



KUPFERBERG  
HOLOCAUST CENTER

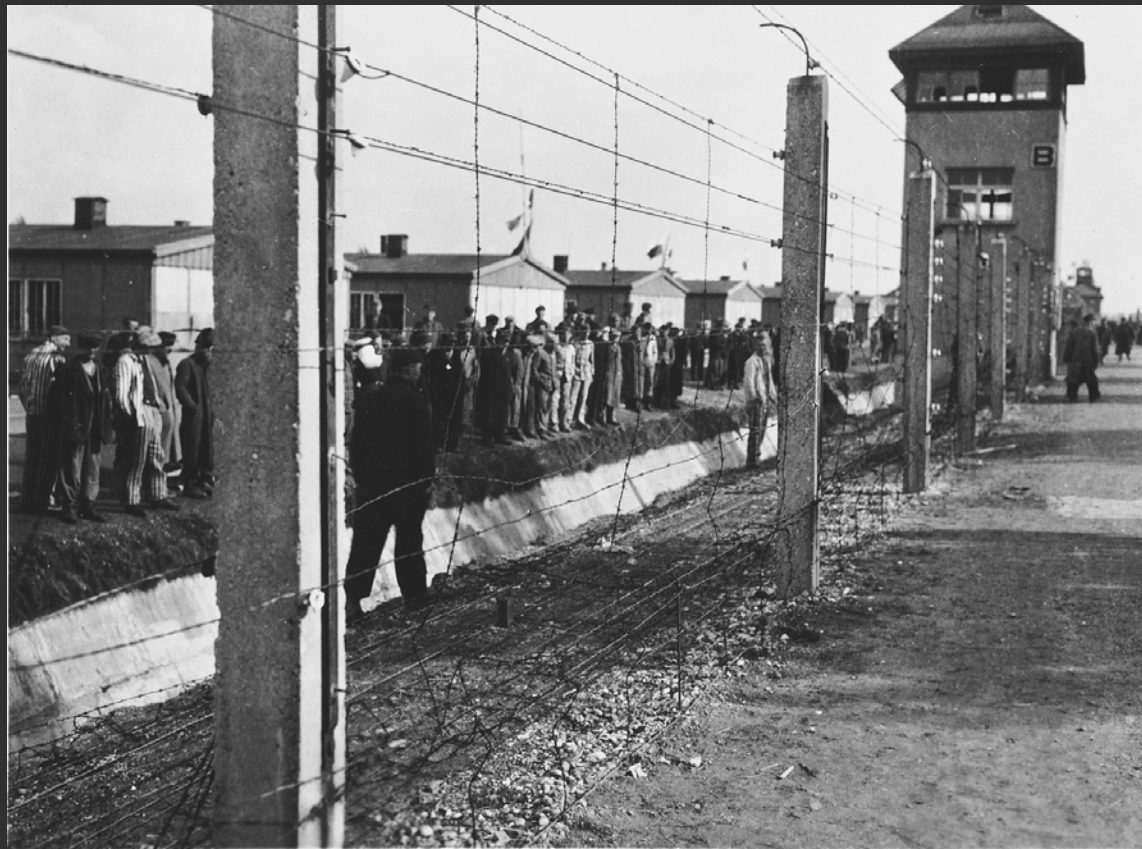
QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE | CUNY

