



The Life of Adolf Hitler and Nazi Propaganda

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Adolph Hitler was born on April 20, 1889 in Austria.

He grew up with a poor record at school and left before graduation with the ambition to become an artist.





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While a teenager Hitler became fascinated with German History and politics.



He applied for admission into the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts, however he was denied.

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In 1909 he moved to Vienna with hopes earning a living as a painter.



However within a year he was living in homeless shelters and eating in charity soup kitchens.

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He refused to take regular employment instead selling a few paintings or advertising posters whenever he could



(These advertising poster lead to his Nazi propaganda posters later on)

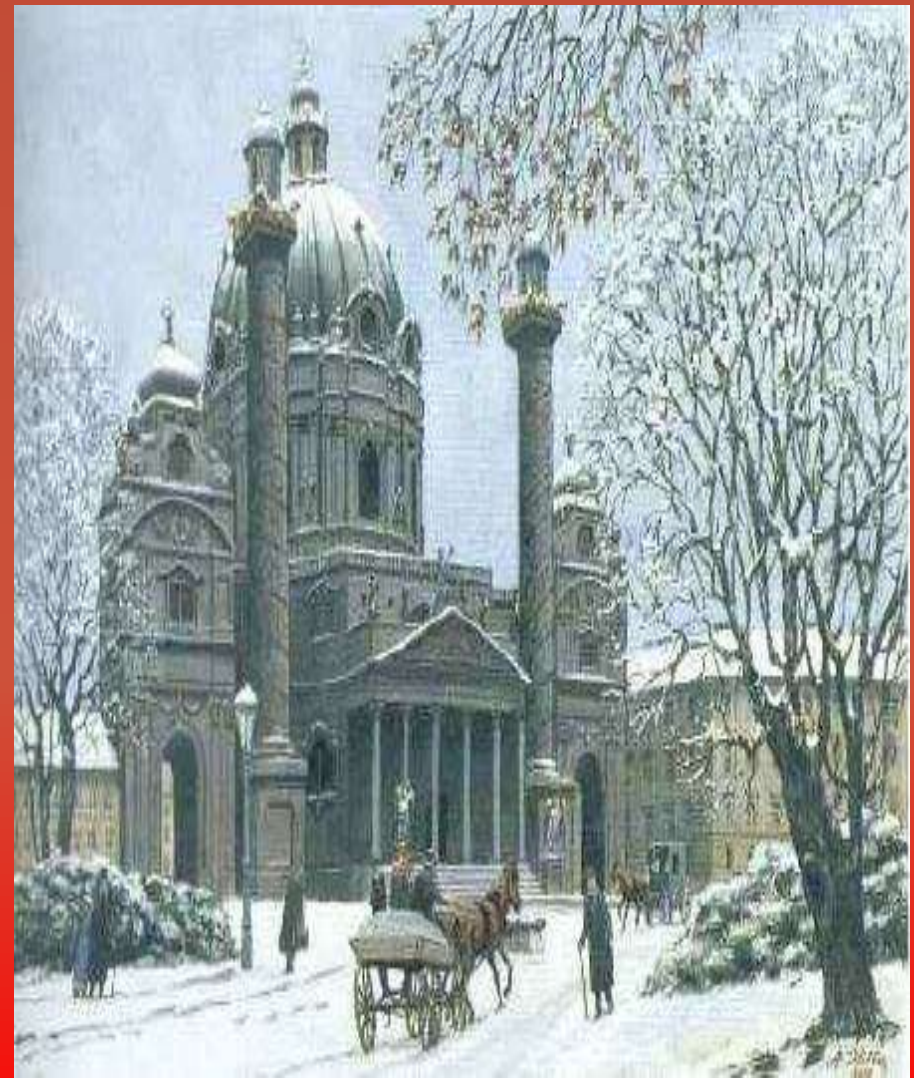


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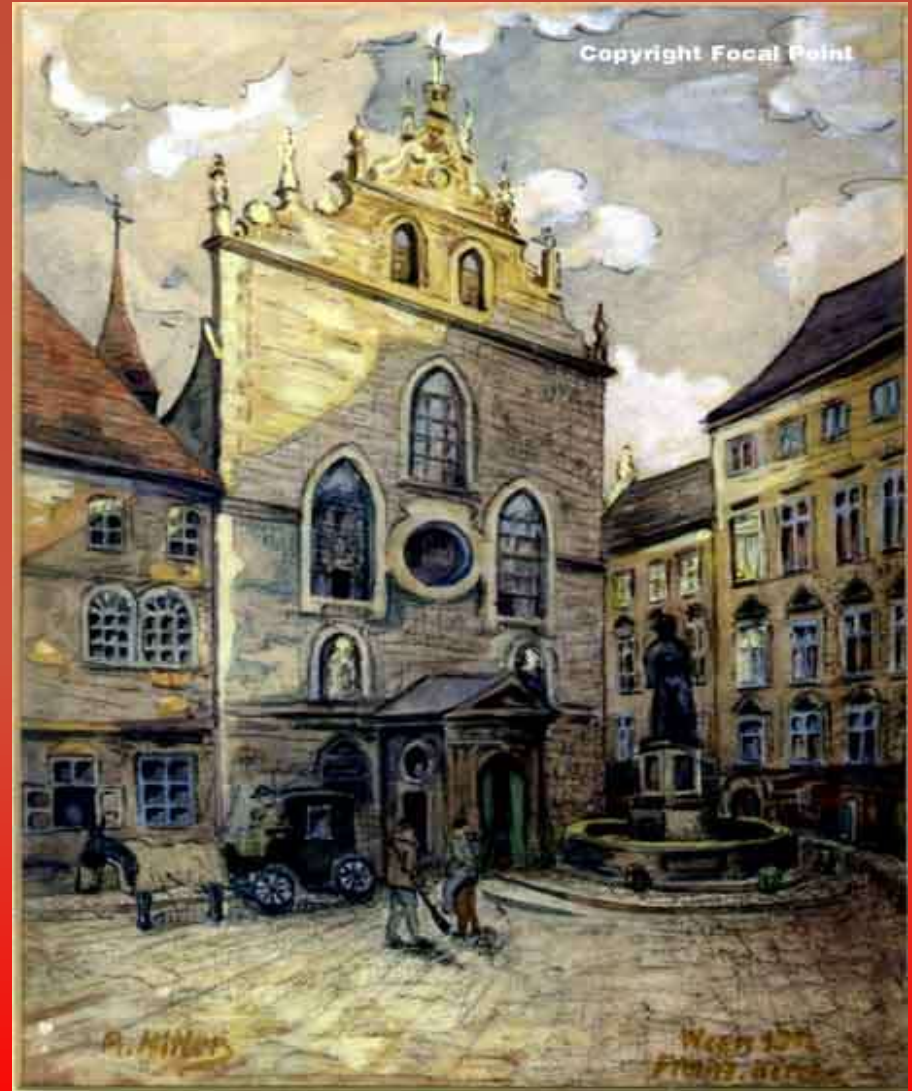
His painting focused on the German “Volk” a concept of the true people, music and culture of Germany

