**Polarization**

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1. Germans were defined as Aryans, Jews were defined as non-Aryan which was deemed racially unacceptable.
2. Jewish lawyers were not allowed to practise.
3. Jews were excluded from employment in the theatre, the film industry, the music profession and journalism.
4. Jews had to wear the Star of David at all times.
5. Making Jews live in ghettos and concentration camps.
6. Marriage laws forbidding Jew and Germans to marry.
7. Jews banned from shopping at certain grocery stores and shops.
8. In concentration camps the sexes are kept apart with no contact.
9. Gypsies and homosexuals had a different section the concentration camps then the Jews.
10. Jews and Germans separated in schools.

**Preparation**

 Stage Six: Preparation – Where victims were identified and separated from others. Death lists were also drawn up and the victims were often forced to leave their homes.

Evidence comes from the Course Pack and The Nuremberg Trials Documentary:

The Hadamar Case Study Page 188:

 “Patients were transported from other institutions on grey “Gekrat” buses, whose windows were painted black to prevent neighbouring town’s people from seeing those trapped inside.”

T-4 / Sterilization and Euthanasia Programs Page 187:

“Thousands of people were transferred to institutions where they were sterilized, experimented upon, starved and ultimately murdered by lethal medications or toxic gas.”

Page 190:

“Name of departments, housing mentally disabled children, designed to give the German public and the families of patients the impression that children were being given excellent care and treatment.”

“The process of determining which patients were to live and which were to die”

The Emigration Plan Page 192

“Even more desirable for the Nazis than the exclusion of the Jews from professions was their exclusion from Germany altogether. The Nazis therefore very quickly began to look for alternative territories where the German Jews could live.”

The Madagascar Plan Page 192:

“Another Nazi scheme for the disposal of German Jews was the Madagascar Plan, which was discussed in Nazi leadership circles between 1938 and 1940. The idea was to create a sort of ‘Jewish reservation’ on the French colonial island of Madagascar, off the eastern coast of Africa.”

Page 193

“There were complicated provisions in the Nuremburg Laws to define who was, and who was not a Jew. Three categories were legally defined:

1. ‘Jew’
2. Michling (part-Jew), First degree

**Dehumanization**

* Hitler believed that the mixing of blood and the resulting lowering of racial cohesion is the sole reason why cultures perish. People do not perish by defeat in war, but by losing the power of resistance inherent in pure blood.
* Inferior cultures pollute art, literature, theatre, national sentiment, all concepts of beauty and grandeur, nobleness and goodness, reducing people to their lowest nature.
* “Thus the Jew is the big rabble-rouser for the complete destruction of Germany. Wherever in the world we read about attacks on Germany, Jews are the source, just as in peace and during the war the newspapers of both the Jewish stock market and the Marxists systematically incited hatred against Germany. Country after country gave up its neutrality and joined the world war coalition is disregard of the true interest of the people.”
* “If our people and our state become the victims of the bloodthirsty and money-thirsty Jewish tyrants, the whole world will be enmeshed in the tentacles of this octopus.”
* Eugenics: literally means “well born.” It is the study of methods of improving genetic qualities by selective breeding (especially as applied to human mating).
* In his book, *Mein Kampf*, Hitler argued that only people with ‘hereditary valuable traits’ should reproduce and that there should be no racial interbreeding.
* The Nazis sterilized over 300,000 mentally ill or physically disabled people, most of them German citizens and murdered approximately 80,000 as part of the euthanasia program, between 1933 and 1945.
* These people were deemed to be ‘life unworthy of life’ and their murder was justified on the grounds of racial purity and economic necessity. Thousands of people were placed in institutions where they were sterilized, experimented upon, starved, and murdered by lethal medications or toxic gas.
* Decreed on July 14th, 1933, the “Law for the Prevention of Progeny with Hereditary Diseases” forced the sterilization of those with mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and manic depression, retardation, physical deformities, epilepsy, blindness, deafness and severe alcoholism. Thousands died because of the sterilization operation.
* The Lebensborn program was established in 1935, to breed Aryan children using women who were considered to be racially and biologically superior and who were expected to give birth to children of the same quality. These selected women were encouraged to become pregnant by SS men in order to improve the race. Over 7,000 children were born in Lebensborn homes. Those born sick, or disabled were immediately ‘selected’ and killed.
* Hitler issued a decree in October, 1939, which established the euthanasia program, allowing physicians to grant a ‘mercy death’ to patients considered incurable.
* The intent of the euthanasia program was to cleanse and exterminate those considered to be generically defective to the Aryan race, and a financial burden to society. The program, codenamed ‘Aktion T-4,’ was led by Reich leader Philip Bouler and Hitler’s private physician Karl Brandt.
* Children with Down’s syndrome and other neurological conditions were the subjects of scientific experiments. Those that did not possess German citizenship or were not German or related blood; including Jews, Gypsies, and Africans, were also targets of the euthanasia program.
* Propaganda was used to convince German citizens during the depression of the financial burdens imposed upon society by the disabled, or other inferiors. False and distorted statistics were used to show that the disabled produced a disproportionate number of disable offspring, which increased the burden on the state. It was argued that hospital beds and medical services were needed to care for German soldiers as part of the war effort. War provided both a cover and a pretext for the euthanasia crime.
* Children in school were taught and given math questions that were used to represent the amount of money that could be saved by not provided food, shelter, and nursing care for the mentally ill. Posters and cartoons were also used.

