

REPORT OF UNDERGROUND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY ON PERSECUTION OF GERMAN JEWS

August 1935

On September 15, 1935, the first legal measures were taken to severely limit the rights of German Jews (see ahead in Kalfus, Primary Source Documents, pp. 2-3, Document #2).

The following document (report) will demonstrate that anti-Semitic acts perpetrated against Jews had begun as soon as Hitler came to power on January 30, 1933. The report was written by exiled members of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, the most important democratic political party in the Weimar Republic (Remember: this was the shaky, but nevertheless democratic government created after World War I.) Please note that all political parties except the Nazi Party were outlawed after Hitler came to power. Many leaders of the anti-Nazi political parties were arrested and incarcerated in Dachau, the first concentration camp in Germany.

Germany – Report
of the Sopade

2ND YEAR, NO.8

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II. The Terror Against the Jews

We reported in the previous month within the scope of a comprehensive overview of the terror in the Third Reich also about the terror against the Jews. We supplement this overview with the following based on newly arrived reports from the last month.

The published announcements in the press show with what methods one has driven the Jews into a modern ghetto:

Bergzabern, Edenkoben, Schotten, Höheinöd, Breunigweiler, and other places forbid entry to Jews and prohibit the sale of real estate to Jews.

Bad Tölz, Bad Reichenhall, Garmisch-Partenkirchen and the Bavarian highlands no longer allow Jews entry to the spa facilities.

In Apolda, Berka, Blankenstein, Sulza, Allstadt, and Weimar (1 movie theater), entry to the cinema is forbidden to Jews.

Magdeburg forbids Jews use of the libraries; the street cars carry signs on the doors: "Jews unwelcome!"

The restaurants in Stralsund, Putbus, and other places prohibit entry to Jews; all businesspeople in Frankenthal (Pfalz) refuse to sell to Jews; 500 businesses, restaurants, and cafés of the district Alsfeld and the restaurants of the whole Harz region maintain signs: "Jews unwelcome"; the barbers of Stralsund no longer serve Jews.

The cattle markets in Oldenburg, Fulda and numerous other places have become free of Jews; at the yearly fairs in Görlitz and Schriesheim, Jews are unwelcome.

In countless communities the bathing facilities are forbidden to Jews, and “race defilers” are arrested, beaten up, led around town, and dragged off to concentration camps.

Visit to the Externstein – forbidden, visit to events of all kinds in Schriesheim- forbidden...it is a chain of tricks, prohibitions, defamations, which find their completion in the instructions to Aryans to avoid association with Jews.

In Mainz-Bischofsheim, use of community fields is terminated for those who associate with Jews; businesspeople from Nidda, Auerbach and other places who have dealings with Jews have their city contracts withdrawn.

Berlin-Steglitz, Hirschberg and other places forbid public employees, teachers and welfare recipients from buying from Jews; Adelshofen takes disciplinary action against administrators, city councilors and public employees who buy from Jews; Finsterwalde and Langenselbold threaten welfare recipients with withdrawal of support. Coburg also prohibits city officials, employees and workers from social association with Jews; Braunschweig draws up lists of peasants who trade with Jews earlier or today, while in Alsey the names of 4 people who place cards with Jews were publicly denounced . . .

QUESTIONS

1. Work in groups: Assume you are a German Jew living in Germany after Hitler and the Nazi Party takes total control of the government. Make a list of what daily life activities Jews were forbidden to participate in. You should be able to come up with at least **10 activities**.
2. We are talking about Germany in 1933, 1934, 1935. Go to the Internet (Google at www.google.com) and find out what it was like to live as an African American in a southern city or town in America in 1933, 1934, 1935 (e.g. Meridian, Mississippi; New Orleans, Louisiana; Little Rock, Arkansas. One suggestion: Use *Google* search terms “blacks barred from swimming pools in southern cities in America”).

Here is information I discovered while reading Kirkwood author Eddy L. Harris’ book, *South of Haunted Dreams—A ride Through Slavery’s Old Backyard.*” Harris is an African-American.

- A 1958 ordinance was passed in Montgomery, Alabama: “It shall be unlawful for whites and colored persons to play together ... in any game of cards, dice, dominos, checkers, pool billiards, softball, baseball, football, golf, track, and at swimming pools or in any athletic contest.”

- The comparison to Nazi Germany and German Jews is obvious. Are the reasons for this ordinance similar in nature to anti-Semitism in Nazi Germany?
3. Do you think Jews were discriminated against before, after, or during the 1930's in America? See if you can find out any information about the Missouri Athletic Club or the New York Athletic club in reference to their admittance policy towards Jews or blacks