



Chronology of the History of the Jews in Bavaria 906 - 1945

translated by H. Peter Sinclair

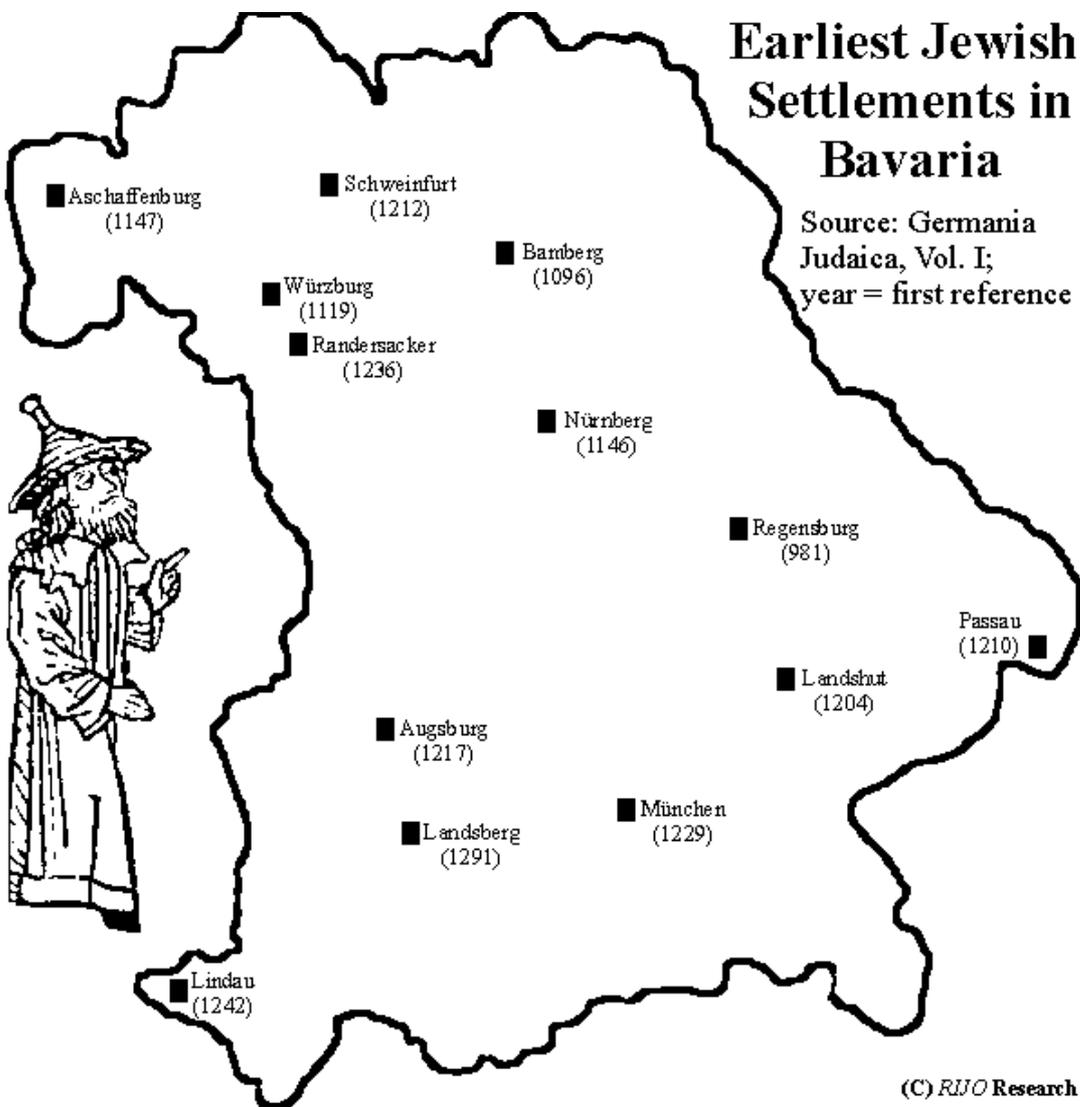
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The Years 906 - 1298

