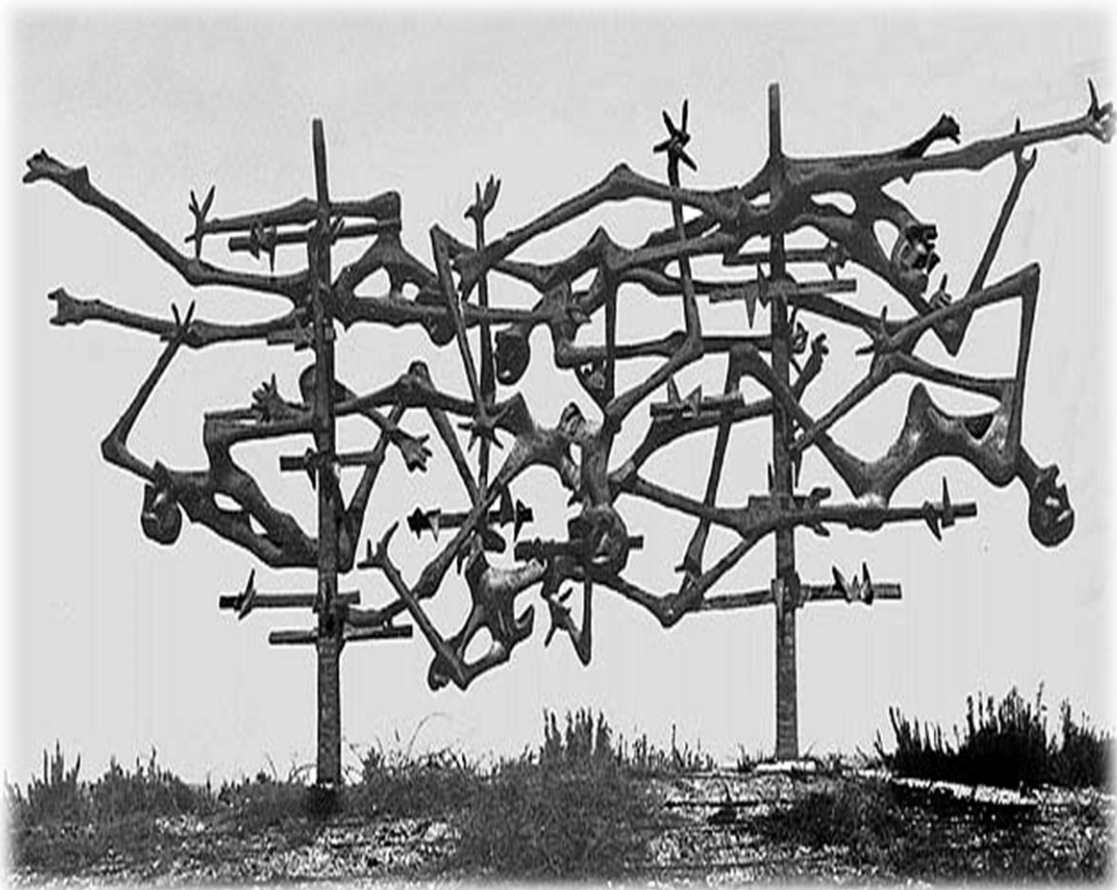


STUDENT MANUAL
FOR A UNIVERSITY COURSE ON
THE HOLOCAUST



2016 - 2017

CONTENT GUIDE: THE COURSE IN TWELVE UNITS

Unit 1 Introduction to the Course: *A Psalm from the Ashes*

- 1 A “To *Approach* the Shoah: *Balance* between *Mystification* and *De-Mystification*”
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An Overview of its History, Images, Libels and Mutations

Unit 3 “Hitler’s Rise to Power” From the *Second Reich* to the *Third Reich* (Pre-WWI to 1933/34)

The **N**Aationalso**Z**Ialistische Deutsche ArbeiterPartei and “The *Nazification* of Germany”
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Unit 6 **STAGE II: 1939-41 Isolation in Ghettos** – The Heydrich Directive; Ghetto Life

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Conclusion to the Course: *A Psalm from the Ashes*

UNIT 1



The Silent Cry –Yad Vashem

*To Bear Witness
To this Unbearable Burden*

<p>UNIT 1 LECTURE TOPICS</p>	<p>“APPROACHING THE SHOAH” “THE UNIQUENESS QUESTION”</p>
<p>TEXTBOOK READINGS REQUIRED</p>	<p>Rausch – <i>Legacy of Hatred</i>, Chapter 1 Meltzer – <i>Never To Forget</i>, Preface McDonough – <i>The Holocaust</i>, Introduction</p>
<p>RECOMMENDED READINGS</p>	<p>Michael Berenbaum – <i>The World Must Know</i>, Introduction Lucy Dawidowicz – <i>The War Against the Jews</i>, Introduction</p>
<p>PRIME LEARNING OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Understand the texture of this subject via a course-setting <u>interpretive paradigm</u>: Attempt balance between ‘Mystification’ and ‘DE-Mystification’ Know the key issues that elucidate the <u>Uniqueness</u> of the Shoah Articulate balance between the Uniqueness and the Universal lessons</p>
<p>FILM SHOWN</p>	<p>No Film in this session</p>
<p>FILMS RECOMMENDED</p>	<p>“Genocide” Wiesenthal Center, 1981 “The Holocaust: A History” Educational Video, 2001 “The Holocaust: Through Our Eyes” Midwest Center for Holocaust Education “Witness to the Holocaust” ADL (Series of 7 Short Documentaries)</p>
<p>ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECT IDEAS</p>	<p>Be composing your <u>Midterm Exam Essay</u> on the Uniqueness Issue Become familiar with vast resources Online (a list is in syllabus) Search for a variety of materials to augment your own manual Visit Museum websites and take ‘Virtual Tours’</p>
<p>STUDY AIDS</p>	<p>Unit I Lecture Outline + Quotes “On the Uniqueness Question” The Engine – Transmission Belt Analogy (To be given in class) Learning History = Challenging Myths (To work on throughout)</p>
<p><i>This Section of the Shoah Student Manual is Dedicated To:</i></p>	



“*The Shoah* ~ That whirlwind of destruction in which Hitler’s Empire murdered Six Million Jews. But a whirlwind cannot be taught...it must be experienced. We cannot know what happened during the Shoah solely by learning facts and figures and scholarly explanations. Yes, facts and figures and scholarly explanations are necessary. But we must also touch and feel and taste the dark days and burning nights. Our hearts must constrict in terror...must ache in all grief. And our love for the goodness of life must grow strong enough to reach into the darkness...to discover the depth of that darkness: the unspeakable experience itself.”

Albert H. Friedlander *Out of the Whirlwind*



LECTURE OUTLINE FOR UNIT 1 ~ SESSION ONE ~ INTRODUCING THIS WRETCHED SUBJECT

I. HOW SHALL WE APPROACH “THE HOLOCAUST”?

The term itself (“*holocaust*”) is problematic.

It actually means –

Other terms have been used –

Although no single term could ever suffice, the preferred one is – *SHOAH*

Preferred because –

It means –

How do we approach an event that *moves us to speak yet stuns us into silence?*

Two **opposite** tendencies in Holocaust literature:

MYSTIFICATION – Describe and critique this approach:

DE-MYSTIFICATION – Describe and critique this approach:

What would a **balance** between these two tendencies involve?

Are **you** willing to “Bear This Unbearable Burden”?

II. THE QUESTION OF “UNIQUENESS”

Is the *SHOAH* *unique* in history? (Incommensurable? Unprecedented? Unparalleled?)

Discuss the **Singularity** of the Shoah:

The **Particular** lessons to be learned:

Discuss its **General** character:

The **Universal** lessons to be learned:

 *The Key:* Nazi **IDEOLOGY** ⇌ The **IDENTITY** of their *prime target*:

Three questions delineate the uniqueness:

1. What features distinguish *this* genocide from *so many other* genocides throughout history?
2. What distinguishes the Shoah from *so many other* persecutions suffered by Jews throughout history?
3. What differentiates Nazi “Jewish Policy” from their brutal treatment of others?
(Their ruthless incarceration and murder of five million *non-Jewish* civilians ... *and* POWs.)
 - a. Was the Holocaust a mere “*by-product*” of the general destructiveness of modern warfare?
 - b. Who *were* the other *victims* and *why* were they targeted?

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

“The Nazis killed some people for what they *did*. Some for what they *didn’t do*. Some for *where* they were; some for *what* they were. But the Jews were killed for **THAT** they were! **ONLY** the Jews were mercilessly hunted down, sentenced to a systematically implemented (*final*) annihilation program ... and **ONLY** for **being** Jewish ... or even having a Jewish grandparent ...”

Some Thoughts on the 'UNIQUENESS' Question

“There are **no parallels** to the ‘life’ of the concentration camps. All seeming parallels create confusion and distract attention from what is **essential**. Forced labor in prisons or penal colonies, banishments, and slavery all *seem* momentarily to offer helpful comparisons, *but* on closer examination lead nowhere. ~ Hannah Arendt

“The truth of every cause is validated or found fraudulent in the way it treats the Jewish people.”
~ David Polish

“The Holocaust was the only true ‘genocide’ in history...the only systematic attempt to kill *all* members of a group of people simply because they had been born.”
~ Dr. Stephen Katz

“Scholars who are offended when other genocides are called a ‘holocaust’ worry that the **unique** depravity of Hitler’s attempt to annihilate the Jews will be forgotten if the Holocaust becomes an ‘all-purpose paradigm for evil’.”
~ Christopher Shea

“I do not apologize for asserting the **Uniqueness** of the Shoah. To Hitler, Jewish Existence was a unique ‘problem’ requiring an unprecedented, total, and final ‘solution’. *That* is unique in the history of mankind. *To dilute, diffuse, or deny that tragic existential singularity is to engage in a crass form of revisionism.*”
~ J. M. Boville

“‘**Final**’ means definitive, complete...**ultimate**. ‘Final’ reverberates with apocalyptic promise, bespeaking the End of Days. The ‘**Final Solution of the Jewish Problem**’ in the Nazi conception was not just another antisemitic undertaking, but a meta-historical program devised with an eschatological perspective. It was part of a ‘salvational ideology’ that envisaged the attainment of Heaven by bringing Hell on earth.”
~ Dr. Lucy Dawidowicz

“**The Uniqueness Question provokes heated debate and evokes charges of Jewish ‘Particularity’.** *Yet the Shoah stands as a uniquely revelatory event. Never has the annihilation of an entire people by a regime that emerged out of cultured, Christian Europe, was wildly popular, and that used industrial yet barbaric means to accomplish the annihilation as an end in itself and not a means to any end...*

...Never has such an extermination program been so central in a modern nation’s worldview.

And never have we seen a phenomenon such as this — that the uniqueness of the event is *still* debated! Is the very fact of Jewish existence still a ‘particular’ problem for universalizing, relativistic minds?

Are these very debates about the Shoah not revelatory in some way?

~ J. M. Boville

“Jewish particularity is the most sublime form of universalism.” ~ Rabbi Donan

“An obvious recent precedent of the Holocaust is the Turkish genocide of the Armenians in WWI. Like the Nazi genocide of the Jews in WWII, this was an attempt to destroy a whole people under the cover of a war with maximum secrecy, and with victims being deported to isolated regions...all of which provoked few countermeasures or even verbal protests from the civilized world. The Nazis learned from and were encouraged by this precedent.

But, unlike the Armenian genocide, the Holocaust was intentional, planned, and executed as the ‘final solution’ of a fantasized ‘problem.’ So whereas, for example, the roundup of Armenians in Istanbul was discontinued after a while, Nazi Germany, had it won the war or even managed to have prolonged it, would have succeeded in murdering every last Jew. North American Indians have survived, albeit on reservations.

But ‘Jewish reservations’ in a victorious Nazi Empire are inconceivable. Thus the Holocaust may be said to belong to the species ‘genocide,’ along with other catastrophes. Within that species, however, it is **without precedent** and thus far at least, **without sequel**.

The Holocaust is — and here this term *must* be employed — **UNIQUE**.” ~ Emil Fackenheim, Philosopher and Survivor

“Any attempt to speak of the **SHOAH** which **only guards** its **uniqueness** cannot communicate its universal message...**but**...any attempt to speak of the Holocaust which **fails to guard** its moral theological **uniqueness** will have nothing special to communicate.”
~ Dr. Franklin Littell

LEARNING HISTORY – CHALLENGING MYTHS

- ☐ The Nazis **seized** power (by a violent coup) in Germany overnight, catching Germans unaware.
- ☐ **Hitler** was Jewish!
- ☐ The **Reich government** was a ‘tightly-run ship’...operated with clear-cut efficiency...like **clockwork**...
- ☐ The Reich’s **totalitarianism** and use of terror was such that it was **impossible** to resist.
- ☐ Germany **needed** WWII to regain the losses from **WWI**, and to re-establish its sovereignty and restore its economy after the excessively unfair punishments imposed by the **Versailles Treaty**.
- ☐ The Nazi’s *earliest* Jewish Policy was **Forced Emigration**. This proves that **Mass Extermination** *wasn’t really pre-meditated!* So...the Holocaust *wasn’t intentional* and **ideologically motivated!**
- ☐ All Jews should have seen what was coming and should simply have **fled** Germany *en masse*.
- ☐ The Genocide we now call ‘Holocaust’ was merely a **‘by-product’** of destructive modern **warfare**.
- ☐ The free nations (**USA, GB**) honestly did **NOT know** what was happening to the Jews in Europe.
- ☐ Nothing could have been done by the **Allies**, short of winning the war, to rescue the Jewish victims.
- ☐ The **“neutral”** nations such as **Sweden** and **Switzerland** acted valiantly and compassionately toward Jewish refugees during the war years.
- ☐ Jews themselves did almost nothing to **resist** their destruction, and often collaborated with the Nazis to exploit their own brethren.
- ☐ **Austria** was an ‘invaded nation’ and therefore bears no responsibility for the Reich’s atrocities.

- ☐ **Wehrmacht soldiers** were involved *only* in the “conventional” war. They were “honorable” and so they never committed any atrocities or participated in the slaughter of innocent civilians.
- ☐ The personnel directly responsible for the actual killing operations were being **forced** to commit the murders **against their will**...(they *had* to obey those orders or they would be punished.)
- ☐ **Christian Churchmen** were the *most* courageous and vocal anti-Nazis, and the *first* to protest anti-Jewish persecution, and to offer hiding places, and work to rescue their Jewish neighbors. “The majority of *true* Christians can be deemed **Righteous Gentiles** during this dark evil era.”
- ☐ When trying to understand the events of this era, it is most helpful to stick with **one paradigm** – and to assess the facts through the interpretive prism of a **singular** “**Explanatory Model.**”
Examples: “The **diffusion** of responsibility in modern bureaucracies.” “**Obedience to Authority.**”
- ☐ The **majority** of top Nazi leaders *were* brought to **justice** after the war in an unprecedented International Tribunal – charged with **Crimes Against Humanity** – and summarily **executed**.
- ☐ The only reason the world community allowed European Jews to re-establish **Israel** (at the expense of the poor Palestinians who owned the land) was due to worldwide sympathy for what they suffered in the Holocaust.

Not ONE of the statements above is historically valid! Yet such myths persist.

In this course we face an overwhelming amount of facts. We also have the responsibility to attempt an **understanding** of the Shoah’s *meaning* in history...to ‘learn its lessons on behalf of all humanity.’
As we do so, it will be necessary to **challenge** the many misunderstandings about this horrific event. The facts are awesomely complex and require our most careful study and honest reflection.

More Philosophical (“**Meta-Historical**”) Issues:

- ☐ The Holocaust was ‘**INEVITABLE**’ (the **inexorable** result of a combination of factors.)
- ☐ The Holocaust **proves** once & for all: There is **NO GOD** who cares, or is ‘Sovereign Over History.’
- ☐ The Holocaust can **never be ‘explained’ at all** – it is a ‘**MYSTERY** BEGOTTEN BY THE DEAD’!
- ☐ The Holocaust was **not UNIQUE**, but merely one more example of “Man’s Inhumanity to Man.”

UNIT 2



WHY SUCH HATRED?

WHY THE JEWS?

<p>UNIT 2 LECTURE TOPIC</p>	<p>ANTISEMITISM A HATRED LIKE NO OTHER History, Images and Mutations</p>
<p>TEXTBOOK READINGS REQUIRED</p>	<p>Rausch, Ch. 2 and 3 Meltzer, Ch. 1 [Library reserve materials will also be required]</p>
<p>RECOMMENDED READINGS</p>	<p>John Weiss – <i>Ideology of Death</i> Clark Williamson – <i>Has God Rejected His People? Anti-Judaism in the Church</i> Edward Flannery – <i>The Anguish of the Jews: 23 Centuries of Antisemitism</i></p>
<p>PRIME LEARNING OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Answer this Question: <i>“Why such hatred and why against the Jewish people?”</i> Define antisemitism as <i>distinguished from</i> other prejudices. Trace its history, <i>and</i> its mutations. Study the images, lies and libels with which it is perpetuated Recognize the deep complicity of <i>Anti-Jewish Christian Theology and Edicts</i> Become aware of all forms of antisemitism manifest (and increasing) today</p>
<p>FILM SHOWN</p>	<p>No Film in this Session</p>
<p>FILMS RECOMMENDED</p>	<p>“The Cross and the Star” John Michalczyk “The Decision” (The DVD is on Library reserve) “The Longest Hatred” Robert Wistrich, PBS 1991 “Shadow on the Cross – Part 1” Landmark Films, 1990</p>
<p>PROJECT IDEAS</p>	<p>Find present-day examples of antisemitism (They abound, prepare to be disgusted) Study extensive materials on Christian Antisemitism (on Library reserve) Show one of the above documentaries at church and lead a discussion (Be prepared – Your audience will be angry, upset or dismissive!)</p>
<p>STUDY AIDS</p>	<p>Lecture Outline and Pages of Illustrations Some Thoughts and Quotes on Antisemitism</p>
<p><i>This Section of the Shoah Student Manual is Dedicated To:</i></p>	<p><i>To All My Colleagues Who Have Committed Their Life Work to:</i> <i>Repudiating Antisemitism and to Restoring the Church To Her True Heritage</i></p>

LECTURE OUTLINE: AN OVERVIEW OF ANTISEMITISM

I. DEFINING (≠ spelling!) ANTISEMITISM

Thesis: **A Hatred Like No Other** A. Existential B. Spiritual

II. TRACING THE LONG HISTORY of and VARIOUS TYPES of ANTISEMITISM (Cumulative)

Pre-Christian Era (Biblical and Classical Periods; In the Greco-Roman Pagan Empire)

Christian Era “*Adversus Judaeos*” Replacement Theology + Deicide **The Cross becomes a Sword**

Islamic (Unit 10)

Enlightenment Era - *Some* Emancipation for Jews, Pressure to Assimilate (Damned if they do or don't)

Modern Era – The 19th on into the 20th century.... **All of these pernicious types pre-dated Hitler**

DEFINE these dangerous new strains that were exploited in Nazi Ideology: (Culminating)

1. Political – (The “*BLAME the JEWS Ticket*”! Propose legal discrimination and expulsion, etc.)
2. Racist – (Pseudo-scientific Race Theory, Social Darwinism, etc.) **Survival of the Racially Fittest!**
3. Neo-Paganist Occultic – (Spiritual-Racist Cults, Ariosophy, Thule Society, etc.) **Richard Wagner**
4. Civil-Religious – (Hyper-Nationalistic, “*Volkish*”) **‘Patriotism’ as Idolatry!**

III. THE “IMAGES” OF ANTISEMITISM **“How to get others to hate who you hate!”**

Stereotypes; caricatures; libel and slander; conspiracy theories, etc.

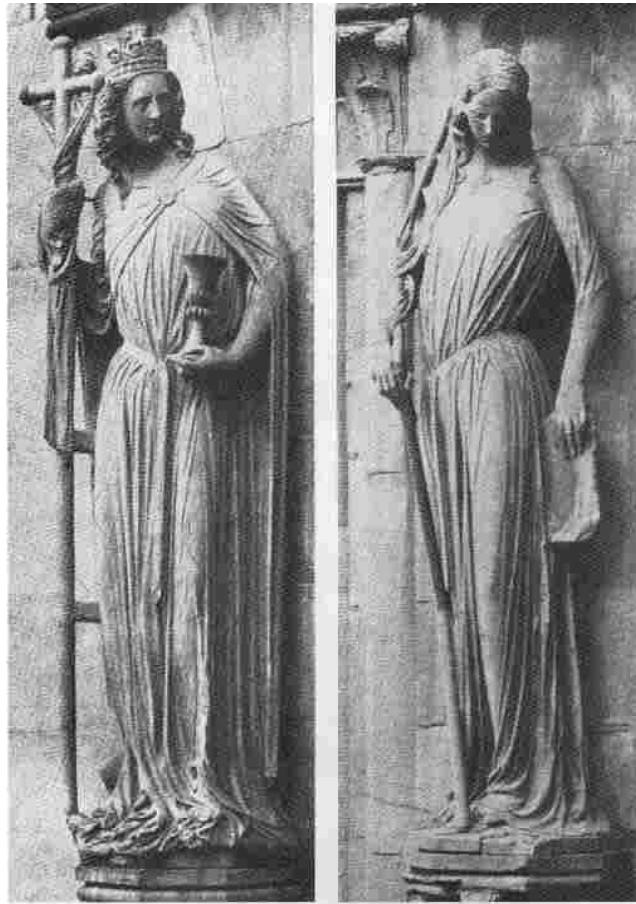
Examples (see **Illustrations**): “Synagogue” as Blind and Banished “The Blood Libel”
“*Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*” (Conspiracy Myths)
“Lecherous” “Shylock” “Well-Poisoners” “Judensau”

IV. ANTISEMITISM TODAY [Unfortunately we also see the persistence of **all previous forms**]

Neo-Nazism and Holocaust Denial – UNIT 11

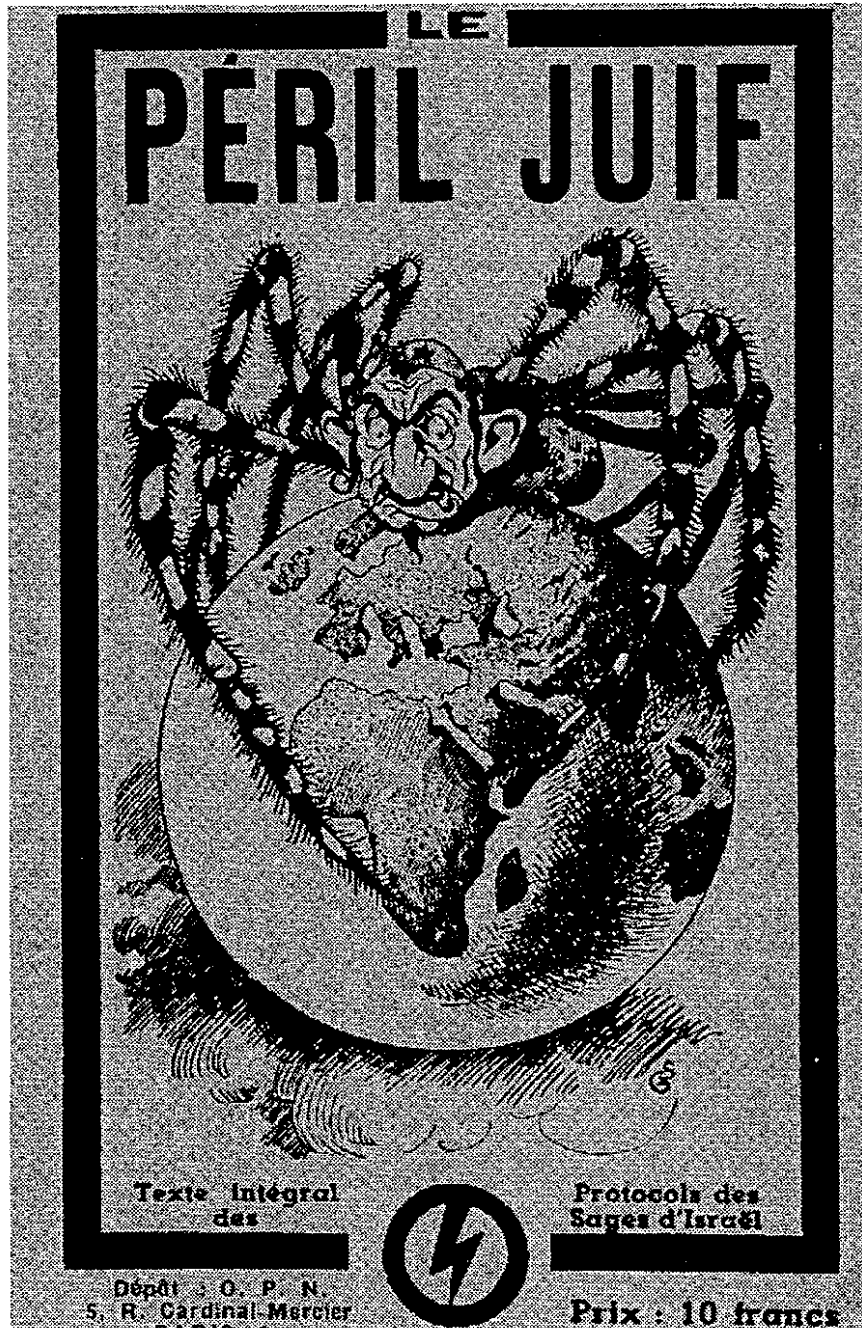
Anti-Zionism – UNIT 10 **“We can do in 6 minutes what took Hitler 6 years!”** - **IRAN** (with Nukes)

Neo-Paganism, now “New Age” Antisemitism (Jews will fail to achieve Cosmic Consciousness; hold us back from evolving into gods, they must be ‘removed’ – Planetary Cleansing!)



