

CHAPTER I

GERMANY IN THE SHADOW OF THE NUREMBERG DECREES

“ All the suggestions for a lasting status, a lasting regulation of Jews in Germany, fail to solve the Jewish question inasmuch as they fail to rid Germany of the Jews. And this is the whole point. . . . We must build up our State without Jews. They can never be anything but stateless aliens, they can never have any legal or constitutional status. Only by this means can Ahasuerus be forced once again to take up his wanderer's staff ” (*Völkischer Beobachter*, 26th June, 1933).

EVER SINCE National Socialism assumed power, it has never ceased its endeavours to uproot the Jewish population of Germany. It has directed its efforts not only against the 500,000 members of the Jewish faith, but also against many thousands of others who have one or more Jewish grandparents, and who for that reason are defined as “ non-Aryan,” and are equally ostracised.

Until quite recently, many well-meaning people both in Germany and outside it believed that the persecution of Jews in the Third Reich was only a sort of cataclysm that might temporarily cause great hardship to individual Jews, but which was bound to pass in time. In all countries there were optimists who hoped for and expected a gradual tolerance, the attainment of some, if an inferior, form of equilibrium. There were even Jews in Germany who took this view. They refused to believe that in fact they were all to be harried from the country in which their ancestors had lived for centuries and to whose art, science and economic progress they had contributed so substantially.

It was the decrees which were unanimously passed by the Reichstag on 15th September, 1935, which finally dispelled this illusion.

Now it has become clear that all the acts of racial discrimination, like the terror which marked the beginning of the Nazi régime and which still continues, the official boycott of 1st April, 1933, and the unofficial boycott that has succeeded it, the various "Aryan paragraphs" of 1933 and 1934, culminating in the Nuremberg "Law to protect racial purity"—all these measures are embarked upon with one object, the complete uprooting of the Jews from Germany.

There have, of course, been pogroms before. When Tsarist Russia encouraged its "Black Hundreds," who attacked and robbed Jewish families, there was a storm of protest throughout the civilised world. But these isolated excesses provide no parallel to the well-organised German campaign to eliminate half a million Jews.

The procedure in pre-war Russia was that the authorities would give the gangs of the "Black Hundreds" licence for a few days to rape, to murder, and to rob Jewish families and to set fire to their homes. These periodic pogroms were planned to distract the attention of the people from the difficulties with which the Government was faced at home. They were meant as a diversion from domestic problems, and as soon as this immediate purpose had been achieved, the Government would put a stop to the work of the "Black Hundreds."

In Hitler Germany the practice is quite different. It is true that Rosenberg and also Hitler have published anti-Semitic views that strongly recall the apologists of the "Black Hundreds"; they have endorsed, for example, the authenticity of the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," many times proved (most recently by the Supreme Swiss Court at Berne, May 1935) to have been forged by an official of the Russian Secret Police. It is true that the "Ritual Murder" propaganda of Streicher reproduces the foulest incitement used by the "Black Hundreds" to inflame unhappy and ignorant mobs. But here we see a persecution not sporadic, but since 1933 continuous and varying only in intensity and extent. And the most significant and distinctive point is that the persecution has been

ordered, directed, and controlled by the highest authorities in the National Socialist Party and in the State. This is a paramount fact about which no possible doubt can remain after perusal of the following pages. Why is it that the entire machinery of party and State is being used to force the campaign through? Is it to carry out promises made by the Nazis for fifteen years that when their day came "Jewish blood would spurt from under the knife"? Hardly. The Nazis have failed to fulfil many promises since they came to power. Their fulfilment of this one must surely imply a purpose more urgent to them than mere consistency.

Nazi propaganda abroad alleges three main reasons for the anti-Jewish policy of the German authorities. These are:

Almost all Communists, or at least the Communist leaders, were Jews.

After the World War hundreds of thousands of East European Jews with a low standard of morals and culture invaded Germany.

The Jews in Germany monopolised the professions, had a stranglehold on the civil service and universities, and left no breathing-space for non-Jewish Germans in cultural life.