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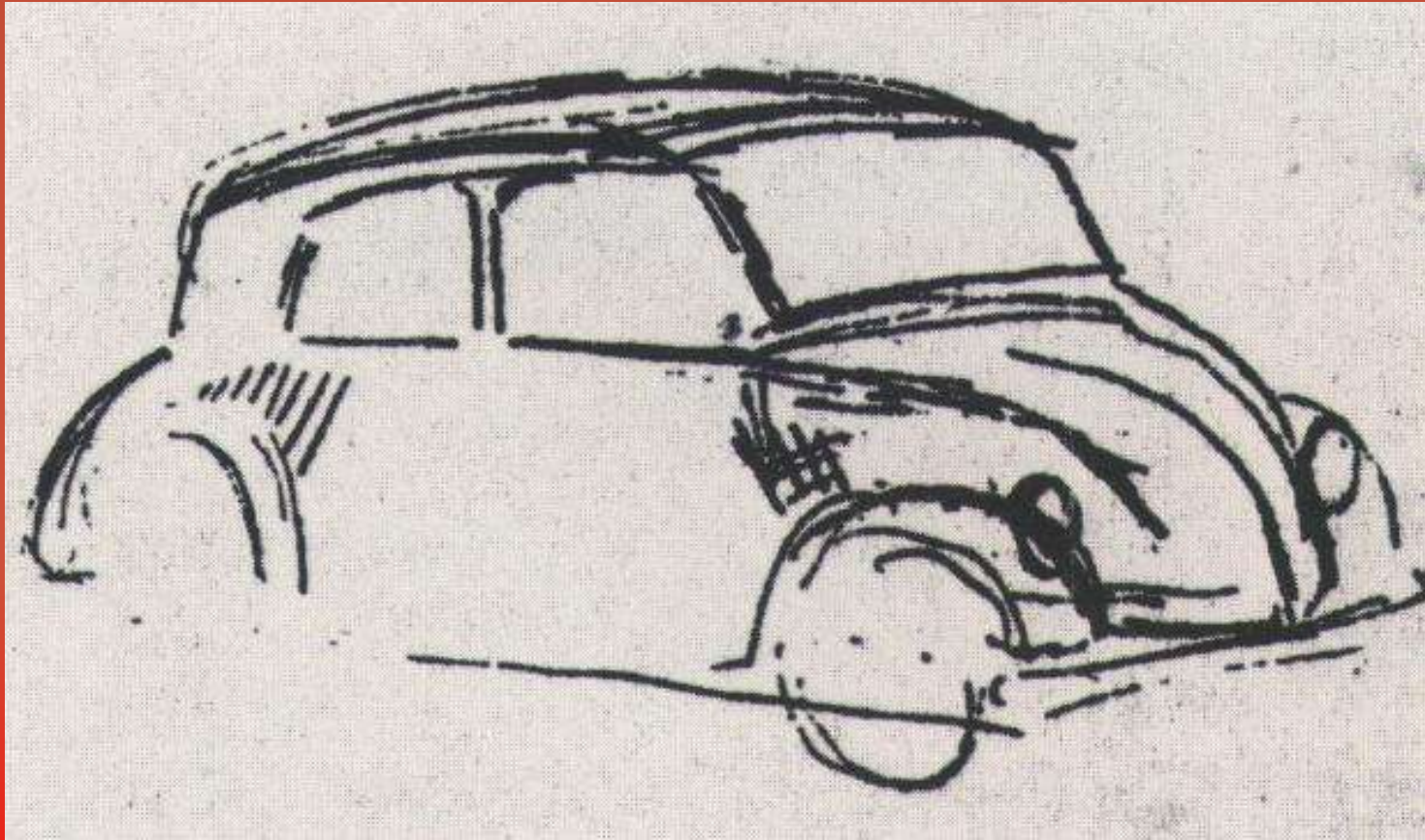


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Hitler actually helped design the first Volkswagen Beetle...



WWII meant VW production changed to military vehicles, the Type 82 *Kübelwagen* "Bucket car" utility vehicle which were used to equip the German forces.



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In 1913 still a poor vagrant Hitler moved to Munich, Germany.

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With the outbreak of World War I Hitler volunteered in the German Army and was placed in the 16<sup>th</sup> Bavarian Reserve Infantry Regiment



Which one is Adolph Hitler?????



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He fought bravely in the war and was promoted to corporal and was decorated with the Iron Cross, a metal he wore proudly on his uniform until his death



(Ironically the Captain who recommended Hitler for these awards was Jewish)

