



What is the purpose of blood libeling? The impact?

[History](#)

Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust

To What Extent Did They Know of and Support the
Genocide of Jews?

Why are we studying this?

“Ordinary Germans are not to blame.”

“They didn’t know what was going on.”

“Just brainwashed by the Nazis.”

Regarding whether to blame Germans for the Holocaust if they took up residence or business ownership after Jews forcibly removed: “They took advantage of a terrible situation but they aren’t at fault.”

This study will prove that most ordinary Germans were anti-semites, knew about the Holocaust, approved of and/or participated openly and willingly in the torture and murder of millions in order to make the land *Judenrein*, free of Jews and their menace against the success of Germany (and later all of Europe)

History of Antisemitism in Europe (Germany)

Antisemitism:

anti = against

Semite = a member of the group of Caucasoid peoples who speak a Semitic language, including the Jews and Arabs as well as the ancient Babylonians, Assyrians, and Phoenicians. 2. another word for a Jew. 3. descendant of Shem (son of Noah).

- Prejudice against or hatred of Jews.

History of Antisemitism in Europe (Germany)

Claim: Antisemitism was long-established as normal and accepted widespread across Germany by the time Nazis formed as a political party

(comparison: democracy as natural and normal as the way to organize politically in the USA)

History of Antisemitism in Europe (Germany)

3 Dimensions of Antisemitism:

1. antisemites differed in their beliefs of the source of Jews' harm (supernatural, gradual/subtle) against others/society
 - a. Religion - rejected Jesus as the Christ of Israel, killed him on a cross, continue to reject Jesus as God and savior
 - b. Culture - values and teachings of Jews perceived as entirely different from medieval Christianity
 - c. Environment - surrounding political, economic and social conditions nurture Jews's harm
 - d. Race - genetics, blood
- belief about the source determines whether or not their Jewishness can be changed, and if non-Jews will support their acceptance into society as a result of that reform

3 D Antisemitism cont'd

2. Latent-Manifest spectrum - measures how preoccupied an antisemite is with Jews

- a. Latent: Antisemitism informs thoughts and actions rarely
 - b. Manifest: antisemitism informs thoughts and actions daily
- An antisemite can be anywhere on this spectrum dynamically (can change over time)
 - Determined by current problems in society, particularly economic

3 D Antisemitism cont'd

3. Intensity of Antisemitism: the extent of Jews' danger/threat to society, according to an antisemite

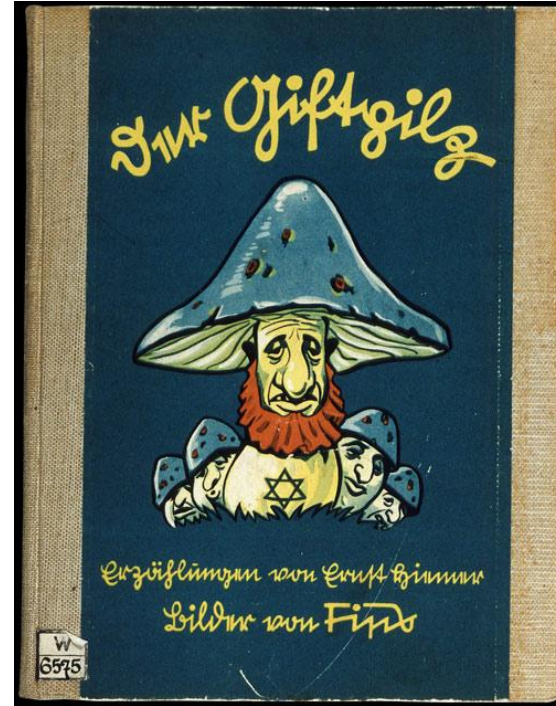
- a. All antisemites blame their problems or society's problems on Jews but for different reasons:
 - i. Simply clannish (hire their own for jobs) and stingy, OR
 - ii. conspiratorial and bent on dominating political and economic life
- An antisemite can be anywhere on this spectrum dynamically (can change over time)
- Understanding an antisemite's overall sense of the Jewish threat helps us know how his/her beliefs informs his/her actions (at government and civilian level)

Moral Beliefs of Society and Antisemitism

- Moral Beliefs of Society: ex) protect the environment; individual choices reap rewards or consequences therefore choose to work hard and do good
- Not all antisemitisms become woven into moral beliefs of societies.
 - When it doesn't: intergroup dislike. ex) Black people vs. Jews
 - When it does: Being Jewish violates moral beliefs of society
 - Medieval Christian Europe:
 - Moral Belief: Jesus is God. Moral Order of society based on this belief
 - Violation of Moral Order: Jews rejected Jesus and killed him; continued to reject Jesus while the rest of society believed he was God;
 - Jews' mere existence was offensive to Christians and defiled what was good
 - Beliefs about Jews:
 - Associated with evil in the world (Satan rejects God's authority) → represented evil's existence in the world → synonymous with evil → agents of evil

Moral Beliefs of Society and Antisemitism

- Germany *before and during* Nazi period
 - Break from the church/religion so Moral Belief is also seen as Common Sense Morality
 - Moral Belief: there is such a thing as race and one can't change his/her race
 - Moral Belief: race makes people who they are
 - Moral Belief: the German race is naturally good and better than other races
 - Violation of Moral Order: the Jews are a race. Race is the source of their evil.
 - the Jewish race is not German and is therefore anti-German



"The Poisonous Mushroom" 1938
Children's book

Moral Beliefs of Society and Antisemitism

- *Extensive* consequences of seeing Jews as violating the moral order
 - Moral Belief: Jews are evil
 - Moral Belief: What is good is in opposition to Jews and their religion, culture, race, etc.
 - Difficult to break away from prejudice as it would also require altering moral beliefs
 - Difficult to see Jews' existence and actions as anything but desecration of what is good
- This antisemitism's (part of the moral fabric of society) attributes:
 - More stubbornly held on to
 - Arouses more passions
 - Provokes and supports more inflammatory accusations against Jews
 - Greater potential for violent or deadly



