



An Ontological Analysis of Hitler's Anti-Semitic Perspective

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Abstract: There is a common prejudice against “different ones”, not just for Jewish people, also against Gypsies, homosexuals, Poles, and communists. But the most significant minority in Austria and Germany was Jews in those years. Some of them were a merchant and working under suitable conditions, so they were living wealthy and affluent. So they were affected more than the others. Public opinion and support were taking importance for Hitler, this is why he evaluated this situation was dangerous for the German public. He blamed Jews even for the crisis of Austria. From year to year, he specified his thinking around small groups and affected them. In the future, Hitler would blame the Jews for the Second World War. In this paper, we will analyze Hitler's attitude towards Jews and examine the film made upon him.

Keywords: Hitler, Nazism, Jews, German nationalism, anti-Semitism, genocide, concentration camps.

Introduction

Hitler was born and grew up in Austria. In those years Austria had multinational social construction. Slavs, Serbs, Jews, Germans lived here together harmoniously in those years. Long story short; this multinational environment disturbed Hitler, and he started to practice some national activities. He thought that “the foreigners are the cause of degeneration and that’s why they are a potential danger for German people”.

In 1907 Hitler relocated to Vienna. He was planning to study art, but he failed to get into art school. While in Vienna, Hitler affected by various ideas. “He was interested in Pan-Germanism –the conviction that Germans should be unified in one state instead of dispersed throughout central and eastern Europe- as well as in ultra-nationalism and antisemitism... He became enthusiastic about Social Darwinist theories that described life as a struggle between races.”¹ In those years Hitler consolidated his anti-Semitic worldview, and he began to create groundwork of his book “Mein Kampf” that affects many people.

Hitler and National-Socialist Party Ideology

After defeating of First World War Hitler joined German Workers Party and in time he started to play a very active role in the party. In 1920 Hitler made a great speech about party program and party’s name was changed to “National Socialist German Workers Party”. This new nascency contained anti-Semitic, anti-democratic and anti-capitalist views. After Hitler’s rise and gathering power in a single center, it became the only party in the country and consolidated its anti-Semitic activities.²

“In the 1920s there were both piecemeal welfare schemes and prejudice against groups regarded as non-conformist, in Nazi Germany, there was active official discrimination against

¹ Doris L. Bergen, *The Holocaust: A Concise History* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2009), 32-3.

² Neil Gregor, *Nazism, War and Genocide: New Perspectives on the History of the Third Reich* (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2008), 35-42.

targeted groups along with a much more comprehensive welfare system for those regarded as deserving. These policies were entirely complementary, for Nazi notions of health were inextricably bound up with an obsession with 'superior' and 'inferior' races. There was, therefore, a direct correlation between promoting the health and well-being of the 'Aryan' race and mistreating those who were either non-'Aryan' or 'Aryan' with perceived defects, whether of mental, physical or behavioral nature."³

When Hitler came to power, he had three basic purposes: (1) Lebensraum - (living room) the need for 'living space' for the German nation to expand. (2) Strong Germany - the Treaty of Versailles should be abolished and all German-speaking people united in one country. (3) Social Darwinism - the idea that the Aryan race was superior and Jews were 'subhuman'.

Hitler executed this purposes step by step and in the whole time he used some propaganda methods such as "Germany was in danger from Communists and Jews, who had to be destroyed." He also used always the motto of Nazi Party "Ein Volk, Ein Reich, Ein Führer" and this saying consolidated his ideas.⁴



Anti-Jewish violence increased in the following years. Jews had to wear Star of David and their movement was restricted. They forced to live in the 'ghettos' of each city. "Hitler's Nazis

³ Jill Stephenson, *Hitler's Home Front: Württemberg under the Nazis* (New York: Hambledon Continuum, 2006), 113.

⁴ "The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, 2011," *Yad Vashem*, Web. 1 Nov. 2013.

used a combination of intimidation and legislation to create a mood of hostility toward Germany's Jews, a kind of open season for abuse. During the boycott, Stormtroopers stood outside Jewish businesses to frighten potential customers. Some Jewish children experienced vicious harassment in school from teachers as well as fellow students."⁵

The "Kristallnacht" Pogrom

The most dramatic expression of this new stage of Nazism was the attack on Jews in Germany and Austria on the night 9-10 November 1938. During Crystal Night over 7,500 Jewish shops were destroyed and 400 synagogues were burnt down. Ninety-one Jews were killed and an estimated 20,000 were sent to concentration camps. Because of the after-pogrom-picture of cities, Nazi leaders called this pogrom "Kristallnacht" (night of broken glass).⁶

One of the other consequences of this night, as remarked by Doris L. Bergen in her book "The Holocaust", was that: "Nazi authorities, always alert to public opinion, noticed even that low level of disapproval. It is no coincidence that Kristallnacht marked the last open pogrom they organized in Germany and annexed Austria. In the future, they would avoid having reluctant "Aryans" witness wide-scale violence at home. It would prove easy enough to move blatant attacks further from the public eye."⁷

Concentration Camps

In 1933, after Hitler became chancellor, Nazi authorities created the first concentration camp in Dachau, Munich. Dachau Concentration Camp was no secret; there were also present political criminals, communists, men charged with homosexuality and common criminals. Between 1933-1945, Nazi Germany created approximately 20.000 concentration camps. These camps

⁵ Bergen, *The Holocaust: A Concise History*, 58.