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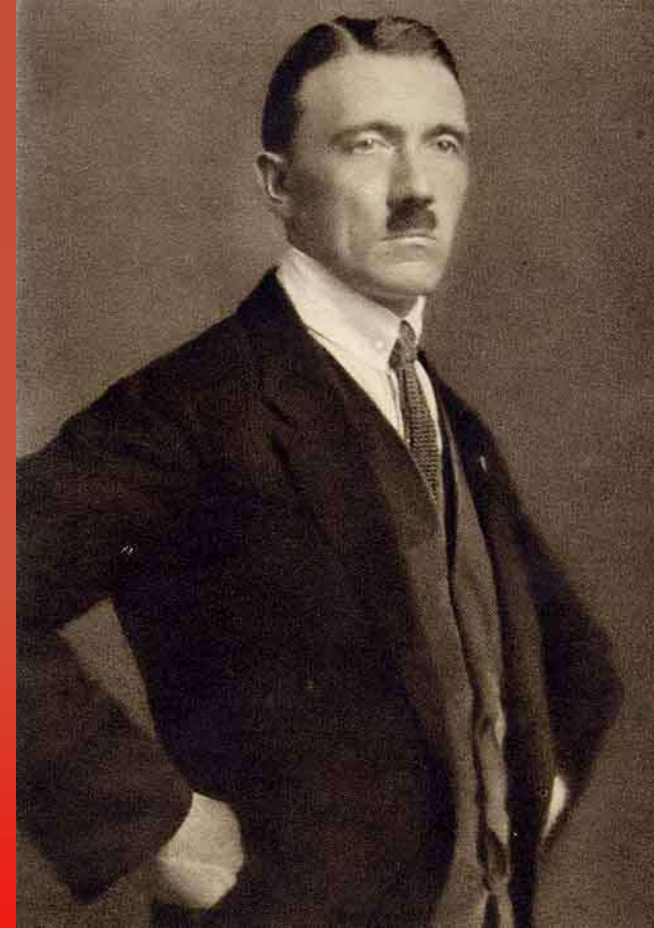


On the day that the WWI peace agreement was reached Hitler was recuperating from a British gas attack in a hospital.



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After the Treaty of Versailles Hitler began spying on certain local political groups



While observing a “German Workers Party” meeting he became so infuriated with the treaties terms that he delivered a fierce speech

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The founder of the party, **Anton Drexler** was so impressed by Hitler's explosion that he asked him to join the party



Hitler became the **seventh** official member of the German workers party in 1919



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Within six months there were over two thousand people interested in the German Workers Party



Hitler began speaking at rallies and presented his ideas on to future of Germany...which infatuated German citizens. (Hitler's German Workers Party membership Card)

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The party was officially renamed the National Socialist German Workers Party (NAZI) and by 1921 Adolf Hitler had secured total control of the group.



The party grew and Hitler created his infamous SS (Schutzstaffel) which was to be his personal bodyguards under the command of Heinrich Himmler



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The Munich Putsch was an attempt by the Nazi Party to seize control of Germany in 1923.



Hitler viewed the freely elected government of the Weimar Republic as an abomination...remember the Allies had imposed this government after the German defeat in World War I.

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Hitler brought his Nazi party (heavily armed) into Munich, Bavaria and attempted to overthrow the government due to his frustrations with The Weimar Republic



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Hitler pushed his way painstakingly through the crowd, fired a shot into the ceiling and jumped on a chair yelling:



"The national revolution has broken out! The hall is filled with six hundred men. Nobody is allowed to leave. The Bavarian government and the government at Berlin are overthrown. A new government will be formed at once. The barracks of the *Reichstag* and those of the police are occupied. Both have rallied to the swastika."

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The attempt failed and Hitler was put on trial and sent to **Landsberg Jail** for his treason.

He was sentenced to five years but only served nine months...while in prison he wrote his famous book 'Mein Kampf'.





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- Adolf Hitler, age 35, on his release from **Landsberg Prison**, on December 20, 1924.

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By 1929 Many Germans tried to get ride of Hindenburg, the current president of the Weimar Republic



They blamed the stock market crash and Germany's economic problems on Hindenburg.



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At this time Hitler began gaining popularity within Germany's army and big industrialist (who later financed the Nazi Party)



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In 1932 Hitler decided to stand against Hindenburg in the forthcoming presidential election.



The election ended with Hindenburg having 49.6 % of the vote and Hitler having 30.1 %, thus Hindenburg was reelected



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Hindenburg appointed Hitler “Chancellor” a position that held absolutely no power...this was an attempt to keep Hitler from becoming to powerful



1933, the Nazis organized a massive torchlight parade in Berlin to celebrate the appointment of Hitler as Chancellor of Germany.

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Becoming “Chancellor” gave Hitler a foothold into the German Government that he wanted to take over.