“Trust No Fox in the Green Meadow and No Jew on His Oath”

Antisemitism

1. Part of non-Jewish culture *NOT* a reaction to any actions by Jews
 - a. Exists where there are no Jews
2. Antisemitism was a permanent feature of Christian civilization from the Crusades into the 12th century
3. Antisemitism is a constant throughout time and space but is more or less manifest at different junctures of history and places on earth

Emancipation of 1840

- Before this, Jews not citizens nor given same rights as Germans. Kept from economic participation/access to any job
 - Worked in banking and finance historically because seen as sinful in Christian culture
- Jews granted citizenship, political rights, and economic participation in Germany
 - By a slim minority of support
 - Galvanized Germans' anger and manifest antisemitism
- Along with new concept of “race,” Darwin's survival of the fittest/evolution, and political argument that if given emancipation, Jews would reform their ways (1781)
 - Although argument seems to be friendly to Jews, bases argument on antisemitic views that Jews need to be reformed
 - When they didn't reform, their problematic ways were seen as incurable.

If the source is...then how to solve the Jewish problem?

- Source is Religion, Culture, or Environment
- Solution to their ailment: elimination
 - Religion: conversion/baptism to Christianity
 - Culture: Re-education into non-Jewish culture
 - Environment: Grant political emancipation (rights, citizenship with other Euros of a state) and social involvement and economic participation into the majority of society
- Emancipation debate of mid 1800s sparked antisemitic fervor in common people
 - Resulting lack of change of Jewish ailment despite emancipation proved to antisemitic society that Jews could not be reformed
- B/c Jews couldn't be reformed, were seen as alien. Only logical conclusion about source of evil/danger was race
- **Source is Race**
 - "Race" Began in 1840, most prominent in 1870s and onward
 - "Science"-based
 - Along with secularism & society's break from Christian church
- Solution to their ailment: elimination
 - Oust them from society (how?)
 - "Kill them"
 - as early as 1861s but ethical & policy constraints

Antisemitism of 19th c. Germany

1. normal and accepted widespread by all social classes (rural, urban, clubs, universities, bars)
2. Preoccupation with Jews was an obsession
3. Jews symbolic with anything awry in society
4. Jews viewed as having evil motives, power (economically, socially, politically) and therefore dangerous to welfare of Germans. No peace on earth until Jews are destroyed
 - a. Different from Medieval Christian view as their preoccupation wasn't as extreme (would always be evil in the world even without Jews)
5. Jews' source of evil no longer based on religion (secular society now) but on concept of race. Jewish race opposite of German race; all that is opposite of good is evil.
6. Violent in imagery and tended toward violence
7. Logical outcome of beliefs promoted elimination of Jews by whatever means necessary and possible (given ethical & political restraints)

Elimination of Jews becomes Moral and Just

- If the Jewish race is bent on the destruction of the moral order of German society, then it becomes a moral cause to eliminate the effects of their evil and prevent future destruction (1861 onward) and justice to carry out the elimination.



“The Eternal Jew”

Why spread antisemitism in society?

- Workers' Associations
- Social Clubs
- University
- Primary/Secondary Schools



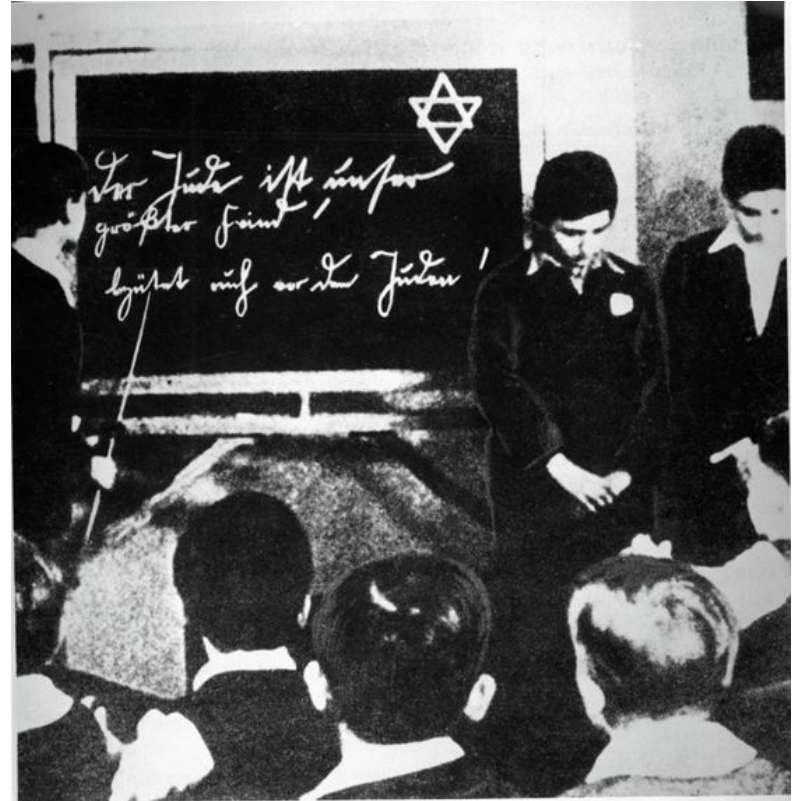
Hitler Youth Vacation Camp

Spread Antisemitism to Nurture Antisemitic Beliefs/Actions in all Classes/Ages

- Goal 2: educate the people politically and nurture their political activity so that they carry out **goal 1: to eliminate the threat/evil from Jews**
 - Race is a prerequisite to join clubs, university organizations and classrooms, work associations (e.g., Farmers Association)
 - Soon leadership of groups antisemitic or Nazi party members
 - Gov't Institutions, too: Army Officer Corps (most identified with German patriotism), Judiciary, Civil Service agencies, Schools rife with anti-semitic talk, members
 - Political parties and religious groups (e.g., Catholics, Conservative Party (1884)) declared Jews as the enemy or that their enemies were influenced by Jews in order to recruit and keep members and/or votes
 - Political parties that did increased in popularity/votes
 - Goal Achieved: reversal of Constitution by administration

