

## Lesson 3 Nazi Germany

### STUDENT HANDOUT – Nazi Germany and Anti-Jewish Policy



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Germany, An SA soldier near a Jewish owned store on the day of the boycott

The Nazi Party rose to power with an antisemitic racial ideology. However, the anti-Jewish campaign was not conducted according to a blueprint, rather it evolved. Before the outbreak of the war, political and economic factors, as well as public opinion both inside and outside Germany influenced the evolution of Nazi anti-Jewish laws and measures.

The main purpose of the anti-Jewish policy between 1933 and 1939 according to the racial theory was to isolate German Jewry from German society. These laws sought to uproot and dispossess Jews economically from daily life in Germany and encourage them to leave their homeland. These laws limited and humiliated Jews on a daily basis.

### Anti-Jewish Policy (1933–1939) Divided Into Three Periods

- The first period, 1933–1934, included boycotts against Jews and the Civil Service Law that dismissed Jews from government jobs.
- The second period began in the spring of 1935 and was marked by the establishment of the racially based Nuremberg Laws. Jews were no longer German citizens.
- The third period from 1937–1939 was a time of increasing anti-Jewish violence, confiscation of Jewish property, and the forbidding of Jewish ownership of business concerns. The turning point of this period was the *Kristallnacht Pogrom*.

### Anti-Jewish Policy by Year

#### 1933

- All non-“Aryans” were dismissed from holding government jobs. This regulation applied to public school teachers, university professors, doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc. — all Jews who held government positions of any kind. Non-“Aryans” were defined as Jews, the children of Jews, and the grandchildren of Jews.
- A general boycott of all Jewish-owned businesses was proclaimed. Officially it lasted for one day, but actually it continued for much longer in many localities.
- Membership in the Reich Chamber of Culture was prohibited. This meant that Jews could not hold jobs in radio, in the theaters, or sell paintings or sculptures.
- Mass bonfires were ignited throughout Germany. Books written by Jews and anti-Nazis were burned.

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- Jews were prohibited from owning land.
- Jewish lawyers and judges were barred from their professions.
- Jewish doctors were barred from treating "Aryan" patients.
- Jews were prohibited from producing kosher meat.

#### **1935**

- The Reichstag adopted the Nuremberg Laws, which declared that Jews could no longer be citizens of Germany.
- Marriage and intimate relations between Jews and those of "Aryan" blood were declared criminal acts.
- German females under the age of 45 were prohibited from being employed by Jews.
- Jews were forbidden to wave the Reich's flag or to display the flag's colors.

#### **1936**

- Hitler temporarily relaxed the antisemitic propaganda and other measures against Jews in order to avoid criticism by foreign visitors attending the summer Olympic Games in Berlin.

#### **1937**

- "Aryanization," the confiscation of Jewish businesses and property, intensified greatly.

#### **1938**

- The Reich Supreme Court declared that being a Jew was cause for dismissal from a job.
- The Nuremberg Laws were extended to Austria after the *Anschluss*, the annexation of Austria.
- All Jews had to add the names "Israel" and "Sarah" to their identification papers, and passports were marked with the red letter J, for *Jude* (Jew).
- Jews could no longer attend plays and concerts, own phones, or have drivers' licenses, car registrations, etc.
- *Kristallnacht Pogrom* (Night of Broken Glass): approximately 1,400 synagogues were burned and 7,000 stores owned by Jews and hundreds of homes were damaged and looted.
- 30,000 Jews, most of them leaders in the Jewish communities, were sent to concentration camps. Many were offered the opportunity to leave the camps provided they could prove they had arranged their emigration from Germany.
- Very few Jewish children remained in German schools.
- All Jewish shops were ordered to close by December 31, 1938.
- Jews had to abide by curfews.

