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Table of Contents

- Look at progression from the prejudice of Anti-Semitism to the concentration camps.
- Just as God and His Kingdom have strategies, so evil and the evil one also have a strategies.

2

Nature of Evil

"Evil preaches tolerance until it is dominant, then it tries to silence good".

~Archbishop Charles Chaput

3

Nature of Evil

Phase I

When an ideology is in the minority or is still weak, it advocates for tolerance, demanding acceptance from a society that may hold different values. It uses the language of pluralism to protect itself while it grows.

Phase II

Once the ideology becomes dominant, its need for tolerance vanishes. Instead, it seeks to silence and suppress competing or dissenting viewpoints, particularly those it considers "good" or virtuous.

4

Sign of God's Covenant

- They are Israelites; theirs the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises;
- theirs the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, is the Messiah. God who is over all be blessed forever. Amen. (Romans 9:4-5)



5

Sign of God's Covenant

- The Jewish people are a sacramental sign that God exists and acts in history. They have a special relationship with God based on the covenant made with Abraham, Moses, and King David.
- Their existence is a reminder that God alone is God, and we are not. *"Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone!"* (Dt. 6:4).



6

Sign of God's Covenant

- Collectively as a covenant people, they are a reminder that we are called to worship and serve the Lord God alone, and not any aspect of creation – money, power, pleasure, honor, or any ideology (Fascism, Communism, etc.).
- For those who reject God, or who have made a god out of their ideology, the Jews afflict their conscience. Their presence reminds the world that God alone is God and His plan of salvation will prevail over all false ideologies.



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Sign of God's Covenant

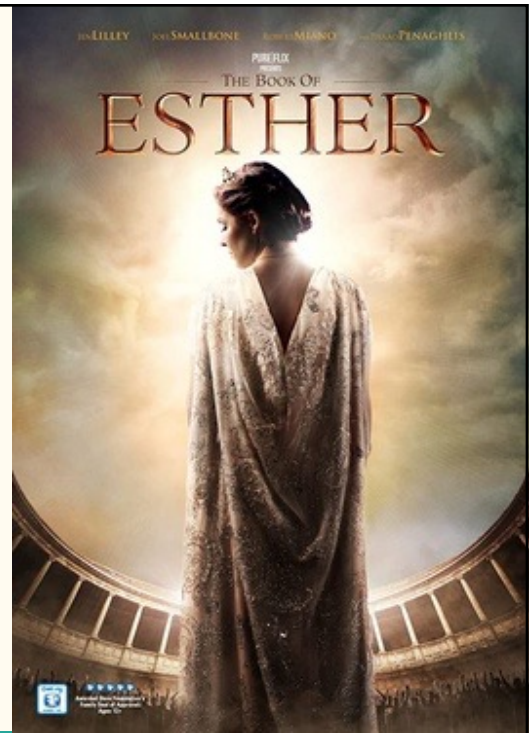
- The historical and current animosity against the Jews is a sign of spiritual warfare.
- Given that Jews are central in God's redemptive plan of salvation, Satan's ongoing effort to destroy the Jewish people is a plot against God Himself.



8

Book of Esther

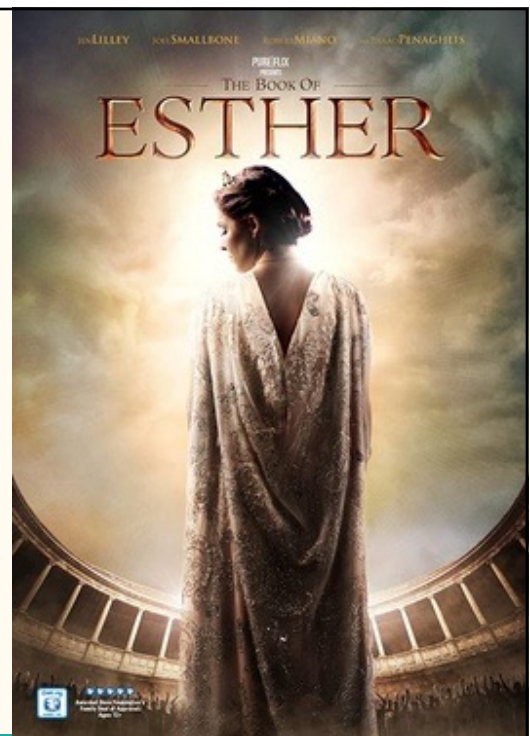
- Takes place in the 5th century B.C. (483 – 473).
- Events unfold in the Persian capital of Susa during the Babylonian exile, when many of the Jews lived throughout the Babylonian Empire.
- King Ahasuerus' minister, Haman, plots to destroy all the Jews in the Persian Empire after the Jewish man Mordecai refused to bow to him.



9

Book of Esther

- Queen Esther risks her life with the king, asking him to spare both her and her people from Haman's plot.
- Haman's plan to destroy all the Jews backfired, leading to his own downfall (hanging) and the salvation of the Jewish people.
- The Book of Esther reveals how God's providence prevents the total annihilation of His covenant people.



10

Jewish Sufferings

- In 1933 there were 9.8 million European Jews or 1.7% of total population. In 1945, there were 3.8 million European Jews. Six million were exterminated.
- The Nazis' antisemitic ideology was the primary motivation, leading to the persecution and mass murder of Jews and other targeted groups, including Roma, Poles, people with mental and physical disabilities, homosexuals, Catholic priests, and Soviet prisoners of war.



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Jewish Sufferings

- Slavs and Soviet soldiers were also viewed as subhuman. About 3.3 million Soviet Soldiers died in captivity from 1941 to 1945, primarily from disease and starvation.
- **Ideology has consequences.** It allows any number of eggs to be broken (human deaths) to make the utopian omelet. Nazi ideology broke *a lot* of eggs for the pure "Aryan master race."



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Antisemitism

- Antisemitism: Prejudice or hatred of the Jews.
- It's been around for well over 2,000 years.
- It is difficult to define the historical hatred for Jews as it expresses itself in such contradictory ways.



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Antisemitism

Hatred for the Jews

Hated because they were poor	Hated because they were rich
Hated because they kept to themselves in their communities	Hated because they infiltrated culture, business, and education
Hated because they clung to their ancient religious beliefs	Hated because they were cosmopolitans who believed in nothing
Right: Hated because they were not seen as part of the social fabric – contra the racial and biological unity of a nation.	Left: Hated because they were capitalists and therefore oppressors of the poor.

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Antisemitism

Antisemitism is akin to a virus that has survived for thousands of years by mutating.

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Antisemitism

Hatred for the Jews

Middle Ages: Jews heavily persecuted because of their religion.

They faced legal restrictions, social segregation, scapegoating, and even expulsions from countries.

- England in 1290
- France in 1306
- Switzerland in 1348
- Germany in 1394.

19th and 20th Centuries: Jews were reviled because of their race. It was a problem not so much of religion, but of biology.

Jews were viewed as an inferior race, regardless of their religious beliefs or attempts to assimilate. Problem of existence, not belief.

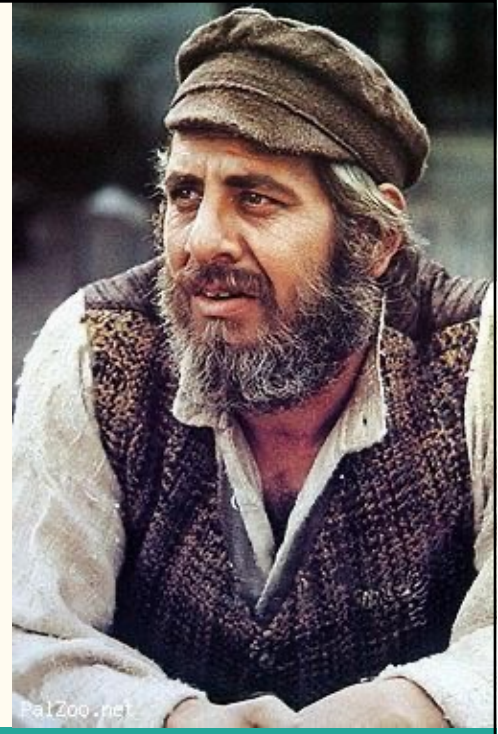
The phrase, *Jud bleibt Jud*, a Jew remains a Jew summarizes their inability to assimilate into a culture or convert to Christianity.

16

Fiddler on the Roof

Tevye: "I know, I know. We are Your chosen people.

But, once in a while, can't You choose someone else?"



17

Nazi Ideology

- Superior races had not just the right but the obligation to subdue and even exterminate inferior ones.
- Social Darwinism is the idea that the evolutionary process (the survival of the fittest) in natural history (or biology) have parallels in social history, that their same rules should apply.



