



Laws and Decrees Timeline Layer



<http://bit.ly/hitlerspeech39>

APRIL 1, 1933

NATIONWIDE BOYCOTT OF JEWISH-OWNED BUSINESSES

During the anti-Jewish boycott, an SA man stands outside a Jewish-owned store with a sign demanding that Germans not buy from Jews. Berlin, Germany, April 1, 1933.

At 10:00 a.m., SA and SS members stand in front of Jewish-owned businesses throughout Germany to inform the public that the proprietors of these establishments are Jewish. The word "Jude," German for "Jew," is often smeared on store display windows, with a Star of David painted in yellow and black across the doors. Anti-Jewish signs accompany these slogans. The official boycott ends at midnight.



APRIL 1933-APRIL 1938



USHMM Photo Archives #64779

"ARYANIZATION"

A formerly Jewish-owned store (Gummi Weil) expropriated and transferred to non-Jewish ownership (Stamm and Bassermann). Frankfurt, Germany, 1938.

Government agencies at all levels aimed to exclude Jews from the economic sphere of Germany by preventing them from earning a living. Jews were required to register their domestic and foreign property and assets. German authorities intended to "Aryanize" all Jewish businesses, a process involving the dismissal of Jewish workers and managers, as well as the transfer of companies and enterprises to non-Jewish Germans, who bought them at prices officially fixed well below market value. From April 1933 to April 1938, "Aryanization" effectively reduced the number of Jewish-owned businesses in Germany by approximately two-thirds.

APRIL 7, 1933



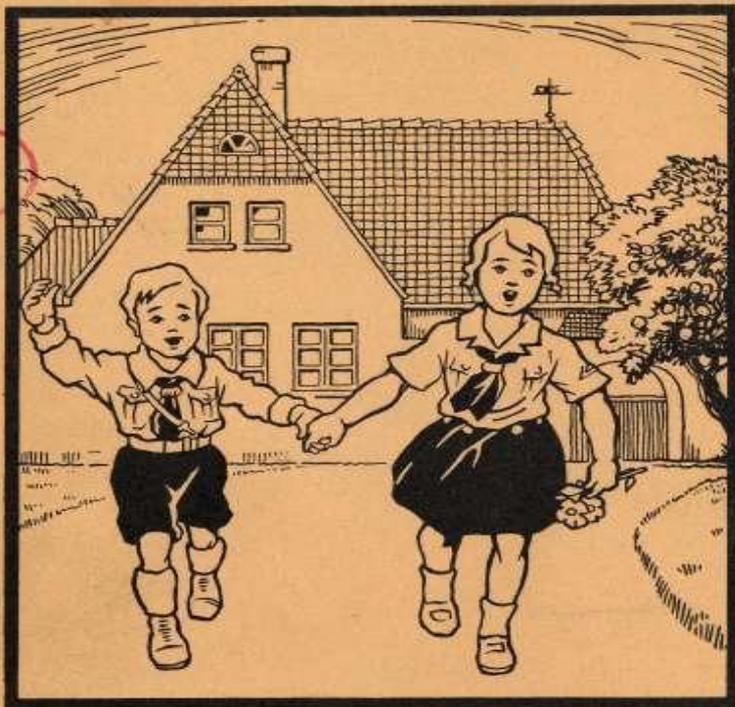
LAW DISMISSES JEWS FROM CIVIL SERVICE

Jewish lawyers line up to apply for permission to appear before the Berlin courts.

Berlin, Germany, April 11, 1933.

Law for the Reestablishment of the Professional Civil Service removes Jews from Government Service. As a result, civil service employees are forced to prove their "Aryan" descent by documenting the religion of their parents and grandparents. If unable to do so, they are dismissed from service. Similar laws passed in the following weeks affect Jewish lawyers and doctors. Law on the Admission to the Legal Profession forbids the admission of Jews to the bar.

