

ICE Project: Informal Civic Education

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Open Educational Resource

Project Result

by: Initiative Lern- und Gedenkort Hotel Silber

Topic: Justice

**Title: Remembering the atrocities of
National Socialism**

www.informalciviceducation.eu



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OER Summary

I) What can we learn from the history of the National Socialist dictatorship?

Title: All (NS)History? Remembering the atrocities of National Socialism

II) Contents

- Some basic facts about National Socialism
- Dictatorship vs. Democracy: WWI, Weimarer Republik
- How the Nazis came to power in Germany : the rising of the NSDAP
- The persecuted and the victims
- Resistance?
- Commemorating the Victims
- Recognizing the Perpetrators: For example the Hotel Silber
- Political Police/GESTAPO
- How we remember: Places of Memory
- Local History: The Hotel Silber in Stuttgart after the war

III) Resources

IV) Test

All (NS)-history?
– remembering the
atrocities of National
Socialism



Poster Hotel Silber Mexhibition about thr Political Police,Stuttgart
Germany

Why do we recognize history?

- What comes to your mind when you think of “National Socialism” and ‘Second World War’?”
- What do you think of the imperative „never again!“?
- Some say „Never again – that’s right now!“ What do you think?

Why do we recognize history?

Some basic facts about National Socialism in Germany and the Second World War:

- When the National Socialist took the power on January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler was able to realize goals that he had formulated in the mid-1920s. The 'coordination' (Gleichschaltung) of the judiciary, public opinion, administration, and culture, as well as the destruction of the separation of powers and the rule of law, eliminated individual freedom within a few months. The ideas of National Socialism are characterized by concepts such as 'race,' 'blood and soil,' 'national community,' and 'living space.' Political opponents, as well as Jews, Sinti and Roma, mentally ill individuals, people with disabilities, homosexuals, and 'asocial' individuals, are marginalized. Their suppression and persecution become part of everyday life in Germany.
- The National Socialists aim for dominance over Europe and prepare for the war of aggression that is to establish a German empire in Central and Eastern Europe. The Second World War begins with the German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939. Systematic murder actions take place shortly thereafter, targeting the Polish elites and the Jews living in Poland. In the early summer of 1940, large parts of Western and Northern Europe are occupied by German troops. Since the spring of 1940, the attack on the Soviet Union is being prepared, which begins in June 1941. The National Socialist racial and ideological war is marked by war crimes and acts of violence. Several million inhabitants of the occupied territories are forcibly deported to Germany for slave labor, and many of them do not survive. The troops of the German Wehrmacht are followed by the 'Einsatzgruppen of the Chief of Security Police and the SD,' which murder more than a million Jewish men, women, and children. In the winter of 1941/42, the systematic mass murder of Polish Jews begins in the extermination camps of 'Operation Reinhard.' In total, almost six million Jews in Europe become victims of the National Socialist genocide. (Text:(Website: Gedenkstätte Deutscher Widerstand)

before

World War 1

The First World War was an armed conflict that took place from 1914 to 1918 in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, East Asia and on the oceans. Around 17 million people lost their lives as a result.

Article 231 of the **Treaty of Versailles** assigned sole responsibility for the outbreak of the First World War to the German Reich and its allies. It provided for large territorial cessions of Germany or temporary territorial occupations, the internationalization of important German rivers and the renunciation of all colonies.

Die **Weimarer Republik** war die erste **Demokratie** in Deutschland. Das heißt, das Volk durfte jetzt in der Politik mitbestimmen.
Die Republik wurde am **9. November 1918** direkt nach dem ersten Weltkrieg gegründet.

The Weimar Republic was the first democracy in Germany. This meant that the people were now allowed to have a say in politics. The republic was founded on November 9, 1918, directly after the First World War. The first years of the Weimar Republic were characterized by economic and political crises, such as the inflation of 1923 and **the Hitlerputsch (Hitler coup)**.

In addition, many in the country were against the republic from the outset. In the 1920s, the political right gained more and more support throughout Europe, e.g. Mussolini and his fascists in Italy.



Steps of the National Socialists' path to power

1. Failed "Hitler coup"

November 9, 1923 Adolf Hitler and the NSDAP attempt a coup: The "Hitler Putsch" was Adolf Hitler's attempt to overthrow the German government and declare himself dictator of the German Reich. However, the attempted coup was very poorly organized. The Bavarian police stopped Hitler at the Feldherrnhalle on Odeonsplatz in Munich.

The political and social situation in Germany in the 1920s and 1930s

Election of the Reich President in 1932

while the general situation was already quite tense, the seven-year term of office of the Reich President came to an end at the beginning of 1932. The now 85-year-old Hindenburg stood for re-election. Unlike in 1925, a promising right-wing candidate ran against him: Adolf Hitler. A DNVP-NSDAP government in Brunswick had helped him obtain the German citizenship that was necessary for his candidacy

On June 4, 1932, the Reich President dissolved the Reichstag because it no longer corresponded to "the political will of the German people".

On April 24, the NSDAP had become the strongest party in the state elections in Prussia, Württemberg, Hamburg and Anhalt, and the second strongest party in Bavaria.