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Nazi Ideology

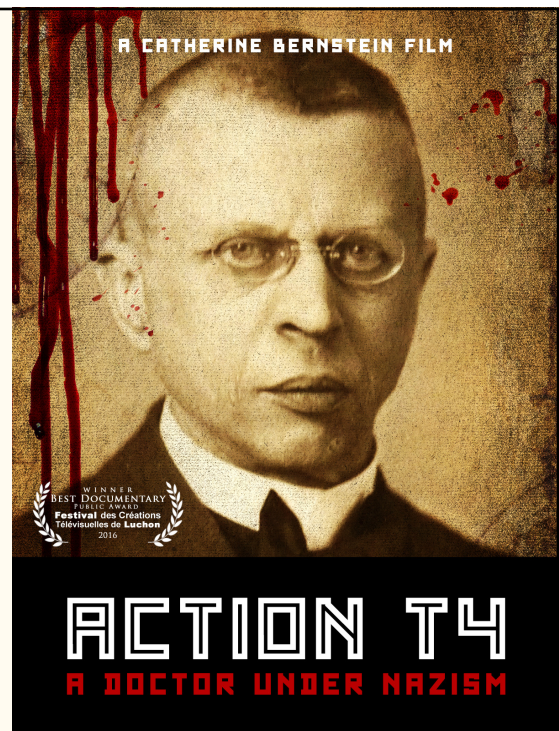
- A new science, Eugenics, aimed at improving the human race by ridding society of its “undesirables.” “Unfit” individuals should be prevented from having children (forced sterilization).
- The Nazis put Social Darwinism in action in the 1930s and 1940s with their genocidal policies.



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Nazi Ideology

- For example, they created programs such as the 'Aktion T4' (1939 – August 1941), which was framed as a euthanasia program.
- Physicians in the study of eugenics had a mandate to kill anyone deemed to have a 'life unworthy of living.' The program led to 'involuntary euthanasia' – killing – of hundreds of thousands of mentally ill, elderly and disabled people.
 - The 'Aktion T4' program of transporting the handicapped to be killed was a precursor to the concentration and extermination camps.



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Aktion T4



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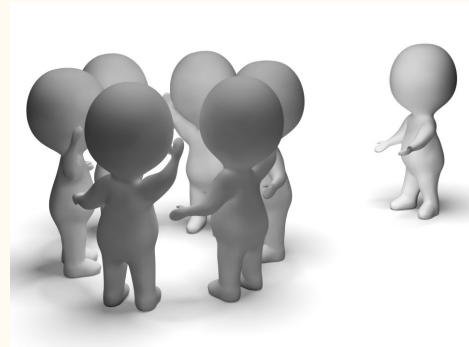
From Ideology to Camps

Stages to Camps	
Shape Public Belief - Scapegoating	Hide Intentions (1936 Olympics)
Use of Symbols and Slogans to Unite	Use Propaganda
Incite Fear	Use Violence (<i>Kristallnacht</i>)
Boycott Jewish Businesses	Visibly Stigmatize (Jewish Star)
Use the Legal System	Physically Segregate (Jewish Ghettos)
Final Solution: The total extermination of Europe's Jews.	

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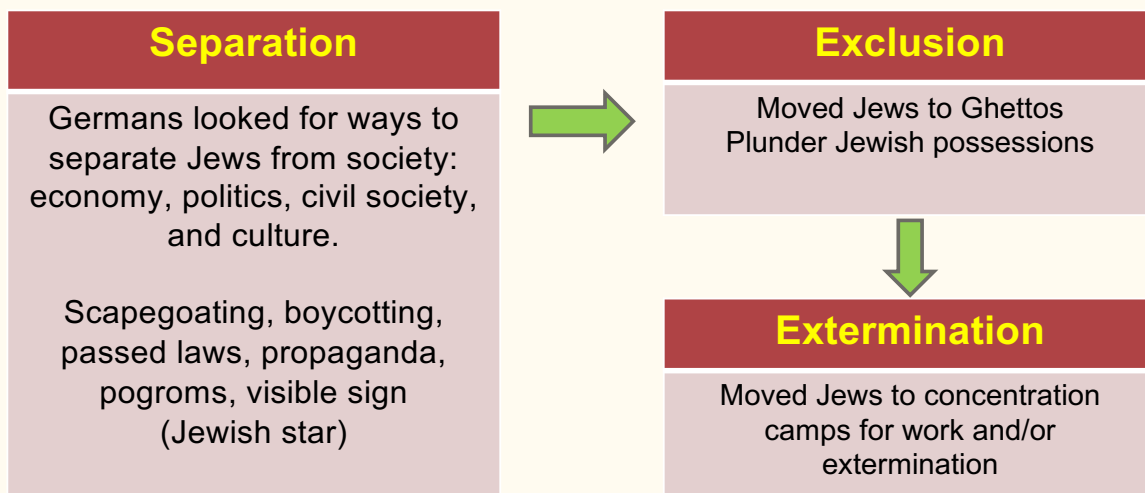
Steps to Concentration Camps

- Goal is to present an ingroup or an ideal group and an outside group (subhuman, dangerous) wherein the former are held up as beautiful, noble, good, and orderly, while the latter are isolated, demonized, and presented as dangerous.
- Rhetoric, scapegoating, the legal system, and propaganda will serve to create an inside and outside group.

