

The Holocaust: Scapegoating Jews and other 'undesireables'



Third Age Learning Lecture

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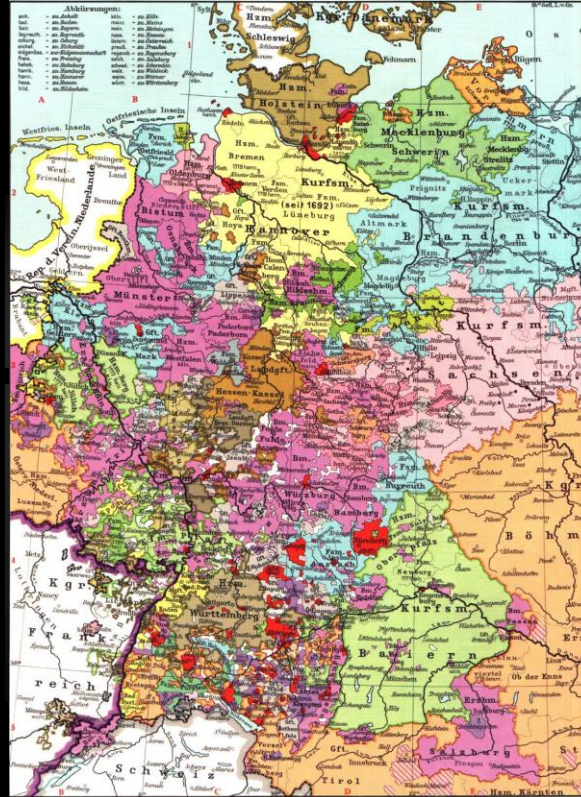
Religious anti-semitism



✓ Martin Luther, 1543

Anti-semitism and nationalism

Holy Roman
Empire before
Napoleon



Confederation of the Rhine after Napoleon



Johann Fichte

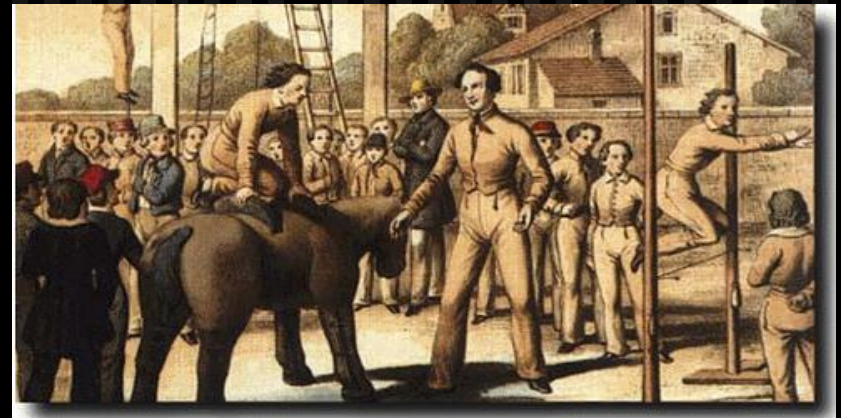


Berlin Public Library

- ✓ Father of German nationalism
- ✓ Father of German antisemitism

Friedrich Jahn

- ✓ Gymnastic clubs
- ✓ Idea of *Volk*



Historian Heinrich von Treitschke



- ✓ "Die Juden sind unser Unglück"
- ✓ ("The Jews are our misfortune")

Die Juden sind unser Unglück (The Jews are our Misfortune)



Nazi rally in Berlin's Sportspalast



Karl Lueger, Mayor of Vienna



✓ Turns anti-semitism into a political force



Origins of Hitler's antisemitism?

- ✓ Part Jewish?
- ✓ Mother died at hand's of Jewish doctor?
- ✓ Difficult to know for certain, but likely rooted in a conspiratorial view of Communist/Jewish



Roots of anti-semitism in 'ordinary' Germans



- ✓ Recent work by Goetz Aly, *Why the Germans, why the Jews?*
- ✓ *Economic Jealousy*

German 19th century anti-semitism



- ✓ Rooted in Jewish *standing* rather than *beliefs*

In 1933, Jews 0.7% of German population



- ✓ 16.6% of lawyers
- ✓ 10.8% of physicians
- ✓ 8.6% of dentists
- ✓ 5.6% of theatre directors

First Anti-Jewish measures targeted Jews in the economy



- ✓ Boycott of Jewish businesses
- ✓ April 1933 – Law for the Restoration of the Civil Service
 - ✓ Removed Jews as judges, lawyers, teachers