906	First reference of Jews in Bavaria in the toll law for the bridge in Raffelstetten (today in Austria): toll decrees for traffic between Bavaria, Bohemia and Moravia including regulations for Jews, independent of whether or not they lived in Bavaria, which provide the first evidence of Jews in the Duchy of Bavaria and their long distance trading activities.
981	First documented reference of a Jewish land owner in Regensburg.
1096	First reference to a Jewish community in Bamberg contained in a letter from the Pope. Persecution of Jews in the community of Regensburg in connection with the first crusade, their members were forcibly baptised.
1103	Emperor Heinrich IV grants protection to all Jews living in his domain.
1119	First reference to a Jewish community in Wuerzburg.
1136	Mention of a Jew as witness in a contract of sale in Berchtesgaden.
1146	First reference to a Jewish community in Nuremberg.
1147	First reference to the presence of Jews in Aschaffenburg in connection with a crusader pogrom. - Acquisition by the Jewish community of Wuerzburg of a bishopric owned property in the suburb Pleich, as a cemetery.
around 1187	Petachja ben Jacob from Regensburg undertakes a journey to the Persian (now Iranian) town of Susa via Prague, Poland, the Crimea and Baghdad. He returns via Palestine and Greece. After his homecoming Petachja ben Jacob compiles a report which is in later years translated into several languages.
1204	First reference to a Jewish community in Landshut.

1210	First reference to a Jewish community in Passau in a letter from Bishop Mangold. - Documented purchase of a ground suitable for use as a cemetery by the Regensburg community at Sallern ("Judenu") from the St. Emmeram Abbey, containing specific authority to include also the burial of non-local Jews.
1212	First reference in a Wuerzburg document of a Jew by the name of Abraham of Schweinfurt.
around 1217	First reference to Jews in Augsburg in the Hebrew scripted Last Will and Testament of Rabbi Jehuda he-Chassid, who died 1217. (First reference to Jews in a Christian document in 1241).
1229	First reference of Jews in Munich.
1234	In the reign of Emperor Friedrich II Jews were for the first time referred to as "servi camerae" (serfs) to express their particular legal standing in society. With the passing of time it became increasingly customary for the Emperor to pledge, lend or sell his regal Rights of Protection for Jews to feudal landlords. Thus Jews in Upper and Lower Bavaria and Upper Palatine remained mostly ducal serfs up to the middle of the 14th century, paying their taxes to the Dukes.
1236	First reference to the Jew Michael in Randersacker in a Wuerzburg document.
1242	First reference of a Jewish community in Lindau.
1243	First reference to Jews in Kitzingen as martyrs in a pogrom: Eight men and three women were murdered.
around 1250	Suesskind of Trimberg, the only known Jewish minnesinger, hails from Lower Franconia. Twelve songs of his works in medieval German are preserved.
1255	The Bavarian Dukes still employ Jewish officials.
1276	Regulation of the legal standing of Augsburg Jews in the bylaws of the City : The absence of regulations in relation to trading activities implies that local Jews, as well as those throughout Bavaria, within it's borders as they are today, were limited exclusively to financial transactions as a basis for their livelihood; it also made a first reference to the synagogue in Augsburg.
1285	First pogrom in Munich, following the alleged "ritual murder" of a Christian boy.
1291	First reference to Jews in Landsberg, described as hostages of the local ducal senior civil servant, who had them arrested in Dachau and released only against payment of a ransom.
1293	Year of death of Meir ben Baruch of Rothenburg, born probably around 1220 in Worms, the greatest Talmudic scholar of the 13th century. He enjoyed part of his education in Wuerzburg, before settling in Rothenburg as Rabbi, where he conducted his own Talmudic school (Jeshivah, Beth Midrash). Rabbi Meir was consulted in his time by Rabbis in the German speaking domain as a great authority and was asked for rabbinical judgements on questions of religious laws. When the situation of the Jews in the country deteriorated following the election of King Rudolf of Habsburg in 1273, Rabbi Meir decided in 1286 to emigrate to Palestine with his family. However, he was arrested on the orders of the King before he was able to cross the Alps en route to Venice, and was eventually taken to Wasserburg on the Inn, where he died in captivity, in spite of a large amount of ransom money having been offered by the German Jews. His earthly remains were laid to rest in Wimpfen, 14 years after his death, and only after a substantial ransom had been paid. - When Bishop Mangold of Wuerzburg declared Iphofen a City, he nominates the Jew Michelmann as supervisor (Latin: "procurator et dispensator") for the expansion of the City.

