

We have discussed that the German Jews prior to Hitler's rise to power were proud to be Germans, that they were well integrated into German society, that professionally they held some of the most prestigious positions as doctors, professors, attorneys—both in the private and public sector, artists, as stage and film directors, as journalists, as politicians in political parties of diverse perspectives, as CEO's of large corporations, as writers and scientists of world reputation. For the German Jews, being Jewish was a question of religious belief and not—as the Nazis soon would profess—a question of race. German Jews fought bravely for Germany during the World War I and many returned home as decorated soldiers. During the Weimar Republic of the 1920's, the Jews of Germany felt themselves to be more than ever an integral part of German daily life. This reality played into the hands of Hitler and the rising influence of the Nazi party, for German Jews became the scapegoats for everything which went wrong during post World War I Germany, from the acceptance of the onerous Versailles Peace Treaty and the writing of the Weimar Constitution to the rise of the German Communist Party which looked to Russia as a model regime. The German, Jewish liberal politician Hugo Preuss, for example, was one of the major drafters of the Weimar Constitution, which the Nazis passionately hated. The first Foreign Minister of the Weimar Republic, Walther Rathenau was Jewish. Anti-Semitic, anti-democratic forces would assassinate him.

It is no coincidence that one of the most powerful Nazis after Hitler took power in 1933 would be the Minister of Propaganda, Joseph Goebbels. German Jewish writers, journalists, actors, artists were, by the very nature of their professional activities, extremely visible during the 1920's. One of the major objectives of Nazi propaganda would be to destroy the German Jewish influence in the media. The cultural, intellectual and political life of the city of Frankfurt during the 1920's for example was dominated by the Jewish owned newspaper, the *Frankfurter Zeitung*. "Jewish control of German cultural life" as the Nazis viewed it, could be heard in most of the broadcasts from *Radio Frankfurt*. Never again would a German city's societal and cultural climate be nurtured by a liberal Jewish mayor, as it had been in Frankfurt in the 1920's, under the leadership of the Jewish Lord Mayor Ludwig Landmann.

One of the most distinguished journalists, author and peace advocate of the Weimar republic, Carl von Ossietzky was Jewish. He was the editor of the newspaper, the *Berliner Volkszeitung* 1920 and in 1926 joined the periodical *Die Weltbühne*. After the Nazi take-over in 1933, Ossietzky was arrested while struggling for democracy and freedom and sent to several concentration camps. The world-wide campaign to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Ossietzky forced the Nazi-Regime to release him in 1936. Two years later, however, he died in Berlin as a result of his imprisonment.

Please react to the following discussion between President Nixon and evangelist Billy Graham which was captured in a 30-year old tape recording. Nixon complains to the Reverend Billy Graham that Jews dominate the media. Graham agrees by saying: "The stranglehold has got to be broken, or this country is going to go down the drain."

1. What similarities do you notice in how the Nazis viewed the Jewish media and how Nixon and Graham viewed them? In what way could you use this

comparison as a basis for defining stereotyping? If stereotyping is the application of “half-truths” in defining an entire group, is there any validity to what Nixon, Graham and Nazis believed about the Jewish domination of the media?

**NOTE:** The revisionists who deny the Holocaust also make frequent reference to the Jewish rule of the media. One hate group Web site article is entitled: “ The Alien Grip On Our News and Entertainment Media Must Be Broken.”