# **Science & the Swastika: Episode I**

**Hitler’s Biological Soldiers**

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**“Big Picture” Questions:**

1. **What role did doctors & eugenics play in Germany prior to the Nazis coming to power?**
2. **Why were the Nazis special in the way they used doctors? What role did doctors play in Nazi Germany? Specific examples**
3. **Were German doctors & others “just following orders”? Elaborate.**

**IMPORTANT TERMS/CONCEPTS**

Model glass woman 🡪 Nazi’s favorite science: human biology

[German Hygiene Museum](http://www.dhmd.de/neu/index.php?id=804) (Dresden) 🡪 biological research funding

Eugenics movement 🡪 [Racial Hygiene](http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/deadlymedicine/profiles/) in Germany (Alfred Ploetz)

Nazis in power 🡪 treatment of Jewish students, doctors, & scientists

* Anti-Semitic legislation & laws
* physicians joining the Nazi party (Erich Hässler)
* Nordic supremacy & eugenics (Alfred Ploetz)
* racial hygiene & [sterilization](http://www.facinghistorycampus.org/campus/rm.nsf/0/81C67A69F8081A5885257037005E9C6A) (Ernst Rüdin)

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**Führer school (Rudolf Hess)**

* biological soldiers
* purpose/ideology
* ‘just following orders’?

**Indoctrinating school children**

* family trees
* Rolf Thurm

**Health Courts & Sterilization**

* surgeries & #s of victims

**Targeting the Mentally Disabled & Others**

* the path from sterilization to murder ([Karl Brandt](http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/GERbrandtK.htm))
* murdering “lives unworthy of life”

[**T-4 Euthanasia Program**](http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005200)