Schools a Breeding Ground for Antisemitism

- Teachers
 - wore Swastikas
 - taught/distributed antisemitic literature like “The Poisonous Mushroom”
 - Antisemitic rhetoric taught as unquestioned truth
- So bad that the Ministries of Culture in many Gm states issued prohibitions against wearing swastikas and dist. Antisemitic Literature
- Teachers still taught that a “Jewish Problem” existed



“The Jews are our greatest enemy”

What will be the Final Solution to the Jewish Question?

What Kind of Elimination Is Effective or Acceptable?

- Prior to Nazi party's birth, many people were ripe for elimination by extermination
 - Not a new idea: pogroms occurred all over Europe since Medieval times
 - 1899 pogrom; attacks in Berlin and Munich 1918, all over Gm 1923-24
 - Albert Einstein - immigrant to Germany and previously not conscious of his Jewishness nor aware of antisemitism - knew he'd be "forced to leave Germany within 10 years" (1921).
- The only thing keeping it from being widespread or more effective in elimination was the lack of state policy endorsing it
 - Weimar Republic 1919-1933: specifically protected Jews from state-sponsored violence
 - As early as 1919: police/local gov't reports of widespread violent sentiment and action against Jews
- Some also questioned the morality of killing in order to eliminate the Jewish problem. Question is: Were these the minority of the German people?

Christians were largely anti-Semitic, too

- Otto Dibelius - Evangelical Protestant Bishop of Berlin
 - early supporter of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party.
 - 1928 - wrote about the "solution" to the "Jewish Problem". Jewish immigration from eastern Europe should be prohibited. As soon as this prohibition takes effect, the decline of Jewry would set in. "The number of children of the Jewish families is small. The process of dying out occurs surprisingly rapidly."
- Lutheran bishops urged people to vote for Hitler
- Catholics and Protestants encouraged separation of Christians between Jews and non-Jews (race-based)
- So severe that protestant pamphlets were distributed to encourage members to not resort to violence against Jews in the church

"The time is fulfilled for the German people of Hitler. It is because of Hitler that Christ, God the helper and redeemer, has become effective among us. ... Hitler is the way of the Spirit and the will of God for the German people to enter the Church of Christ." - German pastor Hermann Gruner.

"Christ has come to us through Adolph Hitler." - unnamed pastor

So despondent had been the German people after the defeat of World War I and the subsequent economic depression that the charismatic Hitler appeared to be the nation's answer to prayer—at least to most Germans.

Christians anti-semitic

- Emma Becker - married a Catholic and converted to Catholicism. In 1940, neighbors refused to live near her.
 - only visitor she had was the priest, and he was abused for his kindness toward her.
 - outcast in her own church, forced to retire from the church choir, congregants refused to pray or take communion beside her.
 - Even priests, who believed in salvation through baptism, shunned her.
 - Despite Nuremberg Laws that protected her due to her conversion, Germans still hated and harassed her outside of the dictates of the law.
- Few exceptions: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the White Rose movement
 - Bonhoeffer - pastor and double agent against Nazis. Conspired to kill Hitler. Sent to camp and then hanged for treason
 - White Rose - civil disobedience movement by college students. Pamphlets. Leaders caught and guillotined.

The Rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party

- 1919: German Workers' Party - mostly upset about loss of WWI, Treaty of Versailles, and Economy
 - Became member and head of propaganda
 - 1923: Failed Beer Hall Putsch uprising
- Mein Kampf (1925) "My Struggle"
 - "It is the inexorable Jew who struggles for his domination over the nations. No nation can remove this hand from its throat *except by the sword*. Only the assembled and concentrated might of a national passion rearing up in its strength can defy the international enslavement of the peoples. Such a process is and remains a *bloody one*."
 - "What luck for rulers that men do not think."
- Elections
 - 1925: small success nationally, regionally
 - 1930: 6.4 million, 18.6%, 107 seats of 577 in legislature
 - 1932: 14 million, 37.4%, 230 seats
 - 1933: although Nazi's lost 4% points, President asked Hitler to be Chancellor & form a government (Jan, 1933)

How did Hitler become Fuhrer of Germany?

- Chancellor: Head of Government, cabinet; Responsible to the Reichstag (legislature)
 - Weak figure, little more than chairman of a cabinet; cabinet made policies by majority vote
 - Appointed by Pres. Hindenburg to appease mob-like Nazis, and because Nazis rising in popularity (ability to form a coalition government in parliament)
- Came to power because economic depression, disorder and organized street violence, widespread of democratic Weimar, threat of leftist takeover, & Hitler's attractive anger and charisma
 - Nazis seen as only power capable of restoring order and peace, eliminating enemies within and outside of Germany
- March, 1933: Final election. Not free or fair. 17 million, 43.9%
 - Communist party not allowed; intimidation of opposition extreme.
 - By then, had already abolished civil liberties (e.g, freedom of speech protected by Constitution)

How did Hitler become Fuhrer of Germany?