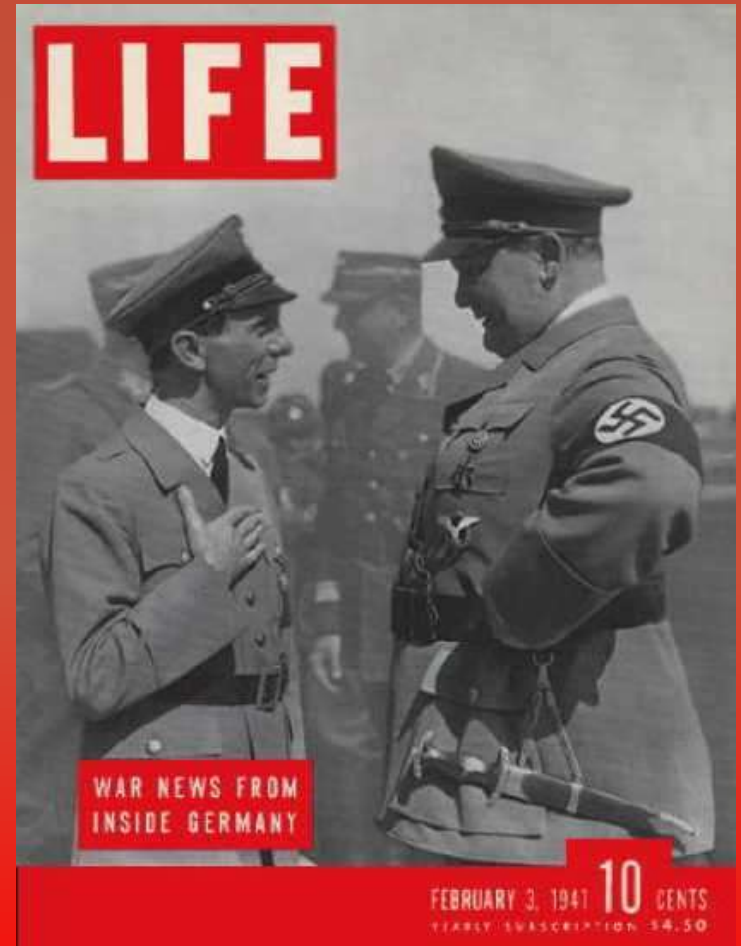


(Parade 1933, Hitler is in the far right window)



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The last steps taken by Hitler in order to gain complete control over Germany occurred when the “Reichstag” (A German Political Building) was destroyed by a huge fire



The fire was most likely planned by the Nazi's Goebbels and Goering (Two Top Nazi's)

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A Dutch communist was made the scapegoat for the fire.



This allowed Hitler to have all Communist, the second most powerful political party after the Nazi's arrested and later deported.



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Hitler then used the “fire” to obtain permission from President Hindenburg that would allow the Nazi government powers to arrest anyone who could possibly be a threat to the nation



Basically this allowed the Nazi officials to suppress free speech of any political opponents who spoke out against the Nazi's

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The next big step in Adolph Hitler's plan to take power over the German Government was the **Enabling Act** in March of 1933.



This act would allow all **Power of Legislation** (Power to make laws) to be taken away from the **Reichstag** (Weimar Republic) and transferred over to Hitler's cabinet for four years



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Basically this allowed Hitler and his Cabinet the authority to enact laws without the participation of the *Reichstag* for four years.



The act **Enabling Act** required two-thirds majority to pass, which it received very easily.

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By July of 1933 Hitler had proclaimed a law stating that the Nazi Party was the only political party allowed in Germany (The Nazification of Germany was underway...legally)



All non-Nazi organizations were disabled and all states were stripped of power while Nazi officers were installed as state governors.



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President Hindenburg died on August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1934.



Hitler decided that upon Hindenburg's death the offices of the President and Chancellor (Hitler's Job) would be combined

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Hindenburg's final request was that The German Monarchy (King) be restored upon his death.

