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The Concentration Camps Inside the Nazi System of Incarceration and Genocide

Part 1: The Nazi Strategy of Concentrating People

This document contains historical images
of the Holocaust and the concentration camps.

Please be advised that some of these pictures
and descriptions are graphic
and may be disturbing to viewers.



In 1933, during the first year of Hitler's rule, 200,000 people were arrested in Nazi Germany.

Adolf Hitler and Nazi SS leader Heinrich Himmler review SS troops during Reichsparteitag (Reich Party Day) in Nuremberg, Germany. 1935. *Photo credit: USHMM #11775.*

Die Nürnberger Gesetze



In 1935, the Nuremberg Race Laws institutionalized many of the racial theories underpinning Nazi ideology. People were defined as “Jewish” if they had Jewish grandparents, not if they practiced Judaism.

The laws also excluded Jews from German citizenship and prohibited Jews from having sex with persons of “German or related blood.”

Nazi infographic detailing “Die Nürnberger Gesetze” (The Nuremberg Race Laws). *Photo credit: USHMM #N13862.*



Seit dem Jahre 1923 führt Julius Streicher die Öffentlichkeit über die Rassenschande auf. Im Jahre 1935 ließ der Führer die Rassenschande zum kriminellen Verbrechen erklären und mit Zuchthaus bestrafen. Trotzdem werden in Deutschland tausende von Rasserverbrechen durch Juden begangen.

Was ist Rassenschande?

Warum erlich der Führer die Nürnberger Gesetze?

Warum betreibt der Jude die Rassenschande an der deutschen Frau planmäßig und massenhaft?

Was sind die Folgen der Rassenschande für die deutsche Frau und das deutsche Mädchen?

Was sind die Folgen der Rassenschande für das deutsche Volk?

Die neue

Stürmer Sondernummer

The Nazis instructed German women to avoid all contact with foreign workers, part of the ban on sexual relations between Aryans and non-Aryans (the “race defilement law”). German women who disobeyed were publicly humiliated and arrested, while foreign men were subject to the death penalty.

Nazi propaganda poster cartoonishly depicting a Jewish man interacting with an Aryan woman that reads: “Defiling the Race.”
Photo credit: USHMM.



When Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933, he banned all homosexual groups, raided gay businesses, and imprisoned many homosexuals. In 1935, laws forbidding homosexuality were made even stricter. Soon, many who were found to be “habitual homosexuals” were sent to concentration camps, where they were treated very harshly and perished by the thousands.

Hitler was well aware of his longtime aid and SA Chief of Staff Ernst Röhm’s homosexuality. Röhm’s execution in 1934 was connected to the power struggle between the SA (who were more fanatical in its political pursuit of Nazism) and Hitler, the Nazi Party, and the SS (who were more focused on working with traditional elites as a conduit to seize power and expansion),. This struggle culminated in the “Night of Long Knives.” The SS would later portray Röhm’s sexual behavior and killing as one justification for why the Nazis needed to destroy the SA.

Adolf Hitler (center) walks with other members of the Nazi Party, circa 1933–1934. Directly behind him is SA Chief of Staff Ernst Röhm, whom Hitler would order the SS to kill during the “Night of the Long Knives” in 1934. *Photo credit: USHMM #48174, courtesy of Jeff Kemper.*



Onlookers in front of the Reichstag (German parliament) building the day after it was damaged by fire. *Photo credit: USHMM and Bildarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz.*

The Reichstag Fire Decree, passed by the newly formed Nazi government on February 28, 1933, gave the Nazi regime the legal power to arrest, detain, and eventually incarcerate people without charges.