

Chapter 1 : The origins of Nazi genocide : from euthanasia to the final solution in SearchWorks catalog

The Origins of Nazi Genocide: From Euthanasia to the Final Solution [Henry Friedlander] on calendrierdelascience.com
**FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Tracing the rise of racist and eugenic ideologies, Henry Friedlander explores in chilling detail how the Nazi program of secretly exterminating the handicapped and disabled evolved into the systematic destruction of Jews and Gypsies.*

Additional Information In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: Book Reviews conspiracy of misinformation on the part of the Home Office, the Jewish community, and refugee relief organizations, all of whom had an interest in minimizing the numbers of refugees who were said to be arriving in the country. The more critical view of British policy now common perhaps reflects current sociopolitical preoccupations rather than an altogether disinterested analysis of the historical evidence. The British record on these issues was admittedly rather different, certainly less impressive, during World War II, but it is a mistake automatically to extrapolate back into the prewar period. It should be added that the book is written with a rare felicity: Bernard Wasserstein Oxford Centre for Hebrew. *The Origins of Nazi Genocide*: University of North Carolina Press, He does this by emphasizing three factors. This applies most obviously to forced sterilization, to what the Nazis euphemistically termed "euthanasia," and even to the selection on the ramp of death camps, as a result of which Jews were sent into gas chambers. Implicitly, he even applies a logic to the distinctive victim groups: At the following level, "euthanasia" could strike institutionalized patients, many of whom might already have been sterilized, and some of whom, as World War II was proceeding apace, were chosen because they were institutionalized and Jewish. Next, selection on the ramp affected Jews and later Gypsies exclusively, thus was a function of genocide and at the core of what today we know to have been the Holocaust. Third, the element of timing is important. The Nazi sterilization laws were promulgated in July, coming into effect the following January. The mass killings, mostly through gas, occurred after the war theater had moved well into the east; significantly, Hitler wanted to catch and destroy "European Jewry," which was mainly settled in the east, and being erected on Polish territory the killing centers were well out of the view of civilian ordinary Germans. Friedlander deals with all these stages and sequences in an uncommonly meticulous fashion, to a point where at times he becomes overly technical and his pages make for somewhat tedious reading. But be this as it may, to tell his story as it must be told, he builds on a wealth of literature from the more recent past, as it applies to each of the discrete phenomena and time periods, adding documentary You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles:

Chapter 2 : The Holocaust - HISTORY

The Origins of Nazi Genocide: From Euthanasia to the Final Solution. Chapel Hill and London: The North Carolina University Press, xxiii + pp. Tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$ (paper), ISBN

German-occupied Europe , Concentration and extermination camps, and ghettos. Territories of the Axis Powers are in olive green. The logistics of the mass murder turned the country into what Michael Berenbaum called "a genocidal state". Bureaucrats identified who was a Jew, confiscated property, and scheduled trains that deported Jews. Companies fired Jews and later employed them as slave labour. Universities dismissed Jewish faculty and students. German pharmaceutical companies tested drugs on camp prisoners; other companies built the crematoria. The killings were systematically conducted in virtually all areas of occupied Europe – more than 20 occupied countries. Hundreds of thousands more died in the rest of Europe. They included the head of the German Red Cross, tenured professors, clinic directors, and biomedical researchers. Some dealt with sterilization of men and women, the treatment of war wounds, ways to counteract chemical weapons, research into new vaccines and drugs, and the survival of harsh conditions. History of the Jews in Germany , Christianity and antisemitism , Martin Luther and antisemitism , Religious antisemitism , and Racial antisemitism Throughout the Middle Ages in Europe, Jews were subjected to antisemitism based on Christian theology, which blamed them for killing Jesus. Even after the Reformation , Catholicism and Lutheranism continued to persecute Jews, accusing them of blood libels and subjecting them to pogroms and expulsions. The movement embraced a pseudo-scientific racism that viewed Jews as a race whose members were locked in mortal combat with the Aryan race for world domination. This did not mean that antisemitism had disappeared; instead it was incorporated into the platforms of several mainstream political parties. Many Germans did not accept that their country had been defeated, which gave birth to the stab-in-the-back myth. Inflaming the anti-Jewish sentiment was the apparent over-representation of Jews in the leadership of communist revolutionary governments in Europe, such as Ernst Toller , head of a short-lived revolutionary government in Bavaria. This perception contributed to the canard of Jewish Bolshevism. Open about his hatred of Jews, he subscribed to the common antisemitic stereotypes. He viewed Marxism as a Jewish doctrine, said he was fighting against " Jewish Marxism ", and believed that Jews had created communism as part of a conspiracy to destroy Germany. Enemies were divided into three groups: The latter two groups were to be sent to concentration camps for "re-education", with the aim of eventual absorption into the Volksgemeinschaft. Jews were not allowed to own farms. Works by Jewish composers, [81] authors, and artists were excluded from publications, performances, and exhibitions. Fellow citizen, that is your money too. The courts reached a decision in 64, of those cases; 56, were in favor of sterilization. In addition there were specialized killing centres, where the deaths were estimated at 20,, according to Georg Renno, the deputy director of Schloss Hartheim , one of the "euthanasia" centers, or ,, according to Frank Zeireis, the commandant of the Mauthausen concentration camp. Eberhard Karl University received 1, bodies from executions between and The neuroscientist Julius Hallervorden received brains from one hospital between and Where they came from and how they came to me was really none of my business. They were put on a flight to Warsaw. The former said that only those of "German or kindred blood" could be citizens. Anyone with three or more Jewish grandparents was classified as a Jew. He was expelled from the Kaiser Wilhelm Society and the Prussian Academy of Sciences , and his citizenship was revoked. Austrian Nazis broke into Jewish shops, stole from Jewish homes and businesses, and forced Jews to perform humiliating acts such as scrubbing the streets or cleaning toilets. About , Austrian Jews had left the country by May , including Sigmund Freud and his family. Kristallnacht The synagogue in Siegen burning, 10 November