⁶ Stephenson, *Hitler's Home Front*, 142-143.

⁷ Bergen, *The Holocaust*, 85.

separated different kinds, such as, (a) labor camps, (b) arrestment camps, and (c) extermination camps.

In the beginning, these camps displayed to the public as labor camps by Nazi leaders. J. Noakes and G. Pridham specified this topic in their book *Nazism 1919-1945*: “Many Jews have organized in labor camps away from their families and forced to work on various construction projects for the German authorities. The following excerpts from a report of the labor camp desk of the Jewish labor battalion in Warsaw describe the inhuman conditions in these camps (in 1940)”.⁸

In the years of Second World War Nazi terror expanded through conquered lands such as Poland (Auschwitz) even Russia. One of the most famous concentration camps was Auschwitz, in the following years was transformed an extermination camp.⁹

Nazi soldiers shotted millions of people killed by gas chambers or they. Some of them (generally kids) were used for medical experiments and the doctors who made these experiments say that these are necessary experiments for medical progress. Because of these experiments, numerous cure and medical methods were improved. They explained themselves in that way: “We invented more than one cures of illnesses because of these useful experiments”. In this way German public ignored victim Jewish people. Even they were didn't killed these ways; they died from hungry or inhuman conditions in camps. So that, with the war years, concentration camps became extermination camps step by step for Jews.

Final Solution

“Final Solution” to the Jewish question means that murder all of the Jews of Europe. It contains one last single powerful movement to the Jews. This way of the solution will be a result the entire Holocaust in those years. Hitler and other leaders

⁸ Jeremy Noakes & Geoffrey Pridham, *Nazism, 1919-1945: The German Home Front in World War II* (Exeter: University of Exeter Press, 1998), 1059-60.

⁹ See Charleotte Delb, *Auschwitz and After*, trans. Rose C. Lamont (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985).

started a conference which called Wannsee Conference and they discussed the Holocaust that contains all Europe.¹⁰

Adolf Hitler in Movies

Triumph des Willens

This is the documentary movie which is taken by Leni Riefenstahl for Nazi propaganda purposes. In 1934, the National Socialist German Workers' Party to be held in Nuremberg, Adolf Hitler and Joseph Goebbels personally requested to this



documentary must be published. It generally showed us after First World War German victimization before Hitler came to power, and then how he brings the welfare to the country again. It also

emphasizes that power of superior German race. Hitler's anti-Semitic views always supported during the film, and it shows Hitler's political determination.

Schindler's List

In Poland during World War II, Oskar Schindler gradually becomes concerned for his Jewish workforce after witnessing their persecution by the Nazis. *Schindler's List*, concerns the



efforts of an industrialist to save his Jewish workers from exter-

¹⁰ Francis R. Nicosia, *Zionism and Antisemitism in Nazi Germany* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008), 246-8.

mination in Poland and Czechoslovakia during World War II. Oskar Schindler was a most unlikely candidate for an advocate of such oppressed people. Politics were never as important to Schindler as making money and living the good life. When Germany invaded Poland, he saw his chance to get rich, and he convinced the Armaments Inspectorate to allow him to take over a bankrupt enamelware factory in Krakow. He named the company Deutsche Emailwaren Fabrik (commonly called Emalia) and soon had army contracts to produce mess kits and field kitchenware. Schindler made the Emalia camp as much unlike a labor camp as he could. He kept the SS guards out of the factory and living quarters, spent \$360,000 on food for the prisoners, and used bribery and another chicanery to get more Jews out of Plaszów and into Emalia. The prisoners considered it a paradise compared to Goethe's camp, inspiring in them "a sense of almost surreal deliverance, something preposterous which they didn't want to look at too closely for fear it would evaporate." Schindler grew to see the fates of the prisoners as intertwined with his and sometimes referred to the end of the war as 'our freedom.'¹¹

This movie was shown one of the most dramatic realities about Jew's situation in Nazi Germany. In these years Jewish people have seen Schindler as a savior for them and they still profoundly grateful to him.

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¹¹ Thomas Keneally, "Schindler's List – Analysis," *Literary Masterpieces*, Volume 13, ed. Frank Northen Magill (eNotes.com, Inc., 1983).

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