These assertions are completely exploded by *Wirtschaft und Statistik*, the official statistical organ of the German Government, quoted in the *Manchester Guardian* of 3rd Jan. 1936. It is true the statistics given do not, of course, deal with the first allegation, but in this connection the *Manchester Guardian* observes that, on the one hand, the Communist vote in democratic times was particularly low in those districts with a high Jewish population, and, on the other, of the hundred Communist members in the last freely elected Reichstag only two were of Jewish origin, and only one of these a conspicuous figure in his party. On the remaining allegations, however, the figures of *Wirtschaft und Statistik* are decisive. These figures are based on the censuses of 1910, 1925 and 1933. They reveal that instead of hundreds of thousands, the total number of Jewish immigrants into Germany (both from East and West) between 1910 (four

years before the war) and 1925 (seven years after the war) did not exceed 31,000. Between 1925 and 1933, 9,000 of them had left the country again. Thus in twenty-three years before the advent of the Third Reich there was a nett total of 22,000 foreign Jewish immigrants amongst the population of 67 million.

The percentage of Jews among the population of Germany varies between some .8 per cent or 1.2 per cent according to whether the definition is taken by the possession of four, three or two "non-Aryan" grandparents. Certainly the number of Jews in the professions exceeded this percentage, but any idea of a Jewish monopoly is completely destroyed by the figures of *Wirtschaft und Statistik*. The highest Jewish percentage was among the lawyers, where it was 16.25; among doctors 10.88; among State-appointed lawyers (judges, magistrates and prosecutors) the percentage was only 2.76. The percentage of Jews in universities was 2.64; among teachers in the elementary and secondary schools 0.53. The figures given in the cultural field show a Jewish percentage among theatrical producers of 5.61, among actors and dancers 3.00, musicians and singers 2.04, booksellers 2.5, painters and sculptors 2.44, editors and authors 5.05.

None the less, though these percentages are low enough entirely to destroy the legend of a Jewish stranglehold or monopoly, they are still large enough to make the persecution of the Jews serve one end highly practical for a new Government pledged to reward its followers in a time of economic crisis. By dismissing Jews from their posts, by expelling Jewish doctors, solicitors and barristers, by boycotting Jewish shops until their owners had to sell them for much less than their true value, the Nazis saw that more and more jobs could be created for their supporters. The creation of employment by the expulsion of "non-Aryans" was the easiest and quickest means of fulfilling expectations of advancement on the part of diligent Storm Troopers, though it is important to notice here that the vast majority of German Jews who were affected were earners of small or medium wages and salaries.

First of all the high schools, universities and civil service were purged. Then followed the attack on Jewish shops and businesses of all kinds. Then came the terror which has resulted in the expulsion of Jews from whole provinces of countryside. Social ostracism is used to supplement economic victimisation, and sporadic violence to cap both. But behind this racial persecution are profounder influences than that of creating jobs for Nazi supporters.

THE UNIVERSAL ENEMY

Jewish persecution is the logical and inevitable consequence of the "Blood-and-Soil" theory, which is fundamental in the war propaganda of the Third Reich Imperialists. The Nazi leaders are well aware that the slogans of 1914 will no longer suffice to lead the people into war. But enthusiasm for war must be created, for without it victory cannot be achieved. National Socialism has failed to give its people a condition of life worth defending, and for which they would be willing to lay down their lives.

Faced with this failure it is compelled to find a scapegoat. It has to create a "Universal Enemy" upon whom the blame for every difficulty can be laid. This "Universal Enemy" is Jewry, and a "War of Liberation" is preached against it, a Holy War. Though his stomach and his pocket may be empty, the hungry German shall at least have the consolation of knowing that he belongs to the best and mightiest of all races, that he is an "Aryan," chosen by God to be master of the world.

This racial consciousness is aroused and fostered in every "Aryan" from childhood. Education and the Press, Labour Service and Conscription, all the instruments of propaganda, these are united in the attempt to make the people feel that, in spite of daily privations and hardships, Germany must be "über alles," must in the end triumph over the world.