Chapter 3 : Genocides in history - Wikipedia

Origins of Nazi Genocide has 86 ratings and 5 reviews. Mark said: *A very impressive piece of scholarship, linking the murder of mentally and physically d.*

The Origins of Nazi Genocide: From Euthanasia to the Final Solution. University of North Carolina Press, The book also reveals insights into how these killing campaigns began and ultimately unfolded into large-scale death camps in the east. Scientific thought of the age – like eugenics – posited the threat of these three groups as biological, and thus irreversible. Despite the central role of Jews in our understanding of the Holocaust, Friedlander shows that the first group to be systematically murdered was the handicapped. Moreover, these medical workers were not fervent Nazis. This public opposition taught the killers a lesson: Thus, once the Wehrmacht conquered territory in the east, death camps were constructed only outside of the German heartland. In this way, Friedlander links the euthanasia program directly to the Final Solution. The T4 program taught scientists, doctors, administrators, and Nazi ideologues the best ways to murder people the gas chamber was first used in the T4 program and the best ways to hide it from the public. Through meticulous research, he reveals that many of the T4 staffers left their institutions in Germany to staff the new, larger killing centers being constructed in the east. Their knowledge was indispensable for the success of death camps it was more efficient to bring victims to the killing centers than to have mobile killing centers go to them, for example, Friedlander is also interested in the role Hitler himself played in all of this. While we have the official order to begin the T4 program, no paper trail leading from Auschwitz to Hitler has ever been found. Friedlander supposes that this is because Hitler had learned his lesson with the public resistance to the euthanasia program. From that point on, an order of such magnitude would have only been given orally Lastly, Friedlander firmly demonstrates that the Final Solution was the result of structural radicalization, and not the implementation of a pre-ordained plan. While the murder of the handicapped began in , the official order for Jews and Gypsies was still deportation. For more books on modern German history, see my full list of book reviews here.

Chapter 4 : The History Place - Genocide in the 20th Century: The Nazi Holocaust

Tracing the rise of racist and eugenic ideologies, Henry Friedlander explores in chilling detail how the Nazi program of secretly exterminating the handicapped and disabled evolved into the systematic destruction of Jews and Gypsies.