- 1933: Enabling Act - gave Chancellor full legislative powers for a period of four years – the Chancellor could introduce any law without consulting Parliament
 - Used threats from Communists within and foreign powers without to justify the act
- 1934: Pres. Paul Von Hindenburg dies. Hitler absorbs roles of President and keeps Chancellor: called Fuhrer, or leader of the land
- Hitler and his cabinet decreed a law that merged the office of the president with that of Chancellor.
- Breached the Enabling Act, which specifically precluded any laws concerning the Presidential office, but was approved by a referendum in August 1933.

Why did Germans Support Hitler and the Nazis?

National Socialist party platform (1920)

- We demand the unification of all Germans in the [Greater Germany](#) on the basis of the people's [right to self-determination](#).
- We demand equality of rights for the [German people](#) in respect to the other [nations](#); abrogation of the [peace treaties of Versailles](#) and [St. Germain](#).
- We [demand land and territory \(colonies\)](#) for the sustenance of our people, and colonization for our surplus population.
- Only a [member of the race can be a citizen](#). A member of the race can only be one who is of German blood, without consideration of [creed](#). Consequently, no [Jew](#) can be a member of the race.
- Whoever has no citizenship is to be able to live in Germany only as a guest, and must be under the authority of [legislation](#) for [foreigners](#).
- The right to determine matters concerning [administration](#) and [law](#) belongs only to the citizen. Therefore, we demand that every [public office](#), of any sort whatsoever, whether in the [Reich](#), the [county](#) or [municipality](#), be [filled only by citizens](#). We combat the [corrupting parliamentary economy](#), office-holding only according to party inclinations without consideration of character or abilities.
- We demand that the [state be charged first with providing the opportunity for a livelihood](#) and way of life for the citizens. If it is impossible to sustain the total population of the State, then the [members of foreign nations \(non-citizens\) are to be expelled](#) from the Reich.
- Any [further immigration of non-citizens is to be prevented](#). We demand that all non-Germans, who have immigrated to Germany since 2 August 1914, be forced immediately to leave the Reich.
- All citizens must have equal rights and obligations.

- The **first obligation** of every citizen must be to work both spiritually and physically. The activity of individuals is not to counteract the interests of the universality, but must have its result within the framework of the whole for the benefit of all. Consequently, we demand:
- **Abolition of unearned (work and labour) incomes.** Breaking of debt (interest)-slavery.
- In consideration of the monstrous sacrifice in property and blood that each war demands of the people, personal enrichment through a war must be designated as a **crime** against the people. Therefore, we demand the total **confiscation** of all **war profits**.
- We demand the **nationalisation** of all (previous) associated industries (**trusts**).
- We demand a **division of profits** of all **heavy industries**.
- We demand an expansion on a large scale of **old age welfare**.
- We demand the creation of a healthy **middle class** and its conservation, immediate communalization of the great warehouses and their being leased at low cost to small firms, the utmost consideration of all small firms in **contracts** with the State, county or municipality.
- We demand a **land reform** suitable to our needs, provision of a law for the free **expropriation** of land for the purposes of public utility, abolition of **taxes on land** and prevention of all **speculation** in land.
- We demand struggle without consideration against those whose activity is injurious to the general interest. **Common national criminals, usurers, profiteers and so forth are to be punished with death**, without consideration of confession or race.
- We demand substitution of a German **common law** in place of the **Roman Law** serving a materialistic world-order. The state is to be responsible for a fundamental reconstruction of our whole national **education** program, to **enable every capable and industrious German to obtain higher education** and subsequently introduction into leading positions. **The plans of instruction of all educational institutions are to conform with the experiences of practical life.** The **comprehension of the concept of the State must be striven for by the school** [Staatsbürgerkunde] as early as the beginning of understanding. **We demand the education at the expense of the State of outstanding intellectually gifted children of poor parents** without consideration of position or profession.

- The State is to care for the elevating national health by protecting the mother and child, by outlawing child-labor, by the encouragement of physical fitness, by means of the legal establishment of a gymnastic and sport obligation, by the utmost support of all organizations concerned with the physical instruction of the young.
- We demand abolition of the mercenary troops and formation of a national army.
- We demand legal opposition to known lies and their promulgation through the press. In order to enable the provision of a German press, we demand, that:
 - a. All writers and employees of the newspapers appearing in the German language be members of the race;
 - b. Non-German newspapers be required to have the express permission of the State to be published. They may not be printed in the German language;
 - c. Non-Germans are forbidden by law any financial interest in German publications, or any influence on them, and as punishment for violations the closing of such a publication as well as the immediate expulsion from the Reich of the non-German concerned. Publications which are counter to the general good are to be forbidden. We demand legal prosecution of artistic and literary forms which exert a destructive influence on our national life, and the closure of organizations opposing the above made demands.
- We demand freedom of religion for all religious denominations within the state so long as they do not endanger its existence or oppose the moral senses of the Germanic race. The Party as such advocates the standpoint of a positive Christianity without binding itself confessionally to any one denomination. It combats the Jewish-materialistic spirit within and around us, and is convinced that a lasting recovery of our nation can only succeed from within on the framework: The common good before the individual good. (*Gemeinnutz geht vor Eigennutz*).^[10] Has also been translated as "The good of the state before the good of the individual."^[11]
- For the execution of all of this we demand the formation of a strong central power in the Reich. Unlimited authority of the central parliament over the whole Reich and its organizations in general. The forming of state and profession chambers for the execution of the laws made by the Reich within the various states of the confederation. The leaders of the Party promise, if necessary by sacrificing their own lives, to support by the execution of the points set forth above without consideration.

Results of Nazi Takeover

- Unsurprising given their platform and the people's pre-existing antisemitism
 - Legitimized and state-sponsored the following:
 - Enactment of severe legal restrictions against Jews
 - Physical and increased verbal attacks against Jews, both individual and state/party sponsored
 - Further intensification of antisemitism (manifest) in society
 - Transformation of Jews into "socially dead" beings
 - Society-wide consensus on the need to eliminate Jewish influence from Germany



**Dachau Concentration Camp, opened
in Germany, 1933**



Ten- and eleven-year-old schoolchildren doing the “Heil Hitler” salute in Berlin, 1934.