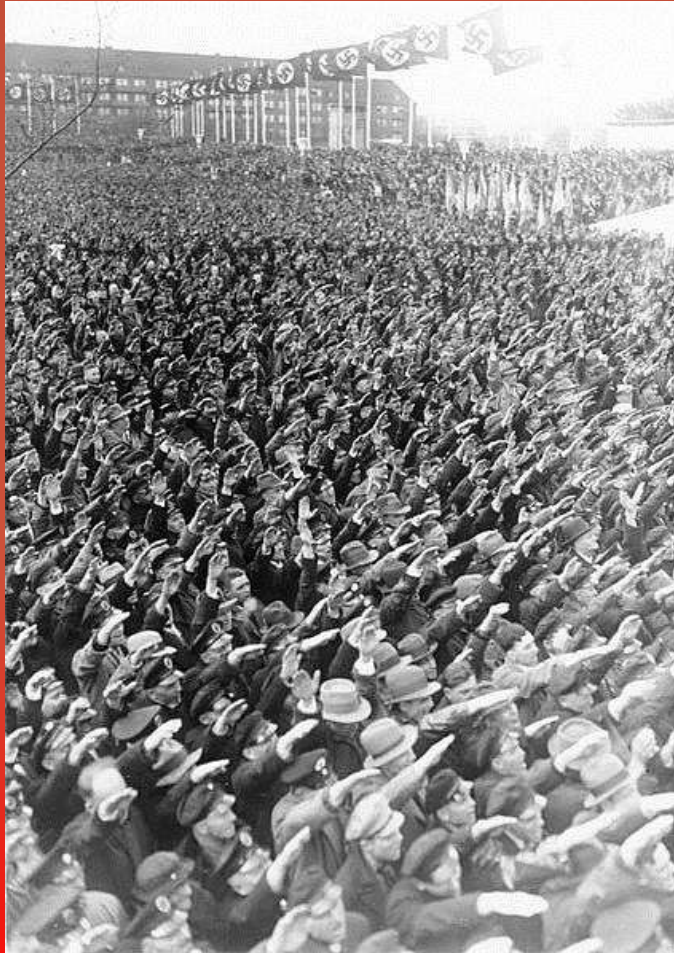


Hitler was able to suppress these wishes and never printed President Hindenburg's will



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Hitler's final act of brilliant madness was to make the entire armed forces of Germany swear an oath of loyalty to him personally.



Hitler has become "Führer and Reich Chancellor" and the title of President was abolished

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Hitler ordered the army to be increased from 100,000 man (The Treaty of Versailles limit) to 300,000 with in two months



This order was to be carried out in utmost secrecy



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Hitler also began designing military craft and training air force pilots in order to create the German Luftwaffe (Air Force)

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The Navy was also given orders to begin constructing large warships and submarines (Forbidden by the Treaty of Versailles)



Parts were secretly being built in foreign ship yards outside of Germany



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German Submarine, U.118.  
Washed Ashore at Hastings. 3

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While increasing Germany's military strength Hitler also began spreading a web of lies regarding his position on the armed forces.



Hitler announced that he had no intentions of re-militarizing the Rhineland and that he would respect the Treaty of Versailles



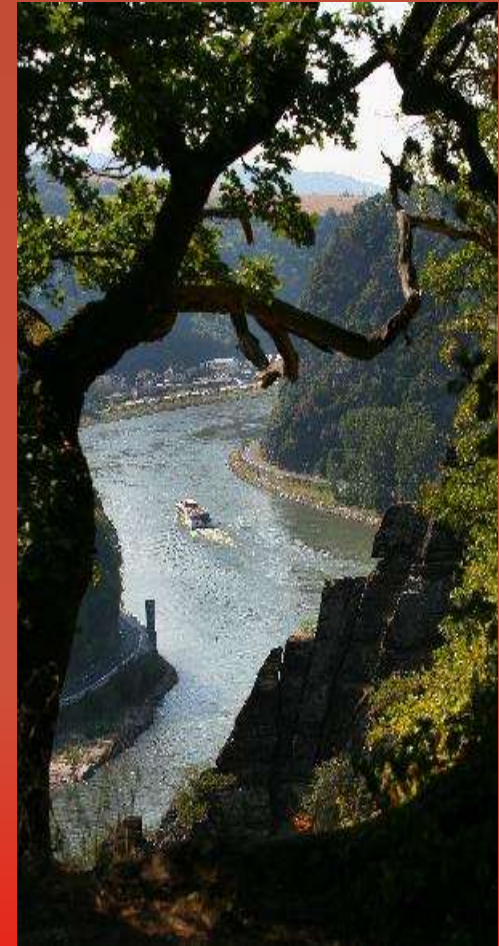
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The Treaty of Versailles stated that Germany was forbidden to maintain any fortification on the Rhine River area.