In June and July 1932, the bloodiest election campaign in German history took place after the para-military SA and SS had been readmitted. There were street riots, shootings, hall battles and assassinations between right-wing and left-wing military units, in which around 300 people died and over 1100 were injured

The decision of the voters:

1930:

NSDAP gains in the election (nine-fold increase of votes in two years)

The Reichstag election on September 14, 1930, in which 82 percent of voters took part, ended in a catastrophe for democracy: the NSDAP, (before, in 1928, a splinter party with 2.6 percent and twelve seats) achieved 18.3 percent and, with 107 MPs, became the second largest parliamentary group (behind the SPD, ahead of the KPD). The SPD recorded considerable losses, the KPD strong gains; the Center Party and BVP registered a slight increase. The share of the "Others", i.e. the small parties, also increased slightly. In contrast, the DDP and DVP suffered heavy losses; the DNVP's share of the vote was even halved.

Reichspräsident von Hindenburg und Reichskanzler
Adolf Hitler begrüßen sich am 21. 3. 33 in Potsdam.



January 30, 1933: Hitler is appointed Reich Chancellor

The appointment of Adolf Hitler as Reich Chancellor by Reich President Paul von Hindenburg on January 30 1933 initiated the end of parliamentary democracy. Conservative bourgeois parties (such as the "Centrum") apparently hoped that this would "restore order" and that Hitler could be replaced in this office after a short time.

In this government, Hitler was initially joined by only two other NSDAP members and eight politicians from the conservative faction.



Reichstag fire, February 1933

(Reichstagsbrand)

Fire at the Reichstag building in Berlin on February 27, 1933

The Dutch left-wing anarchist Marinus van der Lubbe is arrested at the fire site.

National Socialists announce the deed as a sign of an international communist conspiracy

Persecution of opponents of the regime, especially communists is intensified and persecution legalized by "Ordinance for the Protection of the People and the State" of 28 February 1933. Just one day after the event,

In this phase of general alert Interior Minister Wilhelm Frick presented the so-called "Reichstag Fire Ordinance". The law was unanimously passed by the cabinet and signed by Reich President Paul von Hindenburg on the afternoon of February 28, 1933.



Reichstag fire, February 1933

(Reichstagsbrand)

On February 27, 1933, less than a month after Adolf Hitler had been appointed Reich Chancellor, there was a fire at the Reichstag building in Berlin. The Dutch left-wing anarchist Marinus van der Lubbe was arrested at the fire site. He claimed to have committed the arson all on his own in order to call on the German working class to resist the Nazi regime. However, the National Socialists were publicly convinced that it was a conspiracy by the Communists. On the night of the fire, Hermann Göring, acting Prussian Minister of the Interior, announced that the "beginning of the communist insurrection attempt" was imminent.

The National Socialist leadership used the Reichstag fire to intensify the unrestrained persecution of opponents of the regime, especially communists. Tens of thousands of members of the opposition were deported to improvised concentration camps over the following weeks, and the persecution was "legalized" by the "Ordinance for the Protection of the People and the State" of 28 February 1933. Just one day after the event, which the National Socialists saw as a signal of a communist attempt to overthrow the regime, Interior Minister Wilhelm Frick presented this so-called Reichstag Fire Ordinance. It was unanimously passed by the cabinet and signed by Reich President Paul von Hindenburg on the afternoon of February 28.



„Notstandsgesetze“ Emergency Legislation

Das Ermächtigungsgesetz

The Enabling Act (Act to Remedy the Distress of the People and the Reich) of 24 March 1933, which authorized Adolf Hitler to enact laws without the consent of the Reichstag and Reichsrat and without the countersignature of the Reich President. It **practically marked the end of parliamentary democracy.**

„Mein Kampf“

"Mein Kampf" - Hitlers Manifesto for National Socialist Ideology and Society working with **promises of salvation** and **images of the enemy bogeyman**.

Promises of salvation:

Economic prosperity and expansion

Awakening and renewal (after losses in the First World War and economic crisis)

The NSDAP agenda envisaged the annexation of Austria to the now "Greater German Reich" and expansion into Eastern Europe

Promise of a flourishing economy, Promise of progress in development.

Promising predominant position for members of the National Socialist "Volksgemeinschaft" (national community)

The ideology of "blood and soil" (Blut und Boden), the glorification of the peasantry (the "Nährstand"). Some National Socialists rejected urbanization and increasing industrialization and nostalgically yearned for a land that was cultivated by farmers as in the imagined "old days".

Führer cult and Führer state Someone competent at the top taking all the decisions

Propaganda: marches, festivals, parades, sporting events

Militarism: stockpiling of weapons and training of paramilitary units "Comradeship" in the SA and SS for young men with few prospects for their future.

Background:

The contemporary geopolitical theories of Rudolf Kjellén, Halford Mackinder and Karl Haushofer saw the conquest and domination of the landmass of "Eurasia" as the key to world domination.

The medieval myth of a German "Drang nach Osten" (urge to the East) of some monastic knights was also behind this idea.

"Mein Kampf"

The ideology of the National Socialists and society working with promises of salvation

and images of the enemy bogeyman

1.