	Michelmann is exempt from payment of all taxes for 4 years and is offered the right to live in Iphofen and also to depart from there at any time.
1298	The so-called "Rindfleisch-Uprising" is named after a Franconia nobleman, the instigator of one of the most dreadful persecutions of Jews during the late Middle Ages, which caused countless deaths in more than 140 Jewish communities in Franconia, including Wuerzburg, Nuremberg, Bavaria and Austria. During the pogroms the City Council of Augsburg protects Jews, who, in turn, commit themselves to participate in the cost of constructing the City walls. This part of the wall is known as the "Jews Wall".



The Years 1311 – 1499

1311	The Counts of Hals offer the Jewish community of Passau for a fee of one Passau
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	penny plus one pound of pepper per body and one pound of pepper per participant to escort funeral processions to Straubing. This suggests that the Jews of Passau used to bury their dead in Regensburg, because Straubing did not have a Jewish cemetery at that time.
1313	The "Ottokarkreuz", originally part of the state jewels of the German Emperor, was redeemed by the Bishop of Regensburg from a local Jewish pawnbroker. It is now amongst the collection of treasures held in the cathedral of Regensburg.
1314	The City of Munich is offered as a pledge by the Bavarian Dukes to the Jewish money lenders Lamb and Juedlin in Augsburg as security against outstanding debts.
1321	First reference to a Jewish suburb (Latin: "villa Judaeorum") in Coburg.
1325	The Jews of Upper and Lower Bavaria are offered toll free passage to transport their deceased by road or waterways for burial in the city by Bishop Nikolaus of Regensburg.
1331	Based on criminal law models of Augsburg, Emperor Ludwig the Bavarian grants the Jews of Noerdlingen jurisdiction over Jews entering the town from foreign parts.
1336/37	"Armleder" persecution of Jews in Lower Franconia with large numbers of victims. - First reference to Jewish inhabitants in Cham (Upper Palatine).
1338	The Jews of Miltenberg are ordered to levy custom dues in his own favour by the Archbishop of Mainz. - Starting in Deggendorf, practically all Jews in Lower Bavaria fall victims to murder in a wave of pogroms.
1342	Emperor Ludwig the Bavarian introduces a per capita tax, the "goldene Opferpfennig" (golden sacrifice penny), for all Jews above the age of 12 years.
1344	Ducal privilege for the Jews of Dillingen who are permitted to settle also in Donauwoerth, Hoechstaedt, Lauingen and Gundelfingen. - First reference to a synagogue in Aschaffenburg.
1346	Duke Stephan II of Bavaria pledges his crown to the Jew Pfefferkorn of Wassertruedingen (Central Franconia) for 1,000 pound Heller (a coin). The crown is not redeemed by the Duke and, during the 1349 pogroms finds its way into the possession of the municipal council of Noerdlingen, passing later to the Count of Oettingen.
1349	Wave of persecution in connection with the plague and political arguments between craftsmen and noblemen, including violent deportation of the Jews from Nuremberg. Numerous members of the Jewish community in Wuerzburg commit suicide by setting fire to their own houses. As in 1298 and 1338, of all large Jewish communities in Bavaria, only the Jews in Regensburg are spared, because they are protected by the City's Mayor, the Council and the noblemen. Regensburg becomes the place of refuge for Jews expelled from Augsburg, Nuremberg and Vienna.
1368	Reference to the Jew Jacob of Landshut as physician of the Bavarian Duke Stephan II.
1373	Reference to a synagogue in Hof (Upper Franconia).
1377	Jews return to settle in Wuerzburg.
1384/85	Following their expulsion, around 200 Jews live once again in Augsburg.
1430	Burning at the stake of about 15 Jews in Lindau and expulsion of the Jewish community after accusation of "ritual murder".
1440	Expulsion of the Jews from the Imperial City of Augsburg.
1442	Deportation of the Jews from the Upper Bavarian territory of the Duchy of Bavaria.

