

Anti-Jewish Regulations: 1933-1945

Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany on January 30, 1933.

The Nazi regime ruled almost entirely by executive order, with the tacit consent of the Reichstag. During the 12 years that the Nazis were in power, the Reichstag passed 4 laws, 3 of which were the infamous Nuremberg Laws of 1935. By contrast, in the first 3 years of Nazi rule, over 4,000 executive orders were issued. Of these, approximately 2,000 were directed towards Jews, in spite of the fact that Jews constituted less than 1% of the population of Germany.

1933

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| Jan. | 30 | Hitler becomes Chancellor. |
| March | 18
24 | Jewish lawyers & notaries no longer allowed to work on legal matters in Berlin.
Enabling Act: end of democracy in Germany. The Reichstag gave the government formal power to govern and legislate by decree, thereby providing the Nazis with a cloak of legality with which to cover their official actions. |
| April | 1
7 | Hitler launches nationwide boycott of Jewish shops and businesses.
April Laws (4)
The April Laws, as per President Hindenburg's request, did not include veterans of World War I nor those that had been in their profession prior to the Weimar period.
The April Laws did not eliminate Jews from civil service, law, or medicine. Of the 717 non-Aryan judges and attorneys, fewer than half (47% or 336) fell under the exclusion provisions. Only 1418 Jewish lawyers (30%) were removed. No more than ¼ of the 4500 Jewish doctors were excluded.
As with the April Boycott, the Nazis had miscalculated the nature of their Jewish problem. They had been unaware that so many Jews had served in World War I or had been active in their profession prior to the Weimar period.
(1) Law of the Restoration of Professional Civil Service:
All non-Aryan (defined on April 11, 1933 as anyone with a Jewish parent or grandparent) civil servants are forcibly retired from government offices.
Initially, exceptions were made for those working since August 1914; German veterans of World War I; and, those who had lost a father or son fighting for Germany or her allies in World War I.
This law was not aimed at Jews exclusively.
It also called for the removal of those without proper qualifications and those not supporting the state. It gave a legal basis for removing undesirables.
(2) Law Concerning Admission to the Legal Profession:
The law regarding admission to the legal profession prohibited the admission of lawyers of non-Aryan descent to the Bar.
It also denied non-Aryan members of the Bar the right to practice law.
(Exceptions were made in the cases noted above in the law regarding the civil service.)
Similar laws were passed regarding Jewish law assessors, jurors, and commercial judges.
(3) Law Concerning Admission to the Medical Profession:
Non-Aryan and Communist doctors denied permission to practice in hospitals:
The decree regarding physicians' services with the national health plan denied reimbursement of expenses to those patients who consulted non-Aryan doctors.
Jewish doctors who were war veterans or had suffered from the war were excluded.
Kosher butchering is forbidden by law.
Because this was a defining practice of Jewry, it could be understood as a declaration that Jewishness itself was a violation of the order and moral norms of society. |

