PORTAL 4

SEEKING REFUGE

...no help, no haven

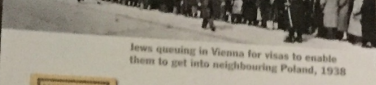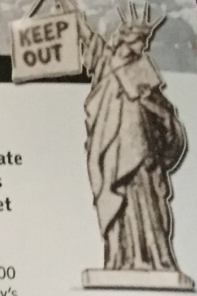KEEP OUT

Jews queuing in Vienna for visas to enable them to get into neighbouring Poland, 1938

A German passport belonging to a Jewish person
According to Nazi policy all passports held by Jews were stamped with a 'J'.

KEEP OUT

A cartoon depicting the refusal by authorities to accept Jewish refugees into the United States of America.
The Daily Mirror, London 1939

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, JULY 8, 1938
WILL THE EVIAN CONFERENCE GUIDE HIM TO FREEDOM?

A cartoon commenting on the outcome of the Evian Conference,
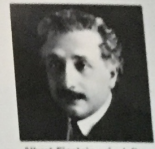*The New York Times, July 1938*

In response to Nazi persecution, Jews became increasingly desperate to leave Germany. However, it was extremely difficult for them to get into other countries.

By 1938 only half of Germany's 500 000 Jews had managed to get out. Germany's **annexation** of Austria in 1938 brought an additional 185 000 Jews under Nazi control.
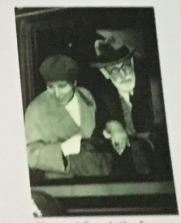
The situation became critical as Jewish refugees from Europe struggled to find a safe haven. **Quotas** already existed in many countries, but during this period stricter **immigration policies** and quotas were adopted by countries all over the world.
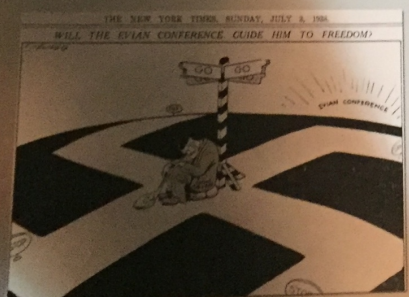
Albert Einstein, who left Germany in 1933
He won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1921.

The Evian Conference

In July 1938, Roosevelt, the United States President, convened a conference at Evian in France to discuss the plight of Jewish refugees trying to escape from Germany and Austria. Attended by representatives of thirty-two countries, the conference was a failure. With very few exceptions, the delegates offered excuses as to why their countries were unable to accept additional Jewish refugees. The Nazis saw this response as a sign that the international community would not intervene in support of the Jews.

Sigmund Freud, the famous German Jewish psycho-analyst and his daughter Anna, leaving for England, 1938

annexation – taking possession of another country, usually by force
quotas – fixed numbers
immigration policies – laws that determine whether foreigners may enter a country and for how long they may remain there

15 THE HOLOCAUST – Lessons for humanity

HOLOCAUST

NAE

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