Origins of the Nazi Genocide Henry Friedlander. The Origins of Nazi Genocide: From Euthanasia to the Final Solution. Chapel Hill and London: The North Carolina University Press, Tables, notes, bibliography, index. Reviewed by Joerg Bottger, Independent Scholar. Since the early s, however, historical research has expanded our knowledge by taking a closer look at other victim groups which the Nazis targeted for decimation and extermination. Whereas earlier works have viewed the mass murder of the handicapped, the so-called euthanasia program, and the mass murder of Jews as distinct and different phenomena, Friedlander argues that "euthanasia was not simply a prologue but the first chapter of Nazi genocide" p. The ideological underpinnings of the annihilation of the handicapped, Jews and Gypsies as well as the mass killings of Slavic populations in German-occupied eastern Europe were based on widely accepted theories of the inequality of races. Ideas of racial purity and purification had already existed long before the Nazis came to power. Particularly in the Scandinavian countries but also in the United States, many members of the medical establishments and scientific elites supported compulsory sterilization of those population groups deemed racially and socially inferior. While the eugenic movement in the United States lost its impetus over time, representatives of racial hygiene Rassenhygiene in Germany ambitiously saw to it that their radical views of a biological-social utopia were to be fulfilled. Friedlander makes it clear that a political regime bent on eradicating undesirables of all sorts was a necessary precondition for genocide. The bureaucracy in Nazi Germany and scholarly exponents of racial hygiene entered an informal division of labor: The enthusiastic cooperation between scientists, scholars and Nazi officials began in earnest with the program of forced sterilization. From to , German and Austrian physicians sterilized perhaps some , women and men against their will, because they had been allegedly diagnosed with a "hereditary disease" Erbkrankheit. In addition to the handicapped, many Austrian and German Gypsies, whom society had already marginalized before , fell victim to compulsory sterilization. The Nazi regime would not stop here, however. Far more radical, in fact, deadly measures were soon to be taken to rid the Volksgemeinschaft of what was called "life unworthy of life" lebensunwertes Leben. As early as , Adolf Hitler had contemplated the realization of euthanasia once war broke out. The planning of this murder project originated in the summer of , and the machinery of death consisted of three different agencies. The Reich Committee for the Scientific Registration of Severe Hereditary Ailments Reichsausschuss zur wissenschaftlichen Erfassung von erb- und anlagebedingten schweren Leiden was the preeminent body dealing with racial hygiene and population policy in Nazi Germany. Its members belonged to the creme de la creme of the medical establishment at the time. The Reich Committee planned, organized, and implemented the mass murder of handicapped children. More importantly, Hitler named his personal physician Begleiterarzt Dr. Karl Brandt and Bouhler plenipotentiaries for the forthcoming killing operation and gave them oral authorization Fuehrerermachtigung to proceed. In October the planned killings of handicapped children commenced. Tragically, the end of the Second World War in Europe did not put an end to the murder of handicapped children. In August Hitler also appointed Bouhler and Brandt plenipotentiaries for adult euthanasia. This time he furnished the go-ahead for the two in writing. In coordination between the KdF and the Health Department of the Reich Ministry of the Interior a killing organization was set up, supported by a staff of some one-hundred functionaries, including fifty physicians. Since April the central agency for implementing adult euthanasia had been located in a mansion on Tiergartenstrasse 4 in Berlin-Charlottenburg. This address gave the killing operation its infamous code name: To cover up registration, transportation, and killing of handicapped adults, T4 managers created an elaborate network of fronts Tarnorganisationen, table 4. The actual killings took place in six state hospitals and nursing homes which had been specially-equipped with gas chambers: From January to August the T4 perpetrators murdered some 70, handicapped persons from Austrian and German psychiatric institutions in the killing centers. Friedlander points out, however, that calculations by postwar German prosecutors arrived at a figure

of at least 80, killed p. On 24 August Hitler ordered the cancellation of further mass gassings in the framework of Aktion T4. Yet the mass killings of handicapped persons were far from over. On the contrary, they continued albeit by other means. In numerous hospitals and nursing homes all over Austria and Germany, physicians and nurses killed large numbers of patients by lethal medication or starving them to death. This rather decentralized and uncoordinated killing operation has become known as "wild" euthanasia. Here Friedlander is unable to give the reader exact figures or estimates of victims murdered during this phase. However, he points to the case of the Meseritz-Obrawalde hospital in the Prussian province of Pomerania. Postwar German judicial authorities estimated the number of persons killed there at perhaps 10, p. We can only assume then that the total number of victims of "wild" euthanasia must be in the tens of thousands. Friedlander shows how with the beginning of the Second World War the killing program gradually expanded eastward. In fact, mass killings of the handicapped had already occurred before the Aktion T4 killing centers became operational, namely in the newly-annexed Polish territories of the Reichsgaue Danzig-Westpreussen and Wartheland. Also, following the initiative of the Gauleiter of the Prussian province of Pomerania, transports of German handicapped were sent to killing sites in the east where a local SS battalion Wachsturmbann under the command of SS-Sturmbannfuehrer Kurt Eimann shot them. Beginning in early , a special unit, the Sonderkommando Lange, named after its commander SS-Hauptsturmfuehrer Herbert Lange, started evacuating state hospitals and nursing homes in Reichsgau Wartheland and dispatched the patients with specially-constructed gas vans. The first use of a stationary gas chamber is documented for late in Wartheland. In December Himmler and Brandt watched one of these mass killings there. Special units of the SS, the Security Police, and the Security Service Einsatzgruppen der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD, Einsatz- and Sonderkommandos not only massacred large numbers of Jews, but routinely included handicapped persons in open-air mass shootings. Friedlander writes that at the Kiev Pathological Institute alone, the staff and several SD men carried out a special operation Sonderaktion , slaughtering some , people deemed "life unworthy of life" between September and March p. In the meantime, Reichsfuehrer SS Heinrich Himmler had ordered the killing of specific groups of concentration camp inmates. Designated Aktion 14f13 in SS parlance, the Inspectorate of the Concentration Camps issued a directive whereupon those inmates unable to do hard physical labor or who suffered from incurable physical diseases were to be slated for "special treatment" Sonderbehandlung at one of the former T4 killing centers. In reality, the exact criteria for selecting inmates for elimination remain unknown, since the SS physicians seem to have ignored this directive and chose to pick their victims on an arbitrary basis. The death toll of Aktion 14f13 is estimated as close to 20, The handicapped victims of Nazi genocide have been by and large ignored in the secondary literature because only few survived to come forward to testify or to write memoirs. Friedlander gives the reader a number of biographical sketches of handicapped victims. Quite a few realized what was in store for them when they arrived at one of the killing centers. Others did not display any pathological symptoms whatsoever but were murdered solely for some alleged deviant behavior that was not in accordance with the precepts of a pure Volksgemeinschaft. The linkages between the euthanasia program and the genocide of Jews and Gypsies are evident in several ways. Jewish patients in hospitals and nursing homes became victims of the T4 program from the very beginning. Their systematic killing as a group, however, began in early summer of Friedlander avers that "the decision to kill handicapped Jewish patients as a group, made in the spring of at the highest level, foreshadowed, possibly foreordained the final solution of " p. Aktion T4 had demonstrated to the Nazi regime the feasibility of killing large numbers of people because the German bureaucracy willingly cooperated and ordinary women and men acted as executioners. The attitudes and behavior of German society made it no less easier for the Nazis to implement mass murder. Although protests against the euthanasia killings did occur, they were by no means widespread and intense. Moreover, under the conditions of war the Volksgemeinschaft did not care much about ostracized and much-maligned groups who had been already excluded from its ranks. Preparations for the annihilation of the European Jews began in the summer of Here the activities of KdF and SS went hand in hand. The killing expertise of the T4 perpetrators proved useful for the upcoming Aktion Reinhard, the mass murder of Jews in three extermination camps Belzec, Sobibor, and Treblinka. Hence, more than ninety T4 men were eventually transferred to the east to carry out the final solution in the General Government.