# **The Concentration Camps Inside the Nazi System of Incarceration and Genocide**

*Part 2: Early Nazi Incarceration Sites (1933-1939)*

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

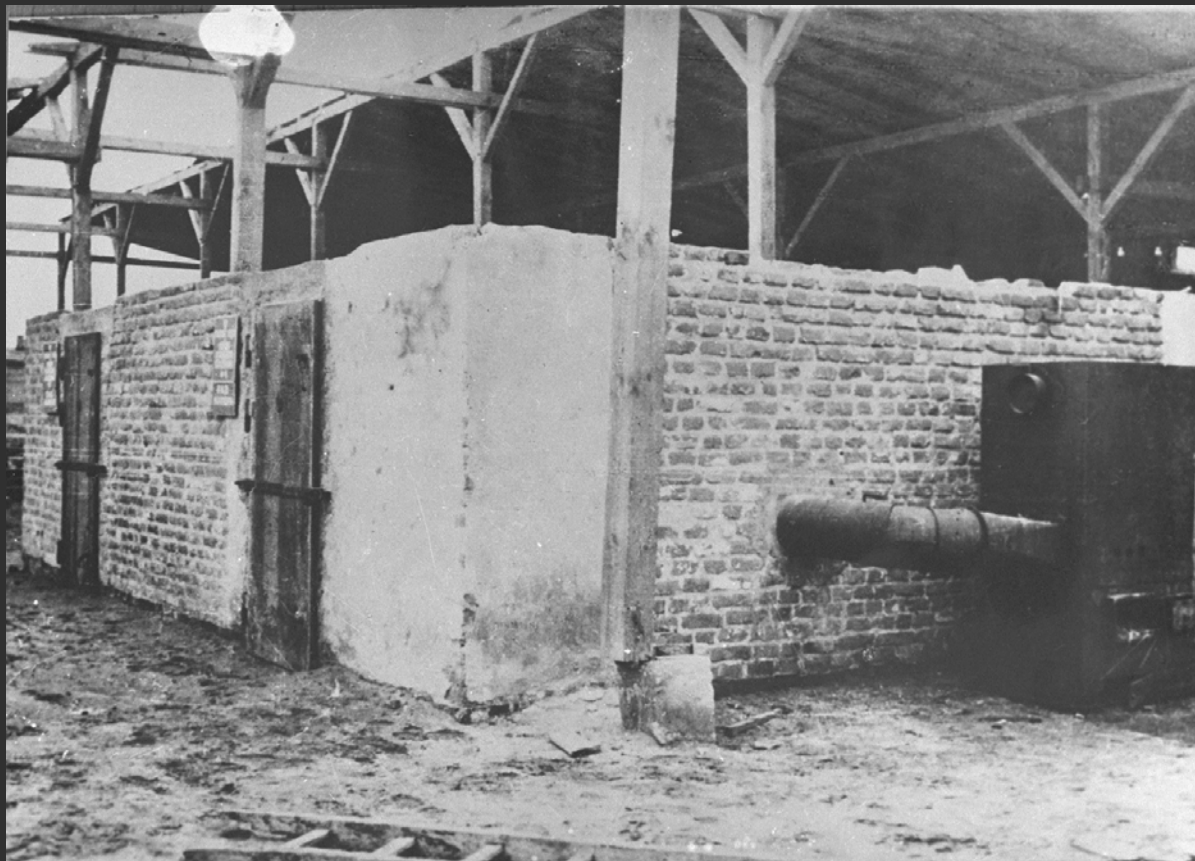
Please be advised that some of these pictures  
and descriptions are graphic  
and may be disturbing to viewers.



Dachau, the first and largest Nazi concentration camp in the German homeland, was established shortly after Hitler came to power in 1933.

For 12 years, the Nazis imprisoned and tortured political enemies, carried out heinous human experiments, and subjected thousands of prisoners to forced labor.

Prisoners stand behind the barbed-wire fence in Dachau. *Photo credit: USHMM #04497.*



After observing the use of carbon monoxide to kill mentally ill patients in their euthanasia program, Nazis quickly began using gas chambers on a mass scale to murder millions more.

The rear side of a Nazi carbon monoxide gas chamber. The furnace and vent (right) created sufficient gas to kill prisoners in large numbers. *Photo credit: USHMM #10326.*



In November 1938, immediately after Kristallnacht (“The Night of Broken Glass”), approximately 1,800 Jews were transported to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp just north of Berlin, Germany.

