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Please note: I will be using queer quite profusely in the following pages. While I realize the term has a storied past, it is the easiest term to express the ideas present. This term is not historically accurate, and in the period, it was exclusively used as a slur.

## Institut für Sexualwissenschaft (Institute for Sexual Science)

Resources 1, 2, 13, & 24

- Opened on July 6, 1919, in Berlin by Magnus Hirschfeld
- First in the world to study sexual science and established sexual science as a field
- Focused on those deemed “sexual transitions”: homosexuals, transvestites, and hermaphrodites
- Had over forty employees specializing in counseling, venereal disease, research related to sexual science, and sexual education
- Treated over 20,000 people per year
- “Through science to justice”
- Prioritized the study of same-sex relationships and those with an affinity to them
- Challenged homosexuality as a perversion
- Advocated for the belief that queerness is innate and natural and that queerness is not a character or personality trait
- Operated on the belief that consenting adults should not face discrimination in regards to sexuality, gender identity, gender presentation, and sexual action
- Promoted that a wide variety of genders exist beyond male, female, and the third sex
- Worked to prove that sexuality and gender are examples of natural variation
- Worked to abolish stereotypes related to queer people
- Pushed to separate gender and sexual identities
- Created the idea of “conditional” and “situational” homosexuals, which would line up with modern ideas of those under the omnisexual umbrella: bisexuality, pansexuality, etc.
- Influenced by the then popular study of eugenics
- Provided early gender therapy
- Performed the first gender-affirming surgery in Germany in 1920
- Provided hormone replacement therapy, testosterone or estrogen, for trans patients in pursuit of a second puberty
- Had opposition for its whole existence who deemed it Jewish, Social Democratic, and offensive
- Many Germans took issue with such public discussions of sex and sexuality.
- Visited by Christopher Isherwood

## Magnus Hirschfeld

Resources 23, 24 & 32

- Born May 14, 1868, in Kolberg, Prussia, Germany
- Jewish

- Created most of the historical, and therefore modern, vocabulary regarding sexuality and gender identities
- Even as a child had loved sex and found it wholesome and natural
- Shifted his focus from more traditional medicine to sexology in 1897 when a patient killed himself hours before being married stating in his suicide note that he was gay and asking for Hirschfeld to educate the world on the plight of people like him
- Wrote and distributed a pamphlet “What People Should Know about the Third Sex” in 1900, which was the first publication using the term “third sex”
- Had a personal preference for the terms Urning and Uranian, but switched to third sex because it was the more popular term
- Never was out in any official manner
- Wrote Berlin’s Third Sex for the Metropolis Documents, which were a series of books detailing the lives of the common person in Berlin at the time
- Berlins’ Third Sex outsold all other volumes of the Metropolis Documents
- Berlin’s Third Sex reads like the popular literature of the period, as opposed to the analytical and research-based approach that most of Hirschfeld’s writing takes
- Berlin’s Third Sex acknowledged and embraced the trans community of Berlin
- Also wrote Berlin’s Gullet for the Metropolis Documents focusing on the alcoholism of Berlin in a research-oriented way
- Joined the Medical Society for Sexology and Eugenic in 1813
- He was never a raging eugenicist, but he did incorporate eugenics into his research.
- When the Nazi Party co-opted eugenics, he opposed them and completely turned his back on the study as a whole.
- Believed there was no gay liberation without the trans community
- Would do nothing at the expense of feminism
- Branched into many forms of media in his advocacy including petitions, academic papers, books, international lectures, and feature films
- Believed that heterosexuals and homosexuals were the outliers and most existed somewhere in between decades before Kinsey
- Presumed dead after a far-right attack in Munich in the early days of the Weimar Republic
- Everything he believed and promoted opposed Nazi ideals, which made him an extreme threat to the Nazi Party
- American newspapers heralded him “the Einstein of sex”
- Died in exile on May 14. 1935, his 67th birthday, via stroke

## Karl Giese

Resources 2 & 24

- Hirschfeld's longtime partner
- More of a sexual incendiary than Hirschfeld himself
- Fellow researcher and campaigner alongside Hirschfeld
- Committed suicide in 1938 while living his life on the run from the Nazis

