

1. Start in Germany:

- after the Kristallnacht 1938 and the programme the government started against especially Jews (anti Semitic thoughts and attacks against Jews)
- —> many Jews decided to leave Germany
- all the refugees paid for Cuban residence permits to stay in Cuba while they waited for their US visas
- the refugees rented the vessel St. Louis, which was under control of Gustav Schroeder, to ship them to Cuba

2. Arrival in Cuba:

- they arrived in Havana but nobody was allowed to get off the ship
- although almost everybody had valid Cuban visas the government accepted only round about 30 people with US visas
- reasons for their denial were: anti-Semitism, and recent changes to immigration regulations in Cuba
- stayed 3 days in a Havana harbour

3. The States:

- even the states didn't accepted the refugees
- although many Americans sympathized with the passengers after American Newspapers published the story
- they hadn't get their US visas at that time or passed any security control so the US government denied their entry

4. Canada:

- when they arrived the Canadian Minister of Justice Ernest Lopez wouldn't accept the refugees because they didn't qualify under current immigration laws
- —> added that many people were anti Semitic attitude at that time
- ...
- For that reason Canada sent the ship back to Europe
- Canada admitted round about 16.000 immigrants and fewer than 5000 Jewish people between the years 1931 and 1938

- Thus Canada was one of the countries with the least admitted amount of immigrants
- Even countries who were hit hard by the Great Depression for example Sweden or the States admitted way more people than Canada

5. The return:

- Gustav Schreoder refused to send the refugees back to Germany, so he searched for other countries admitting them
- The refugees got split up to France, Poland and other countries in Western Europe.
- Nevertheless over 350 people died during the war years when Germany occupied parts of or whole countries
- This whole event wouldn't have happened if people had treated the refugees as normal people and didn't discriminate them because of their religion or appearance
- There were lots of options what to do with the refugees for Canada without just sending them back with knowing what consequences this would have

