**Nazi Racial Policy**

Intro into Jewish religion and culture

Race was central to all Hitler’s thinking, but it was not always at the forefront of Nazi policy

Landau believes that at no point up was “the writing on the wall” as afar as the holocaust was concerned - it was a gradual process in which intimidation, social pressure and legislation Jews were systematically, though not coherently or consistently excluded from all aspects of German life and eventually life itself

500,000 Jews in Germany in 1933

Intentionalists

* Dawidowicz, Hildebrande, and Bracher
* Argue that Hitler consistently planned the mass murder of the Jews
* At times he was forced to abate or strategically retreat
* Hitler was the stage manager of the policies
* Dawidowicz believes that the war and the annihilation of the Jews was interdependent - war was the chaotic atmosphere he needed to murder the Jews
* Born out of N~Nuremburg - desire to show criminal intent
* Often based on Hitler’s speeches - problem of interpreting rhetoric - Hitler was fond of the most exaggerated rhetoric
* Famous speech of 1939 - the speech was actually 3 hours long and this is al he spoke on the Jews. Also the context of the Nuremburg Laws - Foreign Policy speech canceled Hitler needed something big
* Hitler’s anti-Semitism was part of his anti-modernity crusade - thus the Holocaust is logically consistent throughout his reign
* Hinges on the debate as to whether or not there was a single killing order in 1941
* Intentionalist believe there was and it was taken with decision to invade the USSR - Eisatzgruppen part of the plan

Structuralists/Functionalists

* Brosart, Mommsen, Schleunes
* Believe that the ultimate cause of the Holocaust lies in the chaotic way in which policy was made and enacted in the third Reich
* Anti-Semitic policies was a way for Nazi officials to compete with each other leading to the escalation of the Holocaust
* Hitler responded to grass roots pressure
* Hitler preferred to remain aloof of major decisions
* Brosart believes more responsibility lies with local Nazi leaders
* The slowness f the Russian campaign (deportations were to eastern occupied territory) required solutions - Madagascar etc - The Final Solution resulted from the Nazis boxing themselves into a corner
* Mommson believes that Hitler’s anti-Semitism was broad and ideological and officials competing for favour had to show devotion to this as a result the Final Solution arose bit by bit through one up manship[
* Most structuralists believe that the crisis came with Barbarossa - what to do with he millions of≈ new Jews under Nazi control
* Built into the planning of Barbarossa - Eisatzgruppen
* As the campaign slowed it became imperative to deal with he “Jewish problem”
* Goring and Heydrich given task of solving it - July 41
* First death Camps built (Chelmno Belsec)
* Himmler forbade immigration from Riech lands Nov ‘4
* January Wansee Conference
* Believe that the reason so many followed the orders is the degree of division of labour - mere amoral technicians
* The metaphor of the bureaucratic machine

1933-35 Economic realities forced Nazi racial policies onto the back burner - subtler

Propaganda minister headed the conditioning of the German people HANDOUT

**Phase I: Exclusion - April 1933 to Sept 1935**

1 April 1933 - Nazis proclaimed a boycott of Jewish businesses, violence and intimidation Failure because:

* Proclaimed by Party not gov’t
* Propaganda had not sunk in
* Jews still had friends

April 1933, Professional Civil Service Act

April 1933, Laws limiting the “non-Aryans’ in Schools - 1.5%

May 1933, public book burning of Jewish authored books - orchestrated by Goebbels

July, 1933 Law passed denying citizenship to Germans who had been naturalized after 1918 - aimed at Eastern Jewish refugees

Sept 1933 Reich Chamber of Culture - war on Jewish lit etc.

Sept 1933 Law passed decreeing that farm inheritance was limited to those who could prove they had no Jewish blood as far back as 1800

Other laws forbade Jews from

* Entering Public swimming pools
* Owning dogs
* Visiting health spas
* Entering public parks

**Phase II: Biological Definition- 1935 - 1938**

Nuremburg Laws - September 1935

Jews defined

* One Jewish Grandparents
* Christians whose parents or grandparents had been Jews

Law Forbade marriage or sexual relations between Jews and non-Jews

Annulled existing marriages between Jews and Non-Jews

Citizenship Law

* Deprived Jews of their German citizenship
* Could not serve in the military
* Could not vote
* Could not fly the Reich flag

**Phase III - Expropriation & Concentration - 1938-1941**

Krystalnacht - rivalry between Goring and Goebbels

Goring given responsibility for Jewish matters

Collectively paid 1.25 billion marks for damage of Krystalnacht

Forced out of retail trades etc

Personal property and wealth were confiscated by April ‘39

Worked against emigration - nobody would take impoverished refugees

Invasion of Poland changed the picture - more Jews in Poland than anywhere

Concentration Camps expanded

Ghettos created - Warsaw, Lodz etc

Emigration from the Reich proper the key - too many people and Goring halted emigration in 1940

Forced labour needed for wartime economy

**Phase IV: Genocide - 1942-1945**

Came with development of Russian campaign

Many more Jews and prisoners

Slowness of campaign jeopardized resettlement plans for Polish Jews etc.

Final Solution - Endlosung

Wansee Conference - Jan 20 42

* Chaired by Heydrich
* Jews would be organized into labour columns and many would be worked to death
* Those who did not die like this would have to be “treated accordingly”
* SS (Heydrich, Eichmann) would coordinate

Concentration camps turned into death camps

* Auschwitz, Treblinka, Maidenak, Belzec, Sobibor - 400 centres in all
* Auschwitz had a death capacity of 12,000 per day - 6,000 per day were killed at its height
* German firms Faben, Krupp, located around camps for cheap labour
* After doctors separated those who could work, victims were led off, stripped, gassed, cremated
* Byproducts - hair, skin, gold, spectacles were recycled
* As the camps were liberated, survivors were marched into Germany and eventually abandoned