- ✓ Public acts against Jews like book burning, street signs

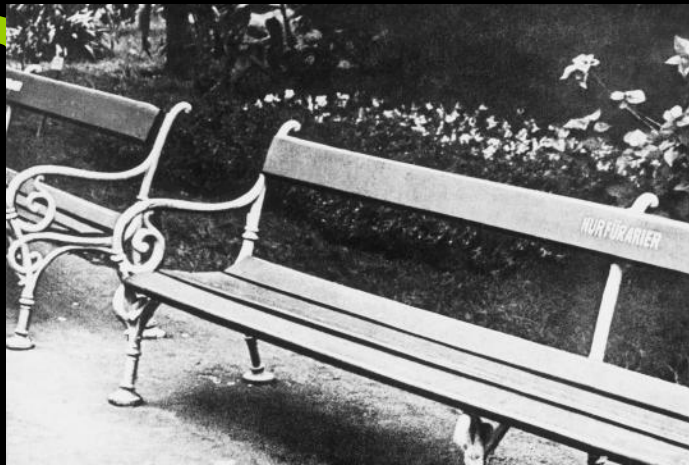


Jews are not wanted in
Behringersdorf



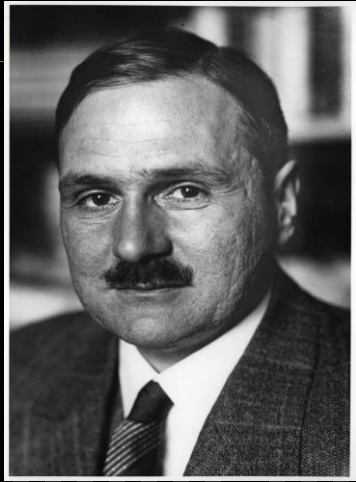
- ✓ **Nuremberg Race Laws - Sept. 1935**
- ✓ **stripped of citizenship**
- ✓ **outlawed Jew/non-Jew marriages and sexual relations**
- ✓ **More restrictions on professions**

Further bans on Jews in public life



- ✓ By eve of WW II, Jews banned from
 - ✓ Public pools and beaches
 - ✓ Use of 'German greeting' (Heil Hitler)
 - ✓ Most park benches
 - ✓ Movies, theatres, concerts, most restaurants

Further bans on Jews in public life



Lutz Heck, Director of
Berlin Zoo

✓ The Berlin Zoo

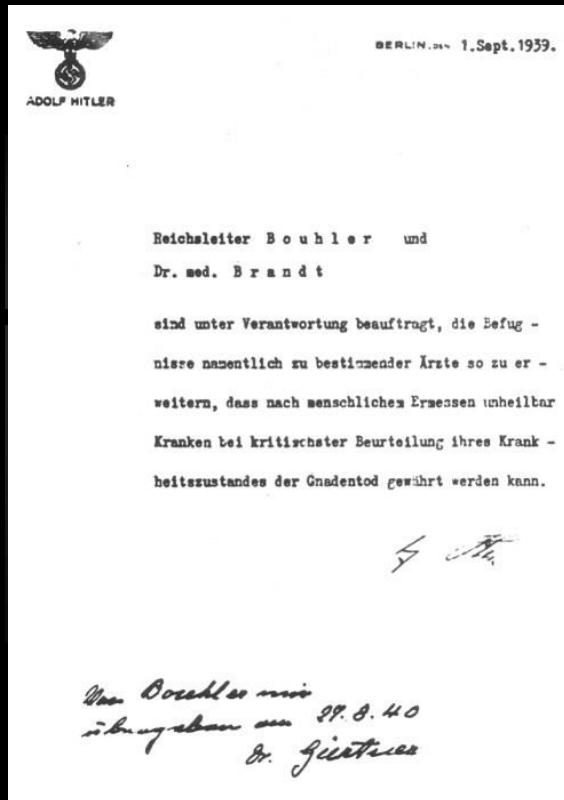


Goering and a lion
cub



Hitler at the Lion
Cage

Euthanasia Program



✓ 5,000 children

✓ 70,000 adults

Euthanasia killing centres



Euthanasia Centres and their intermediate Mental Homes

Bernburg

Alt-Scherbitz, Görden, Jerichow, Königsutter, Neuruppin, Sachsenberg, Teubitz, Uchtspringe

Brandenburg

Grafeneck

Eschendorf, Weinsberg, Weißenau, Winnental, Witten

Hartheim

Andernach, Eichberg, Galkhausen, Herborn, Idstein, Scheuern, Weilmünster, Weinsberg, Wiesloch

Sonnenstein

Arnsdorf, Großschweidnitz, Waldheim, Zschadrass

Grafeneck

Economic scapegoating of other 'undesireables'



- ✓ People with Disabilities
- ✓ Asocials

Life only as a Burden

Scapegoating other 'undesireables'



You carry this burden too

Scapegoating other 'undesireables'

Geisteskranker
Neger (Engländer)
16 Jahre Anstalt
35 000 RM
Kosten



Mentally ill Negro (from England). 16 years in an institution. Cost of 35,000 RM

The Holocaust

A thick, horizontal orange brushstroke with a slightly wavy, hand-painted appearance, positioned below the title.