Figures 1 “Ecclesia and Synagoga” (Christianity Triumphant and Judaism Despised)





Cover of a popular French edition of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, entitled "Le Péril Juif." The *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* was a nineteenth century antisemitic forgery purporting to be a report of a Jewish plot to take over the world. 1934. (Institute of Contemporary History and Wiener Library Limited, courtesy of the USHMM Photo Archives)

Fig. 4 "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

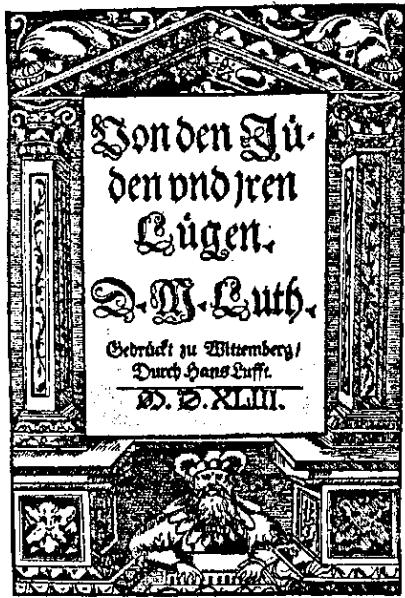
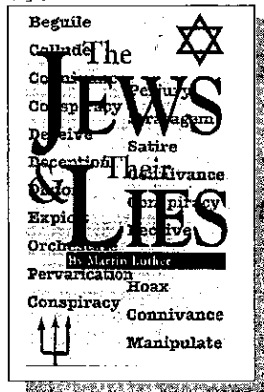


Figure 5a. Concerning the Jews and their Lies. Title page of the most virulent of Martin Luther's anti-Semitic pamphlets, Wittenburg, 1543.

Fig. 5b.



Purchased from Nation of Islam vendors at The Million Man March.

ANTISEMITISM CONTINUES

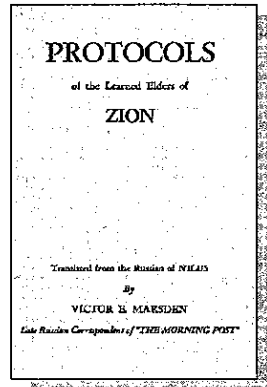
The Republication and Dissemination of Libels, Myths, and Hatred

Fig. 5c.



Cover of 1934 French edition of infamous Protocols forgery.

Fig. 5d.



Purchased at a table identified by the seller as being operated by a New York Mosque of the Nation of Islam.

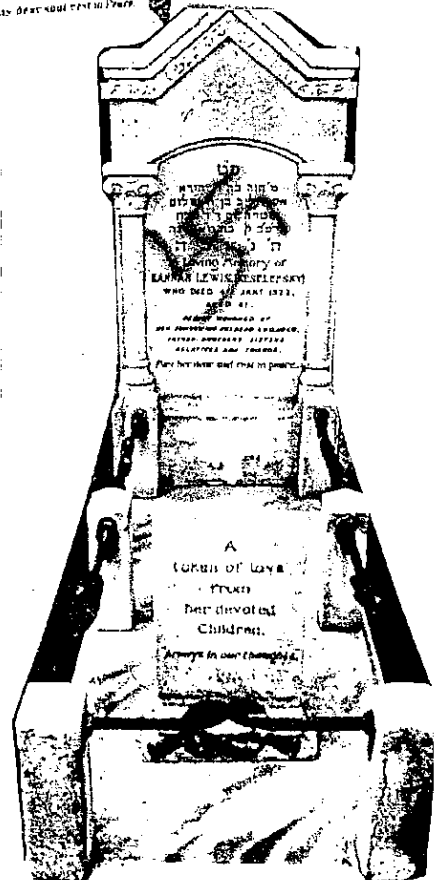
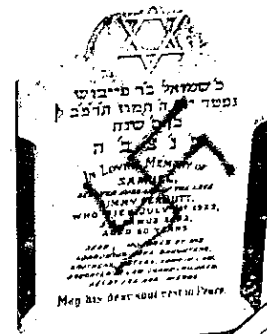
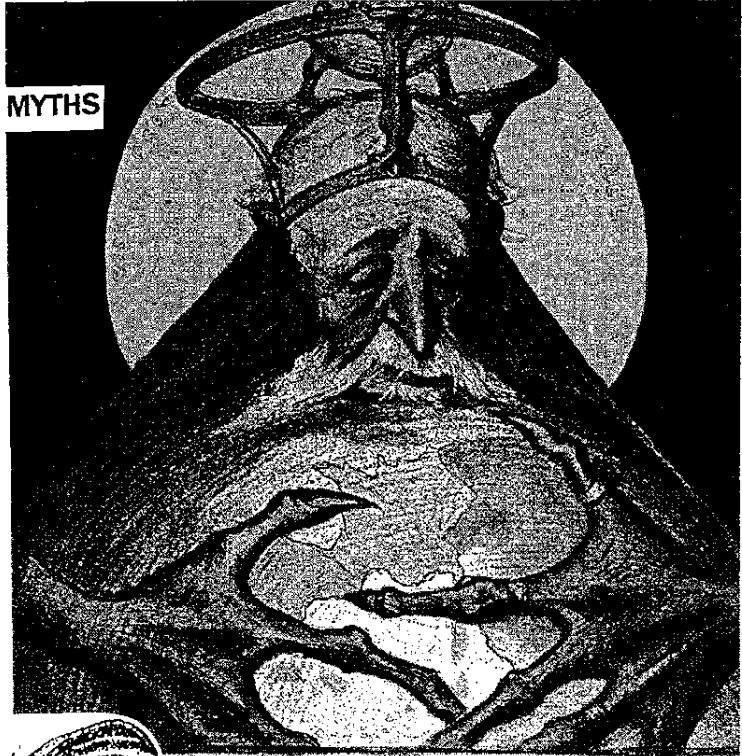


Fig. 5e. Desecrated Jewish tombs

"JEWISH PLOTS" and CONSPIRACY MYTHS



Rothschild

Französische Karikatur von C. Leandre. 1898

Fig. 6 Antisemitic political cartoon entitled "Rothschild" by the French caricaturist, C. Leandre. The Rothschilds were a wealthy European Jewish family which was viewed by antisemites as part of an international Jewish conspiracy to control the world economy. 1898. (Courtesy of the USHMM Photo Archives)



Die erste politische Darstellung des Antisemiten.

Fig. 7 The Viennese paper "Kikeriki" depicts the Jew as a world-devouring vampire.



TALMUD:

(Confisciert.)

Die Rabbiner Bechai, Lewi ben Gerson, Maimon:
 „Der Jude bezicht keinen Ehebruch, wenn er ein Chri-
 stensmädchen mischbraucht, auch wenn er verheh-
 ratet ist, denn das Weib des Ungläubigen kann ge-
 braucht werden.“

Figure 8. Cartoon from the anti-Semitic pamphlet *Judenspiegel*, Leipzig, 1926. The pamphlet misquotes the Talmud to prove that Jews are obliged to commit infamous acts against Christians. The caption under this drawing reads: "The rabbis Bechai, Lewi ben Gerson and Maimon say that a Jew does not sin when he abuses a Christian girl, even if he is married, since the wife of an unbeliever may be spoiled."



Der Nürnberger Jude Otto Mayer

pflegte seine Opfer zu kreuzigen. In völlig nackttem Zustande band er sie an ein eigens dazu angefertigtes Holzkreuz und schändete sie, sobald aus den Wundmalen das Blut floss.

Figure 9. A Nazi cartoon. The caption reads: "Otto Mayer, the Nuremberg Jew, used to crucify his victim. He bound her, stark naked, to a specially prepared wooden cross, and raped her as soon as the blood began to flow from her wounds."

The "Erotica" Theme (Jews as lecherous, preying upon and defiling Christian women) is of early origin. Nazis made pornographic use of this image in their propaganda.



Fig.10 This poster on the Reichstag wall warned Germans of the Jewish threat to their purity.



"Jews are not wanted here."
Photo from
Yad Vashem



"6,000,001"
by
Moshe Hoffman
Yad Vashem Art
Museum

SOME QUOTES ON ANTISEMITISM

“It is the swollen envy of smallish minds — it is meanness, it is **injustice**.” ~ Mark Twain

“The reasons for antisemitism should be sought first and foremost not among the ‘objects’ of hatred...the ones to whom —contrary to all fact and logic — the antisemite has ascribed everything evil.

The reasons for antisemitism should be sought among the haters. ~ Hugo Valentin

“Was it, one wonders, the ancient Jewish habit of (revering God and) submitting to the limitedness of all human knowledge that the Nazis found most execrable in their ‘enemy’? The German plunge into ‘world without limit’ made it possible to process human beings into matter, to create un-persons, to reach a new pitch of meaningless in history.” ~ Nora Levin

“The provenance of ‘Jew-Hatred’ is the darkest part of the pagan soul of man —**ultimately it is hatred for the God of the Jews**. Therefore, ‘antisemitism’ is the most wickedly **anti-redemptive** force on the face of the earth.” ~ Jan Boville

“Oh God, see how your enemies are astir...they plot against those you cherish. ‘Come, they say, let us destroy your people as a nation **so that the name Israel be remembered no more**.” ~ Psalm 83

“See how numerous my enemies are, and **how unjustly they hate me**.” ~ Psalm 25:19

“There is a people dispersed and scattered among the peoples of your kingdom whose customs are different from those of all other people. It is not in the king’s best interest to tolerate them. Let a decree be issued to destroy them...I will put silver in the royal treasury for the men who carry out this business.” ~ Says the evil Haman to the Persian King. Esther 3:8, 9

“The missionaries of Christianity had said in effect: **You have no right to live among us as Jews**. The secular rulers who followed proclaimed: **You have no right to live among us**. The German Nazis at last decreed: **You have no right to live**.

The Nazis did not discard the past, they built upon it.” ~ Raul Hilberg

“The Jews survived 1600 years of Christianity. They almost didn’t survive 12 years of the Nazi Reich. Something must have been different.” ~ Dr. Stephen Katz

Antisemitism rises as the stock market falls. ~ German Saying

“The measures Hitler took in his ‘struggle’ against the Jews resemble the compulsive rites of purification that can be observed in the mentally ill who believe themselves to be constantly threatened with contamination.”

“Even if the recent loathsome experience of the Shoah was perpetrated in the name of an anti-Christian ideology, which tried to strike the Christian faith at its Abrahamic roots in the people of Israel, it cannot be denied that a certain insufficient resistance by Christians to this atrocity can be explained by **an inherited anti-Judaism** present in the hearts of so many Christians.”

~ Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI)

‘What other hatred has **endured** for more than two millennia , devoured 6 million victims in recent times, and **continues** today to **mutate and find new ways of expressing itself**?’ ~ Father Edward Flannery, *paraphrased*.

“Those confounded Jews. They just won’t line up quietly for the march to the gas chambers. This, alas, now as for ages past, is the essence of world opinion. Jews in Israel have been under a vicious assault which should appall any civilized person. Israel is under attack by monstrous haters. **World opinion is siding with the haters**.” ~ Jack Kelly

“You declare that you do not hate Jews, that you are merely anti-Zionist. But I say let the truth ring forth: When people criticize Zionists, they mean Jews. **Antisemitism, hatred toward the Jewish people, has been and remains a blot on the soul of mankind**. And know this: Anti-Zionism is inherently antisemitic.” ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The very word Jew continues to arouse passions as does no other national or religious name.” ~ Dennis Prager

“I will make Israel into one last gas chamber.” ~ Saddam Hussein (during ‘Desert Storm’)

“Nothing can be done about antisemitism until something is done about Christendom.

How can followers of Jesus hate so much?

The fact that Christians fail to recognize antisemitism as a wretched sin, and indeed see it as a virtue...*a participation in the divine punishment of that race of Christ-killers...*

That is the evil which perpetuates and spreads this **violation of the law of love.**

As long as so cruel and satanic an assumption resides in Christian minds, the Jew is a marked man...with a Yellow Patch on his arm.”

Thomas Sugrue



UNIT 3



HITLER OVER GERMANY

<p>UNIT 3 LECTURE TOPICS</p>	<p>Hitler's Rise to Dictatorial Power The "Nazification" of Germany</p>
<p>TEXTBOOK READINGS REQUIRED</p>	<p>Rausch, Ch. 4, 5, and 6 <i>up to</i> p. 74 Meltzer, Ch. 2 and 3 McDonough, <i>Who's Who in the Holocaust</i> (pp.149-166)</p>
<p>RECOMMENDED READINGS</p>	<p>Peter Fritzsche – <i>Germans Into Nazis</i>, 1998 Claudia Koonz – <i>The Nazi Conscience</i>, 2003 Jackson J. Spielvogel – <i>Hitler and Nazi Germany</i>, 2005 Robert S. Wistrich – <i>Hitler and the Holocaust</i>, 2003</p>
<p>PRIME LEARNING OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Review the socio-economic-political background for Hitler's success Discuss the failure of democracy in the Weimar Republic Define Fascism. Describe the NSDAP & Reich government structure Describe Hitler's Worldview + the "Nazification" of Germany</p>
<p>FILM SHOWN</p>	<p>"MEIN KAMPF"</p>
<p>FILMS RECOMMENDED</p>	<p>"Hitler: Anatomy of a Dictatorship" "The Nazis: A Warning from History" BBC/A&E, 1997 "The Wave" [Dramatization of an actual classroom experiment] Embassy, 1981</p>
<p>PROJECT IDEAS</p>	<p>Find Maps: 19th c. German Unification; Europe between WWI & WWII Find statistics for German electoral fluctuations in the 1920s & 1930s Create 'bios' on the top Nazi Leaders and describe Hitler's Leadership Style Critique the 'Organized Chaos' of the Reich's Overlapping Bureaucracy</p>
<p>STUDY AIDS</p>	<p>Lecture Outlines: '<u>Hitler's Rise</u>' 1920 – 1933 '<u>Nazification</u>' 1934 on What is Fascism? (Nazism is a distinctly Germanic form) Propaganda Mill (See its place in the <u>Nazification</u> of Germany and beyond) <i>"In the Beginning was the Word"</i> – Pages of Nazi Propaganda Posters Unit 3 Review (To help fill in outlines)</p>
<p><i>This Section of the Shoah Student Manual is Dedicated To:</i></p>	<p><i>Dr. Katarina von Kellenbach</i> <i>~ Willing to confront her family's past ~</i></p>

LECTURE OUTLINE: “HITLER’S RISE” — 1920-1933

Background: 19th century Germany (Second Reich); WWI; The Weimar Republic; The Versailles Treaty

1920s on — The proliferation of propaganda -

1921 — Formation of the **SA** - (*Sturmabteilung* = stormtroopers, ‘brownshirts’)

*Their function:

1922 — The nucleus of the **SS** is formed - (*Stosstrupp Adolf Hitler* = shock troop)
Hitler’s personal bodyguard troop; becomes the *Schutzstaffel* in 1923

*Their function:

1923 — The failed “coup” attempt in Munich. (“Beer Hall Putsch”) -
Hitler is arrested, but turns the trial into a propaganda opportunity!

*Why was Hitler not hanged for high treason?

*What was his imprisonment like?

1924 — Hitler writes *MEIN KAMPF* -

1925 — Rally in Munich re-launches the Nazi Party -

1924-1928 — ‘What if...?’

1929 — “The Great Depression” -

*Describe economic conditions:

1930 — Nazis become the 2nd largest party, growing from 12 to 107 seats in parliament -

1931 — ‘Ups and downs’

1932 — Nazis are the largest single party -

1933 — January 30th, President Hindenburg appoints Adolph Hitler *Chancellor*.
[Von Papen, Vice-Chancellor, with 8 other conservatives and 2 other Nazis in the cabinet.]

From the Chancellery window, Hitler says: _____

LECTURE OUTLINE: CONSOLIDATION OF POWER BY 1934 AND THE NAZIFICATION OF GERMANY

1933 — February 27th — The Reichstag Fire -
Nazis use it to:

1933 — March 23rd — “The Enabling Act” -
Gave Hitler “emergency powers”

1934 — June 30th-July 1st — “The Night of Long Knives” (purging of the **SA**) -

1934 — August 3rd — President Hindenburg died.
Office of President and Chancellor are combined -

Armed forces now swear the Oath of Allegiance, not to the Constitution, not even to the Fatherland, but to _____
Hitler, in less than two years, ascended as an absolute dictator in what *could have been* a ‘democracy.’

THE “NAZIFICATION” OF GERMANY

Define NAZISM and NAZIFICATION:

“**Nazism**”= A distinctly *Germanic* Fascism. (Totalitarian, Mystical, Militaristic, and Super-Racist.)

The phenomenon whereby the Nazi Party actually superseded the German Government and Nation!

“**Nazification**” = The process of bringing the citizens in line with Nazi ideals and goals. The Nazi Party, with the beloved Fuhrer at the helm, engulfed all facets of society (academia, churches, labor unions, etc.) A succinct definition:

“Bringing ALL German Life and the Life of Every German under the Domination of Nazism”

“The next step in a fascist movement is to fascinate fools and muzzle the intelligent, by emotional excitement on the one hand, and brute terrorism on the other.” Bertrand Russell

What methods were utilized to ‘fascinate, muzzle and brutalize’ German citizens?

AGGRANDIZE.....PROPAGANDIZE.....ORGANIZE.....TERRORIZE

The film for this session, and the informational pages, should give you a picture of these methods and thus, some grasp of how an educated cultured nation, which had *had the chance to become a thriving democracy*, instead became the **Third Reich** and followed its Fuhrer into hell.

AGGRANDIZE.....PROPAGANDIZE.....ORGANIZE.....TERRORIZE

THE FUHRER – ADOLF HITLER

(WHO 'PERSONIFIED' NAZI IDEALS AND THE *SPIRIT OF THE VOLK*)

STELLVERTRETER – DEPUTY

REICHSLEITERS – STATE LEADERS (A PARTICULAR STATE, LIKE BAVARIA)

GAULEITERS – REGIONAL LEADERS (AN AREA)

KREISLEITERS – DISTRICT LEADERS (A LARGE TOWN)

ORTSGRUPPENLEITERS – (1500 TO 3000 FAMILIES)

ZELLENLEITERS – CELL-GROUP LEADERS (4 TO 6 CITY BLOCKS, ABOUT 200 FAMILIES)

BLOCKLEITERS – BLOCK LEADERS (30 TO 50 FAMILIES)

MITGLEITER – MEMBER



‘Aggrandize’:

Describe some of the mass rallies and spectacles; discuss how they made people *feel*.
Watch Leni Riefenstahl’s *Triumph of the Will*

‘Propagandize’:

Please take time to look at the special **PROPAGANDA Picture Book**. (IN LIBRARY)

‘Organize’:

Find several examples from the readings and films for how the Nazi Party organized and controlled (“coordinated”) every aspect of German society.

‘Terrorize’:

What were some of the earliest examples of the violent nature of the Nazi movement? When was Dachau opened and what was it for?

WHAT IS FASCISM?

Belligerent, ultra-right-wing, hyper-Nationalistic movements cropped up in many European countries during the tumultuous years between the two world wars. We generally call these movements “**Fascist**,” but what does that mean, and from where did the term derive? And, can we see Nazism as ‘a uniquely Germanic fascism’?

The Italian word *fascismo* comes from the Latin *fasces* — an insignia of supreme authority from ancient Rome (a bundle of rods containing an ax.) This symbol was used by Benito Mussolini as an emblem when he founded the Italian Fascist Movement in Milan in 1919. On October 28, 1922 he marched on Rome with his ‘blackshirted’ followers and formed a totalitarian government.

Fascist governments also came to power in Croatia, Romania and Slovakia, and almost every country had a fascist organization. Japan had a kind of “*samuraï*” fascism. Franco’s regime lasted until 1975 in Spain. It is interesting that most fascist regimes do not survive the deaths of their founders. Fascism is intensely “authoritarian” and totalitarian.

Totalitarianism is more than dictatorial, it aims to control people culturally, socially, and ideologically, not just politically. As such, we can identify some of the characteristics of **FASCISM** and its ‘spirit’:

1. **Absolute primacy of the State as the highest order of human organization.**
Thus, *Glorification of the State...from which naturally follows.....*
2. **The full submission of the individual will to the unified will manifested in the State.**
This *Glorious Unity-of-the-Collective-Will* is usually ‘personified’ by.....
3. **A charismatic cult-like Leader who embodies the State and its ideals, virtues and its destiny.**
A *Destiny* which is conceived as a ‘struggle’ against natural enemies and inferiors, and thus as.....
4. **Having the inherent Right to Conquer ‘less enlightened’ and impure peoples.**
To this arrogant racist *Militarism* is added.....
5. **Elements of religious Mysticism which ‘sanctify’ the State and celebrate its ‘regeneration.’**
This *Mystical* aspect makes vivid use of symbols, uniforms, marches, rallies, and pageantry.

Politically, such a regime would also have these dangerous characteristics:

- Elitism** [Unlike both democracy’s and socialism’s disdain for class distinctions.] (Fascists hate minorities & ‘deviants’)
- Anti-liberalism** [Due to being against individual rights and individual freedoms.]
- Anti-democratic**, anti-parliamentary [Due to being ‘authoritarian.’] (It is also rabidly anti-Communist and anti-Socialist!)
- Anti-rational** [Uses emotional appeal, propoganda, even terror.]
- Suppression** of all opposition and dissent. [Secret Police insure compliance.]

The most notorious fascist regime in history was, of course, **Nazi Germany**. Fascists elevate the State as supreme...Hitler even superseded the German ‘Fatherland’ with his **Nazi Party**. Fascism subordinates the individual will to the unified will...Nazis even glorified the unified will as a supernatural entity—**The Volk Spirit**. Fascists give obedience to a charismatic leader...Hitler embodied Nazism as: **Father of the Reich, Son of the Race and Spirit of the Volk**. Fascists are expansionist and militaristic...Nazis were ‘**realizing their apocalyptic destiny**’ in an all-out war of extermination and realignment of the human species. Fascism is anti-rational...the Nazis had a motto: “**We think with our Blood.**” Fascists extol the romantic glories of bygone days...Nazism was a **paganist** religion that believed in self-deifying, world-redemption myths of racial and cultural superiority. Fascists love to symbolize all of the above with flags, banners and marches...Nazis created monumental spectacles and staged **Mass Rallies** of mesmerizing idolatry. Nazism was a grandiose totalitarianism, and a singularly pernicious type of **Pan-Germanic Fascism**.