- 25 **(4) Law Against the Overcrowding of German Schools:**
 This law was designed to address the overcrowding in German schools after the war. Rather than build new schools, the Nazis chose to limit enrollment in general and reduce enrollment of Jews in particular.
 The law against the overcrowding of German schools restricted Jewish enrollment in German high schools, technical institutes and universities to 1.5% of the student body.
 In communities where they constituted more than 5% of the population, Jews were allowed to constitute up to 5% of the student body.
 Initially, exceptions were made in the case of children of Jewish war veterans, who were not considered part of the quota.
 In the framework of this law, a Jewish student was a child with two non-Aryan parents. The Jewish community was forced to set up its own emergency school system.
- 28 Jews excluded from all artistic, dramatic, literary and film enterprises
- May 2 Unions dissolved.
 4 Jewish doctors prohibited from treating non-Jewish patients
 6 All Jewish tax consultants have licenses revoked.
- June 22 Social Democratic Party banned. Others banned by the end of the month.
- July 14 **Denaturalization Law (took effect March 23, 1934)**
 Allowed Reich to revoke citizenship of undesirables i.e. anyone who had settled in Germany after November 19, 1918 (aimed at Eastern European Jews living in Germany).
 Because so few Eastern Jews were citizens, this was largely a meaningless gesture. Later, as emigration of these people was forced, those who had had their citizenship revoked had a harder time emigrating.
 All political parties, except the Nazis, declared illegal.
- Oct. 17 Law prohibiting Jews from working as journalists.
 19 Germany leaves League of Nations.
- Sept. 22 Jews removed from cultural sphere and the press.
 29 **Hereditary Farm Law:** excluded Jews from owning farm land or engaging in agriculture.
- 1934**
- January 3 **Law of Reconstruction of the Reich:** abolished the state legislatures and subordinated them to the central government in Berlin.
- April 17 “Non-Aryans” and their spouses no longer may receive concessions for pharmacies.
- August 2 Paul von Hindenburg, 2nd President of the German Republic, dies.
 3 Adolf Hitler declares himself both President and Chancellor of the Third Reich.
- 1935**
- April 11 Members of Nazi party must not have any personal contact with Jews.
- May 31 **Military Service Law:** Jews barred from serving in the German armed forces.
 Re-introduced general conscription for anyone of Aryan ancestry, therefore a major step in Hitler’s plan for re-armament.
- Aug. 17 *Gestapo* confiscates the membership lists of all Jewish organizations in order to compile a comprehensive register of Jews living in Germany.

- Sept. 6 Jewish newspapers can no longer be sold in the street.
15 **Nuremberg Laws.**
- Dec. Anti-Jewish riots in Polish universities. Jewish students restricted to special seat.
24 Names of Jewish soldiers should no longer be included on memorials for WW I dead.

1936

- 1936 Hitler drafts a memorandum on military and economic preparations for war known as the
Four Year Plan.
- March 3 Jewish doctors barred from practicing medicine in German Institutions.
7 Jews can no longer vote.
- June 29 Jews will not be admitted to municipal hospitals, and will only be treated as out-patients.
- Aug. 31 Religious affiliation must be listed on tax forms.
- Sept. 25% tax is assessed on all Jewish wealth.
- Dec. 4 German banks no longer extend credit to Jews.
10 All large commercial firms must be handed over to Aryan owners by Spring.

1937

- April 15 Jewish university students will not be admitted to doctoral exams.
- Nov. 16 Jewish passports declared invalid for foreign travel.

1938

- Feb. Reich Supreme Court holds that being a Jew is automatic justification for dismissal from a job.
- April 22 Jews must register all property in excess of 5,000 *Reichmarks* (about \$2000).
26 As Chairman of the Four-Year-Plan, Hermann Goring orders all Jews must declare the value of their domestic and foreign property and assets.
- June 14 Government requires registration and identification of all Jewish commercial establishments.
Could this be in preparation of *Kristallnacht*?
15 **“Asocial Action”**: Arrest of all “previously convicted” Jews, including those prosecuted for traffic violations; (approx. 1500 persons sent to concentration camps).
- Summer Jewish doctors, dentists, and lawyers forbidden to offer their services to Aryans.
- July 23 Every Jew has to obtain an identity card from the police (to become effective 1/1/39)
27 All Jewish street names are replaced with German names.
- Aug. 17 As of January 1, 1939, all male Jews have to take the name *Israel* and all female Jews have to take the name *Sarah* on all identifying papers.
- Sept. 12 Jews banned from all German cultural and entertainment activities.
As a result of these laws, the Culture Association of German Jews (*Kulturbund Deutscher Juden*) was formed. It was made up of Jewish musicians, actors and artists. With the permission of the Nazi government they continued to provide cultural events for the segregated Jewish community of Germany in the form of concerts, plays, operas, movies and eventually newspapers. It was eventually shut down in 1941.