Bogeyman stereotype No1: "Worldwide Finance capital" and "internationalist Judaism".

- **Anti-Semitic conspiracy theories and prejudices** portray Jewish fellow citizens as the main public enemy secretly controlling the economy.
Racist theory marginalizes Jewish fellow citizens on the basis of their ethnic origin. (Later also other ethnic groups e.g. Sinti and Romani people)

2.

- **The so-called "public health ("Volksgesundheit")** is at the center of the economic and cultural policy ideas and clearly demonstrates the underlying racism of the NS ideology.
- The two fundamental ideas, which are inextricably linked, are the thesis that there are superior and inferior races which are in conflict with each other; and -that "racial mixing" is harmful to the superior race, inevitably weakening it and destroying it in the long term..

Background

The thesis of superior and inferior races at war with each other; the thesis that "racial mixing" was harmful to the superior race, inevitably weakening and dissolving it in the long term; these ideological principles had been established by social Darwinists, eugenicists and racial theorists of the 19th and early 20th centuries such as Francis Galton, Ernst Haeckel, Alfred Ploetz and Wilhelm Schallmayer. The only new aspect was that "racial hygiene" was turned into a comprehensive political program for the first time. Hitler saw the "preservation of the species" as the main task of the state and concluded that it had to consistently protect the "unmixed stocks of Nordic-Germanic people" in the German nation and thus "slowly but surely lead them up to a dominant position". The strong Führer state had to promote "the victory of the better and stronger" and the subordination of the "worse and weaker". In concrete terms, this meant, for example, forced sterilization of those classified as "disabled" and "hereditarily ill" and, at the same time, child benefits, cheap housing and material benefits for "German families



How does it start?



Wahlplakat der NSDAP aus dem Jahr 1932 (Dauerausstellung im Erinnerungsort Hotel Silber
NSDAP election poster from 1932 (permanent exhibition in Hotel Silber Museum)

How does it start?

NSDAP- Election poster (1032) uses stereotypes of “world judaism“ to ridicule political opponents



NSDAP election poster from 1932 (permanent exhibition in Hotel Silber Museum)
Slogan:bigwigs'and bonzes club with the jew – with the worki populationAdolph
Hitler

Marginalization and persecution

FIRST THEY CAME FOR THE SOCIALISTS, AND I DID NOT SPEAK OUT—
BECAUSE I WAS NOT A SOCIALIST.
THEN THEY CAME FOR THE TRADE UNIONISTS, AND I DID NOT SPEAK OUT—
BECAUSE I WAS NOT A TRADE UNIONIST.
THEN THEY CAME FOR THE JEWS, AND I DID NOT SPEAK OUT—
BECAUSE I WAS NOT A JEW.
THEN THEY CAME FOR ME—AND THERE WAS NO ONE LEFT TO SPEAK FOR ME.

MARTIN NIEMÖLLER
LUTHERAN MINISTER AND EARLY NAZI SUPPORTER
IMPRISONED FOR OPPOSITION TO THE HITLER REGIME

Martin Niemöller

(04. 01 1892 - 06. 03.1984)

Martin Niemöller was
a Lutheran pastor

First a supporter of
the National
Socialists,

In 1934 he joined the
resistance within the
Lutheran Protestant
Church (Bekennende
Kirche) and was later
imprisoned for his
opposition to the Hitler
regime , where he was
kept from 1937 bis 1945.

Martin Niemöller

Citation at United States Holocaust Memorial Museum with visitors

Commemorating the victims

- Immediately after Adolf Hitler and the NSDAP ascended to power, the approx. 525,000 Jews (approx. 0.77% of the total population) living in Germany in 1933 were systematically marginalized from society through discrimination and persecution.
- This period was characterized by arbitrary terror, especially by the SA, which carried out intimidation campaigns in many places and physically attacked Jews. By the day the new regime issued more and more regulations that restricted the freedom of Jews to pursue professions, participate in public life, etc.



Repression and violence against the jewish population

- **Marginalization and Exclusion**
- **Humiliation**
- **Deprivation of basic personal rights**
- **Pillaging**
- **Dehumanization**
- **Deportation**
- **Systematic genocide**

were supported or accepted by large sections of society.

Photo: Berlin Holocaust Memorial



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background:

Murder in stages - Jews in Stuttgart from 1933 onwards

1933 On January 30, 1933, Hitler becomes Reich Chancellor - the beginning of the National Socialist takeover.

Over the next few months, elected officials and many members of the workers' parties are arrested and sent to the Heuberg concentration camp. Special political courts are set up at the Higher Regional Court.10.3. - Jewish employees of the radio are excluded.15-16.3. - Nazi Gauleiter Wilhelm Murr takes power in Württemberg, Karl Strölin is appointed State Commissioner in Stuttgart. - Political conformity of the city administration, dissenters and employees of Jewish descent are put out on the streets. SA and SS block the entrances to Jewish stores and department stores.1.4. - The SA calls for a boycott of Jewish lawyers and doctors.19.5. - Action: "Against the un-German spirit" by the Stuttgart student body, literary products by Jews should be removed from bookshops and lending libraries.15.6. - Stuttgart has 416,522 inhabitants, 4876 of whom are Jewish citizens.1.9 - 17 Stuttgart doctors and 8 lawyers are banned from practicing because of their non-Aryan descent.1.11 - Jewish pupils are expelled from the Eberhard-Ludwig-Gymnasium "to detoxify the political atmosphere".

