

WWII: The Holocaust

**"KTO NIE PAMIĘTA HISTORII SKAZANY
JEST NA JEJ PONOWNE PRZEŻYCIE"**

GEORGE SANTAYANA

**"THE ONE WHO DOES NOT REMEMBER
HISTORY IS BOUND TO LIVE THROUGH IT
AGAIN"**

GEORGE SANTAYANA

11 million people were exterminated



**6 million Jews 5 million people
1933 - 1945**



They were shot, starved,
gassed and burned...



Defining the Holocaust

- **HOLOCAUST**

The annihilation of the Jews and other groups of people of Europe under the Nazi regime during World War II

- **GENOCIDE:** the systematic extermination of a nationality or group



- Understanding the process of GENOCIDE is one of the most important steps in preventing it.
- The Eight Stages of Genocide were first outlined by Dr. Greg Stanton, Department of State: 1996.
- The first six stages are Early Warnings:
 - Classification
 - Symbolization
 - Dehumanization
 - Organization
 - Polarization
 - Preparation

Stage 1: Classification

- “Us versus them” – if you’re not with us, you’re against us
- Distinguish by nationality, ethnicity, race, or religion – and those not of the preferred group are deemed unwelcome, and a “threat”:
 - During World War One, Armenians were said to have conspired with Russian troops that defeated the Ottoman Empire
- Classification aims to (a) divide society and (b) create a power struggle between groups

Stage 2: Symbolization

- Names: "Jew", "German", "Hutu", "Tutsi".
- Languages.
- Types of dress.
- Group uniforms: Nazi armbands
- Colors and religious symbols:
 - Yellow star for Jews



Symbolization (Nazi Germany)

Jewish Passport: “Reisepäss”

Required to be carried by all Jews by 1938. Preceded the yellow star.



- Homosexuals = pink triangles
- Identified homosexuals to SS guards in the camps
- Caused discrimination by fellow inmates who shunned homosexuals

Kennzeichen für Schutzhäftlinge in den Konz. Lagern
Form und Farbe der Kennzeichen

	Politisch	Berufs- Verbrecher	Emigrant	Bibel- forscher	homo- sexuell	Asiat
Grund- farben	Red triangle	Green triangle	Dark blue triangle	Black triangle	Pink triangle	Black triangle
Flaggen für Rückfälle	Red triangle with horizontal stripes	Green triangle with horizontal stripes	Dark blue triangle with horizontal stripes	Black triangle with horizontal stripes	Pink triangle with horizontal stripes	Black triangle with horizontal stripes
Häftlinge der Straf- kompanie	Red triangle with a black dot	Green triangle with a black dot	Dark blue triangle with a black dot	Black triangle with a black dot	Pink triangle with a black dot	Black triangle with a black dot
Flaggen für Juden	Red Star of David	Green Star of David	Dark blue Star of David	Black Star of David	Pink Star of David	Black Star of David
Besondere Flaggen	Yellow triangle with Star of David Jüd. Rasse- schänder	Yellow triangle with Star of David Rasse- schänderin	Red circle Flucht- verdächtig	Black square with white number Häftlings- nummer	Striped triangle Prüfung	
	Red triangle with 'P' Pole	Red triangle with 'T' Tscheche	Red triangle with 'A' Betracht flaggenträger	Black square with white number Häftling Ia		



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PRISONERS' IDENTIFICATION BADGES

