

Annotation Exemplar

READING 5

Legalizing Racism

a belief in the inherent superiority of a group.

The boycott set the stage for yet another step in carrying out Hitler's "racial" policies.

People were whispering about those plans long before they were made public. President

Paul von Hindenburg was among those who heard rumors of anti-Jewish legislation. On

April 4, he asked Hitler to exempt Jewish veterans, their fathers, and sons from the new

laws. Over one hundred thousand Jews had served in the German army during World

War I and twelve thousand had died in the line of duty. About thirty-five thousand had

been awarded medals. Mindful of that record, the president noted, "If they were worthy

to fight and bleed for

Germany, then they should also be considered worthy to continue serving the fatherland

in their professions."

Hitler responded to Hindenburg's letter with praise for his "noble motives." He

promised to incorporate the president's suggestions into laws under consideration. But he

did not back down from his position. Instead he reminded the president of why the laws

were needed:

The first is the glaring wrong created by the incredible discrimination against the

German element that supports the state. For there are a whole number of intellectual

professions today medicine and the law, for instance - where in several places in

Germany, in Berlin and elsewhere, the Jews hold up to 80 percent and more of all

positions. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of German intellectuals, including

countless war veterans, subsist on unemployment insurance, or are being ruined by

finding themselves in some entirely subordinate position.

The second is the great shock to the authority of the state which is being caused

by the fact that an entirely alien body which has never really become one with the

German people, and whose talent is primarily a business talent, is pushing its way

into government positions and providing the mustard seed of a kind of corruption of

whose extent people to this day are not even approximately aware. One of the major

reasons why the old Prussian state was such a clean one was that the Jews were

granted only a very limited access to the civil service. The officer corps kept itself

almost entirely pure.

If Jews are excluded then the govt. will be 'pure'

On April 7, a new law known as the "Law for the Restoration of the Professional

Civil Service" went into effect. It removed non-Aryans from their jobs in order to

"restore" the civil service to "true Germans." The only Jews to keep their positions were

Jewish veterans, their fathers, and their sons. Another law, proclaimed the same day,

dismissed Jewish prosecuting attorneys. Before the month was over, Jewish doctors who

worked within the National Health System also lost their jobs. At about the same time,

the government sharply limited the number of Jews who could attend a public high

school or teach in one. As a result of these decrees, 20 percent of all German Jews lost

their jobs. In the months that followed, the laws were expanded to include more and more

people. By the end of the year, one-third of all Jews in Germany did not earn enough

money to pay taxes. The new laws marked the beginning of the economic isolation of

German Jews.

Hitler told Germans to boycott Jewish businesses. Boycott: to combine against a company or person + refuse to buy their products and services.

Jews proved their loyalty in the military!

Is he claiming Jews have discriminated?? Hitler thinks the Jews have discriminated by holding a majority of jobs in law + medicine

Language that stereotypes + others Jews

Laws
1. Non-Aryans can't work for the govt.
2. No Jewish Attorneys
3. Other Jewish Drs. lost jobs
Teachers lost jobs
Jews excluded from attending High School

Q: all of these are govt. jobs - did the laws apply to the private sector too?

German President
Hitler wanted racist laws made
German Pres. asks Hitler to consider the service of the Jews

He claims that Jews having these jobs has "ruined" German people's chances

Effect:
20% of Jew unemployed
1/3 of Jews unemployed - othered, isolated

Name: Exemplar

Name of the story: Legalizing Racism

Briefly summarize the story: Hitler passed a number of laws that "othered" the Jews and led to German Jews being economically isolated + unemployment rates of 20%. The President of Germany, Hindenburg asked Hitler to reconsider the anti-Jewish laws because Jews had shown their loyalty to Germany by serving in the military during WWI. 100,000 Jews served, 12,000 died, and 35,000 received medals. Hitler responded to Hindenburg by pointing out that the corruption in govt. was due to Jews having civil service jobs and that Jews ~~had~~ held 20% of jobs in medicine + law, keeping Germans from holding those jobs.

Identify the strategies or steps used to "dismantle democracy".

1. Racist language + scapegoating of Jews. Blaming them for the economy + corruption in govt.
2. Making laws that were arbitrary + exclude the Jews from jobs: Civil Service, law, medicine, teaching.
3. Denying an education to the German Jews. (high school)

Identify the way that Hitler called the Jews an "alien body," the language was used. claimed they had always been separate from the German people. He claimed the German's were "being ruined" by having to work for Jews or by the success of Jews. He claimed that Jews brought "corruption" to govt. and said that the Prussian govt. was "clean" because Jews were kept from

What were the results of the having govt. jobs.

laws/steps/strategies taken?

The laws segregated the Jews and "othered" them. It is if they were no longer considered Germans. It also caused unemployment and economic stress. 20% were unemployed and 1/3 could no longer pay their taxes. This would give Hitler new stereotypes! The Jews were isolated, excluded.

What right was taken away? The right not to be discriminated against. Every human being has this right. Also the right to an education and employment. The idea of the right to "life, liberty, + happiness" - human beings possess the right to freedom + to thrive.