoid international alienation. Secondly, conservative forces still had a restraining influence, for example Schacht had continued to express worries about the implications of anti-Semitic action for the economy. However, his dismissal in

September 1937, along with other conservatives (see pages 174–6), cleared the way for the development of a more extreme anti-Semitic policy. In 1938–9 the violence and intimidation of two major events showed that there was a more radical mood against the Jews, even before the start of the Second World War.

**The Anschluss**

The takeover of Austria (the *Anschluss*) in March 1938 (see page 231) was received with euphoric support by the vast majority in both countries, but it resulted in violence and humiliation for the 190,000 Austrian Jewish population, on a scale not seen in Germany.

At first, Jewish properties and businesses were looted, particularly in Vienna, and some Jews were made to publicly wash buildings and pavements. Thousands were also arrested. More systematically, later in that summer, Jewish houses and businesses were sold off at low prices and officially 'Aryanised'.

The events in Austria encouraged Göring to believe that there were benefits to adopting a similar, although more orderly, approach throughout Germany. On 26 April 1938 he issued a 'Decree for the Registration of Jewish Property', which demanded that all Jewish property worth more than RM5000 be valued and registered with the state. This was a step towards confiscating all Jewish property and excluding the Jews from German economic life.

**Kristallnacht**

On 9–10 November 1938 there was a sudden violent pogrom against the Jews, which became known as the 'Night of Crystal Glass' (*Kristallnacht*) because of all the windows which were smashed in the process. The pogrom was prompted by an unforeseen incident: the assassination of Ernst von Rath, a German diplomat by Herschel Grünspan, a Polish Jew, on 7 November in Paris. *Kristallnacht* started in Berlin and spread throughout Germany with dramatic effects: the destruction of numerous Jewish homes with 100 deaths; attacks on 10,000 Jewish shops and businesses; the burning down of 200 synagogues and the deportation of 20,000 Jewish people to concentration camps. Nevertheless, even leading Nazis were surprised and shocked by the extent of the damage in the pogrom and concerned about international criticism. It was officially portrayed as a 'spontaneous demonstration' of popular outrage, but in fact it was very much fuelled by local Nazis and co-ordinated by Goebbels. He had hoped that the anti-Semitic actions might also win Hitler's favour, and compensate for his disreputable affair with a Czech actress.

Significantly, Göring exploited *Kristallnacht* to chair an interministerial meeting on Jewish policy which agreed on the 'Decree to Exclude Jews from German Economic Life'. This resulted in various laws (see Table 6.5 on page 217) which formally extended the Aryanisation of Jewish-owned property and laid the basis for the segregation of Germans and Jews in every aspect of day-to-day living.

**KEY TERM**

**Aryanise** To remove all non-Aryans from office, business and property.