## Li Shiu Tong

Resource 24

- Chinese
- Met Hirschfeld on an international lecture tour in China
- Became a sort of protege to Hirschfeld
- Served as another partner of Hirschfeld and Giese in their later years
- Had aspirations of creating a similar Institute for Sexual Science in Hong Kong but gave up on these when the Nazi Party seized power and spent the rest of their life living in the shadows for protection

## Ludwig Levy-Lenz

Resource 13

- Jewish
- Served as a gynecologist for the Institute for Sexual Science and performed gender-affirming surgeries
- Fled when the Nazi Party gained power
- Captured by Nazis and taken to Dachau to experiment on those in concentration camps

## Raid of the Institute for Sexual Science

Resource 1

- In 1933, the Institute for Sexual Science was plundered and shut down by the Nazi Party.
- The raid was led mostly by university students.
- Hirschfeld and the Institute's work, research, books, and a bust of Hirschfeld were burned in the public square.
- This is the most famous book burning of the Nazi regime, though it is often not tied back to Hirschfeld and his work.

- Hirschfeld was abroad and was able to live safely in a sort of exile because of this.
- Hirschfeld, Giese, and Tong spent the rest of Hirschfeld's life living together in exile.

## Scientific Humanitarian Committee

Resources 1, 2, & 23

- First queer organization in the world
- Was cofounded by Magnus Hirschfeld
- Was housed in the Institute for Sexual Science
- Worked to decriminalize homosexuality
- Created the Yearbook for Sexual Incendiaries, which was first published in 1899
- The Yearbook for Sexual Incendiaries proceeded to run for over a quarter of a century.

## Transvestit (Transvestite)

Resources 2, 6, 13, & 23

Please note: Transvestite is outdated and offensive terminology, but this is the language of the period. Choosing not to call what was deemed transvestite so would create much more of a challenge in the understanding of the research. This language is not appropriate in modern settings, but it is the most historically accurate. If we were to proceed with modern terminology, it would not encompass all of what the term meant at the time.

- Hirschfeld coined the term in 1910 as a medical and scientific term in his “Die Transvestiten”
- Defined as someone who wore different clothing than their assigned gender at birth
- Served as an umbrella term for gender-nonconforming people
- In modern terms, it would include drag performers, crossdressers, and trans-binary and nonbinary people.
- Became a judgment-free social label in Germany
- The term was completely embraced in the period and had no negative connotations.
- Hirschfeld believed that being a transvestite was completely unrelated to being gay. Therefore, someone could be both a transvestite and a straight person.
- Transvestite communities were incredibly tight-knit.
- Self-identification as a transvestite was incredibly common despite the medical usage.
- Hirschfeld worked to create Transvestitenschein, which were passes that transvestites could receive from Berlin police to exist as their gender in public, despite what they were assigned at birth, and not face disorderly conduct charges.
- Passing was incredibly important socially for many transvestites.

- There was a heavy class divide in these circles, as passing privilege was granted to those who were wealthier and could afford to pursue their transition more fully.
- Trans women could struggle to find work after surgeries.

## Paragraph 175

### Resources 3 & 23

- Paragraph 175 is the German statute that criminalized homosexual acts.
- Under Section 13 “Crime and Offenses against Morality”
- Exclusively applied to two men and not two women
- Transvestites were included.
- People were welcome to identify as gay, but they couldn’t have sex.
- Enacted in 1871 during the German Empire
- Originated from the Prussian legal code
- This kind of statute was very common in Europe at the time.
- Included both homosexuality and bestiality
- Someone could only be convicted if they could be proven to have engaged in “intercourse-like” acts, which means they pretty much had to get caught in the act to be able to do anything legally.
- August Bebel, head of the Social Democrats at the time, was the first politician to advocate for reform in 1898.
- Hirschfeld and Helene Stöcker prevented Paragraph 175 from including lesbians in 1911.
- During the Weimar Republic, convictions were in the hundreds every year.
- Social Democrats, Communists, German League, and German Democrats all opposed it.
- The Nazi Party wanted to strengthen it.
- The Nazi Party changed it in 1935 to “man who commits sexual acts with men”, dropping the word unnatural meaning it could be used more broadly.
- After 1935, punishment based on this statute dramatically increased.
- Four egregious acts: coercing another man, prostitution, initiating with a subordinate, and initiating with someone under 21
- Lesbians were not viewed as a threat to the government and avoided being involved despite the tightening restrictions.
- Around 100,000 arrests were made under Paragraph 175 during the Nazi regime.
- Most who were convicted were sent to fixed prison sentences.