1934 Jewish senior physicians at the Stuttgart clinics are being made redundant

1935 First convictions in Stuttgart for so-called "racial defilement".

Signs appear in restaurants and stores in the city: "Jews not wanted".

15.9. - At the Nuremberg Reich Party Congress, the "Nuremberg Laws" are proclaimed, making citizens of non-Aryan descent citizens with inferior rights.

1936

Jewish citizens no longer have the right to vote in Reichstag elections.

24 Aug - Jews no longer have access to the public swimming pools in Stuttgart.

Early Dec. - Jewish businessmen are banned from the Christmas market.

Municipal retirement homes, kindergartens and outdoor swimming pools are prohibited for Jews. Exclusion of Jewish members from most Stuttgart clubs.

1937

17.2. - Exclusion of Jewish cattle merchants from the livestock markets.

Doctors write "German doctor" on their signs to distinguish themselves from the Jewish doctors still practicing. A civil servant who buys from Jews or consults a Jewish doctor is committing an official offense.

Cafés in the city center are now run "Jew-free".

Jewish paramedics are no longer accredited

1938

27.9. - All Jewish lawyers admitted to German courts are banned from practicing.30.9. - The licenses of all Jewish doctors expire.

1.10. - 3596 Jews still live in Stuttgart.

7.10. - All German passports of Jews become invalid and are confiscated.

Repression and violence against the Jewish population

- Marginalization and Exclusion
- Humiliation
- Deprivation of basic personal rights
- Pillaging
- Dehumanization
- Deportation
- Systematic genocide



Stories from Stuttgart

- Contemporary eyewitnesses speaking:

<https://fragezeichen.org/video/charlotte-isler/>

In this Video Charlotte Isler, born in Stuttgart in 1924, speaks to young interviewers about her childhood in Germany, the rise of the Nazis and how it affected her as a young student.

Fortunately Charlotte's closest family managed to escape to the United States.

Still she has to mourn many relatives and friends of the Family, who were murdered by the Nazis.

Repression and violence against the Jewish population

- **Marginalization and Exclusion**
- **Humiliation**
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Stories from Stuttgart

Contemporary eyewitnesses
speaking:

[https://frage-
zeichen.org/video/henry-
kandler/](https://fragezeichen.org/video/henry-kandler/)

In this Video Henry Kandler, born in Stuttgart in 1929 speaks to young interviewers about his childhood in Stuttgart, Germany, the rise of the Nazis and how it affected him and his family.

Fortunately Henry's closest family managed to escape to the United States. He and his brother were sent to England and the family reunited years later in the US.

Still he has to mourn his grandparents many relatives and friends of the Family, who were murdered by the Nazis.

Commemorating the victims

From December 1941 to February 1945 Stuttgart was the starting point for several deportations of around 2.500 Jewish inhabitants of Stuttgart and Württemberg, of whom fewer than 190 survived the Shoah.

At first, until 1941, the Nazi leadership did not pursue a plan for the systematic murder of the Jews in its sphere of influence.

The deportation of Jews from Baden and Pfalz to southern France in October 1940, however, pointed to a radical intensification of the persecution.

The decision to murder the European Jews was finally made in the context of the radicalization after the invasion of the Soviet Union and the start of murder operations by Einsatzgruppen (shooting squads) and with gas vans.

(> > [Wannsee Conference](#))



Background

(>> Wannsee Conference)

House of the Wannsee Conference - a memorial and educational site

<https://www.ghwk.de/de>

In 1942, on January 20th representatives of the SS, the NSDAP and several Reich ministries met in a villa at the address "Großer Wannsee 58" in Berlin.

The meeting at the invitation of the Chief of the Security Police and the SD, Reinhard Heydrich started at noon and lasted around 90 minutes.

The topic was what was called the "Final Solution to the Jewish Question".

Heydrich's aim was to involve important ministries and administrative departments in the preparations for the genocide of the entire European Jewish population.



Commemorating the victims

From December 1941 to February 1945, Stuttgart was the starting point for several deportations of around 2,500 Jewish residents of Stuttgart and Württemberg, of whom fewer than 190 survived the Shoah.

The Deportations 1941 - 1945 from Stuttgart

- **01.12.1941**- Riga, 1000 people - all but 20 murdered
- **26.04.1942**- Izbica, 285 people - no survivors
- **13.07.1942**- Auschwitz-Birkenau, 40 persons- no survivors
- **22.08.1942**- Theresienstadt, approx. 1100 people - approx. 50 survivors
- **01.03.1943**- Auschwitz-Birkenau, 35 people, one of whom survives
- **15.03.1943**- Auschwitz-Birkenau (*) 234 persons, few survivors
- **16.04.1943**- Theresienstadt, 20 persons- 4 survivors
- **17.06.1943**- Auschwitz-Birkenau, 15 people to Auschwitz
- **17.06.1943**- Theresienstadt, around 10 people
- **14.09.1943**- Auschwitz-Birkenau
- **12.10.1943**- Auschwitz-Birkenau
- **07.12.1943**- Auschwitz-Birkenau
- **10.01.1944**- Theresienstadt
- **11.01.1944**-Theresienstadt, 80 persons from so-called "mixed marriages" - 60 survivors
- **07.03.1944**- Auschwitz-Birkenau
- **28.06.1944**- Theresienstadt
- **12.02.1945**- Theresienstadt, so-called "mixed marriages" (via Bietigheim) of the approx. 160 people - almost all survive due to the rapid end of the war.