Uniformed prisoners are assembled in front of a Nazi guard at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in 1938. *Photo credit: USHMM and National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD.*



Oranienburg concentration camp, located near Berlin, Germany, was one of the first and largest camps to be established by the Nazis within the German homeland (Reich). Opening on March 21, 1933, it quickly developed a reputation for harsh treatment of prisoners.

Prisoners guarded by Nazi SA line up in the yard of the Oranienburg concentration camp. *Photo credit: USHMM #77559A.*



Established in March 1933, Dachau was the first concentration camp in the German homeland. Located about 10 miles northwest of Munich, it became the model for thousands of subsequent camps.

View of the Dachau concentration camp near Munich, Germany. *Photo credit: USHMM #55026.*



View of Dachau concentration camp, which was a model for subsequent Nazi camps. *Photo credit: USHMM and National Archives and Records Administration.*

A concentration camp is defined as a place where people are unlawfully detained under harsh conditions and without the legal norms for arrests in a constitutional democracy.

Nazi Germany and its European allies operated approximately 44,000 camps and ghettos during the Holocaust.





After Kristallnacht, the Nazis ordered German Jews (and later, Jews in other European countries under Nazi control) to wear identifying badges or armbands with the Jewish symbol of the Star of David. The word inside the badge reads “Jude” (“Jew”).

This compulsory law helped Nazis identify and concentrate Jews at the beginning stages of the Holocaust.

A Jewish family walking along a Berlin street wears the compulsory Star of David badge.

*Photo credit: USHMM, DIZ München GMBH, Süddeutscher Verlag Bilderdienst.*



Approximately 50,000 children deemed “racially valuable” were abducted from Nazi-controlled territories in eastern Europe during the war and sent to special camps to be “Germanized.”

After their “Germanization,” these children were sent west to be raised by German families.

Polish babies, chosen for their “Aryan features,” wait to be adopted and raised as ethnic Germans.

*Photo credit: USHMM, courtesy of Lydia Chagoll.*



Nazi SS Officer Theodore Eicke was the mastermind behind the Nazi's first concentration camp in 1933: Dachau. Hundreds of concentration camps would follow the model that Eicke created.

Nazi SS Officer Eicke (front) visiting the Lichtenberg concentration camp. *Photo credit: USHMM, courtesy of Instytut Pamięci Narodowej.*

Waffen - H  
Kommandantur  
des Konzentrationslagers - Sachsenhausen  
Az.: K.L./14 s 2/7.44/ Si./Ho.-

Oranienburg, den 13. Juli 1944

226

Or Datum

Grund der Schutzhaft:

politisch	
politisch zufällig	
Straftübertreter	
Bibelforscher	
Rasseshänder	
homosexuell	K (DP)
Emigrant	
Ausweisung	
arbeitslos	
Fürsorge	

(Gutreffendes bezeichnen mit +)

Personalien des Täters:

(Zu- und Vorname): I [redacted] Rolf ( 78895 )

geboren am 6.1.12 zu Wuppertal

Satzbestand: (wann, wo, was, wie?)

hat am 175

nach Strafverbüßung wegen widernatürlicher  
Unzucht mit Männern.

SK. vom 14.7.44 bis auf weiteres (Schuhläufer)

gez.

K a i n d l

H - Standartenführer u.  
Kommandant.

Over 100,000 men in Nazi  
Germany were arrested  
for being homosexual.

Sachsenhausen concentration camp report showing a male prisoner's imprisonment for the crime of having a differing sexual preference than the norm. Photo credit: USHMM, courtesy of Russian State Archives of Film and Photo Documents.



German families of patients with mental illness and cognitive disabilities were often unaware that their relatives were murdered. They received death certificates that listed fictional causes and dates of death.

View of the cemetery at the Hadamar Institute, where victims of the Nazi euthanasia program were buried in mass graves. *Photo credit: USHMM #73719.*



Portrait of Karl Brandt as a defendant in the Medical Case Trial at Nuremberg. *Photo credit: USHMM #06231.*

The murder of cognitively and psychiatrically impaired patients in Nazi Germany was led by Hitler's doctor, Karl Brandt, and the director of the Führer's Chancellery, Philip Bouhler.