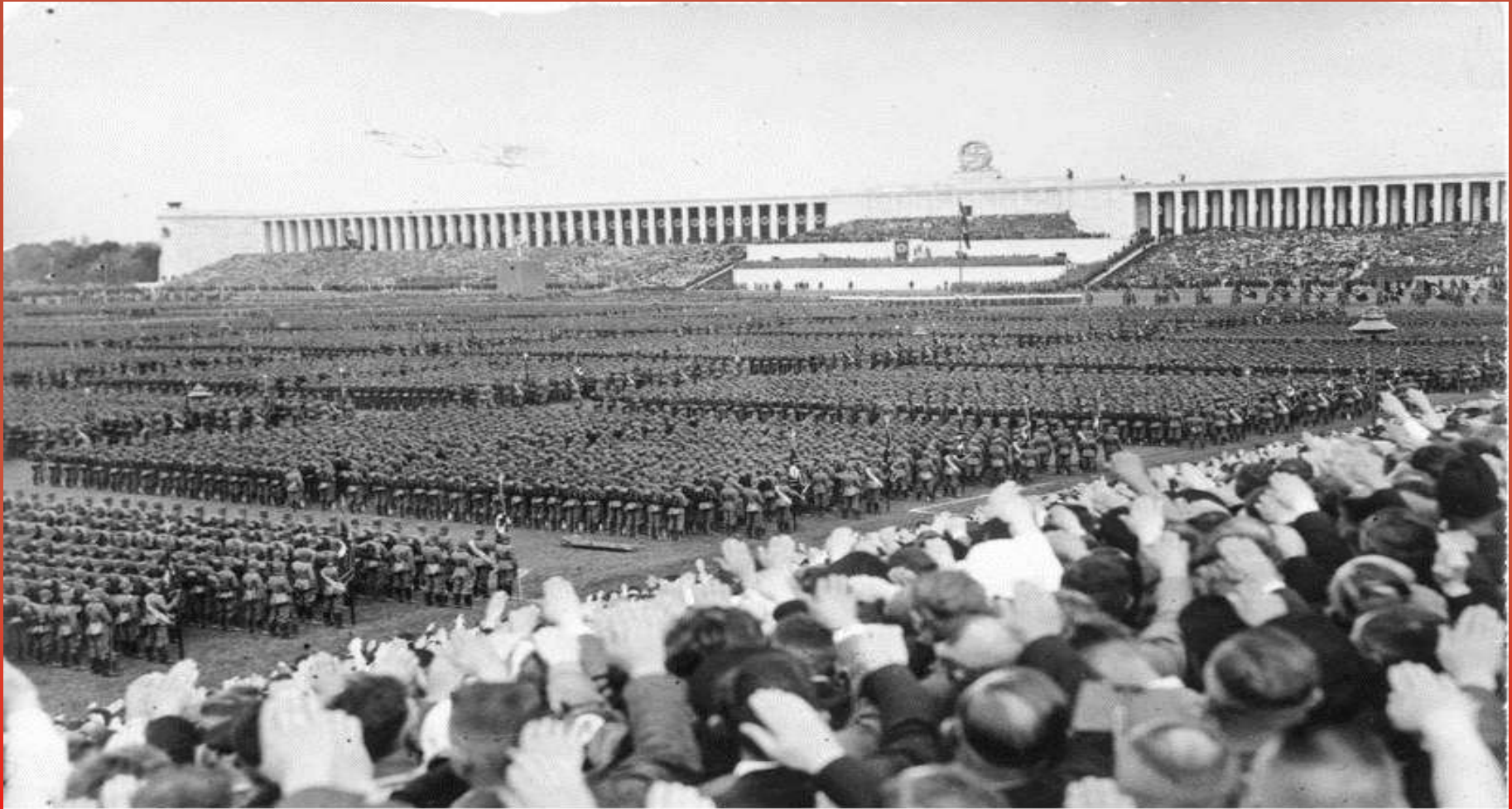
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If a violation took place it would be regarded as committing a hostile act...and as calculated to disturb the peace of the world...Hitler marched his troops into the Rhineland in 1936



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Hitler also stated that he was prepared to disarm the heaviest military weapons and limit the strength of the German navy.

