

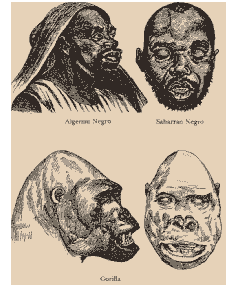


The Nazi Holocaust

Extermination of the Jews

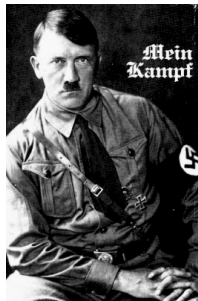
Racism + Social Darwinism

- At the end of the 19th century, racism combined with Social Darwinism and created ideas similar to those Hitler would espouse.



Racial Superiority

- In *Mein Kampf* (1925), Hitler described a racial hierarchy with:
 - Aryans (the culture-producing race) at the top
 - Jews, Africans, and Gypsies (the culture-destroying races) at the bottom.



Inferior Peoples v. Aryan Volk

- In his speeches he played on fears that Germans would one day be outnumbered by inferior peoples and idealized a time when the Aryan "Volk" lived in harmony.



Goal: Remove Inferior Types

- Hitler's goal was to remove the inferior types from Germany, making more lebensraum (living space) for the superior Aryans.
- The Jews were the special object of his hatred.



The Racial Hygiene Movement

- The Racial Hygiene Movement (RHM), which began in Germany in 1905, had few supporters until the Nazis came to power.
 - "Only through [the Führer] did our dream of ... applying racial hygiene to society become a reality."
- Ernst Rüdin - Nazi psychiatrist



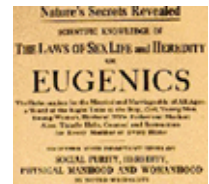
Euthanasia

- The RHM advocated the removal of those who would not improve the German race and had no use in society – those who Hitler called the "useless eaters."
- This meant killing the mentally ill, the terminally ill, and the physically and mentally handicapped. They euphemistically called this "euthanasia."



Eugenics

- It also meant eugenics – the science of improving the race through selective breeding. The Nazis required the sterilization of those who carried hereditary defects, such as types of blindness and deafness and certain diseases which were thought to have a genetic basis, such as Huntington's Chorea and epilepsy.



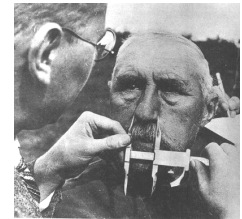
Sterilization

- To further purify the race, women of mixed blood were to be sterilized.
- Those with ideal Aryan characteristics were bred like livestock.



Physical Measurements

- The Nazi Bureau for Enlightenment on Population Policy and Racial Welfare recommended the classification of Aryans and non-Aryans on the basis of measurements of the skull and other physical features.



Improving the Gene Pool

- Many of these ideas were not unique to the Nazis. For example in the early 1900s, many states in The United States passed compulsory sterilization laws and prohibited intermarriage between whites and African Americans, Native Americans, and Asians. However, the Nazis were more ruthless and more thorough in their efforts to improve the gene pool.



"We do not stand alone" - Nazi propaganda justifying the 1934 sterilization law, shows a German couple surrounded by the flags of nations which already had identical laws. *Neues Volk*, 1936.

The War Against the Jews

- When the Nazis began to wage war against the Jews, they used rhetoric and propaganda.



From an anti-Semitic children's book. The sign reads "Jews are not wanted here"

The Wandering Jew

- On November 8, 1937, a propaganda exhibit entitled *Der Ewige Jude* (*The Wandering Jew*) opened. It portrayed Jews as communists, swindlers and sex-fiends.
- Over 150,000 people attended the exhibit in just three days.



Communists and Thieves

- Jews were frequently associated with communists and thieves. *The Wandering Jew* later became a notorious hate film, and associated the Jews with rats and other vermin.



The headlines say "Jews are our misfortune" and "How the Jew cheats." Germany, 1936.

Extermination

- For those with ears to hear, Hitler promised the extermination of the Jewish people in a speech to the Reichstag in 193



- "...if the international Jewish financiers in and outside Europe should succeed in plunging the nations once more into a world war, then the result will not be the Bolshevizing of the earth, and thus the victory of Jewry, but the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe!"

