



A Perfect Storm: The Unifying Power of Hatred

Questions:

The Holocaust was not just possible, it became permissible. Unconscious creation of new “normals.”
We see the same building blocks around us.
We have the power to interrupt, to create safe spaces, to create hope.
Who do we want to be?

1. Mass atrocity is a _____, not an event.
2. Context (1920s – 1930s). What are some similar building blocks for mass atrocity today?
3. **Characteristics of Fascism:** Powerful, often exclusionary nationalism. Fixation with national decline (real or perceived). Disdain for the recognition of human rights, protecting or elevating the rights of the national community above the rights of those seen as alien threats to national unity. Identification of enemies/scapegoats as a unifying cause. Supremacy of the military and embrace of paramilitarism. Violence accepted – even celebrated if it advances the cause. Rampant sexism. Controlled mass media. Obsession with national security. Religion and government are intertwined. Corporate power is protected. Labor power is suppressed. Disdain for intellectuals and the arts not aligned with the fascist narrative. Obsession with crime and punishment. Rampant cronyism and corruption. Fraudulent elections. Often seeking to expand territory through armed conflict.

Groups Targeted for Persecution:

4. Rhineland Blacks

Initial context of persecution:

- Deportation discussed, but dismissed as impractical.
- Jews mentioned early on, but deemed too radical.
- Working within the legal system.
- Sensitivity to public opinion led to secret campaign.
- Difficulties tracking down target group made large-scale application difficult.

5. Eugenics and Nazi Race Policy

- Members of the KKK shaped U.S. immigration law from the 1880s into the 1920s. What was the slogan of the KKK? _____
- In *Mein Kampf* Hitler notes that U.S. states divide inhabitants into three categories: _____ and _____.
- First sterilization law (for certain categories of disabled) were passed in _____ in _____.
- First Nazi race law was passed on _____ and was shaped by _____ precedents (Human Betterment Society).
- In the September 1935 Nuremberg Laws the Nazis separate Germans as citizens and _____.

6. Homosexuals/asocials

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Learning by Doing: Racial Policy and Homosexuals

- Easy to manipulate homophobia.
- Learning how to organize roundups and find willing individuals.
- Working within the legal system.
- Expansion of government targets meant others came forward to offer expertise.

7. Handicapped

- Rudolf Hess described Nazism as “_____.”
- The Nazi program to murder the handicapped was called the _____.

Learning by Doing: Racial Policy and the “Handicapped”

- Learning effective propaganda techniques.
- Easy to engage and collaborate with institutions and adapt to professional concerns.
- Solving bureaucratic procedures and how to organize the murder and disposal of large numbers of people.
- Sensitivity to public concerns.
- Hitler learns to never put his signature on orders. No paper trails.

8. Sinti and Roma

9. Jehovah's Witnesses

10. Jews