1450	Deportation of the Jews from the Lower Bavarian territory of the Duchy of Bavaria.
1452	Dating on the oldest gravestone in the Jewish cemetery in Wilhermsdorf (Central Franconia).
1460	A Jewish lady ophthalmologist treats patients in Gunzenhausen (Central Franconia).
1477	Expulsion of all the Jews from Passau following an alleged sacred host violation.
1478	Deportation of the Jews from the territory of the Archbishop of Bamberg.
around 1493	Orders applicable to Jews issued by the Council of Donauwoerth, which included restrictions in the trading of grain, prohibiting the setting up market stalls, prohibiting adult male Jews leaving the "Judengasse" (Jews' alley) on Sundays and on many church holy days, remaining on top of the town wall only when on guard duty, compulsory wearing of a skull cap and a coat to which a yellow ring was affixed, prohibiting gambling with Christians.
1499	Final deportation of the Jews from the Imperial City of Nuremberg.

The Years 1515 – 1799

1515	Expulsion of Jews from the Margravate of Brandenburg-Kulmbach.
1518	Emperor's license for the expulsion of the Jews from Donauwoerth.
1519	Expulsion of the Jews from Regensburg and demolition of the synagogue.
1528	Permission for Jews to settle in Fuerth.
1530	Josel of Rosheim in the Alsace (1480 - 1544), "Premier of all Jews in the German Nation" calls a meeting in Augsburg of representatives of the Jewish communities countrywide, for the purpose of reforming their internal affairs. Josel succeeds in securing a concession for German Jews in the Imperial Parliament in Regensburg in 1541 against the imposition of new customs duties and for the lifting of the ban on visiting markets.
1553	Final expulsion of Jews from the Duchy of Bavaria, reunited since 1505; residence, acquisition of real estate and commercial activities are outlawed for Jews in the duchy.
1555	Expulsion of all the Jews from the Duchy of Palatine-Neuburg and those parts of Upper Palatine belonging to the Electorate of Palatine.
1567	Expulsion of Jews from the City of Wuerzburg.
1616	The expulsion of Jews from the Duchy of Bavaria is corroborated by new police regulations. In addition entering the state's territory is only allowed for transit to another country. Any business with subjects of the Bavarian Duke is forbidden.
1617	Expulsion of Jews from Guenzburg in the then Austrian Margravate of Burgau.
1619	Constitution of the association of Jews in the Bamberg region ("Bamberger Landjudenschaft") jointly protected by the archbishop and the imperial knights, bestowing upon them their own regional rabbi and a regional assembly of deputies, which represents them at local authority level and also in respect of their internal affairs.
1636	Deportation of the Jews from the Imperial City of Kaufbeuren.