Its unlimited hubris and its obsessive genocidal hatred brought human civilization to its nadir.

THE PROPAGANDA MILL

The unabashed use of propaganda techniques by the Nazis is a study in itself. Not only was every public appearance by Hitler carefully choreographed, his image was kept before the citizens as an object of reverence and awe. Surpassing the usual 'political campaign' sophistry, Nazi propagandizing was the 'victory of the *ideal* over the *real*; of image over truth.' It was the attempt to create belief in, and unquestioned devotion to, an idealized, imaginary *reality*. And at the same time, inspire hatred toward a fantasized enemy.

What we may call the "Propaganda Mill" churned out a dazzling array of posters, postcards, leaflets, broadsheets, newspapers, and even children's books...all depicting the stalwart goodness and salvific strength of the Nazis in dire 'them or us' struggle *against* the depravity and iniquity of all their 'opponents, but especially against their ultimate enemy: International Jewry.

Even after 1933/34 in a one-party nation, propaganda was still useful in the "Nazification" process. It was designed to inspire the full allegiance of the people and to galvanize their 'collective will' behind their invincible Fuhrer who embodied their destiny.

Hitler instinctively understood how to manipulate opinion by and for his "Philosophy and Power." He had devoted two chapters of Mein Kampf to propaganda, even discussing the use of color!

Once installed as the leader of a totalitarian regime, he insured the continued 'victory of ideal over real' by controlling all opinion and cultural expression and silencing dissent. Joseph Goebbels, a Ph.D. in Literature and Philosophy, vigorously headed the "Ministry of Public Enlightenment," the Reich's official department of propaganda, art and media. Anything published or produced had to support the Nazi worldview or be shut down. Even landscape artists had to be approved.

Note: The efficacy of propaganda in the Nazification of Germany surely cannot be attributed to the artistic quality of the imagery. People must want to be given ideas to hold and idols to behold. There is a lesson to be learned here. Propaganda succeeds partly because it is uninhibited by any concern for truth, and because people seem to prefer lies. It revels in its own mendacity and reveals the arrogance of feeling entitled to re-create reality according to its own definition of good and evil. To create its own reality so as to rule supremely over it. Is this not blasphemy?

*Until we care more for **Truth** than for such self-serving sophistry and self-aggrandizing idolatry, we are susceptible to manipulation by the paganist ideologues of our own time. Yes, 'we' Americans!!*

What the Nazis could not achieve through their prolific use of propaganda, they could attain through intimidation and terror. But here it may be asked: "Is propaganda the visual-psychological side of terror?"

The 'Propaganda Mill' could unleash: "a barrage of lies and slanders against whatever adversary seems most dangerous, until the nerves break down. This is a tactic based on precise calculation of all human weaknesses and it will succeed with almost mathematical certainty." ~ Adolf Hitler, in Mein Kampf

"I soon realized that the correct use of propaganda is a true art. The Christian-Socialist movement of Karl Lueger achieved a virtuosity on this instrument to which it owed much of its success." ~ Adolf Hitler, in Mein Kampf

"Make the lie big, make it simple, tell it often, and they will believe it." "The great masses will more easily fall victim to a big lie than to a small one." ~ Joseph Goebbels

"It is vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth becomes the greatest enemy of the State." ~ Joseph Goebbels

"How fortunate for governments that the people they administer do not think." ~ Adolf Hitler

"Adolf Hitler is my only conscience." ~ Hermann Goering

“IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD”

Hitler and Nazi Propaganda

“The art of all truly great national leaders has at all times consisted of this: not to divide the attention of the people, but to concentrate that attention on a single enemy. The more united the fighting spirit of a nation, the greater the magnetic attraction of a movement, the more forceful the power of its thrust.” Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*



This print from the artist Hoyer was entitled:
“In the Beginning was the Word”

To someone familiar with the prologue to the Gospel of John, this implies that Hitler’s message is of ‘divine origin’ and that *when he spoke*, the glorious Reich was created and would last for a millennium.



All Germany hears their Führer on the People’s Radio



Only Hitler



One People One Reich One Leader

When the Nazis were coming to power and Hitler was garnering popularity and votes, bombastic propaganda hammered-out themes such as: 'national reawakening'; restoration of German pride, virility and might; the Fuhrer as the embodiment of that destiny; overcoming ruinous enemies such as "The Jew-Bolshevik"; the macho strength of the SA and the SS; the Nazi Party as the provider of truth, work, health and even 'our daily bread'! Blasphemous **religious appeals** can be detected in some of these slogans and images. (And this is a very small sampling.)

Propaganda played a key role in the 'Nazification of Germany' and ultimately in the searing of conscience, thus the acceptance of the war and genocide as a *natural* right...even a '*divinely ordained*' right! For a fuller discussion and more examples, please take time to study the Propaganda Project.



'Long Live Germany!'



'Germany's Liberation'



The Brownshirts signified strength



'Work and Bread'



'Be Free of Marxist Trash'



“National-Socialism
The Organized Will of the Nation”



“The NSDAP Protects the Volk—the Racial Community”



'Over 300 Nazis died for you – Murdered by Marxist sub-humanity' (Note the Christian imagery! The '300 Nazis' did not die for the German people, they were killed in street brawls they started! The rest of the poster says: For Work and Bread Vote Hitler – List 2)



Notice the Christian imagery in this pre-1933 poster. The noble Nazi is acting in the spirit of a 'saintly Crusader.' Valiantly he stands against a dual evil: the dragon-serpents of Judaism and Bolshevism (Communism.)



'Death to Lies' (Marxism and High Finance)



'Workers of the Mind & Hand Vote for the Front Soldier Hitler!'



'The Workers have Awakened'
(the worker stands firm against sinister "Jew-Bolsheviks")

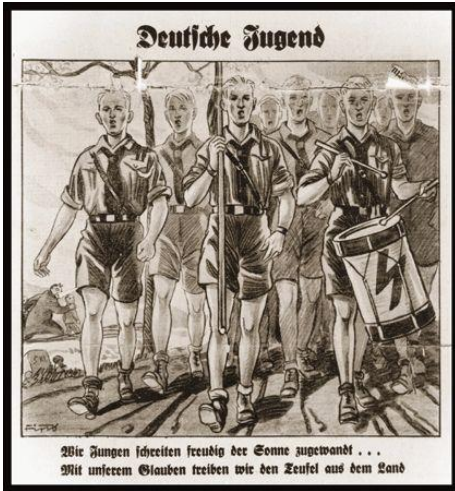


'German Unity - German Power'

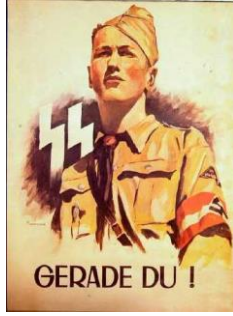


'Germany is Free!'

PARTICULARLY TRAGIC WAS THE INDOCTRINATION OF GERMAN YOUTH:



“When an opponent says ‘I will not come over to your side,’ I calmly say, ‘Your child belongs to us already. You will pass on. Your descendants now stand in the new community and in a short time they will know nothing but this community.’”
 Adolf Hitler, November 1933



'YOU! Enlist Now'



'Mother and Child'



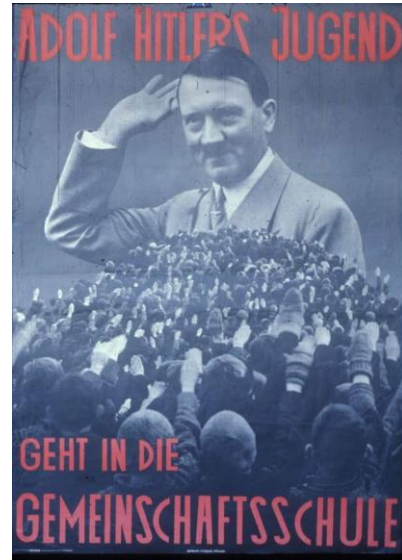
'All 10 year olds join us'



'Preparing Body and Soul'



"Youth Serves the Führer"



"Hitler's Youth Attend Community Schools"



"Be True to the Führer"

“What is the first and great commandment? Love Germany above all else and love your ethnic comrade as yourself.”

And of course, along with pro-Nazi propaganda, Germany was plastered with vile antisemitic slogans and imagery:



Pages from Streicher's *Der Stürmer* depicting the old 'Blood Libel' ('Ritual Murder')

Depicting the Jew as rapacious defiler of pure German womanhood



"The Eternal Jew" (antisemitic film)



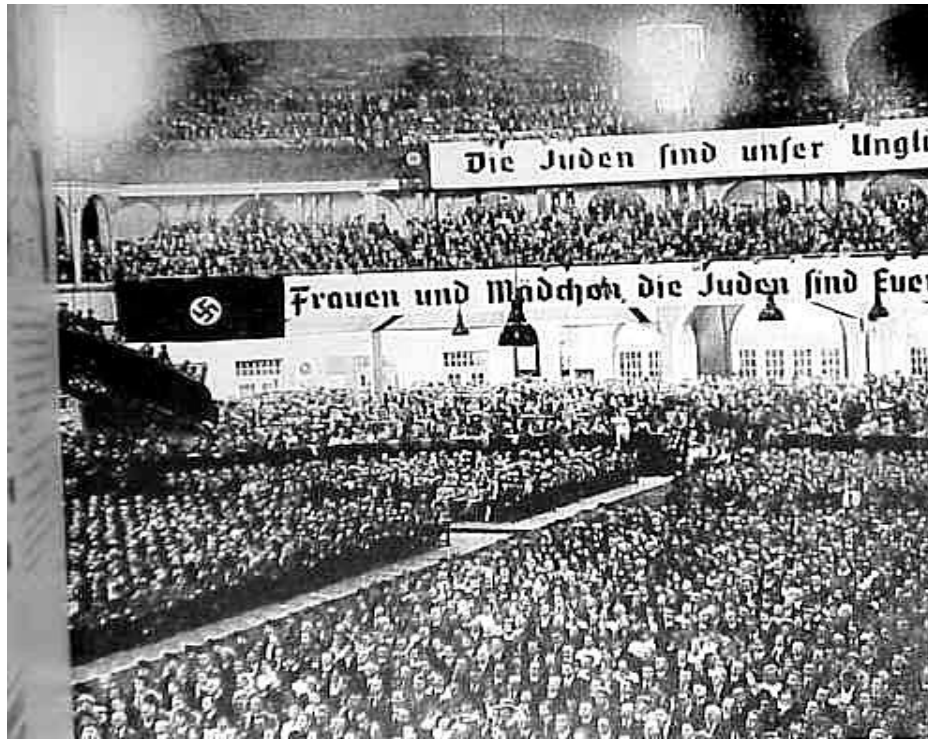
The Conspiracy Theme (Jew at the center of all evil!)



Carrying forth the Medieval 'money-lender' libel



"Jews are not wanted here" (signs posted everywhere)



"The Jews are our Misfortune"



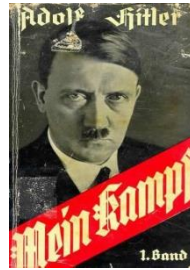
"The Ovens at Auschwitz did not begin with bricks, but with words."

Abraham Joshua Heschel



THE FILM FOR THIS SESSION

MEIN KAMPF A BLUEPRINT FOR THE AGE OF CHAOS



WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ERWIN LEISER
NARRATED BY CLAUDE STEPHENSON
PRODUCED BY TORE SJOBERG, 1961

KIT★PARKER★FILMS

The film's intro says: "Every scene in this picture is authentic.

Unbelievable as it may seem in the recounting, it all happened in our time.

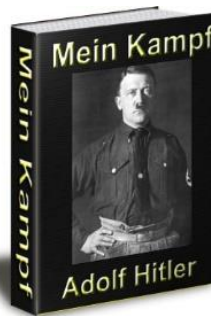
This most appalling experience of man on Earth has been burned into the conscience of all people. Poland suffered most under Nazi occupation and has been chosen to illustrate the Rape of Europe by Hitler's New Order.

Poland's agony, however, was only greater in quantity – not in kind.

What you are about to see happened in every land upon which the evil shadow of Naziism fell – again and again until 25,000,000 lives were consumed.

This account of Hitler's Hell on Earth is dedicated in guilt to his victims. As human beings we were responsible for what he did – for he was one of us and we permitted it to happen.

May we be wise enough and strong enough to prevent this from ever happening again!"



Please Note: This film is hard to find in the *original* version, and poorly 'voiced-over' reproductions have unfortunately been circulated. The Claude Stephenson narrated version is available from university libraries, but you can access it most easily on **You Tube**. It may be presented in parts, and may be downloaded. I do recommend that you watch the entire film, as we will only be viewing the first half. (To study **Hitler's Rise to Absolute Power** in *democratic* Germany, and the "Nazification" of Germans.)

Warning: On **You Tube** - you will find obscenities, not the least of which are comments by Neo-Nazis who continue to glorify Hitler and spew antisemitic venom, and even deny the Holocaust! They disgustingly prove the moral necessity of our course.

Unit 3 Review: How did Hitler attain dictatorial power in a democracy and proceed to 'Nazify' Germany?

"Germany" before 1870 was a quilt of independent states, an archaic leftover from the *Medieval 'Holy Roman Empire'*! The largest, most powerful, and the **most proudly 'Germanic'** state was **PRUSSIA**.

How was Germany **UNIFIED** into the **Second Reich**? **Not** by Modern-progressives but by "Monarchists and Militarists"! *Via* intimidation, annexation, and conquest! As Kaiser Wilhelm's Prime Minister, *Otto von Bismark* had intimated....

"Not by majority vote but by power.....by blood and iron"!

The 1870-71 Franco-Prussian War - seen by Social Darwinists as *Nature's Will*; by Christians as *God's Will*! The German Empire is the most powerful in Europe. In enforced 'unity' there was 'disunity' – regional, religious and social-class differences.

What was this powerful "Kaiser-Reich" (which lasted less than **50** years) really like? (A **military dictatorship** by the end!) Aristocratic, Authoritarian, Militaristic, full of **Volkish** pride, and **deeply Antisemitic**. [Wilhelm I and II **were** antisemitic!] Reich ended in defeat [**WWI**] due to the arrogance of Generals Ludendorff and Hindenburg, but they *blamed* politicians... Kaiser abdicated. Germany surrendered. Volk stunned, fell for the 'Stab-in-the-back' Myth. *We were cheated not defeated*.

1919 - Germany now a **Democracy** with a good constitution, drafted in the '*Un-Prussians*' City of Weimar! Thus the: "Weimar Republic" = Multi-party/Coalition Parliamentary Gov't; Direct Elections; Civil Liberties for ALL... A *Chance* to Revive. *But...* it was a republic born in defeat, **NOT** of true democratic spirit. An imperialistic – monarchial – militaristic spirit remained.

"Germans were humiliated but NOT humbled!"

Socio-Political Conditions in Post-War Germany: **Chaotic! Volatile!** '*A Fragile Democracy Full of Fractious Factions!*'

WWI was devastating. *Hunger, Strife, Inflation, Unemployment, Bitter Disillusionment, Cynicism... And, Craving for Revenge...*

Powerful **Conservative** Cliques *despised* democracy... (Vons, Landowners, Industrialists, Police, Judiciary, Military, *etc.*)

Wanting to keep their aristocratic 'privileges' they longed for their glorious Kaiser-Reich and sabotaged the democratic process...

And: So many **EXTREMIST** political parties (Leftist & Right-wing Radicals) wanted to rip the shaky republic to bits!

A Communist Revolution was feared. Coups in many regions had to be suppressed by the Army and "Freikorps."

Violence erupted in the streets... there were frequent assassinations, *etc.* Economic hardship. Social Unrest.

However, by the mid-1920s, Germany had restored some order and regained some prosperity.

Seeing Hitler rise to absolute power it may seem that he was unsinkable! But ... we must see *beyond* the speeches and mass rallies. A **NAZIFIED** Germany *wasn't* inevitable! People made choices all along the way, and there were many times Hitler *might have been* stopped. *Why he wasn't* - raises disturbing questions we need to ponder.

Was the Versailles Treaty responsible for Germany's post-war instability and strife? (esp. its economic problems)

Terms: Germany was – Blamed for the war... Reduced in size... 'Disarmed' (Army personnel and weapons were limited)

And...Required to pay *huge* War Reparations. 🏛️ But...Germany retained sovereignty; got help with the reparation debt.

Germany started to prosper again...until the Great Depression! But still, the debt was reduced and eventually cancelled.

To exaggerate the impact of the Treaty and to blame it for all the economic strife is actually to fall for Nazi propaganda!

It seems to almost 'excuse' Germans for *turning to a madman out of sheer desperation...* as if they had no other choice!

It also ignores the legacies of: **Militarism, Pan-Germanism, Volkism, Aryan Supremacy, and Antisemitism...**

(Unfortunately, those inveterate **characteristics of German Culture** helped 'pave the way' for the Nazi success.)

Was Hitler the founder of the "NAZI" Party (aka: The National Socialists – The 'NSDAP')?

Yes & No! It was *founded* by members of *Thule Society* (**occult** antisemites): Anton Drexler, Karl Harrer, Dietrich Eckart

Hitler joined after the war (when he'd been assigned to spy on radical groups.) He soon 'recreated it in his own image' with

his imperious **Fuhrer-Prinzip**. He changed its name from the **Deutsche Arbeiter Partei** (German Workers Party) to:

National Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter Partei Thus, 'National Socialists' or the abbreviation 'Nazis.'

He took the obscure regional little band of right-wing malcontents and turned it into a massive national organization...

one that enjoyed immense popularity. He was its undisputed leader, *and* 'embodied' its obsessions and pretensions.

The Nazi Party grew, became *part of* the government, and eventually **SUPERSEDED** the government, *and* the nation.

Did Hitler have anything resembling an intelligent Political Philosophy that would insure his astonishing success?

"It wasn't the Power of his Philosophy it was his Philosophy of Power!"

But Hitler and his 'advisors' did compose a **Party Platform** and announced it publically.

Twenty-Five Points' – 1920 (Hitler likened this to Martin Luther's launching the Reformation with his 95 Theses!)

Some 'points' were typical politicians' promises of education for the poor, *etc.* However.....

Look closely and see that some points ➤ contained the seeds of: Dictatorship; Pan-Germanic Utopianism; Militarism, Expansionist-Aggressive WAR; *and* dangerously programmatic Antisemitism ('legalizing' Anti-Jewish policies!)

➤ Unquestioned Central Authority [**Fuhrer-principle**] Hitler exercises this when he becomes dictator. His "WILL" = LAW!

➤ Uniting ALL Germans within ONE "Greater Germany"

➤ Annulment of Peace Treaties and creation of a National Army

➤ The **RIGHT** to "Land and Soil to feed our People" (This 'Darwinian Right' to *Lebensraum* will naturally mean War!)

➤ "Germany for Germans Only!" **"NO citizenship for Jews!"** "Jews have no right to live among us to live..."

A few Key Events between 1920 - 1933 (As Hitler 'Campaigns,' becomes wildly popular, and Rises to Power)

1921 & 1922 – Formation of **SA** (Brownshirt bullies) and **SS** (which eventually becomes monstrously powerful under Himmler.)

1923 – Beer Hall Putsch - Failed coup attempt. Hitler arrested, but *not hanged* for High Treason! Conservative Judiciary deems his act “patriotic”! He uses his short, comfortable ‘prison’ stay to scheme, and to write *Mein Kampf*.

1925 – Munich Rally re-launches the Party. 1924 to '28 are *bumpy* years for Nazis. Party goes bankrupt. Membership falls.

But Hitler campaigns vigorously, even between elections. Has membership drives. Industrialists give Nazis a bail-out!

1926 – Hitler Youth was established (a vital element in the Nazification of Germany.)

1929 – Wall St. Crash - “Great Depression” - had severe impact on Germany. Nazi Party now garners *more* votes.

1930 - 33 – Weimar democracy disintegrates. Hitler takes advantage. *Demise of Democracy = Triumph of Tyranny*

January 30th 1933 – Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of the Republic he'd *sworn* to destroy. (Hindenburg is president)

Events that 'Enable' Hitler to become the **Fuhrer** (To rule as Dictator)

February, 1933 – Reichstag fire. Blame Communists - outlaw that party. Give police power to **SA**. Suspend civil liberties.

December 1, 1933 – Hitler declares Germany and the Nazi Party are ONE!

March, 1933 – “Enabling Act” passed! – *Puts Legislative Powers in Hitler's Hands!* All other political parties are eliminated!

June 30, July 1, 1934 – **SA** is purged to *appease* the regular army. (Really, to be *rid* of 'rivals.')

A one-line law is passed *after-the-fact!* The cold-blooded murders justified as 'self-defense'! Hindenburg *thanks* Hitler for his 'gallantry'!

August 2, 1934 – Pres. Hindenburg dies; his last wish was that Germany return to a Monarchy! Hitler destroyed that *Will & Testament*.

His cabinet had already passed an illegal law to combine offices of President & Chancellor. Not one of the high officials resigned at this ploy for dictatorship! The plebiscite: 95% voter turnout and 90% approval! Now Hitler is Commander & Chief of the Armed Forces. They *had* been the last hope to overthrow the Nazis but now are pawns in Hitler's hands. A new Oath of Allegiance is required of them, not to the constitution, not to the Fatherland... but to Hitler personally! (By Aug. 20th, similar changes were decreed in oaths required for State Officials & civil servants.)

“I swear by Almighty God this sacred oath: I will render unconditional obedience to the Fuhrer of the German Reich and People, Adolf Hitler; Supreme Commander of the Wehrmacht. And as a brave soldier I will be ready to stake my life for this oath.”

With the Enabling Act... the Weimar Republic **DIED**. With Oaths of Allegiance... the Third Reich was **BORN**.

Define “NAZIFICATION” Understand the *main methods* with which it was accomplished.

The German word was *Gleichschaltung* (coordination) – Relentless effort to coordinate **all** cultural affairs & activities (All Professions, Education, Police Forces, Judicial System, Recreation, the Arts, *etc.*) so as to create a spiritually unified ‘Volk Community.’ (In which Abstract swallows the Particular. The State is has more meaning and value than Individuals.)

Make *all* Germany *march in step* with Nazi goals. (Control not only what people *do*, but what they *think and feel!*)

“PUT EVERY ASPECT OF THE LIFE OF EVERY CITIZEN UNDER THE DOMINATION OF NAZI IDEALS AND GOALS.”

To create this **Volk Community (a distinctly *Germanic Fascist State!*)** Nazis would very effectively do these things:

Aggrandize – Dazzle citizens with excitingly colorful (even **mystical!**) public spectacles, replete with Nazi symbols.

Such as: Military Marches, carefully choreographed Fuhrer appearances, Torchlight Parades, Huge Rallies...

For a powerful visual lesson in Nazi Self-Glorification, watch Leni Riefenstahl's '*Masterpiece on the Master Race*' entitled:

Triumph of the Will. (She filmed the 1934 Nazi Rally.) She also filmed the 1936 Berlin Olympics! *Olympiad*

Propagandize – Plaster Germany with Nazi imagery and flood it with publications. Prohibit all *non-Nazi* art of course! Dr. Josef Goebbels is ruthless *Minister of Popular Enlightenment* ~ Streicher publishes *Der Sturmer*.

📖 Please take time to view the special Notebook on reserve in the library – *especially* the portion on Antisemitism.