Chapter 5 : Genocide - HISTORY

THE ORIGINS OF NAZI GENOCIDE: From Euthanasia to the Final Solution User Review - Kirkus. An exhaustively researched account of the "opening act of Nazi genocide": the murder of approximately 70, physically and mentally handicapped German citizens.

Visit Website Did you know? Even in the early 21st century, the legacy of the Holocaust endures. Swiss government and banking institutions have in recent years acknowledged their complicity with the Nazis and established funds to aid Holocaust survivors and other victims of human rights abuses, genocide or other catastrophes. On January 20, 1933, he was named chancellor of Germany. At first, the Nazis reserved their harshest persecution for political opponents such as Communists or Social Democrats. The first official concentration camp opened at Dachau near Munich in March 1933, and many of the first prisoners sent there were Communists. Like the network of concentration camps that followed, becoming the killing grounds of the Holocaust, Dachau was under the control of Heinrich Himmler, head of the elite Nazi guard, the Schutzstaffel SS, and later chief of the German police. In 1933, Jews in Germany numbered around 5 million, or only 1 percent of the total German population. Under the Nuremberg Laws of 1935, anyone with three or four Jewish grandparents was considered a Jew, while those with two Jewish grandparents were designated Mischlinge half-breeds. Under the Nuremberg Laws, Jews became routine targets for stigmatization and persecution. From 1933 to 1945, hundreds of thousands of Jews who were able to leave Germany did, while those who remained lived in a constant state of uncertainty and fear. German police soon forced tens of thousands of Polish Jews from their homes and into ghettos, giving their confiscated properties to ethnic Germans non-Jews outside Germany who identified as German, Germans from the Reich or Polish gentiles. Surrounded by high walls and barbed wire, the Jewish ghettos in Poland functioned like captive city-states, governed by Jewish Councils. In addition to widespread unemployment, poverty and hunger, overpopulation made the ghettos breeding grounds for disease such as typhus. Meanwhile, beginning in the fall of 1941, Nazi officials selected around 70,000 Germans institutionalized for mental illness or disabilities to be gassed to death in the so-called Euthanasia Program. After prominent German religious leaders protested, Hitler put an end to the program in August 1941, though killings of the disabled continued in secrecy, and by 1945, people deemed handicapped from all over Europe had been killed. In hindsight, it seems clear that the Euthanasia Program functioned as a pilot for the Holocaust. Beginning in 1942, Jews from all over the continent, as well as hundreds of thousands of European Gypsies, were transported to the Polish ghettos. The German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 marked a new level of brutality in warfare. Mobile killing units called Einsatzgruppen would murder more than 3 million Soviet Jews and others usually by shooting over the course of the German occupation. Since June 1941, experiments with mass killing methods had been ongoing at the concentration camp of Auschwitz, near Krakow. The SS soon placed a huge order for the gas with a German pest-control firm, an ominous indicator of the coming Holocaust. Holocaust Death Camps, Beginning in late 1941, the Germans began mass transports from the ghettos in Poland to the concentration camps, starting with those people viewed as the least useful: The first mass gassings began at the camp of Belzec, near Lublin, on March 17, 1942. Five more mass killing centers were built at camps in occupied Poland, including Chelmno, Sobibor, Treblinka, Majdanek and the largest of all, Auschwitz-Birkenau. From 1942 to 1945, Jews were deported to the camps from all over Europe, including German-controlled territory as well as those countries allied with Germany. The heaviest deportations took place during the summer and fall of 1942, when more than 2.5 million people were deported from the Warsaw ghetto alone. Though the Nazis tried to keep operation of camps secret, the scale of the killing made this virtually impossible. Eyewitnesses brought reports of Nazi atrocities in Poland to the Allied governments, who were harshly criticized after the war for their failure to respond, or to publicize news of the mass slaughter. This lack of action was likely mostly due to the Allied focus on winning the war at hand, but was also a result of the general incomprehension with which news of the Holocaust was met and the denial and disbelief that such atrocities could be occurring on such a scale. At Auschwitz alone, more than 2 million people were murdered in a process resembling a large-scale industrial operation. A large population of Jewish and non-Jewish