1669	Sulzbach in Upper Palatine becomes the location for printing books in the Hebrew language until 1851, including the Sohar, the principal work of Jewish mystic (Kabbala). In the Bamberg region there are violent outrages against the Jewish population as a reflex to shortages in supplies which can only be brought to an end by the engagement of the military.
1679	Construction of the synagogue in Schopfloch (Central Franconia), which was replaced by a new building in 1877. The Jewish population of Schopfloch developed a specific language ("Lachudisch"), also in use by non-Jews, which is a mixture of German and Hebrew words.
1684	Settlement of Jews in Floss (Upper Palatine).
1702 - 1714	In the Austrian War of Succession, the Jew Abraham Maendl of Kriegshaber near Augsburg receives the contract to organise all supplies for the ducal Bavarian troops.
1717	The Jews of Sulzbuerg receive the liberty of free trade in Upper Palatine from the sovereign.
1730	Re-settlement of Jews in Regensburg.
1744 - 1746	Construction of the baroque synagogue in Ansbach by Leopold Retty.
1756	The local protectors, the Barons of Seckendorff, give the Jewish community of Sugenheim (Central Franconia) a constitution in form of the Kahlsbuch of Sugenheim ("Kahl" from the Hebrew word "Kehilla" = community).
1760	The ordinance of the Jews of Sulzbach grants them the exercise of free religious practice, free exercise of trading, construction of dwellings and recognition of the rabbi for jurisdiction over their internal affairs.
1785	Foundation of the Wassermann Brothers banking house in Wallerstein in the Bavarian part of Swabia, relocating to Bamberg in 1848, where it expands into one of the paramount private banks in Germany.
1799	The livelihood of many Jewish families is severely curtailed by a general edict forbidding them to deal with land (agricultural as well as real estate). This applies particularly to those Jews living in parts of Upper Palatine which belong to the Duchy of Bavaria.

The 19th Century

1802	Reorganisation of the Jewish communities in the margravate of Brandenburg-Bayreuth by constituting an association of Jews divided into the districts of Bayreuth, Erlangen and Neustadt.
1803	Publication of "The History of the Jews in Bavaria" by Johann Christoph von Aretin (1772 - 1824). Aretin, a high ranking civil servant undeniably involved with the drafting of the 1813 Jews Edict, on one hand represented the official enlightenment point of view but on the other hand he also sharing anti-Semitic prejudices, eventually leading to regressive Edict regulations. Secularization in the same year leads to the addition of numerous previously independent clerical territories to the Electorate of Bavaria. With the newly acquired districts in Franconia and Swabia (e.g. the bishoprics of Bamberg and Augsburg) a fairly large number of Jewish subjects will have been added to the Bavarian population.
1804	Compulsory military service for Jews.

1805	After the peace treaty of Pressburg the until then Austrian Margravate of Burgau is incorporated into the Bavarian state.
1806	On January 1st hitherto known Elector Max IV Joseph, is proclaimed King Max I of Bavaria with the support of Napoleon. Subsequently, the new kingdom incorporates numerous states until then independent, e.g. the Imperial Free Cities of Augsburg and Nuremberg, the Margravate of Ansbach, the Oettingen Counties and various territories ruled by noblemen.
1810	Bavaria acquires the principalities of Regensburg and Bayreuth.
1813	The Jews Edict of 10th June 1813. About 30,000 Jews live in Bavaria at this time.
1814	The Grand Duchy of Wuerzburg and Aschaffenburg joins Bavaria.
1816	The Rhine-Palatine, emerging from territories formerly independent and others, already controlled by the House of Wittelsbach before, is joined with Bavaria by the Vienna Congress and stayed nominally Bavarian until 1945. By the end of the Napoleonic era the Bavarian territory had grown from 61,000 (prior to 1803) to 75,000 sq.km and the population having almost doubled, from 1.9 million since 1799 to 3.7 million. The largely homogenous catholic Electorate had become a state containing large numbers of religious minorities, including Jews, chiefly in Franconia, Swabia and the Palatine.
1818	Constitution of the Kingdom of Bavaria, effective up to 1918.
1819	The "Hep-Hep" anti-Semitic riots in Franconia and the Upper Palatine, originating in the university of Wuerzburg (until 1822).
1824	Against the wishes of its members, the dissolution of the politically independent Jewish community of Floss in Upper Palatine, achieved in 1819, is annulled. The residents of the "Judenberg" (Jews Mountain) settlement are obliged to elect their own mayor and their own community deputies with only the police administration remaining with the Christian municipality of Floss. This unique situation in Bavaria remains so up to the middle of the 19th century.
1829	King Ludwig I has the portrait of Nanette Kaula (1812 - 1876) painted for his "Beauty Gallery". She is the daughter of his Jewish royal agent. Loew (Levi) Strauss is born in the same year in Bittenheim (Upper Franconia). In 1847 Loew (Levi) Strauss emigrates, together with his mother and siblings, to the USA. From New York City he moves to California where, starting in 1853, he supplies the local gold prospectors with hard wearing jeans. He founded the company Levi Strauss & Co. in 1890 and died in 1902.
1830 - 1855	11,000 Jews are obliged to leave Bavaria on account of the restrictions of the Jews Edict and emigrate to other German States, and to the USA.
1840	Numbers of members in selected Jewish communities in Bavaria: Aschaffenburg 207, Augsburg 97, Bamberg 333, Regensburg 122, Wuerzburg 425.
1848	Active and passive universal suffrage for Jews in the Bavarian Kingdom.
1849	Dr. jur. David Morgenstern (1814 - 1882) from Buechenbach near Erlangen becomes the first elected Jewish deputy in the state parliament of Bavaria. After having to relinquish his mandate in 1855 for economic reasons, he devotes his energies to commercial enterprises in Fuerth and Forchheim. In 1863 Dr. Morgenstern is among the founders of the liberal Progressive Party ("Fortschrittspartei") in Bavaria.
1850	In Nuremberg the first Jew since 1499 receives civil rights.
1861	Lifting of the Jews' Registry's restrictions on settlement. As a consequence the Jewish population moved from rural areas to large towns, e.g. in 1860 Munich had 1,200

