

THE HOLOCAUST

8th Grade Social Studies

HOLOCAUST DEFINED

- Systematic *murder* of 2/3 (about 6 million) of the Jewish population in Europe, including:
 - 3 million Polish Jews
 - 1 million Soviet Jews
 - 1.5 million in the Balkans (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) & Austria
 - Approx. 500,000 in Germany, the Benelux nations (Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg), France, & the Baltic states
- Other minority groups—persons of color, disabled & mentally ill, homosexuals, political opponents, ethnic Poles, Soviet POWs, and others=approx. 5 million

Country	Estimated pre-war Jewish population	Estimated killed	Percent killed
Poland	3.3 million	3 million	90%
Ukraine	1.5 million	900,000	60%
Hungary	650,000	450,000	70%
Romania	600,000	300,000	50%
Baltic States	253,000	228,000	90%
Germany & Austria	240,000	210,000	90%
Total (other countries not included)	8,861,800	5,933,900	67%

WHY?

MOST OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION COMES FROM THE BOOK "A HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST" WRITTEN BY RITA STEINHARDT BOTWINICK

A NEED TO UNDERSTAND PREJUDICE & PERSONALITY

- **Prejudice:** a stereotyped negative attitude toward a person or group; attitude unrelated to any factual info.
 - A **stereotype** is a widely held belief about a particular type of person or thing—can you think of one?
- A learned reaction, NOT instinct
- Acquired at a young age; instilled before the child is capable of thinking for themselves
- Tendency to cling to early theories even if harmful to ourselves or others; hard to change

A NEED TO UNDERSTAND PREJUDICE & PERSONALITY

- Personality & Prejudice
 - Misery loves company—“the bond of hatred is as strong as a bond of love”
 - Prejudiced people avoid facing the irrationality of their intolerance by stereotyping (i.e. there is a single characteristic that is often used to taint all people in that group)
 - Prejudice is not constant—ebbs and flows w/ economy
 - Things are good=little bias
 - Things are bad=extreme bias (i.e. Hitler blames Jews when Germany went through the Depression)
 - Bigots will always find a scapegoat; it's never their fault
 - Bad economy=individual suffering; makes it more “acceptable” for government sponsored or tolerated riots against Jews or other minority groups (due to irresponsible leaders)

HOW DOES ONE BECOME PREJUDICED?

- “In order to hate blindly, it is necessary to become blind.”—what do you think that means?
- Bigots will stifle impulses of compassion in order to maintain an illusion that they are better than everyone else
- “Stereotypes are handed down from one generation to the next like valued gifts.”

ROOTS OF ANTI-
SEMITISM

ROOTS OF ANTI-SEMITISM

- **Anti-semitism:** hatred toward Jewish people
- Begins nearly 2,000 years ago
 - Early Christians separate themselves from Jews because they denied that Jesus was the son of God
 - Lose national home in 70 AD; dispersed by the Romans
 - Dispersion continues until 1948 when Israel is established
 - Remain faithful to cultural & religious practices; alienate themselves from Europe & the West (creates more separation—Hitler born in European nation of Austria)
- Then in the late 19th and early 20th century, religious anti-semitism evolves into scientific anti-semitism
 - Scientific racism was used to try & prove Jews were inferior...more on this later

SO, HOW DOES HITLER
GET THIS WAY?

HITLER & ANTI-SEMITISM

- After defeat of Germany in WWI, Hitler becomes convinced that people in Germany (including Jews) had worked against the country strictly to benefit themselves
- Struggles through 1920s (Versailles Treaty) and 1930s (Depression) add fuel to the fire
- Hitler believes drastic action must occur to change the country

HITLER AND ANTI-SEMITISM

- Hangs out w/ anti-Semitic people who hate communism (remember misery loves company?)
- Tries to start a rebellion—ends up in jail for 9 months (5 yr. sentence)
- Writes *Mein Kampf* in prison



MEIN KAMPF

- Outlines Hitler's anti-semitic beliefs
- Ideas not new—Germans part of an “**Aryan** race” who needed more “lebensraum” (living space)
- Aryans superior to all others & would one day rule the world
- Jews were a separate race & couldn't be German
- Jews conspired against Aryans to rule the world for themselves
- Some important German communists were Jewish—>Jews created communism to destroy the Aryans—>destroy communism & the Jews



