

10 Stages of Genocide in the Holocaust Poster



Classification

Famous German composer, Richard Wagner, wrote the popular opera, *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (*The Ring of the Nibelung*). During the long musical epic, Wagner told a Norse legend in which gods, heroes, and magical creatures battle for a powerful magic ring that grants domination over the world. Wagner made it clear that the underground creatures represented the Jews who fought the Aryan heroes for power. *Der Ring* was loved by Hitler and the German public.



Symbolization

The Nazis marked Jews and Jewish property with the Star of David to segregate and humiliate Jews. In 1941, the German Reich passed a law requiring all Jews to wear the yellow Star of David on their clothing with the word "Jew" inscribed in German or the local language.



Discrimination

Passed in 1935, the Nuremberg Laws legally defined Jews as a race. They formed the basis of legal discrimination against Jews by defining who was Jewish, of mixed race (*Mischlinge*), and who was fully German. Any person with three grandparents born into the Jewish religion was considered a Jew and therefore not a citizen of Germany. Instead, Jews were deemed "subjects of the state" and stripped of basic civil rights.



Dehumanization

The 1938 children's book *Der Giftpilz* (*The Poisonous Mushrooms*) depicts Jews as poisonous mushrooms indistinguishable from edible mushrooms, secretly corrupting German society. The story warns German children of the dangers posed by the Jews. It reduces the Jews to non-human antisemitic caricatures.



Organization

The Nazi regime organized its own special militia called the *Schutzstaffel* (SS). It was led by Heinrich Himmler and used to suppress the Jews and eliminate opposition to Nazi rule. The SS would eventually implement the Final Solution and murder the Jews of Europe.



Polarization

Signs declaring "Jews not allowed" increased divisions between Jews and Germans. This sign which reads, "Jews are Unwanted Here" divided German society into "us" versus "them". This division required moderates to take a position: with the Nazis or with the Jews.

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| Litauen | 34,000 |
| Polen | 47,000 |
| Skandinavien | 5,000 |
| Frankreich / Besetztes Gebiet | 16,000 |
| Chechoslowakei | 700,000 |
| Griechenland | 60,000 |
| Niederlande | 160,000 |
| Banarwegen | 1,000 |
| U. Bulgarien | 40,000 |
| Ungarn | 550,000 |
| Frankreich | 2,000 |
| Polen | 4,000 |
| Italien (einschl. Sudeten) | 50,000 |
| Albanien | 40,000 |
| Spanien | 200 |
| Portugal | 5,000 |
| Rumänien (einschl. Bessarabien) | 14,000 |
| Schweden | 8,000 |
| Schwiz | 10,000 |
| Österreich | 10,000 |
| Dänemark | 60,000 |

Preparation

At the Wannsee Conference held in January 1942, a group of Nazi officials gathered to discuss the Final Solution. During the Conference, Reinhard Heydrich distributed a list that reported 11,000,000 Jews throughout Europe who had to be murdered. At the conference, it was explained how this would occur.



Persecution

German mobile killing units (*Einsatzgruppen*) were assigned to murder Jews in Eastern Europe. In 1941, during the invasion of the Soviet Union, the *Einsatzgruppen* followed the German Army shooting Jewish men, women, and children. Approximately two million Jews were murdered and left in mass graves in this "Holocaust by Bullets".



Extermination

Death camps were established for the murder of the Jews. Chelmno was the first, opened in December 1941. Following the Wannsee Conference, five more death camps began operations for the sole purpose of murdering Jews. The death camps used a systematic and industrial method of murder.



Denial

Despite photographic and video evidence of atrocities committed during the Holocaust, there are those that deny Jews were murdered during the Holocaust. Today, many deniers have a strong online presence such as the Institute for Historical Review. Deniers twist facts and deny evidence of genocide.