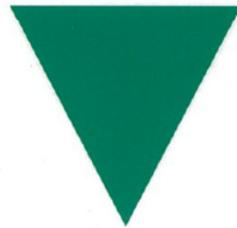
"Asocial" Prisoner
1



Jewish "Asocial" Prisoner
1



Convict (in limited-term protective custody)
2



Jewish Convict
2/3



Convict (in security custody)
3



Emigré
4



Jewish Emigré
4



Gypsy
5



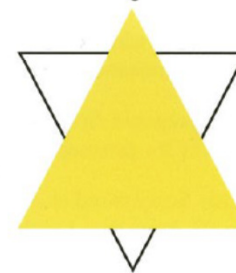
Homosexual
6



Jehovah's Witness
7



Jewish "Race Defiler"
8



Labor Disciplinary Prisoner ("Loafer")
9



Political Prisoner
Assigned to Penal Company
10



German Political Prisoner
11



Jewish Political Prisoner
11



Spanish Political Prisoner
11



French Political Prisoner
11



Special Political Prisoner
12



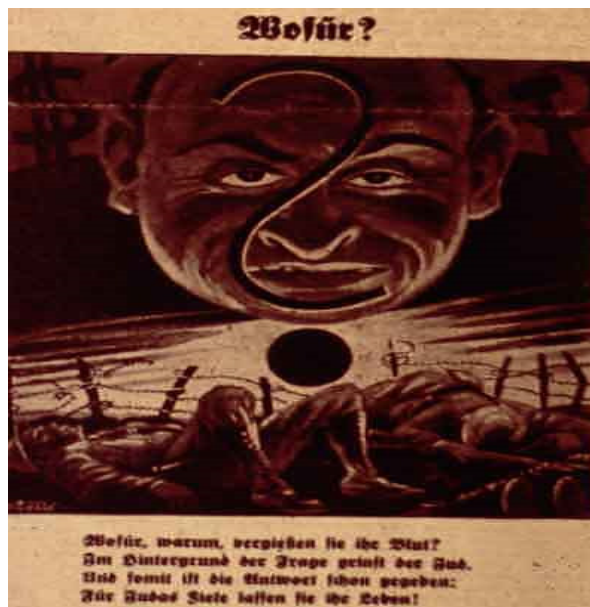
Source: Kogon, Eugen. *Der SS-Stat.* 3rd ed. Frankfurt am Main: Verlag der Frankfurter Hefte, 1948.
 (English Translation: Kogon, Eugen. *The Theory and Practice of Hell*. NY: Farrar, Straus, 1950.)

Nazis required the yellow Star of David emblem to be worn by nearly all Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe by 1941.



Stage 3: Dehumanization

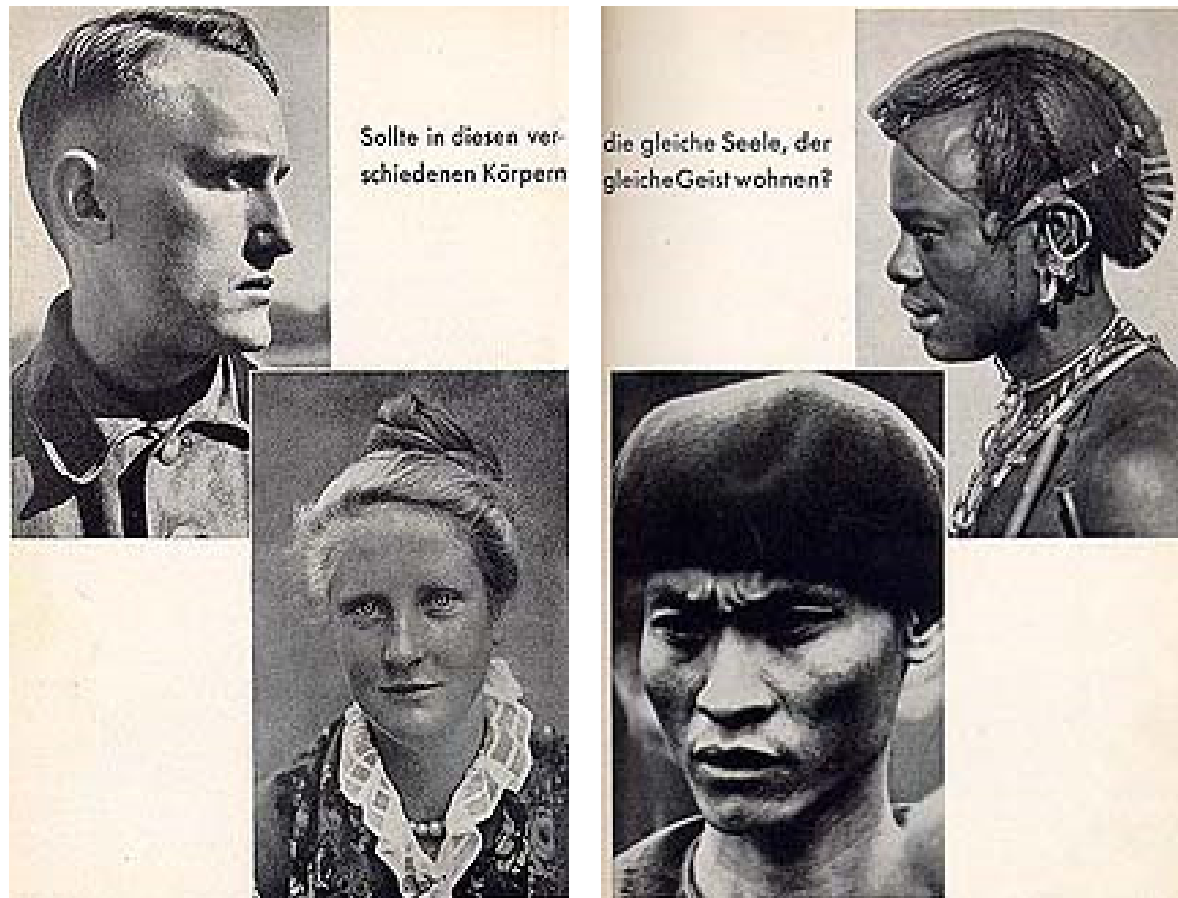
- One group denies the humanity of another, and makes the victim group seem subhuman.
- Dehumanization helps overcome the normal human revulsion against murder.