Nearly 100 Nazi officials involved in the euthanasia program later played key roles in the extermination of Jews in Nazi-occupied Poland, bringing their knowledge of gas chambers and body disposal to a new task.

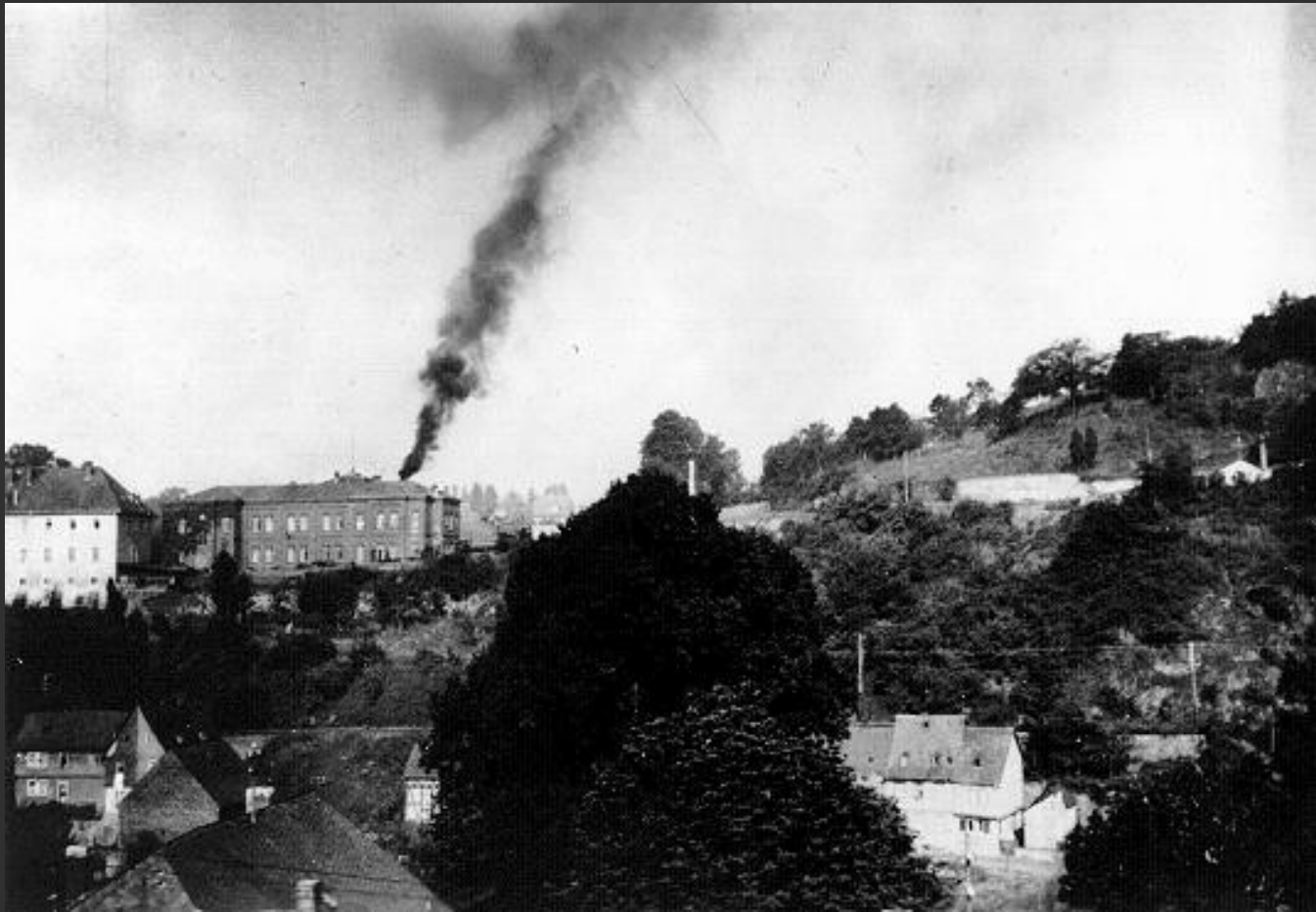
The head nurse at the Kaufbeuren-Irsee euthanasia facility about to kill the last child. *Photo credit: USHMM #78606.*



