

Creating a complete picture: Further information



WW1

During and After

The lace industry in Plauen began to decline and large numbers of local people lost their jobs. By 1919 there was high unemployment in the city, a visitor at the time described children in Plauen as being inadequately clothed, due to poverty.

WW1

...at the end

In nearby Poland, where 10% of the population was Jewish, there were attacks on Jewish people and property. Buildings were burnt down and people were murdered. Some Jewish people in Germany became worried the violence may spread to Germany, some people hoped to prevent this from happening by not letting Polish Jews move to Germany.

1920s

The economic situation in the city and the rest of Germany became worse. At the same time there was a rise in antisemitic feeling, especially within the nearby German state of Bavaria. In October 1921 Plauen was the first city outside of Bavaria to have a Nazi party group and in 1923 the Hitler Youth organisation was launched in the city.

1920s

& the early 30s

The Chairman of the Jewish community in Plauen, a Polish born lawyer, Dr Isidore Goldberg campaigned against the new antisemitism. Many Jewish people in Germany wanted to show they were loyal German citizens as well as being modern and forward thinking in their outlook.

**Plauen's
Jewish
community**

In Plauen the community probably took many years to raise the money to build their synagogue. They decided to build the new synagogue on the edge of the city as many of the people who worshipped there had moved to this area from the city centre. There was also an Orthodox synagogue in the city, this too had a small Jewish community.

1933

The election

In the general election of the 74,302 people in Plauen voted. Well over half (41,819) voted for the Nazi party.