APRIL 25, 1933



Jung-Deutschland

Übergeben 1933

LAW AGAINST OVERCROWDING IN SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES

Cover of a primary school reader. School curriculum under the Nazis stressed love and obedience to Hitler (the Fuhrer), race consciousness, and military preparation.

This new law limited the number of Jewish students in any one public school to no more than 5 percent of the total student population. According to the census of June 16, 1933, the Jewish population of Germany was about 500,000 people out of a total population of 67 million or less than 0.8 percent of the total. In 1933, 75 percent of all Jewish students attended general public schools in Germany.

JULY 14, 1933



USHMM Photo Archives #17563

LAW FOR THE PREVENTION OF PROGENY WITH HEREDITARY DISEASES DE-NATURALIZATION LAW

Propaganda slide featuring two doctors working at an unidentified asylum for the mentally ill. The caption reads, "Life only as a burden." Germany 1934

The German government passes the "Law for the Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Diseases" (*Gesetz zur Verhütung erbkranken Nachwuchses*), mandating the forced sterilization of certain individuals with physical and mental disabilities. This new law provides a basis for the involuntary sterilization of people with physical and mental disabilities or mental illness, Roma (Gypsies), "asocial elements," and Afro-Germans.



<http://bit.ly/eggerttestimony>

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OCTOBER 4, 1933



USHMM Photo Archives #02629

EDITOR'S LAW

A pedestrian stops to read an issue of the antisemitic newspaper *Der Stuermer*.

The German Propaganda Ministry (through its Reich Press Chamber) assumed control over the Reich Association of the German Press, the guild which regulated entry into the profession. Under the new Editors Law, the association kept registries of “racially pure” editors and journalists, and excluded Jews and those married to Jews from the profession. Propaganda Ministry officials expected editors and journalists, who had to register with the Reich Press Chamber to work in the field, to follow mandates and specific instructions handed down by the ministry. In paragraph 14 of the law, the regime required editors to omit from publication anything “calculated to weaken the strength of the Reich abroad or at home.”

NOVEMBER 24, 1933



USHMM Photo Archives #ID5364

LAW AGAINST DANGEROUS HABITUAL CRIMINALS

**Friedrich-Paul von
Groszheim**

Born Luebeck, Germany

April 27, 1906

The new law allows courts to order the indefinite imprisonment of “habitual criminals” if they deem the person dangerous to society. It also provides for the castration of sex offenders.

“In January 1937 the SS arrested 230 men in Luebeck under the Nazi-revised criminal code's paragraph 175, which outlawed homosexuality, and I was imprisoned for 10 months. The Nazis had been using paragraph 175 as grounds for making mass arrests of homosexuals. In 1938 I was re-arrested, humiliated, and tortured. The Nazis finally released me, but only on the condition that I agree to be castrated. I submitted to the operation.”

MAY 1, 1935

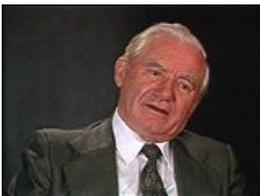


BAN ON JEHOVAH'S WITNESS ORGANIZATIONS

The Kusserov family were active Jehovah's Witnesses who distributed religious literature and taught Bible study classes in their home.

The German government bans Jehovah's Witness organizations. The ban is due to Jehovah's Witnesses' refusal to swear allegiance to the state; their religious convictions forbid an oath of allegiance to or service in the armed forces of any temporal power.