(*) Deportation of 234 Romani People (German Sinti). Dort auch die weiteren Einzeldeportationen nachgewiesen.

Original footage on youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7IWCpNlf3M>

Commemorating the Shoah in Germany and Baden-Württemberg

- Memorial sites at former concentration camps
Example: [KZ Gedenkstätte im ehemaligen Konzentrationslager Dachau](#),
- **Memorials sites at the location of former subcamps of concentration camps in Baden-Württemberg: collected by the :**
[Landeszentrale für politische Bildung: Baden-Württemberg](#)
Most of these Memorial Sites were initiated and are run by committed citizens and volunteers
- **Memorial Monuments** (Beispiel: [Zentrales Mahnmal für die Opfer der Shoah in Berlin](#),
In Stuttgart: [Mahnmal für die Opfer des Nationalsozialismus](#),
Gedenkstätte [“Zeichen der Erinnerung”](#),
- **Museums and places of remembrance**
Example: [Jüdisches Museum Berlin](#), [Erinnerungsort Hotel Silber](#)
- **Public days of commemoration:**
Examples: January 27th (Date of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp - international Holocaust commemoration day) ,
November 9th(“Pogromnacht” “Night of broken glass” 9.11.1938)

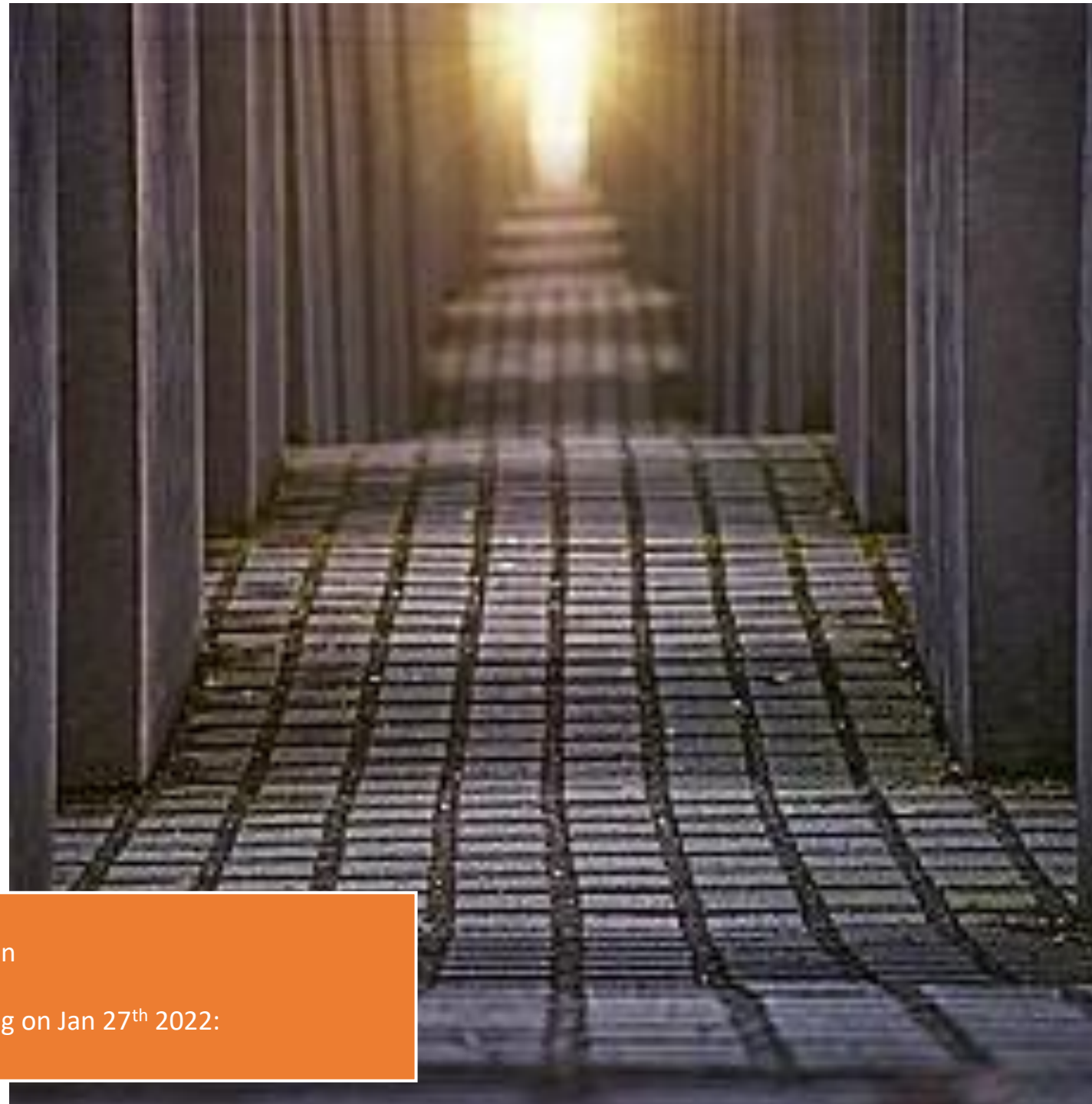
January 27th Day

Television program about the memorial day on German television

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYPCfTeBCZQ>

Holocaust Survivor Inge Auerbacher speaks at German Bundestag on Jan 27th 2022:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCYQ4Izc5T0>





Recognizing the perpetrators?

For Example

The Hotel Silber”, the headquarters of the GESTAPO (Secret State Police) is a location tied to the Nazi perpetrators.

Today the Hotel Silber is a place for education and remembrance .



History of the “Hotel Silber”

- **1870-1919:** luxury hotel owned by the namesake Heinrich Silber.
- **until 1928:** administrative offices, Main Postal Directorate, U.a
- **From 1928:** police (State Police of Württemberg, Weimarer Republik)
- **From 1933:** Political Police (later named GESTAPO)
- **Nach 1945 bis 1984:** Police station
- **Ab 1984** administrative offices of ministry departments of the state of Baden-Württemberg.

- **Since December 2028:** Educational and Memorial Site with an Exhibition on Political Police."

What is meant by „Political Police“?

- **Purpose:** Protection of the state and its representatives
Protection of the constitution
 - **Tasks:** Surveillance
Preventive measures
Prevention of politically motivated crimes
 - **Goals:** Prevention of a coup d'état by political extremists
-
- The **Political Police** in Germany was an institution with intelligence and policing powers aimed at combating politically motivated crimes. In the German Empire, as well as during the Weimar Republic and in a more intensified form during the period of National Socialism, it was used as a political instrument of repression against political opponents.

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What was problematic about this institution?

Was the necessary political neutrality of the political police fulfilled?

Did the political police actively assist the National Socialists in coming to power?

The political Police as Structure interpreted by National- sozialism (GESTAPO)