- 30 Jewish physician's licenses terminated. (In June 1933, 11% of German physicians were Jewish; 5500 Jewish doctors.) Thereafter, Jewish physicians only allowed to function as nurses for Jewish patients.
- Oct. 5 All Jewish people with passports for foreign travel had to turn in their passports and have them marked with the letter "J" for Jew. Jewish passports were marked with a "J" at the request of the Swiss who feared being overrun by Jews.
- 28 17,000 Polish Jews living in Germany are expelled to Zbaszyn on Polish border. Poland denies them entry.
- Nov. 9,10 ***Kristallnacht***
 11 Jews can no longer own or bear arms.
 12 **Regulation for Elimination of Jews from the Economic Life of Germany:**
 Decree forcing all Jews to transfer retail businesses to Aryan hands.
 Jews cannot attend plays, movies, concerts, or art exhibits.
 15 All Jewish pupils expelled from German schools. Segregated Jewish schools created.
 23 All Jewish businesses closed and taken over by Nazis.
 28 Curfew imposed on Jews.
 30 Cancellation of licenses to practice for all Jewish lawyers. Thereafter, Jewish lawyers can only practice in special instances as "Jewish Consultants for Jews."
- Dec. 3 Driver's licenses of Jews are revoked.
 5 All Jewish assets are frozen.
 8 Jews can no longer attend German universities.
 14 Hermann Goering takes charge of resolving the "Jewish Question."

1939

- Feb. 24 Decree forcing Jews to surrender all jewels and precious metals.
 Could keep one place setting of silver per person
 Jews conscripted into forced labor battalions.
- Sept. 1 Local police impose 8:00 p.m. curfew on Jews.
 20 Jews must surrender radios to the police.
- Nov. 23 Polish Jews must wear yellow star of David.

1940

- Feb. 6 Unlike rest of Germans, Jews do not receive clothing coupons.
 12 German Jews begin to be taken into "protective custody", i.e. deported to concentration camps
- March 11 Food ration cards for Jews must be marked with the letter "J."
- July 4 Purchase of food for and by Jews in Berlin must take place between 4-5 p.m.
 29 Jews refused telephone service. May no long have telephones.

1941

- Feb. 21 Plans to establish location for Jewish cultural assets are given to Reich Chamber of Arts
- Aug. 2 Jews banned from public libraries.

- Sept. 1 German Jews over age of 6 ordered to affix a yellow Star of David, inscribed in black with the word "Jude," on their clothing.
Branding Jews publicly in this manner furthered their already great humiliation.
Germans could now better recognize, monitor and shun those bearing the mark of the social dead.
Jews, especially children, suffered increased verbal and physical assault.
- 18 Jews must receive police permission to leave their home towns or to use public transportation.
- Oct. 14 Large-scale deportation of Jews to concentration camps begins.
23 Emigration of Jews forbidden for the duration of the war.
- Nov. 13 Security Police order confiscation of typewriters, adding machines, duplication machines, bicycles, cameras, and binoculars.
- Dec. 26 Jews may no longer use public telephones.

1942

- Jan. Collection of fur coats or any furs from Jews. Also any woolen clothing or shoes.
- Feb. 17 Jews may no longer subscribe to newspapers or magazines.
- March 26 Jews must mark the entrance doors to their apartments with a black "Jewish Star".
- April 24 Jews forbidden the use of public transportation.
- May 15 Jews forbidden to have dogs, cats and birds.
29 Jews are no longer permitted to visit barber shops.
- June 9 Jews must surrender all dispensable clothing.
11 Jews no longer receive smoking coupons.
20 All Jewish schools closed.
- July 17 Blind and deaf Jews may no longer wear armbands identifying their condition in traffic.
- Aug. 24 Jews forbidden to perform religious services during Jewish High Holidays.
- Sept. 18 Jews can no long buy meat, eggs or milk.
- Oct. 4 All Jews still in concentration camps in Germany are to be transferred to extermination camps.
- Dec. 24 Economics Ministry orders the confiscation of all metal from Jewish cemeteries (including graves, fences, and gates).

1943

- April 21 Jews found guilty of crimes are to be sent to extermination camps in Auschwitz or Lublin after serving their sentences.