The question of scapegoating
among the perpetrators

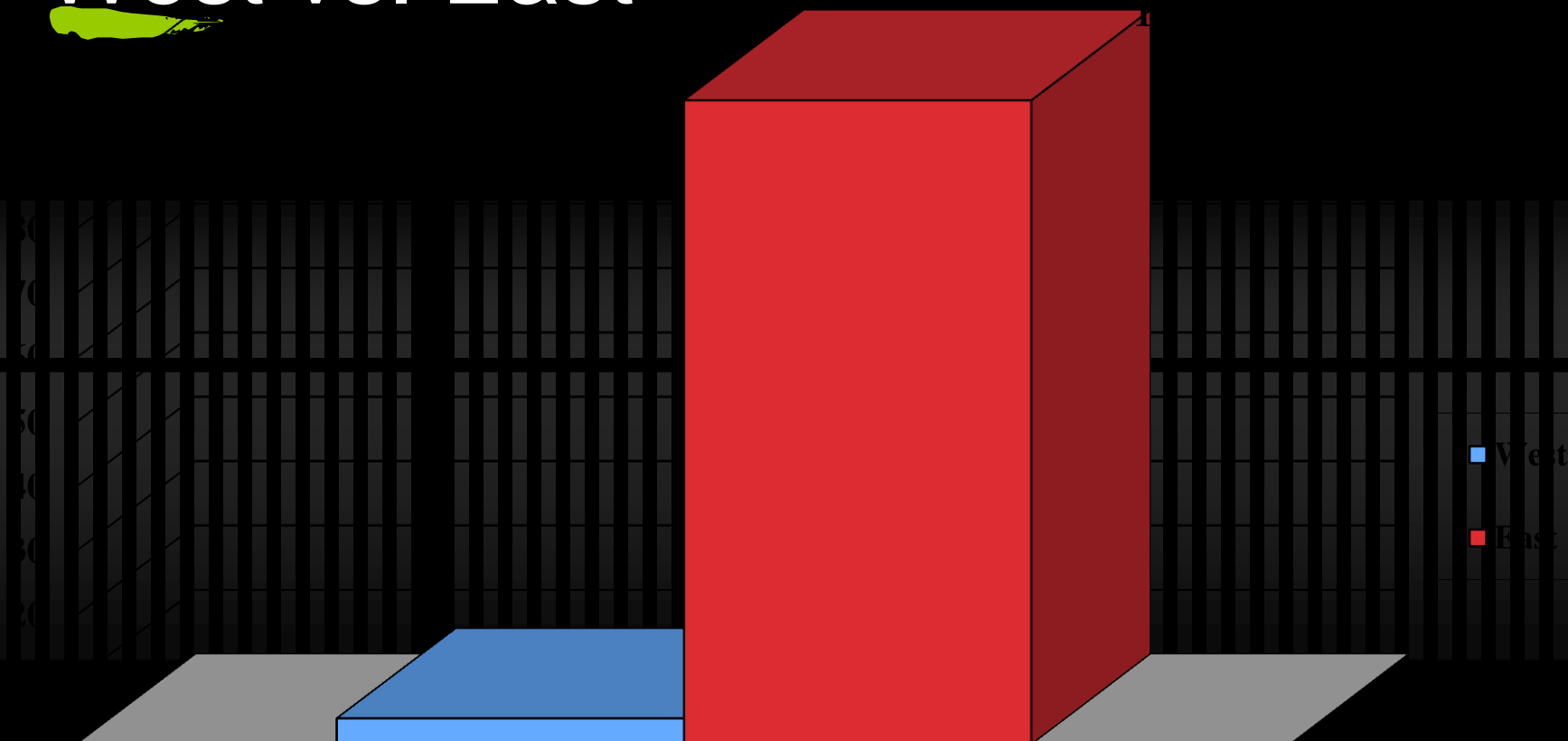
Operation Barbarossa

June, 1941



Hitler's Divisions in WW II

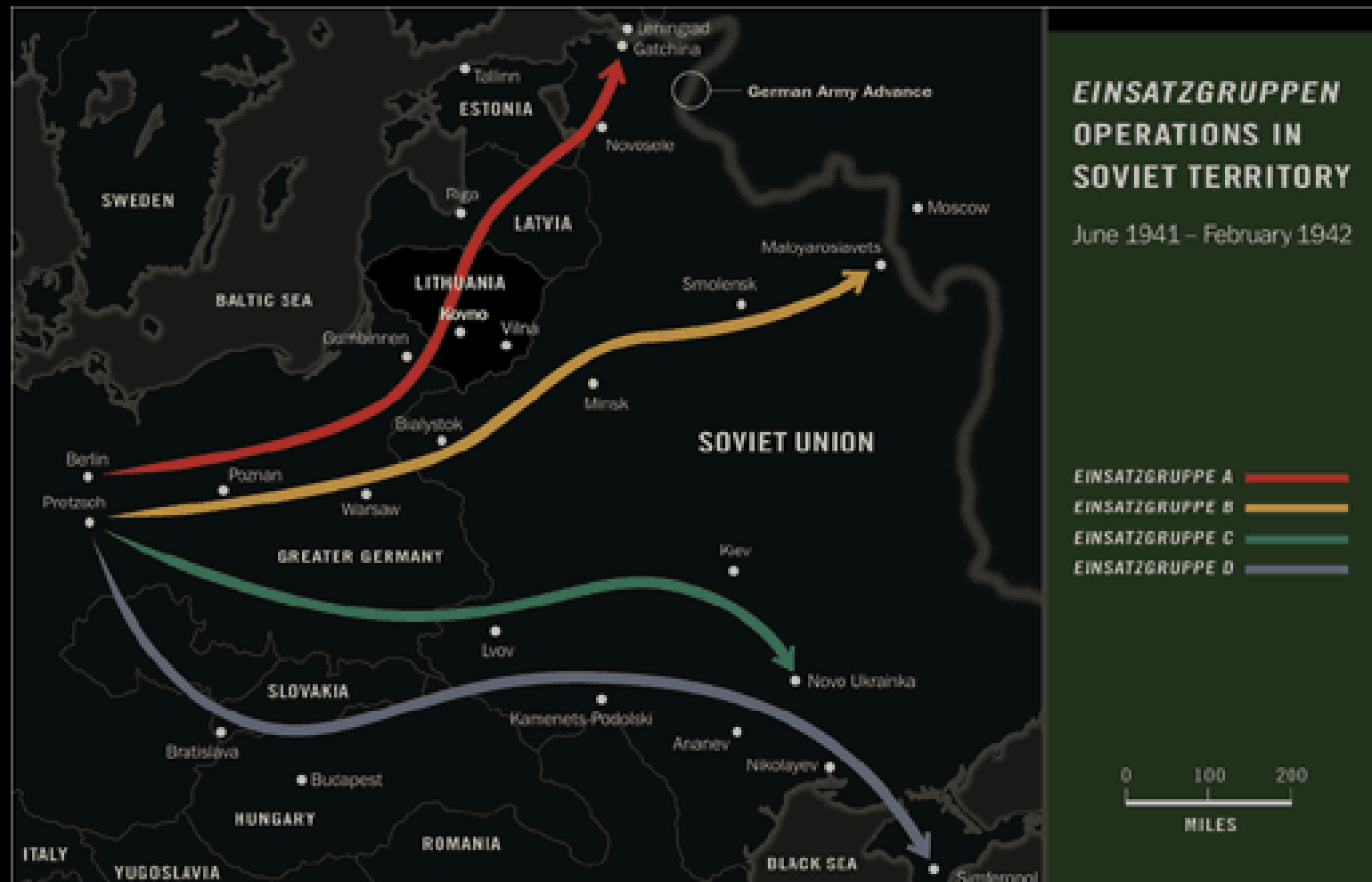
West vs. East





✓ **Einsatzgruppen – special strike groups**

Einsatzgruppen



Einsatzgruppen Massacres



Einsatzgruppen Massacres - Ukraine



Einsatzgruppen murders in 1941



- ✓ Einsatzgruppe A – 249,420
 - ✓ Einsatzgruppe B – 45,467
 - ✓ Einsatzgruppe C – 95,000
 - ✓ Einsatzgruppe D – 92,000
-
- ✓ TOTAL # of EINSATZGRUPPEN:
 - ✓ Approximately 4,500