POLITICAL FORCES BEHIND HOLOCAUST

- Depression leads to Hitler's rise to power
- Hitler uses **propaganda** to sway public opinion
 - *Der Sturmer (The Attacker)* Nazi newspaper—bottom of each front page says “The Jews are our misfortune”
- Featured cartoons mocking Jews

Der Stürmer

Deutsches Wochenblatt zum Kampfe um die Wahrheit
HERAUSGEBER: JULIUS STREICHER

Nummer 41 11. Jahrgang 11. Oktober 1936 11. Jahrgang 11. Oktober 1936

Das Lügenmanöver

Hinter den Kulissen des Moskauer Prozesses

Unerschütterlich

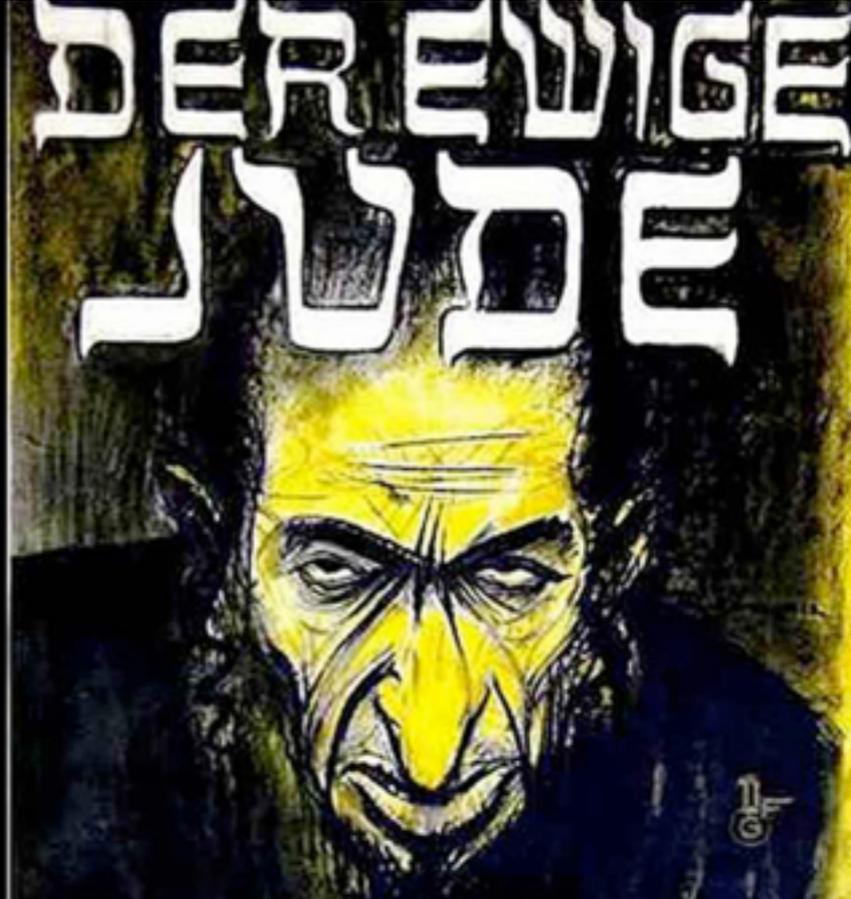


Was dem Inhalt
Die Hand dabei liegt immer auf dem
Tübinger Judenbühnen in Italien
Schweizer und Schweizer
Das hat der nicht verstanden
Die Hand und der Schweizer

Die Hand zu treiben liegt dem Juden fern
Die hat die ganze Welt zum Zeichen gern

Die Juden sind unser Unglück!

DER EWIGE JUDE



EIN DOKUMENTARFILM ÜBER DAS WELTJUDENTUM

Gestaltung: Fritz Hippler • Musik: Franz R. Friedl
Herstellung u. Vertrieb: Deutsche Filmherstellung u. Verwertungs-GmbH

NAZI PROPAGANDA

Left—Newspaper; Right—Movie

POLITICAL FORCES BEHIND HOLOCAUST

- Puts a police infrastructure in place to terrorize opponents—Storm Troopers, Gestapo, SS (Hitler's personal body guard)
- Opponents sent to concentration camps, beaten, or killed—now has total control

POLITICAL FORCES BEHIND HOLOCAUST

- Hitler desires to create Aryan race
- Jews corrupted pure German culture—“foreign” and “mongrel”
- Jews represented heavily in economic sector—
weakened Germans
- Even used evolutionary science to prove that Jews were racially inferior to Germans—called *eugenics* (accepted by some in Brazil, France, England, & USA)