Thoughts of an Ordinary German: Melita Maschmann, daughter of college-educated businessman and member of Hitler Youth

On her the youthful understanding of Jews: *Jews mysteriously and anonymously menacing...as children were told fairy stories...to make us believe in witches....Now [as adults] believing in “wicked Jews.” Grownups knew this without mistrust. Jews’ wickedness was against prosperity, unity and prestige of the German nation.... Adults lived in contradiction with complete unconcern. One was friendly with individual Jews whom one liked. No one seemed to worry that they had no clear idea of who the Jews were. **It is this confusion that I blame for the fact that I later contrived to dedicate body and soul to an inhuman political system, without this giving me doubts about my own decency.** When I heard that Jews were being driven from their professions and homes and imprisoned in ghettos...[I didn’t consider that] such a fate could also overtake [a friend]. It was only the [mysterious, anonymous boogeyman] Jew who was being persecuted and “made harmless.”*

Thoughts of an Ordinary German, Melita Maschmann

- *After Kristallnacht, 1938: For the space of a second I was clearly aware that something terrible had happened there. Something frighteningly beautiful. But I almost at once switched over to accepting what had happened as over and done with and avoiding critical reflection. I said to myself: The Jews are the enemies of the new Germany. Last night they had a taste of what this means. Let us hope that World Jewry, which has resolved to hinder Germany's "new steps toward greatness," will take the events of last night as a warning. If the Jews sow hatred against us all over the world, they must learn that we have hostages for them in our hands.*

Looking for a Solution: Reduction of Jewish Rights

- April 1, 1933 – The Nazi's organized a national boycott of Jewish businesses
- September 15, 1934: Reich Citizenship Law and Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honor make Jews second-class citizens
- 1935: the Nuremberg Laws were announced, determining who would be considered Jewish
- November 9-10, 1938: Kristallnacht, "the night of broken glass," mobs destroyed Jewish property and synagogues and 30,000 Jewish men were sent to concentration camps
- By December 1, 1939 all Jews were required to wear the Star of David on their clothing

Participation of Ordinary Germans in the Holocaust

- Germans knew about what was happening to Jews to bring about their elimination from society, supported the measures, and when the opportunity presented itself, became active participants in the measures
 - April 1933: Boycott of Jewish businesses (eliminate economic power/influence)
 - Many participated. Returned previously bought goods and demanded refunds
 - April 1933: Race as a qualification for civil service employment. 1000s of Jews lost jobs
 - Colleagues supported this
 - 1933 - 1937: Uncoordinated physical attacks all over Germany. Led mostly by the SA (paramilitary arm of Nazi party) and also by individual civilians.
 - Beatings, maimings, killings. Destruction of businesses and synagogues
 - Verbal assaults
 - Public Signs at entry to cities: “Entry Forbidden to Jews”
 - Traffic Sign: “Drive Carefully, Sharp Curve - Jews, 75 miles an hour!”



**A German cuts a Jew's beard
in Warsaw, Poland 1939.
Others look on and laugh.**



**Inscription on bench reads:
"For Aryans Only"**

Participation of Ordinary Germans in the Holocaust

- 1938 - Kristallnacht and other openly violent attacks
- 1939-1941 - support for deportation/knowledge of ghettoization, using slave labor
- 1941-1945 - *Einsatzkommandos* and Police Battalion officers aren't ideologues but willing shooters, concentration camps - work (to death) and death camps near ordinary Germans and other conquered civilians
 - <http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/26/world/nazi-death-camps/>



Uncoordinated Attacks

- In the first years of the Nazi regime, attacks so common that Jews fled rural areas for anonymity of urban cities
 - Rural Gm emptied of all Jews by 1938
 - All levels of society: Most civilian attacks by small business owners; university professors and judges threw out Jewish employees often before official measures enforced
- Gestapo Report, 1935. Osnabruck, Germany

“In that city and surrounding area there were massive demonstrations against Jewish businesses, which were publicly branded and surrounded by mobs; people who frequented Jewish businesses were photographed and the pictures were displayed in public. The streets were alive with action - parades and so on.... The high point of the struggle against the Jews...was a meeting on 20 August, which brought together 25k people to hear...[about] the Jewish problem. The situation was so inflamed...Gestapo...put a stop to the individual actions,...[issued a] public warning in local newspapers;...[and] actions were officially outlawed on 27 August.”

From Uncoordinated to Coordinated Attacks

- If elimination from society is the goal, then why halt civilian attacks or chastise judges for carrying out punishment/expulsion of Jews as out of the bounds of gov't mandate?
- The need for the cause to be controlled/regulated by government
 - Many Germans unsettled by wild attacks
 - Extreme violence, destruction of property (wasteful & expensive to repair)
 - Feared revenge of the Jews
 - Attacks uncoordinated and inconsistent. Would never be effective in eliminating the threat
- 1935 Nuremberg Laws brought order & consistency to the cause
 - Defined who was Jewish or partially Jewish according ancestry (at least 3 grandparents)
 - Reversed 1840 emancipation: no longer citizens of Germany, outlawed marriages and sexual intercourse between Jews and non-Jews
 - Allows for further rights to be taken away because not citizens



