

Lesson 10: Handout 1, Document 1

Laws Passed by Hitler and the Nazis

Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor

(also called the Nuremberg laws) — September 15, 1935⁵

Firm in the knowledge that the purity of German blood is the basis for the survival of the German people and inspired by the unshakeable determination to safeguard the future of the German nation, the Reichstag has unanimously resolved upon the following law. . .

Section 1

Marriages between Jews and citizens of German or some related blood are forbidden. Such marriages . . . are invalid, even if they take place abroad in order to avoid the law.

Section 2

Sexual relations outside marriage between Jews and citizens of German or related blood are forbidden.

Section 3

Jews will not be permitted to employ female citizens of German or related blood who are under 45 years as housekeepers.

Section 4

1. Jews are forbidden to raise the national flag or display the national colors.
2. However, they are allowed to display the Jewish colors. The exercise of this right is protected by the State.

Section 5

Anyone who disregards Section 1 . . . Section 2 . . . Sections 3 or 4 will be punished with imprisonment up to one year or with a fine, or with one of these penalties. . . .

Laws Passed by Hitler and the Nazis

The Reich Citizenship Law

(also called the Nuremberg laws) — September 15, 1935

Article 1⁶

Section 2

1. A Reich citizen is that subject who is of German or related blood only and who through his behavior demonstrates that he is ready and able to serve faithfully the German people and Reich.
2. The right to citizenship of the Reich is acquired by the grant of citizenship papers.
3. A citizen of the Reich is the sole bearer of full political rights as provided by the law.

Addition to the Reich Citizenship Law

November 14, 1935 (also called the Nuremberg laws)⁷

Article 4

1. A Jew cannot be a Reich citizen. He has no voting rights in political matters; he cannot occupy a public office.
2. Jewish officials will retire as of December 31, 1935

Article 5

1. A Jew is a person descended from at least three grandparents who are full Jews by race
2. A Mischling [someone of mixed background] . . . is also considered a Jew if he is descended from two full Jewish grandparents

**Oath of Reich Officials and of German Soldiers,
of 20 August 1934⁸**

Article 1

The public officials and the soldiers of the armed forces must take an oath of loyalty on entering service.

Article 2

1. The oath of loyalty of public officials will be: "I swear: I shall be loyal and obedient to Adolf Hitler, the Führer of the German Reich and people, respect the laws, and fulfill my official duties conscientiously, so help me God."
2. The oath of loyalty of the soldiers of the armed forces will be: "I swear by God this sacred oath: I will render unconditional obedience to Adolf Hitler, the Führer of the German Reich and people, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and will be ready as a brave soldier to risk my life at any time for this oath."

Article 3

Officials already in service must swear this oath without delay according to Article 2 number 1.

Laws Passed by Hitler and the Nazis

Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service, April 7, 1933⁹

The Reich Government has enacted the following Law . . .

Article 1

1. To restore a national professional civil service and to simplify administration, civil servants may be dismissed from office in accordance with the following regulations, even where there would be no grounds for such action under the prevailing Law.

Article 2

1. Civil servants who have entered the service since November 9, 1918, without possessing the required or customary educational background or other qualifications are to be dismissed from the service. Their previous salaries will continue to be paid for a period of three months following their dismissal.

Article 3

1. Civil servants who are not of Aryan descent are to be retired; if they are honorary officials, they are to be dismissed from their official status.

2. Section 1 does not apply to civil servants in office from August 1, 1914, who fought at the Front for the German Reich or its Allies in the World War, or whose fathers or sons fell in the World War.

Article 4

1. Civil servants whose previous political activities afford no assurance that they will at all times give their fullest support to the national State, can be dismissed from the service. . . .

Amendment to the Administration of the Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service of 11 April 1933¹⁰

Regarding Article 2:

Unfit, are all civil servants who belong to the communist party or communist aid or supplementary organization. They are, therefore, to be discharged.

Regarding Article 3:

1. A person is to be regarded as non-Aryan, who is descended from non-Aryans, especially Jewish parents or grandparents. This holds true even if only one parent or grandparent is of non-Aryan descent. This premise especially obtains if one parent or grandparent was of Jewish faith.

3. If Aryan descent is doubtful, an opinion must be obtained from the expert on racial research commissioned by the Reich Minister of the Interior.