NAZI PLAN FOR RACIAL PERFECTION

- Early on, Hitler was obsessed w/ race—spreads beliefs about “racial purity” & superiority of the “Aryan” (master) race
- Pronounces that the race must remain pure in order to take over the world
- The ideal Aryan—tall, blonde, blue-eyed

NAZI PLAN FOR RACIAL PERFECTION

- Hitler begins to limit reproduction of people considered to be inferior—forcibly sterilizes people so they cannot have children (passes “Law to Prevent Hereditarily Diseased Offspring” in July 1933)
- Targets—Roma (gypsies), handicapped people including people born as deaf or blind, and the mentally ill
- Nazi teachers in classrooms begin to apply concepts of racial science—measure skull size, nose length, and recorded students’ hair & eye color to decide if they belonged to the “true Aryan race”

HITLER'S VIEW ON DISABLED CHILDREN

- “The exposure of the sick, weak, deformed children, in short, their destruction, was more decent and in truth a thousand times more humane than the wretched insanity of our day which preserves the most pathological subject, and indeed at any price, and yet takes the life of a hundred thousand healthy children in consequence of birth control or through abortions, in order subsequently to breed a race of degenerates burdened with illnesses.”

MURDER OF THE HANDICAPPED

- Wartime was the “best time for the elimination of the incurably ill” (Hitler’s words)
- Mentally ill or physically handicapped eligible for the “T-4 Program” (euthanasia)
- German doctors cooperatively review medical files of patients to determine who should be killed
- Sent to one of six institutions in Germany or Austria; killed in gas chambers & then burned in crematorium
- Handicapped children & infants killed by injection or by starvation
- Becomes the model for how to kill Jews later in the war



A euthanasia killing center in
Austria (Hartheim castle)

POLITICAL FORCES BEHIND HOLOCAUST

- Jews eventually isolated from society
 - Removed from jobs & public schools
 - Burned books written by Jews
 - Confiscating businesses and property
- 1935 Nuremberg Laws (2 mandates)
 - “Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor”—forbade marriage between Jews & Germans
 - “Reich Citizenship Law”—only people of German or related blood were eligible for citizenship

KRISTALLNACHT: NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS

- 17 yr. old Hershel Grynszpan shoots German diplomat Ernst vom Rath in Paris
- Nazis react violently—loot and destroy Jewish homes & businesses; burned synagogues
- 30,000 Jews arrested and sent to concentration camps



Hershel Grynszpan

CONFINEMENT TO GHETTOS

- Ghettos established shortly after war begins
- Jews forcibly removed from homes
- Lacked necessary amounts of food, water, and living space
- Many died from deprivation & starvation
- High concentration in ghettos aids in later deportation



bildarchiv preussischer kulturbesitz



FINAL SOLUTION

- Begins after Nazis invade Soviet Union
- Four groups called the *Einsatzgruppen (A,B,C,D)* rounded up Jews, marched them out of villages, stripped them, lined them up, and shot them into pits previously dug
- Babi Yar Massacre: 30,000-35,000 killed in 2 days
- By end of 1942, estimated 1.3 million killed



FINAL SOLUTION



- *Wannsee Conference* in January 1942 officially begins full-scale killings
- 6 killing centers (death camps) established by spring of 1942 (most infamous being Auschwitz)
- Located near railroads to make transportation efficient
- Other camps existed to support death camps—slave labor camps, transit camps—transferred here first (or to ghetto) and then went to death camp
- Jews forced to wear badges

WHAT DID WE KNOW ABOUT HITLER DURING WWII?

*Here's an article that gives amazing insight: [http://
www.thejournal.ie/hitler-report-1943-intelligence-2008960-Mar2015/](http://www.thejournal.ie/hitler-report-1943-intelligence-2008960-Mar2015/)*

ACCORDING TO HARVARD PSYCHOLOGIST HENRY MURRAY...

- Murray commissioned to study Hitler's personality to predict his behavior by the Office of Strategic Services (precursor to CIA); he discovered...
 - That Hitler felt obligated to exert his dominance over all things
 - That much of his wrath comes from a severe Oedipus Complex—love of mother; hate of father
 - That Hitler frequently felt emasculated
 - That Hitler suffered from indecisiveness and collapsed under pressure
 - That he felt ashamed of mixed heritage
 - Hitler focused his hatred on Jews because they were an easy target
 - That Hitler had a “hypnotic” presence over the people he spoke with