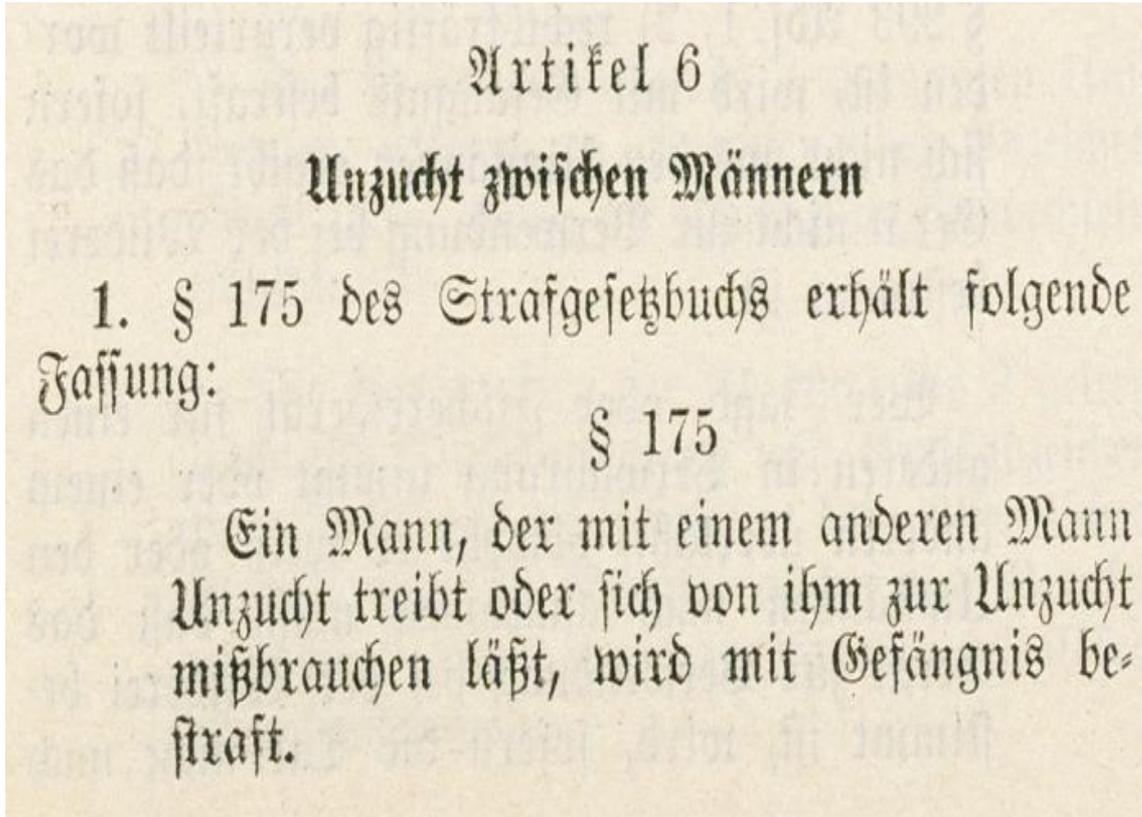
USHMM Photo Archives #68356



<http://bit.ly/wohlfahrttestimony>

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JUNE 28, 1935



USHMM Photo Archives #71464

“In order not to mutually incriminate ourselves, we decided to no longer recognize each other. When we came across each other in the street, we passed by, without looking at one another. There were certain possibilities for us to meet, but that never happened in public.” --*The Racial State: Germany 1933-1945* (New York, 1991), pp. 182-83.

REVISION OF PARAGRAPH 175

Excerpt of the page from the *Tag der Ausgabe* that includes the text of Paragraph 175.

The German Ministry of Justice revises Paragraphs 175 and 175a of the German criminal code with the intent of 1) expanding the range of criminal offenses to encompass any contact between men, either physical or in form of word or gesture, that could be construed as sexual; and 2) strengthening penalties for all violations of the revised law. The revision facilitates the systematic persecution of homosexual men and provides police with broader means for prosecuting them.