Organize – Party Hierarchy was organized from the Chancellery all the way down to the city block. *Also*, there was an organization or club for everyone! (Every profession, every activity.) Even the ***Deutsche Christen Movement!*** ✠ My *Holocaust Handbook* lists **40** different Nazi Organizations, not just the Police Departments but **Research Institutes!**

To 'chart' them is impossible. (Over 12 years of the Reich, they'd merge, hybridize, change names, and had subsidiaries, *etc.*) But, whether involved in law enforcement, transportation, or recreation... they ALL existed to **serve Nazi Ideology!**

Terrorize – Instill 'respect' in the citizenry by displaying 'strength' (even overt violence.) The presence of the SA... the fear of Secret Police... the arbitrary arrests... the unjust **People's Court**... *and* the ultimate threat of being sent to a Concentration Camp for "protective custody" - "re-education" – were all utilized to squash dissent, maintain 'order.' With all that, resistance was not impossible and did occur! Nazi Germany was an oppressive Police-State, true. But, again, we shouldn't 'excuse' Germans as *if* they had **NO** choice. Truth is, in the early years, relatively few people had to be forced into compliance through **terror!** As a keen observer, journalist William Shirer said:

"The overwhelming majority of Germans did not seem to mind that their personal freedom had been taken away, or that so much of their culture had been replaced by mindless barbarism, or that their life and work had become regimented to a degree never before experienced. On the contrary, they supported their Dictator with genuine enthusiasm and astonishing faith in their future!"

Discussion Questions – Thoughts to Ponder

What pre-disposes people to fall for antisemitic propaganda? Why weren't Christians appalled by Nazi Jew-hatred?

Why was the overwhelming majority of people either enthusiastic about - or *indifferent to* - the persecution of Jews?

What were the reasons even non-antisemites & Non-Nazis might have had for supporting Adolf Hitler **during** his rise?

What 'Warning System' can we have to stop an Evil Movement **before** it becomes powerful enough to commit its evil?

What customs, traditions and morals '**constitute the bedrock foundation**' for our own democracy's constitution?

Remember Polybius' warning:

"Mere Parchment Cannot Protect People. A Constitution Rests on a Bedrock of Customs, Traditions, and Morals!!

IF they Erode, or become Corrupted... Then there is no Foundation!"

UNIT 4

STAGE I

DEHUMANIZATION BEGINS



BOYCOTTS

INTIMIDATION

PUBLIC HUMILIATION

DEPRIVATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS



“WE WILL FORCE THEM OUT OF OUR ORDERLY STATE”

<p>UNIT 4 LECTURE TOPIC</p>	<p><u>The Three Stages of the Holocaust</u> Stage I: “Forced Emigration” <i>Dehumanization Begins</i></p>
<p>TEXTBOOK READINGS REQUIRED</p>	<p>Rausch, Ch. 6; Ch. 9; <i>also read</i> pp. 81 <i>through</i> 91 Meltzer, Ch. 4 and 5</p>
<p>RECOMMENDED READINGS</p>	<p>David Wyman – <i>The Abandonment of the Jews; Paper Walls</i> Donald Niewyk – <i>The Holocaust</i>, Part I: Origins of the Holocaust</p>
<p>PRIME LEARNING OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Learn key events, note radicalization of Nazi policies toward Jews Understand points in the ‘Intentionalist’ vs. ‘Functionalist’ debate Discuss why ‘Emigration’ will NOT ‘solve’ the Jewish ‘Problem’ Examine the culpability of America and Great Britain</p>
<p>FILM SHOWN</p>	<p><i>“America and the Holocaust: Deceit and Indifference”</i></p>
<p>FILMS RECOMMENDED</p>	<p>“They Looked Away” Narrated by Mike Wallace, 2003 “Who Shall Live and Who Shall Die?” Directed by Lawrence Jarvik, 1982</p>
<p>ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECT IDEAS</p>	<p>Be sure to MEMORIZE the entire “Three Stages” Outline <i>In-class Test</i> counts toward the <i>Take-home Mid-term Exam</i> Read original letters from the Kleins, at American Experience - pbs.org</p>
<p>STUDY AIDS</p>	<p>A one page summation of: “The Three Stages of the Holocaust” 📄 ‘Practice Page’ for your Test – Use readings + the summation Chronology - List of the Key Events of Stage I (for discussion) Letter from Mr. Kurt Klein – Written to YOU Was Breckinridge Long “<i>The American Eichmann</i>”?</p>
<p><i>This Section of the Shoah Student Manual is Dedicated To:</i></p>	<p><i>Ludwig and Alice Klein</i></p>

THE THREE STAGES OF THE HOLOCAUST

On Jan. 30th 1933 Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany and the “Nazification” of the republic began. With apocalyptic antisemitism as central to his worldview, he would see things proceed from Wagnerian fantasy of a world “*judenrein*” to the systematic implementation of a mass extermination program. What we now call the Holocaust did not happen suddenly but evolved and radicalized in now discernible phases *vis-à-vis* the primary targets for destruction. [These stages, delineated below, are named according to the policies and actions against the Jewish people.]

MEMORIZE these stages as a framework for understanding the main events, *and* for discussing key critical issues. Issues such as: *Intentionalist vs. Functionalist debates on when & how the Holocaust was ‘planned.’ How such unprecedented genocide was able to be carried out. How to interpret Nazi documents in context. Relation of the ‘conventional’ war to the Holocaust. Responses (lack of!) of the world.*

It is also instructive to review these worsening stages from at least three different viewpoints: That of:

“THE PERPETRATOR”

“THE VICTIM”

“THE BYSTANDER”

STAGE I 1933 – 1937 Stated Policy: **“EMIGRATION”** [Stage I begins as soon as Nazis are in power.]

This alleged objective of ‘emigration’ is more aptly called **“DEHUMANIZATION”** for it was to identify, disenfranchise, persecute and terrorize Jews, to effectively deprive them of all rights, and to force them out of Germany. Examples of this dehumanization:

- a.) vile, even pornographic propaganda; public book-burnings; public humiliation and segregation (“Aryan Only” signs in parks, etc.)
- b.) economic boycotts and restrictions from certain professions enforced by intimidation. c.) random violence
- d.) THE NUREMBERG LAWS of 1935 *and following*, which stripped Jews of their citizenship and all avenues of protection.

“Emigration,” even aggressive & coerced emigration seems innocuous compared to mass murder, but was something more sinister going on? *Could ‘emigration’ really have ‘solved’ the eternal ‘problem’ that Hitler imagined Jews to be? What Stage I policies did achieve was to increase and expand antisemitism (by conditioning the populace to see Jews as alien, and by forcing Jews out as terrified, impoverished refugees to whom the world would deny safe haven!) Where were they to go?*

Between STAGE I and STAGE II — THE YEAR 1938 as a “TURN for the WORSE”

Although technically in Stage I, 1938 takes an ominous turn as Germany begins to expand...the world’s apathy is exposed...violence increases dramatically, and policies radicalize and centralize. The 4 key events of this terrible fateful year are:

- a.) The Annexation (**Anschluss**) of Austria in March. b.) The abysmal failure of the **Evian** Conference in July (which encourages Hitler.)
- c.) The **Munich** Conference in September hands Hitler the Czech Sudetenland. d.) The “Pogroms of November 9th and 10th – (**Kristallnacht**) and Goering’s meeting that followed on Nov. 12th.

The events of 1938 “shatter” any illusions that Jews might be able to remain unmolested and “wait out the madness.”

STAGE II 1939 – 1941 & on Stated Policy: **“ISOLATION”** [Stage II begins *along with* the Sept. 1st invasion of Poland and the start of WWII, and *continues* through the war (until ghettos are liquidated and mass deportations were underway.)]

‘Isolation’ means internment in mostly sealed-off “Jewish Quarters” we call ghettos (after the medieval Christian practice of restricting Jews.)

The conditions in these ghettos meant a slow form of death...too slow for the Nazis.

See that the HEYDRICH DIRECTIVE of Sept. 21, 1939 established the Jewish Quarters as “transitional” to the “final aim.”

As war proceeds and Hitler engulfs more and more of Europe, plans for this “final aim” are made.

STAGE III 1941 – 1945 Unstated Policy: **“ANNIHILATION”** [Stage III begins *along with* the June 22, 1941 invasion of the USSR and *ends* with the Allied victory over the Third Reich and the liberation of the camps.]

Annihilation = physical destruction of the Jewish people by systematic industrial methods accompanied by sadistic brutalities that knew no bounds. As had already been planned, and their regions assigned, the Einsatzgruppen followed closely behind the regular army and committed roundups and mass killings of civilians. The Wehrmacht often assisted in the atrocities against Jews.

The murders progressed from PIT-SHOOTINGS to GASSING VANS to permanent GASSING installations and DEATH CAMPS.

A more efficient poison than CO gas was the pesticide/disinfectant trade-named “Zyklon-B” (crystalline hydrogen cyanide.)

Although there were several thousand labor, transit and concentration camps all over the Reich, the main “Death Camps” were in Poland:

CHELMO BELZEC SOBIBOR TREBLINKA MAIDANEK AUSCHWITZ–BIRKENAU

The Heydrich-led conference to logistically coordinate (*not* to plan) the “Final Solution” was held at Wannsee on Jan. 20, 1942.

A survivor once commented that of all the ways victims suffered and died, the gas chambers did not inflict the most painful deaths —

[*Victims died in an unbelievably wretched variety of ways: Suffocation in sealed cattle cars en route to camps; torture and punishment; explosives; attack dogs; beatings; grotesque medical experiments; and near the chaotic end of the war...“Death Marches.”*]

The killing continued even as the Germans were losing the war and *to the detriment* of the war effort, facts which reveal their ideological priority.

“...If a pack of Jews survives the war, our victory would be in vain and our success only partial.” -- Hans Frank

By 1945 — One third of the world’s Jewish population had been annihilated. The loss to mankind is inestimable.

THE THREE STAGES OF THE HOLOCAUST — YOUR PRACTICE PAGE FOR THE EXAM

STAGE I 1. [19____ to 19____] **Stated Policy** was: 2. _____

3. The prime 'objective' of this policy was: _____

4. A more apt term for this stage would be: _____

Give a couple examples of early abuses and 'actions' against Jewish people:

5. _____ 6. _____

Nazis "**legalized**" their persecution via the 7. _____ which 8. _____

9. **Why** would **Stage I policies** *not* "solve" the Nazi's "Jewish problem"?

Between STAGE I and STAGE II 10. [The Year 19____ as a 'Turn for the Worse']

List **four key events** of this one year — **and** — briefly **state how** it was 'momentum-building' or **why** a turning point:

11. _____ - _____

12. _____ - _____

13. _____ - _____

14. _____ - _____

STAGE II 15. [19____ to 19____] **Stated Policy** was: 16. _____

17. Begins along with: _____

18 – 20. The ' _____ ' ordered the establishment of Jewish _____ .

These areas were merely " _____ to the _____ ".

STAGE III 21. [19____ to 19____] '**Secret**' Policy was: 22. _____

23. Begins along with the: _____

The 24. _____ followed the army and committed killing by 25. _____.

26. For gassing victims to death, a commercial disinfectant/pesticide called _____ was utilized. Also _____ was used.

27 – 29. Name **at least three** of the **SIX** main killing centers or 'factories of death': *Must be spelled correctly for the point.*

30, 31. The conference to **coordinate** the " _____ " was held at _____ on January 20, 1942.

32. *Other* than being gassed, victims may have died by: _____

33. By the end of the war, _____ of the world's Jewish population had been murdered by the Nazis *and* their willing collaborators.

IMPORTANT EVENTS OF STAGE I

1933

- March — ‘Model Camp’ Dachau opens...serves as training for a vast camp system
- April 1st — Boycott (unofficial) against Jewish businesses
- April 7th — Jews are banned from all Civil Service and Law professions
- April 25th — Law against Overcrowding of German Schools severely limits ‘non-Aryan’ students
[Jews will have to have their own schools]
- May 10th — Goebbels organizes public book-burnings
- July 14th — Any German naturalized after September 1918 has citizenship revoked
[This mainly targeted 100,000 Jews who had taken refuge in Germany from the post-war pogroms in Eastern Europe]
- Sept. 29th — All cultural activities are brought under Nazi control [Reich Chamber of Culture is established]
Decree: Farms can only be inherited by Aryans who could prove they had no Jewish blood to as far back as 1800!
- Also, all throughout Stage 1, the Nazis intimidate, ‘rough up’ and humiliate Jews in a variety of ways.

1934

- Jan. 1st — Nazis remove Jewish holidays from the official German calendar
- May 1st — Julius Streicher revives the Medieval “Blood Libel” for *Der Sturmer* magazine
- May 17th — 50,000 people attend a rally at Madison Square Garden to show American support for the “New Germany” [German-American Bund]

1935

- April 1st — Anti-Jewish legislation passes in the Saar region which had just been retaken by Germany
- April 30th — Jews may not display the German flag
- May 31st — Jews are banned from German Armed Forces
- Aug. 25th — Martin Niemoller, a leading anti-Nazi Protestant pastor, preaches against the Jews
- Sept. 15th — The first **NUREMBURG LAWS** are passed: [*Are these the seeds of genocide?*]
“*Reich Citizenship Law*” and the “*Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honor*”

These effectively institutionalize antisemitism, and provide the ‘legal’ basis for an ever-increasing series of anti-Jewish measures. Jews are stripped of citizenship and any avenue of protection. Marriage or extra-marital relations between Jews and Aryans is outlawed. Further decrees try to deal with the complications of “*mischlings*”.

These “Laws” intensified the psychological/social separation between Germans and Jews. The *more* ordinary citizens could view their Jewish neighbors as “alien” and “unworthy”, the *less* they would care — even if they didn’t really subscribe to all of the vile propaganda about them.

Question: How do these decrees serve the alleged goal of Stage I policies? Stripped of livelihoods, protection, education, civil rights, and citizenship, Jews would HAVE to try and leave Germany.

But again the dilemma is: **where were they to go?**

1936

- August — Anti-Jewish posters and “Aryan Only” signs are removed. Why?
Germany puts on a good face for the foreign press and hosts the Olympic Games!
Our debates over whether the USA team should compete at this Olympiad, hosted by a Nazi nation, show that we were aware of the persecution. We came in spite of it.
The games were a spectacular propaganda triumph for Hitler. 100,000 Nazi youth in a torch parade, the Hindenburg Blimp overhead, 20,000 birds wearing colored ribbons were released to the sky.
Avery Brundage of the I.O.C. exclaimed:

“No nation since ancient Greece has so truly captured the Olympic Spirit!”

Never mind that German Jews couldn't compete, and even though Hitler succeeded in displaying Germany as a gracious, peace-loving and prosperous country...he had already sent troops into the Rhineland, and was preparing for further aggression. [Treaty w/ Mussolini, Oct. 25th "Rome-Berlin Axis"] He had already made **Heinrich Himmler** chief of German Police, thereby fusing the **SS** with *all* police forces and creating a monstrous and limitlessly powerful apparatus of terror. [June 17th]

Soon after the Olympics, Julius Streicher, speaking to a group of newspaper publishers, asks: "Can the Jewish Problem be solved without bloodshed?" He answers: If a 'Solution' is to be reached, "One must take the bloody path." He says the Nazis will "secure the safety of the whole world by exterminating Jews."

This shocking statement was quoted in the New York Times and around the world.

Hitler could sense the weakness of the other nations! And so his momentum builds...

Sept. 23rd — The concentration camp Sachsenhausen opened

1937

March 14th — Pope Pius XI issues an encyclical that repudiates Nazi racism and totalitarianism, and *respectfully* says the Nazis shouldn't try to control Catholic education. However... It does NOT condemn antisemitism, and even reiterates the Jews' "crime of deicide"!

July 15th — The concentration camp Buchenwald is established

Sept. 13th — 600,000 German troops parade before Hitler at Nuremberg

He declares that the Third Reich will last a Thousand Years!

Sept. 7th — Hitler declares the Versailles Treaty invalid

Nov. 8th — "*Der Ewige Jude*" (The Eternal Jew) exhibit opens in Munich, depicting Jews as subhuman vermin and Bolshevik conspirators.

It was the largest pre-war antisemitic exhibit produced by the Nazis.

The momentum builds.

The Perpetrators:

They are intoxicated with their own power and might.

Suppression of all political dissent continues. Build-up to war has begun. Germany becomes a police-terror state.

Policies toward the Jews are aimed at complete **DEHUMANIZATION**... *a precursor to destruction.*

The Bystanders:

The surrounding nations are found lacking in moral resolve. Their hypocrisy is ridiculed by Hitler.

Christians, both Catholic and Protestant, are found mostly lacking in spiritual courage.

And, when they do protest, it is out of self-preservation. It is not out of concern for the Jews as Jews.

The Primary Victims:

Their plight becomes more terrifying, more desperate and helpless. They have:

"No right to live in Germany *as Jews*..."

"No right to live *in Germany*"

The stages will proceed to the decree: "No right **TO LIVE.**"

It soon became painfully clear: "Forced Emigration" would **not** "solve the Jewish Problem."

Discuss: Do you think that Hitler 'intended' a more murderous solution all along?

Kurt Klein

8100 E. Camelback Road #153
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
(602) 949-5110

February 9, 1995

To: Ms. Boville's Class

Ms. Boville recently informed me that you are about to watch the PBS documentary *America and the Holocaust*, part of "The American Experience" series, for which I was privileged to provide a part of my family history. This served as a focus for the events of the late thirties and early forties, both in this country and abroad. By all appearances, Ms. Boville is most effectively acquainting you with the political climate of those times, something I find tremendously gratifying, because, even today, that seems to represent a little-known aspect of the political scene, as it played out in those days.

I have searched my mind and come to the realization that perhaps the most important service a film like that can perform is that it may provide *you* with a better understanding of how easy it is to let hatred and prejudice get out of control against *any* minority. It is a lesson that the world appears not to have learned from that bitter, incomprehensible part of history, inasmuch as intolerance still is rampant all over the globe now, in our time. As you watch the events the documentary depicts, it is my fervent hope that you will not regard it as just another film, but realize that those acts of hatred, intolerance and prejudice became a matter of life-and-death to real people and their families. Those were people just like you and those who survived are your neighbors today. Under only slightly altered circumstances, *you* could become the target of so much inconceivable injustice.

It is my hope and that of all those like me, that your understanding and the resolve to make this a better world will help avert a repetition of those or similar events! Nothing would make us happier than to know that you have gained a better grasp of the danger signs to liberty and human rights and that you will do all within your power, now and in time to come, to prevent man's inhumanity to man in the course of your lifetime. And for all that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart!

May God bless all your endeavors,


Kurt Klein



THE FILM FOR THIS SESSION

AMERICA AND THE HOLOCAUST: DECEIT AND INDIFFERENCE

THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE SERIES, PBS, 1994



When Americans think about World War II and the Holocaust, we like to see ourselves as the victors and the liberators. But the full story is not so noble. During those crucial years, the U. S. State Department deliberately stalled and blocked Jewish immigration, withheld verified reports of the mass slaughter of European Jewry, and even thwarted possible rescue projects. One Treasury Department official accusingly described the men of the State Department as:

“an American underground movement to...let the Jews be murdered!”

This film clearly documents the era, exposing the antisemitism and xenophobia that permeated those dreadful years.

You'll see historian **David Wyman**, author of *Paper Walls* and *The Abandonment of the Jews*. The film is so full of facts and names and dates, that it will be impossible for you to take notes. I recommend that you get a copy of *Abandonment* and read the Preface by Elie Wiesel and the Introduction. In it, Dr. Wyman succinctly summarizes his extensively detailed research into America's deliberate inaction.

[Another helpful summation is found in *The Nazi Holocaust*, by Ronnie S. Landau. See Ch. 8, the portion on 'The Bystanders.'] Some of the key players we read about, the 'heroes' and the 'villains,' you'll get to see in the film. You'll see footage of the antisemitic radio preacher Father Charles Coughlin. You'll see actual interviews with 'truth-tellers' like John Pehle, Ruth Gruber, Will Rogers, Jr. and Jan Karski. You'll also see abundant evidence of deadly indifference and deceit in very high places.

But what gives this documentary its moral centerpiece is the gentle dignity of one of my all-time heroes, **Mr. Kurt Klein**. Interspersed with all of the historical-political data, we meet Mr. Klein and listen to him recount his tireless efforts to navigate the cold bureaucratic maze...trying to secure visas for his beloved parents, Alice and Ludwig.

Most compelling of all, we hear him read their increasingly desperate letters. Their plight was directly linked to the decisions and actions of men like the Assistant Secretary of State Breckinridge Long, who not only drastically restricted Jewish immigration and deliberately obstructed rescue proposals, he actually gave false testimony (offering inflated figures on the numbers of refugees admitted) to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs *just* when our government was *finally* considering rescue projects. He effectively derailed interest in humanitarian aid, making it seem like we were already doing quite a lot!

While Americans *knew* that Europe's Jews were threatened with annihilation, 90% of our quota places available to immigrants from German and Italian controlled areas *were never filled*. You read in Meltzer that between 1933 and 1943, there were over 400,000 unfilled places within U.S. quotas for refugees from countries under Hitler's rule. "Each place unfilled was a sentence of death for a European Jew." (p. 45) You read in Rausch that between 1933 and 1945, **two million visas** that could have been issued under existing laws were not issued but were held in reserve. (p. 91) We can't help but ask... **'WHAT IF' ...?**

Here at our sea-washed gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch whose flame is imprisoned lightning, and her name ~
Mother of Exiles.

From her beacon hand glows a worldwide welcome that her mild eyes command.
Cries she with silent lips: 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these the homeless tempest-tossed to me...'

I LIFT MY LAMP BESIDE THE GOLDEN DOOR.'

From the New Colossus by Emma Lazarus (1849—1887)

You instantly recognize these as the words inscribed in a plaque on the Statue of Liberty. In an impassioned speech exposing Long's fraudulence, Congressman Emanuel Celler said:

"If men with Breckinridge Long's philosophy continue in control of immigration...
...we may as well **take down that plaque and black out** that 'Lamp beside the Golden Door'."



Discussion Points: (It is meaningful to ask questions even if they cannot be answered...and to pose the painful **What ifs** of history.)

An important assertion this documentary makes is that the Allies did not want to *consider* rescue attempts. They even claimed that it was impossible to bomb the crematoria at Auschwitz. (You'll see *that* lie clearly exposed in the film.) Their priority was to 'win the war' and *then* punish the perpetrators. At this point we can discuss the key Uniqueness Issue (the **Ideology** of the Perpetrators and the **Identity** of their Primary Victims.) Here we can see it not as 'theoretical' but as a crucially practical matter.

As David Wyman shows: "To **kill** the Jews, the Nazis were willing to do anything, even weakening their capacity to fight the war.

To **save** the Jews, however, the United States and its Allies were willing to do almost nothing!"

Do you see why this course so strongly highlights the unique ideological issues? 'What if' we had grasped the *real* nature of antisemitism?

What if we had admitted and repudiated our own...our 'indifferent' type? What if we had understood the full fury of the Nazis' genocidal type? (It existed before Hitler.) The saddest truth is...at **every stage** of the **Holocaust**, something could have been done that was not.

Wyman believes that **IF** we had wanted to rescue Jews, we could have, and done so **without** impeding the war effort. He surmises that hundreds of thousands **could have been saved**. He also makes it clear that the 'rationalizations' (excuses) we gave for **not** doing so were either fraudulent or grossly exaggerated. He and the film show that the real reason we did not want to rescue Jews is that we did not want them here! We did not desire an 'influx of Jewish refugees.' Neither did Britain.

Stage I. What if Jews had been offered safe havens when Germany was trying to force them out?

What if the Evian Conference had not been a sham? (We do know that our apathy was taken by Hitler as a green light to do as he wished with the Jews.)

What if Christians had vociferously protested the persecution of Jews?

Stage II. What if Britain had not issued the unconscionable White Paper in 1939, severely limiting Jewish immigration to Mandatory Palestine? (Appeasing Hitler was disastrous, appeasing Arabs was equally so!)

What if we hadn't let the 1939 Wagner Bill die in committee? (The bill to admit 20,000 'tempest-tossed' children from Germany and its satellites.)

Stage III. What if the U.S. Press hadn't buried the news of the mass murders in their inner pages? If we had helped disseminate reports of the Final Solution, would more revolts in the ghettos have erupted?

What if the War Refugee Board had been established in 1942, not 1944, *and* been properly funded and empowered?

As it was (too little, too late and inadequately supported!) it saved several tens of thousands of precious lives.

WHAT IF we had done more? What a better world this would be. Will we learn the lessons this terrible course tries to teach?

If not now...when?