Der Stürmer Nazi Newspaper:
“The Blood Flows; The Jew Grins”

Dehumanization

From a Nazi SS Propaganda Pamphlet:



Caption: Does the same soul dwell in these bodies?

Stage 4: Organization

- Genocide is a group crime, so must be organized.
- The state usually organizes, arms and financially supports the groups that conduct genocidal massacres.
- Plans are made by elites for a “final solution” of genocidal killings.



Stage 5: Polarization

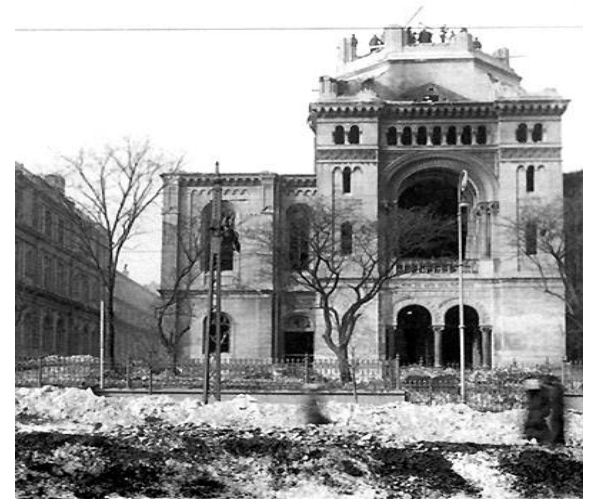
- Polarization = separation
- Hate groups broadcast and print polarizing propaganda.
- Laws are passed that forbid intermarriage or social interaction.
- Political moderates are silenced, intimidated, and/or killed.



Nazi Germany:

- Public demonstrations were organized against Jewish merchants.
- Moderate Germans who spoke out were the first to be arrested and sent to concentration camps.

- Polarization
- Attacks are staged and blamed on targeted groups.
 - Reichstag fire was blamed on Jewish Communists in 1933.
- Cultural centers of targeted groups are attacked.
 - Kristalnacht – Night of Broken Glass - hundreds of Jewish synagogues and businesses were destroyed.



Stage 6: Preparation

- Members of victim groups are forced to wear **identifying symbols**.
- **Death lists** are made.
- Victims are **separated** because of their ethnic or religious identity.

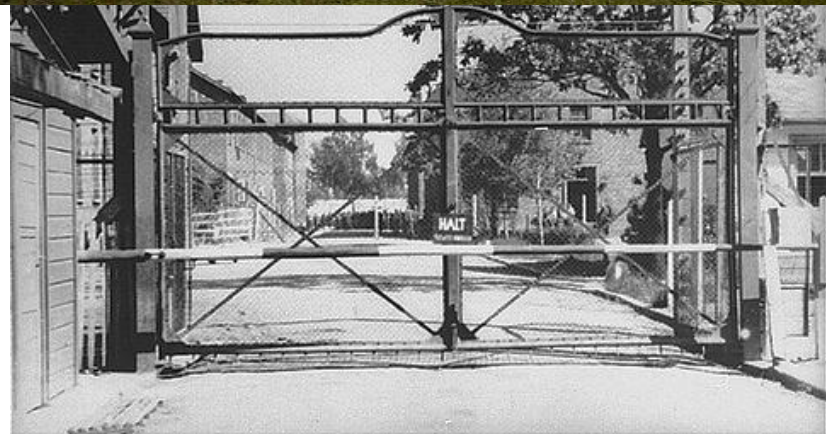


- **Segregation into ghettos** is imposed, victims are forced into **concentration camps**.
- Victims are also deported to famine-struck regions for **starvation**.



**Forced Resettlement into
Ghettos – Poland 1939 - 1942**

- **Weapons** for killing are stock-piled.
- **Extermination camps** are even built. This build-up of killing capacity is a major step towards actual genocide.



Stage 7: Extermination (Genocide)

- Extermination begins, and becomes the mass killing legally called "**genocide.**"
- Most genocide is committed by governments.



**Einsatzgruppen:
Nazi Killing Squads**

Extermination (Genocide)

- Killing is “extermination” to the killers because they do not believe the victims are fully human.
- They are therefore “cleansing” society of impurities, disease, animals, vermin, or enemies.