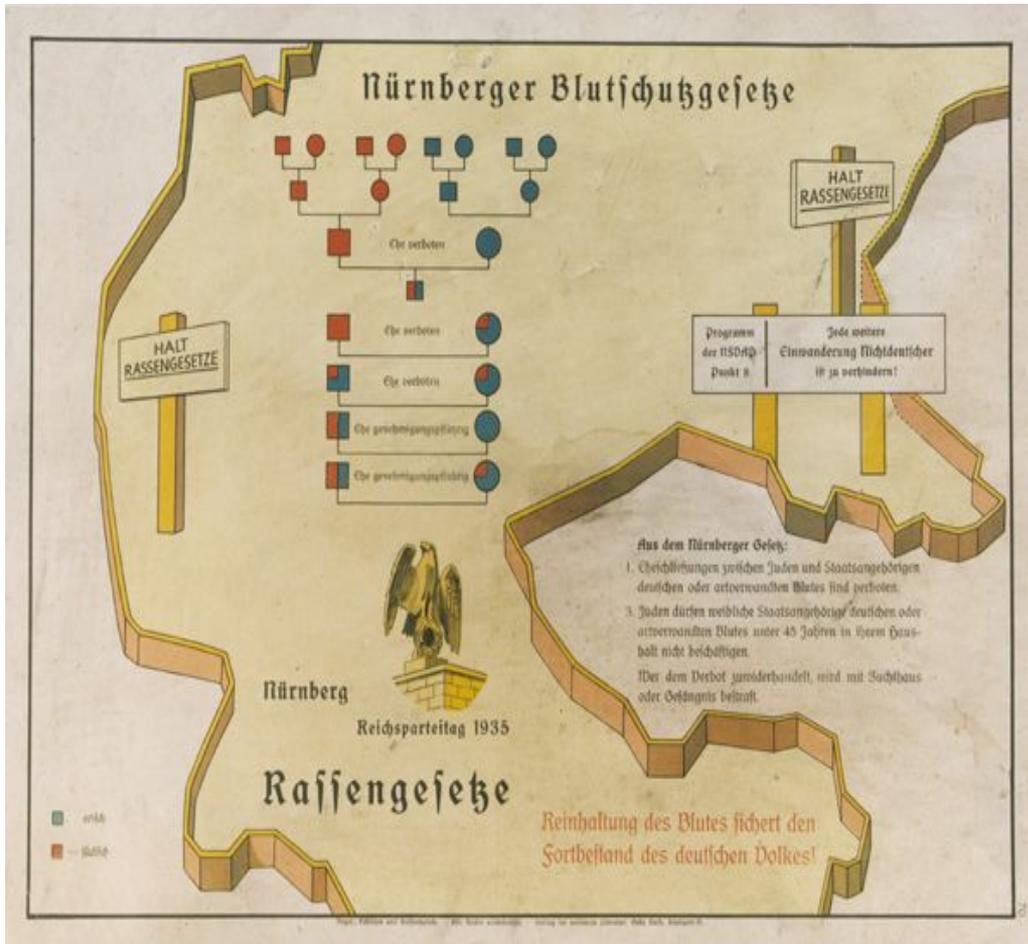
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SEPTEMBER 15, 1935

NUREMBERG LAWS ARE INSTITUTED

"The Nuremberg Law for the Protection of Blood and German Honor." The illustration is a stylized map of the borders of central Germany on which is imposed a schematic of the forbidden degrees of marriage between Aryans and non-Aryans. The German text at the bottom reads, "Maintaining the purity of blood insures the survival of the German people."

At their annual party rally, the Nazis announce new laws that revoke Reich citizenship for Jews and prohibit Jews from marrying or having sexual relations with persons of "German or related blood." "Racial infamy" is made a criminal offense. The Nuremberg Laws define a "Jew" as someone with three or four Jewish grandparents. The Nazis classify as Jews people who had converted from Judaism to another religion whose grandparents were Jewish.



USHMM Photo Archives #94188



<http://bit.ly/nuremberglaws35>

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OCTOBER 18, 1935

Überzeugungskraft siegen wird und mit ihr jene Familien, die sich dieser Gedankenwelt nicht verschlossen haben. Vorerst kämpfen wir noch um die grundsätzliche Umstellung in der Frage der Kinderzahl.



USHMM Photo Archives #N09456

NEW MARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS INSTITUTED

“Don’t Go Blindly into Marriage!”
Eugenics had the support of many scientists worldwide, including the US. This drawing illustrated a 1924 pamphlet that urged couples to be informed about the health, including genetic health, of prospective spouses. This image was first published by Louisiana’s Department of Health.