This is the keynote of Nazi propaganda, the slogan with which at a time of terrible hardship and shortage of foodstuffs, the people is to be forced to acquiesce, even to be made proud,

of vast and hypertrophied expenditure on armaments. It is more, it is the slogan which already provides a justification for aggressive war.

The "Aryan" master people of Germany must fight not only against the "Universal Enemy" at home. It must conquer also the "Bolshevik Jew in Moscow," the "Jewish and Nigger yoke in France," the "Jewish aristocracy in England," or the "Jewish plotters in the United States"—all doubtless in the interests of the "liberty" of Russians, French, English and Americans. There is a "Jewish World Conspiracy against pure Aryans." Whoever resists Germany's imperialistic war-aims is denounced as "Jewish" or "under Jewish spell." In its issue of 7th October, 1935, the Berlin newspaper *Juden-kenner*, finished a militaristic article with the threat "if ever a foreign army under Jewish spell should set foot on German soil, it will have to walk over the corpses of dead Hebrews."

Anti-Semitism is thus not only being used to explain defeat in the last war, but is held in reserve in case of failure and defeat in the next.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NUREMBERG DECREES

The laws promulgated at Nuremberg are an important stage in the anti-Jewish campaign. They deprive the Jew of all rights and of citizenship, and degrade him to the state of a pariah. They prevent intermarriage with an "Aryan" and stamp the Jew as inferior. The inclusion of the prohibition against employment by Jews of female domestics under middle age, in the context of a law "to preserve the purity of German blood," is an official stigmatisation of all Jews as fornicators.

The Nuremberg Decrees in effect legalise the loss of legal rights which had already been inflicted upon the Jews. Their significance was revealed in a leading article by Herr Karl Schmitt, President of the National Socialist German Lawyers' Union, in No. 19 of *The Deutsche Juristenzeitung* of 15th October, 1935. He wrote:

"The Reichstag which met on the occasion of the Reich party congress stood for nothing more nor less than the German people, sustained by the National Socialist movement and led by the Führer, Adolf Hitler; its laws constitute the first German charter of liberties for centuries.

"The fundamentals of our National organisation are now clearly defined: The German people with its Führer as head of the State and supreme judge of the nation; the National Socialist movement as the guardian of our constitution; the German army with the Führer as its commander-in-chief. For the lawyers of Germany this means the beginning of great and new tasks. It is our duty as the German faculty of justice to safeguard the law of the German people as laid down in those decrees. The Führer's words of warning are meant for us too. Our law is not to be depraved by the heartless demon of degeneracy. These decrees signify more to us than the mere fact that they are the preambles to new legal paragraphs. They are not just three important laws among other important laws. They penetrate and embrace our entire conception of justice. From them will depend in the future the definition of terms like morality, order, decency and public morals. They are the basis of liberty, the kernel of modern German Justice. Everything that we as German lawyers do will derive from them, will take from them its meaning and its honour."

It is obvious that great importance is attached to these Nuremberg decrees and that they indicate the shape of further laws that are to come. The process of eliminating the Jew is reaching its climax, the measures that were individual and fanatic are now supported by the whole machinery of Law. The Law Courts are already imbuing themselves with the "spirit of Nuremberg." The following case reported from Frankfurt in *The Basler Nationalzeitung* of 31st October affords an example.

Frankfurt-on-the-Oder Law Court dealt with a case which featured "Stürmer boxes," one of the bright red painted boxes or pillories maintained by the newspaper which are distributed in every town and village in Germany. A woman resident in Fürstenwalde was "pilloried" in one of these boxes for the alleged offence of having spoken to a Jewess in the second person

singular (this is the familiar method of address in German). The woman applied for an injunction to have her name removed from *The Stürmer* box. The application was dismissed, and the following were some of the grounds for the decision:

“It must be a matter of course and a duty of honour for every German citizen to sacrifice even personal friendship, and its ties of loyalty, to the loyalty and duty which he owes to the Fatherland. It is the task of everyone to do what he can to help to reduce Jewish influence in public life. To that end the social ostracism and isolation of individual Jews is essential.”