From March 1933 (until the end of the war in 1945), Germany can be defined a Dictatorship:

- Laws are solely passed by the NSDAP (Nazi Party)
- The multi-party system of the Weimar Republic is eliminated.
- Press and assembly freedoms are restricted.
- Basic rights such as personal freedom, freedom of opinion, association, and assembly are suspended.

Heinrich Himmler holds centralized authority over all police forces. He also still serves as the highest-ranking commander of the SS, overseeing all internal and external police and security forces, including the Gestapo (Secret State Police). He also controlled the *Waffen-SS*, the military branch of the SS.

- What was problematic about this institution?
- Was the necessary political neutrality of the political police fulfilled?
- Did the political police actively assist the National Socialists in coming to power?

The political Police as Structure interpreted by National- sozialism (GESTAPO)

GESTAPO = Geheime Staatspolizei (Secret State Police)

Competencies:

- "Protective custody" ("Schutzhaft")
 - Decision-making and executive authority for the arrest and imprisonment of individuals without a judicial order and for an indefinite period.
- In the newly established police prisons, prisoners are mistreated and tortured. They are beaten, harassed, and malnourished. Their mail is censored.
- "Enhanced interrogations" (physical and psychological violence are permitted for the police).
- Personnel are aligned with the Nazi Party's doctrine and ideology.

- How did the structure serve the needs of the Nazi Party?
- How did the NSDAP make use of the police force?

The political Police (GESTAPO) a Structure interpreted by National Sozialism

Purpose: Preservation of the National Socialist state through the political police

Sole rule of the NSDAP (Nazi Party) and establishment of the Nazi ideology at all levels of life.

- Elimination of political opponents
persistent suppression of political opposition
- Creating the National Socialist "Volksgemeinschaft" through exclusion and destruction of disliked groups, individuals of Jewish origin, Sinti and Roma and persecution of homosexuals
- Quashing any resistance from dissenting voices, non-cooperative churches and religious communities (e.g., Jehovah's Witnesses),
- Eliminating disliked lifestyles
- Establishing a system of surveillance and denunciation



Parade on May 1st 1933, on Dorotheenstraße passing by the Hotel Silber on the left, which is "adorned" with Nazi flags

Who becomes the target of the Political Police in 1933?

- political opponents
Communists, Social Democrats, trade unionists
- People of Jewish origin,
- Romani People (German Sinti),
- non-cooperating churches and religious communities, e.g. Jehovah's Witnesses,
- Newly established category of "A-socials" (asoziale") includes the unemployed, homeless, single mothers, all disliked lifestyles (nothing was "private" anymore - a System of surveillance and denunciation is being established)
- Non- national-socialist youth culture
- Artists whose art was not considered National Socialist
- Persons considered homosexuals (Paragraph 175 condemnation of homosexuality)

Was there any resistance among the German population?