Roma (Gypsies) in a Nazi death camp

Stage 8: Denial

- Denial is always found in genocide, both during it and after it.
- Denial extends the crime of genocide to future generations of victims. It is a continuation of the intent to destroy the group.

Denial: Deny the Evidence.

- Deny that there was any mass killing at all.
- Question and minimize the statistics.
- Block access to evidence or historical accounts
- Intimidate or kill eye-witnesses.
- Destroy the evidence. (Burn the bodies and the archives, dig up and burn the mass graves, throw bodies in rivers or seas.)



Holocaust Death-Camp Crematoria

Denial: Deny Genocidal Intent.

- Claim that the deaths were inadvertent (due to famine, migration, or disease.)
- Blame “out of control” forces for the killings.
- Blame the deaths on ancient ethnic conflicts.

Denial: Attack the Truth-Tellers

- Attack the motives of the truth-tellers. Say they are racist or bigoted against the religion or nationality of the deniers.
- Deflect by pointing out crimes committed by the truth-tellers. Imply that “they have no right to point fingers.”

Denial: Blame the Victims.

- Emphasize the strangeness of the victims. They are not like us. (savages, infidels)
- Call it a “civil war,” not genocide.
- Claim the deniers’ group also suffered huge losses in the “war.” Therefore, the killings were in self-defense.

Cold Hard Facts

Casualties of the Holocaust:

63% of Jewish population in Europe killed

91% of Jewish population in Poland killed

Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by Soviet troops on Jan. 27, 1945. The Soviets found 836, 255 women's dresses, 348, 000 men's suits, 38, 000 pairs of men's shoes and 14, 000 pounds of human hair. But only **7,650 live prisoners**

How did the Holocaust Happen?

- The Power of Words
- The Stages of Isolation
- Anti-Semitism



The Power of Words...

- “The great masses of the people will more easily fall victims to a big lie than a small one”
- “How fortunate for leaders that men do not think”
- “The victor will never be asked if he told the truth”
- “The personification of the devil as the symbol of all evil assumes the living shape of the Jew”

What do all these quotes have in common?