The Frankfurt Court in the case quoted above did no more than follow logically the lines indicated by the authorities of the party and of the State. “The Yellow Spot,” the badge of shame that Jews were obliged to wear in the Middle Ages in the superstitious era when witches were burnt at the stake, has now become an official emblem of the Third Reich. No quarter is given and it is the duty of every “Aryan” to help to bring the campaign of Jewish extermination to a successful conclusion.

There is no doubt that the campaign is successful. The census returns as early as June 1933, a few months after the Nazis came to power, showed that as compared with 1925 there was an average decrease in the Jewish population of 11.5 per cent in towns with more than 10,000 inhabitants and an average decrease of as much as 17.1 per cent in smaller municipalities. The decrease was even greater in certain districts where anti-Semitic terror was especially fierce. Thus in the small communities of Upper Bavaria there was a reduction of 31.8 per cent, in the Bremen neighbourhood 35.1 per cent, in Silesia 35.3 per cent, in Anhalt 41.2 per cent, and in certain small towns in Mecklenburg there was a decrease of 45.2 per cent—almost half the Jewish population. These were the results after only five months of the Hitler régime. To-day the majority of these districts are entirely “purged” of Jews.

Remarkable figures are published by the Mannheim physician, Dr. Bruchsaler. About a third of the Jews in Baden used

to live in Mannheim. Yet in spite of the fact that in Baden, as elsewhere, the Jews fled from the country to the towns and that many came to Mannheim, the number of Jews in this city was 22 per cent less on 1st July, 1934, than in 1925. Economic pressure has been strong enough to do the work of suppression here. More than half of the male and more than two-fifths of the female Jewish population are unmarried. Even at the ages of thirty-five and forty, half the men are unmarried. Their increasing insecurity and poverty precludes for them the possibility of marriage. Among the Mannheim Jews there were 366 persons above seventy years of age but only 181 children under five years old.

In Frankfurt on the Main, the number of children born to Jewish families decreased from 107 in 1933 to 67 in 1934. There were 314 deaths—i.e. about five times more Jews died than were born—and the cause of death in fourteen cases was suicide.

These figures relate to the period in which people abroad were inclined to think that persecution of the Jews would gradually cease. The rigid censorship of German news, and the blackmail of Jewish families still resident in Germany, stopped the leakage of information into the world Press during this period. Few were aware that in fact, so far from diminishing, the Nazi persecution increased.

The purpose of this book is mainly to describe how this increase has been organised until it prevails now all over Germany, how methods which were first of all tried out in Streicher's Franconia were subsequently adopted throughout the Reich.

Negotiations have been proceeding for some time for Streicher's famous *Stürmer* to be taken over by the *Eher-Verlag*, an official publishing house of the National Socialist Party. That this development, far from being a curb on Streicher's activity, as it is represented by apologists of National Socialism abroad, would represent on the contrary still further official endorsement of them, is sufficiently shown by the similar character of the special works on Jewish

“criminals,” “ritual murder,” and “race defilement,” issued by the official party publishing houses and quoted in this book.

These developments cannot be the product of a sudden frenzy or hysteria. They bear the character precisely of a deliberate and calculated advance on the part of the governmental power.

It is not the German people which is responsible for these things. Even now, after the years of propaganda and compulsion, considerable incitement is needed to popularise the pogroms ordered from above. Even now the National Socialist Press contains strange mixtures of complaints and threats against those “Jew friends” who are still reported to exist among all sections of the German people. The German Jews themselves bear witness to many instances of courage and compassion on the part of the populace.

A few decades ago, Emile Zola’s passionate *J’accuse!* made it possible to stir up world-wide sympathy for the fate of one innocent man—Dreyfus. Can the world to-day remain placid confronted by the fate of hundreds of thousands of innocent people in Germany?

Is it that the facts are not generally realised, or is it that horrors are now so rife in the world that none is terrible enough to shake us from our acquiescence? No reader of this book can any more escape the facts. But unless they wake us to fight against injustice, as a past generation was waked by the voice of Zola, all that we know of civilisation will be in peril of barbarous dissolution.

DOCUMENTS
TO
CHAPTER I

Facsimile Reproduction of the "Jewish Decree" adopted by the Reichstag in Nuremberg, September 1935.

