



THE HOLOCAUST

From Nuremberg Laws to the Nuremberg Trials

How Did It Start?

- Anti-Semitism: Hatred of Jews for reasons connected to their heritage
- Part of European society for centuries
 - Jews seen as “killers of Christ”
 - Stereotypes = greedy, selfish, backstabbing
- Some blamed Jews for GER losing WWI
- Hitler was extremely anti-Semitic
 - Wanted to improve GER race by eliminating Jews
- Holocaust follows the 8 Stages of Genocide



Martin Luther pamphlet from 1543: "The Jews and Their Lies"



Stage 1: CLASSIFICATION

- 1934: Hitler becomes Führer
- 1935: Nuremberg Laws
 - Jews no longer German citizens
 - Illegal for Jews and non-Jews to marry
 - Jews cannot display German flag, but can display Jewish flag
- Breaking these laws was punished w/ hard labor and/or imprisonment
- Laws separated Jews from Germans in society
 - Divided into “us and them”



“The Jews are our misfortune”

Stage 2: SYMBOLIZATION

- 1938: “Kristallnacht” - Night of Broken Glass
 - Anti-Semitic attacks on Jewish businesses, homes
 - 200,000 Jews taken to camps
- 1939: Jews ordered to wear Star of David
 - Visually classifies group as different from rest of population

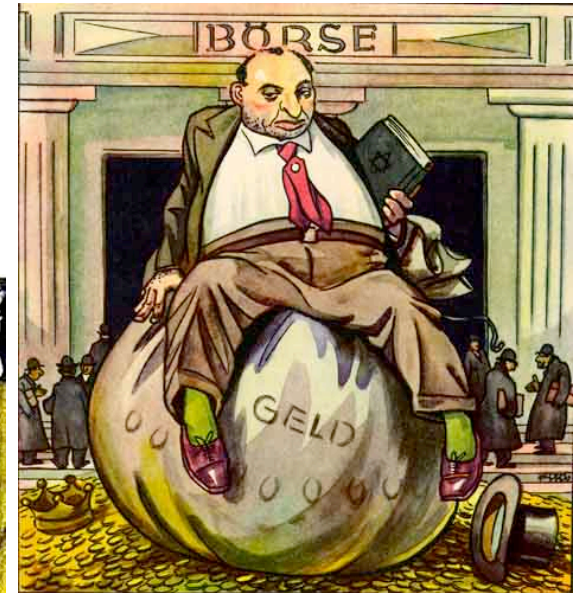
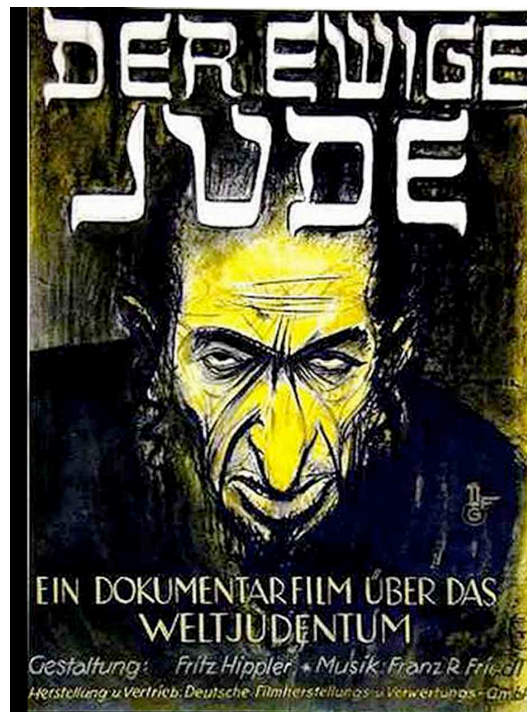


PAIR-SHARE

- Turn to a partner and discuss:
- *Why do you think Hitler didn't immediately start killing the Jews once he became the Führer?*

Stage 3: DEHUMANIZATION

- Nazis used propaganda that spread anti-Semitism
- Jews portrayed as greedy, evil, and as insects
- Purpose = Easier to kill a group when seen as less-than human



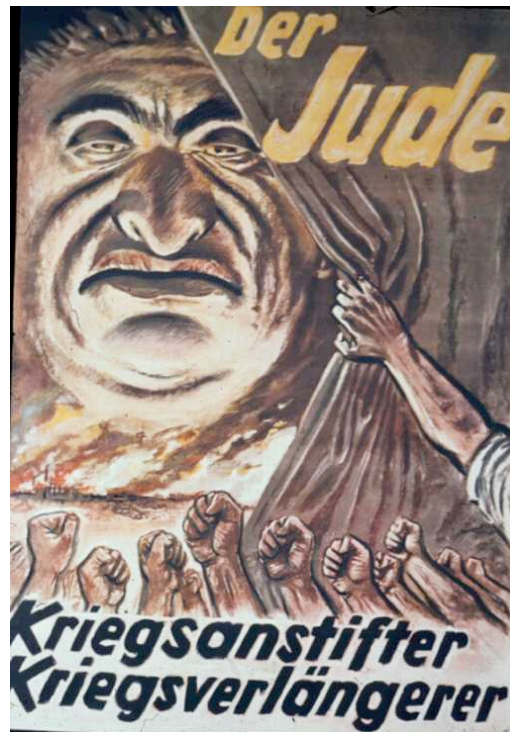
Stage 4: ORGANIZATION

- SS put in charge of concentration camps
 - 1st used for political prisoners (enemies of Nazis)
 - 1934: Began using camps for “undesirables”
- 1941: Precise plans put in place for “Final Solution”
 - “Final Solution” = Wipe out Jewish race



Stage 5: POLARIZATION

- While plans are put in place, further discrimination and segregation continues



Stage 6: PREPARATION

- 1939: Mass use of ghettos
 - Forced to move to segregated areas
 - Further removed from society = easier to send to concentration camps
- 1939: Concentration camps built throughout Nazi-occupied Europe
 - Between 1,200 – 15,000 built
 - Millions died from starvation, disease, execution



PAIR-SHARE

- Turn to a partner and discuss:
- Do you think something like the Holocaust can happen again? Why/Why not? Do you think it IS happening now in some parts of the world?

Stage 7: EXTERMINATION

- Extermination “Death” Camps
 - Last step in “Final Solution”
 - Purpose = Mass murder of Jews
 - Executed and buried in mass graves
 - Used gas chambers for more efficiency
 - Cremated bodies (faster, hid evidence of murder)
 - 3.5 million killed
- By 1945, 2 out of 3 European Jews had been killed (6 million)



Stage 8: Denial

- GER realized they were losing WWII
 - Destroyed records, dug up mass graves and burned bodies, burned down camps
- Nov 1945 – 1946: Nuremberg Trials
 - Nazi officials put on trial for war crimes
 - Most sentenced to death or life in prison
 - 1st time people were found guilty of crimes committed by the state
- Holocaust denial still exists today
 - Claim the Nazis didn't use gas chambers
 - Claim the # of Jews killed were in the thousands, not millions



Digesting Notes

- At the bottom of your notes, create a visual and write a brief description for each stage of Genocide.