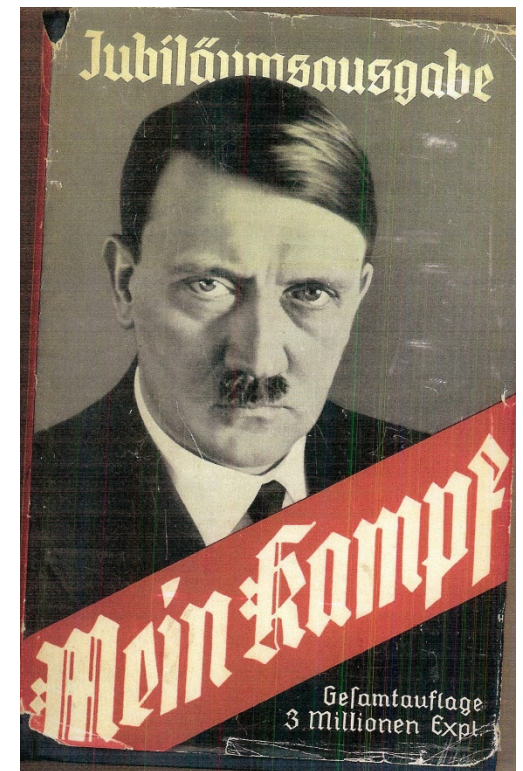
All quotes of Adolf Hitler



Anti-Semitic Propaganda

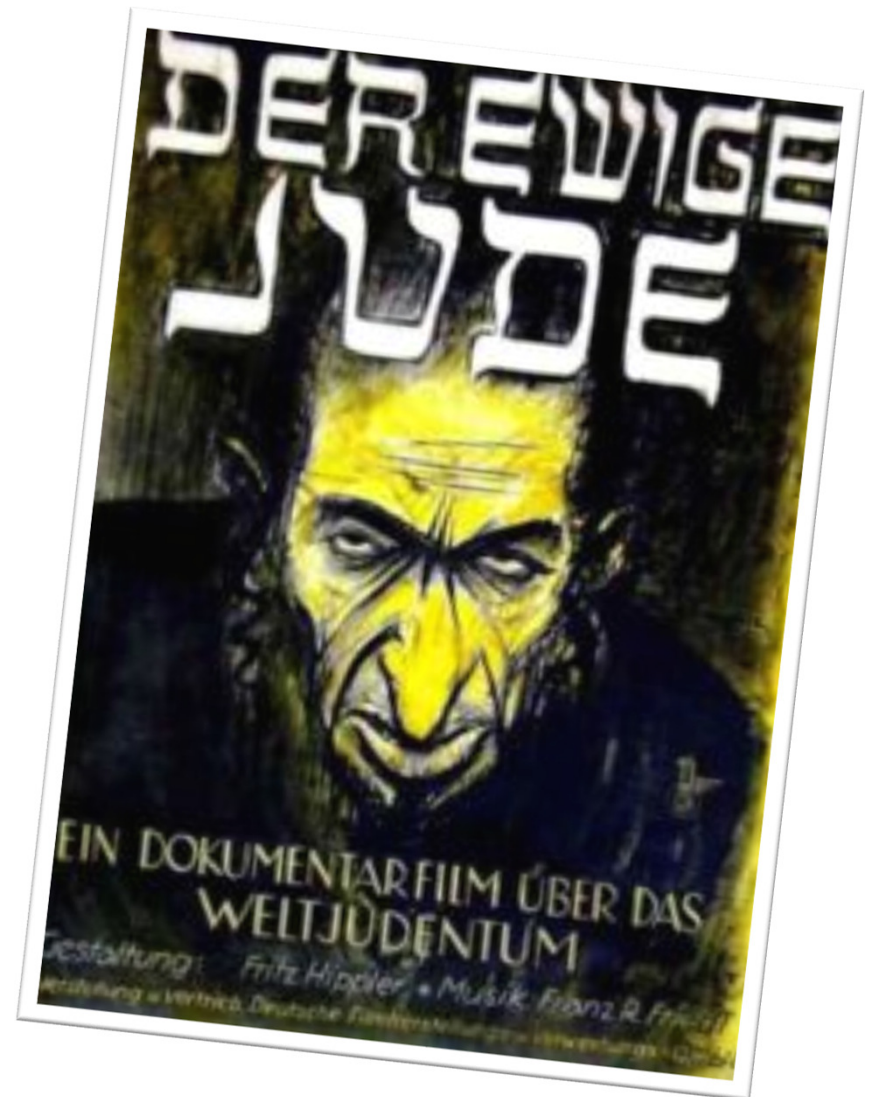
"Propaganda attempts to force a doctrine on the whole people... Propaganda works on the general public from the standpoint of an idea and makes them ripe for the victory of this idea."

Adolf Hitler wrote these words in his book *Mein Kampf* (1926), in which he first advocated the use of propaganda to spread the ideals of National Socialism--among them racism, anti-Semitism, and anti-Bolshevism.



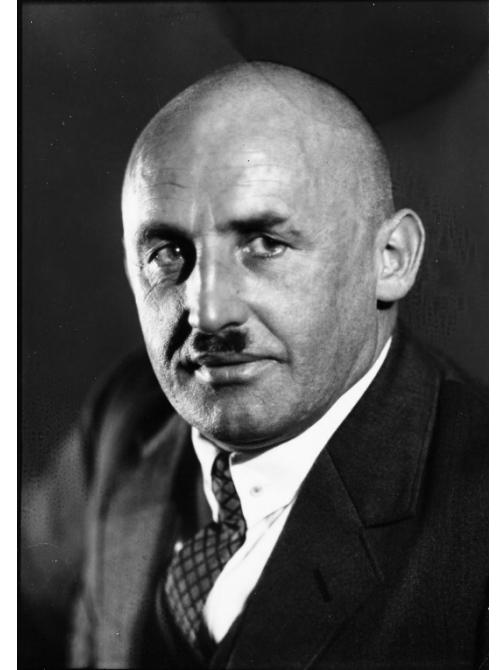
Anti-Semitic Propaganda

- Posters
- Films
- Books (even for children!)



In a further speech in April 1925, Streicher declared:

"You must realize that the Jew wants our people to perish. That is why you must join us and leave those who have brought you nothing but war, inflation, and discord. For thousands of years the Jew has been destroying the nations. Let us make a new beginning today so that we can annihilate the Jews."



“He is guilty for the war”



Illustration from a children's book: says "Jews are our misfortune"



Der Giftpilz
The Poisonous Mushroom

“Just as it is often hard to tell a toadstool from an edible mushroom, so too it is often very hard to recognize the Jew as a swindler and criminal.”