Fig. 1

Reichsgesetzblatt

1145

Teil I

1935	Ausgegeben zu Berlin, den 16 September 1935	Nr. 100
24p	Inhalt	Seit
15 9 35	Reichsflaggengesetz	1145
15 9 35	Reichsbürgergesetz	1146
15 9 35	Gesetz zum Schutze des deutschen Blutes und der deutschen Ehre.....	1146

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Fig. 2

1146

Reichsgesetzblatt, Jahrgang 1935, Teil I

Reichsbürgergesetz.

Vom 15. September 1935.

Der Reichstag hat einstimmig das folgende Gesetz beschlossen, das hiermit verkündet wird:

§ 1

(1) Staatsangehöriger ist, wer dem Schutzverband des Deutschen Reiches angehört und ihm dafür besonders verpflichtet ist.

(2) Die Staatsangehörigkeit wird nach den Vorschriften des Reichs- und Staatsangehörigkeitsgesetzes erworben.

§ 2

(1) Reichsbürger ist nur der Staatsangehörige deutschen oder artverwandten Blutes, der durch sein Verhalten beweist, daß er gewillt und geeignet ist, in Treue dem Deutschen Volk und Reich zu dienen.

(2) Das Reichsbürgerrecht wird durch Verleihung des Reichsbürgerbriefes erworben.

(3) Der Reichsbürger ist der alleinige Träger der vollen politischen Rechte nach Maßgabe der Gesetze.

§ 3

Der Reichsminister des Innern erläßt im Einvernehmen mit dem Stellvertreter des Führers die zur Durchführung und Ergänzung des Gesetzes erforderlichen Rechts- und Verwaltungsvorschriften.

Nürnberg, den 15. September 1935,
am Reichsparteitag der Freiheit.

Der Führer und Reichskanzler

Adolf Hitler

Der Reichsminister des Innern

Frick

Gesetz zum Schutze des deutschen Blutes und der deutschen Ehre.

Vom 15. September 1935.

Durchdrungen von der Erkenntnis, daß die Reinheit des deutschen Blutes die Voraussetzung für den Fortbestand des Deutschen Volkes ist, und befeelt von dem unerbittlichen Willen, die Deutsche Nation für alle Zukunft zu sichern, hat der Reichstag einstimmig das folgende Gesetz beschlossen, das hiermit verkündet wird:

§ 1

(1) Eheschließungen zwischen Juden und Staatsangehörigen deutschen oder artverwandten Blutes sind verboten. Trotzdem geschlossene Ehen sind nichtig, auch wenn sie zur Umgehung dieses Gesetzes im Ausland geschlossen sind.

(2) Die Nichtigkeitsklage kann nur der Staatsanwalt erheben.

§ 2

Außerordlicher Verkehr zwischen Juden und Staatsangehörigen deutschen oder artverwandten Blutes ist verboten.

§ 3

Juden dürfen weibliche Staatsangehörige deutschen oder artverwandten Blutes unter 45 Jahren in ihrem Haushalt nicht beschäftigen.

§ 4

(1) Juden ist das Führen der Reichs- und Nationalflagge und das Zeigen der Reichsfarben verboten.
 (2) Dagegen ist ihnen das Zeigen der jüdischen Farben gestattet. Die Ausübung dieser Befugnis steht unter staatlichem Schutz.

§ 5

(1) Wer dem Verbot des § 1 zuwiderhandelt, wird mit Zuchthaus bestraft.
 (2) Der Mann, der dem Verbot des § 2 zuwiderhandelt, wird mit Gefängnis oder mit Zuchthaus bestraft.
 (3) Wer den Bestimmungen der §§ 3 oder 4 zuwiderhandelt, wird mit Gefängnis bis zu einem Jahr und mit Geldstrafe oder mit einer dieser Strafen bestraft.

§ 6

Der Reichsminister des Innern erläßt im Einvernehmen mit dem Stellvertreter des Führers und dem Reichsminister der Justiz die zur Durchführung und Ergänzung des Gesetzes erforderlichen Rechts- und Verwaltungsvorschriften.

