Nazi Racial Ideology

Nazi Ideology

- The Germans believed that there was a measurable, physical difference between other races and themselves.)
- Survival depends on the seizure of territory. (In order for the Germans to expand into a great nation, much more space was needed.)
- Survival depends on nullifying or eliminating groups who undermine society and government. (Those whose lifestyle or belief system did not fit into the Nazi Ideology.)

Jews in Nazi Racial Ideology

- Jews are a race.
- Jews were special enemies of the German people.
- Unlike other races, Jews have no living space of their own.
- Jews destroyed the nation-state by dominating host nations.



Germans!

Defend yourselves!

Don't buy from Jews!

Members of the Storm Troopers (SA), with boycott signs, block the Entrance to a Jewish-owned shop.

Berlin, Germany April 1, 1933



Nuremberg Laws 1935

Only a people of 'German blood' could be a German citizen.

Jews were redefined as second class citizens.

People with one or two Jewish grandparents were considered to be Mischlinge - of mixed race. Although Mischlinges were the subject of some debate initially, ultimately anyone with even a single Jewish grandparent was at risk under the Nuremberg Laws.

Disabled in Nazi Racial Ideology



-- denn Gott kann nicht wollen, daß Kranke und Sieche fich in Kranken und Siechen fortpflanzen

...because
God
cannot
want the
sick and
ailing to
reproduce

Disabled in Nazi Racial Ideology

Helene Lebel, raised as a Catholic in Vienna, Austria, first showed signs of mental illness when she was nineteen. Her condition worsened until she had to give up her law studies and her job as a legal secretary.

In 1936 she was diagnosed as a schizophrenic and was placed in Vienna's Steinhof Psychiatric Hospital.

Two years later, Germany annexed Austria. Helene's condition had improved at Steinhof, and her parents were led to believe that she would soon be moved to a hospital in a nearby town. In fact, Helene was transferred to a former prison in Brandenburg Germany.

There she was undressed, subjected to a physical examination, and then led into a "shower room" where she was killed with deadly gas.



Law for the Prevention of Progeny with Hereditary Diseases, July 14, 1933

- Soon after Hitler took power, the Nazis formulated policy on their vision of a biologically pure population.
- "Sterilization Law" explained the importance of weeding out so-called genetic defects from the total German gene pool
- Forced the sterilization of all persons who suffered from diseases considered hereditary:
 - Mental illness (schizophrenia and manic depression)
 - Retardation (congenital feeble mindedness)
 - Physical deformity
 - Epilepsy
 - Blindness
 - Deafness
 - Severe alcoholism

Overview of Nazi Persecution of Specific Groups

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"Racial Enemy"
    Jews
The quest for racial purity
   Gypsies (Roma)
   German Disabled Persons
   Germans of African Descent
The racial struggle for Europe
   Slavs
    Poles
    Soviet Prisoners of war
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Nazi ideology and the persecution of Germans Political Dissidents Jehovah's Witnesses Male Homosexuals

Lebensraum



The Battle for Births

▶ 1934, Hitler quoted, "In my state, the mother is the most important citizen."

"Honor Crosses of German Motherhood" to fit Germanic "Aryan" woman who mothered children:

▶Bronze 4-5

Silver 6-7

▶Gold 8+

Krystallnacht Jigsaw

- Read the accounts of Krystallnacht ("Crystal Night" or "Night of Broken Glass") and use the Focus Note Method to read the sources.
- When all members are finished discuss the sources explaining what the source said and these questions:
 - What bias does the source have?
 - ▶ How did this effect the source's view?
 - ► How does the source show persecution of minority groups?