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Laws and Decrees

APRIL 1, 1933: NATIONWIDE BOYCOTT OF JEWISH-OWNED BUSINESSES



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.

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.

USHMM Photo Archives #04053

“Aryanization” of Jewish-owned businesses



“Aryanization” meant the transfer of ownership of Jewish businesses to non-Jewish Germans. This process served not only to plunder Jewish assets in Germany but also to exclude Jews from the private economic sector entirely, preventing them from earning a living. With the April 7, 1933 Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service, the German government had already eliminated Jews from public sector positions.

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

USHMM Photo Archives #64779

JULY 14, 1933: NATURALIZED GERMAN JEWS DEPRIVED OF CITIZENSHIP

Polizeipräsidium
(Ausstellende Behörde)

München, den 26. Mai 1939.

Kinderausweis Nr. 27/39

(Nur gültig bis zur Vollendung
des fünfzehnten Lebensjahrs)

Familiennam e: *Engelhard*

Rufname: *Malke Ingeborg Sara*

Geboren am *24. Januar 1930 München*

Staatsangehörigkeit: *staatenlos, früher:
Polen*

Wohnsitz (dauernder Aufenthalt): *München*

A 50 (6. 33) Reichsbureau, Berlin

The German government enacts the Law for the Repeal of Naturalization and Recognition of German Citizenship, which deprives recently naturalized German Jews of German citizenship.

Children's identification card issued by the German police to Inge Engelhard, identifying her as stateless.

JUNE 28, 1935: MINISTRY OF JUSTICE EXTENDS NAZI PERSECUTION OF HOMOSEXUALS

The German Ministry of Justice revises Paragraph 175 of the German criminal code with the intent of :

- 1) broadening the definition of what constituted punishable "criminally indecent activities between men"
- 2) stiffening penalties for all violations of the revised law.

The revision facilitates the systematic persecution of homosexual men by providing police with broader means for arresting, incarcerating and prosecuting homosexual men.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1935: NUREMBERG LAWS ARE INSTITUTED



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." One of the laws makes "Defiling the race" a criminal offense. The Nuremberg Laws define a "Jew" as someone with three or four Jewish grandparents. These laws classify as Jews people whose grandparents were Jewish, even if they had converted from Judaism to another religion.

"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 so-called Aryans and so-called non-Aryans. The German text at the bottom reads, "Maintaining the purity of blood insures the survival of the German people."

USHMM Photo Archives #94188

OCTOBER 18, 1935: NEW MARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS INSTITUTED

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. The German authorities refuse to issue such certificates to those suffering from "hereditary illnesses" and contagious diseases and those attempting to marry in violation of the Nuremberg Laws.

JUNE 6, 1936: DECREE ISSUED ADDRESSING “GYPSY PLAGUE”



June 6

The Minister of the Interior for the Reich and Prussia issues a decree addressing “the Gypsy Plague” (nuisance). The decree officially recognizes many regulations and restrictions previously imposed by local authorities on Roma (Gypsies) residing in Germany. Under its authority, state and local police forces round up Roma as well as other persons whom they deem to be behaving in “a Gypsy-like manner.”

Studio portrait of the Sinti (Gypsy) Theresia Seibel who was a performer in the Würzburg Municipal Theater

USHMM Photo Archives #01371

AUGUST 17, 1938: JEWS REQUIRED TO ASSUME "JEWISH" NAME



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.

Passport issued to Lore Oppenheimer, a German Jew, with "J" for "Jude" stamped on the card.

USHMM Photo Archives #45023

NOVEMBER 15, 1938:

Reich Ministry of Education expels all Jewish children from public schools.

This decree is preceded by the Law against Overcrowding in Schools & Universities, which limits the number of Jewish students in public schools (April 25, 1933), and an order by the Mayor of Berlin in April 1937 for public schools not to admit Jewish children until further notice.



German boys attend a geography lesson in a classroom adorned with a portrait of Adolf Hitler.
Hamburg, Germany 1933-45

USHMM Photo Archives #47464

SEPTEMBER 1, 1939:

Prehlásenie

Vzdávam sa koncesii na prijímaciu radiofonnú stanicu a vraciam koncesnú listinu (keď by nebolo možné ju vrátiť, treba uviesť dôvod):

Jak bolo naložené so stanicou a s antenou? *Leži musel byť vido Brusny*
odst. nímstam Lejt. Sr. Mr. Kuchin

Miesto a dátum razenia

11. Lujaa dňa *3/1* 19*39*

Alex. Elbert
podpis koncesionára

NEMECKÁ LIPCA
3141
Tlačivo 761 (III-1939)

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

A document revoking Alexander Elbert's license to own a radio.

USHMM Photo Archives #23491

OCTOBER 1939: HITLER SIGNS MEMORANDUM RELATING TO “EUTHANASIA” PROGRAM (OPERATION T4)

In the autumn of 1939, Hitler signs an secret memorandum (later backdated to September 1, 1939) that shields German physicians participating in the so-called “euthanasia” program (Operation T4) from future prosecution. Under "Euthanasia" policy, German health care professionals and police systematically killed Germans with intellectual and physical disabilities living in institutions. The victims included persons of both genders and all ages whom participating physicians deemed “incurable” and thus "unworthy of life."



Hartheim Castle, one of six killing facilities operating as part of the so-call euthanasia program, Hartheim, Austria.

USHMM Photo Archives #76511



SEPTEMBER 1941:

- Decree prohibited Jews from using public transportation.
- While German authorities generally did not establish ghettos in Germany, they issued residency regulations that 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.

Jewish forced laborers from the Klettendorf labor camp shovel snow in preparation for the construction of the new autobahn between Breslau and Berlin. 1941

USHMM Photo Archives #06104

SEPTEMBER 19, 1941: BADGE IDENTIFYING JEWS INTRODUCED IN GERMANY



In a decree of September 1, 1941, the German police required Jews over the age of six in Germany 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. This decree became effective on September 19. Jews are now identifiable on sight in Germany. The German police begin systematic deportations of Jews from Germany in October. In March 1942, Jews are also required to display the star symbol on their residences.

A Jewish boy wearing the compulsory Star of David. France, between 1940 and 1944.

USHMM Photo Archives #63042

July, 1943: Jews are no longer protected under German law

- 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*).



Departure of a train of German Jews being deported to Theresienstadt. Hanau, Germany, May 30, 1942.

USHMM Photo Archives #18892