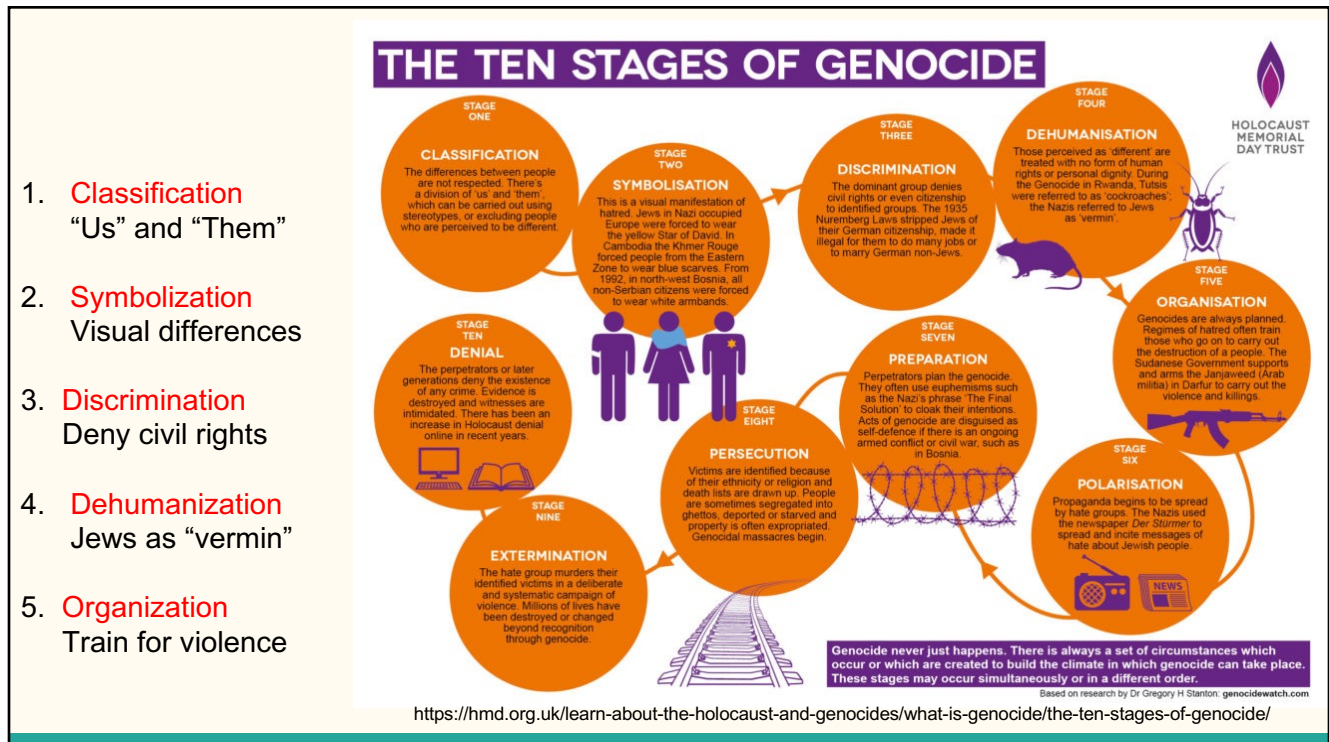


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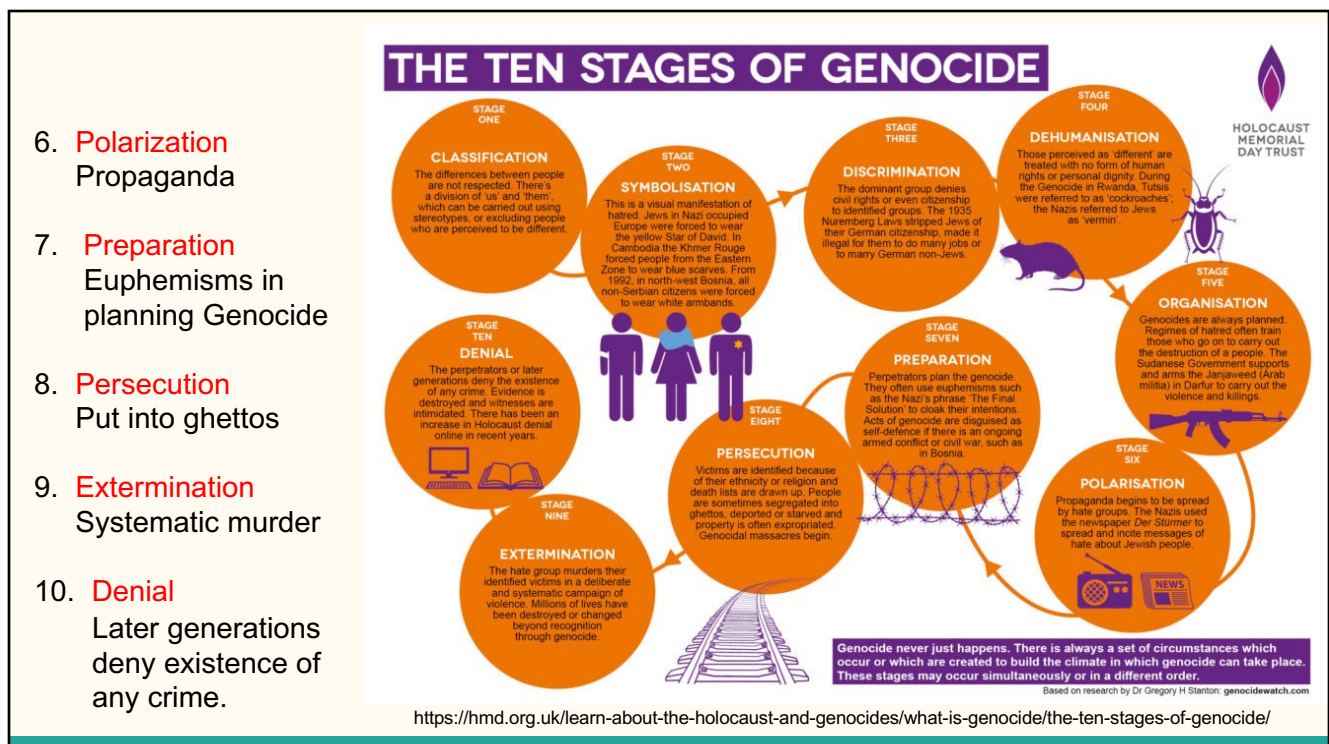
Steps to Concentration Camps



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Scapegoating

- When bad things happen to a group, its members can ask one of two questions:
 1. What did we do wrong?
 2. Who did this to us?
- The entire fate of the group depends on which of the two questions it asks. The first question heals the heart. The second defines itself as a victim.



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Scapegoating

- Historically, Jews were the most conspicuous non-Christian group in Europe. Today, the country of Israel is the conspicuous non-Muslim country in the middle east.
- Antisemitism is the world's warning that freedom, human dignity, and tolerance of differences are being threatened. It may begin with the Jews, but it won't stop there.



28

Scapegoating

- Antisemitism is a litmus test for the health of a society.
- When society is healthy, antisemitism remains low. When society becomes unhealthy, like a virus, antisemitism rises and begins attacking.
- **Note:** As antisemitism increases during unhealthy times, extreme politics groups tend to do better.



29

Use of Symbols

- **Swastika:** Splashed everywhere to promote political allegiance, nationalism, and Nazi ideology.
 - **Red:** Social dimension
 - **White Circle:** Nationalism
 - **Swastika:** Arianism
- Hitler designed the symbol in 1920. It became part of everyday life and a powerful political tool.



30

Use of Slogans

- "The Jews are our misfortune" – asserting Jews cause of problems.
- "Jews are parasites and vermin" – disease on the people and be killed.
- "The Jew is cheat" – discredit buying from Jewish businesses.
- Behind the enemy powers: the Jew" – proposed Jews with Allied powers.



31

Use of Slogans

- "The Jewish plot against Europe" – orchestrating with Germany's enemies
- "No Jew can be a citizen" – Part of the Nazi Party Platform in 1920.
- "Jews are therefore not welcome" – Signs were posted outside German towns.



32

Inciting Fear

- In 1933, Jews were a tiny minority in Germany – less than 1% of the population (525,000 to 565,000).
- With the Nazi takeover, some Jews began to emigrate such that by June 1933, there are about 505,000 Jews.
- In 1933, 70% of Jews lived in urban areas, mostly in Berlin, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Breslau, Leipzig, and Cologne.



33

Inciting Fear

- While Jews were a tiny minority, they were overrepresented in certain professions like law, medicine, journalism, and retailing.
 - In 1930, 50% of private banks were Jewish owned.
 - In 1930s, Jewish doctors made up about 16% of all doctors.
 - Jewish doctors held nearly 40% of the medical positions by 1933.



34

Inciting Fear

- Jewish overrepresentation in Germany in 1930s:
 - In 1933, Jewish students were 3.5% of all German university students
 - In the 1930s, Jews made up between 25% - 30% of the legal profession in Germany.
 - In Berlin, nearly half of lawyers were Jewish.



35

Inciting Fear

- Jewish overrepresentation in Germany in 1930s:
 - Jews owned over 100,000 businesses across various sectors, including retail stores, factories, professional offices, and large corporations in Germany.
 - By 1938, Jewish-owned stores had fallen by 80% to only 9,000. The draconian Nazi measures were determinantal to Jewish businesses.



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Jewish Boycott

- On April 1, 1933, Germans boycotted Jewish businesses such as shops, warehouses, banks, and doctor's offices, and law firms.
- This initial boycott was led by the Nazi Party and involved SA paramilitaries placing signs outside Jewish-owned stores and professional offices to deter customers.



37

Jewish Boycott

- Nazi SA paramilitaries held signs outside Jewish-owned businesses that read, "Germans! Defend yourselves! Don't buy from the Jews."
- The boycott was largely unsuccessful as it took place on a single Saturday and Jewish businesses were closed on the Sabbath.
- The Nazis placed economic pressure on Jewish businesses throughout the Nazi era as a way to economically isolate and damage Jewish-owned enterprises.



38

Jewish Boycott

- The single-day boycott was a precursor to further, more systematic persecution.
- Throughout 1933 and 1934, Jewish businesses were denied access to markets and government contracts and were forbidden to advertise.
- **Note:** Outside the town of Dachau, the SS established its first concentration camp to incarcerate political opponents.



39

Nazi Suppression

Nazi Dismantling of Democracy

One-party State: All other parties were banned	Censorship: The Nazis controlled news, radio, and films; burned "un-German" books.
Consolidate Power: Passed laws to grant government authority without submitting laws to the Reichstag – dismantling democracy.	Propaganda: Nazis used mass communication techniques – posters, films, rallies, to spread their ideologies and gain public support.
Suppress Opposition: Political opponents were arrested.	Antisemitic legislation: Nazis used the legal system to exclude Jews from public life
Establishment of Police State: Freedom of the press, speech, and assembly were abolished, and a state of emergency was declared.	System of Camps: Nazis began establishing numerous camps, for various purposes as forced labor, detention, and mass murder.

40

Nazi Book Burning (1933)

"Where they have burned books, they will end in burning human beings."

~German-Jewish Poet
Heinrich Heine



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Antisemitic Legislation

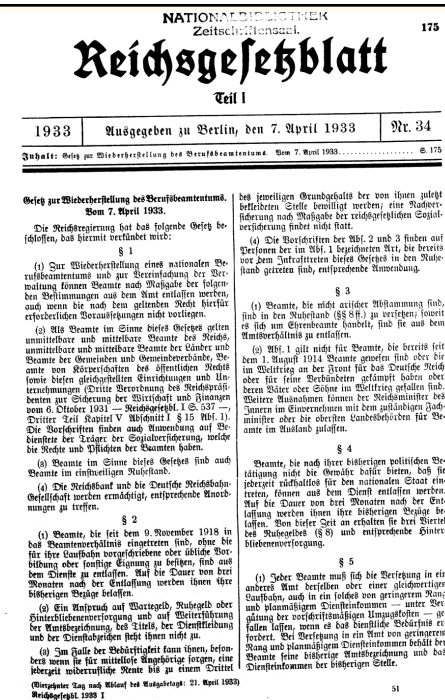
- Along with economic pressure, the Nazis use the legal system to segregate the Jews from "Aryan" society and to abrogate their political, legal, and civil rights.
- From 1933 to 1939, the Nazis established more than 400 decrees and regulations that restricted all aspects of Jewish public and private lives. No corner of German was left untouched.



42

Antisemitic Legislation

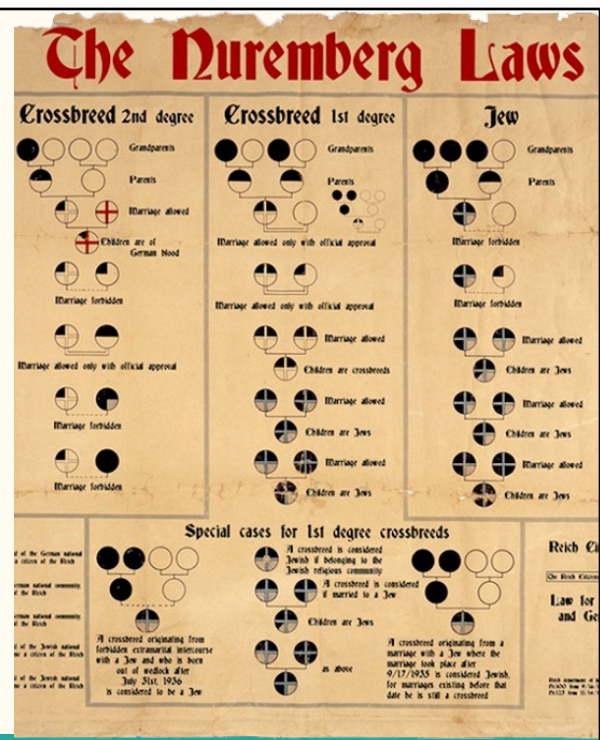
- First major law aimed to curtail the rights of Jewish citizens was meant to curtail Jews and the "politically unreliable" from civil service.
- **Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service:** A regulation to exclude Jews from government employment, and professions like law, medicine, and journalism. This law became the foundation of the Nuremberg Race Law of 1935.