Laws Passed by Hitler and the Nazis

Law Concerning the Hitler Youth of December 1, 1936"

It is on youth that the future of the German Nation depends. Hence, it is necessary to prepare the entire German youth for its coming duties. The government therefore has passed the following law . . .

Article 1

The entire German youth within the borders of the Reich is organized in the Hitler Youth.

Article 2

It is not only in home and school, but in the Hitler Youth as well that all of Germany's youth is to be educated, physically, mentally, and morally, in the spirit of National Socialism, to serve the nation and the racial community.

Article 3

The task of educating the entire German youth is entrusted to the Reich Youth Leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party. He thus becomes the "Youth Leader of the German Reich." His office shall rank with that of a ministry. He shall reside in Berlin, and be responsible directly to the Führer and Chancellor.

Laws Passed by Hitler and the Nazis

Law Against the Establishment of Parties, 14 July 1933¹²

Article 1

The National Socialist German Workers' Party constitutes the only political party in Germany.

Article 2

Whoever undertakes to maintain the organization of another political party or to form a new political party shall be punished with penal servitude of up to three years or with imprisonment of between six months and three years, unless the act is subject to a heavier penalty under other regulations.

Laws Passed by Hitler and the Nazis

Document analysis worksheet

Comprehension questions

1. Name of the law you are presenting:
2. What is the meaning of this law? Explain the law in your own words.

Interpretive questions

3. Who did you think might have benefited from this law?
4. Who suffered as a result of this law?
5. How might this law have influenced the attitudes and actions of the German people?
How might their lives and beliefs have changed as a result of this law?
6. Why do you think the Nazis created this law?

Universal questions

7. Do you think this law is fair? Why or why not?
8. What are the qualities of a fair or "just" law?

Notes

- ¹ United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, "Sinti and Roma: Victims of the Nazi Era," Holocaust Teacher Resource Center website, <http://www.holocaust-trc.org/sinti.htm> (accessed January 8, 2009).
- ² Laurence Rees, *The Nazis: A Warning from History*, DVD (Burbank: BBC Video, 2005).
- ³ Wolfgang Beutin, *A History of German Literature* (Abingdon: Routledge, 1993), 496.
- ⁴ Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, "Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust," <http://www.historyplace.com/pointsofview/goldhagen.htm> (accessed January 9, 2009). For further reading on Goldhagen's perspective, read *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1996).
- ⁵ "Law for Protection of German Blood and German Honor," Holocaust Education and Archive Research Team website, <http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/holoprelude/pbgh.html> (accessed January 10, 2009).
- ⁶ "Nuremberg Laws on Reich Citizenship, September 15, 1935," Yad Vashem website, http://www1.yadvashem.org/odot_pdf/Microsoft%20Word%20-%201998.pdf (accessed January 10, 2009).
- ⁷ "The Reich Citizenship Law (September 15, 1935) and the First Regulation to the Reich Citizenship Law (November 14, 1935)," German History in Documents and Images website, http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/docpage.cfm?docpage_id=2171 (accessed January 10, 2009).
- ⁸ "Oath of Reich Officials and of German Soldiers, of 20 August 1934," *The Avalon Project*, Yale Law School website, <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/imt/2061-ps.asp> (accessed January 12, 2009).
- ⁹ "Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service, April 7, 1933," Yad Vashem website, http://www1.yadvashem.org/about_holocaust/documents/part1/doc10.html (accessed January 12, 2009).
- ¹⁰ "First Regulation for Administration of the Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service of 11 April 1933," *The Avalon Project*, Yale Law School website, <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/imt/2012-ps.asp> (accessed January 12, 2009).
- ¹¹ "Law Concerning the Hitler Youth of December 1, 1936," History of the Holocaust website, <http://www.cdojerusalem.org/iconsmultimedia/ClientsArea/HoH/LIBARC/ARCHIVE/Chapters/Stabiliz/Racial/LawConce.html> (accessed January 12, 2009).
- ¹² "Law against the Establishment of Parties," History of the Holocaust website, <http://www.cdojerusalem.org/iconsmultimedia/ClientsArea/HoH/LIBARC/ARCHIVE/Chapters/Forging/Seizure/LawAgain.html> (accessed January 12, 2009).