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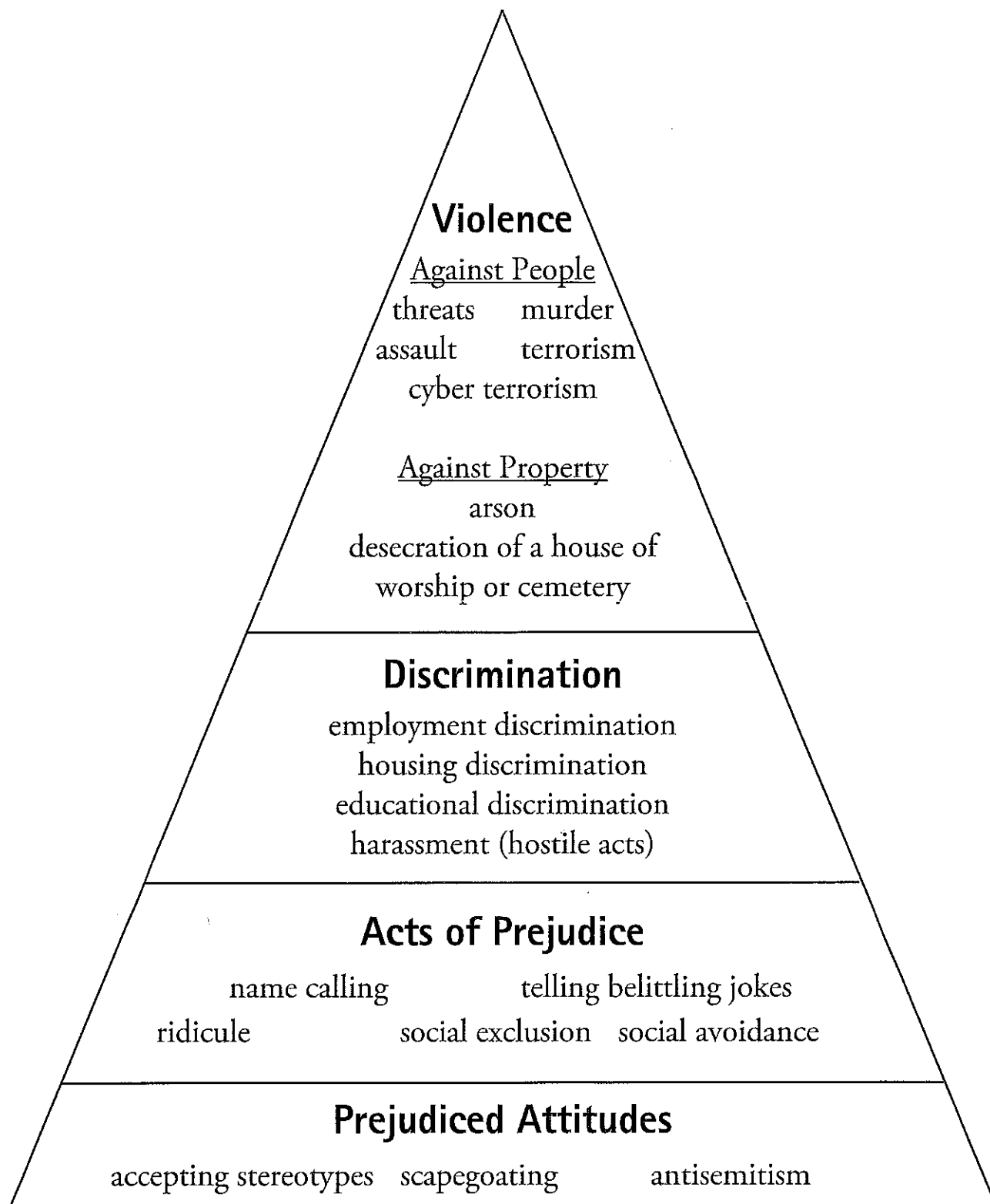
### STUDENT HANDOUT - Concentration Camps

The first concentration camps were established in Nazi Germany after Hitler came to power in 1933. In the first few years of the regime, the concentration camps were instruments of terror, control, and punishment, used for the incarceration of political dissidents; later, people defined by the Nazis as “asocial elements” — including the homeless, beggars, Sinti-Roma, and hardened criminals — were also taken there. Beginning in the summer of 1938, many Jews were held in these camps. The number of incarcerated Jews in Germany reached its peak following the *Kristallnacht Pogrom*. After the war broke out, local resistance activists, civilians whom the Germans wanted to punish, and tens of thousands of Jews were sent to them. Hundreds of thousands of prisoners were killed in concentration camps throughout Europe as a result of inhumane living conditions, brutal punishment, and slave labor, which was a form of ongoing abuse.



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# PYRAMID OF HATE



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#### STUDENT HANDOUT - What Rights Are Most Important to Me?

Directions: Rank the following in order of importance to you, with #1 being most important and #9 being least important.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Marry whomever you choose?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Go to a public school close to home?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Live in a neighborhood of your choice?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Swim and play in a public swimming pool or park?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Eat what you want, according to taste, culture, and religious custom?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Be able to own a pet?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Leave your house whenever you choose?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Shop at stores and businesses of your choosing?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Vote?

# Propaganda

A statement of fact can be checked and proven to be true. This is a statement of fact: The Cupcakes' newest album has sold 10,000 copies. A statement of opinion tells what someone thinks is true. Here is a statement of opinion: The Cupcakes' newest album is the best album ever made.

If people believe that their opinions are important enough, they may try to persuade others to agree with them. When people try to persuade others to believe something, do something, or buy something, they are using **propaganda**. Most advertisements use some kind of propaganda to convince people to buy a certain product. Propaganda is also used by political candidates to convince people to vote for them.

The different types of propaganda have names. As you read the examples of three

types, ask yourself, "Is this statement supported by facts?"

**1. Name Calling:** This device gives a bad name to people or products so that other people will avoid them.

Example: If you don't mind wrinkled shirts, buy Miller's Wash-'n'-Wear Shirts.

**2. Glad Names:** This device states good things about the listeners or readers so that they will agree with what they hear or read.

Example: A smart person like you knows that Oatsies are good for you.

**3. Testimonial:** This device uses the name of a well-known person so that people will do a certain thing because the person they admire says that it is a good thing to do.

Example: Use Bubble-Glo Shampoo. Famous movie star Lulu Cleo says it is terrific.

Read the following statements. On the first line after each, write the type of propaganda used. On the second line, write the word or words from the statement that make it that type of propaganda.

1. Stan Waters, Rookie of the Year, eats a bowl of Strackles every morning. You, too, can be a superstar! Switch to Strackles.

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2. I am convinced that you, as intelligent, thoughtful, patriotic people, will vote for me in the coming election.

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3. You can buy that one if you like, but it's a real gas-burner. The body is about as strong as a tin can. Come over here, and I'll show you a really good car.

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4. If you want Lou Power to be class president, that's your business. But I think you should know that Lou is a born liar.

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5. Our survey shows that you are highly successful in your business. Join other famous people who subscribe to our weekly newsletter *Facts of Finance*.

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6. What is the secret of Tina Tappler's unique voice? She gargles three times a day with Phizzmore. Try it!

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