WWII & Origins of the Final Solution
Western Civilization

L. M. Stallbaumer-Beishline
©2016

How to interpret or place in context persecution before 1939? Why 1939?
How should we interpret events between 1939 and 1941?

When was a decision made to kill European Jews?
How to interpret or place in context persecution before 1939? Why 1939?

Timeline
Context of Events and WWII

1938
German foreign policy and racial persecution increasingly aggressive

22 June 1941
Germany invaded Soviet Union

30 Jan 1933
Hitler appointed Chancellor beginning of Nazi seizure of power

1 Sept 1939
Germany invaded Poland; triggered war in Europe
How to interpret or place in context persecution before 1939?

- Sinti and Roma (a.k.a. gypsies)
- Jews
- "life unworthy of living"
- "asocials" so-called workshy i.e. habitual criminals, alcoholics, non-conformists
- homosexuals (as non-conformists and racial enemies)
- Afro Germans
- eastern Europeans (e.g. Poles, Ukrainians, Russians)

Racial State

- extermination
- physical assaults
- discrimination
- avoidance
- hate speech
Binary Thinking

“Media Blitzkrieg” (Claudia Koonz)
deprived of rights & humanity through countless actions

- Boycotts
- Forced Sterilization
- Riots
- Exclusionary Laws
- Individual Harassment
- Social Isolation
- Racial Theory in School Curriculum
- Concentration Camps
- “protective custody”
- Restrictions to Higher Education
- Job Loss
- Vandalism
- Publicly humiliated (e.g., placards around neck)

Nazi Party Harassment

- Potential for daily harassment by individual Nazis
- Book burnings; “Jewish” authors targeted
- 6 May 1933 Institute for Sexual Science ransacked because thought to be a symbol of sexual deviance
- 1 April 1933 Boycott of Jewish Businesses
- 21-26 June 1933 Köpenick Riots

(officially or unofficially sanctioned by Reich-, state-, or local-level government authorities, e.g., mayors, police, Reichsstatthalter (represented Reich at state level), etc.)

- Mid-July Nazi 1935 riots against Jews in Berlin suburb
- 9-10 Nov 1938 “Night of the Broken Glass” (Kristallnacht) A Pogrom
Reich Level Decrees

7 April 1933, Civil Service Law

14 July 1933, Forced Sterilization Law

Nov 1933, Law Against Dangerous Habitual Criminals (Romani)

June 1935: Paragraph 175 extensively broadened definition of “indecencies between men”

Sept & Nov 1935 Nuremberg Laws

October 1935 Marital Health Law (proof required that offspring would not have hereditary illnesses)

3 January 1936 Nuremberg Laws applied to Roma and Sinti

1 September 1939 Hitler formally, though privately approved “mercy killings” (not a decree)

1933
- Jewish immigrants were denaturalized
- denied employment by press and radio
- excluded from farming
- denied the right to hold public office or civil service positions
- Quotas on number of Jews allowed in schools and universities
- Jews banned from newspaper editorial posts

1934
- excluded from stock exchanges and stock brokerage

1935
- “Native” Jews were precluded from citizenship
- Jews were forbidden to live in marriage or to have extramarital relations with persons of German blood

1936
- denied the right to vote
- Not allowed to serve as tax consultants
- Expelled from veterinary profession
- Jewish teachers banned from public schools

1937
- In Berlin, Jewish children banned from public schools

1938
- Jews forbidden to change family or personal names
- denied access to certain city areas, sidewalks, transportation, places of amusement, restaurants
- practice of law denied
- excluded from business in general and from the economic life of Germany
- forced to pay discriminatory taxes and huge atonement fines. Their homes, bank accounts, real estate, and intangibles were expropriated

1939
- excluded from the practice of dentistry
- practice of medicine forbidden

Partial List of Decrees targeting German Jews, 1933-1938
Partial List of 2000 Decrees
**Police Actions**

