

## **Elane Porta – Third Place Middle, FSUS**

### **Kristallnacht**

Kristallnacht is probably one of the most terrifying, yet memorable times in history. Everything the Jewish citizens knew was taken away. The events of Kristallnacht were horrifying and created great fear amongst the Jewish German citizens, when activities such as the burning of synagogues and random vanishing of families occurred unexpectedly and without warning. Kristallnacht has become a big moment in history. We must remember the occasion to be aware and to teach the new generations.

Many life changing events happened during Kristallnacht that will forever be remembered. The evening of November 9<sup>th</sup> 1938, The Night of Broken Glass, was the beginning of the destruction and was considered the start of the Holocaust. Nazi officers and non-Jewish German Hitler supporters set fire to Jewish buildings. Businesses and homes were destroyed leaving many Jewish people without jobs. Homes that had not been wrecked were invaded and looted of all their wealth and expensive possessions such as jewelry. Ruined synagogues left no center of worship for the Jews. People became very scared and some citizens were taken away unexpectedly. Entire families disappeared. The Jewish people were left with nothing, yet were charged with restitution. The damage in Vienna, alone, was estimated at 10,000,000 marks.

Even though Kristallnacht happened seventy-five years ago it is important for us to remember the events. The terrible happenings of The Night of Broken Glass had a huge effect on people physically and mentally. We aren't supposed to judge people based on their religion or race. Remembering Kristallnacht will keep the generations of today more aware of what is happening with their government. We will stay mindful of other events occurring around the

world. Kristallnacht was a huge event that people today think would never happen. The events remind us that someone with power can do lots of damage. It teaches us to be prepared and not to judge others for what they believe or what they look like.

As stated earlier, the disappearances of entire families and burning of the Synagogues, which were a main part of Jewish citizens' religion and beliefs, created fear and had a large impact on the people involved. Not only did the events impact the Jewish German citizens, they impacted us too. We, the people of today, were surprised when events thought to be unimaginable occurred. Kristallnacht must be remembered throughout all the generations to come. The remembrance of dreadful events must be taught to have an understanding and to be aware of the things around us.

### Work Cited

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