	Jewish inhabitants, rising to 11,083 by 1910. Similarly, Nuremberg Jews numbered 1,254 in 1867 rising to 7,815 in 1910.
1863	The principle of unitary community is established by ministerial decision, i.e. in any town or city only one Jewish community is recognised by the state. The community in turn is responsible for the appointment of specified offices (Rabbi) and appropriate provisions (synagogue, ritual bath etc.).
1864	Founding of the orthodox teachers college in Wuerzburg by the district Rabbi Seligmann Baer Bamberger (1807 - 1878).
1865	Lifting of general marriage restrictions.
1868	Lifting of all immigration restrictions for Jews in Bavaria.
1871	Founding of the German Reich: equal rights for Jews through state law.
1872	Return of Jews to Amberg (Upper Palatine) for the first time since 1391.
1874	Dedication of newly built main synagogue in Nuremberg.
1881 ff.	Increased immigration of Jews from the East to Bavaria, as consequence of the pogroms in Russia.
1884	Birth of Lion Feuchtwanger in Munich 7th July. Following war service 1914 - 1918 Feuchtwanger devotes himself to being an author (novel "Jud Suess" 1925). He moves to Berlin in the same year. Emigration to the USA via France in 1933. Dies 22nd December 1958 in California.
1887	Dedication of the new main synagogue in Munich.

The 20th Century to 1945

1907	311 Jewish religious communities in Bavaria.
1910	Construction of a new synagogue in Bamberg.
1914	Outbreak of the First World War, in which 96,000 German Jews took part, of whom 12,000 died, including those in the Bavarian Army.
1917	Consecration of the new synagogue in Augsburg.
1918	The participation of politicians of Jewish origin such as Kurt Eisner (Prime Minister, 1867 - murdered 1919), Gustav Landauer (1870 - murdered 1919), Felix Fechenbach (1894 - murdered 1933) and Erich Muehsam (1878 - murdered 1934) in post-war revolutionary Bavarian governments lead to heightened anti-Semitic agitation by the far right. The fact that the violent overthrow of the Bavarian Soviet style Republic in Munich included Jewish members of the conservatively minded national volunteer corps (Freikorps") is largely unknown.