## Queer People in Nazi Germany

Resources 3, 4, 15, & 24

- After the Institute of Sexual Science was raided, the Nazi Party had control of the full list of names and addresses of the clients, which led to the creation of pink lists. These lists were how most queer people were found and targeted and led the Nazi Party to find a lot of the more underground communities of queer people.
- The homophobia of the Nazi period was rooted in concern over the lowering birthrate. It was impossible to continue the dominance of the German race if a good portion of relationships were not leading to procreation.
- If the Aryan race weakens, all of Germany weakens.
- Gay men were not targeted, instead, men who have sex with men were targeted.
- Attacks started on the queer communities that had formed and flourished in the Weimar Era.
- Not everyone who was targeted by the Nazi Party for breaking Paragraph 175 identified as queer.
- Gay men targeted in this period were not a monolith. The convictions went beyond race and class. It should also be noted that a good portion of gay men as deemed by the Nazi party were not men.
- Between 5,000 and 15,000 queer people were sent to concentration camps during the Nazi regime.
- Both Gestapo and Kripo were able to send queer people to concentration camps.
- Most people who were sent to concentration camps were repeat offenders, had multiple convictions of Paragraph 175, and were seen as dangerous.
- In concentration camps, queer people wore pink triangles deeming them homosexual.
- Queer people were also referred to as 175ers in reference to Paragraph 175 and why they were there.
- Queer people were heavily targeted in concentration camps and suffered abuse from both SS guards, Schutzstaffel: political soldiers of the Nazi Party, as well as prisoners.
- About 65 percent of queer people in concentration camps were killed, an incredibly high percentage compared to other groups.
- Because of the brutalization they faced, it is believed that a disproportionate amount of queer people committed suicide in concentration camps, but there is not enough information to give hard numbers on those percentages.
- There isn't a lot known about the treatment of queer people in concentration camps because such a high percentage of them died, and after the war, many did not come forward to detail their experiences.



- After the Nazi regime broke apart, Paragraph 175 still stood, and most of Europe had similar statutes.
- Queer people in concentration camps due to convictions of Paragraph 175, which was a majority of them but not all, went on to serve prison sentences to finish out their conviction time.
- Even after being released from concentration camps and the prison sentence that followed for most, queer people did not come forward about their treatment in concentration camps because it was still illegal, and they could be targeted once again.
- Pink lists continued to exist after World War II ended, which forced people into silence.
- East Germany was kinder to queer people on release than West Germany, but neither ever offered reparations for the queer people in concentration camps.

## Literature of the Period

Resources: 5 & 14

- Modernist period
- Works focusing on the importance of social hierarchy
- Expressionism is having a moment (Eugene O'Neill)
- Prose and poetry are going through a complete upheaval of established forms.
- Simplicity is coming into style in poetry.
- Important American writers: F. Scott Fitzgerald, Robert Frost, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, John Steinbeck
- Oscar Wilde ushered in a period of gay literature.
- Many Americans were publishing queer material in Europe because it was easier to get work published.
- Queer literature being published in America was almost entirely pornography or had negative endings or portrayals of queer characters.
- Queer literature was relatively commonplace at the time in Europe.
- Important writers in Germany: Frank Kafka, Vladimir Nabokov, W.H. Auden, Virginia Woolf, Graham Greene
- It is worth noting that most of the mentioned writers in Germany were queer and wrote queer literature.

## Queerness in Germany

### Resources 4 & 23

- Queer underground existed before 1782 in Germany.
- Existed as a “center of fun” despite all the dark times Germany was going through
- “Dress rehearsal to modern Western queer life.”
- Campaigning against Paragraph 175 had formed strong queer communities that developed into a strong undercurrent of queer societies and clubs.
- Queer people started claiming bars and meeting spaces to strengthen community.
- In 1869, a decriminalization packet termed “homosexual” for the first time.
- Gay men were embraced in the Weimar Republic.
- Pushing for reform in prostitution, birth control, and abortion as well
- Queer media existed in Germany in the early 1900s.
- There were 25-30 queer magazines in Germany from 1919-1933.
- No other queer media existed worldwide until after World War II.