**Public Humiliation of Jewish woman
and German man, sign reads "I am a
defiler of the race"**

Results of Coordinated Attacks

- Uncoordinated violent attacks quieted down between 1937-1938
 - People accepted and trusted in the success of a regulated cause
- Nov 9-10, 1938: Kristallnacht a coordinated attack led by Nazi party
 - 100 killed, 100s synagogues burned, 7,500 stores destroyed, 30,000 men taken to concentration camps
 - Massive support all over Germany - not just Nazi party members or SA but average civilians participated. Even children & teens
 - Rallies afterward to celebrate the night (Nuremberg - 100,000 attendees)
- Emigration increased exponentially
 - Effective in getting some Jews to leave Germany for good (eliminated)
- After Kristallnacht
 - Germans can't deny knowledge of atrocities against Jews
 - Germans can trust the government will effectively achieve the goal of eliminating the Jews

Looking for a Solution: Jewish Emigration

- Until October, 1941 Nazi Germany's official position was to encourage Jewish emigration
- Between 37,000 and 38,000 German Jews fled after the initial Nazi take-over
- After Kristallnacht, in November 1938 about 36,000 Jews left Germany and Austria followed by 77,000 more in 1939
- July 1938: 32 Allied powers convened at the Evian Conference to discuss what to do with Jewish refugees coming from Germany – only the Dominican Republic agreed to take more refugees

Jewish Emigration

- Between 1938-1939 the United Kingdom admitted 10,000 Jewish children on an emergency basis in the *Kindertransport*
- By June of 1939, more than 309,000 European Jews had applied for entry to the United States whose quota was set at 27,000 per year
- But the process too slow and not enough Jews were leaving so...

Looking for a Solution: The “Jewish Reservation”

- Following the defeat of Poland in 1939-40, Nazi leadership planned to create a “Jewish reservation” including all Jews in the Third Reich in Polish territory
- May 1940: Himmler declared “I hope that the concept of Jews will be completely extinguished through the possibility of a large emigration of all Jews to Africa or some other colony.”
- The Madagascar Plan aimed at deporting all European Jews to the French colony of Madagascar but failed as the British Navy controlled the seas and would not allow Germans to ship Jews to the African island nation
- Winter 1940-41, Hitler’s next “territorial solution” was to deport all European Jews to the Soviet Union once it had been conquered – the Soviet Union never fell to Nazi Germany
- Somewhat successful, but Jews still in Europe

Looking for a Solution: Ghettos

- In 1939, Nazi Germany created the first ghettos in Poland to isolate and consolidate the regional or municipal Jewish population
- The ghetto residents could be hired out for labor purposes to non-Jewish residents and businesses
- The largest ghetto was in Warsaw and housed more than 400,000 Jews within a 1.3 mile area
- Beginning in late June, 1940 Jewish ghettos in Poland were sealed off – any Jews caught trying to leave or escape would be shot on sight by German guards
- October 15, 1941: Germans began deporting German Jews to Polish ghettos
- Jews living in sealed ghettos relied on Germans for food – starvation and epidemic disease caused the deaths of thousands living in the ghettos

Thoughts of Ordinary Germans

1941: “It is clear as daylight that [deportation of Jews] spells destruction. They will be taken to an uninhabited, devastated region in Russia and there they will be left to starve and freeze to death. He who is dead says nothing more.”
- a German school teacher

Looking for a Solution: Einsatzgruppen

- June 22, 1941: Operation Barbarossa- invasion of the Soviet Union
 - Einsatzgruppen & Police Battalion units under SS, used established to locate and kill Jews in Soviet territory once conquered by Gm military
 - Rounded up Jews in countryside, towns
 - Mass burnings in synagogues
 - Mass shootings
 - At first walked them into woods and shot one-on-one
 - » Too personal, timely, and problem with too many dead bodies in the open
 - Then, had victims dig their own mass grave and shot all at once
 - gassings in portable gas centers (vans)
 - Encouraged local non-Jews to participate, and they willingly did, mostly by beating Jews to death
- By 1943 more than 1 million Jews had been killed by the Einsatzgruppen