A group of developmentally disabled patients at an unidentified asylum. *Photo credit: USHMM #17572.*

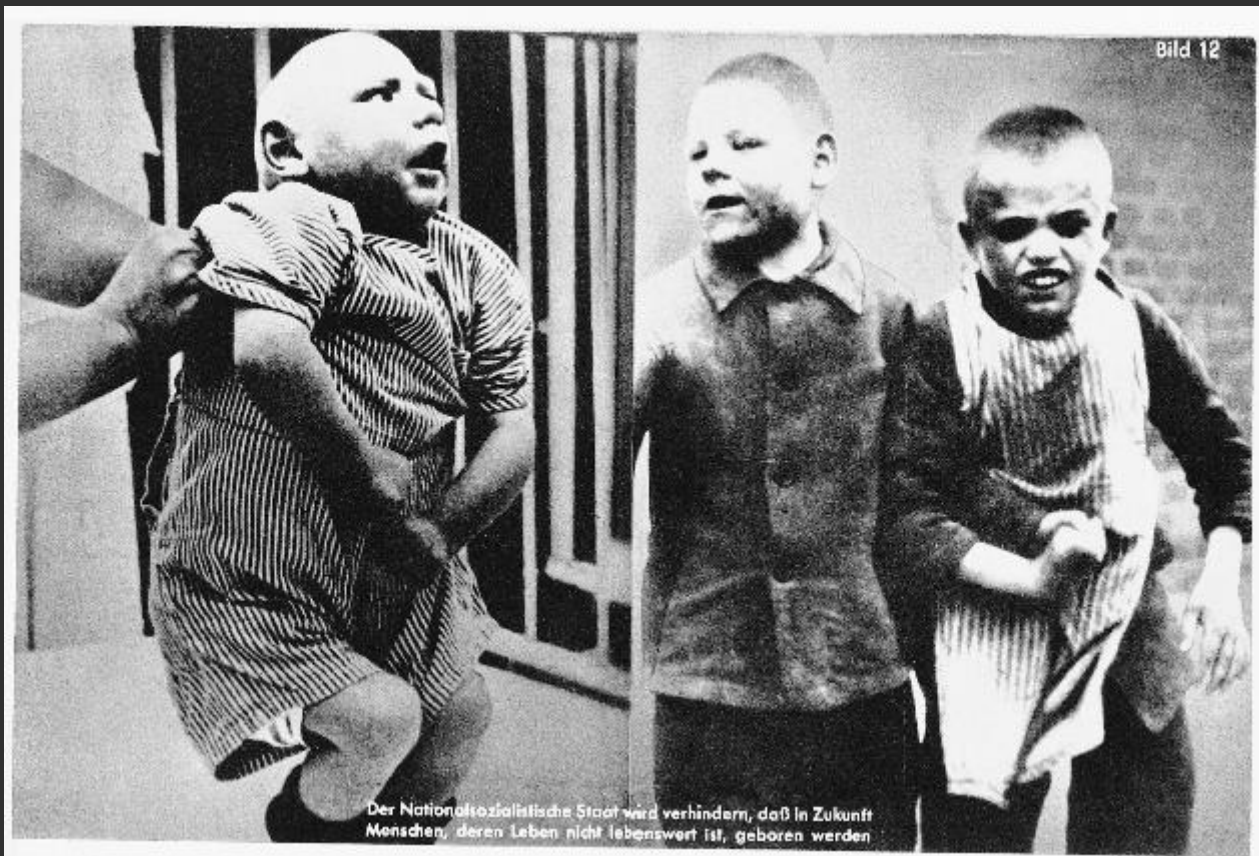
The first gas vans were created to kill patients with mental illness and cognitive impairment in Nazi-occupied Poland during the winter of 1939 and 1940.