43

Nuremberg Race Laws

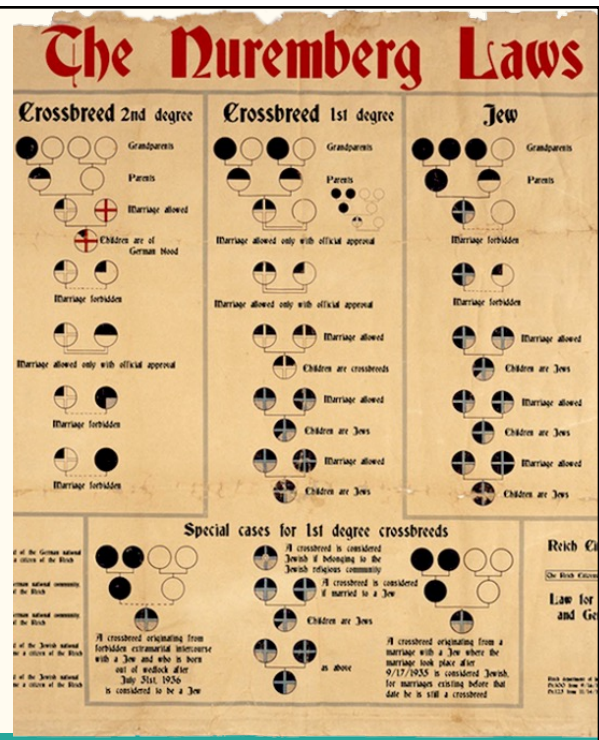
- The Nuremberg race laws (1935) institutionalized racism, criminalized intermarriage and relegated Jews to second class citizenship.
- **Note:** Law has a pedagogical function. In this case, it facilitated false ideas about German race into law, e.g., Jews are a separate and inferior race.



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The Reich Citizenship Law

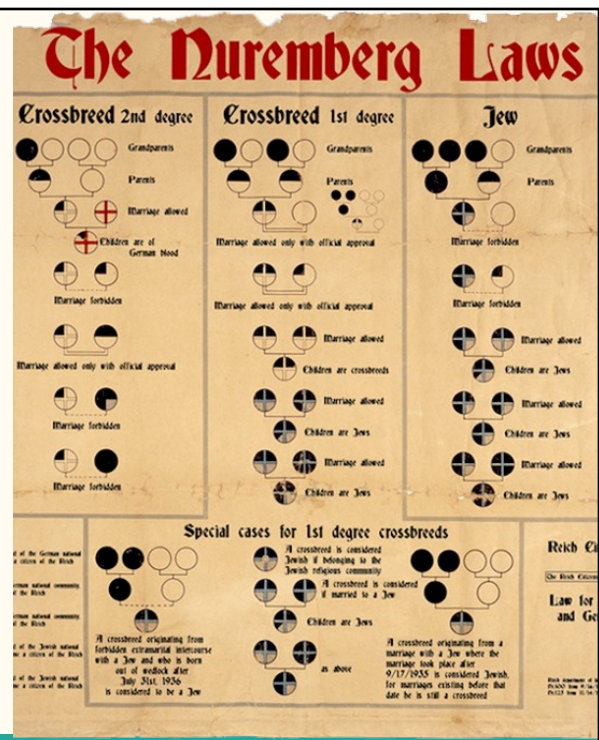
- Redefined citizenship in the Third Reich. The law defined a citizen as a person who is "of German or related blood could be Reich citizens."
- Jews are defined as a separate race and could not be full citizens of Germany.
- They had no political rights and became stateless in their own country.



45

The Reich Citizenship Law

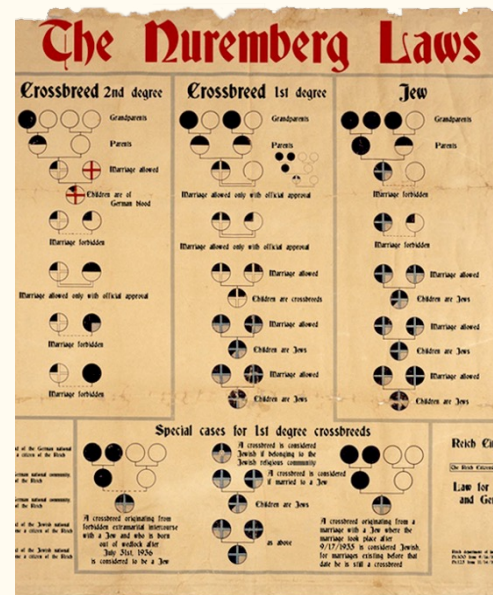
- Naturally, the question arose of how to define what it means to be Jew?
- A person with three or four Jewish grandparents was a Jew. A grandparent was considered Jewish if belonged to a religious community.
- The Nazis required individuals to prove their grandparents' racial identities via religious records.



46

The Reich Citizenship Law

- Along with Jews, the Nazis created two other categories of mixed Jewish and German heritage known as *Mischlinge* ("mixed breeds").
- First Degree:** Those with two Jewish grandparents not belonging to a religious community, not married to a Jew, or not born from a marriage with a Jew after the laws passed in 1935.
- Second Degree:** Anyone with one Jewish grandparent.



47

The Reich Citizenship Law

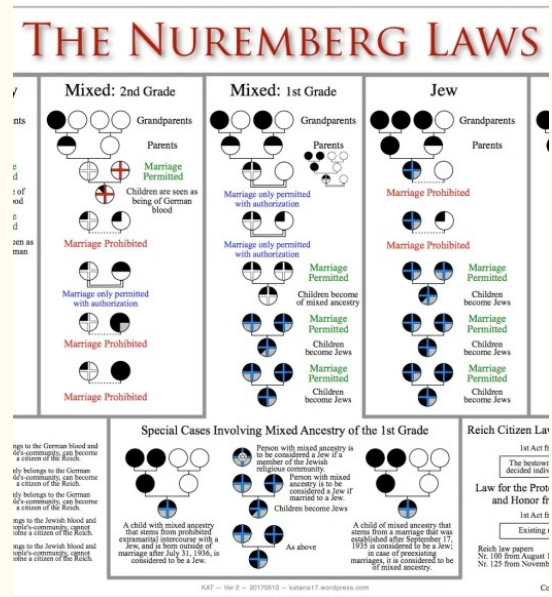
- First-degree Mischlinge:** Stripped of Reich citizenship and could not hold public office or vote. They were restricted in marriage choices and faced limitations in higher education and most professions.
- Second-degree Mischlinge:** They were permitted to marry German-blooded citizens, though this was discouraged. Additionally, many public-sphere jobs were inaccessible to them.
- The fate of *Mischlinge* was debated at the Wannsee Conference among the highest Nazi officials.



48

Law of Protection German Blood and Honor

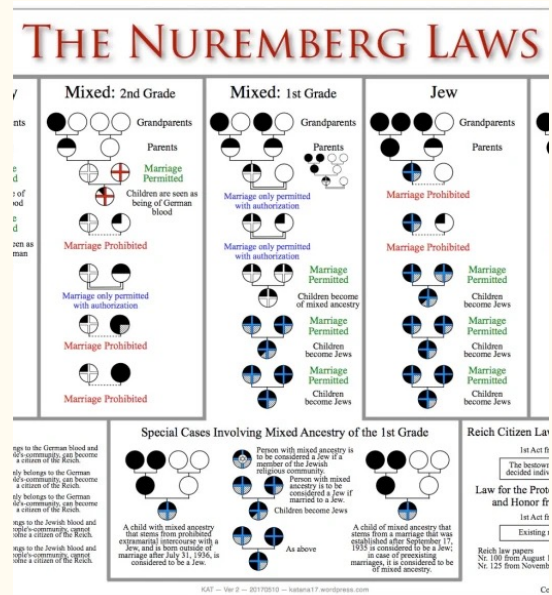
- This law banned marriages and sexual relations between Jews and Aryans.
- The goal was to preserve the contamination of the Aryan race and prevent "race mixing."
- This law also declared marriages between Jews and non-Jews void.



49

Law of Protection German Blood and Honor

- The children born of these ethnically mixed marriages undermined the purity and survival of the German race. Those violating the law could be punished with prison time.
- This law also forbade Jews from employing German women under the age 45 in their households.



50

Impact of the Nuremburg Laws

- These laws had a devastating effect on Jews in Germany after 1935.
 - **Professionally**: Jewish professionals, doctors, lawyers, teachers, were no longer allowed to practice their professions, and Jewish businesses were boycotted or forcibly taken over by Aryans.
 - Jewish children were expelled from public schools, and Jewish families found themselves increasingly isolated, their social networks and support systems eroding under the weight of state sanctioned discrimination.

