

## XI. Euthanasia and Eugenics

Q: Prelude to genocide?

March 1942: 80% Alive

Feb 1943: 80% Murdered

Issue: Intentionalists                      v.              Functionalists  
          Not possible w/o Hitler                      Possible w/o Hitler

Answers: Both

9 developments in the process of extermination

1. Spring 1939: T4 program
2. March 1941: *Einsatzgruppen* formed
3. 2 July 1941: Heydrich's Extermination Order
4. 31 July 1941: Göring's order to Heydrich for a "Final Solution" (*Endlösung*)
5. Summer 1941: Himmler's Directive to Höss for the construction of Auschwitz
6. 1 Sept. 1941: T4 Halted. Director Christian Wirth goes to Chelmno
7. Autumn 1941: Zyklon B tested on 1500 Soviet POW's in Auschwitz
8. Oct 1941: First mass "deportation" (*Aussiedlung*) of reich Jews to Riga and Kovno
9. 20 Jan. 1942: Wannsee Conference, targeting 11M Jews

Forms of Extermination

1. Mobile Killing Operations in Soviet Union → *Einsatzgruppen*
2. Systematic Deportations to Poland → Final Solution

Pre-Jewish Form: Euthanasia (Children) and T4 (Adults) programs

Director: Phillip Bouhler

Participants: Karl Brandt, Viktor Brack, Christian Wirth, Gerhard Wagner, Nurses, and Medical Doctors

Time: 1939-1941 (then renamed Operation 14f13 and moved to CC's)

Death Totals: 105K

Methods: Morphine (Euthanasia), CO gas (T4)

Results: 20-75 in 5-10 minutes

Conditions:

- a. Didn't have to serve on the front lines
- b. Monetary advantages
- c. Given the option to refuse
- d. Catholic Compromise: last rites
- e. Funded by Industry

Effects:

- a. Produced a body of willing experts in murder
- b. Extermination began outside of the Nazi channels and organizations
- c. Human life only had extrinsic value based on its utility (Bayer 700RM)

Problem: Too Public

Jewish Form A: *Einsatzgruppen*

Directors:

Dr. Walter Stahlecker (Group A: the Baltic)

Arthur Nebe (Group B: White Russia)

Dr. Otto Rasche (Group C: Northern and central Ukraine)

Otto Ohlendorf (Group D: Southern Ukraine, Crimea, and the Caucasus)

Death Totals: 1.5-2.2 M

Participants: Educated, upper-middle class SS men, Trawniki(hiwi)/Askari  
(Ukraine and Lithuanian thugs)

Time: 1941-1942 (18 months)

Methods: Mass Shooting (*Genickschiuss*)

Results: up to 15K/day

Conditions:

- a. Prestige
- b. Monetary incentives
- c. Shorter Service Time
- d. More free time

Effects:

- a. Desensitized Death
- b. Loss of Affect
- c. Pride in work
- d. Value of Secrecy

Problems: Too expensive and too emotionally taxing for perpetrators

Jewish Form B<sub>1</sub>: Deportation to Poland

Directors: Reynhard Heydrich, Hans Frank, Odilio Globocnik

Death Totals: 3.5M

Participants: SS, Poles, Criminals, Trawniki

Time: 1941-1943

Methods: Starvation, Disease, Forced Labor, Hanging, Gassing, Cremation

Results: 15K/day

Conditions: Why Poland?

- a. Huge Monetary Incentives
- b. Largest concentration of Jews
- c. Central Location
- d. Nazi contempt for Poles
- e. Polish Antisemitism

Conditions: for Jews

- 42
- a. Rampant starvation
  - b. Disease
  - c. Forced Labor
  - d. Overcrowding

Effects:

- a. Huge revenue for the Reich (Millions of Reichsmarks)

- b. Removed blame from the Perpetrators
  - c. Efficient use of SS personnel
- Problems: Too Slow for Ghettoization, otherwise, none.

Jewish Form B<sub>II</sub>: *Ordnungspolizei* (Order Police and Reserve Police Battalions)

Director: Kurt Daluge

Death Totals: 868K

Participants:

- a. non-Military
- b. Non-Nazi
- c. Poorly trained
- d. Older (40-50 yrs old)

Duties:

- i. Fight Partisans
- ii. Transfer Populations
- iii. Kill Civilians
- iv. Search and Destroy Jews
- v. Occupation Forces

Time: 1939-1945

Methods: Shooting, beating

Results: Varied

Conditions:

- a. Could refuse service
- b. Not Ideological

Totals:

Camps	3M
<i>Einsatzgruppen</i>	1.5M
Order Police	868K
Ghettos	400K
Rail Cars/Death Marches	100K

Euthanasia:

Definition Today:  
Willing Consent of the Individual  
Done for the Welfare of the Individual

Nazi Definition:  
No Individual Consent  
Done for the Welfare of the State

Allowable groups:

1. Irretrievably lost medically
2. Incurable Lunatics
3. Coma Patients

Mengele and Pfannmüller were the exceptions.

Jews were an issue of public health.

Contamination *Rassenschande*, poison, race science, phobia mentality, Public health threats, pollution, shift in Nazi science from description to evaluation.

Demoralized by the gore, not the suffering.

Cruelty is social, not human nature

Rigid Selection process in T4, not in Auschwitz.

Jewish body has value as a commodity

Himmler's Posen Speech (4 Oct. 1943)

1. Secrecy
2. Revulsion of everyone
3. Revulsion hardens them
4. Still Decent Human beings
5. Not for Plunder, but Ideology
6. Eradicate a bacterium (kill or be killed)

Sonthofen Speech (5 May 1944)

1. Obedience
2. Conviction
3. Suspend the Rules
4. Appeal for the future generations

Höss' Testimony

1. Secret order by his superiors
2. Murder had to be feasible
3. Isolation of site
4. Tesch and Stabenow trained them
5. Clear and rational
6. Suspend normal Human inhibitions
7. Public v. Private Morality

Frank's Speech to Wehrmacht (19 Dec. 1940)

1. Must work together
2. Move slowly to give children something to fight
3. Key Q: "What is to happen to the Jews?"

Jacob (Seargant in *Einsatzgruppen*) (5 May 1942)

1. Ukranian Contempt for Jews
2. Loves his kids
3. Grateful to see the enemy up close

#### 4. Look like Monkeys

Wansee: Occurred after personnel and equipment were tried and tested in T4.

Conference of Second-tier Functionaries:

State:

Eastern Occupied Territories

Generalgouvernement

Interior

Justice

Foreign Office

Plenipotentiary for the Four-Year Plan

Reich Chancellery

Gestapo

Party:

Party Chancellery

RuSHA

SIPO

SD

Exceptions:

1. German Jews over 65
2. War veterans → Theresienstadt (Czech)