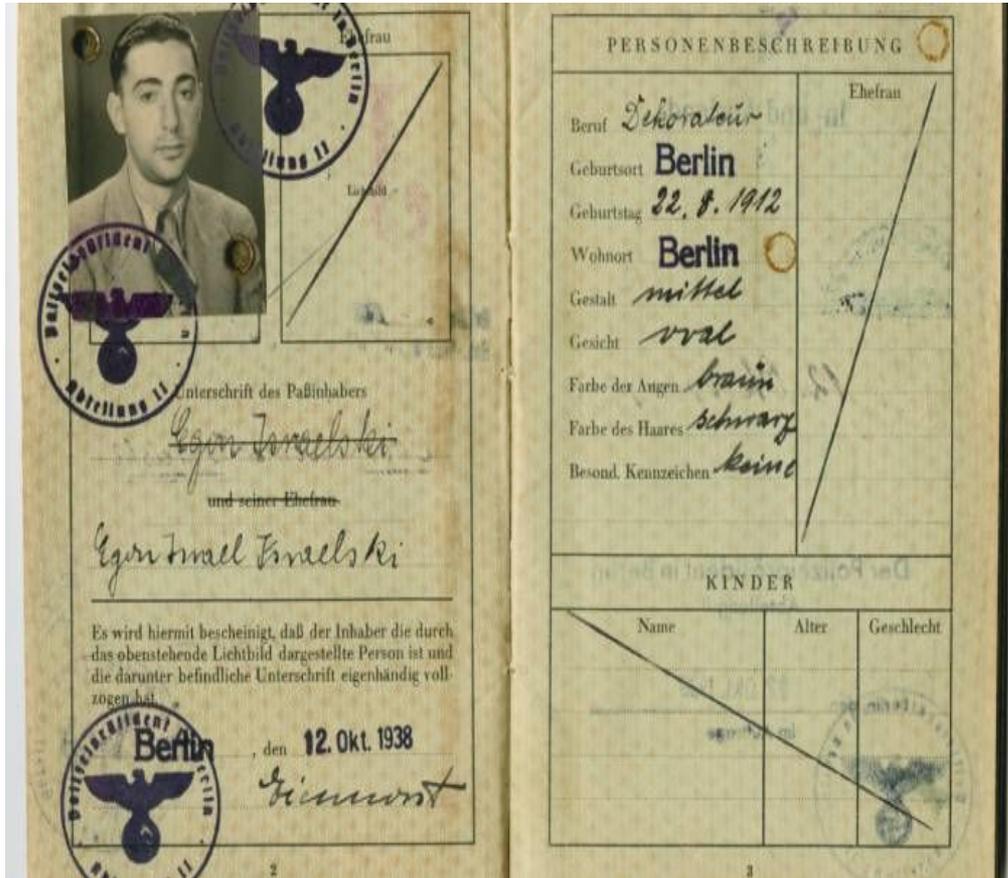
The "Law for the Protection of the Hereditary Health of the German People" requires all prospective marriage partners to obtain from the public health authorities a certificate of fitness to marry. Such certificates are refused to those suffering from "hereditary illnesses" and contagious diseases and those attempting to marry in violation of the Nuremberg Laws.

AUGUST 17, 1938

LAW ON THE ALTERATION OF PERSONAL AND FAMILY NAMES

Egon Israelski's German passport (October 1938) showing his forced name change to include the middle name of Israel.