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Impact of the Nuremburg Laws

- These laws had a devastating effect on Jews in Germany after 1935.
 - **Economically**: Jewish businesses were Aryanized or forcibly transferred to non-Jewish Germans, often at fraction of their value.
 - This expropriation of Jewish wealth was a key component of the Nazi strategy to finance their war machine and impoverish the Jews.

52

Impact of the Nuremburg Laws

- These laws had a devastating effect on Jews in Germany after 1935.
 - **Psychologically**: Jews who had been integral members of German society for centuries were now treated as pariahs, their rights and identities systematically stripped away.
 - **Religious**: Jewish traditions, religious practices and community life were severely disrupted. Jewish synagogues were desecrated. Jewish schools were closed, and Jewish institutions were dismantled.
 - These laws destroyed the fabric of Jewish life in Germany and tried to erase Jewish culture from the German landscape.

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Indifference to Evil

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

~Often attributed to the 18th century philosopher
Edmund Burke

54

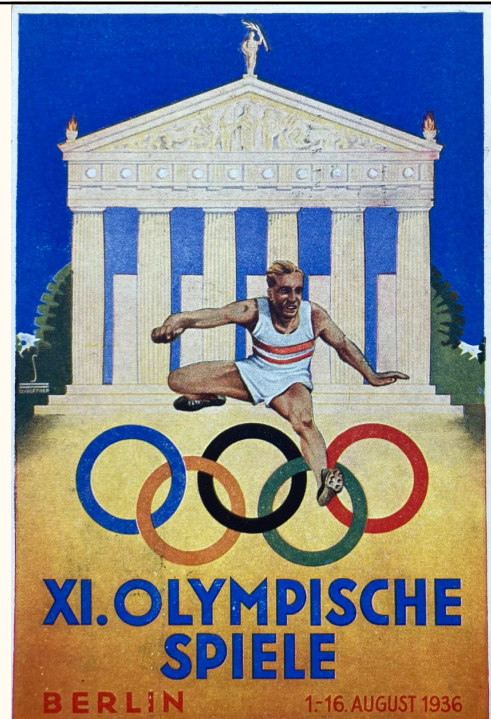
Global Reaction

- There was little action from the global community from German's Nuremberg Race Laws. In general, global reaction was largely muted as it many nations were dealing with their own economic crises and xenophobic sentiments.
- Some nations even admired the Nazis for restoring order and stability to Germany, despite the brutal methods that they employed. The apathy or outright complicity of other nations allowed the Nazis to escalate their anti-Semitic policies throughout the late 1930s and into the Holocaust.

55

The 1936 Berlin Olympics

- The 1936 Olympic Games were fraught with controversy. Berlin was chosen as the site for the Olympics before the Nazi party had risen to power.
- The Nazi's persecution of Jews sparked a widespread movement in the U.S. to boycott the Olympics, which included American athletes who decided to boycott the Olympics.



56

The 1936 Berlin Olympics

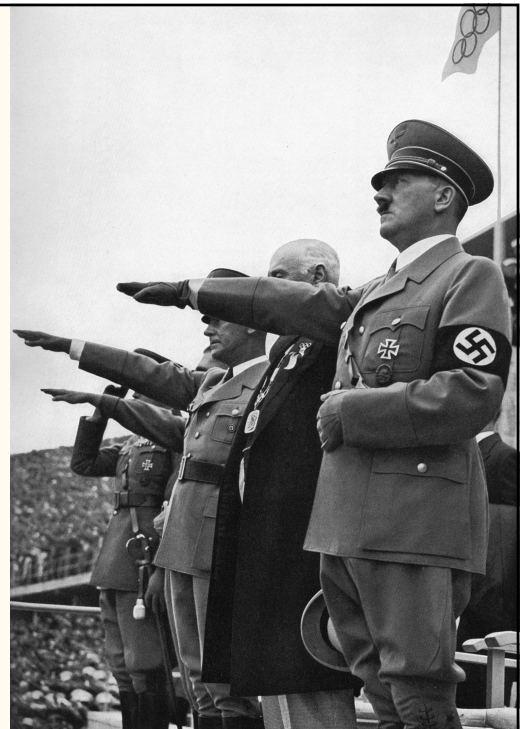
- To create a positive image for foreign visitors, the Nazis temporarily concealed their antisemitic policies by removing signs and softening public rhetoric.
- Jewish athletes were barred from participating on the German team, although some Jewish athletes from other countries reportedly participated to avoid offending the Nazis.



57

The 1936 Berlin Olympics

- The goal was to lay low by hiding propaganda and antisemitic policies and present an image of peaceful, tolerant Germany to the world during the 1936 Olympics.
 - **Removed anti-Jewish signs:** Public displays of antisemitism (e.g., Jews Not Welcome) were eliminated. Signs such as Jews barred from public spaces, parks and swimming pools were temporarily taken down for the duration of the games.



58

The 1936 Berlin Olympics

- **Restrained anti-Jewish activity:** The fiercely antisemitic newspaper *Der Stürmer*, was pulled from public newsstands, and anti-Jewish activities were toned down in line with directives from Goebbels's Propaganda Ministry.



59

The 1936 Berlin Olympics

- **Used pageantry and symbols:** Lavish opening ceremonies, elaborate new facilities, and the creation of the first-ever Olympic torch relay were used to link Nazi Germany to the glory of ancient Greece and project an image of power and progress.



60

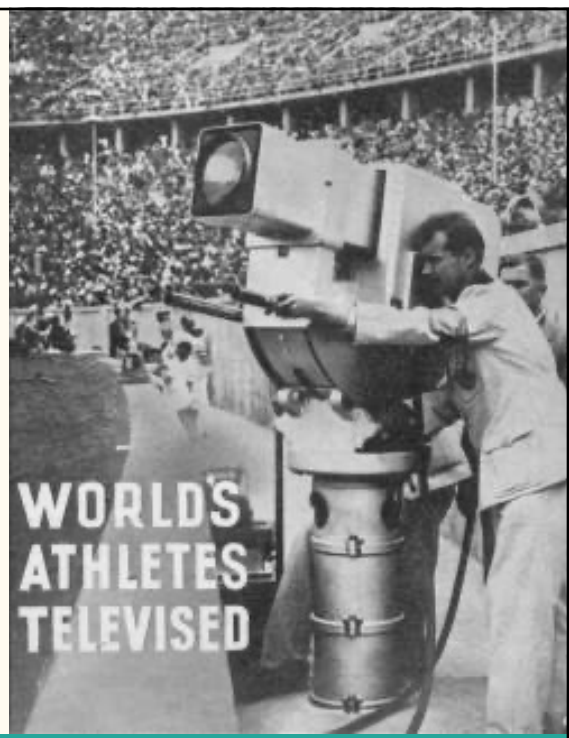


61

The 1936 Berlin Olympics

Hitler's international coup: The 1936 Berlin games were the first to be televised, broadcasting a curated image of the Nazi regime to a wider audience than ever before.

With 49 nations sending teams, the international community inadvertently legitimized the Nazi regime in the eyes of the world. The positive coverage by many journalists helped repair Germany's reputation after World War I.



62

1936 Olympics Aftermath

Accelerated persecution after the games: The brief "respite" for Jewish people ended abruptly after the Olympics were over.

The Nazis resumed and accelerated their persecution of Jews and other "enemies of the state" shortly after the 1936 Olympics were over.



63

The Shrewdness of Evil

God is not the only one who is patient. The Evil One, too, shrewdly waits for the right moment to wreak havoc on lives, e.g., the serpent was patient when tempting Adam and Eve.

64

Nazi Propaganda

- Following the Nazi seizure of power in 1933, Hitler established a **Reich Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda** headed by Joseph Goebbels.
- Nazi Propaganda was designed to engage emotions, not critical thinking and reason. Goebbels was a master manipulator.



65

Nazi Propaganda

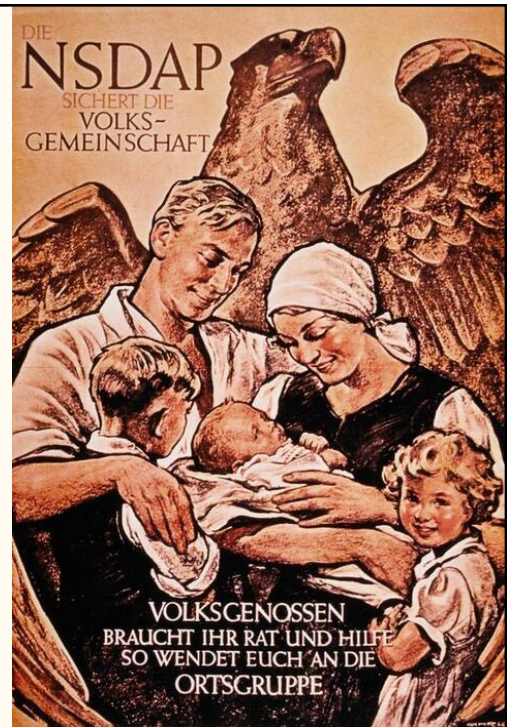
- Joseph Goebbels helped develop Hitler's tactics how to give persuasive speeches.
- **Goebbels**: "My Fuhrer, we must appeal to people's emotions, not their intellect because people are driven by their emotion and not logic, translate their complex ideas into simple words and use your body language."