inmates worked in the labor camp there; though only Jews were gassed, thousands of others died of starvation or disease. Nazi Rule Comes to an End, as Holocaust Continues to Claim Lives, By the spring of , German leadership was dissolving amid internal dissent, with Goering and Himmler both seeking to distance themselves from Hitler and take power. The following day, he committed suicide. The last trace of civilization had vanished around and inside us. The work of bestial degradation, begun by the victorious Germans, had been carried to conclusion by the Germans in defeat. Survivors of the camps found it nearly impossible to return home, as in many cases they had lost their families and been denounced by their non-Jewish neighbors. As a result, the late s saw an unprecedented number of refugees, POWs and other displaced populations moving across Europe. In an effort to punish the villains of the Holocaust, the Allies held the Nuremberg Trials of , which brought Nazi atrocities to horrifying light. Increasing pressure on the Allied powers to create a homeland for Jewish survivors of the Holocaust would lead to a mandate for the creation of Israel in

Chapter 6 : Origins of Nazi Genocide by Lisa Murphy on Prezi

Henry Friedlander. The Origins of Nazi Genocide: From Euthanasia to the Final Solution. New York: Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, xxiii + calendrierdelascience.com, notes, bibliography, index.

Using rare footage, the film explores their ideology, propaganda, and persecution of Jews and other victims. It also outlines the path by which the Nazis and their collaborators led a state to war and to the murder of millions of people. By providing a concise overview of the Holocaust and those involved, this resource is intended to provoke reflection and discussion about the role of ordinary people, institutions, and nations between and after the wars. This film is intended for adult viewers, but selected segments may be appropriate for younger audiences. This page is also available in: *The 20th century began much like our own*—with hope that education, science and technology could create a better, more peaceful world. What followed soon after were two devastating wars. More than one third of all German men aged 19 to 22 were killed. Millions of veterans were crippled in body and in spirit. Advances in the technology of killing included the use of poison gas. Under the pressure of unending carnage, governments toppled and great empires dissolved. What shocked so many in Germany about the treaty signed near Paris, at the Palace of Versailles, was that the victors dictated a future in which Germany was deprived of any significant military power. Germany was forced to accept full responsibility for starting the war and to pay heavy reparations. In fact, the German military had quietly sought an end to the war it could no longer win in. Troops left the bloody battlefields and returned to a bewildering society. A new and unfamiliar democratic form of government—the Weimar Republic—replaced the authoritarian empire and immediately faced daunting challenges. Thousands of Germans waited in lines for work and food in the early 1920s. Middle class savings were wiped out as severe inflation left the currency worthless. Some burned it for fuel. Economic conditions stabilized for a few years, then the worldwide depression hit in 1929. In a country plagued by joblessness, embittered by loss of territory, and demoralized by ineffective government, political demonstrations frequently turned violent. Many political parties had their own paramilitary units to attack opponents and intimidate voters. In 1930, ninety-nine people were killed in the streets in one month. Right-wing propaganda and demonstrations played on fears of a Communist revolution spreading from the Soviet Union. New social problems emerged from the impact of rapid industrialization and the growth of cities. Standards of behavior were changing. Crime was on the rise. Sexual norms were in flux. For the first time, women were working outside the home in large numbers, and the new constitution gave women the right to vote. In 1923, he was imprisoned for trying to overthrow the government. His trial brought him fame and followers. He served only a short jail sentence, and after the ban was lifted on his National Socialist Party, Hitler and his followers rejoined the battle in the streets and in the countryside. The Nazi Party recruited, organized, and produced a newspaper to spread its message. In the early 1930s, the frequency of elections was dizzying. So was the number of parties and splinter groups vying for votes. Hitler proved to be a charismatic campaigner and used the latest technology to reach people. The Nazi Party gained broad support, including many in the middle class—intellectuals, civil servants, students, professionals, shopkeepers and clerks ruined by the Depression. No party was able to win a clear majority, and without political consensus, successive governments could not effectively govern the nation. Adolf Hitler was not elected to office and he did not have to seize power. He was offered a deal just as the Nazis started to lose votes. In January 1933, when the old war hero, President Paul von Hindenburg, invited Hitler to serve as Chancellor in a coalition government, the Nazis could hardly believe their luck. The Nazis were revolutionaries who wanted to radically transform Germany. They reached out to the Nazis to help build a majority in Parliament. They were confident they could control Hitler. One month later, when arson gutted the German parliament building, Hitler and his nationalist coalition partners seized their chance. Exploiting widespread fears of a communist uprising, they blamed Communists for the fire, and declared emergency rule. President Hindenburg signed a decree that suspended all basic civil rights and constitutional protections, providing the basis for arbitrary police actions. Under the emergency decree, they could be terrorized, beaten and held indefinitely. Leaders of trade unions and opposition parties were arrested. German authorities sent