Exclusion and elimination of groups defined as undesirable from the National Socialist "people's community", ("Volksgemeinschaft")

Resistance against National Socialism

- People of various social backgrounds and ideological orientations already engage against National Socialism during the Weimar Republic and warn against the impending dictatorship.
- The fight against Hitler is initially led primarily by the labor movement, left-liberal intellectuals, and Christians.
- After Hitler's appointment as Chancellor, all opponents of the NSDAP are persecuted and excluded from the National Socialist "Volksgemeinschaft" (people's community). Torture, imprisonment, and concentration camps are intended to intimidate them.
- Jews are threatened and systematically deprived of rights, while political opponents are defamed.

- The majority of German society however welcome the new rulers and their policies as a „new beginning“. Resistance is only mounted by a minority reacting to the violation of human rights and the destruction of democracy.



Who is affected by measures of the Political Police in 1933?

1. Political opposition

- Gerda Taro (born Gerta Pohorylle; * August 1, 1910, in Stuttgart; † July 26, 1937, in El Escorial, Spain) was a German photographer of Jewish heritage). Alongside her partner Robert Capa, she documented the horrors of the Spanish Civil War, becoming the first woman to photograph on a war front.
- Already in March 1933 Taro participated in leaflet campaigns against the National Socialists and was arrested by the SA (Sturmabteilung). After nearly three weeks, she was released from the Leipzig women's prison and shortly thereafter emigrated to Paris. In late autumn 1933, she reached Paris, where she met Hungarian photographer Robert Capa in September 1934, soon becoming his student and life companion. As a photojournalist, she documented the Spanish Civil War with Capa until she was tragically crushed by a tank in 1937. Her funeral in Paris was a protest against fascism.



Denkmal für Gerda Taro in Stuttgart

Memorial for Gerda Taro in Stuttgart





Who becomes a target of the political police in 1933?

1. Political opposition

- Communists (the Communist Party is banned from February 28, 1933),
- Social Democrats
- Trade Unionists



Who becomes a target of the political police in 1933?

1. Political opposition

- **Liselotte Herrmann**, born to a bourgeois-liberal family, initially studied chemistry in Stuttgart before switching to biology at the University of Berlin in 1931. A member of the Communist Party of Germany (KPD) since 1931, she engaged in resistance against the Nazi regime. In 1933 she was expelled from the university for her communist activities. She became part of the clandestine communist and left-socialist resistance. In 1934, she gave birth to a son, Walter, whose father, Fritz Rau, a KPD functionary, had been killed in prison in 1933.
- Working as a stenotypist in her father's engineering office, Herrmann continued her resistance activities, gathering and transmitting confidential information on secret armament projects. Arrested in 1935, she spent 19 months in pretrial detention, followed by a trial that led to her death sentence for treason.
- Despite international protests, Liselotte Herrmann was executed on June 20, 1938, becoming the first German mother and resistance fighter to be killed under the guillotine in Berlin-Plötzensee.



On June 20, 1988, the 50th anniversary of Lilo Herrmann's death, activists from the City Youth Ring erected a memorial stone near Stuttgart University on their own initiative; this was tolerated on city property. A representative of the university justified the university's failure to honor Lilo Herrmann with the statement that her (*communist*) views "could not be the convictions of universities" and therefore could not be a role model for students.

Monument for Liselotte Hermann in Stuttgart





Who becomes a target of the political police in 1933?

- **Alfred Haag**

- Hermann Alfred Haag (* December 15, 1904, in Schwäbisch Gmünd; † August 8, 1982, in Munich) was the youngest KPD (Communist Party of Germany) representative in the Stuttgart Landtag (from 1932). During the time of National Socialism, he was imprisoned in several concentration camps

More Info see:

- <https://virtuell.geschichtsort-hotel-silber.de/virtueller-ort/1928-1945-vom-polizeipraesidium-zur-gestapo/alfred-haag-kpd-mitglied/>

Lina Haag

Eine Handvoll Staub

Widerstand einer Frau 1933-1945



Geschichte
Fischer



Who becomes a target of the political police in 1933?

-
- **Lina Haag (née Jäger, officially Pauline; * January 18, 1907, in Hagkling, former municipality of Altersberg, Württemberg; † June 18, 2012, in Munich) was the wife of Alfred Haag.**

Lina Jäger's mother worked as a maid, and her father was a laborer. He belonged to the Independent Social Democratic Party of Germany (USPD) and introduced his daughter to the Communist Youth Association of Germany (KJVD). Around 1920, Pauline met her future husband, Alfred Haag, in the KJVD. He, too, had grown up in humble circumstances, and they later had a daughter together.

On April 10, 1933, Lina Haag was arrested due to her political activities. She remained in the Goteszell State Penitentiary until December 21 of the same year. In 1935, Lina Haag was arrested by Friedrich Mußgay, the head of the "Media Service" department, and interrogated in the police prison. She then spent 20 months in pretrial detention in Stuttgart. On January 24, 1938, Lina Haag was sentenced to two years in prison for treason. She had to serve the remaining four months in the Goteszell women's prison. After her imprisonment, she was immediately taken into protective custody at the Lichtenburg concentration camp, where she had to stay until April 1939.