BRECKINRIDGE LONG 1881 – 1958

An American Aristocrat. Married to an Heiress. Princeton Graduate. Roosevelt Democrat. Nativist Bigot. Pro-Mussolini Ambassador to Italy – *and* – Antisemitic Assistant Secretary of State in charge of the Visa Division

Neil Rolde's biography of Long used documents gathered while researching the War Refugee Board. He used LONG's own official papers and personal diary, which clearly reveal this man's true feelings about immigrants and refugees!

Rolde subtitled the biography: *AN ENQUIRY INTO THE CHARACTER OF THE MAN WHO DENIED VISAS TO THE JEWS*

The main title *may* sound a bit startling:

BRECKINRIDGE LONG **AMERICAN EICHMANN ??**

I might have entitled it *An Unsung Villain* or maybe even *An American Desk Murderer!* Breckinridge Long, personal friend of F.D.R., was a wealthy, 'high-born' high government official, and tragically, the personification of a WASP-ish bigot!

(He really felt about **White Anglo-Saxon Protestants** the same way Nazis felt about **Aryan Germans!**)

Was Long merely another passive "**Indifferent Bystander**"? Or, *was he* a "**Pro-active Accomplice to the Perpetrators**"?

We are studying a time when – Prejudicial feelings were *easily translated* into horribly inhumane actions.

We are studying an event where – Paranoid beliefs *self-righteously justified* unbelievably gruesome atrocities.

There were Americans who vocally sympathized with the Nazis. Even our great heroes like Henry Ford and Charles Lindbergh. But to have an official with Long's attitudes in control of immigration during the very years when Germans were slaughtering **Jewish Victims** by the millions?! (I think you can see why Rolde suggested the **Eichmann** comparison.)

After Long had *already* cut refugee immigration to one half and then one fourth of the appropriate quotas...he issued one of the most unconscionable directives of the entire era, as you'll SEE in our film. [June, 1940] An intra-department memo stating:

"We can **delay** and effectively **stop** the number of immigrants into the United States... ('temporarily'... *but* 'indefinitely'...)

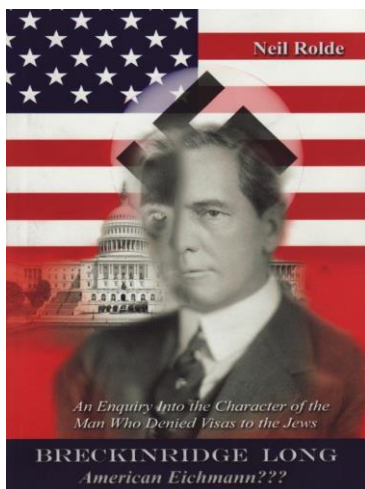
We could do this by simply advising our consuls to **put every obstacle in the way** and to require additional evidence and resort to various administrative devices which would **postpone and postpone and postpone** the granting of the visas."

During our participation in the war, Long's policy left **90%** of the quota places available to immigrants from countries under Germany and Italy ... **UNFILLED!** And, of course, that was a '**death sentence**' for untold *thousands* of Jews.

His diary shows that he saw all Jews as Communists. That's no different than the Nazi idea of Jew = Bolshevik!

He was a paranoid antisemite who saw Hitler's *Mein Kampf* as '*eloquent in exposing the danger of Jews and Jewry.*'

His suppression of information about the mass murder, and his deliberate obstruction of our proposed rescue efforts (by giving false testimony in a Congressional hearing!) qualify Long as a heartless "**Desk Murderer**" *at the very least.*



A critic said that he *should* have been tried at Nuremberg for

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY!

Roosevelt didn't even make him *resign*.

He retired in 1944 and enjoyed the rest of his life breeding race horses.

This Arrogant Bigoted Callous Bureaucrat and
His Dutiful Staff Deliberately Condemned Jews to Death

"Oh the Evil that can be perpetrated in well-lit offices."

UNIT 5

1938 — A FATEFUL YEAR



“On that night in 1938, Western Civilization lost its bearings. European Jewry lost a home...but we lost our faith in human moral restraint. To find our way back will not be easy, but for the survival of humanity it is necessary.”

Abraham Foxman

<p>UNIT 5 LECTURE TOPICS</p>	<p>The Year 1938 as an Ominous Transition The Pogroms of November 9th and 10th</p>
<p>TEXTBOOK READINGS REQUIRED</p>	<p>Rausch, Ch. 7 Meltzer, Ch. 6</p>
<p>RECOMMENDED READINGS</p>	<p><i>The Holocaust Chronicle – “1938: The End of Illusions”</i></p>
<p>PRIME LEARNING OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Identify pivotal events of 1938 noting radicalization of policy & action Discuss the apathy exposed at Evian and the Munich Conference Examine verbiage of the Nazi meeting that followed Kristallnacht</p>
<p>FILM SHOWN</p>	<p>No Film in this Session</p>
<p>FILM RECOMMENDED</p>	<p><i>“More Than Broken Glass: Memories of Kristallnacht”</i> Ergo Media, 1988</p>
<p>PROJECT IDEAS</p>	<p>Gather and summarize information on one of the key events of 1938: (Anschluss; Evian; Munich; Kristallnacht; Goering’s meeting, etc.) Find Maps of Europe from 1933 through 1940 Find related ‘Primary Source’ documents: (USA Newspaper articles; Diary Entries; Nazi Schnellbriefs, etc.)</p>
<p>STUDY AIDS</p>	<p>Lecture Outline: A Special Chronology (To use in class) Nazi Documents: Foreign Ministry Memorandum and “SS Views” Also: Intentionalist vs. Functionalist – (We discuss if time)</p>
<p><i>This Section of the Shoah Student Manual is Dedicated To:</i></p>	<p><i>Herschel Grynszpan and his Family</i></p>

SPECIAL CHRONOLOGY: 1938 ESCALATIONS IN NAZI POLICIES AND ACTIONS

1938 is a signal *turning point* [in the radicalization from **Emigration** to **Extermination**] because:

- Hitler's territorial success *inspires* his anti-Jewish fervor.
- The **apathy** of the world gives the Nazis impetus and "excuse."
- Anti-Jewish policies become more centrally directed and coordinated.
- Nearly all levels of the Nazi governmental apparatus participate in this persecution.
- Aryanization (expropriation and 'seizure') of Jewish property is accelerated.
- For the first time, large numbers of Jews are sent to concentration camps.
- The campaign against the Jews becomes more *systematic* and even more *calculated*.
- This creates a colossal bureaucratic network that will *easily adapt* from restriction to genocide.

The GOAL of **1938's** policies:

Policies are complex and varied, but the aim is still basically to:


~~~~~**"ELIMINATE" JEWS FROM GERMAN LIFE...MAKE THE REICH JUDENREIN**~~~~~


Yet people were still confused. When did "elimination" clearly come to mean physical destruction?

The Nazis may not yet have a "blueprint" for mass extermination, but there were always murderous threats.

We will see the policies "catch up" with the rhetoric ... and the actions catch up with the "hate harangues."

### CHRONOLOGY

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Winter 1937/38</b>         | The last moderate voices in the Nazi government are silenced.<br><b>Goering</b> arises as unofficial (but all the more effective) chief of Jewish policy.<br>He is also the chief 'Aryanizer.' Which means _____ |
| <b>Nov. 1937</b>              | Hitler reveals <b>plans for war</b> and is met with disapproval from High Command                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Feb. 1938</b>              | <b>Hitler</b> abolishes the post of War Minister and becomes...<br><b>"Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces."</b>                                                                                              |
| <b>Jan./Feb.</b>              | <b>Expropriation</b> of Jewish businesses, and further legislation depriving Jews of livelihood and positions.                                                                                                   |
| <b>Mar. 11<sup>th</sup></b>   | The <b>ANSCHLUSS</b> . German troops march into a welcoming Austria.<br>The process of abuse that was <i>gradual</i> in Germany is now <i>immediate</i> and intense.                                             |
| <b>Mar. 28<sup>th</sup></b>   | Jewish religious communities <b>lose</b> legal status.                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>June</b>                   | Some <b>violence</b> : synagogues and shops are damaged and defaced.                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>July 6-16<sup>th</sup></b> | The <b>EVIAN CONFERENCE</b> , with representatives from 32 nations, convened to discuss immigration quotas regarding victims of Nazism.<br>July 14 <sup>th</sup> Nazi Headline reads: _____                      |
| <b>July</b>                   |  <b>BUCHENWALD, DACHAU, and SACHSENHAUSEN</b> are <b>enlarged</b> ...<br>...in anticipation of Jewish arrests!                |
| <b>August 8<sup>th</sup></b>  | The first Austrian concentration camp is set up: <b>MAUTHAUSEN</b> .                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>August 17<sup>th</sup></b> | A law passed forbidding <b>Jews</b> to take <b>Aryan</b> names! [Lists were posted!]                                                                                                                             |

- Sept. 29-30<sup>th</sup>** **MUNICH CONFERENCE.** Allies sacrifice Czechoslovakia in the false hope of peace.
- Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>** German troops march into **Czechoslovakia.**
- Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>** Jewish passports are marked with a “**J**”. At \_\_\_\_\_’s suggestion!
- Mid-Oct.** **Poland invalidated passports** of nationals living outside Poland and set a deadline for renewal of October 31<sup>st</sup>. This was done in fear that the **Polish Jews** living in Germany would flee persecution and return.
- Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>** Approximately 15,000-18,000 suddenly stateless Jews are rounded up by the Gestapo and driven into a ‘no-man’s land’ on the Polish border. **Herschel Grynszpan’s family** is in the group of 5,000 stranded in dreadful conditions near *Zbasyn*. Describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>** Young Herschel shoots attaché *Ernst vom Rath* in Paris. Inflammatory statements appear in the Nazi newspaper, and sporadic violence begins.
- Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>** Vom Rath dies. Seeing the propaganda value, **Goebbels** addresses Nazis in Munich saying, “**This is the time for action against the Jews.**” Instructions are teletyped to all parts of the Reich.  
~~~~~**The vicious pogrom begins.**~~~~~
- Nov. 10th** The pogrom continues. This was the first time that riots have been organized on such an extensive scale, accompanied by mass detentions. The onslaught was ‘officially terminated’ on Nov. 10th, but in many places it continued for several more days.
- Nov. 12th**  The pogrom was followed by more ‘legal’ orders to:
1. increase Aryanization 2. expedite Jewish expulsion
3. isolate Jews completely 4. abolish Jewish representative organizations
- \$** Goering exacted a huge “fine” on the Jews for the property loss in the amount of _____.
- Nov./Dec.** Under increasing decrees, Jews are completely severed from German society.

Discuss and Fill-In:

The pogrom was glibly called *Kristallnacht* which means _____ due to _____

Damages:

The Jewish Reaction?

The World’s Reaction?

The German citizens’ Reaction?

The NAZI Leaders’ Reaction?

Discuss the Nov. 12th meeting led by Goering. What ‘new’ policy was mentioned? _____

For UNIT 5

JAN. 25th 1939, re: 1938
(STILL STAGE 1)

EMIGRATION AS PROPAGANDA and
JUSTIFICATION FOR "FUTURE"
INTERNAT. SOLUTIONS.

GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY MEMORANDUM ON
POLICY REGARDING JEWS IN 1938

Foreign Ministry Circular

Berlin, January 25, 1939
83—26 19/1

Subject: The Jewish Question as a Factor in Foreign Policy in 1938.

1. Germany's Jewish policy as condition and consequence of foreign policy decisions in 1938.
- ② The aim of German Jewish policy: emigration.
3. Means, ways and destinations of Jewish emigration.
4. The Jewish émigré as the best "propaganda for Germany's Jewish policy."

It is probably no coincidence that the fateful year of 1938 brought not only the realization of the concept of a Greater Germany, but at the same time has brought the Jewish question

close to [solution]. For the Jewish policy was both pre-condition and consequence of the events of 1938. More than the power politics and hostility of the former enemy Allies of the World War it was the penetration of Jewish influence and the corrupting Jewish mentality in politics, economy and culture which paralyzed the strength and the will of the German people to rise once more. The cure of this disease of the body politic was probably one of the most important pre-conditions for the strenuous effort which in 1938 enforced the consolidation of the Greater German Reich against the will of a whole world.

But the need for a radical solution of the Jewish question also resulted from the developments in foreign affairs which added 200,000 persons of the Jewish faith in Austria to the 500,000 living in the old Reich. The influence of the Jews in the Austrian economy, which had increased beyond measure under the Schuschnigg system, made it necessary to take immediate steps to eliminate the Jews from the German economy and to apply Jewish financial resources in the public interest. The campaign launched in reprisal for the assassination of Secretary of Legation vom Rath has speeded up this process so greatly that Jewish retail trade—so far with the exception of foreign-owned stores—has vanished completely from our streets. The liquidation of Jewish wholesale and manufacturing enterprises, and of houses and real estate owned by Jews, is gradually progressing so far that within a limited period of time the existence of Jewish property will in Germany be a thing of the past...

The ultimate aim of Germany's Jewish policy is the [emigration] of all Jews living in German territory...

[The Jew has been eliminated from politics and culture, but until 1938, his powerful economic position in Germany and his fanacious determination to hold out until the return of "better times" remained unbroken.]

...As long as the Jew could still make money in the German economy there was, in the eyes of world Jewry, no need to give up the Jewish bastion in Germany.

DOCUMENTS ON THE HOLOCAUST

But the Jew had underestimated the consistency and strength of the National-Socialist idea. Together with the complex of states in Central Europe created at Versailles for the purpose of holding Germany down, the Jewish position of strength in Vienna and Prague also collapsed. With its race legislation, Italy took its place by the side of Germany in the struggle against Jewry. In Bucharest Professor Goga, an expert on the Jewish question, took over the government with a program directed against the Jews, but was unable to assert himself against the overwhelming international pressure from Paris and London. In Hungary and Poland the Jews were subjected to special legislation. The German political success at Munich, like an earthquake with distinct tremors, is beginning to shatter the position which the Jews have consolidated for centuries even in distant countries.

It is understandable that world Jewry, which "has chosen America as its headquarters" recognizes as its own defeat the Munich agreement, which in the American view signifies the collapse of the democratic front in Europe. Experience has shown that the system of parliamentary democracy has always aided the Jews to obtain wealth and political power at the expense of the host nation. It is probably for the first time in modern history that Jewry must now retreat from a previously secure position.

This decision was only taken in 1938. It took shape in the efforts of the Western democracies, and the United States of America in particular, to extend international control and protection to the now finally decided Jewish withdrawal from Germany, that is, the emigration of the Jew. The American President Roosevelt, "who, as is known, included a number of spokesmen of Jewry amongst his close advisers," convened an international conference to discuss the refugee question as early as the middle of 1938, which took place in [Evian] without producing any notable practical results! The two questions which needed to be answered as a condition of organized Jewish emigration remained open: first, of how this emigration was to be organized

and financed; and, secondly, the question of where the emigration was to be directed.

International Jewry, in particular, seemed disinclined to make a contribution towards the solution of the first question. Rather, it considered the Conference—and the Committee subsequently established in London by the Conference under the leadership of an American named Rublee—as having for its main aim to create international pressure on Germany to enforce the release of Jewish funds to the largest possible extent...

The second question, to which countries the organized emigration of the Jews should be directed, could be solved just as little by the Evian Conference; each of the countries taking part expressed its agreement in principle to help solve the refugee problem, but declared that it was unable to accept large masses of Jewish émigrés into its territory. While in the years 1933/34 more than 100,000 Jews from Germany made their way abroad, legally or illegally, and were able to gain a foothold in a new host nation, either with the aid of relatives living abroad, or the pity of humanitarian circles, by now almost all countries in the world have sealed their borders hermetically against the burdensome Jewish intruders...

Even the migration of only about 100,000 Jews has been sufficient to waken the interest in, if not the understanding of, the Jewish danger in many countries, and it can be foreseen that the Jewish question will develop into an international political problem when large numbers of Jews from Germany, Poland, Hungary and Rumania are set in motion by the increasing pressure of their host nations. Even for Germany the Jewish question will not be solved when the last Jew has left German

soil. [Palestine] which has already been designated by a popular catchword as the target of emigration, cannot be considered as such because its absorptive capacity for a mass influx of Jews is insufficient. [Under pressure of Arab resistance the British Mandatory Government has limited Jewish immigration into Palestine to a minimum.]

LA 1937 - THE WHITE PAPER SLAMMED THE DOORS

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DOCUMENTS ON THE HOLOCAUST

At first the emigration of German Jews to Palestine received extensive support from Germany through the conclusion of an agreement with Jewish representatives in Palestine permitting the transfer of Jewish funds by means of additional exports (the Ha'avara Agreement). Apart from the fact that this method enabled only a small number of well-to-do Jews to emigrate, but not the mass of Jews without property, there were also basic considerations of principle and of foreign policy which created an objection to this form of emigration: the transfer of Jewish property from Germany contributed in no small measure to the development of a Jewish State in Palestine. But Germany is "obliged to discern the danger in the creation of a Jewish State," which even in a miniature form could provide world Jewry with a basis for action similar to that of the Vatican State for political Catholicism, and could absorb only a fraction of the Jews. [The realization that Jewry will always be the implacable enemy of the Third Reich forces us to the decision to prevent any strengthening of the Jewish position.] A Jewish State would give world Jewry increased power in international law and relations. Alfred Rosenberg formulated this thought in his address at Detmold on January 15, 1939, in the following manner:

"Jewry is striving today for a Jewish State in Palestine. Not in order to offer a home to Jews from all over the world, however, but for other reasons: world Jewry must have a little miniature state in order to send ambassadors and delegates with extraterritorial rights to all countries in the world and through them to promote its lust for domination. But above all they want a center for Jewry, a Jewish State where Jewish swindlers from the whole world can be given refuge when they are pursued by the police of other countries, supplied with new passports and then sent to other parts of the world. It would be desirable if the friends of the Jews in the world, and particularly in Western democracies, which have at their command so much space all over the earth, were to provide

the Jews with an area outside Palestine, but of course not in order to set up a Jewish State, but a Reservation for the Jews."

That is the program of German foreign policy as regards the Jewish question. Germany has an important interest in seeing the splintering of Jewry maintained. Those who argue that this will cause the creation of sources of boycott and anti-German centers all over the world disregard a development already evident, that the influx of Jews arouses the resistance of the native population in all parts of the world and thus provides the "best propaganda" for Germany's policy towards the Jews.

In North America, in South America, in France, in Holland, Scandinavia and Greece—wherever the stream of Jewish migrants has poured in, a clear increase in anti-Semitism has already been recorded. It must be an aim of German foreign policy to strengthen this wave of anti-Semitism...

The poorer the Jewish immigrant is and the greater the burden he constitutes for the country into which he has immigrated, the stronger the reaction will be in the host country, and the more desirable the effect in support of German propaganda.

The aim of this German policy is a future international solution of the Jewish question, dictated not by false pity for a "Jewish religious minority that has been driven out" but by the mature realization by all nations of the nature of the danger that Jewry spells for the national character of the nations.

for/Schumburg

Akten zur deutschen auswärtigen Politik 1918-1945 ("Documents on German Foreign Policy 1918-1945"), series D (1937-1945), Vol. V, Baden-Baden, 1953, pp. 780-785.

SS VIEWS ON THE SOLUTION OF THE JEWISH QUESTION

Jews, What Next?

...In 1933 and later we were simple-hearted and naive. When so-called public opinion in the world lost control of itself because our "barbaric ways" prevented the Jews from abusing our wives and daughters, then we took it very seriously, and tried to explain the Jewish Question to the others from the beginning—what holy simplicity! As though one of these waterproof democrats ever had the least interest in it!

What is the real position? Neither Mr. Roosevelt, nor an English Archbishop, nor any other prominent diploma-democrat would put his dear daughter in the bed of a greasy Eastern European Jew; only, when it is a question of Germany, they suddenly know nothing of any Jewish question, only of the

"persecution of innocents because of their religion," as though we had ever been interested in anything a Jew believes or doesn't believe.

The real situation and truth is that these diploma-democrats know the Jewish question very well, in fact—one need only look at their immigration regulations and their fear of Jewish immigrants—and even derive practical conclusions from them, but pretend to be stupid and ignorant when they think they can harm Germany by this means.

Well then, that might still have surprised us a couple of years ago. Today we react to their screeching as to a continuous noise that is not capable of becoming any louder. It is known that the human ear can hear sounds only up to a certain level of vibration. Sounds and noises of still higher frequencies are not heard. We have become immune to any increase in the great screaming of world Jewry.

Simple people derive an unshakable wisdom from this...

There is a view that is heard at every step: if we had solved the Jewish Question completely and by the most brutal methods back in 1933, the outcry would have been no worse than it has been all the time since then, because we are solving the Jewish Question piecemeal, by single measures forced on us by the Jews themselves and their friends. This view is correct in itself. But it had to remain theoretical because at that time we lacked the military might that we possess today. At that time the Jews might have succeeded in inciting the nations into a war of revenge against us; today the loudest of the democratic screechers will be the ones to hesitate the longest.

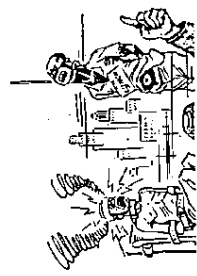
Because it is necessary, because we no longer hear the world's screaming, and finally because no power in the world can stop us, we shall therefore now take the Jewish Question towards its total solution. The program is clear.

It is:

total elimination, complete separation!

Das Schwarze Korps. no. 47, 24.11.1938. Includes masthead with eagle logo and address: Berlin, 24, Schwarze Korps, 1000, 1. Stock, 1. Hof.

Der letzte Schrei



Juden, was nun? An article from the SS publication Das Schwarze Korps, November 24, 1938.

"Jews, What Next?" An article from the SS publication Das Schwarze Korps, November 24, 1938

1938

DOCUMENTS ON THE HOLOCAUST

What does that mean?

It means *not only* the elimination of the Jews from the German national economy, a position which they brought upon themselves following their murderous attack and their incitement to war and murder.

It means much more!

It can no longer be asked of any German that he should continue to live under one roof with Jews, a race stamped with the mark of murderers and criminals, and deadly enemies of the German people.

The Jews must therefore be driven out of our apartment houses and residential areas and put into series of streets or blocks of houses where they will be together and have as little contact as possible with Germans. They must be marked and the right must be taken from them to own houses or land or a share in either, because it cannot be expected of a German that he should submit to the power of a Jewish landlord and maintain him by the work of his hands.

Into a criminal existence

But once this nation of parasites is in every way dependent on itself and isolated, it will become impoverished because it is unwilling and incapable of doing work itself. Even if the Jews still call billions their own today, and even if there are still many hundreds of millionaires among them, and even if the individual so-called "poor" Jew has disguised and hidden enough, they will still very soon have eaten up their capital, once the vital artery of these parasites has been blocked.

And if we force the rich Jews to support the "poor" comrades of their race, which may prove necessary, they will still all sink down into a criminal existence, in accordance with their deepest blood-conditioned nature.

But let nobody believe that we will calmly watch such a development. The German People has not the least wish to put up with hundreds of thousands of criminals in its territory, who will seek not only to secure their existence by means of crime, *but also to take revenge!*

Least of all do we wish to see a breeding-ground for Bolshevism and a roof-organization for the political and criminal sub-humans who crumble away from the edge of our own nation as the result of a process of natural elimination.....

Das Schwarze Korps, No. 47, November 24, 1938.

INTENTIONALIST – OR – FUNCTIONALIST

Question: ***How Pre-meditated was the Holocaust?*** The 2 basic theoretical models answer:
(1) The ***Final Solution*** was the deliberate result of an original long-held **Master-Plan**, ***driven*** by his Antisemitic belief, ***intended*** by Hitler all along. Genocide was explicitly ***ordered*** by Hitler.
(2) The ***Final Solution*** was the eventual outcome of *ad hoc* decisions and haphazard **actions** by various **functionaries** responding to many changing circumstances in the *chaos of war*.
(Acting to: solve immediate problems, advance their own careers, extend their own power, demonstrate loyalty to the Fuhrer, etc. The Final Solution wasn't *finalized* until later in the war.

1. Intentionalist Explanation:

An **Autocratic** Type of Rule
(a tight hierarchical dictatorship!)