- 30 June 1934: Night of the Long Knives publicly links Röhm’s “treason” to homosexuality
- 10 October 1936: Himmler secretly establishes Reich Central Office for Combating Homosexuality and Abortion
- 13-18 June 1938: Wave of arrests of “anti-social”
- Summer 1938: German and Austrian Romani rounded up in concentration camps
- 9-10 November 1938 Pogrom against Jews throughout Reich (a.k.a. Kristallnacht)
- 1934: Special Gestapo unit created to develop “pink list” of homosexuals
- Summer 1936: Large number of Romani rounded up; “security” measure in preparation for the Olympics
- 1937-1939: Peak years of rounding up suspected homosexuals
- July 1938: Central Office for Jewish Emigration established in Vienna to expedite process of leaving Austria
- 26-28 October 1938: Polish Jews brutally deported from Germany
- 8 December 1938: Himmler orders census of “Gypsies”

**Other Actions**

- 1935: *Das Erbe* (The Inheritance) film short approving of Social Darwinism
- 1935: Hitler states privately that if war breaks out, he would “take up the question of euthanasia and enforce it”
- 1936: Reich Department of Health conducts fieldwork study of “gypsies”
- 1936: *Erbkrank* (The Hereditary Defective); short film demonized the “genetically disabled”
- 1937: *Opfer der Vergangenheit* (Victims of the Past) short film showing horrific images of institutionalized patients
- 30 January 1939: Hitler Speech Calls for the extermination of Jews if they pull Germany into another world war
- 1 September 1939 Hitler formally approves “mercy killings”
Administrative Fiat

- Cancellation of business contracts with Jewish firms
- Students given failing or low grades
- Government contracts with Jewish businesses not honored
- Cancellation of policies by insurance companies
- Social pressure to “retire early”
- Refusal to pay debts to Jewish banking firms
- Government contracts with Jewish businesses not honored
- Judicial decisions that conformed to Nazi party expectations

Pre-Auschwitz Context & Analyzing the Evidence
How should we interpret events between 1939 and 1941?

Adolf Hitler, 30 January 1939, Public Speech

Your interpretation?
Adolf Hitler, 30 January 1939, Public Speech

¶ 7 One thing I should like to say on this day which may be memorable for others as well as for us Germans: In the course of my life I have very often been a prophet, and have usually been ridiculed for it. During the time of my struggle for power it was in the first instance the Jewish race which only received my prophecies with laughter when I said that I would one day take over the leadership of the State, and with it that of the whole nation, and that I would then among many other things settle the Jewish problem. Their laughter was uproarious, but I think that for some time now they have been laughing on the other side of their face. Today I will once more be a prophet: If the international Jewish financier in and outside Europe should succeed in plunging the nations once more into a world war, then the result will not be the Bolshevization of the earth, and thus the victory of Jewry, but the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe!

Linguistic Continuity

• "final solution"?
• endloesung (final solution)
• endziel (end aim)

Language + actions being taken

Limit to this approach: intent?
Interpreting Documentary Evidence

“The Chief of the Security Police
Berlin: September 21, 1939
SECRET
To: Chiefs of all Einsatzgruppen of the Security Police
Subject: Jewish question in the occupied territory
I refer to the conference held in Berlin today and once more point out that the planned overall measures (i.e., the final aim) are to be kept strictly secret.
Distinction must be made between:
(1) The final aim (which will require extended periods of time), and
(2) The stages leading to the fulfillment of this final aim (which will be carried out in short terms).”

The decision-makers?

Heinrich Himmler
Reinhard Heydrich
Dr. Karl Brandt
Reinhard Heydrich
Dr. Karl Brandt
Dr. Philip Bouhler
Heinrich Himmler
Dr. Victor Brack
Hermann Göring
Dr. Karl Brandt
Reinhard Heydrich
Adolf Eichmann
Adolf Hitler
T-4 Personnel
Otto Rasch
Otto Ohlendorf
Walter Stahlecker
Arthur Nebe
Hans Frank, Governor, General Government of Poland
T-4 or “mercy killings” – a dress rehearsal?