## Queer German Vocabulary of the 1930s

### Resource 4

- Terms for gay men
  - Warmer Bruder: warm brother
  - Gleichgeschlechtlich: same-sex oriented
  - Homosexuell: homosexual
  - Homosexualität: homosexuality
  - Urning and Uranian
  - Schwul: directly translated into English as gay
- Dritten Geschlecht: third sex
- Gemeinschaft der Eigenen: Community of Kindred Spirits, associated with Adolf Brand, the only person who could be considered a sort of rival to Hirschfeld in the period, became more right-wing over time
- Freundschaftsbünde: friendship leagues

## Ernst Röhm

### Resource 4

- An early member of the Nazi Party
- Identified as gleichgeschlechtlich

- Was the leader of the SA (Sturmabteilung), a violent paramilitary
- His sexuality did not conflict with his ideology or role in the Nazi Party.
- He supported the overturning of Paragraph 175, not as a liberal ideal but as a step towards overthrowing mainstream ideology.
- Felt the Nazi movement was too prude
- Thought that open sexuality was the way to revolution
- His presence in the Nazi Party did not change any policy.
- His sexuality was an open secret, especially within the Nazi Party.
- In 1931, his sexuality caused a public scandal after leftists outed him.
- The Social Democrats used him as a sort of propaganda, but Hitler defended him.
- He led the SA until 1934 when Hitler had Nazis kill him.
- Röhm and other leaders of the SA were murdered in the summer of 1934 using his sexuality as a justification for the murder of all the SA leaders.
- Turned the German population on homosexuals because of his violent presence in a violent party

## The Third Sex

### Resource 7

- A magazine focused on transvestites using Hirschfeld's vocabulary
- First published in 1930 in Berlin
- There were only five issues because it collapsed due to far-right pressure in May 1932.
- It was wildly popular to the point where people would read it together in large groups and send it to rural friends.
- Contained scientific articles, fiction, advice columns, and personal essays
- The volumes were full of photography that was unrelated to the content showing gender-variant people in their daily lives.
- Created a large sense of community and comforted transvestites in the existence of others
- Advertised parties, meetings, and "special services"
- It was not just intended for the queer community and sought to educate cis people.
- Hans Hannah was a common contributor, and her first outing as a woman was the premiere of the magazine.

## Eulenburg Affair

### Resource 8

- Named the “homosexuality scandal of the 20th Century”
- Maximilian Harden was Germany’s most controversial journalist.
- Morocco crisis from 1905-1906 led to a press campaign against the gay peace party
- William II, the German emperor, was surrounded by queers in political and social settings.
- “Homosexual” was introduced to the public discourse for the first time.
- Sparked debates about whether homosexuality was something born or degenerated into on a grander scale
- Count Kuno von Moltke was the gay military commander of Berlin and was close to William II.
- Moltke vs. Harden was a civil suit of defamation about Moltke and Prince Eulenburg’s relationship and didn’t involve Paragraph 175.
- Moltke was not accused of homosexuality or homosexual act, instead of being sexually abnormal.
- Harden exposed Moltke and Prince Eulenburg for calling one another “Sweetie” and “Old Badger”, also referring to William II as “Sweetheart”.
- Harden found homophobia to be a positive moral value because he believed that homosexuals were a danger to international peace as they shrink away from war.
- Harden claimed that Moltke, Prince Eulenburg, and William II were morally inferior and unfair for government positions.
- Lilly von Elbe (Moltke’s ex-wife) testified against him claiming that Moltke didn’t care about women and only love Prince Eulenburg.
- Lilly von Elbe and Moltke never slept together before or during their marriage.
- Lilly von Elbe was exposed as an abuser throughout the case, but Moltke’s reputation was already destroyed.
- It was uncovered that there were gay orgies amongst government staff that Moltke and Prince Eulenburg were not involved in.
- Hirschfeld became involved in the case and defended Moltke’s sexuality. He deemed Moltke to be sexually abnormal and subconsciously gay.
- Sexology was seen as a proper science following the trial.
- During the second trial, Hirschfeld changed his stance on Moltke’s sexuality as his own sexuality was threatened to be outed.
- Sex outside of marriage started to become socially acceptable, and the case was a milestone in heterosexual liberation.