Einsatzgruppen

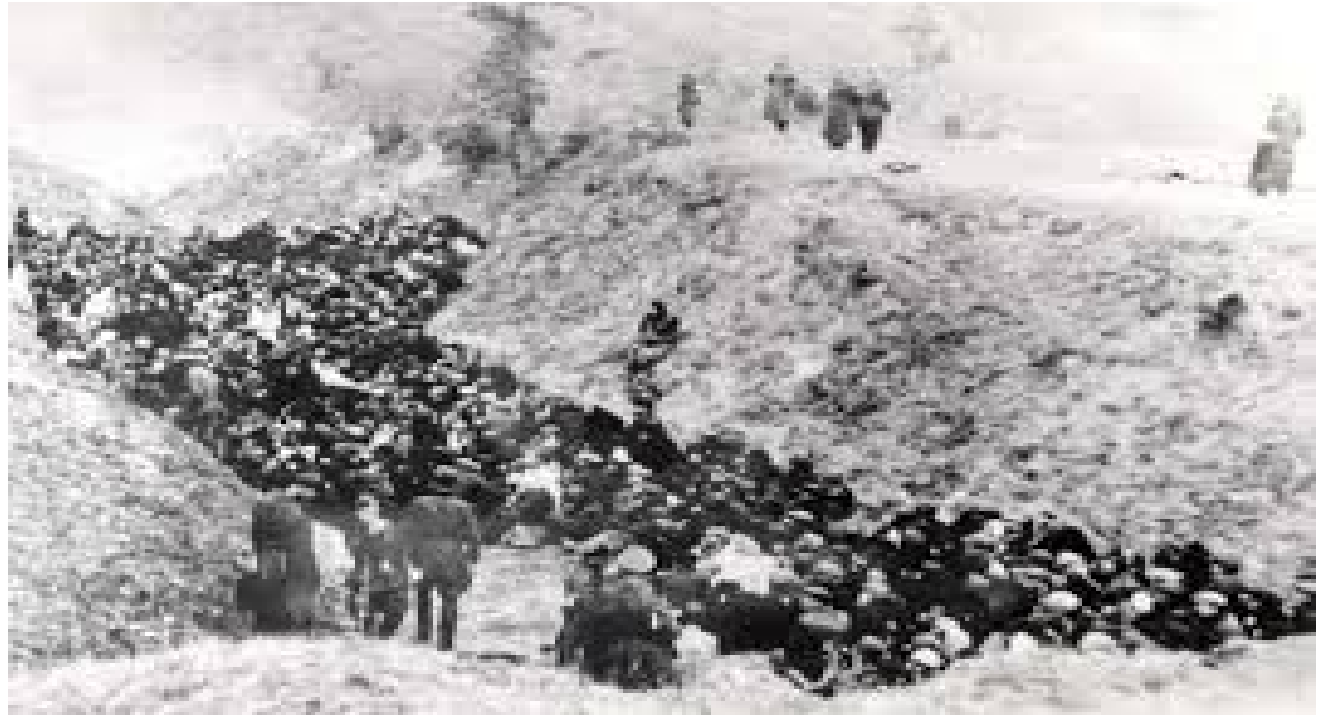


Einsatzkommandos force
Jewish women
from Mizoc
Ghetto to
undress before
executing them



Corpses of women and babies after the execution. Two of the German killers finish off the women who survived the initial shooting with individual shots to the head

The Babi Yar
massacre of
nearly 34,000
Jewish men,
women, and
children -
outskirts of Kiev
in the
Nazi-occupied
Ukraine. It took
two days in
September 1941



Einsatzgruppen

Experience in a mass grave: -

worked all day to dig their graves. Waited until kommandos ready. By the hundreds walked into or stood above mass grave and shot. Then next group...

A Few Figures:

- 23,600 Jews in Kamenets-Podolski. Aug 27-28 1941
- 10,000 in Minsk. November 1941
- 21,000 in Rovno. November 7-8 1941

Einsatzkommandos were Ordinary Germans

- Not part of regular military or SS because too old or physically not as fit
- Had families, regular occupations, both college and non-college educated
- Not party members. Not ideologically Nazi
- First killings, offered chance to not participate - only one kommando refused. The rest willingly and sometimes happily participated
- Entire days spent killing Jews
- After each shooting, moved on to the next town...

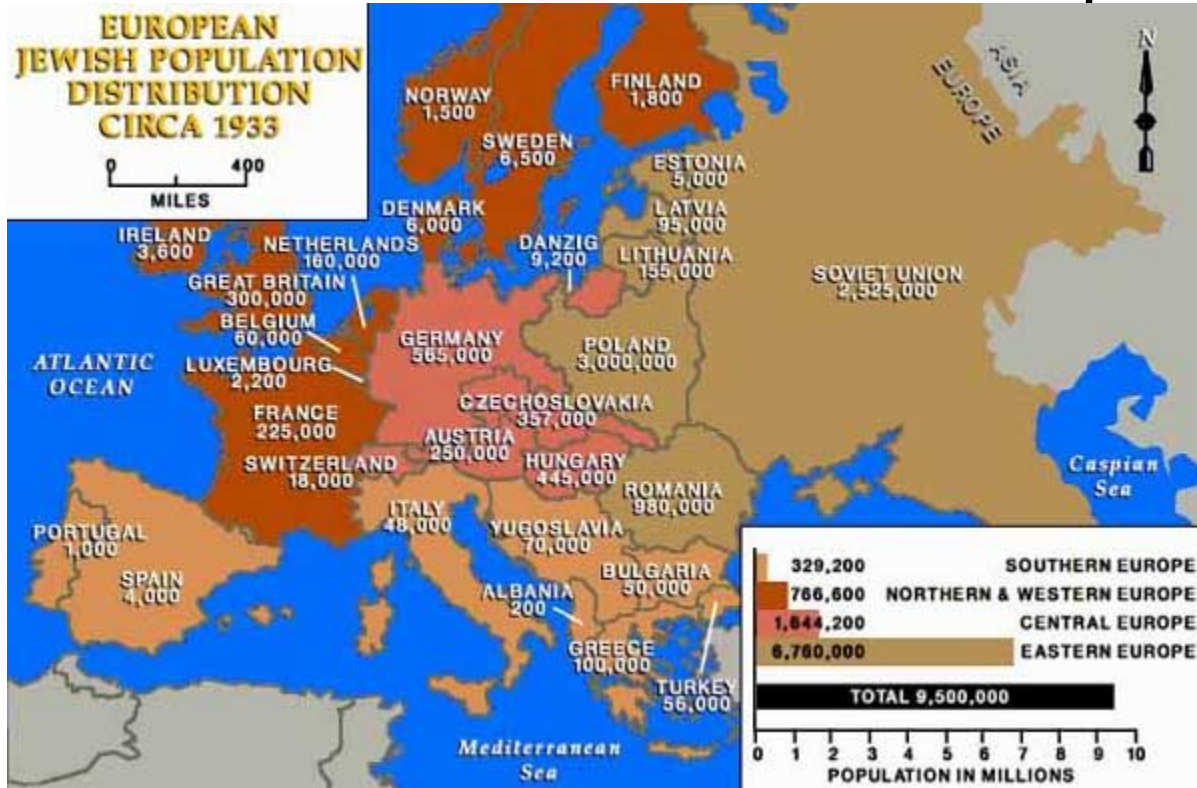
Looking for a Final Solution

- After witnessing a mass shooting in late summer, 1941, Himmler decided it was necessary to find a more efficient way to kill Jews
 - Psychological effects on shooters taking their toll
 - Possible to kill more Jews quicker outside of shootings and gassings in vans
 - Need a better way to dispose of bodies