**Organization**

The Holocaust was an extremely well organized genocide. The Nazis had a special paramilitary force known as the Brown Shirts. Their main jobs were to provide protection during Nazi rallies and assemblies, disrupt meetings of the opposing parties, and terrorise Slavic and Romanian citizens, Unionists and Jews. The Nazis also ran extremely well organized mass killings. In total, over 6 million Jews were killed during the six year period of the holocaust (over 2808/day). The majority of these killings were done in Nazi concentrations camps. In these camps, the lives of the prisoners were awful. They were forced to do hard labour and fed very little food. Many of the inmates died of starvation, over exhaustion, disease, shooting, inhumane medical experiments, and gas. The most common method of systematic killing used by the Nazis were gas chambers. The Nazis found that this was the most efficient method of extermination. Auschwitz was the most notorious death camp. It is estimated that over 1.1 million people were killed there and it had four gas chambers that were capable of killing up to 6000 people every day.

The Nuremburg Laws are prominent examples of the organization of the Holocaust. These laws were adopted in 1935 and they were to enforce the anti-Semitic and anti-Jewish views of the Nazi party. Jews had three legal classifications under the Nuremburg Laws; Jew, Mishling first degree and Mishling second degree. A full Jew was classified as “someone with three fully Jewish grandparents: so, too, was someone who had two Jewish grandparents, belonged to a Jewish religious community, or joined one later, or had married a Jew, either then or later.” Part Jews or Mishlings were separated by first and second degrees. A Mishling first degree had two Jewish grandparents but was not a part of the Jewish community. The Mishling second degree was a person with only one Jewish grandparents. These classifications had a massive effect on the fate of a Jew during the Holocaust. Those deemed Jewish by the Nuremberg Laws were banned from being a member of German society, unable to hold teaching positions or doctors. The branded Jews had their rights stripped of them over the next years.

The Nazi party had pushed Jewish families to move into ghettos and settlement that mainly were based in Polish cities that like Warsaw and Lodz. Jews were also encouraged to move out of Germany and Europe all together, the Nazi party had promoted Palestine and Madagascar as places that Jews should move to. These tactics were not very successful in ridding Germany of its Jewish population. After the Nazi party had attempted to house the Jews in ghettos and then promoted immigration options for Jews, with no success, they finally settled on executing the “Final Solution”. The Einsalzgruppen began to find the crude methods of mass shootings unsatisfactory. By September 1941 Einsatzgroppe C had a truck which used exhaust gas to kill its victims and Eichmann began to recommend carbon monoxide to gas people while they were taking showers. By autumn of 1941, The Nazis had developed more efficient methods of mass killing. The first death camp was built at Chelmno, in Poland, where the gassing of Jews began on December 8 1941.