## Club Culture

Resources 14, 36, 37 & 38

- 65-80 gay bars in Berlin at that period
- 50 lesbian bars in that period
- 900 nightclubs in Berlin
- Bars were provided for those of every class.
- Working class men were frequently also prostitutes for extra cash. Soldiers were the largest percentage of this group.
- One of the main attractions in Berlin during the period was transvestite clubs.
- The Eldorado is the most important nightclub of the period. It was the most well-known trans club, and it was frequented by queer people and artists, as well as pretty much everyone else looking for the decadence Berlin was known for at the time.
- The Dorian Gray was another important club. It was one of the oldest gay clubs in Berlin, and it had lesbian nights before that came into fashion.
- Lesbian bars became really prevalent after World War 1.
- Lesbian bars were also typically a bit more raucous than their gay counterparts.
- Gay balls were another popular form of nightlife. They were held most nights in Berlin.
- Many queer men would dress up in women's popular gowns for balls.
- The balls were also commonly a costume party.

## Cabarets in Germany

Resource 39

- A form of nightlife where the audience sits and eats and drinks while watching performances of comedy, dance, and song
- Invented in the 1880s in France with institutions such as the Moulin Rouge
- German form known as "kabarett"
- German form was originally more conservative than the French version.
- First German cabaret was in 1901.
- Under William II, cabarets were not allowed to have bawdy humor, promiscuous dancing, or political satire.
- After World War I, cabaret became incredibly popular across all of Europe.
- Germany was known for having the best cabarets in all of Europe at this time.
- The Weimar Republic had no censorship, so the cabarets became havens for sex and politics.
- By the late 1920s, most cabarets had topless dancers.

- Queer people were typically out in the cabaret scene because it was a liberal hub in Germany.

## Sex Work in Germany

Resource 37

- Prostitution was largely deregulated.
- During World War I, when prostitution was illegal, legal brothels were set up for soldiers because of concern over STIs.
- Nearly everyone working in nightlife also served as a prostitute.
- Prostitutes also worked off the streets.
- Many prostitutes were young women widows during World War I.
- There was an unbelievable amount of diversity in the services and providers of sex workers at the time.
- At many nightclubs, a prostitute would be provided with the table.
- Child prostitution was also incredibly common with many pharmacists serving as pimps for children.

## Pornography in Berlin

Resource 37

- Pornography was reaching great success at this time due to its reputation as a place for debauchery and the general boom of photography.
- Many family portrait-type studios would specialize in pornography at night.
- Pornography was illegal at the time, but pretty accessible whether that be through street vendors or nightclubs.
- Nude portraiture of lookalikes to popular film stars was a big genre of pornography.
- Pornography was also a satirical device. Political figure lookalikes were also a common occurrence. This type was typically enforced a lot more strictly than others.

## Abortion in Weimar Germany

Resources 41 & 42

- Abortion was a criminal offense starting in the 1871 German penal code.
- Criminalized in a way that disproportionately affected minorities.
- Laws targeted getting pregnant outside of marriage.
- Punishments ranged from six months to five years.
- Extremely commonplace with around one abortion for every live birth

- From 1901 on, it was mostly married women seeking abortion services in Germany.
- After World War I, abortion was the most common method of birth control.
- The Nazi Party was concerned about societal decline because of the rapidly declining birth rate, despite that being proof of a high level of civilization.
- The Communist Party was the only one pushing for full legalization.
- Lots of art, film, and theatre included characters getting abortions and were pushing for legalization.