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Personal Stories located at the Hotel Silber

[Video Interview mit Franz Hirth](#)

Franz Hirt is brought to Hotel Silber at the age of 11 along with his parents. His parents are to be interrogated in connection with the failed assassination attempt on Adolf Hitler in Munich in November 1938.

His mother is the sister of Georg Elser.

Franz is left at the gatekeeper's booth at Hotel Silber and to wait for his father, who does not return from the interrogation .. In the evening police officers realize that the boy is still there and take him to a orphanage to stay. He learns about the assassination attempt, allegedly committed by his favorite uncle, only days later from the radio. His parents are unaware of the assassination attempt but are released from custody after more than three months.

Georg Elser remains in captivity until the approaching end of the war. He is then shot on April 19, 1945, in the Dachau concentration camp.

Die Geschichte des Hotel Silber nach 1945

- After 1945, Hotel Silber, as one of the few buildings that are intact after the war, is once again used by the police.

Former victims of persecution and some dedicated citizens demand a memorial plaque to commemorate the history of the site.

This becomes possible only after the police vacate the premises.

The memorial plaque is installed in 1984 in the foyer of the Department of the Ministry of the Interior that has just moved in.



1874 – 1919
HOTEL SILBER
1920 – 1928
GENERALDIREKTION DER POSTEN UND TELEGRAPHEN
1928 – 1937
POLIZEIPRÄSIDIUM
1937 – 1945
GEHEIME STAATSPOLIZEI
1949 – 1983
POLIZEIDIENSTSTELLE

IN DIESEM GEBÄUDE WURDEN WÄHREND DER HERRSCHAFT
DES NATIONALSOZIALISMUS MENSCHEN AUS DEM IN-UND AUS-
LAND OPFER VON TERROR UND GEWALT OHNE GERICHTSURTEIL
WURDEN HIER AM 13. APRIL 1945 DURCH DIE GEHEIME STAATS-
POLIZEI VIER PERSONEN ERHANGT, DIE IN DIESEM GEBÄUDE
INHAFTIERT WAREN.

WIR GEDENKEN DER OPFER DES UNRECHTS MIT DEM BEKENNTNIS
ZUM DEMOKRATISCHEN RECHTSSTAAT.



We will not forget:
The story of the Initiative Lern-
und Gedenkort Hotel Silber e.V.

- History of the Initiative Learning and Memorial Site Hotel Silber as an Example of Civic Engagement
- In 2008, plans were revealed to demolish the building of the former Gestapo headquarters as part of the redevelopment of the neighborhood for a commercial construction project, also involving the state of Baden-Württemberg
- agreements with the city had already been settled.



Not to be forgotten:
The story of the Initiative Lern-
und Gedenkort Hotel Silber e.V.



- 26 initiatives and organizations, active in the field of political-historical education and commemorative culture, joined forces in Stuttgart to form a coalition. They advocated for the preservation of the building as a historically significant site and for the establishment of an educational and memorial space.



We will not forget! The story of the Initiative Lern- und Gedenkort Hotel Silber e.V.

- The coalition managed to raise awareness of the significance this site has for the history of the city
- Contemporary eye-Witnesses from Stuttgart and from all over the world supported the initiative, who was gradually also found supporters in politics. After almost three years, the newly elected state government (SPD and Die GRÜNEN) decided to preserve the building and establish a learning and memorial site.
- In collaboration with the Haus der Geschichte Baden-Württemberg (Museum for the History of the state of Baden Württemberg), a permanent exhibition about the history of the site is developed. The coalition becomes a registered association and, as a program partner, becomes part of the operating as a citizen participation project under the auspices of the Haus der Geschichte Baden-Württemberg.
- This model of permanent collaboration is considered unique in the organisations Museums or Memorial sites.

Siehste, geht doch!



Dah! Told ya! It totally works!

Postcard from the year 2010 featuring the Hotel Silber integrated into the competition design. The winning architect's proposal did not actually include the preservation of the building.



New dedication of the Hotel Silber

- Education and Information about the past
- Creating new forms of remembrance
- Conveyance of lessons for the future:
- Collaboration with the Police University,
- addressing current societal questions related to the police today
- Learning about other perspectives
- Sparking commitment solidarity and a diverse and democratic society

Quiz Questions

1. When did the National Socialist Party NSDAP take over the government in Germany?
2. What changes did the NSDAP make that led to their dictatorship?
3. What did the Nazis promise to the Germans?
4. Who was included and who was excluded from the envisaged National Socialist society?
5. What kind of police force is meant by the term „Political Police“?
6. What was different in the work of the officers of the political police, after the National Socialist Party had taken over the power of government?



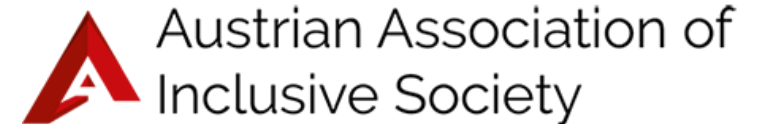
The Hotel Silber, former headquarters of the Political Police (Gestapo), is a location tied to Nazi perpetrators



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PARTNERS



All history??