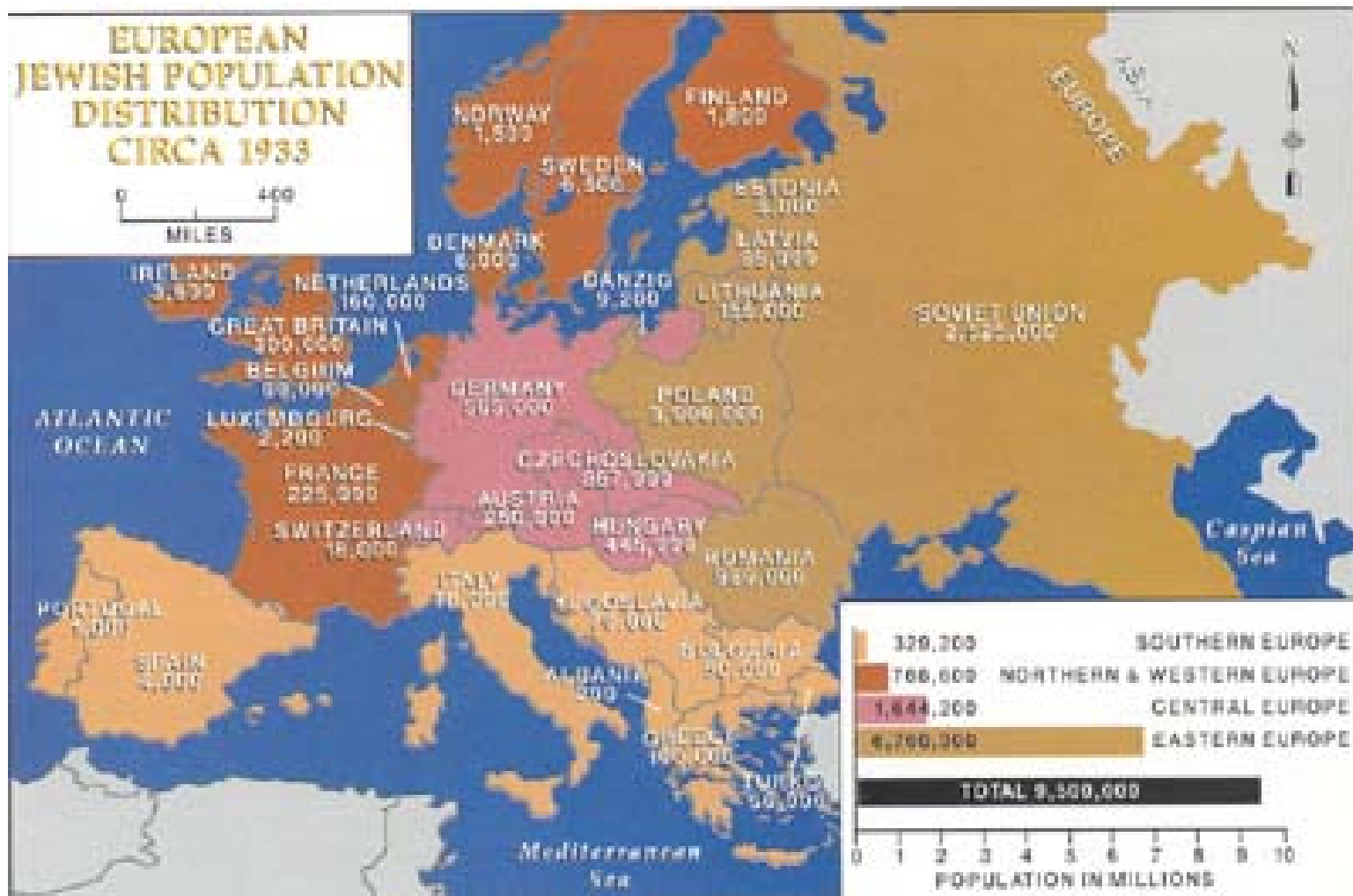
“German youth must learn to recognize the Jewish poison mushroom...”

They show the depravity and baseness of the Jewish race.
They show the Jew for what he really is:
The Devil in human form.”



European Jewish Population in 1933 was 9,508,340

14 EUROPE 1933



Estimated Jewish Survivors of
Holocaust: **3,546,211**



The Stages of Isolation

The Holocaust was a progression of actions leading to the annihilation of millions by:

- 1: Stripping of Rights
Rights
- 2: Segregation
- 3: Concentration
- 4: Extermination



Stage 1: Stripping of Rights

1935: Nuremberg Laws stated that all JEWS were :

- stripped of German citizenship
- fired from jobs & businesses boycotted
- banned from German schools and universities
- Marriages between Jews and Aryans forbidden
- Forced to carry ID cards and Passports stamped with a “J”
- forced to wear the arm band of the Yellow “Star of David”
- Jewish synagogues destroyed
- forced to pay reparations and a special income tax



“NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS”



Residents of Rostock, Germany, view a burning synagogue the morning after *Kristallnacht* (“Night of Broken Glass”). On the night of November 9–10, 1938, the Nazi regime unleashed orchestrated anti-Jewish violence across greater Germany.

“NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS”



Within 48 hours, synagogues were vandalized and burned, 7,500 Jewish businesses were damaged or destroyed, 96 Jews were killed, and nearly 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and sent to concentration camps.



Schindler's List

“Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire”

Oskar Schindler is a vain, glorious and greedy German businessman who becomes unlikely humanitarian amid the barbaric Nazi reign when he feels compelled to turn his factory into a refuge for Jews. Based on the true story of Oskar Schindler who managed to save about 1100 Jews from being gassed at the Auschwitz concentration camp. A testament for the good in all of us.

- Clip 1: chapter 5 (entering ghetto)- 5 min

Stage 2: Segregation - Ghettos



- Jews were forced to live in designated areas called “ghettos” to isolate them from the rest of society
- Nazis established 356 ghettos in Poland, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Hungary during WWII

- Ghettos were filthy, with poor sanitation and extreme overcrowding
- Disease was rampant and food was in such short supply that many slowly starved to death
- Warsaw, the largest ghetto, held 500,000 people and was 3.5 square miles in size
- **Nazi ghettos** were a preliminary step in the annihilation of the Jews, as the ghettos became transition areas, used as collection points for deportation to concentration & death camps

GHETTOS IN OCCUPIED EUROPE 1939-1944



ATLANTIC OCEAN



SPAIN (Neutral)

- Ghettos Established 1939-May 1941
- Ghettos Established June 1941-1943
- Ghettos Established 1944
- German-Occupied
- German Ally
- Liberated/Allies

1944 INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES



OCCUPIED EASTERN TERRITORY

Front Line January 1944

Mediterranean Sea

Stage 3: Concentration Camps



- Essential to Nazi's systematic oppression and eventual mass murder of enemies of Nazi Germany (Jews, Communists, homosexuals, opponents)
- Slave labor "annihilation by work"

- Prisoners faced undernourishment and starvation
- Prisoners transported in cattle freight cars
- Camps were built on railroad lines for efficient transportation