66

Nazi Propaganda

- **Goal:** Infiltrate the Nazi message (or ideology) throughout all of culture via art, music, theater, films, books, radio, educational materials, and the press to shape the minds of millions of Germans and win their hearts.
- The Nazis presented a visually appealing vision of a new world order, a prosperous “racially pure” Germany dominating Europe.



67

Nazi Propaganda

Hold Up the Ideal

Nazi Germans are presented as beautiful, happy, youthful, orderly, and appealing for emotional appeal.

“I want to be like that!”

Demonize the Scapegoat

Jews are presented as dishonest, dirty, scheming, and detestable greedy Capitalists or subversive Communists.

“Ewe, they’re terrible!”

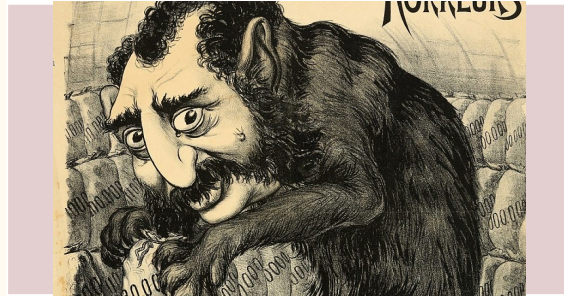
68

Nazi Propaganda

Hold Up the Ideal



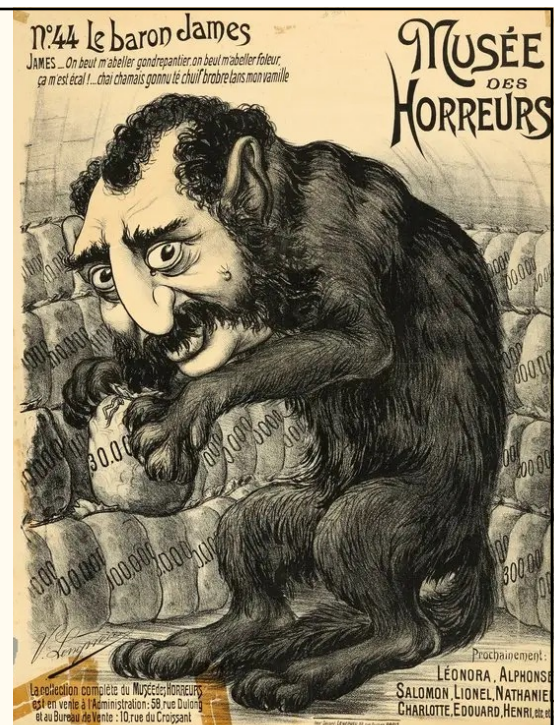
Demonize the Scapegoat



69

Nazi Propaganda

- **Rats:** Nazi propaganda presented Jews as rats to suggest that they were carriers of diseases, money-mad bits devoid of higher values, and corruptors of the world.
- It is ironic that the Nazis used Zyklon B to exterminate the Jews in the concentration camps as this was a common poison used to kill vermin.



70

Nazi Propaganda

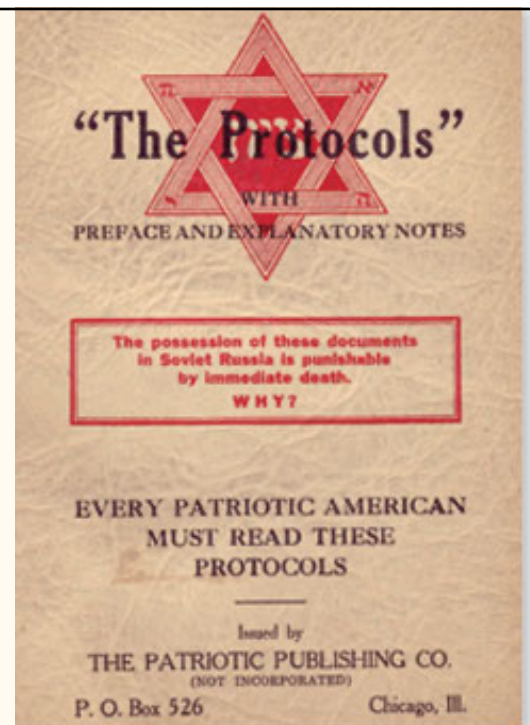
- **Power:** The Nazis proposed fraudulent theories about an international Jewish conspiracy to take over the world, including controlling government, world events, and the entire media.
- This conspiracy puts forth that Jews were trying to destroy other world religions and promote wars for their own personal benefit.



71

Nazi Propaganda

- **Power:** A book called, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, promoted the Jewish International Conspiracy in 1903. It was translated into many languages and circulated worldwide.
- The book contained the most widespread antisemitic publication of modern times. The Nazis used the book to spread hatred of the Jews.



72

Nazi Propaganda

- **Disloyalty:** An Austrian post card from 1919 showing a caricatured Jew backstabbing a German soldier; Alfred Dreyfus
- **Deicide:** The Jews collectively murdered Jesus. "Whenever you see a crucifix, think of a horrible murder of Jesus by the Jews."



73

Nazi Propaganda

Blood libel myths: Jews were accused of murdering Christian children to use their blood in religious ceremonies.

Greed: The Nazis portrayed Jews as greedy and materialistic. The film, *The Eternal Jew* (1940), described Jews as wandering cultural parasites consumed by greed for money.



74

Nazi Propaganda

- **Film:** Nazi films portrayed Jews as "subhuman" creatures infiltrating Aryan society.
- During World War II, Nazi films depicted the life of the Jewish people being resettled "to the East" for "labor." They painted a picture of happy families in communities who were learning and working together.



75

Nazi Propaganda

- **Film:** Newspapers in Germany, above all *Der Stürmer* (The Attacker), printed cartoons that used antisemitic caricatures to depict Jews.
- A German newspaper depicted Jews of being subhuman and enemies of the Third Reich after Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939 (Holocaust Encyclopedia).



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Nazi Propaganda

- **Radio:** The radio became a worldwide phenomenon in the 1920s. People could listen to the news and entertainment in their homes.
- The Nazis commissioned a low-cost radio called the "people's receiver" to allow millions of Germans to buy radios and listen from their homes.



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Nazi Propaganda

Before Nuremberg Race Laws

The Nazis created an atmosphere tolerant of violence against the Jews.

After Invasion of Russia

Linked Soviet Communism with European Jewry. Germany was the defender of Western culture against the the "Judeo-Bolshevik threat," painting an apocalyptic picture if the Soviets won the war.

78

Kristallnacht

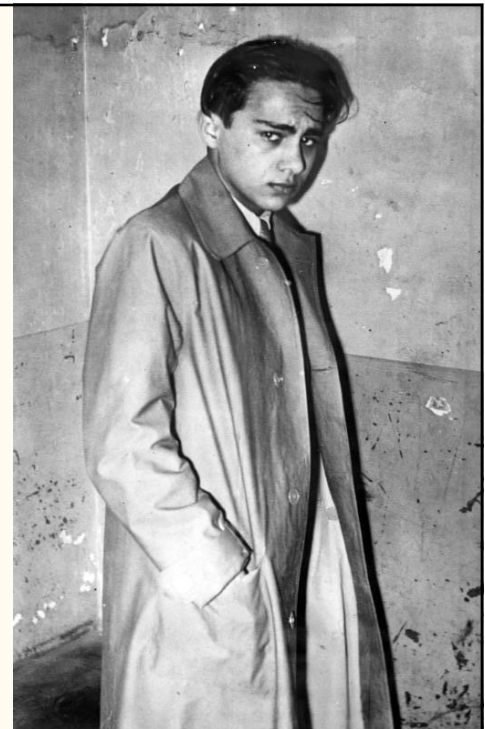
- Kristallnacht, also known as the “Night of Broken Glass,” was a violent, antisemitic pogrom that took place throughout Nazi Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland on November 8-9, 1938.
- It was the first display of mass violence against the Jews since the humiliations and boycott of 1933. It was a break with “rational” antisemitism that the Nazis had followed.



79

Kristallnacht

- The immediate pretext for the pogrom was the assassination of German diplomat Ernst vom Rath in Paris on November 7, 1938, by Herschel Grynszpan, a 17-year-old Polish Jewish student.
- Grynszpan sought revenge for the Nazis' recent deportation of his family and other Polish Jews from Germany.



80

Kristallnacht

- The pogrom was not a spontaneous outrage but rather was state-sponsored vandalism and arson. Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels and other top Nazis actively coordinated the riot with the support of Nazi leader Adolf Hitler.
- Nazi officials, members of the paramilitary, SA and SS, Hitler Youth, and civilians sometimes joined the pogrom.



81

Kristallnacht

- **Synagogues:** More than 1,500 synagogues were vandalized or burned to the ground.
- Firefighters were ordered to let the synagogues burn, but to prevent flames from spreading to nearby non-Jewish properties.



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Kristallnacht

- **Jewish Businesses:** Thousands of Jewish-owned businesses were destroyed and looted. The streets were left covered with the shattered glass from the store windows, which gave the event its name.
- **Humiliation and murder:** Jews were viciously attacked, publicly humiliated, and close to 100 were murdered during the pogrom.



83

Kristallnacht

- **Mass arrests:** Approximately 30,000 Jewish men were rounded up and sent to Nazi concentration camps (Buchenwald and Dachau), marking the first time the regime imprisoned Jews on a mass scale based solely on their identity.