USHMM Box Car



Florida Holocaust Museum



Yad Vashem





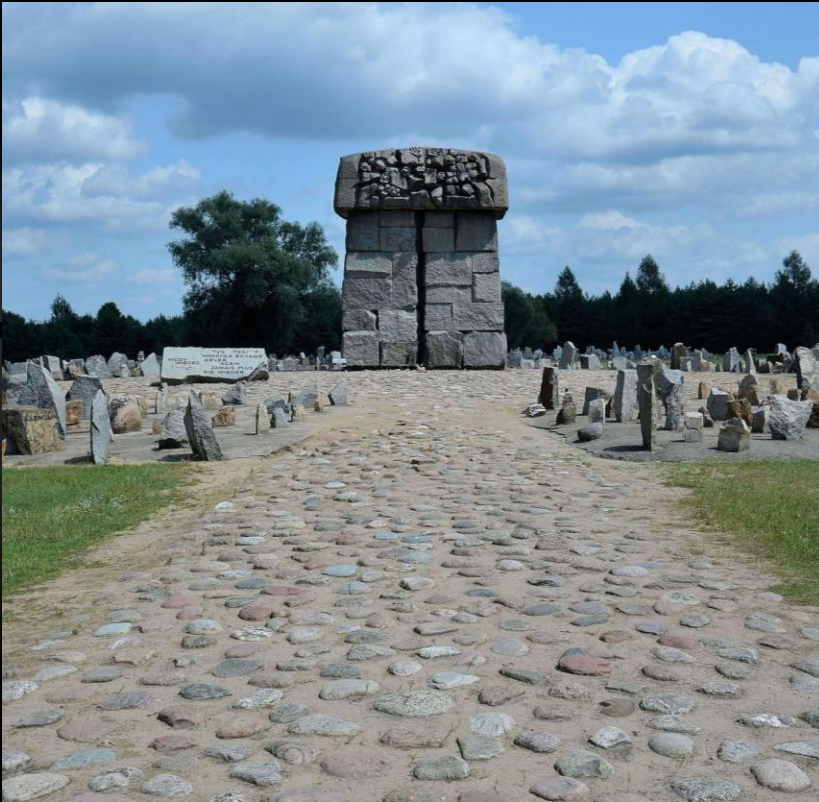
Total deaths in camps



Ruined gas chambers
of Auschwitz

- ✓ Majdanek 73,000 (still to be confirmed)
- ✓ Chelmno 125,000
- ✓ Sobibor 250,000
- ✓ Belzec 500,000
- ✓ Treblinka 800,000
- ✓ Auschwitz 1.25 million

Treblinka death camp



- ✓ Deaths at Treblinka:
- ✓ 800,000
- ✓ Total Number of Germans who staffed the camp:
 - ✓ 80

Auschwitz-Birkenau



- ✓ Auschwitz I
- ✓ Auschwitz II
(Birkenau)
- ✓ Auschwitz III –
Buna. (IG Farben)

Auschwitz-Birkenau



- ✓ Total number of deaths at Auschwitz: 1.25 million
- ✓ Total Germans who staffed it over 2 years:
 - ✓ A few thousand

Total number of perpetrators



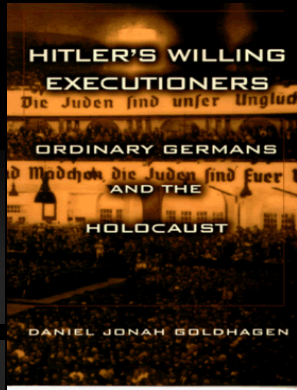
- ✓ In killing fields, camps, ghettos
- ✓ Approximately 200,000
- ✓ Or roughly 0.3% of the population

Categories of perpetrators



- ✓ Grass roots killers in camps and fields
- ✓ Desk murderers: Low level bureaucrats
 - ✓ Hilberg: “part time perpetrators”
- ✓ High level officials
 - ✓ Himmler, Hitler, Eichmann

Grass roots killers



- ✓ Daniel Goldhagen
- ✓ Eliminationist Anti-semitism
- ✓ Jews “ought to die”
- ✓ Christopher Browning – *Ordinary Men*

Eliminationist anti-semite?

- ✓ Franz Stangl –
Commandant of
Treblinka.



Weaknesses of Goldhagen's thesis

- ✓ Selective Post-war testimony from Central Office for the Investigation of National Socialist Crimes

Motivations of perpetrators



- ✓ Naïve obedience (in first instance)
- ✓ Peer pressure
- ✓ Habituation
- ✓ Division of Labour
- ✓ Virulent anti-semitism
- ✓ Alternative was Stalingrad



✓ Goldhagen - *cultural factors*

✓ Browning - *situational factors*

Thank you TAL



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