## Weimar Republic

Resources 9, 10, & 11

- 1919-1933
- First German democracy
- Came out of the anger that Germans felt from the Treaty of Versailles and taxes being imposed
- The Treaty of Versailles demanded that German land, people, and resources be reallocated.
- World War I lead directly to the Weimar Republic.
- Named after the town where the government had formed
- November 9, 1918: William II lost the military and abdicated
- Social Democrats took power the next day, as they were appointed by William II.
- December 1918: Social Democrats worked to form a constitution and elect officials
- February 6, 1919: formed the Weimar Coalition and elected Friedrich Ebert
- August 11, 1919: the constitution is signed into law
- Period of economic struggle due to the hyperinflation of the period
- Dawes Plan, creating an American-backed German currency, was to deal with the reparations from the Treaty of Versailles.
- There was a second economic crisis due to the American Great Depression
- Period of lust for America with a distaste for the diversity of America
- A period inherently seeped in antisemitism due to World War I
- Women started to gain power because of World War I casualties.
- From 1930-1932, women became the fastest growing Nazi supporters.
- Race, eugenics, and class structures based on race became increasingly important.
- Working hard to define who is a German
- Working towards human rights
- Federal power was stronger than state power.
- German Reich, similar to Parliament, lessened executive power.

## German-American Relations

### Resource 12

- The sinking of the Lusitania changed American neutrality in World War I.
- January 31, 1917: America cuts ties with Germany
- April 6, 1917: America declares war on Germany
- America and Germany signed a peace treaty in 1921.
- America and Germany signed a trade treaty in 1923.
- The German language stopped being taught in America during and after World War I.
- Buildings, streets, and towns in America named after German-related people or places were renamed during World War I.
- Herbert Hoover was the first American president of German descent to be elected in 1928.

## German Political Parties

### Resource 40

- German National People's Party (DNVP)
  - Conservative and monarchist
  - Campaigned against democracy
  - Embittered by the Treaty of Versailles
  - Supported by East German landowners and industrial magnates
  - The party radicalized under Alfred Hugenberg and became anti-Republic and antisemitic.
  - Joined Nazi Party in the 1930s to get Hitler into power
- German Democratic Party (DDP)
  - A merger of the Progressive People's Party (FVP) and left-wing National Liberals
  - Upheld democratic order
  - Fundamental in the construction of the Weimar constitution
  - Supported the creation of a League of Nations
  - Supported by middle-class intellectuals and small traders
  - Believed in the separation of church and state
  - Wanted to restrict government control of the economy
  - Believed in the abolition of monopolies
  - Won 17% of the vote in 1920 and then started losing support
- German People's Party (DVP)
  - A merger of the right-wing National Liberals and some of the FVP



- Somewhere between indifferent and hostile towards the Republic
- Supported by upper and merchant classes
- Rooted in authoritarianism
- Believed in strong central government
- Advocated for revision of the Treaty of Versailles
- Gustav Stresemann was the chairman.
- Won 10% of the vote in 1920 and 1% in 1930
- Centre Party (Zentrumspartei/Zentrum)
  - Political voice of the Catholics
  - Worked with the SPD and DDP to create the democracy
  - Advocated for the rights of the Catholic church
  - Preservation of the federal states
  - A widely diverse party
  - Held 15% of the vote until 1932
- Bavarian People's Party (BVP)
  - Split from Centre Party over the parliamentary decision
  - Conservative clerical party
  - Tried to keep SPD out of the government
  - In 1930, they pitched their support to the Nazi Party
- Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD)
  - Tried to uphold the system of government and the Republic
  - The strongest force in Parliament with around 40% of the vote until 1932
  - In 1933, it dropped to 20% of the vote.
  - Had a lot of inter-party conflict because of its size
- Independent Social Democratic Party of Germany (USPD)
  - Pacifist wing of the SPD that started in 1917
  - Gained support through mass strikes about food supply chain issues
  - The first four years of the party were really messy.
  - Won 18% of the vote in 1920, the second largest group in Parliament
  - Marxist ideals
  - Dissolved and split into SPD and KPD
- Communist Party of Germany (KPD)
  - Founded December 30, 1918
  - Wanted to establish a Bolshevik government
  - Rejected the parliamentary system
  - Used mass strikes and demonstrations to gain support

- Won 2% of the vote in 1920
- Won 10% of the vote in 1921 because of the way the left-wing was shifting at the time
- Radicalization due to American Great Depression and the impact on the German economy made the KPD the third most powerful party from 1930 to 1933.
- National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP) (Nazi Party)
  - Founded in 1919
  - The earliest supporters were the lower middle class in Munich.
  - Adolf Hitler became the chairman in 1921.
  - Nationalistic and antisemitic demonstrations and acts of violence brought attention to them.
  - Anti-capitalist
  - Protested the Treaty of Versailles and the “politics of surrender” of the Republic
  - Before 1930, they only had been winning 2.5 -6.5% of the vote.
  - In 1930, they won 18% of the vote and became the second most powerful party in Parliament.
  - Seen as a fresh force that pulled in a lot of non-voters and young voters
  - Many saw them as capable of finding solutions to economic and political problems in Germany.