Genocide **Planned & Coordinated**

Hitler in charge and **Decisive**

*“A Straight Path from Ideology
to Systematic Mass Murder”*

2. Functionalist Explanation:

A **Polycratic** Type of Rule
(several overlapping, competing agencies)

Genocide **Improvised & Uncoordinated**

Other Nazi Officials *More* Responsible

Extermination was not the original plan
“A Twisted Road to Auschwitz”

Challenges: Difficulty interpreting Nazi ‘verbiage.’ Use of euphemisms. Verbal Orders.
Hitler’s ‘shadowy’ leadership style. The exigencies of war. Local initiatives.

Clues: Must **Differentiate** between ***WILL*** & ***WAY***. The Third Reich was ***not*** a tightly-run ship!
It didn’t operate as a typical Dictatorship! Hitler’s ***Will***-to-Kill? Always there! But, the ***Way*** faced enormous ***logistical complications*** as a continent-wide extermination effort.

Possible “Synthesis”? Even Hitler’s central ‘unswerving’ obsession *still* had to unfold in practicable phases.

Even the most active functionaries were ‘*working toward the Fuhrer*’ and in varied ways were *servng his primal will*.

The Holocaust perpetrated by Germans *and their willing collaborators* was **not** the outcome of ‘accidental’ occurrences.

The mass murder was **not** accomplished by a chaotic series of haphazard unconnected actions. **But**, neither was it the result of a **pre-determined ‘blueprint’** for genocide – as if the killers followed a **script**. The **complex interaction** between: ‘Ideology and Tactics, Orders and Implementation, Leaders and Followers’ continues to challenge historians.

Any attempt at **demystification** must handle *this* nexus: Hitler’s abstract ‘end-goal’ + the functionaries’ various ways of:

Seizing any opportunities, ever radicalizing, all **servng** an ultimate objective as if a **Transcendent Commandment!**

 ON THE NEXT PAGE ARE A FEW MORE CHALLENGES AND CLUES FOR DISCUSSION

☐ Do These Documents Support the Intentionalists or the Functionalists? ☐

 *Hitler's Letter to Adolf Gemlich* - Dated Sep. 16th _____ ! Q. What does "REMOVAL" mean?

Drawing a distinction between '*emotional antisemitism expressed by riots*' - and an '*even more effective*' type, Hitler wrote: "Rational antisemitism must lead to systematic legal opposition and elimination of Jewish rights...


Its FINAL objective must unswervingly be: The removal (*entfernung*) of the Jews altogether. And...

... Only a government of national vitality is capable of both." (*entfernung* may simply mean 'put far away'...)



But, in this same letter (his first explicit writing on what was his unswerving obsession) he calls Jewry "**Racial** _____."

1922 Conversation: Josef Hell asks Hitler what he intends to do with Jews if he ever has power. "He suddenly lost composure; he didn't look at me but beyond me into emptiness. His voice changed, as if speaking to an audience, he said: "If I am ever really in power, the destruction of the Jews will be my first and most important job...I'll erect gallows...hang them and leave them until they stink, if hygienically possible. I'll proceed like that in every city.....until Germany is cleansed of Jews."

Q. Such accounts of conversations are typical, and clearly show _____ but not an actual _____.

 **A Nazi Party Leaflet** - 1927 (And as we've seen, such threats were incessant in Nazi propaganda.)

Never forget that our **Day of Reckoning** with the Jews will *not* come about as a result of a single clash, but only when we have the power of the state in our hands. Power to carry out a thorough *annihilation of this **International Racial Parasite**. (* *vernichtung*...not *entfernung*! **Day of Reckoning** sounds _____!)


  **THE BOXHEIM PAPERS** Signed in 1931 The MAIN TENANTS of the BOXHEIM PAPERS were:


1. Storm-troopers to seize Government...any non-compliant civil servant or public employee to be shot without trial.
2. Any citizen caught bearing arms or disobeying Storm-Commanders to be shot without trial.
3. Private property abolished provisionally... All bank accounts immobilized... Wages abolished.
4. Able-bodied citizens enrolled in State Labor divisions and food distributed by rations, **Jews excluded** – they will starve.

Q. Was this a "Blueprint" for a Genocidal Totalitarian State or a "Utopian Fantasy"? Clue: _____

  "T-4" Decree – 1939 (Euthanasia) Q. Why Not Murder the Jews First?

A clue is in the last line of the top paragraph on this page. Also, know that T-4 physicians were transferred to _____!

 **MADAGASCAR PLAN** – IF it had been practical to implement, would it have meant mere **Relocation**?!

Or would the hot, inescapable, SS-guarded island, with _____ in command, have been one big _____? 

UNIT 6



STAGE II

WORLD WAR II



The graffiti on this German troop train says:
“We’re going to Poland to thrash the Jews.”

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>UNIT 6
LECTURE
TOPICS</p> | <p>Stage II: Isolation in Ghettos
World War II and the ‘War on Jewry’</p> |
| <p>TEXTBOOK
READINGS
REQUIRED</p> | <p>Rausch, Ch. 8 and Ch. 10
Meltzer, Ch. 7, 8, 9, and 10</p> |
| <p>RECOMMENDED
READINGS</p> | <p>Donald McKale — <i>Hitler’s Shadow War: The Holocaust and World War II</i></p> |
| <p>PRIME
LEARNING
OBJECTIVES</p> | <p>Examine Nazi rationale + the actual ORDER for ‘Jewish Quarters’
Describe the wretched conditions in the GHETTOS...
Explore Ideological <i>and</i> Practical connections between:
WWII and the ‘War against the Jews’</p> |
| <p>FILM SHOWN</p> | <p>WARSAW GHETTO</p> |
| <p>FILMS
RECOMMENDED</p> | <p>“Kovno Ghetto: A Buried History” History Channel, 1997
“Lodz Ghetto” Alan Adelson, director, 1989
“A Day in the Warsaw Ghetto: Birthday Trip in Hell” - Heinz Jost
“A Film Unfinished” Oscilloscope, 2010 Highly Recommended!
“The Unknown Soldier” First Run Films, 2007</p> |
| <p>PROJECT IDEAS</p> | <p>Create a TEACHING UNIT on either of the following:
1. Spiritual Resistance in the Ghettos
2. Complicity of the Wehrmacht in atrocities against civilians</p> |
| <p>STUDY AIDS</p> | <p>Lecture Outline: Ideology and War; Rationales for Ghettos
A Key Nazi Document: The Heydrich Directive
Outline: War and Holocaust: A Detailed Overview of All Three Stages
(Review this for UNIT 7 also)</p> |
| <p><i>This Section of the
Shoah Student Manual
is Dedicated To:</i></p> | <p><i>The Judenrate
~ Whom We Cannot Judge ~</i></p> |

UNIT 6: STAGE TWO: Hitler Invades Poland, WWII Begins, Nazi Jewish Policy = *Ghettoization*

Discussion Points: Compare Holocaust & “Conventional” War. *Ghettos*: Precedents & Purposes

HITLER’S ‘RATIONALE’ for LAUNCHING a **WORLD WAR**: [See that WAR and HOLOCAUST are Ideologically Linked.]

“Since the French Revolution, the world has been drifting with increasing speed toward a new **conflict**¹ whose most extreme solution is **Bolshevism**², but whose aim is the **removal** of those at the top level of society who gave **leadership**³ to mankind up to now ... and our replacement by ‘International Jewry’⁴! If Jewry is victorious over Germany, that won’t mean a **Versailles Treaty**⁵... but the **final destruction**⁶ of the German Volk!”
~ Adolf Hitler, 1936

 Analyze this quote in terms of Hitler’s IDEOLOGY:

1. Fascists and Social Darwinists see everything in terms of **world conflict**, an evolving toward – a struggle for - *DOMINANCE*...
2. **Bolshevism = Communism** (and in Hitler’s mind, **Communism** is only a **WEAPON**, the **ENEMY** wielding it ... is **Jewry!**)
3. **Leadership!** Remember Hitler’s *Fuhrer Principle*, and the Germanic Supremacist belief that Germans are destined to **LEAD** the world by virtue of their virtue! (The Volk’s spiritual, moral, cultural, and RACIAL superiority!)
4. “**International Jewry**” – “World Jewry” – “*THE JEW*” (abstract entity) = Terms Hitler uses referring to his dreaded ‘larger than life’ **Eternal Enemy**. (‘Jews are the evil Ultimate Enemy of *everything* pure and good, while we Germans are the purest and best’!)
5. Hitler means: **The Versailles Treaty** was emasculating and humiliating enough to Germans, but that’ll be nothing compared to what our **Eternal Enemy** will do to us.....which is.....
6. The Jews aim to utterly **destroy** the German People and ruin our glorious destiny! (This is Hitler’s **paranoid** antisemitic fantasy!)

 Compare this quote to Hitler’s famous REICHSTAG SPEECH of January 30th, 1939.

The ‘Jew-Bolshevik’ conspires to ruin Germany **and** rule the world, so, to save the world, Germans will have to ‘**annihilate the Jews.**’



The Christian Precedent: Medieval Jewish Ghettos

(*Getto* – from the Venice section, 16th c.)

Purpose?   **SEGREGATION**

RESTRICTION

Theological Rationale: We *teach* that Jews are rejected by God, and we ‘*prove*’ it by rejecting them! So, we pass laws and decrees to insure they live as degraded – as the ‘despised race of Christ-killers.’
cf.- Christian: “*Doctrine of Testimony*” Nazi: “*Human Propaganda*” [Amounts to the same thing!]

Stage II Nazi’s Anti-Jewish Policies: Force Jews into Ghettos

Purpose??   **SEGREGATION?** But, _____ **RESTRICTION?** _____

Nazi Rationale: ‘*Confine the spread of disease.*’  But, to Nazis, the _____ !

 Examine the Heydrich Directive:

The “Jewish Quarters” were only “a _____ measure.” (*Toward* the **Final Solution**)

“THE HEYDRICH DIRECTIVE”
[THE ORDER ESTABLISHING JEWISH GHETTOS]

The Chief of the Security Police

Berlin: 21 September 1939

Schnellbrief

To: Chiefs of all Einsatzgruppen of the Security Police

Subject: Jewish Question in the Occupied Territory

I refer to the conference held in Berlin today and once more point out that the planned overall measures (the final aim) are to be kept strictly secret.

Distinction must be made between:

- 1.) The final aim (which will require extended periods of time), and
- 2.) The stages leading to the fulfillment of this final aim (which will be carried out in short terms).

The planned measures demand the most thorough preparation in their technical as well as economic aspects.

It is obvious that the tasks ahead cannot be laid down in full detail from here. The instructions and guidelines below will at the same time serve the purpose of urging the chiefs of the Einsatzgruppen to give the matter their practical thought.

I.

For the time being, the first prerequisite for the final aim is the concentration of the Jews from the countryside to the larger cities.

This is to be carried out with all speed.

In doing so, distinction must be made:

- 1.) between the areas of Danzig and West Prussia, Posen, Eastern Upper Silesia, and
- 2.) the rest of the occupied territories.

As far as possible, the area mentioned (1) is to be cleared of Jews. The aim should be to establish only a few cities of concentration. In the area mentioned (2) as few concentration points as possible are to be set up, so as to facilitate subsequent measures.

In this conjunction, it is to be borne in mind that: only cities which are rail junctions, or at least are located along railroad lines are to be designated as concentration points.

On principal, Jewish communities of fewer than 500 persons are to be dissolved and to be transferred to the nearest city of concentration.

II.

Councils of Jewish Elders [The Judenrate]

1.) In each Jewish community a Council of Elders is to be set up, to be composed, as far as possible, of the remaining influential personalities and rabbis. The council is to comprise up to 24 male Jews, depending on the size of the Jewish community.

The council is to be made fully responsible, in the literal sense of the word, for the exact and punctual implementation of all directives issued or to be issued in the future.

2.) In case of sabotage of such instructions, the councils are to be warned of the severest measures.

3.) The Jewish councils are to take an approximate census of the Jews in their locale – broken down if possible by sex and age groups: **a)** up to 16 years of age, **b)** from 16 to 20, and **c)** over, as well as by principal occupation groups. These results are to be reported in the shortest possible time.

4.) The Councils of Elders are to be informed of the dates and deadlines for the evacuation...the facilities available...and finally, the departure routes. They are then to be made personally responsible for the departure of the Jews from the countryside.

The reason to be given for the concentration of the Jews into cities is that Jews have most influentially participated in guerilla attacks and plundering actions.

5) The Councils of Elders in the cities of concentration are to be made responsible for appropriately housing the Jews moving in from the countryside.

For reasons of general police security, the concentration of Jews in the cities will call for regulations which will forbid their entry to certain quarters completely, and that – but with due regard for economic requirements – they may not leave the ghetto after a certain hour in the evening.

6.) The Councils of Elders are also to be made responsible for the suitable provisioning of the Jews during transport. There is no objection to the evacuated Jews taking with them their movable possessions in so far as that is technically possible.

7.) Jews who do not comply with the order to move are to be given a short additional grace period where there was sufficient reason for delay. They are to be warned of the most severe penalties if they fail to comply with the latter deadline.

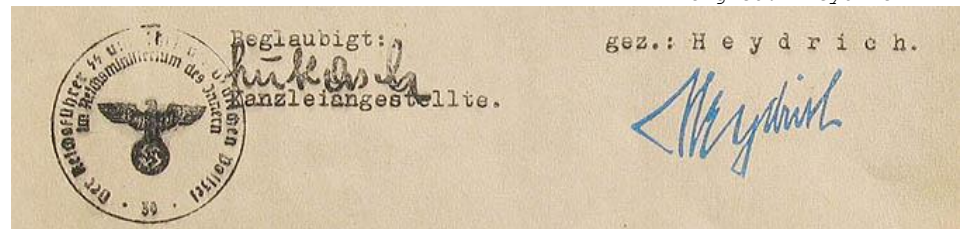
This directive continues. Parts **III** and **IV** are mainly concerned with German self-interest. Matters such as: 'The needs of the army.' "it will scarcely be possible to avoid here and there, leaving behind some trade Jews who are essential for the provisioning of troops for lack of other possibilities." (III:1)
'The preservation of German economic interests' such as 'prompt *Aryanization*' (the Nazi euphemism for theft of Jewish property!)

V.

In order to achieve the set goals, I expect full cooperation and total deployment of the Security Police and Security Services. The chiefs of neighboring Einsatzgruppen are to establish contact immediately so that the territories concerned will be covered.

VI.

The Army High Command, the Plenipotentiary for the Four Year plan, the Reich Ministries of the Interior...as well as the Chiefs of Civil Administration of the Occupied Territory have all received copies of this decree.



With the swift conquest of Poland (which launched WWII) the Nazis now had millions of Polish Jews at their 'disposal.' Even before the war, **Hitler** had promised that Jews would be:

"enclosed in ghettos where they can behave according to their nature and be observed as wild animals." - 1935

SS Chieftain **Himmler** directed Reinhard **Heydrich** (Head of Security Police) to implement this 'transitional' policy. Within a year of this directive, the isolation of Jews in squalid ghettos was complete. Then, in less than two years, the Nazi armies achieved victories all over the continent, and Hitler was able to 'dictate the fate' of European Jewry.





THE FILM FOR THIS SESSION

WARSAW GHETTO

BBC Production, 1966

This grim documentary is narrated by survivor Alexander Bernfes, who spent over twenty years assembling these images. What you will see was compiled from actual footage shot by cameramen from the SS, Gestapo and the Wehrmacht from 1940 through 1943. Some still images are photographs from Himmler's own personal collection.

The narrator is aware that scenes showing 'pleasant conditions' were deliberately staged by the Nazis for propaganda usage. This cynical exploitation was conclusively proven when in 1998 a lost reel was discovered, simply labeled:

Das Getto. It contained 'outtakes' from the original 'production.'

The incredible story is now fully documented by Yael Hersonski in: "**A FILM UNFINISHED**" [2010]

The Warsaw Ghetto was the largest of all the 'Jewish Quarters' established by the Germans, indeed it was the largest ghetto in European history. But 'large' is a relative term. The ghetto was only 3.5 square miles. And into this walled-in urban concentration camp the Nazis herded 500,000 Jews. In terribly squalid and over-crowded conditions, the inhabitants had to scratch out an existence against exposure, starvation rations, and rampant disease.

Imagine containing 30% of a city's population in 2% of its area and restricting them to less than 200 calories per day. And the Nazis kept decreasing the size of the ghetto after the mass deportations to Treblinka commenced.

Now imagine these horrors replicated all over the 'German Sphere of Influence' in Europe.

The Warsaw Ghetto was the largest and is the most famous, but we must remember the suffering in Cracow, and in Lodz, and in Lvov, and in Riga, and in Vilna..... There were 356 ghettos just in Eastern Europe.

In Nazi 'plans' the ghettos were merely 'transitional' to mass murder, but they were deadly in themselves.

Even Joseph Goebbels called them '**Death Caskets.**' This tragic documentary shows us one dreadful casket.



THE WAR AND THE HOLOCAUST

AN OVERVIEW OF ALL THREE STAGES TO FIND THE CONNECTION BETWEEN WWII AND THE HOLOCAUST

[**A** = The “Conventional” War **B** = The Holocaust **C** = The Connection]

[STAGE I: **A** What was happening that would lead to **WAR** and conquest?]

- From the 1920s on, Hitler’s speeches had promised to *defy* the **Versailles Treaty**.
 - In April of 1933, Hitler secretly set up a National Defense Council for **Rearmament**.
 - October 21, 1933: Hitler *withdraws* Germany from the League of Nations.
This won a 90% approval vote from the German citizens.
 - January 30th, 1934: Hitler says *publicly* that Germany will not be deterred from rearmament.
 - August 2, 1934 President Hindenburg dies and Hitler declares himself **Fuhrer**.
Now the Armed Forces must take an *Oath of Allegiance* to Hitler personally!
 - October 1st, 1934: Hitler secretly orders a buildup of the Army & Navy, and the creation of an Air Force.
 - 1935: Hitler renames the “Reichswehr” the “**WEHRMACHT**” in defiance of the Versailles Treaty.
 - March 1, 1935: The Saar region is retaken.
 - March 16th, 1935: Hitler imposes conscription (a **draft**.) USA, GB, & France do nothing.
 - March 7th, 1936: German troops occupy the **Rhineland**. USA, GB, & France denounce Germany but do not act.
 - July 17th, 1936: Spanish Civil War begins. Germany sends forces to help Franco’s Fascists.
Thus the Wehrmacht can test weaponry and tactics!
 - October 25th, 1936: Hitler and Mussolini sign a treaty forming the “**Berlin – Rome Axis**” in preparation for war.
 - September 6 – 13, 1937: 600,000 German troops parade before Hitler at Nuremberg.
 - Having been brazenly defying it all along, Hitler declares the **Versailles Treaty** null and void on Sept. 7th.
 - Nov. 5th, 1937: At a secret conference, Hitler informs his High Command about his racial, geopolitical, and military plans to dominate Europe.
 - March 1938: The **Anschluss** (annexation) of Austria. Austria welcomes Hitler with exuberant joy!
 - Oct. 1 – 10, 1938: Germany occupies the Czech **Sudetenland**. The Munich Conference, at which GB and France betrayed the Czechs, was Sept. 29th & 30th.
- So...Hitler’s Germany is **remilitarized** and ready for war. Also, even *without* having to do battle...
The Third Reich has already **expanded**.

[STAGE I: **B** What was happening that would lead to the **HOLOCAUST**?]

We have already discussed this at length, so here we will not delineate another chronological outline. We know that the concentration **camp system** began in 1933, as an instrument of “re-education”, punishment, and terror against ANY opponents of Nazism. Also during this period the **SS** grows into massive and monstrous force.

➤ As for the Nazi’s anti-Jewish policies and actions, the stated goal at this stage was to make the Reich “*Judenrein*” by **Forced Emigration**. This policy only expanded antisemitism *beyond* Germany, while in the meantime Jews were being stripped of their property, livelihoods, positions, citizenship, human rights...thus all avenues of protection and communal self-remediation. **This cruel dehumanization process sets up the Jews for even worse abuses.**

➤ Simultaneously, all this is also having an impact on the German people. German citizens are having their own antisemitism inflamed, and their own moral sensibilities blunted by the constant barrage of **propaganda**.

With crude slogans like: “Germany Awake and Jew Perish” & “When Jewish blood spurts from the knife, things will go twice as well!” All the posters and *Der Sturmer* type papers kept the ‘bloodsucker, ritual-murderer, rapist, and conspiracy’ myths going. Policy-makers would “validate” that vulgar propaganda by passing laws which would completely segregate Aryans and Jews. Thus, the Nazis could make Germans *think* of Jews as if they really are dangerous and “alien.”

The most significant events in all of Stage I: ➤ 1935 NUREMBERG LAWS. ➤ 1938 annexation of Austria.

➤ The EVIAN and MUNICH CONFERENCE failures. ➤ The “**POGROMS OF NOVEMBER 9th & 10th**” 1938, and the Goering-led meeting that immediately followed, the transcript of which reveals that the Nazis were ready and more than willing to ‘go to the next phase’ in anti-Jewish policy.

[STAGE I: C] Can you discern a **CONNECTION** between Hitler’s expansionist aims and his ‘plans’ for the extermination of his *archenemy*: an imaginary entity called “International Jewry”?

The connection is found in Hitler’s occultic worldview which had two inextricably linked obsessions:

“Germanic Destiny” and “Apocalyptic Antisemitism”

➤ Germanic Destiny was a grandiose dream that combined several elements *other* than sheer Jew-hatred:

- * Aryan racial supremacy... * Darwinist ‘natural right’ to conquer and dominate others... * *Lebensraum*...
- * German Victory as assuring the survival of *all* human civilization and the salvation of *all* creation.
- * Fascist glorification of struggle and war in the realization of this mythic destiny.

Even *before* Hitler came to power, **WAR** was an inevitable ingredient in his worldview. Once in power it was absolutely vital to his foreign policy... not for political needs & interests...but ideological ones!

➤ “War, invasion, expansion, in Nazi ideology, were *not* merely the expression of an imperialistic drive for natural resources, exploitable markets, or power over vast territories and peoples...they were primarily instruments to serve national destiny and racial *survival*.” ~ Lucy Dawidowicz

There is no understanding the War *or* the Holocaust unless we grasp Hitler’s fantasized worldview. Try to see the connection between the racist war he waged and his central obsession with eliminating the ultimate enemy of all mankind: “World Jewry: the Poisoner of all Nations.” The war itself was apocalyptic in his mind...it wasn’t just about winning and dominating...it was about fulfilling **destiny** and even about *surviving*, because he believed that *if* Jews continued to exist, Germany would not only fail to achieve its deserved greatness, but it would literally be ruined! Hitler’s paranoid worldview obviously necessitated the waging of all-out war, but this war could never be considered ‘victorious’ by the Nazis **unless** their ‘real enemy’ was destroyed...and destroyed utterly...completely...**FINALLY!**

▶ **GERMANIC DESTINY could ONLY be realized upon the SOLUTION OF THE JEWISH PROBLEM.** ◀

When we were discussing the “Uniqueness Issue,” we mentioned that general historians, or even WWII buffs, frequently *miss* these deeper ideological matters. They like to stick with the concrete world of foreign diplomacy, of armies and battles and victories and statistics. Sometimes the Holocaust is dealt with as a mere *by-product* of the so-called “conventional” war. As if some unintentional atrocities were unleashed in the mayhem of all-out warfare.

But even the conventional war wasn’t conventional!

And in Hitler’s mind, the War and the Holocaust were two thrusts of the same ‘fateful sword.’



In 1927, Rudolph Hess wrote: “In Hitler’s opinion world peace would be realizable only when one power, the racially best one, has attained complete supremacy.”

The concept of ushering in an era of world peace is a Messianic ideal taught in the Jewish and Christian Scriptures.

This is a frightening example of the demonic counterfeits to God’s redemptive plan...and how easily people follow the wrong one!