- Killing of infants and adults “life unworthy of living”
- 1939-1945: 200,000-250,000 mentally and physically disabled killed

Dr. Eduard Brandt, Statistics from the T-4 Program

Your interpretation?
¶ 1 Up to 1 September 1941, 70,273 persons have been disinfected [i.e. killed]. Distributed among the individual institutions for the years 1940 and 1941 this figure breaks down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1940</th>
<th>1941</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (Grafeneck)</td>
<td>9,839</td>
<td></td>
<td>9,839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (Brandenburg)</td>
<td>9,772</td>
<td></td>
<td>9,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be (Bernburg)</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,601</td>
<td>8,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C (Linz) [Hartheim]</td>
<td>9,670</td>
<td>8,599</td>
<td>18,269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D (Sonnenstein)</td>
<td>5,943</td>
<td>7,777</td>
<td>13,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E (Hadamar)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,072</td>
<td>10,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>35,244</td>
<td>35,049</td>
<td>70,273</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¶ 2 On the assumption that the level of nutrition of the inmates of asylums will remain the same as at present even after the end of the war, the savings in foodstuffs in the case of 70,273 disinfected persons with an average life expectancy of ten years would be as follows:

On the basis of an average daily cost [per patient] of RM 3.50 there will be:
1. a daily saving of RM 245,955.50
2. a yearly saving of RM 88,543,980.00
3. with a life expectancy of ten years RM 885,439,800.00

1 Sept 1939: horrible for Jews and Poles
Massacres or Atrocities cf. Systematic Extermination (a.k.a. “Final Solution”)
Living Conditions in Ghettos

“attritionists” & “productionists”

Sealing the Warsaw Ghetto

Intentionally created to kill?

Lublin Reservation
General Govt. of Poland

ad hoc, improvisational nature

Hans Frank
“Apart from that the Fuehrer is now at least to make a major move abroad, starting with the Powers which have brought up the Jewish question, in order really to get around to the Madagascar solution.” (12 November 1938)
June 1940 ✔ France defeated
Pushed by Foreign Office
Depended upon defeat of British

Perceived as Reasonable, Viable
1st distance from Germany
2nd distance from Britain and US
3rd alternative to deportation bottlenecks

Hans Frank, Governor General of Poland
"The Madagascar Plan"
(July 12, 1940)

Your interpretation?
Hans Frank
Hans Frank, Governor General of Poland
"The Madagascar Plan"
(July 12, 1940)

...Another very important point is the decision of the Fuehrer, which he made at my request, that there will be no more transports of Jews into the area of the Generalgouvernement. As a general political observation I would like to state that it is planned to transport the whole pack of Jews (Judensippschaft) from the German Reich, the Generalgouvernement and the Protectorate, in the shortest conceivable time after peace has been made, to an African or American Colony. Madagascar is being considered, to be ceded by France for this purpose. There will be ample room here for a few million Jews on an area of 500,000 sq. kms. I have tried to let the Jews in the Generalgouvernement also share in this advantage, of building up a new life on new land. This has been accepted so that there should be a tremendous easing within sight...

22 June 1941
When was a decision made to kill European Jews?

18 December 1940
Operation Barbarossa

- Ideological enemy “Bolshevik Communists” & Jews live in these territories – a war of annihilation
Early January 1941

- Heydrich presented Hitler with a plan as evident by references to it in memos (no plan has survived)

March 1941

- Expansion of Auschwitz ordered by Himmler
- Training of SS-Einsatzgruppen begins
- Negotiations between SS and Wehrmacht for logistical support
Invasion of Soviet-Occupied Poland & the USSR

- 22 June 1941
- Actions of the Einsatzgruppen
Göring Memo to Reinhard Heydrich

Berlin: July 31, 1941
The Reich Marshal of the Greater German Reich Plenipotentiary for the Four-Year Plan, Chairman of the Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Reich [Hermann Göring]

To: the Chief of the Security Police and the SD SS Major General Heydrich, Berlin:

As a supplement to the task which was entrusted to you in the decree dated January 24, 1939, to solve the Jewish question by emigration and evacuation in the most favorable way possible, given present conditions, I herewith commission you to carry out all necessary preparations with regard to organizational, substantive, and financial viewpoints for a total solution of the Jewish question in the German sphere of influence in Europe.

