

World History

The Nuremberg Laws: 15 September 1935

An anti-Semite is a person who hates Jews. Anti-Semitism believes that the Jews are a race and hates the Jews for two reasons: first an anti-Semite believes that the Jews killed Christ and second an anti-Semite believes the Jews were responsible for all of a country's problems. An anti-Semite uses the Jews as a scapegoat for everything that is wrong with a nation. Adolf Hitler and the Nazis were rabid anti-Semites. Not only did Hitler hate Jews, he wanted to remove the Jews from Germany.

When Hitler and the Nazis said, "We need to remove the Jews from Germany", we must ask ourselves a very important question. What did the word "remove" actually mean? Did "remove" mean to physically remove the Jews from Germany meaning, forcing them to leave the country? Did "remove" mean to take the Jews from German public life, meaning kicking them out of German schools, universities, German professions and German public facilities (parks, swimming pools, clubs, sports teams)? Or did "remove" actually mean the killing of all the Jews of Germany as in genocide?

After winning 37% of the votes in the July elections of 1932, Adolf Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany on 30 January 1933. Hitler's III Reich lasted for twelve years, 1933 to 1945. By July of 1934, Hitler had established the Nazi dictatorship in Germany. All political parties were outlawed as were democratic elections; the German press was controlled by the Nazi government; labor unions were banned; and anyone who spoke out against Hitler or the Nazis was arrested and thrown into a KZ (a concentration camp). On 23 March 1933, the Reichstag passed the Enabling Act. The Nazis tore up the Weimar Constitution (July 1919) that protected freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to assemble and trial by jury. Within six months what was once one of the freest and most liberal societies in the world was transformed into a single party dictatorship.

When Hitler came to power on 30 January 1933, less than one percent of the German population was Jewish. That meant out of a population of 65 million Germans, about 600,000 were Jews. In spite of these tiny numbers, anti-Semitism had been a major theme in Hitler's speeches for almost fifteen years and attacks on Jews started almost as soon as Hitler became the Chancellor in January 1933. One of the first anti-Semitic actions by the Nazis against German Jews was the boycott of Jewish businesses on 1 April 1933. Germans were told not to buy goods in Jewish shops. Nazi storm troopers (SA) stood in front of Jewish businesses to scare people away from buying from Jews. The Nazi boycott of Jewish businesses was an absolute failure. Germans still shopped in Jewish stores. Most German citizens refused to participate, even when SA brown shirts surrounded Jewish shops. In April 1933 the average German was interested in finding jobs, not in protesting Jewish businesses. Besides, Jewish banks, factories and businesses were a major part of the German economy. With the German population refusing to participate in the boycott, Hitler called it off after only seven days.

A week later, on 7 April 1933, the Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service was passed. Jews could not be teachers, professors, judges or officials in the German government. Jewish government workers, including teachers in public schools and universities, were fired.

The Nuremberg Laws were anti-Semitic laws in Nazi Germany. They were introduced at the annual Nazi Party rally in the city of Nuremberg on 15 September 1935. The laws classified people as German if they had four German grandparents. People were classified as Jews if they had three out of four Jewish grandparents. A

person with one or two Jewish grandparents was a *Mischling* or a “half breed. The first law, The Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor made it illegal for Jews to marry Germans. It was also against the law for Jews to have sexual relations with Germans. The second law, The Reich Citizenship Law took away German citizenship from Jews and made them “subjects” instead of citizens. This meant that Jews were no longer protected under German law and became second-class subjects.

Nuremberg Laws-15 September 1935

1. Reich Flag Law
 - Black, red and white are the national colors and the swastika flag is the national flag
2. Citizenship Law
 - Full blooded Germans are citizens of the Reich and are entitled to full political and civil rights.
 - Jews are subjects of the Reich and are now deprived of political and civil rights
 - Three-quarter Jews are Jews
 - Germans married to Jews are Half-Jews
 - Half -Jews are *Mischlinge* (half-breeds)
 - One-quarter Jews are *Mischlinge* (half-breeds)
3. Law for the Defense of German Blood and Honor
 - Jews may not marry Germans
 - Jews and Aryans may not have any sexual relations
 - Jews may not employ female Germans in their households under the age of forty-five
 - Jews may not fly the swastika flag but may show their own colors