[STAGE II: A On the way to a World WAR]

- March 15th, 1939: Hitler takes the rest of Czechoslovakia. Slovakia becomes a German satellite (a puppet state.) Bohemia and Moravia become a German “protectorate.”
- Aug. 23rd, 1939: Hitler makes a *non-aggression pact* with the Soviet Union, even though he despises the Russians. But he is willingly “making a pact with Satan so as to drive out the Devil.” This act of opportunism and expediency paves his way for the invasion of Poland.

➤ September 1st, 1939: WORLD WAR II BEGINS

- German troops smash into Poland’s western frontier. Two days later, Great Britain and France declare war on Germany, but do not help the Poles and the Polish Army is demolished. Poland falls within a few weeks.
- In the next couple of years, Hitler continues to attain his hegemony over Europe, invading country after country with “**Blitzkrieg**” rapidity and seeming invincibility:
 - April 1940 — Denmark and Norway
 - May 1940 — Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg
 - June 1940 — France is divided into occupied and unoccupied
(The “Vichy Government” is run by Nazi collaborationists in the south.)
 - Spring 1941 — Germany captures much of North Africa
 - April 1941 — Greece and Yugoslavia

By Stage III, Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary become German satellites. Italy, at first a Nazi ally, will be occupied in 1943. Sweden, Switzerland, & Spain are ‘Neutral.’

So...By conquest, occupation, *and* collaboration...Hitler engulfs and comes to control most of Europe.

[STAGE II: B What aspects of the HOLOCAUST begin in Stage II?]

The “Euthanasia Program” began. Hitler wrote an order authorizing the “mercy killing” of disabled or incurably ill Germans/Austrians. They were deemed “Life Unworthy of Life”, an economic burden, and an impediment to the perfecting of the Master Race. It is interesting that Hitler wrote the order in October of 1939, but backdated it to September 1st, to make it seem like an exigency of **war**.

This program reveals the truly murderous dimensions of the Aryan Supremacy ideals, and it served as technical/administrative preparation for the “Final Solution of the Jewish Problem.”

Euthanasia was halted in August 1941 due to protest, but continued secretly, killed between 200,000 and 250,000 people. Jews are forced into slave labor contingents and ‘Ghettos’ under conditions wretched enough to cause a high death toll. But this is **too slow for a “Final Solution.”**

Stage II reveals the utter ruthlessness of the Nazis. Hitler’s conquest of the continent enables him to decide the fate of all European Jewry! The ghettos were merely a transitional measure, a “way station” on the path to total annihilation.

[STAGE II: C What are the ideological and practical CONNECTIONS between War and Genocide?]

Again we look to Hitler’s worldview to find connections between waging all-out war *and* destroying civilians without mercy. There is no hesitation in deliberately targeting and killing “*untermenschen*” to advance the Germanic utopia.

Hitler believed: “*Nature is cruel; therefore we too may be cruel...*” He also said:

“If I don’t mind sending the pick of German people into the hell of war without regret for shedding valuable German blood, then naturally I have the right to destroy millions of men of inferior races who increase like vermin.”

➤ This statement reveals Hitler's beliefs and his orders concerning BOTH war and genocide:

"I have issued the **command**—and I'll have anybody who utters one word of criticism executed by a firing squad— that our **war aim** does not consist in reaching certain lines, but in the **physical destruction of the enemy**.

Accordingly I have placed my death-head squads in readiness in the East, with orders to mercilessly and without compassion kill men, women, and children of Polish derivation. Thus we gain the living space we need.

Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

This speech was given to the military High Command *prior* to the invasion of Poland. The German conquest of Poland was a brutal departure from "conventional" warfare. It was an attempt to racially reconfigure the map into a Nazi empire wherein the Germanic Masters would be served by Polish and Slavic slaves! Thus Hitler justified not only murdering partisans but professors and priests, and anyone deemed to be of the "intelligentsia."

This would leave the rest of the population 'leaderless' and easier to make subservient. They were to be educated only enough to know that 'divine law' was to obey the Germans. No arithmetic above the number 500, no reading except for road-signs and to be able to write one's name, etc.

The Poles (and later the Russians) were thus treated brutally but were slated for slavery, not for **total** extinction.

[Remember, ONLY the Jews were targeted for total extinction, and only because they were Jews.]

This goal was the absolute epicenter of the Nazi worldview in which conquest and genocide went hand-in-hand.

We've already seen many quotes to that effect, but what famous Hitler speech is considered to be practically a "declaration of war" against Jewry? (He would later refer back to this prophecy as being fulfilled!)

➤ **The Reichstag Speech of January 30th, 1939.** (The 6th anniversary of his appointment as Chancellor.)

In this sarcastic propaganda tirade, which lasted over two hours, Hitler extolled the Germans as good, hardworking & downtrodden, while denouncing the democratic world as hypocritically "oozing sympathy" for Jews but "hardhearted when it comes to helping them." He casts the Jews as a "political-physical parasitic disease"!

And he actually states that "*the sooner the **problem** is solved the better; for Europe cannot settle down until the Jewish Question is cleared up.*"

In the most oft-quoted excerpt he actually **blames the Jews** in advance **for the war**, and warns that the war will result NOT in *their* victory and thus the 'Bolshevization' of the globe, but it will result in the **annihilation of the Jewish race** in Europe. Jewish-Marxist "Workers of the world unite" will be conquered by "Workers of all classes and all nations, recognize your common enemy!"

Parts of this speech were printed in newspapers all across the USA. Excerpts filled pages 6 & 7 of the Jan. 31st *N.Y. Times!* Almost every film on the Holocaust shows this speech, almost every book quotes it.

Yet many still have trouble realizing that the **threat to physically destroy the Jews** was made before Stage III.

The WAR *and* the HOLOCAUST were **both** ideological necessities to Hitler and this two-pronged thrust proceeded as parallel campaigns — having been ranted about and dreamed of even before 1920, and then being planned, prepared for and implemented from the mid-1930s on!

Nine days *before* that famous 'declarative' and '**prophetic**' Reichstag speech Hitler had promised:

"WE are going to destroy the Jews. They will not get away with what they did in WWI.

The Day of Reckoning has arrived."

Given Hitler's belief system, it makes no sense to suppose that he *ever* thought there would be a war *without* an 'apocalyptic' solution to the so-called 'Jewish Question.'

“A” and **“B”** are inextricably **C**onected in Nazi Ideology.

➤ They are also connected *PRACTICALLY*. Under the cover of war, atrocities *do* become much easier to commit. Germans can feel united against their enemies (real *and* imagined). Hitler has no need to consider foreign opinion. Emergency situations are created wherein Nazis can control information flow, cut countries off from foreign aid, and put vanquished populations under such duress that they care even less about the Jews among them.

It has been said that “War is Hell.”

Hitler said that “War is Life — the origin of all things.” (This is Darwinian, Fascist and Pagan!)

More practically, Josef Goebbels said that:

“War made possible the solution of problems that could never be solved in peacetime.”

It underscores the Uniqueness Issue to see how the destruction of Jewry remained so central in the ideology *and* so primary a war objective...even with all the massively complicated concerns involved in conquering the continent and creating a racially reconfigured New Order!

Think about all it involved: military strategy, manpower, munitions, supplies, finances, administration of occupied lands, plunder, public image at home, population displacement on an unparalleled scale...

...and all throughout that gargantuan whirlwind, with everything that Hitler had to attend to...one “problem” took precedence: Jewish Existence. Although non-Jews suffered horribly in the Hell-of-War created by Hitler, Nazis had no such terms as: *Romarein*, *Russarein*, or *Slavarein*. But the Germanic Utopia would *necessarily* be *Judenrein*.

➤ A corollary issue that arises when discussing the connection between the “conventional” war and the Holocaust:

The claim of the Wehrmacht commanders and soldiers that they are blameless in the genocide.

Were all the atrocities carried out by the SS, Einsatzgruppen, and Auxiliary Police Battalions, etc., while the Wehrmacht soldiers only fought the “manly war”?

Did the “regular army” approve of or even participate in the slaughter of civilians?

Were they imbued with antisemitism?

Consider this: The High Command received orders directly from Hitler and all top-ranking officers received their briefings directly from Hitler. The *Military Doctrine Booklet*, published in 1939, stated:

“We Germans fight a two-fold fight. With regard to non-Jewish peoples, we only want to accomplish our vital interests. We respect them and will conduct a chivalrous fight. But we fight World Jewry as one must fight a poisonous parasite. We encounter in Jews not only the enemy of our people, but a plague on all peoples. The fight against the Jews is a moral fight for the purity of God-created humanity and for a new just order in the world.”

Clearly the Wehrmacht knew who the ‘real enemy’ was. And throughout the war they acted accordingly. Commander Walter von Brauchitsch said:

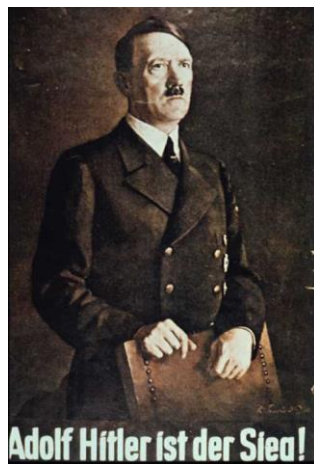
The Army must not be surpassed in the purity and conviction of its Nazi philosophy.

From the very beginning in Poland the regular forces *were involved* in killing civilians, especially Jews, right along with the Death Squads.

[STAGE III: A The WAR dramatically escalates, and is finally lost by Germany.]

- On June 22nd, 1941 Germany launched a huge attack (along a 1,000 mile front!) on the USSR. The big objective, of course, is Moscow. Hitler hoped to defeat the Soviets in 8 weeks! At first the Germans “blitzed” successfully but they did not count on ... so they did not supply for:
 - Fierce Russian resistance despite heavy losses.....A bitter cold winter and muddy roads in the spring thaw....and....
 - Partisans fighting behind German lines.
- December 11, 1941: Germany declares war on the USA **[Now Hitler truly has his “World War”]**
- June – November 1942: Germans are defeated by Great Britain in North Africa
- November 1942: The German troops are defeated in Stalingrad after Hitler had already claimed victory.
 - Even when they were surrounded, surrender was forbidden and 100,000 men died and 90,000 were captured.
- June 6th, 1944: “**D-Day**” — Allies land in Normandy
- June 23rd, 1944: The Soviets advance in the “Summer Offensive”
- October 23rd, 1944: Allies liberate Paris
- January 17th, 1945: Soviets liberate Warsaw

As early as 1942 and '43, there were Nazis who realized that Germany might not win the war! There was even an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate the invincible Fuhrer in July of 1944. Yet Hitler is still exhorting his troops and spouting about **Victory** and **Germanic Destiny**.



Adolf Hitler is the Victory!

- April 25th, 1945: U.S. and Soviet troops meet at the Elbe River. A few days later, with Berlin crumbling around him, Hitler ‘deserts’ from the army and the Reich (from whom he expected undying loyalty) and commits suicide in his bunker.
- May 7th, 1945: Germany’s unconditional surrender.

So...Germany loses the war and the ‘**Thousand Year**’ Reich ended. It lasted **twelve years**, half of those years were spent waging a war born in unreality but borne out in grizzly reality.

(Volk who glorify their Past and Fantasize their Future have NO regard for the Present!)

Why did they invade the USSR in the first place? *Other than* for the ‘vast space’ needed for a Germanic Utopia (which was to be populated by 120 Million pure Aryans by 1980!) *Other than* for natural resources such as oil, iron, and wheat, *etc.*

Answer: Ideological Necessity. Poland represented the hideous ‘wellspring’ of RELIGIOUS JEWRY...and the USSR represented the reservoir of POLITICAL JEWRY and its “tool” for world domination: Bolshevism.

(In Nazi thinking, Judaism and Communism were so ‘connected’ that they were hyphenated! The term “**Jew–Bolshevik**” is found all over the Nazi memos giving justification for the invasion and its accompanying genocide: the merciless slaughter of entire Jewish communities, men, women and children!)

[STAGE III: B HOLOCAUST]

➤ When Hitler invaded the USSR, there were some 5 million Jewish people now endangered by the Nazi's combined "space and race" war. No resources were to be wasted on setting up 'ghettos.' Already trained and assigned to regions, the Einsatzgruppen mobile killing squads followed behind the 'regular army' and shot Jewish men, women and children.

Within weeks, the sheer number of Jews murdered exceeded the total killed during Stage I and II. By the end of 1941, over 90% of those trapped in western Russia were dead. Not one community survived. Well over one million Jews perished in these terrible "**pit-shootings.**" Sometimes, locals would kill their own Jewish neighbors even before the Germans arrived. Nazis called this "self-cleansing."

The pit-shooting method was effective but 'problematic.' These Aktionen were costly in ammunition, unpleasant for the 'executioners' (to kill at close range), too visible and open, and too polluting of the landscape! By the end of 1941, and quite likely earlier, the 'order' had been conveyed by Hitler that *all* of the Jews in the German sphere of influence were to be annihilated. (And remember, it was believed that sphere would *continue* to extend—Hitler did not intend to lose the war.) Therefore, other methods of mass murder would have to be devised. In one 'experiment' even explosives were used.

➤ Early 1942, Wannsee Conference convened to *cost-effectively* coordinate, under SS authority, genocide.

Europe would be "combed from west to east" in the implementation of the "**FINAL SOLUTION.**"

Within months, pure *factories of death* were fully operational. (Even when the camps were shut down as the allies closed in, the victims were taken on death marches. No Jew was supposed to survive.)

There is no way to summarize this stage, and it is impossible to grasp the extent of the evil perpetrated.

Chelmno utilized "gassing vans" and murdered about **150,000** people, mostly Jews. **Belzec** had a fixed installation that used diesel fumes. By the spring of 1943, some **600,000** Jews had been killed there. **Sobibor** functioned as a death camp, using CO gas, from April '42 to October '43. **250,000** Jews perished there. Another camp established solely as a killing center was **Treblinka**, where nearly **900,000** Jewish lives were destroyed. A combination POW, labor and death camp was administered by sadistic SS men at **Maidanek**. Torture, starvation, being worked to death, gassing vans, being machine-gunned thousands at a time, and gas chambers—there were many ways to die at this hell on earth. As to precisely how many died, estimates vary. The last camp established as a death camp, but the largest, most infamous and the longest functioning in that capacity, was **Auschwitz-Birkenau**. *At least 1,000,000* Jews were killed there in gas chambers (**Zyklon-B**) or from other unspeakable 'treatments.' It is the largest cemetery in the world and has become virtually synonymous with human depravity in general and the Shoah in particular.



[STAGE III: C A CONNECTION between WAR and the HOLOCAUST right up to the bitter end.]

➤ Why *did* the Germans keep fighting even when losing the war? Because ideology supersedes reality!

By the end of this stage we can actually see that ideology often took precedence over practical and strategic matters...and that “finishing off the Jews” took precedence over everything. An example is that much needed trucks and trains were diverted away from the fighting troops to transport the last unmolested Jewish community in Europe—the Hungarian Jews—to Auschwitz. From May through July of 1944, 437,402 Jews were deported, under the personal supervision of Eichmann. It took 148 trains. Toward the end of the war there was a serious labor shortage, and industrialists would argue with the SS requesting that their skilled Jewish workers be exempt from deportation. The requests were mostly denied, and where Jews were used for war-effort labor, it was only a temporary postponement of their ‘death sentences.’

Ironically, having Germanic Destiny as motivation became counter-productive to the actual war effort when decisions were made based on fantasy rather than realistic military strategy. Refusing to retreat, for example. Also, Nazis treated the Ukrainians as inferiors and alienated them rather than using their manpower to defeat the USSR. (Ukrainians were already very antisemitic, and would have fought for Germany just to be free from the Soviets. The military urged for this, but Hitler said “no” due to his racial thinking, until it was too late. Finally, Slavs were allowed into the prestigious Waffen-SS.)

➤ Returning to an often ignored aspect of the connection between war and genocide — what about the participation of the ‘regular army’ in the atrocities committed against civilians? (This is even apart from their unusually brutal treatment of POWs. An estimated 2 to 3 million Soviet POWs perished due to German ruthlessness.)

Einsatzgruppen commanders reported that they were pleased that the military went out of its way to help. Soldiers helped secure areas and hunt-down Jews for the mass shootings. One report credited the Wehrmacht with shooting 19,000 partisans and “criminals” (mostly Jews) by the end of 1941. The Army committed a great variety of atrocities, often under the guise of anti-partisan reprisals. Sometimes they even used captured Jews to “clear” minefields.

There were soldiers who considered the excessive brutalities to be dishonorable.

But the objections seem to be made because they feared a disruption in discipline and order, *not* because they resisted Nazi doctrine. And certainly not because they cared about Jews!

The High Command, when speaking about the “Jew-Bolshevik”, sounded no less unrestrained than Streicher or Himmler: “To call them ‘beasts’ would be to insult animals. They are satanic; they are against the entirety of noble mankind.” On October 10th 1941, Fieldmarshal von Reichenau issued this order:

“The army has to be prepared to fight against the Jew-Bolshevik system. The soldier is not only a fighter...but also a carrier of an unyielding ideology and has to have full understanding for the necessity of hard but just vengeance against the Jewish subhuman. Only thus will we be fulfilling our historic task to liberate the German nation once and for all from this danger.”

[This order was endorsed by Hitler and conveyed to the other generals to share with their men.]

The Wehrmacht was indoctrinated with the same ideology which moved Hitler to start the war in the first place. And remember that it wasn’t just about imperialistic expansion and plunder, it was about **Destiny**. And it wasn’t just about winning or losing, it was an all-out “it’s **victory** for Germany or German extinction!” It’s a cosmic “them or us.”

Himmler had said: “True wars are wars between races and are merciless and fought to the last man... until one side or the other is eliminated without a trace.”

And we know that this was the cornerstone of Hitler's worldview:

"The two perils threatening the existence of Germany are Marxism, and Judaism *which is worse*. And, there is no such thing as coming to an understanding with the Jews...it is them or us. If the Jew should triumph over the world, his crown will be the funeral wreath of mankind. And this planet will orbit through ether, like millions of years ago, devoid of human life. And so, my conduct is in accord with the will of the Almighty Creator.

In being against the Jew, I am defending the handiwork of the Lord."

On April 15th 1945, Hitler gave his last "order":

"For the last time our mortal enemies, the Jew-Bolsheviks, have launched their forces.

Their aim is to ruin Germany and exterminate our people."

Two weeks later he committed suicide, but not before using his last will and testament to incite more hatred:

"Resist mercilessly the poisoner of all nations, International Jewry."

IN CONCLUSION:

It was one gargantuan *struggle*, one war on two fronts, to be fought to the last man. It was this dual-pronged ideological onslaught, born of hubris and of hatred, which left Europe in ruins, brought civilization to its nadir, and very nearly was —

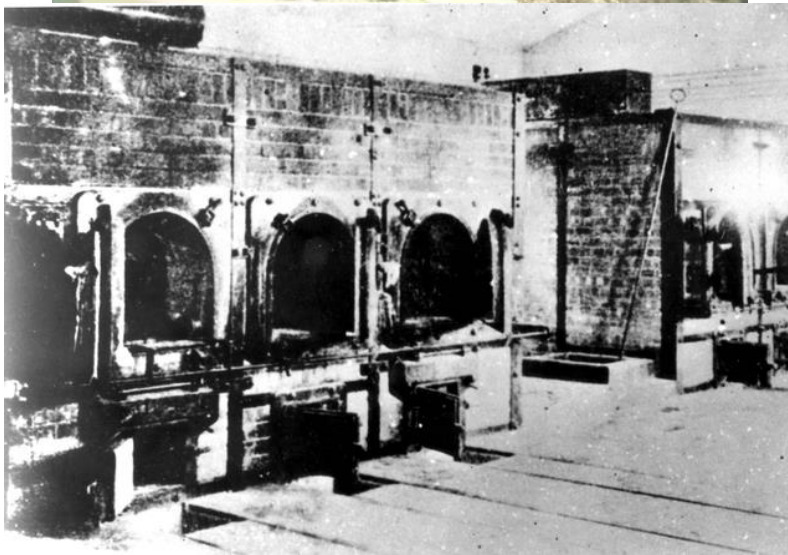
The 'Demolition of Mankind.'



UNIT 7

STAGE III: ANNIHILATION

"THE FINAL SOLUTION"



| | |
|---|--|
| <p>UNIT 7
LECTURE
TOPIC</p> | <p>Stage III: ANNIHILATION
Industrialized Mass Murder
as “The Final Solution”</p> |
| <p>TEXTBOOK
READINGS
REQUIRED</p> | <p>Rausch, Ch. 11 and 12
Meltzer, Ch. 11, 12, and 13
McDonough – <i>The Holocaust</i>, Chapters 3 and 4</p> |
| <p>RECOMMENDED
READINGS</p> | <p>Filip Muller – <i>Eyewitness Auschwitz</i>
Anne G. Saldinger – <i>Life in a Nazi Concentration Camp</i>
Shlomo Venezia – <i>Inside the Gas Chambers: Memoirs of a Sonderkommando</i></p> |
| <p>PRIME
LEARNING
OBJECTIVES</p> | <p>Evaluate evidence for: Planning and Ordering the Final Solution
Discuss the methods of killing, and problems with corpse disposal...
(Including: ‘utilization of the waste products’ of industrialized murder,
Medical Experiments, torture, sadism, and death marches)</p> |
| <p>FILM SHOWN</p> | <p>GENOCIDE
[World At War, Vol. 20]</p> |
| <p>FILMS
RECOMMENDED</p> | <p>“AUSCHWITZ: Inside the Nazi State” PBS, 2005 <i>Highly Recommended</i>
“BELZEC” Menemsha Films, 2005 “DEATH MILLS” (From 1945 Newsreels)
“HOLOCAUST CONCENTRATION CAMPS” [Set of 5 DVDs] 2005 – 2008
“NIGHT and FOG” Alain Resnais, 1955 (A classic, but doesn’t mention ‘Jews’!)
“The 81st BLOW” Ergo Media, 1974</p> |
| <p>PROJECT IDEAS</p> | <p>Find Maps, Statistics and Photographs of the vast Camp System
Explore War Crimes Trials and the question of Justice
Write a review on one of the recommended films
Attempt a chronological list of the key meetings/memos wherein
the <i>Final Solution</i> was deliberated (Advanced Level)</p> |
| <p>STUDY AIDS</p> | <p>List of “Nazi-Deutsch” EUPHEMISMS for murder
The ‘ORDER’ for the Final Solution? The Goering Letter
Info + Eichmann’s ‘Minutes’ from the WANNSEE CONFERENCE
A Whirlwind of Slaughter – A Discussion on the <i>Endlosung</i></p> |
| <p><i>This Section of the</i>
<i>Shoah Student Manual</i>
<i>is Dedicated To:</i></p> | <p><i>Shony Alex Braun</i>
<i>A Violinist Forced to be a Sonderkommando</i></p> |

“NAZI-DEUTSCH” EUPHEMISMS FOR MURDER AND DEATH

By “Nazi-Deutsch” we mean the Nazis’ grotesquely cynical use of the German language, which they turned ‘inside out’ during the process of translating their hatred into genocide. They demonized their designated victims using vocabulary that was at times cosmically paranoid, and other times rabidly subhuman. In Hitler’s mind, Jews were a *WELDFIEND* — a larger than life “world enemy.” But, they were also vermin, parasites and “*bacilli*.” Thus the Nazis would canvass the language for its wildest and harshest terms when talking *about* the Jews. But then when discussing what *they were doing* to this “enemy,” their terminology became a bizarre and elaborate circumlocution.

Researchers have poured over thousands of Nazi memos without ever seeing the words “kill,” “murder,” or “death”!!

