

Daniel Ribeiro

Professor Maureen Farrell-Garcia

College Writing 2

25 March 2020

### The Nazi Genocide

In the early 20th century, a brutal, authoritarian dictatorship rose out of Europe to be a leader in the world to be one of the deadliest, systematic extermination of people to ever exist. In the years of nineteen thirty-three (1933) to nineteen forty-five (1945), Nazi Germany, being led by Chancellor Adolf Hitler, managed to kill at least 13 million people, 6 million of which were Jews. Not only did the Nazi autocracy round up Jews, but they also conducted to round up gypsies, people with disabilities, Polish people, Soviet prisoners of war, communists, Afro-Germans, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, and any other person who was seen as an enemy to the regime. In attempts to get an "Aryan Race," Hitler tried to do his best in order for the German race to be the most superior throughout the world.

In order to dissect important details to the Holocaust and Generalplan Ost, which both are genocides formulated by the Nazi German government, it is important to know what is the basis of genocide, and what eight phases of the genocide are.

According to Merriam Webster, a genocide is "the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group." When Hitler rose to power, he used his totalitarian regime in order to find and classify those who were deemed a threat to his government. He

wanted to make clear that the people who descended from German ancestry were supposed to be superior and were the most important to exist.

### **Stages of a genocide**

The first stage of genocide is classification. The people are divided and mindsets towards the victims are “them versus us.” Citizens and those who agree with the government that was instituted in Nazi Germany were taught that Jews was the main problem to their suffering, and the hyperinflation that they were facing. In German schools, Nazis controlled the education and forced the educators to teach students from kindergarten to universities their racial policies and implementations. “All teachers had to swear an oath of allegiance to Hitler and teach in accordance with Nazi ideas and values. All Jewish teachers were dismissed, as were teachers who refused to support the Nazi Party’s ideals” (theholocaustexplained.org).

The following stage is symbolization when the victims that were classified are now being labeled. In order for the Nazis to know who the Jews were, each and everyone living in the Nazi German-occupied territories was required to wear a yellow badge that was the shape of the star of David, that said: “*Jude*” (Jew in German).

In the third stage, the process of dehumanization began. As the name suggests, victims were then considered sub-human, as animals or diseases. Hitler would consistently say that Jews were quick to spread diseases around to others. At the ghettos, which were places in which the sufferers were separated to live in, in order to prevent Germans from entering them, quarantine signs were posted in the entrance warning them of dangers of “contagious diseases” within the ghettos. In 1941, under the Nuremberg laws, all people which were hated by the Nazis were to be considered stateless and lost their citizenship as Germans.

After dehumanization, the process of the organization begins. In this fourth stage, the planning of how the extermination will take place begins. All around the country, and eventually across European lands that the Nazis took over, many concentration camps were built in order to house the prisoners and enemies to the autocracy.

Immediately after dehumanization, polarization began. It is in this stage in which the violent acts began towards the Jews. It was noticeable the vicious anti-Semitic acts that the Nazis had intended to do in the first place. On November 9-10, 1938, *Kristallnacht*, the night of the broken glass, many Nazis torched synagogues, vandalized Jewish homes, schools, and business, and killed close to 100 Jews. It was on this day, that the process of killing and extermination of the Jewish population began.

In the preparation stage, more critical thinking and planning became more and more evident and became a top priority for the Nazis. On this stage, more victims were separated and were forced to wear the yellow star of David badge. It was at this stage in which people from the ghettos were being sent to the concentration camps, spread around Nazi Germany and Europe. Families were separated and eventually, never reunited again.

It was on the next stage in which the most gruesome evidence and hatred were finally being displayed towards their "enemies". The process of extermination began. It was on this stage in which 13 million people were killed by the Nazis alone. During World War 2, it was calculated around 80 million people died during World War 2, including civilian casualties (which included the Holocaust). To put into context how many people the Nazis killed, around sixteen percent (16%) of that many people who died during World War 2 were genocidal victims.