

Nazi Persecution of Minorities

Once in power, the Nazis began to slowly but increasingly persecute and discriminate against the minorities of Germany – Jews, the disabled, gypsies, homosexuals and social outcasts

Nazi racial beliefs

Central to Nazi ideology was racial purity, the idea that the German race was the 'Master Race' and all others like Jews were 'subhumans'.

The Nazis believed Germans were a pure race of Aryans (blond hair, blue eyes, athletic)

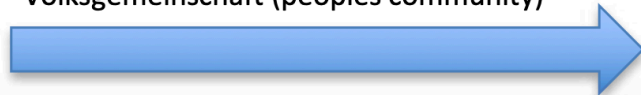


Hitler believed that Germany's future was dependent on the creation of a pure Aryan state. This would be achieved in two ways:

- Breeding more Aryans
- Destroying Jews and other subhumans

Nazi views towards minorities

Ideal Germans were 'socially useful' to Nazi Germany, those that did not work or were racial impure were seen as worthless and a cost to Germany, they were not party of the Volksgemeinschaft (peoples community)



<u>Persecution of minorities in the community</u>	
Group	How were they persecuted?
<p>The disabled</p>	<p>In 1933, the Nazis passed a 'Sterilisation Law' which forcibly sterilised the mentally ill, alcoholic, deaf, blind or deformed. 400,000 people were sterilised by 1939.</p> <p>In 1939, the Nazis started the T4 programme (Euthanasia) where young people with mental/physical disabilities were killed by lethal injection. Over 5000 children are killed.</p>
<p>Homo-sexuals</p>	<p>The Nazis believed homosexuals were immoral and lowered racial purity. In 1935 the Nazis passed laws against Homosexuality, 4000 were arrested in 1936.</p> <p>Over 5000 homosexuals were sent to concentration camps</p>
<p>Gypsies</p>	<p>They were non-Aryan and a threat to racial purity that needed to be cleansed. They were also seen as 'work shy' and did not fit ideal Nazi life. From 1935, Germans and Gypsies could not marry and between 1936-39 Germany's 35,000 gypsies were rounded up and put into camps to be eventually deported.</p>

Nazi Persecution of Jews

Key events 1933-39

In 1933 there were 437,000 Jews living in Germany, less than 1% of the population but Hitler had made it clear actions against the Jews was a priority, from then on anti-Semitic actions developed.



The Nazis began to use a variety of methods to discriminate against Jews; through work, education, propaganda and the arts.



By 1939, the Nazi plan was to deport all Jews from Germany.

In total over 250,000 Jews left Germany between 1933-39 to flee persecution.



1933 – Jews are banned from public places (swimming pools & parks) and all government jobs.



1936 Jews banned from working as doctors, dentists and lawyers

1938, July – Jews have to carry ID cards



1938, December - Jews are banned from owning shops or businesses

1939, April - Jews can be evicted from their homes without reason.

1939, Nov – Jews kicked out of school

1933 1st April - Boycott of Jewish businesses. For one day, the SA stood outside Jewish businesses to prevent customers from entering. 'Jude' and Star of David's are painted on windows.

1935, September - The Nuremberg Laws
The Reich Law of Citizenship stated that Jews were no longer German citizens, this meant they could not vote any more.

The Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honour. Made marriage and sexual relations between Jews and Aryan Germans illegal

1938, March Jews had to register all their possessions, making it easier for Nazis to confiscate

9th and 10th November, 1938 – Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass)

After the murder of a Nazi diplomat in Paris by a young Jew, Goebbels uses it as an opportunity for most violent anti Jewish action to date.

Nazis destroy 7,500 businesses, burn 400 synagogues and sent 20,000 Jews to concentration camps. 100 Jews are killed too. Jews are forced to pay £1 billion for the damage.

Turning point in persecution of Jews.