The Final Solution Announced: The Wannsee Conference

- July 31, 1941: Reich Marshall Hermann Goring orders Reinhard Heydrich, head of the Security Police and the SD (Security Service), to take measures for the implementation of the “final solution of the Jewish question.”
- January 20, 1942: The Wannsee Conference formally presents the “Final Solution” to senior Nazi officials for implementation orders
- The term “Final Solution” was an euphemism for the systematic and deliberate extermination of the Jews
- Steps had already been taken to begin implementation of the Final Solution prior to the Wannsee Conference – the Conference was merely seen as a formality to gain the support of high-ranking Nazi officials
 - Deportation and ghettoization or concentration in camps
 - Building of death camps in Poland, where most Jews in Europe lived
 - Use of gas to kill in Euthanasia program (and learned lessons in secrecy and efficiency from it)
 - Use of Zyklon B gas to kill vermin in water

Nazis planned for conquest of Europe and *Judenriein* Europe



Planned from the Beginning, but Limited by Constraints

- Nazis restricted to confines of the law.
 - couldn't have coordinated/efficient effort prior to nuremberg laws (1935),
 - couldn't eliminate by death b/c policy was emigration,
 - ghettoization
 - The Final Solution to the Jewish Question became *elimination en mass by gas in death camps* when
 - Germany acquired new lands in war and 5 million more Jews (11 total in Europe continent, which was in their plan to conquer),
 - war outlook unpromising with new Eastern Front and USA joining,
 - and shortages of food and supplies
 - Einsatzgruppen proved too wasteful of bullets, too time inefficient, and too costly to troop morale
- BUT hoped for from the beginning because this is eliminationist antisemitism (look at Nazi party platform, propaganda, and Hitler quotes)
 - The Jewish problem stems from race therefore the only solution is to eradicate their influence and their existence (because they will continue to conspire to gain influence over society)

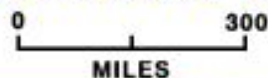
Implementation of a Solution

- March 22, 1933: the first concentration camp is opened by the SS in Dachau, Germany as primarily a labor camp
- September 3, 1941: German officials in Auschwitz perform the first experiments on gassing non-Jewish prisoners with Zyklon-B
- October-November, 1941: construction begins on the killing centers in Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka
- December 8, 1941: Gassing begins at Chelmno
- January 16, 1942: Jews from the Lodz ghetto begin deportation to Chelmno
- March 27, 1942: Nazis begin deporting more than 75,000 French Jews, primarily to the Auschwitz killing center
- June 21, 1943: Himmler orders the deportation of all Jews to concentration camps in order to be processed and exterminated



**Jews being deported from Pulheim,
Germany, 1943**

MAJOR DEPORTATIONS TO EXTERMINATION CAMPS 1942-1944



1944 INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES

Front Line
January 1944



Thoughts from Ordinary Germans

1942: “The Jews are disappearing in throngs, Ghastly rumors are current about the fate of the evacuees - mass shootings and death by starvation, tortures, and gassings.” - woman who worked to save Jews

Protests Could have Helped, but Protests Against Anti-Jewish Policy Uncommon

- 1939: Nazi Euthanasia, or secret mass-death program, aimed to restore the racial "integrity" of the German nation.
 - eliminate "life unworthy of life": individuals with severe psychiatric, neurological, or physical disabilities represented both a genetic and a financial burden on German society and the state. Part of the *Lumpenproletariat*.
 - Med staff required to report children under 3 who showed signs
 - Med staff completed surveys on patients and those qualified for death removed from facilities
 - Gassings, lethal overdoses of medication, starvation
- The families or guardians of the victims received such an urn, along with a death certificate and other documentation, listing a fictive cause and date of death.
- **Germans discovered what was going on and Clergy launched a major protest campaign that forced Hitler to abandon the program in 1941**, but not before they murdered 70,273 between January 1940 and August 1941.

-

Why didn't Germans Protest Eliminationist Policy?

- Nazis continued program in secret, decentralized effort, and included bombing victims and the elderly. Murdered over 200k in total between 1940-1945.
- If successfully stopped killings via protests, at least obvious euthanasia, then they could have done so regarding the deportation and killings of Jews. **But they didn't** which shows, at least, tacit approval.

Camp Statistics

- A list of camps drawn up in 1967 by the German Ministry of Justice estimates the number of camps to have been around 1200
 - 34 were major concentration camps
- Auschwitz was liberated on January 22, 1945 by the Soviet Army – towards the end of the war, as many as 20,000 Jews were being killed every day
- The 7 largest death camps were collectively responsible for 3.8 million deaths – Auschwitz alone was responsible for more than 1.2 million deaths
- Used starvation and death marches to kill them off, too
- According to Adolf Eichmann's estimate, about 6 million Jews were killed by Nazi Germany between 1938 and 1945
- Nazis estimated the number of European Jews to have been about 11 million prior to the Holocaust

How can a Civilized Society Murder Millions?

- This was an advanced society for the time
 - Industrialized
 - Had a vast empire at one point
 - Best military power for 50 years+
 - Used science and technology
- How can it be that an advanced society would participate mass murder of human beings or look the other way when it occurred?
 - Pre-existing prejudice
 - Stereotyping
 - Propaganda in education, impressionable youth
 - Current events: when economy and society suffering, people look for a way up (or a source of blame)
 - Scapegoat what they already fear or hate

Where does morality and accountability come from?

- Government?
- Teachers and the Education System?
- Places of Worship and Religious leaders?
- Parents?

In the case of Germany, all these sources, generally, taught Germans to fear and hate the menacing Jew and to accept, celebrate, or participate in eliminating Jews from society.

What's to stop civilized societies from doing the same, if not to Jews but to another group of people, today?