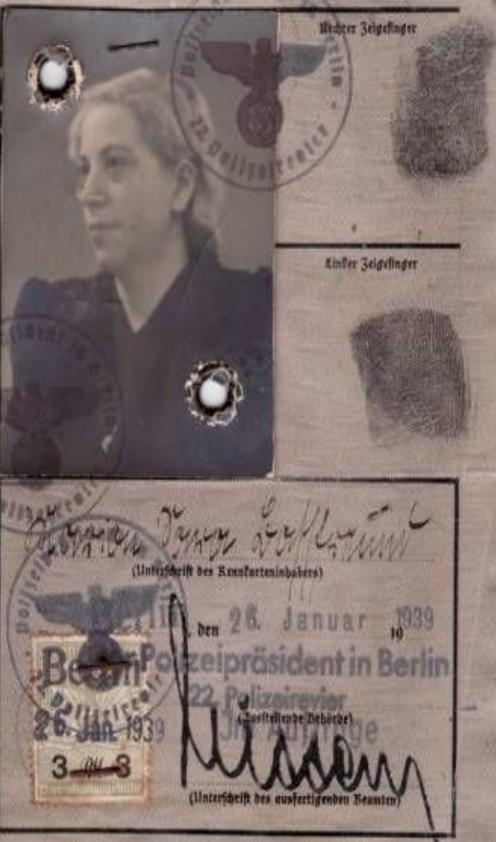
The German government requires all Jews in Germany whose first name is not immediately recognizable as Jewish to add a "Jewish" name following their first name. Men are required to add "Israel" and women "Sara." In October, the German government confiscates all passports held by Jews. New passports issued to Jews have a "J" stamped on them, indicating that the holder is Jewish.



USHMM Photo Archives #97639

OCTOBER 5, 1938

Kennort:	Berlin
Kennnummer:	A 051921
Gültig bis:	26. Januar 1944
Name:	Basfreund
Vorname:	Marion Sara
Geburtsort:	5. März 1921
Geburtsort:	Karlshagen
Beruf:	Lehrerin
Unveränderliche Kennzeichen:	"faflaw"
Veränderliche Kennzeichen:	"faflaw"
Bemerkungen:	"Sara"



The photograph shows a woman with light hair, wearing a dark jacket. The card is stamped with a large red 'J' and several official seals, including one from the Berlin Police President. The card is signed by the issuing official and the holder.

GERMAN JEWS' PASSPORTS DECLARED INVALID

Identification card issued to Marion Basfreund and stamped with a red J for Jude and the added middle name of "Sara."

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USHMM Photo Archives #45220

NOVEMBER 12, 1938



USHMM Photo Archives #45023

REICH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION EXPELS ALL JEWS FROM SCHOOLS

Nazis block Jews from entering the University of Vienna. Austria, 1938.

After 1933, the Nazi regime purged the public school system of teachers deemed to be Jews or to be “politically unreliable.” Most non-Jewish educators, however, remained in their posts and joined the National Socialist Teachers League. 97% of all public school teachers, some 300,000 persons, had joined the League by 1936. In fact, teachers joined the Nazi Party in greater numbers than any other profession.