thousands, including leftist members of Parliament, to newly established concentration camps. Despite Nazi terror and brutal suppression of their opponents, many German citizens willingly accepted or actively supported these extreme measures in favor of order and security. Many Germans felt a new hope and confidence in the future of their country with the prospect of a bold, young charismatic leader. Nazi propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels planned to win over those who were still unconvinced. One must govern well, and for good government one must also practice good propaganda. A good government without propaganda is not more possible than good propaganda without a good government. Hitler spoke to the SA, his army of storm troopers. We have won power in Germany. Now we must win the German people. The event was carefully staged to reassure the German establishment, including the military, that Hitler would respect their traditions. Nazi-controlled newsreels then gave the impression that the Army supported the new government. Today was dedicated to the New Germany. Whether you agree with his doctrines or not, it must be admitted that the leadership of Hitler has united the German people for the first time since the war. Hindenburg remained President until his death in August. Now there was no authority above or beside him. Immediately, the armed forces swore an oath of allegiance to Adolf Hitler. The economy had reached rock bottom when the Nazis came to power. They boosted its recovery with huge public works projects for the unemployed. A half million folk comrades have gone back to work this year. Since the takeover of power, unemployment has fallen by more than half. In 1935, Germany openly defied the Treaty of Versailles by reinstating the draft and increasing its military strength. The Nazis were delivering on their promises to restore and strengthen the nation. Their achievements encouraged many people to overlook radical Nazi policies, or even to support them. In September 1935, the Nazi Party gathered in Nuremberg for its annual rally. It opened with a traditional hymn that added solemnity and a sense of continuity with the past. It ended with a special session of Parliament far from Berlin. German citizenship is restricted to persons of German or kindred blood. Marriages between Jews and citizens of German or kindred blood are forbidden. The Nazi concept of a national community was exclusive and based on race, as defined in the new laws and decrees. Heinrich Himmler and the SS led the ideological battle. Racist ideas were taught in schools. Some groups, such as Jews, Slavs, Blacks and Roma also called Gypsies were labeled racially inferior. Before the Nazis assumed power, Jews enjoyed all rights of citizenship in Germany. After 1933, the German government gradually excluded Jews from public life and public education. Newly established Jewish private schools provided a safe learning environment for some. What did I know? I was eight years old. Ladies and gentlemen, this is a boycott of Jewish shops. This sense of isolation that came upon us after 1933, gradual and increasing, it also affected us psychologically. We knew we were in a hostile world. Between 1933 and 1938, the German government enacted hundreds of laws to define, segregate and impoverish German Jews. My sister and I used to slink by those huge banners that were all over the city. But they were there. That just, little by little, that really took over. The goal of Nazi propaganda was to demonize Jews and encourage Germans to see Jews as dangerous outsiders in their midst. After 1933, everyday antisemitism was a regular part of carnival parades and floats. Public displays of antisemitism reinforced a climate of hostility toward Jews in Germany, or at the least, indifference to their treatment. In March 1938, German troops moved into neighboring Austria. It was a disaster for Austrian Jews. Within a year, the Nazis achieved in Austria what had taken five years to carry out in Germany.

Chapter 7 : Past Genocides - Armenia, Holocaust, Bosnia, Rwanda, Darfur

The United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. In , the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution that "affirmed" that genocide was a crime under international law, but did not provide a legal definition of the crime.