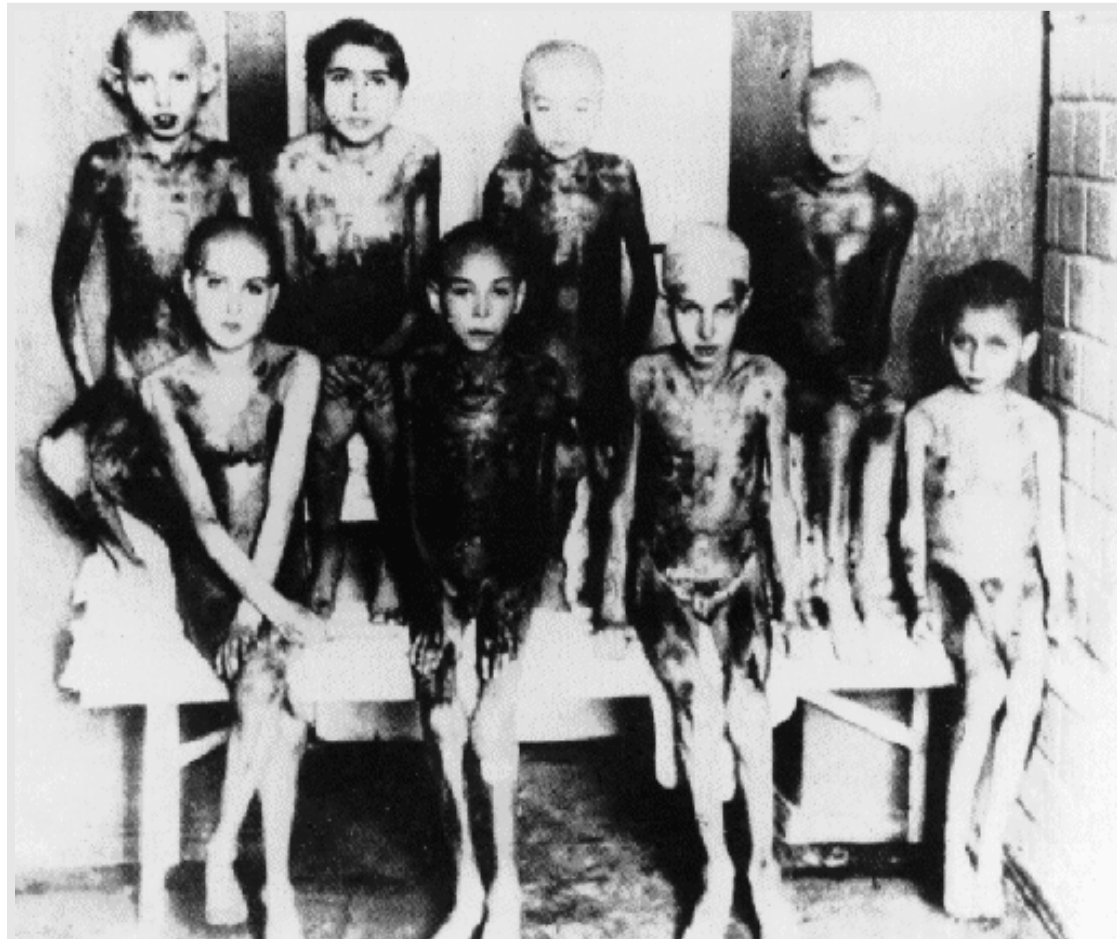


Life in the Camps



- possessions were confiscated
- heads were shaved
- arms tattooed
- Prison uniforms
- Men, women and children were separated

- Survival based on trade skills / physical strength
- Unsanitary, disease ridden and lice infested barracks
- inhumane medical experiments





Nazis confiscated property of prisoners in storerooms nicknamed “Kanada” because the sheer amount of loot stored there was associated with the riches of Canada





Kennzeichen für Schutzhäftlinge in den Konz.-Lagern

II/5

Form und Farbe der Kennzeichen

	Deutsche	Polen	Engländer	Frankreicher	Russen	Österreicher	Sowjetrussen
Rechteckige							
Rechteckige mit horizontaler Linie							
Rechteckige mit vertikaler Linie							
Quadrat							

Besondere Zeichen

			2051	
Polen	Russen	Polen	Österreicher	Polen

Rechteckige mit horizontaler Linie

Polen

Rechteckige mit vertikaler Linie

Polen

Rechteckige mit horizontaler Linie

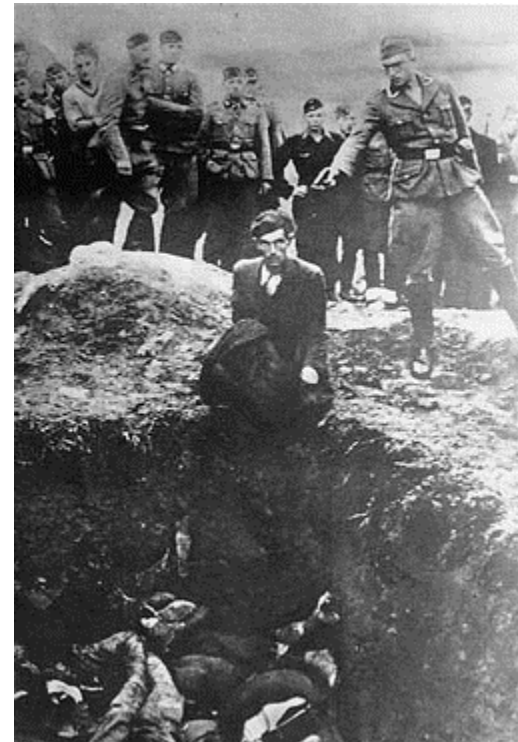
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Rechteckige mit vertikaler Linie

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Stage 4: Extermination

- [Einsatzgruppen](#) (mobile killing units) had began killing operations aimed at entire Jewish communities in the 1930s
- DEATH FACTORIES: Nazi extermination camps fulfilled the singular function of mass murder
- Euthanasia program: Nazi policy to eliminate “life unworthy of life” (mentally or physically challenged) to promote Aryan “racial integrity”



“FINAL SOLUTION”

- Wannsee Conference (Berlin -1942) established the “complete solution of the Jewish question”
- Called for the complete and mass annihilation and extermination of the Jews as well as other groups

**Zyklon B gas
became the agent
in the mass
extermination**



Gas Chambers & Crematoriums



- Prisoners were sent to gas chambers disguised as showers
- Zyklon B gas used to gas people in 3 – 15 minutes
- Up to 8000 people were gassed per day at Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest death camp with 4 operating gas chambers
- Gold fillings from victims teeth were melted down to make gold bards
- Prisoners moved dead bodies to massive crematoriums



Nearing the End of the War

By 1945, the Nazis' began to destroy crematoriums and camps as Allied troops closed in



- Death Marches (Todesmarsche): Between 1944-1945, Nazis ordered marches over long distances. Approximately 250 000 – 375 000 prisoners perished in Death Marches
- On January 27, 1945, the Soviet army entered Auschwitz (largest camp) and liberated more than 7,000 remaining prisoners, who were mostly ill and dying.



Footage after Liberation of Camps

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wu5PAIj5Ds>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDxX_OP0G1M