NOVEMBER 15, 1938



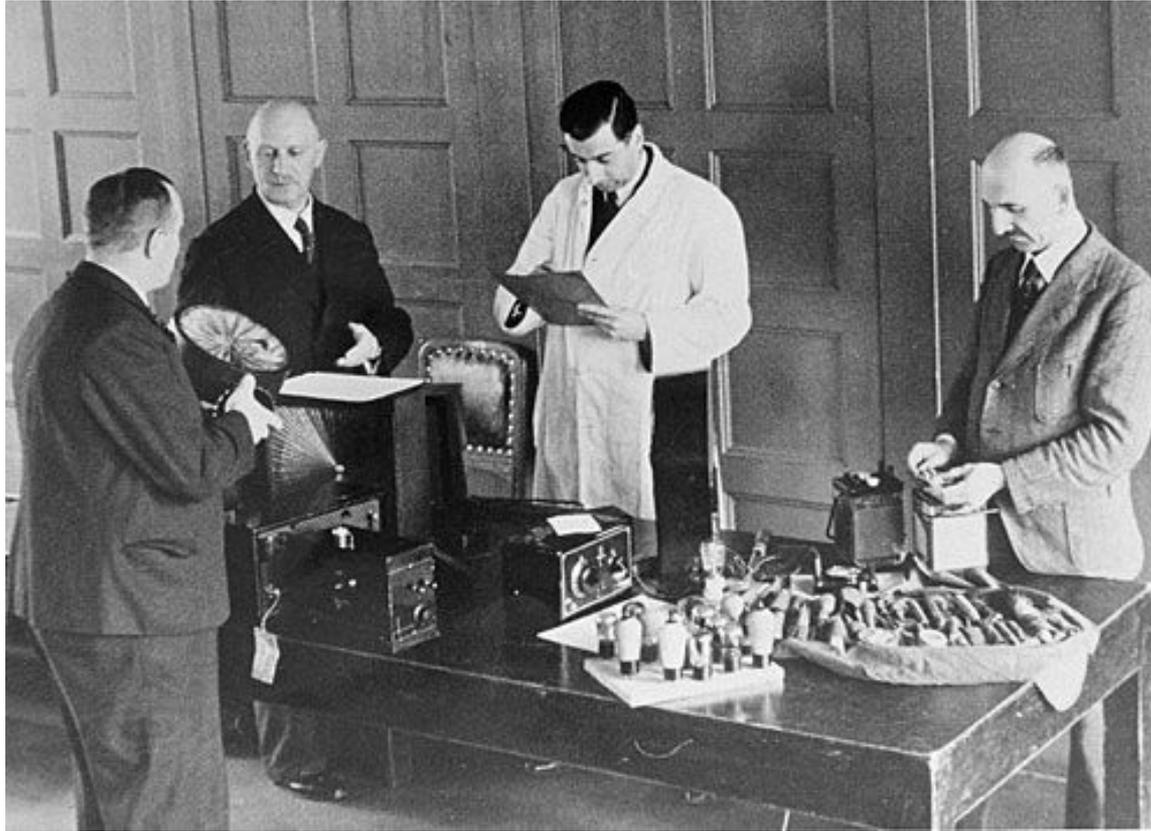
USHMM Photo Archives #96855

DECREE ON THE ELIMINATION OF THE JEWS FROM ECONOMIC LIFE

**Prewar photograph of
Jewish business owners
David and Janka Penner
in their dry goods store.**

The decree bars Jews from operating retail stores, sales agencies, and from carrying on a trade. The law also forbids Jews from selling goods or services at an establishment of any kind. During the first six years of Hitler's dictatorship, from 1933 until the outbreak of war in 1939, Jews felt the effects of more than 400 decrees and regulations that restricted all aspects of their public and private lives.