84

Kristallnacht

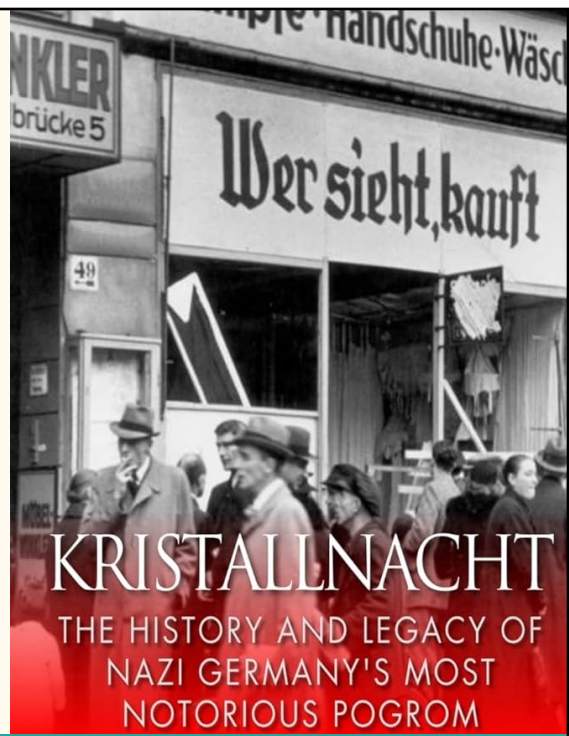
- **Hermann Göring**: Chaired a meeting with top Nazi officials on November 12, 1938, that order and discipline, not rioting, and efficiency, not financial expense, must be Nazi policy moving forward.
- After Kristallnacht, Göring warned of a "final reckoning with the Jews".



85

Kristallnacht (Aftermath)

- Kristallnacht fundamentally altered the situation for Jews under Nazi rule and shocked the international community, though little was done to help.
- Following the Evian Conference in July 1938, 32 nations (except the Dominican Republic) largely refused to accept Jewish refugees.



86

Kristallnacht (Aftermath)

- **End of hope:** The extreme violence of the pogrom made it clear to many German Jews that they had no future in the country and spurred them to flee.
- **Economic elimination:** The Nazis imposed a crippling one-billion-Reichsmark fine on the Jewish community for the damage caused. New laws further excluded Jews from economic life, including banning them from operating businesses or holding managerial positions.



87

Kristallnacht (Aftermath)

- **End of illusions:** For many German Jews, Kristallnacht destroyed any remaining hope that they could live safely in Germany. The indifference of the non-Jewish citizenry to the atrocities was a stark realization that they were unwelcome.
- **Pathway to the Holocaust:** Kristallnacht served as a stark preview of the Nazi regime's intent and capacity for extreme violence. The persecution of Jews intensified dramatically afterward, setting the stage for the systematic deportations and mass murder of the Holocaust.

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Jewish Visible Signs

- Along with economic sanctions (boycotts), establishing laws to isolate Jews, propaganda to shape public perception (psychological), and use of violence (Kristallnacht), the Nazis increasingly used **visible signs** to isolate and humiliate the Jews in the late 1930s and early 1940s.
- **Mandatory Middle Names:** In August 1938, a decree forced all Jews with "non-Jewish" first names to add "Israel" for men or "Sara" for women to their legal name.



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Jewish Visible Signs

- **Stamped Passports:** An October 1938 law required all Jewish-owned passports to be stamped with a large red letter "J" for *Jude* (Jew).
- **Mandatory Wear:** Beginning September 19, 1941, Jews aged 6 years and older in German Reich and its annexed territories were forced to wear a yellow, six-pointed Star of David badge. Reinhardt Heydrich made this decree.



90

Jewish Visible Signs

- The star had to be palm-sized and worn on the left side of the chest.
- It was yellow and had the word "Jude" (German for "Jew") inscribed within it in a font that mimicked Hebrew letters.
- The Jewish community was forced to manufacture and distribute the badges themselves.



91

Jewish Visible Signs

- The yellow star in public made Jewish people easily identifiable, isolating them from their non-Jewish neighbors. In many cases, this led to increased harassment and antisemitic attacks.
- The visible stars were meant not only to easily identify Jews, but to humiliate and dehumanize them. The goal was to strip them of their dignity and facilitate the idea that the Jews were different and "other."



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Jewish Visible Signs

- Jews who refused to wear the star resulted in severe punishment, including fines, beatings, imprisonment, and even death.
- **Precursor**: In concentration camps, Jews and other groups were also marked with color-coded badges, often incorporating a yellow triangle for Jewish prisoners. At Auschwitz, prisoner numbers were tattooed on the left forearm.



93

Jewish Ghettos

- After conquering Poland, the Nazis began setting up Jewish ghettos across Eastern Europe from October 1939 to 1941.
- The first Jewish ghetto setup was in Piotrków Trybunalski, Poland, in October 1939 shortly after the Germans invaded.
- Other major ghettos included **Łódź** in April 1940 and **Warsaw** in October 1940.



94

Jewish Ghettos

- The Ghettos helped the Nazis with the process of separating, controlling and ultimately murdering Jews.
- The ghettos were intended to be a temporary measure for controlling and segregating Jews. They were systematically liquidated beginning in 1942, when the Nazis began deporting their inhabitants to extermination camps.



95

Jewish Ghetto Conditions

- **Isolation:** Ghettos were enclosed districts, often walled or sealed with barbed wire, and any Jew found outside the perimeter risked being shot. This isolation severed Jewish communities from the outside world and limited opportunities for smuggling food, medicine, and information.
- **Overcrowding:** The ghettos were severely overcrowded, with dozens of people sometimes sharing a single room. For example, in the Warsaw Ghetto, an area that was 1.3 square miles housed 25,000 people now had more than 400,000 Jews. There were only two water pits and three families with children to a room. They never slept.

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Jewish Ghetto Conditions

- **Starvation and Disease:** Deliberate policies of starvation, coupled with squalid conditions, led to rampant disease, especially typhus, which killed tens of thousands of people.
- **Forced Labor:** The Nazis exploited ghetto inhabitants as a source of cheap forced labor for German factories, with some ghetto leaders believing that productivity might secure the ghetto's survival.
- **Jewish Councils:** German authorities established Nazi-appointed Jewish councils to administer daily life and enforce German orders, including facilitating deportations to extermination camps.

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Major Jewish Ghettos

- **Warsaw Ghetto:** Established in October 1940, the Warsaw Ghetto was the largest ghetto in all of Nazi-occupied Europe. As many as 460,000 Jews were crowded into a small area.
- The population was decimated by starvation and disease before mass deportations to the Treblinka extermination camp began in 1942. This prompted the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in April and May 1943, the largest Jewish revolt during the war.



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Major Jewish Ghettos

- **Łódź Ghetto**: Created in February 1940, it was the second-largest ghetto. It was exceptionally isolated and became a major production center for the Germans under the leadership of Chaim Rumkowski, who used a policy of "rescue through work."
- It was the last ghetto in Poland to be liquidated, with the remaining residents deported to Auschwitz and Chelmno in August 1944.



99

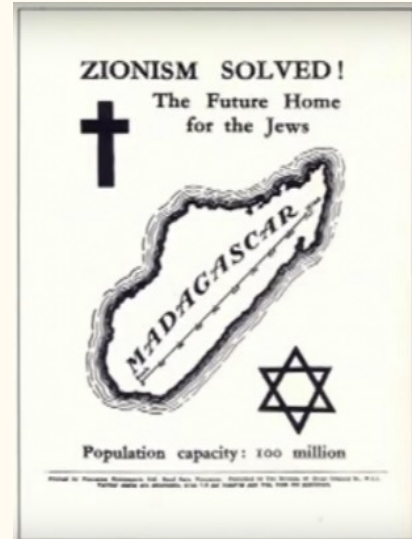
The Jewish Question

- Hundreds of thousands of Jews died in ghettos from disease, starvation, cold, unprovoked violence, and suicide.
- As the Germans continue to conquer territory in the East, more Jews came under the control. There were about three million Jews in Poland and five million in Russian.
- The pressing question, or the Jewish Question, was "What should be done with the Jews?" As we will see next time, shooting was messy, distressing, and inefficient. Another solution, one that required careful planning, was needed.

100

Madagascar Plan

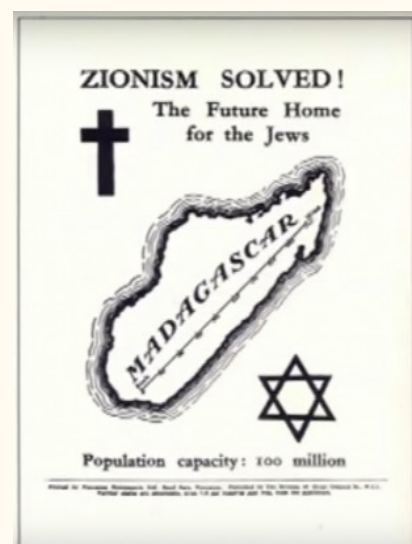
- The Nazi Madagascar Plan was a proposal in 1940 to forcibly deport the Jewish population of Europe to the island of Madagascar.
- The plan was developed primarily by officials in the Reich Security Main Office (RSHA) and the German Foreign Office and was conceived as a "territorial solution" to the "Jewish Question".