Mrs. Eisner, Prime Minister Kurt Eisner and Secretary of State Hans Unterleitner shortly prior to the murder of Eisner in 1919

(cutting from a contemporary postcard)

1919	Founding of the "German Workers Party" ("Deutsche Arbeiterpartei") in Munich, renamed "National Socialist German Workers Party" ("Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (NSDAP)") in 1921. - In spite of strong anti-Semitic propaganda four members of the Jewish community in Wuerzburg are elected to serve on the City Council, amongst whom is Felix Freudenberger, who subsequently was the social democratic Lord Mayor.
1920	Founding of the Association of Bavarian Jewish Communities, whose delegates meet for their first regular session in the following year in Nuremberg.
1921	Adolf Hitler assumes presidency of the NSDAP, founding of the SA ("Sturmabteilung" / "Storm Troop").
1923	The post-war anti-Semitism reaches its zenith with the deportation of many East European Jews - Hitler coup d'état in Munich.
1924	Desecration of the Jewish cemetery in Regensburg.
1930	Bavaria, the only country in the Weimar Republic to do so, prohibits the ritual slaughter of animals according to Jewish law (by bleeding to death), which substantially complicates the observance of eating laws for Bavarian Jews. - In Wuerzburg a guest performance by the Jewish Habimah-theatre group leads to turmoil, during which theatre goers are physically attacked on their way home.

1933	January: National Socialists assume power. Dachau concentration camp opened in March.
1934	In March the inhabitants of Gunzenhausen in Central Franconia go in pursuit of local Jews, long before the systematic persecution of Jews in the German Reich. 2 Jews lose their lives and further 75 are arrested and maltreated in prison.
1935	August sees the opening of "Beth Chaluz" (House of Pioneers) in Augsburg, where vocational training is given to juveniles in preparation for their emigration to Palestine. - Proclamation of the "Nuremberg Laws" during the NSDAP-Party Congress in September.
1936	Opening of "Beth Chaluz" (House of Pioneers) in Regensburg, closed by the authorities in 1939. - Admission to public swimming pools barred to "Spectators, sufferers of skin diseases and Jews" in Wuerzburg. Following their earlier professional ban, the Augsburg authorities are obliged to readmit Jewish traders to the town's cattle market in September because the availability of cattle for slaughter became inadequate.
1938	"Kristallnacht" (9th /10th November): Among many others in Bavaria, the synagogues in Aschaffenburg, Bamberg, Fuerth and Hof are destroyed. In Munich and Nuremberg where the main synagogues had already been torn down earlier in the summer, the orthodox synagogues are now torched.
1939	State authorities prevent the emigration to Palestine of Baron Ernst Abraham von Mannstein, a relative of Field Marshall Fritz von Mannstein. Baron Mannstein had converted to Judaism and had taught during the Nazi period in the Jewish teachers college in Wuerzburg, where he died in 1944.
1942	23rd September: deportation of 562 Jews from Wuerzburg to Theresienstadt, including 315 local men and women, signifying the largest deportation from Wuerzburg.
1941 - 1945	9,086 men, women and children known by name, fall victims to the Shoah in the current territory of Bavaria.

Statistics

I. Jews living in Bavaria (= today State of Bavaria and Rhine-Palatine) 1852 - 1910 (source: Mehler, p. 506)

Year	Total	Per thousand of the population
1852	55,461	12.3
1867	49,840	10.3
1871	50,662	10.4
1875	51,335	10.2
1880	53,526	10.1
1885	53,697	9.9
1890	53,885	9.6
1895	53,750	9.2
1900	54,928	8.9
1905	55,341	8.5

1910	55,065	8.0
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II. Jewish Population in Selected Bavarian Towns and Cities (source: Ophir / Wiesemann)

	1925	1933	1939
Amberg	63	64	41
Ansbach	232	197	18
Aschaffenburg	643	591	290
Augsburg	1,203	1,030	554
Bad Kissingen	504	344	63
Bamberg	972	812	548
Bayreuth	306	261	108
Coburg	316	233	65
Erlangen	161	130	26
Gunzenhausen	219	184	3
Ingolstadt	103	100	-
Kempton	56	50	25
Kitzingen	421	360	165
Landshut	45	48	18
Memmingen	170	161	104
Neumarkt (Upper Palatine)	114	105	31
Noerdlingen	233	186	71
Passau	48	40	8
Regensburg	478	427	226
Rosenheim	39	38	7
Schweinfurt	414	363	120
Straubing	115	110	51
Weiden	154	168	57
Wuerzburg	2,261	2,145	1,081

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