§ 7

Das Gesetz tritt am Tage nach der Verkündung, § 3 jedoch erst am 1. Januar 1936 in Kraft.

Nürnberg, den 16. September 1935,
 am Reichsparteitag der Freiheit.

Der Führer und Reichskanzler

Adolf Hitler

Der Reichsminister des Innern

Griß

Der Reichsminister der Justiz

Dr. Görtner

Der Stellvertreter des Führers

R. Heß

Reichsminister ohne Geschäftsbereich

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Vertriebsstellen beim Reichsministerium des Innern. — Gedruckt in der Reichsdruckerei, Berlin.

Translation of Fig. 1

Reich Law Gazette

Part I

1935	Published in Berlin, the 16th September, 1935	No. 100
	<i>Date</i>	<i>Page</i>
15 9 35	Law respecting the Reich Flag.....	1145
15 9 35	Law respecting citizenship of the Reich.....	1146
15 9 35	Law for the protection of German Blood and German Honour.....	1146

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Translation of Fig. 2

1146

Reich Law Gazette, 1935, Part I

LAW RESPECTING REICH CITIZENSHIP

OF 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1935

The Reichstag has unanimously adopted the following law, which is announced herewith:

§ 1

(1) One who belongs to the protective union of the German Reich and is, therefore, under particular obligation to it; is a national.

(2) Nationality is acquired in accordance with the Reich and Nationality Law.

§ 2

(1) Only a national of German or kindred blood, who proves by his conduct that he is willing and likely faithfully to serve the German people and Reich, can be a citizen.

(2) Citizenship is acquired by grant of the certificate of citizenship.

(3) The citizen is the sole holder of full political rights according to law.

§ 3

The Reich Minister of the Interior in conjunction with the Deputy to the Führer will issue the legal and administrative regulations required for the operation and amplification of the Law.

Nuremberg, 15th September, 1935.

Führer and Reich Chancellor
ADOLF HITLER

Minister of the Interior
FRICK

LAW FOR THE PROTECTION OF GERMAN BLOOD AND
GERMAN HONOUR

OF 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1935

Imbued with the consciousness that the purity of German blood is essential to the continued existence of the German people, and animated by the inflexible resolve to ensure the security of the German Nation for all time, the Reichstag has unanimously adopted the following law, which is announced herewith:

§ 1

(1) Marriages between Jews and nationals of German or kindred blood are forbidden. Marriages concluded in defiance of this law are void, even if, for the purpose of evading this law, they are concluded abroad.

(2) Proceedings for annulment may be initiated only by the Public Prosecutor.

Translation of Fig. 3

1147

No. 100—Day of Issue: Berlin, the 16th September, 1935

§ 2

Relations outside marriage between Jews and nationals of German or kindred blood are forbidden.

§ 3

Jews may not employ in domestic service female nationals of German or kindred blood under the age of 45 years.¹

§ 4

(1) Jews are forbidden to hoist the Reich or national flags or display the Reich colours.

(2) On the other hand, they are permitted to display Jewish colours. Those availing themselves of this authorisation do so under the protection of the State.

§ 5

(1) Whoever acts contrary to the prohibition of § 1 will be punished with penal servitude.

(2) Any man who acts contrary to the prohibition of § 2 will be punished with imprisonment or penal servitude.

(3) Whoever acts contrary to the provisions of §§ 3 or 4 will be punished with imprisonment up to one year and a fine or one of these penalties.

§ 6

The Reich Minister of the Interior in conjunction with the Deputy to the Führer and the Reich Minister for Justice will issue the legal and administrative regulations required for the operation and amplification of the Law.

§ 7

The law shall be in force from the day following announcement, except § 3 which shall be in force from 1st January, 1936.

Nuremberg, the 15th September, 1935,
at the Reich Party Congress of Liberty.

Führer and Reich Chancellor
ADOLF HITLER

Reich Minister of the Interior
FRICK

Reich Minister of Justice
DR. GÜRTNER

Deputy to the Führer
R. HESS
Reich Minister with Portfolio

¹ The age has since been reduced to 35.