-- Adolf Hitler, January 30, 1939

Harassment

- Harassment followed the limitations on the civil rights of Jewish citizens.



Jewish children humiliated in the classroom.

Registration

- At first Jews were required to register and to wear yellow stars as identification.



The Nuremberg Race Laws

- The Nuremberg Race Laws of 1935:
 - Deprived Jews of rights of citizenship
 - Prohibited marriage or sexual relations with Aryans
 - Prohibited employment of Aryans as household help

- The Nuremberg Race Laws included:
 - "The Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor" (prohibiting German-Jewish intermarriage)
 - "The Reich Citizenship Law" (designating Jews as subjects).
 - "The Law for the Protection of the Genetic Health of the German People" (requiring potential marriage partners to submit to a medical examination).
 - If they were disease free, they would be issued a "Certificate of Fitness to Marry."
 - The certificate was required in order to get a marriage license.

Kristallnacht

- During the evening of November 9, 1938, the "night of broken glass," many Jewish businesses, synagogues and homes were destroyed by mobs of people fired by propaganda and fueled by their own prejudice and ignorance.
- Kristallnacht was a massive coordinated attack throughout the German Reich.



The burning of a synagogue during Kristallnacht

In Retaliation for Nazi Mistreatment

- The attack came after Herschel Grynszpan, a 17 year old Jew living in Paris, shot and killed a member of the German Embassy in retaliation for the poor treatment his father and his family suffered at the hands of the Nazis. His family, along with thousands of other Jews, had been transported in boxcars and dumped at the Polish border.



“Rise in Bloody Vengeance”

- The German propaganda minister, Joseph Goebbels, incited Germans to "rise in bloody vengeance against the Jews."
 - Mob violence broke out as the German police stood by and watched.
 - Storm troopers and members of the SS beat and murdered Jews along with the mobs.
- Nearly 1000 synagogues were burned and thousands of Jews rounded up.





Barracks at Auschwitz



Prisoners at Dachau



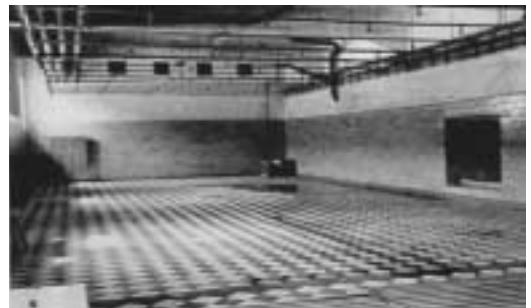
Children victims of Nazi medical experiments



Jewish prisoners are loaded onto the train from Westerbork, a transit camp, on their way to a concentration camp

The Final Solution

- In January 1942 high Nazi officials met to discuss the "final solution of the Jewish question," in the Berlin suburb, Wannsee. Known as the *Wannsee Conference*, this meeting did not begin the killing of the Jews, but in it the Nazis articulated their plans clearly and determined on a systematic method to carry them out.



The final destination for those who could not work, the gas chamber. This is the gas chamber at Flossenbürg.

Einsatzgruppen

- Not all murdered Jews were killed in the camps. A mobile killing force called the Einsatzgruppen conducted many executions, particularly in the Ukraine and Baltic states.



Jews from Lubny (Ukraine) assembled just prior to execution



Jewish victims who have been asked to remove their outer garments prior to execution



Einsatzgruppen executions in the Ukraine



Jewish citizens of Kiev marching to Babi Yar



The ravine at Babi Yar, scene of mass executions in 1941. Einsatzgruppen killed 33,000 citizens of Kiev by gunning them down on the edge of the ravine.

Liberation

- In 1945 the camps were liberated. In the last days the Nazis were still unwilling to give up the plan to exterminate the Jews. They either executed Jews in the camps as they abandoned them, death-marched them into the interior of Germany, or cut off food and water, leaving them to die.



Children at Auschwitz. The lucky ones were liberated in 1945.



Mass grave site at Bergen-Belsen. The British found many dead when they liberated the camp.

References

- Adapted from *Holocaust Nightmare: A HistoryWiz Exhibit*