It began with a simple boycott of Jewish shops and ended in the gas chambers at Auschwitz as Adolf Hitler and his Nazi followers attempted to exterminate the entire Jewish population of Europe. In January , after a bitter ten-year political struggle, Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany. Hitler also put forward racial theories asserting that Germans with fair skin, blond hair and blue eyes were the supreme form of human, or master race. The Jews, according to Hitler, were the racial opposite, and were actively engaged in an international conspiracy to keep this master race from assuming its rightful position as rulers of the world. German Jews were mostly cosmopolitan in nature and proudly considered themselves to be Germans by nationality and Jews only by religion. They had lived in Germany for centuries, fought bravely for the Fatherland in its wars and prospered in numerous professions. But they were gradually shut out of German society by the Nazis through a never-ending series of laws and decrees, culminating in the Nuremberg Laws of which deprived them of their German citizenship and forbade intermarriage with non-Jews. They were removed from schools, banned from the professions, excluded from military service, and were even forbidden to share a park bench with a non-Jew. At the same time, a carefully orchestrated smear campaign under the direction of Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels portrayed Jews as enemies of the German people. Daily anti-Semitic slurs appeared in Nazi newspapers, on posters, the movies, radio, in speeches by Hitler and top Nazis, and in the classroom. As a result, State-sanctioned anti-Semitism became the norm throughout Germany. The Jews lost everything, including their homes and businesses, with no protest or public outcry from non-Jewish Germans. The devastating Nazi propaganda film *The Eternal Jew* went so far as to compared Jews to plague carrying rats, a foreshadow of things to come. They also lost everything and were even forced to perform public acts of humiliation such as scrubbing sidewalks clean amid jeering pro-Nazi crowds. Back in Germany, years of pent-up hatred toward the Jews was finally let loose on the night that marks the actual beginning of the Holocaust. Spurred on by Joseph Goebbels, Nazis used the death of vom Rath as an excuse to conduct the first State-run pogrom against Jews. Ninety Jews were killed, synagogues were burned and most Jewish shops had their windows smashed. The first mass arrest of Jews also occurred as over 25, men were hauled off to concentration camps. As a kind of cynical joke, the Nazis then fined the Jews 1 Billion Reichsmarks for the destruction which the Nazis themselves had caused during Kristallnacht. However, most Western countries maintained strict immigration quotas and showed little interest in receiving large numbers of Jewish refugees. This was exemplified by the plight of the St. During the time of my struggle for power it was in the first instance only the Jewish race that received my prophecies with laughter when I said that I would one day take over the leadership of the State, and with it that of the whole nation, and that I would then among other things settle the Jewish problem. Their laughter was uproarious, but I think that for some time now they have been laughing on the other side of their face. Today I will once more be a prophet: That war began in September as German troops stormed into Poland, a country that was home to over three million Jews. Inside these overcrowded walled-in ghettos, tens of thousands died a slow death from hunger and disease amid squalid living conditions. In the spring of , Himmler ordered the building of a concentration camp near the Polish city of Oswiecim, renamed Auschwitz by the Germans, to hold Polish prisoners and to provide slave labor for new German-run factories to be built nearby. Meanwhile, Hitler continued his conquest of Europe, invading Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and France, placing ever-increasing numbers of Jews under Nazi control. The Nazis then began carefully tallying up the actual figures and also required Jews to register all of their assets. But the overall question remained as to what to do with the millions of Jews now under Nazi control - referred to by the Nazis themselves as the *Judenfrage* Jewish question. The following year, , would be the turning point. In June, Hitler took a tremendous military gamble by invading the Soviet Union. Before the invasion he had summoned his top generals and told them the attack on Russia would be a