Below is a brief list of some common euphemisms Nazis used in their cold-blooded process of ‘exterminating’ human beings:

Aktionen (actions)
Arbeitensatz im Osten (labor in the East)
Arbeit Macht Frei (“Work Makes You Free”)
Aufräumung (clean-up)
Ausschaltung (removal)
Aussiedlung [and Evakuierung] (evacuation)
Badeanstalten (bath houses)
Beseitigung (elimination)
Desinfektion (disinfection)
Einsatzgruppen and Einsatzkommandos (‘special task’ units)
Entfernung (removal)
Entlausungs Aktionen (delousing actions)
Entsprechend behandelt (treated appropriately)
Gesondert unterbracht (separately quartered)
Grossauberungsaktionen (major cleansing actions)
Judenfrei gemacht (cleared of Jews)
Judenrein (cleansed of Jews)
Judischer Wohnbezirk (Jewish residential district, *ie* ghettos!)
Judisches Siedlungsgebiet (Jewish settlement region, *ie* killing centers, death camps!)
Rückkehr unerwünscht (return undesirable)
Sauberung (cleansing)
Sicherheitspolizeilich durchgearbeitet (handled by security police)
Sonderaktionen (special actions)
Sonderbehandlung (special treatment)
Spezialeinrichtungen (special installations)
Umsiedlung (resettlement)
Vollzugstatigkeit (drawn to a conclusion)

Surely the most damnable phraseology of all has to be: **“Final Solution.”** *Endlösung*

A chilling and self-justifying term which implies that Jewish Existence is somehow a problem to be solved!

Behandlung der Judenfrage (treatment of the Jewish question)
Bereinigung der Judenfrage (clean-up of the Jewish question)
ENDLICHE LOSUNG DER JUDENFRAGE (FINAL SOLUTION TO THE JEWISH QUESTION)
ENDZIEL (FINAL AIM) **GESAMTLOSUNG** (OVERALL OR COMPREHENSIVE, COMPLETE SOLUTION)

“Ohne Losung der Judenfrage...Kein Erlösung der Menschheit” – From: *Der Giftpilz* (a popular children’s book, 1938.)

“Without Solution of the Jewish Question – No salvation for mankind.”

Euphemisms of Death

At first glance, the following document may seem innocuous enough, a rather tedious technical memorandum written by a welder to his line manager — of no interest or concern to the superficial reader, one of millions of such bureaucratic records. On closer inspection, however, and when the reader is informed of the context, it becomes transformed into arguably one of the most alarming documents of the twentieth century.

Few pieces of paper convey more effectively the astonishing detachment and amoral devotion to duty on the part of thousands of bureaucrats and minor functionaries. Despite their lowly status, their role would prove indispensable to the carrying out of the 'Final Solution', all sense of moral perspective hidden behind the jargon and obedience to 'higher authority'.

Translation of euphemisms: the writer here expresses his opinion that the trucks used for poisoning Jewish prisoners with carbon monoxide gas could be converted into more efficient killing machines by reducing the space into which the condemned were to be crammed.

The van's load is usually nine per square yard. In Saurer vehicles, which are very spacious, maximum use of space is impossible, not because of any possible overload, but because loading to full capacity would affect the vehicle's stability. So reduction of the load space seems necessary. It must absolutely be reduced by a yard, instead of trying to solve the problem, as hitherto, by reducing the number of pieces loaded. Besides, this extends the operating time, as the empty void must also be filled with carbon monoxide. On the other hand, if the load space is reduced, and the vehicle is packed solid, the operating time can be considerably shortened. The manufacturers told us during a discussion that reducing the size of the van's rear would throw it badly off balance. The front axle, they claim, would be overloaded. In fact, the balance is automatically restored,

because the merchandise aboard displays during the operation a natural tendency to rush to the rear doors, and is mainly found lying there at the end of the operation. So the front axle is not overloaded.

The lighting must be better protected than now. The lamps must be enclosed in a steel grid to prevent their being damaged. Lights could be eliminated, since they apparently are never used. However, it has been observed that when the doors are shut, the load always presses hard against them [against the doors] as soon as darkness sets in. This is because the load naturally rushes towards the light when darkness sets in, which makes closing the doors difficult. Also, because of the alarming nature of darkness, screaming always occurs when the doors are closed. It would therefore be useful to light the lamps before and during the first moments of the operation.

For easy cleaning of the vehicle, there must be a sealed drain in the middle of the floor. The drainage hole's cover, eight to twelve inches in diameter, would be equipped with a slanting trap, so that fluid liquids can drain off during the operation. During cleaning, the drain can sometimes be used to evacuate large pieces of dirt.

The aforementioned technical changes are to be made to vehicles in service only when they come in for repairs. As for the ten vehicles ordered from Saurer, they must be equipped with all innovations and changes shown by use and experience to be necessary.*

This memorandum was written on June 5th 1942 by Willy Just, a welder in the RSHA (Reich Security) transport department.

From **Appendix A** in the recommended textbook:

The Nazi Holocaust, Ivan R. Dee, 1994
by Ronnie Landau

Citing: *Shoah—An Oral History*, Pantheon Books, 1985
by Claude Lanzmann

THE ORDER FOR THE FINAL SOLUTION?? ☰

THE FUHRER ADOLF HITLER Issues **VERBAL** ORDERS

Heinrich Himmler, Head of the SS

Responsible for the vast Camp system.
Indoctrinates the Einsatzgruppen.
Instructs Rudolph Hoess to prepare Auschwitz.
Instructs Odilo Globocnik to implement mass murder in Poland. Globocnik sets up Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka to operate with brutal efficiency.
His assistant SS Major Hermann Hoefle organizes deportations to **“Operation Reinhard” camps.**

Hermann Goering, # 2 Nazi Reich Economic Chieftain

Authorizes involvement of State officials in the destruction process...
Assigns the ‘coordination task’ to Heydrich. [July 31, 1941 document]

Reinhard Heydrich, Head of the SD (SS’s own security police) and Himmler’s chief deputy.

Had ordered the establishment of ‘ghettos’ as transitional to the ‘final aim.’ [Sep.21, 1939 docu.]
The plan for systematic mass murder was code-named “Operation Reinhard.”
Presides over the Wannsee Conference to coordinate the mass murders. [Jan. 20, 1942 docu.]
Issues further instructions to the Foreign Office to cooperate with Eichmann.

Adolf Eichmann, SS Lt. Col., Director of RSHA departments, ‘specialist in Jewish affairs.’

Supervises the mass deportations to the death camps. Eichmann was a career SS bureaucrat who dutifully and remorselessly orchestrates the Final Solution.

Deportations on such an enormous scale required the willing cooperation of many different agencies other than the **SS**, such as the Transport Ministry (for requisitioning rolling stock) and the Foreign Office (to negotiate with allied governments on handing over their Jewish populations) and so on. The machinery of death had untold thousands of cogs, but the ‘prime mover’ was none other than Hitler himself.

At the meeting after Kristallnacht, Goering told the attendees: “Gentlemen! Today’s meeting is of decisive importance. I have received a letter on the Fuhrer’s orders by the Head of Staff, Bormann, with instructions that the Jewish Question is to be summed up... and solved one way or another. A phone **call from the Fuhrer** yesterday gave me instructions that decisive coordinated steps must now be outlined.” [Nov. 12th 1938]

Rudolph Hoess, commandant of Auschwitz, was summoned to Berlin in the summer of 1941 and was told by Himmler: **“The Fuhrer has ordered** that the Jewish Question be solved once and for all and we, **SS**, are to implement that **order.**”

Speaking of the “Jewish Question” Himmler declared on May 24th 1944,
“It was resolved uncompromisingly **as ordered** and with complete understanding.”

Before his trial in **1961**, Eichmann was questioned about **WRITTEN ORDERS** for the Final Solution:

“I never saw a written order. All I know is that Heydrich told me,
‘The Fuhrer has ordered the physical extermination of the Jews.”

“Der Fuhrer wunscht” = “Der Fuhrer hat befohlen”

Hitler’s verbal wish had the force of an order which in turn had the force of law.

To the question: Did Hitler ever *sign an order* for the Final Solution?

We can answer: He never had to.

Berlin, 31. July 1941

The Reich Marshal of the
Greater German Reich
Commissioner for the Four Year Plan
Chairman of the Ministerial Council for
National Defense

To:

The Chief of the Security Police and Security Service;
SS-Gruppenfuhrer **HEYDRICH** Berlin.

Complementing the task that was assigned to you on 24 January 1939, which dealt with arriving at – through furtherance of emigration and evacuation, a solution of the Jewish problem, as advantageous as possible, I hereby charge you with making all necessary preparations in regard to organizational and financial matters for bringing about a **Complete Solution**¹ of the Jewish question in the German sphere of influence in Europe.

Whenever other governmental agencies are involved, these are to cooperate with you.

I charge you furthermore to send me, before long, **an overall plan** concerning the organizational, factual and material measures necessary for the accomplishment of the **Final Solution**² of the Jewish question.

signed: Göring

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT 710 – PS

15 October 1945

I, FRED NIEBERGALL, 2nd Lt Inf, 0-1335567, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the English and German languages; and that the above is a true and correct translation of Document 710–PS.

/s/ Fred Niebergall

1. Gesamtlösung der Judenfrage 2. Endlösung der Judenfrage

Q.1. Why was this letter not drafted & signed by Adolf Hitler? Q1.1. What position(s) did Göring hold in the Third Reich?

Q.2. What did Reinhard Heydrich actually do discharge these assigned tasks? Convened the _____

Q.3. Was this the first official document to use the phrase: Final Solution?

Circular sent to all German Consulates – May 1941 – GÖRING BANS EMIGRATION OF JEWS FROM ALL OCCUPIED AREAS...

*“IN VIEW OF THE DOUBTLESS IMMINENT **FINAL SOLUTION.**”*

Q.4. Letter is dated 31 July 1941 – But, hadn't Mass Murders already commenced? Explain:

On the very day this letter was dispatched, the first “five-digit figure” massacre occurred in Kishinev: 10,000 Jews were shot.

At Chelmo, TENS of thousands of Jews, and Gypsies, had already been gassed even before the Wannsee Conference.

THE WANNSEE CONFERENCE PROTOCOLS

Here is a record of the infamous meeting wherein fifteen high-ranking officials of the German government discussed *how* to eliminate all the Jews of Europe in a smooth, orderly, and cost-effective way. The meeting had been slated for December 9th 1941 but had been postponed due to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It convened on January 20th 1942 at this beautiful villa in the Berlin suburb of Wannsee.



The conference was chaired by **Heydrich** and the ‘minutes’ were prepared by **Eichmann**. The thirteen others were not death-squad commanders but government officials, representatives from key Reich ministries such as Justice, the Interior, the Foreign Office, the Nazi Party Chancellery, Security Police, and regional chiefs. Heydrich had anticipated some hesitations and objections from these highly educated men. But there were none. The men arrived with their own proposals as to how their departments could help!

This is obviously a very important record in the study of the Final Solution, but it is one that has been misunderstood by some historians. Like so many Nazi documents, it contains misleading verbiage.

Keep a few things in mind as you study this report.

1. This meeting did not ‘DECIDE’ the Final Solution. That decision had *evolved* over the previous year. Mass killings by **pit-shootings** had begun seven months earlier, and **gassings** had *already* begun at Chelmno. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss details and coordinate the enormous apparatus of death...

2. And since the purpose at hand *was* unflinchingly the annihilation of a people, one might be surprised to find that these minutes do not explicitly mention the gruesome aspects of killing methods and corpse disposal, *etc.* Is this merely another example of “Nazi-Deutsch” euphemy or a willful cover-up?

A clue came in 1961 at the trial of Adolph Eichmann. He testified that his Wannsee report deliberately omitted crucial graphic details and that Heydrich wanted it that way, presumably so as to reflect a less monstrous version of the cold-blooded conference...

3. Nevertheless, there are strikingly diabolical portions. Note the fear expressed of a “resistant portion, as the product of natural selection” that would “if released” become the “seed of a new Jewish revival.” Europe was to be thoroughly “**combed through**” so as to prevent such a thing! But ...**All of Europe?**

4. Take special notice of the list of countries and the number of Jews believed to reside there. Even the 200 Albanian Jews were slated for death! Notice also that Jewish citizens of the ‘neutral’ countries were to be annihilated.

The conference only lasted about ninety minutes, and then adjourned for congratulatory cognac.

Later, Heydrich wrote these words in a **memo** attached to the report:

“Now that the base lines in respect to the practical execution of the Final Solution to the Jewish Question have been gratifyingly confirmed and full agreement reigns therein on the part of the participating agencies...” and then he ordered further delegation of the technical and material duties and cooperation with Eichmann in the ‘**tasks at hand.**’

Wannsee Protocol

January 20, 1942

This English text of the original German-language Wannsee protocol is based on the official U.S. government translation prepared for evidence in trials at Nuremberg, as reproduced in John Mendelsohn, ed., *The Holocaust: Selected Documents in Eighteen Volumes*. Vol. 11: *The Wannsee Protocol and a 1944 Report on Auschwitz by the Office of Strategic Services* (New York: Garland, 1982), 18-32. Revisions to the Nuremberg text were made for clarification and correction. This document is in the public domain and may be freely reproduced. In the process of being programmed for the World-Wide Web, its appearance (particularly with regard to tabs, spaces, columns and indentations) was forced to deviate from the original.

Note: The phrase "General Government" (from German: "*Generalgouvernement*" and "*Generalgouverneur*") refers to occupied Poland.

Stamp: Top Secret

Translation

30 copies

Minutes of discussion.

I.

The following persons took part in the discussion about the final solution of the Jewish question which took place Berlin, am Grossen Wannsee No. 56/58 on 20 January 1942.

| | |
|--|--|
| Gauleiter Dr. Meyer
and Reichsamtleiter
Dr. Leibbrandt | Reich Ministry for the Occupied
Eastern territories |
| Secretary of State Dr. Stuckart | Reich Ministry for the Interior |
| Secretary of State Neumann | Plenipotentiary for the
Four Year Plan |
| Secretary of State Dr. Freisler | Reich Ministry of Justice |
| Secretary of State Dr. Bühler | Office of the General Government |
| Under Secretary of State
Dr. Luther | Foreign Office |
| SS-Oberführer Klopfer | Party Chancellery |
| Ministerialdirektor Kritzinger | Reich Chancellery |
| SS-Gruppenführer Hofmann | Race and Settlement Main Office |
| SS-Gruppenführer Müller
SS-Obersturmbannführer Eichmann | Reich Main Security Office |
| SS-Oberführer Dr. Schöngarth
Commander of the Security Police
and the SD in the Government General | Security Police and SD |
| SS-Sturmbannführer Dr. Lange
Commander of the Security Police
and the SD for the General-District
Latvia, as deputy of the Commander
of the Security Police and the SD
for the Reich Commissariat "Eastland". | Security Police and SD |

| L a n d | Zahl |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| A. Altreich | 131.800 |
| Ostmark | 43.700 |
| Ostgebiete | 420.000 |
| Generalgouvernement | 2.284.000 |
| Bialystok | 400.000 |
| Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren | 74.200 |
| Estland - judenfrei - | |
| Lettland | 3.500 |
| Litauen | 34.000 |
| Belgien | 43.000 |
| Dänemark | 5.600 |
| Frankreich / Besetztes Gebiet | 165.000 |
| Unbesetztes Gebiet | 700.000 |
| Griechenland | 69.600 |
| Niederlande | 160.800 |
| Norwegen | 1.300 |
| B. Bulgarien | 48.000 |
| England | 330.000 |
| Finnland | 2.300 |
| Irland | 4.000 |
| Italien einschl. Sardinien | 58.000 |
| Albanien | 200 |
| Kroatien | 40.000 |
| Portugal | 3.000 |
| Rumänien einschl. Bessarabien | 342.000 |
| Schweden | 8.000 |
| Schweiz | 18.000 |
| Serbien | 10.000 |
| Slowakei | 88.000 |
| Spanien | 6.000 |
| Türkei (europ. Teil) | 55.500 |
| Ungarn | 742.800 |
| UdSSR | 5.000.000 |
| Ukraine | 2.994.684 |
| Weißrußland aus-
schl. Bialystok | 446.484 |
| Zusammen: über | 11.000.000 |

Excerpt from the original document.

A WHIRLWIND OF SLAUGHTER

Stage III was the culmination of the Nazi attempt to ‘rid the world of Jews’ – and the deliberate policy ultimately became: **Annihilation** by Systematic Mass Murder in Specially Constructed Killing Installations.

But though this was planned and coordinated, it did *not* unfold all at once and did *not* always go smoothly for the perpetrators. The murderers had to experiment, devise new methods, and keep improving the efficiency and pace of the mass killings...and they committed themselves to doing so with unspeakable cruelty. Stage III had ‘stages’ of its own. As these ‘gradual phases of unprecedented genocide’ evolved, however, one year stands out as the most intensely destructive within the entire whirlwind of slaughter.

Marking the transition from Stage II to III was the June 1941 Invasion of the USSR – largest land invasion in the history of warfare. But it wasn’t just unique due to the enormity of a 2000 mile front; it was also unique in the history of modern war due to its **prescribed inhumanity**. It was intended NOT to be “conventional”!

(Recall Unit 6: ONE WAR: Two Prongs.) The all-out war of annihilation, necessitated by Hitler’s Ideology, reached its crescendo in the Soviet Union. Poland, to Hitler, represented the epicenter of Religious Jewry, and Russia was the fountainhead of Political Jewry. In Nazi Ideology, Bolshevism was a mere weapon, Jews were the Ultimate Enemy. *No* moral restraint, *no* mercy, *no* such ‘human weakness’ whatsoever would be allowed to impede their ‘Eschatological Quest’ to rid the world of its Eternal Enemy. **And THAT was an ORDER!**

May 13, 1941 – Hitler decrees ‘pre-packaged immunity’ from punishment for war crimes! This gives the army free rein for: summary-executions; shooting civilians, and destroying entire towns in ‘collective retribution’ for any ‘suspected resistance’!

(Real or not!) Soldiers were promised they would *not* be prosecuted for illegal actions!

June 6, 1941 – The Commissar Order justified Hitler’s decree. Stating that: ‘In the struggle against Bolshevism, we must **not** assume the enemy’s conduct will be based on principles of humanity...therefore, troops must be advised: 1) In this struggle, respect for international law is wrong...a danger to us! 2) Measures against these political commissars must be taken with full severity...whether captured in battle *or in resistance*, they are to be disposed of by arms.’ **(SHOT!)**

This was Nazi-speak for: The Jew-Bolshevik is the sub-human mortal enemy of the German Volk, to be killed without restraint...

(This meant that *any* Jewish person who was merely trying to survive was to be seen as ‘a political danger!’ The guidelines given to the troops made it clear that **Jews** – the ‘carriers’ of Bolshevism – were the real enemy, so the ‘struggle demanded ruthless measures to eliminate ALL resistance, active OR passive’!)

Wehrmacht Antisemitic Indoctrination:

Such ‘guidelines’ kept coming from on high. General Keitel would remind troops that the war was **not** just about conquering & subjugating, but **annihilating**! General Reichenau – Commander of the 6th Army – issued a directive admitting that the “struggle poses tasks that go **beyond** the usual routine of conventional soldiering”... So... “soldiers must have full understanding for the **necessity of severe but just atonement upon Jewish sub-humanity.**” [Hitler said this phrasing was ‘**excellent**’!]

For further discussion on: **“THE FINAL SOLUTION”** –Mass Extermination of Jews – **The Shoah**

Einsatzgruppen followed the Wehrmacht to massacre Jewish men, women, and children.

Describe a typical **Pit-Shooting** and discuss the ‘problematics’:

Discuss the next phase. “**Gassing Vans**” and **CHELMO**:

Three pure Death Camps: **BELZEC, SOBIBOR, TREBLINKA** (The **Aktion Reinhard Camps**)

Describe **MAJDANEK** and **AUSCHWITZ II (BIRKENAU)**

? - How did the Gas Chambers and Crematoria function: ? - How many victims could be “processed” per day:

Discuss what ‘life’ was like in these hellacious camps: Other ways victims died or were murdered:

Give several descriptive examples of inhumane *Medical Experimentation*:

? - Why **Death Marches**:

? - What was one like:

1942 THE MOST MURDEROUS YEAR

In March, 80% of the Jews who would eventually perish were STILL ALIVE - 20% had been murdered.

By February of 1943 (less than one year!) that ratio was completely reversed! 80% were dead.

And there was a deadly core within that year! (And, knowing that it was *in* November that our waspish State Department finally released Rabbi Stephen Wise from his vow of silence *about* the mass murder)

It is appalling to learn: From April *to* November 1942 (just 250 days!) **2.5 MILLION Jews were murdered.**

For further discussion:

Hitler’s Decision to – *and his realization that it was actually possible to* – physically exterminate ALL European Jews was made**WHEN?** (Most likely...?)

Where do you find evidence that even Jews in neutral countries were slated for death?

IF Nazis had won the war, would they have stopped at European Jews?

Clues:

Hitler and Himmler’s close relationship with Muslim Leader Haj Amin al Hussein

Eichmann’s trial testimony about the meaning of “**FINAL AIM**” in the Heydrich Directive:

The Rudolph Hoess Testimony:

The July 31, 1941 Goring Letter to Heydrich:

The January 20, 1942 Wannsee Conference:

Compare Hitler’s “Reichstag Speech” (January 30, 1939) with his speech ten days after Wannsee:



THE FILM FOR THIS SESSION

GENOCIDE



This old but remarkable documentary contains archival material, propaganda footage, and interviews with both perpetrators and survivors. You'll see Eichmann's and even Himmler's assistants. Notice how they dissimilate and shift blame to their superiors. You'll hear Rivka Yossilevscka – the woman who actually survived a pit-shooting. (See Meltzer, pp. 66-70) You'll see Rudolf Vrba who escaped from Auschwitz, a hero who deserves further research (Good Project Idea!) Many of the survivor interviews were filmed in Israel.



Discussion Questions:

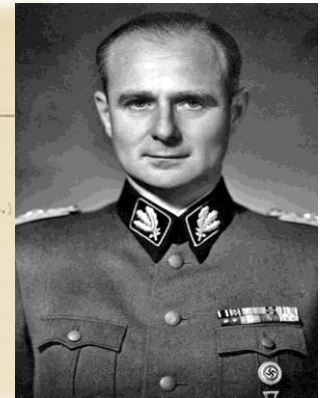
Why does the film start, not with Hitler, but with Heinrich Himmler?

What is the relationship between 'Master Race' indoctrination and programmatic genocide?

What *false* impression does Himmler's adjutant Karl Wolff give in his interview? See next page!

What statement does Rudolf Vrba make that necessitates Unit 12?

SS Obergruppenfuhrer Karl Friedrich Wolff – Heinrich Himmler’s Adjutant



You'll see Wolff, third highest man in the SS, 'claim' *he never imagined it would come to genocide!*

A claim not at all credible. He joined the NSDAP in 1931, believing *Nazism* to be the best chance of a *German Revival*, and joined the ruthless **SS** in 1932. Then, after Hitler came to power he was promoted and served as **SS** military liaison to the Army.

He rose quickly up the **SS** hierarchy and was personally chosen by Himmler to be his Chief of Staff. Only a man devoutly committed to Nazi Race Doctrine & Antisemitism would have been so 'honored'! In this top-tier inner-circle position he was fully aware of what the many euphemisms for annihilation *really* meant, and was in on all of the preparations for implementing the **mass extermination** of Jews. He was good friends with one of the vilest, cruelest men in the entire evil empire: **Odilo Globocnik!** Globocnik was tasked with organizing Operation Reinhard! (Code name for creating the very machinery designed to expedite the **Final Solution** – the 3 pure death factories at Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka.) In 1943 Hitler gave Wolff the rank of General in the prestigious **Waffen-SS** and sent him to be the adjutant to Mussolini's regime. By war's end, Wolff was essentially the Chief Police and Military commander of Italy! Like many other Nazis who were genuinely **guilty** of Crimes Against Humanity, Wolff 'got off easy'! He testified against his fellow perpetrators at Nuremberg and was **free** by 1947! Later he was indicted by Germany itself just for having *been in* the 'criminal organization' [**SS**] but got a reduced sentence and was able to resume civilian life with his family. It was during the 1961-62 Eichmann Trial that more truth came out about his inhumane activities. [Organizing the deportation of Italian Jews; ordering the massacre of partisans; sending 300,000 Jews to Treblinka and Auschwitz.]

Wolff was a Mass Murderer.

In 1964, he was sentenced to 15 years in prison, but released in 1969, and had his full civil rights restored! Karl Wolff died in **1984**.