



# THE HOLOCAUST

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**“In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart.”**

**–Anne Frank**

# Definition of Holocaust

- The word “holocaust” means “sacrifice by fire” from the Greek language
  - Period between January 30, 1933 until May 8, 1945 when World War II ended
  - The holocaust refers to the systematic killing of 6,000,000 Jews in Europe by the Nazis
  - About two of every three Jews in Europe had been murdered
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# Holocaust Victims

- 11 million people were killed in the Holocaust
- Adolph Hitler wanted to create an “Aryan Master Race”
- Victims were not only Jews

## Other Victims:

- Gypsies
- Poles
- Slavs
- Blacks
- People with physical or mental disabilities
- The Elderly
- Homosexuals
- Mentally or Physically Handicapped



**"The destruction of Poland is our primary task. The aim is not the arrival at a certain line but the annihilation of living forces...." -Adolph Hitler**

# The Perfect Aryan Race

*'The  
Nazi Race', 1929.*

**Source 1:**

“The Aryan race is tall, long legged, slim. The race is narrow-faced, with a narrow forehead, a narrow highbuilt nose and a lower jaw and prominent chin, the skin is rosy bright and the blood shines through .... the hair is smooth, straight or wavy - possibly curly in childhood. The colour is blond.”





# Holocaust Badges

**Nazis used triangular badges to identify prisoners in concentration camps:**

**Yellow** - Jew

**Brown** - Gypsy

**Violet** - Jehovah's Witness

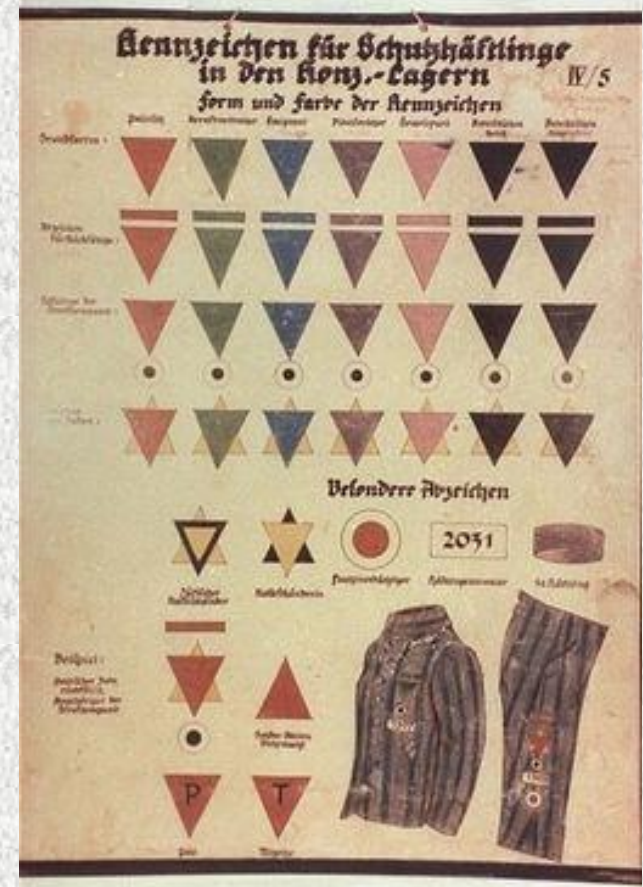
**Pink** - Homosexual

**Green** - Habitual criminal

**Red** - Political prisoner

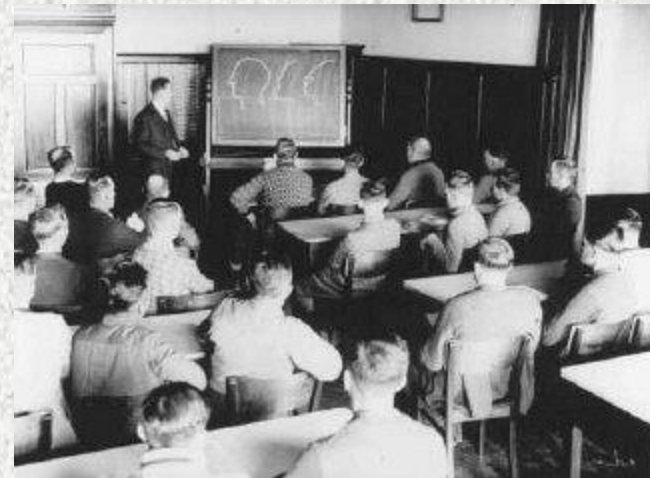
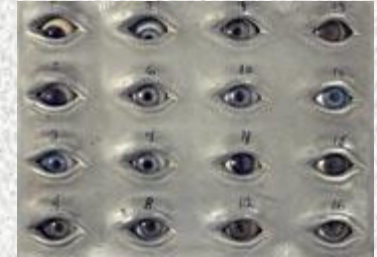
**Black** - Asocial

**Blue** - Emigrant



# Holocaust Eugenics

- Biological Superiority
- Jews and other persons were viewed as a “threat” to the Nazi regime of establishing the Master Aryan race
- Eugenics– racial hygiene– Nazis used the argument of eugenics to spread propaganda about the other races
- Science and Research were used



# Causes of the Holocaust...

1. Poor Economy of Germany after World War I– Germany looking for a scapegoat…blamed on the Jews

According to Treaty of Versailles, Germany had to pay 33 million dollars in reparations for the war