101

Madagascar Plan

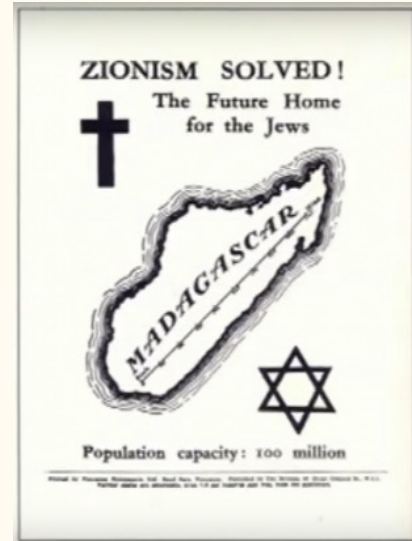
- **Forced deportation:** The Nazis intended to seize control of Madagascar, which was a French colony at the time, and resettle the entire European Jewish population there.
- **SS administration:** Under the version of the plan proposed by Adolf Eichmann, the island would have been governed as a police state run by the SS.
- **Financing:** The cost of the plan was to be covered by liquidating Jewish property and assets in Europe.



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Madagascar Plan

- **Genocidal intent:** The plan was designed to contain Jews under harsh conditions that the Nazis fully expected would lead to massive deaths through disease, malnutrition, and other factors.
- Ultimately, the plan was abandoned given that the British Royal Navy was still in control of the seas. Additionally, the Nazis planned to invade Russia and therefore, their attention shifted eastward. The vast numbers of Jews in Poland and Russia led them to consider a different approach.



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Wannsee Conference

- **Wannsee Conference:** After abandoning the Madagascar Plan, top Nazi officials convened the Wannsee Conference in January 1942 to coordinate the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question."
- **Extermination camps:** The "Final Solution" was the codename for the systematic, state-sponsored genocide of European Jews, which was carried out primarily through the use of extermination camps.



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Wannsee Conference



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Catholic Reflections

- How evil escalates over time
- Christian and Modern Progressive Antisemitism
- Pope Pius XI's encyclical (1937)
 - *Mit Brennender Sorge* (With Burning Concern)

106

How Evil Escalates

Forms of Violence	
Psychological violence	Nazis used derogatory words, dehumanizing labels (rats, vermin, dirty, etc.) to psychologically strip Jews of their dignity; Jews were no longer seen as humans with faces, families, and names, but rather were presented as subhuman.
Moral violence	After stripping Jews of their dignity, they are turned into enemies who threatened the social fabric and/or State. Therefore, they “deserved” the harm that they received. For Nazis, it became morally justified to act violently against them.

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How Evil Escalates

Forms of Violence	
Emotional, physical and sexual violence	Psychological and moral violence lead to increased aggression. A new environment with Kristallnacht where outbursts of physical violence and the possibility of physical segregation became a reality.
Extermination	The next and final step seemed logical; the Jews must be singled out and exterminated.
Key: False ideologies have <i>serious</i> consequences! False ideologies blind their adherents into believing that grave evils such as persecution, violence, and death are justified and even necessary to realize the promised utopia.	

108

Christian Antisemitism

- Historically, there has always been a tension between Jews and Christians.
- The tension is understandable in that Jews believe that Christians follow a false Messiah while Christians believe that Jews have rejected the true Messiah.



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Christian Antisemitism

- It is unfortunate that the tension has historically led to persecution and violence by both Jews and Christians.
- For the first three centuries where there were more Jews than Christians, the Jews did most of the persecuting.
- Since the 4th century, when Christians caught up with Jews in numbers, Christians have periodically persecuted Jews over the centuries.



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Christian Antisemitism

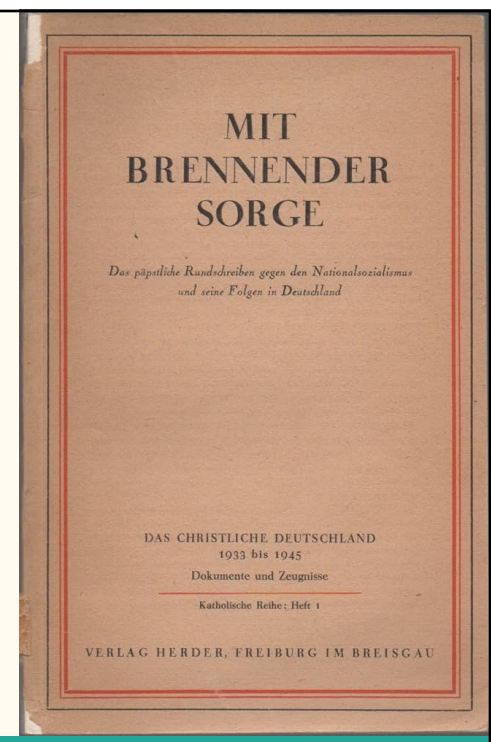
- In the modern era, the Church has strongly condemned antisemitism as unbecoming of being a Christian and even come to respect Jews as part of God's covenant family.
- **Key:** The tension that at times led to violence and persecution were over beliefs; they were not about race or ethnicity.
- Today, Christians recognize God's actions through the Jews in human history and maintain the Jewish Scriptures as divinely inspired.



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Pope Pius XI (1937)

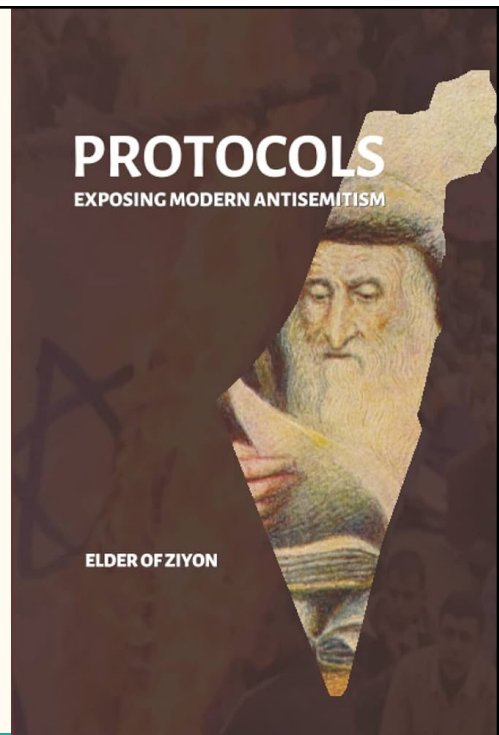
- A 1937 papal encyclical that secretly condemned Nazi ideology.
- Written in German, copies were snuck into Catholic parishes where it was to be read from Catholic pulpits in German on Palm Sunday criticizing the Nazi cult, neopaganism, and the idolization of the state and the "myth of race and blood."
- It asserted that human beings have inherit rights from God that no collectivity can suppress. The encyclical also argued that Nazism is not the moral standard and that it would lead to perpetual international conflict.



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Modern Antisemitism

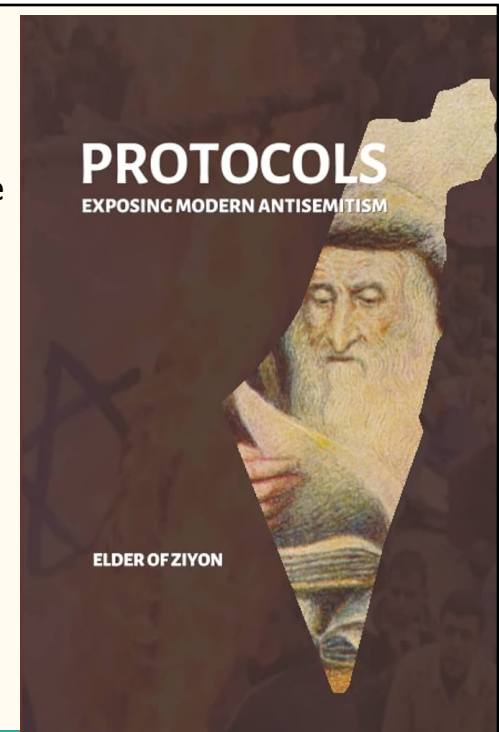
- Modern antisemitism is very different than historical Christian antisemitism.
- Whereas historically Christian antisemitism was religious (anti-Judaism), modern antisemitism is based on political, racial, and nationalistic ideas.
- Below reasons on the natural level (e.g., jealousy over their extraordinary success as a people and/or instrument of Western oppression), the deeper reason is that the Jews are a sacramental reminder that God alone is God and His plan of salvation will prevail. In short, it is a spiritual combat.



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Modern Antisemitism

- While modern antisemites may not be able to articulate it, they subconsciously are aware that with all the complexities of world affairs, all the geopolitical and economic concerns of peoples and cultures, the real history of the world is the history of God's dealing with us.
- The Jews, including their history and presence as a community, are an oblique sign that God alone is God, and we are not. Hence, in the mind modern progressives, the Jews are hated and therefore must be persecuted.



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Next Time

- Wannsee Conference
- Holocaust by bullets
- Extermination camps
- Pope Pius XII



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Future Classes

- The Holocaust
- D-Day & the Atomic Bomb
- Ending the War & Lessons Learned

November 18

December 2

December 9

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