## Antisemitism

### Resource 45

- Termed by German journalist Wilhelm Marr in 1879
- Hatred of Jews and trends and politics associated with Jews
- Modern versions are based on German racialism.
- Eastern Europe was a hotbed of antisemitism after World War I as well.
- Antisemitism reached its historical peak in Nazi Germany, despite being prevalent for millennia.
- After the Nazi regime, there were higher levels of antisemitism worldwide.

## Jews and Antisemitism in Germany before the Nazi Regime

### Resources 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, & 22

- Antisemitism and Judeophobia were used interchangeably in the period.

- Antisemitism was very popular among university students starting around the 1880s. Antisemitism was a politically radical stance, and universities have always been a breeding ground for that sort of idea.
- There was a notable increase in antisemitism among student populations in 1918.
- Jews were associated with leftists, pacifists, and the Treaty of Versailles.
- The percentage of Jews in law, medicine, journalism, and theatre in Germany was much higher than that of Gentiles.
- Jews were extremely prevalent in higher education in general, starting around 1815.
- Antisemitism was particularly rampant in technical institutes, where there were many Jews.
- Antisemitism served the capitalism of the period.
- Antisemitism helped the Nazi Party rise to power because of its underlying presence in German society, but the presence of the Nazi Party socially brought a lot more antisemitism to the country.
- Being antisemitic became a part of the national identity for Germans.
- Antisemitism in Germany rose and fell in accordance with the German economy. This was a time with a succession of hits to the German economy.
- 1879: antisemitic agitation of court chaplain Stoecker
- 1881: persecution of Jews in Pomerania
- Jews are seen as second-class citizens and experienced a lot of othering.
- No overt violence against Jews before World War I.
- Jews were not welcomed into university positions, so they created private institutes to do their research.
- Jews reached legal equality in 1871.

## Rise of the Nazi Party

Resources 9, 10, 11, 13 & 40

- Worked off of hatred that was already present in German society
- Shift in religious teachings toward obedience and discipline instead of love
- Marketed themselves as transforming society and creating a new German man
- Worked off of the distrust for the government after the second financial crisis in quick succession
- Used Article 48 from the Weimar constitution, the ability to suspend civil liberty in the case of emergency, to seize full control
- “What began as a sterilization project ultimately led to the extermination of millions”
- Consistency and continuity in the Party material

- Destabilization by the Nazi Party and KPD led to lots of governments without a parliamentary majority, which means it required presidential decrees to govern.
- Hindenburg appoints Adolf Hitler as chancellor to deal with the right-wing pressure.

## Nazi Ideals

Resources 33, 34, & 35

- Not much canonic writing on Nazi ideals
- Mein Kampf is by far the most comprehensive and most important piece of literature on Nazi ideology.
- Hitler never credited any ideas to anyone else or cited any sources of his ideology, but it is clear that there is a lot pulled from popular ideas at the time that is frequently taken out of the context of the full theories.
- Hitler never read *The Myth of the Twentieth Century* by Alfred Rosenberg which was seen as the official Nazi Party ideology.
- Views “life as an eternal struggle for survival and domination”
- Hunger and love are elemental.
- Primitive racialism: races, instead of peoples, are primordial forces of history
- Social Darwinism and primitive racialism are the foundation of the Nazi ideals.
- There is no such thing as a pure race, but the hierarchy is built like there are pure races, ie Aryans.
- Antisemitism was a major instrument in the policy of barbarization they were looking for.
- Through the torture of Jews, the Nazi Party was able to create ruthlessness in their population, which is what Hitler wanted from Germany.
- Antisemitism was a means to an end not necessarily a core belief, but it was a core belief of Hitler’s, so it seeped more into the ideology in an assortment of unnecessary ways.
- Slavs were viewed as a step just above Jews, and a lot of negativity was directed at them, just a touch more discreetly.
- “Only fear of an authority commanding and using force can create community.”
- There was no overarching economic policy, but there was a lot of preparation for impending war.
- Heavily impacted by Mussolini and the March on Rome
- Heavily opposed racial mixing and supported the Aryan race
- Opposed Jews, Roma, people with disabilities, Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, and Afro-Germans