ruthless "war of annihilation" targeting Communists and Jews and that normal rules of military conflict were to be utterly ignored. Inside the Soviet Union were an estimated three million Jews, many of whom still lived in tiny isolated villages known as Shtetls. Following behind the invading German armies, four SS special action units known as Einsatzgruppen systematically rounded-up and shot all of the inhabitants of these Shtetls. Einsatz execution squads were aided by German police units, local ethnic Germans, and local anti-Semitic volunteers. Leaders of the Einsatzgruppen also engaged in an informal competition as to which group had the highest tally of murdered Jews. We, the SS, have to carry out this order I have therefore chosen Auschwitz for this purpose. This would become the future site of four large gas chambers to be used for mass extermination. The idea of using gas chambers originated during the Euthanasia Program, the so-called "mercy killing" of sick and disabled persons in Germany and Austria by Nazi doctors. By now, experimental mobile gas vans were being used by the Einsatzgruppen to kill Jews in Russia. Special trucks had been converted by the SS into portable gas chambers. However, this method was found to be somewhat impractical since the average capacity was less than 50 persons. For the time being, the quickest killing method continued to be mass shootings. The next year, 1942, marked the beginning of mass murder on a scale unprecedented in all of human history. The Jews of Europe would now be rounded up and deported into occupied Poland where new extermination centers were being constructed at Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, and Auschwitz-Birkenau. Jews in Vienna forced to scrub sidewalks. A mass shooting somewhere inside occupied Russia. Jewish children in the Lodz Ghetto on their way toward transports that will take them to Chelmno Death Camp. Crematory ovens at Majdanek with piles of human ashes still in front, as seen after liberation. He admitted killing 90, Jews, was convicted and hanged by the U. Code named "Aktion Reinhard" in honor of Heydrich, the Final Solution began in the spring as over two million Jews already in Poland were sent to be gassed as soon as the new camps became operational. Hans Frank, the Nazi Governor of Poland had by now declared: Jews arriving in trains at Belzec, Sobibor, and Treblinka were falsely informed by the SS that they had come to a transit stop and would be moving on to their true destination after delousing. They were told their clothes were going to be disinfected and that they would all be taken to shower rooms for a good washing. Men were then split up from the women and children. Everyone was taken to undressing barracks and told to remove all of their clothing. Women and girls next had their hair cut off. First the men, and then the women and children, were hustled in the nude along a narrow fenced-in pathway nicknamed by the SS as the Himmelstrasse road to Heaven. At the end of the path was a bathhouse with tiled shower rooms. As soon as the people were all crammed inside, the main door was slammed shut, creating an air-tight seal. Deadly carbon monoxide fumes were then fed in from a stationary diesel engine located outside the chamber. At Auschwitz-Birkenau, new arrivals were told to carefully hang their clothing on numbered hooks in the undressing room and were instructed to remember the numbers for later. They were given a piece of soap and taken into the adjacent gas chamber disguised as a large shower room. The gas pellets fell into hollow shafts made of perforated sheet metal and vaporized upon contact with air, giving off lethal cyanide fumes inside the chamber which oozed out at floor level then rose up toward the ceiling. Children died first since they were closer to the floor. Pandemonium usually erupted as the bitter almond-like odor of the gas spread upwards with adults climbing on top of each other forming a tangled heap of dead bodies all the way up to the ceiling. At each of the death camps, special squads of Jewish slave laborers called Sonderkommandos were utilized to untangle the victims and remove them from the gas chamber. Next they extracted any gold fillings from teeth and searched body orifices for hidden valuables. The corpses were disposed of by various methods including mass burials, cremation in open fire pits or in specially designed crematory ovens such as those used at Auschwitz. All clothing, money, gold, jewelry, watches, eyeglasses and other valuables were sorted out then shipped back to Germany for re-use. One extraordinary aspect of the journey to the death camps was that the Nazis often charged Jews deported from Western Europe train fare as third class passengers under the guise that they were being "resettled in the East. We have work and we are well treated. We await your arrival. Many went willingly, hoping to escape the brutal ghetto conditions. They were then stuffed into unheated, poorly ventilated boxcars with no water or sanitation. Young children and the elderly often died long before reaching their destination. Trainloads of human cargo arriving at Auschwitz went through a selection process conducted by SS doctors such as Josef Mengele.

Young adults considered fit for slave labor were allowed to live and had an ID number tattooed on their left forearm. Everyone else went to the gas chambers. A few inmates, including twin children, were occasionally set aside for participation in human medical experiments. The death camp at Majdanek operated on the Auschwitz model and served both as a slave labor camp and extermination center. Chelmno, the sixth death camp in occupied Poland, operated somewhat differently from the others in that large mobile gas vans were continually used. Although the Nazis attempted to keep all of the death camps secret, rumors and some eyewitness reports gradually filtered out. Harder to conceal were the mass shootings occurring throughout occupied Russia. That summer, Swiss representatives of the World Jewish Congress received information from a German industrialist regarding the Nazi plan to exterminate the Jews. They passed the information on to London and Washington. As a result, the Bermuda Conference was held from April , with representatives from the U. But the meeting resulted in complete inaction concerning the ongoing exterminations. Seven months later, November , the U. Congress held hearings concerning the U. The WRB helped save about , Jews from death camps through the heroic efforts of persons such as Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg working tirelessly in occupied countries. The WRB also advocated the aerial bombing of Auschwitz, although it never occurred since it was not considered a vital military target. In April , two Jewish inmates escaped from Auschwitz and made it safely into Czechoslovakia. One of them, Rudolf Vrba, submitted a detailed report to the Papal Nuncio in Slovakia which was then forwarded to the Vatican, received there in mid-June. Thus far, Pope Pius XII had not issued a public condemnation of Nazi maltreatment and subsequent mass murder of Jews, and he chose to continue his silence. The Nazis attempted to quell increasing reports of the Final Solution by inviting the International Red Cross to visit Theresienstadt, a ghetto in Czechoslovakia containing prominent Jews. A Red Cross delegation toured Theresienstadt in July observing stores, banks, cafes, and classrooms which had been hastily spruced-up for their benefit.

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In , Polish Jewish lawyer Raphael Lemkin () coined the term "genocide" in a book documenting Nazi policies of systematically destroying national and ethnic groups, including the mass murder of European Jews.

Chapter 9 : What is Genocide? The origins and naming of genocide

Nazi Rule Comes to an End, as Holocaust Continues to Claim Lives, By the spring of , German leadership was dissolving amid internal dissent, with Goering and Himmler both seeking to.