

Doron Glickman

4/7/22

Mrs. Hazen

WWI left Germany in devastation. They were blamed for the war, which lost over 3 million people. At the end of the war Germany felt humiliated and owed a lot of money to countries involved. Due to the Treaty of Versailles most of Germany was furious. A man named Adolf Hitler felt the pain of his fellow people and created the Nazi Party. All the people in the Nazi Party agreed that their country was being treated unfairly and emotions were high. This was the beginning of what we know today as the Holocaust. Hitler managed to change the minds of an entire country of Germany against Jews using propaganda.

After WWI Germany lost 15 percent of their men with 4.3 million dead or missing military personnel. The treasury to the country was empty and their money was losing value. Germany felt embarrassed since they were being blamed for all of the destruction of WWI. On top of that they owed 33 billion dollars to other countries. (*United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*,) The Treaty of Versailles was signed by allied and associated powers and by Germany on June 28, 1919 in the Hall of Mirrors at the Palace of Versailles. This treaty went into effect on January 10, 1920 and stated that Germany owed other countries reparations to cover civilian damage caused by the war. Most of Germany was infuriated with the treaty until one man decided to speak up about his feelings towards the treaty. This man was Adolf Hitler. History.com Editors. "Treaty of Versailles." (*History.com*)

Adolf Hitler was born in Austria in 1889. He fought in WWI in the frontlines. People that fight in the frontlines have a 90 percent chance of being killed, so when the war was over he

received a medal for his bravery. In 1918 Hitler joined a small German workers party, which aimed to unite the interests of the working class with a strong German nationalism. His skilled speaking techniques and charismatic energy helped propel him in the party's ranks. In 1920 Hitler left the Army and took charge of the party propaganda efforts. In one of Hitlers propaganda efforts he adopted a version of the ancient symbol of the hakenkreuz. This hakenkreuz was similar to the swastika and came from the Buddhists. It was a sign of good luck and Hitler turned the swastika 45 degrees, and then put a red flag and white circle behind it. This became the national symbolism of hate. *(History.com)*

Hitler blamed the jews for the loss of WWI and there was a lot of antisemitism in Germany. He didn't believe in the government in Germany. His outlook was that there should be one dictator instead of different levels of government. In 1923 Hitler and his supporters attempted a rebellion to remove the government forcefully. This led to him being arrested and he spent eight months in jail out of a five year sentence. This worked out to his benefit because he was now known nationally. In 1932 Hitler tried to get into office and be elected as chancellor but lost. He then got the attention of the communist party which helped him get into office on January 30, 1933 as chancellor. The communist party as well as the nazis convinced Hindenburg, president of Germany, to put Hitler into office as chancellor because they would be able to keep him under control. Little did they know what he was planning or capable of doing. *(History.com,)*

In 1933 Hitler went into office and started his plan to execute the Jews. He ordered a wide expansion on the state police force and the gestapo, german nazi police. Hitler didnt start with mass murder though. He used the government to disclude the Jews from German society. Anti semitism was a basic belief of their ideas and at the foundation of their world view. *(United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,)*

Some Germans were weary at first to nazi ideas, but were then easily convinced and began to join in. Their anger with the loss of WWI and economic and political problems coming

after the war contributed to increasing anti semitism in German society. The instability of Germany under the Weimar Republic, the fear of communism, and the economic shocks of the Great Depression also made many Germans more open to nazi ideas which believed that Germany was the superior race and everyone else was below them. They convinced the entire country that Jews were inferior and the most dangerous race of all and if they didn't take the Jews out of German society the Jews would destroy them. (*United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*,)

Hitler used many different propaganda tactics to turn Germany against Jews. He put up posters all over Germany that depicted Jews as evil. These stereotypes of propaganda tactics made Germans see Jews as threats and helped to make it easier to start a war and eventually genocide.

In 1940 Ghettos were first established to relocate the Jews before going to concentration camps. These ghettos were overpopulated, with very little food. Most people died in these ghettos from either hunger, disease or coldness. Children would have to smuggle or steal food to survive. If they were caught they were severely punished. There was a school in the ghetto but since it was constructed by nazis kids would have to hide books to use them. There was death everywhere. One apartment would be given for 7 families to share. The Jews were crammed together and were being badly treated in the ghettos. The most famous ghetto was Warsaw and it had over 400,000 jews crammed into 18 in a half mile radius. When the Jews left the ghetto they went to concentration camps. (*United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*)

Concentration camps were camps where the Jews were forced to go and either be killed or do forced labor. Chelmno was the first killing facility to begin operations, in December 1941. It was located in the Reich province Wartheland, which surrounded a part of Poland annexed to Germany. Some of the worst concentration camps were Auschwitz, Belzec, Chelmno, Majdanek, Sobibor, and Treblinka. The difference between these and other concentration camps were these were specifically used for Jews. The Jews would die here from disease, starvation, gas

chambers, or by shooting. The Holocaust was now in full effect and WWII started. (*United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*)

The holocaust was a genocide during WWII mostly targeting the Jews . During the Holocaust 6 million jewish men, women, and children were killed. There was not one particular event that caused it, but more like a domino effect of events that led to it. Adolf Hitler wanted to create racial purity through his “final solution” which is now known as the Holocaust. The Holocaust started in 1941 and ended in 1945. In hebrew the Holocaust is known as Shoah. It is a remembrance day that is sad where we remember all that we lost because of HATE!