SEPTEMBER 1939



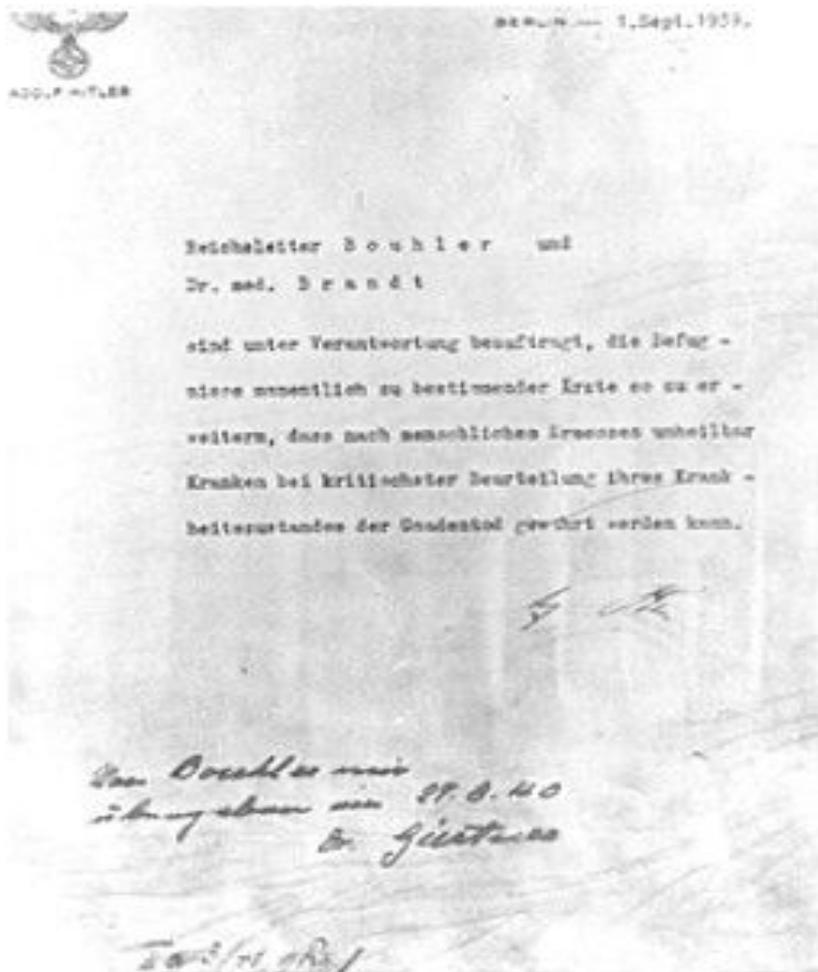
USHMM Photo Archives #55333

FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON JEWS IN GERMANY

German Jews are forced to turn in their radios

Curfew on Jewish individuals and prohibited Jews from entering areas in many German cities. Jews received reduced rations; further decrees limited the time periods in which Jews could purchase food. German authorities also demanded that Jews relinquish property “essential to the war effort” such as radios, cameras, bicycles, electrical appliances, and other valuables, to local officials.

OCTOBER 1939



AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EUTHANASIA PROGRAM

Adolf Hitler's authorization for the Euthanasia Program (Operation T4), signed in October 1939 but dated September 1, 1939.

Beginning in October 1939, public health authorities began to encourage parents of children with disabilities to admit their young children to one of a number of specially designated pediatric clinics throughout Germany and Austria. In reality, the clinics were children's killing wards. There, specially recruited medical staff murdered their young charges by lethal overdoses of medication or by starvation.

USHMM Photo Archives #67072



<http://bit.ly/wagemanntestimony>

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SEPTEMBER 1941



USHMM Photo Archives #23185

MORE LIMITATIONS ON JEWISH FREEDOM **Austrian Jews perform forced labor in a farm in Osterburg, Germany.**

Decree prohibited Jews from using public transportation. While ghettos were generally not established in Germany, strict residence regulations forced Jews to live in designated areas of German cities, concentrating them in “Jewish houses” (*Judenhäuser*). German authorities issued ordinances requiring Jews fit for work to perform compulsory forced labor.



<http://bit.ly/forcedlabortestimony>

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SEPTEMBER 19, 1941



USHMM Photo Archives #77929

BADGE IDENTIFYING JEWS INTRODUCED IN GERMANY

Jewish boy wearing the compulsory Star of David. Prague, Czechoslovakia, between September 1941 and December 1944.

Jews over the age of six in Germany are required to wear a yellow, six-pointed star with the word "Jude" (German for "Jew") across the front in black, sewn to their outer clothing at all times. Jews are now identifiable on sight in Germany. Systematic deportations of Jews from Germany begin in October. In March 1942, Jews are also required to display the star symbol on their residences.

JULY 1943



USHMM Photo Archives #77907

FINAL LAWS AND RESTRICTIONS CONCERNING JEWS

Deportation of German Jews to Theresienstadt ghetto. Hanau, Germany.

German authorities implemented the last major deportations of German Jews to Theresienstadt or Auschwitz. German justice authorities enacted a mass of laws and ordinances legitimizing the Reich's seizure of their remaining property and regulating its distribution among the German population. The persecution of Jews by legal decree ended with a July 1943 ordinance removing Jews entirely from the protection of German law and placing them under the direct jurisdiction of the Reich Security Main Office (*Reichssicherheitshauptamt-RSHA*)