**Classification:**

Classification is the action or process of classifying something or someone according to shared qualities or characteristics and Hitler did that it was the first step in the genocide to distinguish the Jewish population from the rest with the yellow star, as well as in the concentration camps the categories of prisoners were easily identified by a marking system. In 1933 with the “law for the prevention of progeny with hereditary diseases” this separated people with mental illness, manic depression, physical deformities, blindness, deafness and severe alcoholism from others to be sterilized but thousands died as a result of the operation.

The Nuremberg Laws were written in 1935 to define who was, and who was not a Jew. This is an example of classification the categories were ‘Jew’ someone with three Jewish grandparents or two, or belonged to a Jewish religious community or joined one later. Second was a ‘mischling’ (part Jew) and then ‘mischling’ second degree. The Jews had been banned from normal membership of German society by the Nuremberg Laws.

**Extermination**

evidence of the extermination can be found from the witness accounts of Holocaust survivors recorded in the course pack outlining the tactics of extermination

-the Nazi’s not only wanted to exterminate Jews, but also Gypsies, the Freemasons, and the Jehovah's. The Nazis also didn't like anyone who didn't fit into their own race, which included homosexuals, mentally ill people and people who were physically disabled.

-ghettos

-concentration camps

-to murder the Jews of "Greater Germany" as well as Jews residing in German-occupied or German-influenced areas of western, southern, southeastern and northern Europe, Himmler designated [Auschwitz II](http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005189) (Auschwitz-Birkenau) in the spring of 1942 as a killing facility. Auschwitz-Birkenau, along with the Auschwitz main camp, was subordinated to the Inspectorate of Concentration Camps in Berlin. Originally planned as a vast forced-labor camp for Soviet prisoners of war and, later for Jewish forced labourers, Auschwitz-Birkenau began to operate as a killing centre in the spring of 1942. The SS authorities murdered approximately one million Jews from various European countries at Auschwitz-Birkenau (<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007328>)

-death camps to exterminate by over exertion/starvation/random murders/gas chambers/medical experiments/military experiments/shot/hung/beaten to death/injections

-gassing of the Jewish people began on December 8th, 1941 in Poland, Chelmno

-exterminated their dead bodies by burning them

-they had pre-printed death certificates and lied about causes of death

-the final solution- the plan to annihilate the Jews of Europe

- The Germans [invaded the Soviet Union](http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005164) in 1941. Leaders of the SS and police and leaders of the German armed forces had concluded pre-invasion agreements. In accordance with these agreements, SS and police units—including [Einsatzgruppen](http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005130) of the German Security Police and SD and battalions of the German Order Police—followed German troops into newly occupied Soviet territory. Acting as mobile killing units, they conducted shooting operations aimed at annihilating entire Jewish communities. By autumn 1941, the SS and police introduced mobile gas vans. These panelled trucks had exhaust pipes reconfigured to pump poisonous carbon monoxide gas into sealed spaces, killing those locked within. They were designed to complement ongoing shooting operations. (<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007328>)

- To implement the "Final Solution" in the District Wartheland, the regional German authorities constructed the killing center [Chelmno](http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005194), about thirty miles northwest of Lodz. The SS and police killed at least 152,000 people, mostly Jews (<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007328>)

**Symbolism**

The symbol used to classify the Jewish people was the Star of David. A fabric yellow star was sown unto the sleeves of Jewish individuals. The Jewish people were forced to write in Hebrew to differentiate them from the other German people. This was extremely unfair because even as Jewish people, they could only write in German (Course Pack, page 194).

**Denial**



Denial

Many of the Nazis blamed the Jewish people for their loss in WWI. They felt as though eliminating the Jewish people would solve their problems, and by doing this, they were protecting their homeland. (Evidence found from Hitler’s speech 30 January 1939, Course Pack page 199).

Often Nazis were simply following orders, and were under the command of decision makers. For this reason, they denied that they were committing a crime.

*From documentary*:

* Nazis leaders pleaded not guilty
* Despite the undeniable evidence provided during the trial
* Goering claimed that the reason he committed his actions was because he believed the Jewish people were his opponent.
* He felt like by exterminating the Jewish people, he was protecting his country
* He only admitted to anything when there was no option not to (ex: documents which he had signed)
* He spent a lot of time “beating around the bush” (his answers were long and vague).