Insofar as other competencies of other central organizations are affected, these are to be involved.

I further commission you to submit to me promptly an overall plan showing the preliminary organizational, substantive, and financial measures for the execution of the intended final solution of the Jewish question.

//signed//Göring
Einsatzgruppen Report
October 1941
Operations and Situation Report No. 6 by the Einsatzgruppen of the Security Police and SD in the U.S.S.R. (for the period October 1-31, 1941)

...c) Jews
The bitter hostility of the Ukrainian population against the Jews is extremely great, because it is thought that they were responsible for the explosions in Kiev. They are also seen as NKVD informers and agents, who unleashed the terror against the Ukrainian people. All Jews were arrested in retaliation for the arson in Kiev, and altogether 33,771 Jews were executed on September 29th and 30th. Gold, valuables and clothing were collected and put at the disposal of the National-Socialist Welfare Association (NSV), for the equipment of the Volksdeutsche, and part given to the appointed city administration for distribution to the needy population.

Schitomir
In Schitomir 3,145 Jews had to be shot, because experience showed that they must be considered as bearers of Bolshevist propaganda and saboteurs.

Cherson
In Cherson 410 Jews were executed in retaliation for acts of sabotage. The solution of the Jewish question in the area east of the Dniepr in particular has been firmly attached by the Einsatzgruppen of the Security Police and the SD. The areas newly occupied by the commandos were cleared of Jews. In the course of this action 4,891 Jews were liquidated. In other localities the Jews were marked and registered. This made it possible to put at the disposal of Wehrmacht offices Jewish worker groups of up to 1,000 persons for urgent work....
Seeking alternative methods of killing

- T-4 project
- gas vans, stationary gas chambers
- Zyklon B
Killing Centers or Death Camps (not Concentration Camps, nor forced labor camps, *per se*)

- Maidanek, Chelmno, Sobibor,
- Treblinka, Belzec, & Auschwitz
- Gas chambers at other camps: Mauthausen, Stutthof, Sachsenhausen, Ravensbrück

Stanislaw Kozak Affidavit

“In October of the year 1941 three SS-men came to Belzec and demanded 20 men for the work from the municipal administration. The local council chose 20 workers from among the inhabitants of Belzec, and I was one of them. The Germans selected the terrain to the southeast of the railroad station, which adjoined a siding. The railway line to Lvov runs along this sidetrack. ... “
III.

¶ 3 Another possible solution of the problem has now taken the place of emigration, i.e. the evacuation of the Jews to the East, provided that the Führer gives the appropriate approval in advance.

¶ 4 These actions are, however, only to be considered provisional, but practical experience is already being collected which is of the greatest importance in relation to the future final solution of the Jewish question.

¶ 5 Approximately 11 million Jews will be involved in the final solution of the European Jewish question, distributed as follows among the individual countries: [The total listed is 11 million; an estimate is given for how many Jews lived in each European country].

¶ 11 The possible final remnant will, since it will undoubtedly consist of the most resistant portion, have to be treated accordingly, because it is the product of natural selection and would, if released, act as the seed of a new Jewish revival (see the experience of history.)

¶ 12 In the course of the practical execution of the final solution, Europe will be combed through from west to east. Germany proper, including the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, will have to be handled first due to the housing problem and additional social and political necessities.

¶ 13 The evacuated Jews will first be sent, group by group, to so-called transit ghettos, from which they will be transported to the East.
To summarize:

• Creating a racial state between 1933-1938/39 but no intent to exterminate European Jews
• Before 1941, no evidence that a decision had been made to exterminate European Jews systematically
• Decision to exterminate millions of Jews made more conceivable given the experience of T-4 project
• Decision to kill European Jews may have been made in two stages. Stage 1: Russian and Eastern European; Stage 2: Rest of Europe.