2. Rise of Adolph Hitler after World War I– People believed he could save the economy

The Holocaust was a GRADUAL event; it did not occur overnight

3. Widespread Propaganda by the Nazi Party

“The Jews are our misfortune” – This line was written on the front page of each edition of the Nazi Newspaper *Der Sturmer*

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# Adolph Hitler (childhood)



- Born in Austria in 1889
  - Physically abused by his father:
  - “I then resolved never again to cry when my father whipped me. A few days later I had the opportunity of putting my will to the test. My mother, frightened, took refuge in the front of the door. As for me, I counted silently the blows of the stick which lashed my rear end.”
  - His mother died from breast cancer in 1907
- “Hitler was certainly gifted in some subjects, but he lacked self-control. He was argumentative and bad-tempered, and unable to submit to school discipline....moreover, he was lazy. He reacted with hostility to advice or criticism.” (Humer-French teacher)
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# Adolph Hitler (adulthood)

- Dropped out of high school and went to Vienna (Austria) to study art and architecture
- The Jews were part of the intellectual and financial leaders in Vienna– part of Hitler’s growing hatred of Jews began there
- Dreams were crushed when the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts rejected his application
- Lived an idle life– lived in a homeless shelter for a while

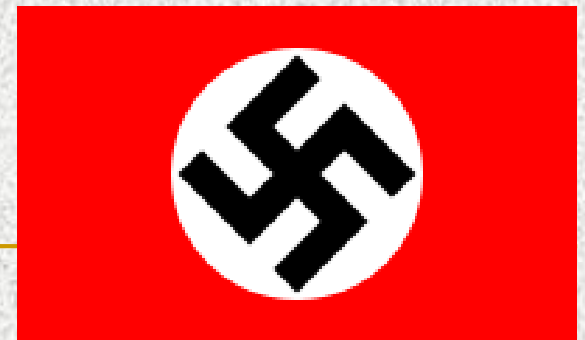


## Adolph Hitler’s Paintings:



# Adolph Hitler (adulthood)

- Fought in World War I to defend Germany– found some meaning in his life
- Awarded the Iron Cross twice
- Joined the National Socialist German Workers' Party –also known as the Nazis
- Nazi symbol was the **swastika**
- He became leader of the Nazi Party
- Known for his public oratory– a spellbinding speaker
- Listen to Public Speech by Hitler



# Adolph Hitler (prison years)

- The Nazi Party began to grow in popularity
  - Plotted to seize power in Munich, Germany, but he was captured and sentenced to prison
  - While in jail, Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle) which was a piece of writing which set forth his ideas and goals
  - *Mein Kampf*: stated that the Germans were a master race and that Jews were racially inferior ; vowed to take away lands from Germany; said Germany was overcrowded and needed more living space...conquer Europe and Russia
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- Hitler became Chancellor of Germany on January 30, 1933



# The Regime of Hitler

- **Totalitarian Rule**
- **Secret Police called the Gestapo- arrested anyone who opposed Nazi rule**
- **Heinrich Himmler was the leader of the Gestapo (SS)**
- **SS- black-coated unit which was a protection squad, or a security force, loyal to Hitler**
- **Night of the Long Knives- the SS murdered hundreds of opponents of the Nazi rule**



# The Regime of Hitler and Propaganda

- Hitler brought unemployment down from 6 million people to 1.5 million people
- Ministry of Culture- controlled what people watched on television, radio, books, art, music
- Books were burned that did not conform to Nazi ideology
- Used public schools to spread Nazi ideology



# Persecution of the Jews

Laws were passed to restrict the rights of Jews:

1. Burning of books written by Jews
  2. Removing Jews from their jobs
  3. Removing Jews from public schooling
  4. Confiscating Jewish property and businesses
  5. Excluded from public events
- Nuremburg Laws
  - Night of Broken Glass: (November 1938) Nazis destroyed Jewish homes and businesses and burned synagogues; 30,000 Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps all because a 17-year old boy tried to avenge the death of his family by killing a member of the German embassy (pogroms)
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# Nuremburg Laws

- Form of Anti-Semitism (hatred towards Jews)
- 1933: Jews are prohibited from holding public office
- Jews were deprived of German citizenship
- All Jews were required to wear the yellow Star of David
- What Jews could not do:

**Fly German Flag**

**Write or Publish**

**Act**

**Work in Hospitals or Banks**

**Teach**

# Concentration Camps

- Conditions were horrible
- Two kinds of concentration camps: Labor and Death Camps
- Constant torture and starvation
- Experimentation on Victims: Dr. Joseph Mengele “Angel of Death”
- Auschwitz and Birkenau Concentration Camp



# Gas Chambers (Extermination Camps)

- **Mass killings through gas chambers**
- **Women had to have hair cut off- hair was used for making of stockings and other products**
- **Extracted gold teeth before sentenced to death**





# Final Solution- Mass Annihilation

- **Genocide: killing of an entire people**
- **When Hitler conquered Poland and invaded Russia, the SS rounded up Jews and put them in ghettos.**
- **The ghettos were sealed off with barbed wire and stones**
- **Lined up Jews and shot them on the spot –Death Marches**



# The End of World War II

- The Allies liberated the victims of the Nazis gradually
- Allies included United States, Britain, and Soviet Union-1945
- Hitler committed suicide

**“Lest we forget,  
history shall  
repeat itself”**



April 30, 1945: Inmates at the Allach concentration camp greet arriving Americans with a home-made flag.

