

LESSON: Overview of the Holocaust (4-Day)

PACKET 4

Instructions: Examine the sources in this packet and answer the following questions.

- Which aspect of the Holocaust do these sources best represent?
 - Antisemitic Propaganda
 - Exclusion and Legal Discrimination
 - Physical Separation and Ghettos
 - Theft and Confiscation of Property
 - Deportation
 - Concentration Camps and Forced Labor
 - Mass Killing
- What do these primary sources reveal about the ways that ordinary people were active participants or passive witnesses to persecution and even murder during the Holocaust?

Testimony from Bob Behr

[Bob Behr](#)

Transcript

“And I was standing one day on the sidewalk across the street. And in the middle of the street was a cop who held the pedestrians back, who wanted us to wait to cross the street. And you heard in the distance the music. And it wasn’t very long, we knew why the cop didn’t want us to cross the street because you saw a bunch of kids, a group of Hitler Youth marching by. They had their brown uniform on, they had their nifty brown belt on, they had a little dagger on the side, which later on I found out had inscribed the words “Blood and Honor”--that for fourteen-year-old kids. And they were, had some fife and drum corps, and two flags, and they were marching down the street. They looked neat, they looked sharp, they looked together, and I stood there, a Jewish kid, and wished with all my heart that I could march with them. I’m not proud of this story. But at the time, when I saw them, I wanted to be part of it. I wanted the uniform, I wanted to have the power, and the ability to belong to the people who, kids were marching by me. That’s what I always called very powerful propaganda, and very dangerous, very dangerous.”

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Interview with Bob Behr, June 2012

LESSON: Overview of the Holocaust (4-Day)

PACKET 4

Photograph



[This photograph](#) depicts a woman posing on a park bench in Vienna, August 1938. The sign on the bench reads “Nur für Arier” (“Only for Aryans” [non-Jews]).

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PACKET 4

Laws and Restrictions

The following list shows some of the more than 400 legal restrictions imposed upon Jews and other groups during the first six years of the Nazi regime.

1933

March 31: Decree of the Berlin City Commissioner for Health suspends Jewish doctors from the city's social welfare services.

April 7: The Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service removes Jews from government service.

April 25: The Law against Overcrowding in Schools and Universities limits the number of Jewish students in public schools.

July 14: The Denaturalization Law revokes the citizenship of naturalized Jews and “undesirables.”

October 4: The Law on Editors bans Jews from editorial posts.

1935

May 21: The Army Law expels Jewish officers from the army.

September 15: The Nuremberg Race Laws exclude German Jews from Reich citizenship and prohibit them from marrying or having sexual relations with persons of “German or German-related blood.”

1936

January 11: The Executive Order on the Reich Tax Law forbids Jews to serve as tax consultants.

April 3: The Reich Veterinarians Law expels Jews from the profession.

October 15: The Reich Ministry of Education bans Jewish teachers from public schools.

1937

April 9: The Mayor of Berlin orders public schools not to admit Jewish children until further notice.

1938

February 5: The Law on the Profession of Auctioneer excludes Jews from the profession.

March 18: The Gun Law bans Jewish gun merchants.

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PACKET 4

April 22: The Decree against the Camouflage of Jewish Firms forbids changing the names of Jewish-owned businesses.

April 26: The Order for the Disclosure of Jewish Assets requires Jews to report all property in excess of 5,000 Reichsmarks.

July 11: The Reich Ministry of the Interior bans Jews from health spas.

October 3: The Decree on the Confiscation of Jewish Property regulates the transfer of assets from Jews to non-Jews in Germany.

November 12: The Decree on the Exclusion of Jews from German Economic Life closes all Jewish-owned businesses.

November 15: The Reich Ministry of Education expels all Jewish children from public schools.

November 28: The Reich Ministry of the Interior restricts the freedom of movement of Jews.

November 29: The Reich Ministry of the Interior forbids Jews to keep carrier pigeons.

December 14: The Executive Order on the Law on the Organization of National Work cancels all state contracts held with Jewish-owned firms.

December 21: The Law on Midwives bans all Jews from the profession.

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PACKET 4

Photograph



[This photograph](#) depicts a girl entering a public swimming pool in Furth, Germany, in 1935. The sign by the window reads “*Juden ist der Zutritt verboten*” (“Jews are prohibited from entering.”).