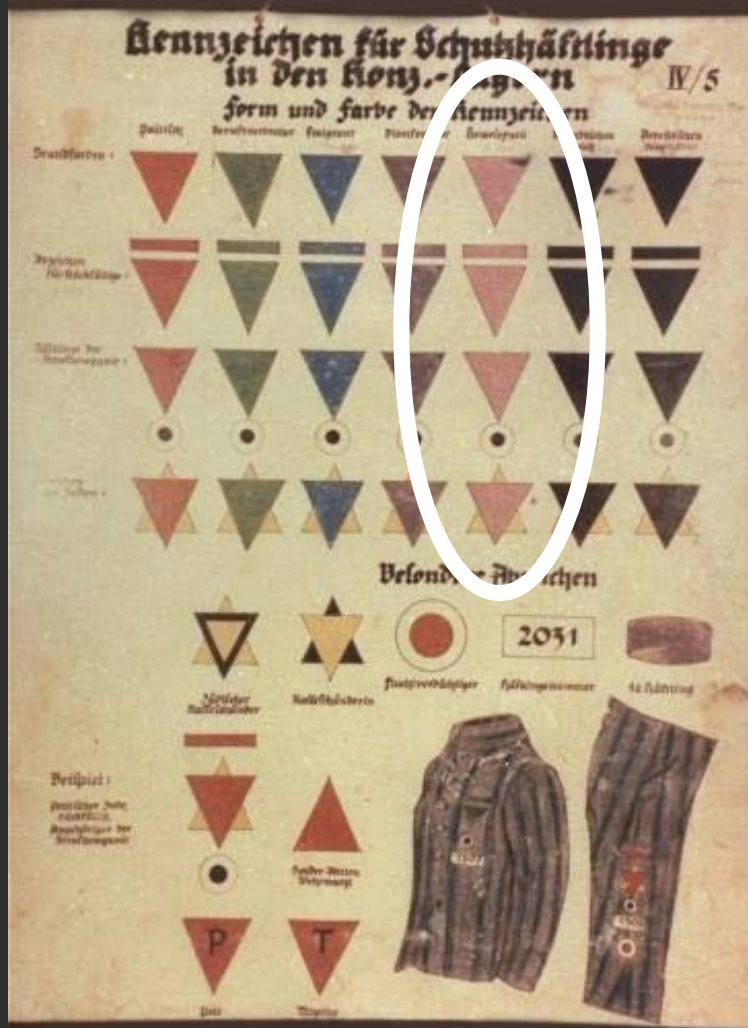
Six psychiatric hospitals in Germany were converted into killing centers for the disabled. There, patients were murdered in gas chambers.

Smoke rising from the chimney at Hadamar, one of six facilities which carried out the Nazis' euthanasia program. *Photo credit: USHMM.*



“Euthanasia” often refers to the painless death of terminally ill patients, meant to end their suffering. However, for the Nazis, it was meant to create a racially pure society.