- Worked to identify and break off political dissidents, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexual men, and "asocials" from the rest of societies and their communities
- Superior races have the obligation to rule over the lower classes.
- Jews and other opponents to the Nazi agenda were associated with and promoted as pushing Eastern and Asiatic ideals.
- "The basic principle of blood" argued that blood, in a medical sense, contains a person's soul and the soul of their race.
- Jews were not a "root race", which led to their inferiority, but since they were not a root race, they were portrayed as seeking world domination by destroying Aryan bloodlines.
- Jewish modern art is seen as an attack on Aryan purity.
- Jews were portrayed as using liberalism, democracy, parliamentarianism, freedom of press, internationalism, and especially Marxism to destroy the Aryan race, so they tried to cut off those ideologies.

## Aryan Race

Resources 34 & 35

- Excludes Jews, Roma, Africans, and Slavs
- Excludes people with mental or physical disabilities, habitual and career criminals, people who engaged in "socially deviant behavior", homeless people, allegedly promiscuous people, people who couldn't hold jobs, and alcoholics
- A stance against intermarriage and race-mixing
- Aryans were said to have the best blood in a medical and spiritual sense.
- Most spiritual people on Earth
- Seen as one of the original races placed here
- This blood supplied the culture that creates beauty and dignity.
- The original Aryan was seen as the founder of higher humanity alone.
- World War I was seen as proof of the decline of the Aryan race.
- Racial mixing led to loss of higher culture and starting to resemble the lower classes.
- Jews were targeted as the people causing this racial mixing and societal decline.

## The Swastika

Resource 35

- Connected to occult symbols

- Grew in popularity from Das Geheimnis der Runen (The Secret of the Runes), which portrayed runes as sacred symbols of ancient Aryan knowledge
- Fundamental occult symbol of salvation
- Represented “the mission of the struggle for the victory of the Aryan man and the victory of the idea of creative work, which as such always has been and always will be antisemitic”
- Probably inspired by the Guido van List Society but not confirmed
- Was adapted to the Nazi movement from pre-existing runes instead of being original to it

## Nazis and Art

Resources 43 & 44

- In September 1933, the Reich Chamber of Culture was formed, which controlled German art.
- Modern art was associated with democracy and pacifism.
- Modern art, especially Expressionism, was popular in the Weimar Republic.
- The Nazi Party claimed that the ambiguity of modern art contained Jewish and Communist influences.
- Art was seen as “cultural Bolshevism”.
- The Nazi Party started calling modern art “degenerate art”.
- Wanted Nordic Expressionism to become the chief style of Germany
- Attacked the avante-garde
- Created “chambers of horror”, exhibits of modern art, to mock contemporary art
- Created the “Great German Art” exhibit, 600 pieces of German art containing landscapes and portraits, including one of Mussolini, the only non-German represented
- Hitler hand-selected the final 600 pieces shown in the “Great German Art” exhibit.
- Next to this exhibit, they mounted a “Degenerate Art” exhibit, containing 5,000 works of modern art completely misrepresented, that minors were not allowed to visit.
- Over 3 million people saw the ‘Degenerate Art’ exhibit, significantly more than the “Great German Art” exhibit, which makes it the most visited modern art exhibit in history.
- Confiscated over 20,000 pieces of art over the regime
- In June 1939, there was a massive international art auction to sell confiscated art to help fund the Nazi regime.
- Burned around 5,000 paintings

## Berlin

Resources 23 & 37

- Over 19th Century, Berlin grew 20 fold.
- After 1920, Berlin grew by a factor of 13.
- Only Paris, London, and New York City were larger at the time.

## Berlin Weather

### Resource 31

- “Moderately continental”
- Has all four seasons
- Hovers around freezing in the winter
- Comparatively cold in winter in Western Europe
- Extreme cold in Berlin is around 10° F.
- At this time, it would be below freezing for one whole month.
- Berlin is seen in Germany as a pocket of cold weather.
- 50° F is not an uncommon temperature in the winter.