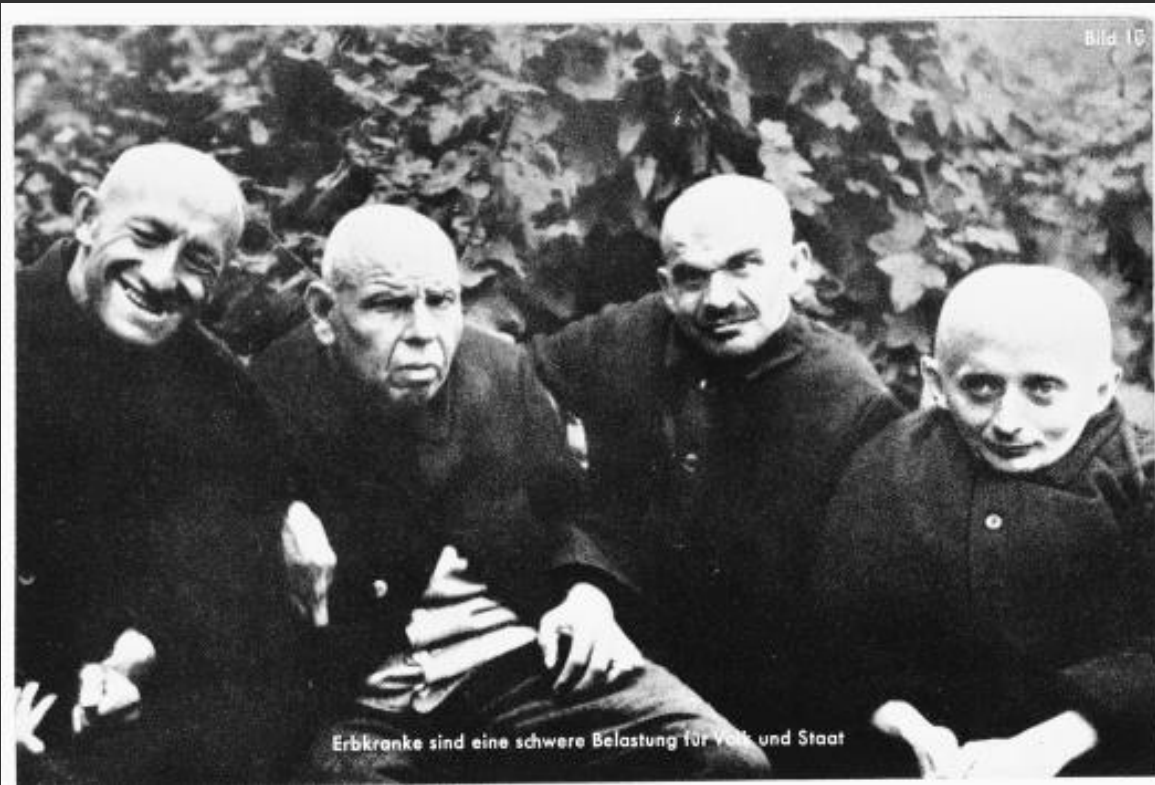
Nazi propaganda composite photograph showing mentally disabled children. The original caption reads: “The National Socialist State in the future will prevent people whose lives are not worth living from being born.” *Photo credit: USHMM #62928.*



The Nazi Party denounced homosexuality as a “vice” — antithetical to traditional family life, as well as deviating from the pursuit of pure, Aryan population.

Many who were accused of being “habitual homosexuals” were arrested or sent to concentration camps, where they were identified by pink, triangular badges.

A chart of prisoner markings used in many Nazi concentration camps. Pink triangles for various categories of homosexual prisoners are circled. *Photo credit: USHMM and KZ Gedenkstaette Dachau.*



Adolf Hitler imposed a new order (Neuordnung) in occupied Europe.

The goal was to ensure the supremacy of the “Germanic race” by dominating and terrorizing other groups, including Jews, Slavs, Roma, and the developmentally disabled.

Nazi propaganda showing four developmentally disabled men that reads, *"Hereditary illnesses are a heavy burden for the people and the state."* Photo credit: USHMM #62930.



The “Night of Broken Glass” refers to the anti-Jewish pogrom that occurred throughout Germany on November 9-10, 1938. Dozens of Jews were killed by rioters across the country while hundreds of synagogues were destroyed and vandalized.

Children play among the ruins of the Peter-Gemeinder-Strasse synagogue in Beerfelden , Germany that was destroyed during Kristallnacht. *Photo credit: USHMM #96945.*



Two survivors of the Hadamar Institute's euthanasia (T4) facility. *Photo credit: USHMM #05445.*

The codename for the Nazi euthanasia program was "Aktion T4."

The name came from the street address of the program's coordinating office, Tiergartenstrasse 4.