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**Propaganda** – A system of spreading your point of view to the public through any means necessary.



Posters, movies and cartoons were just a few different ways Hitler scattered Nazi ideas to the people of Germany



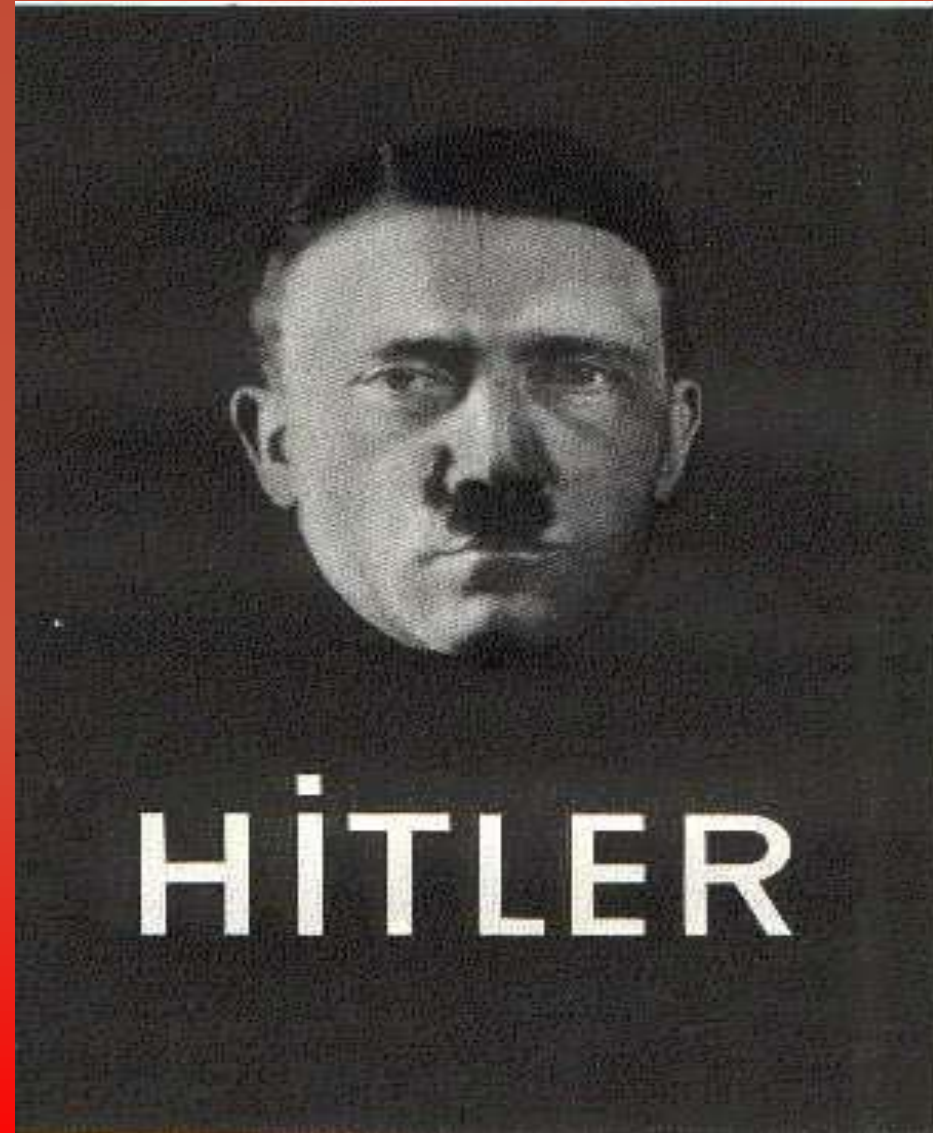
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Hitler's propaganda infected all aspects of German life...it spoke to the pure Germans

This propaganda had specific images and feelings that only true, wholesome Germans could understand

“All propaganda has to be popular and has to accommodate itself to the comprehension of the least intelligent of those whom it seeks to reach.” – Adolf Hitler

“By the skillful and sustained use of propaganda, one can make a people see even heaven as hell or an extremely wretched life as paradise.” – Adolf Hitler



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The United States had many forms of propaganda that were used to obtain specific reactions in World War II



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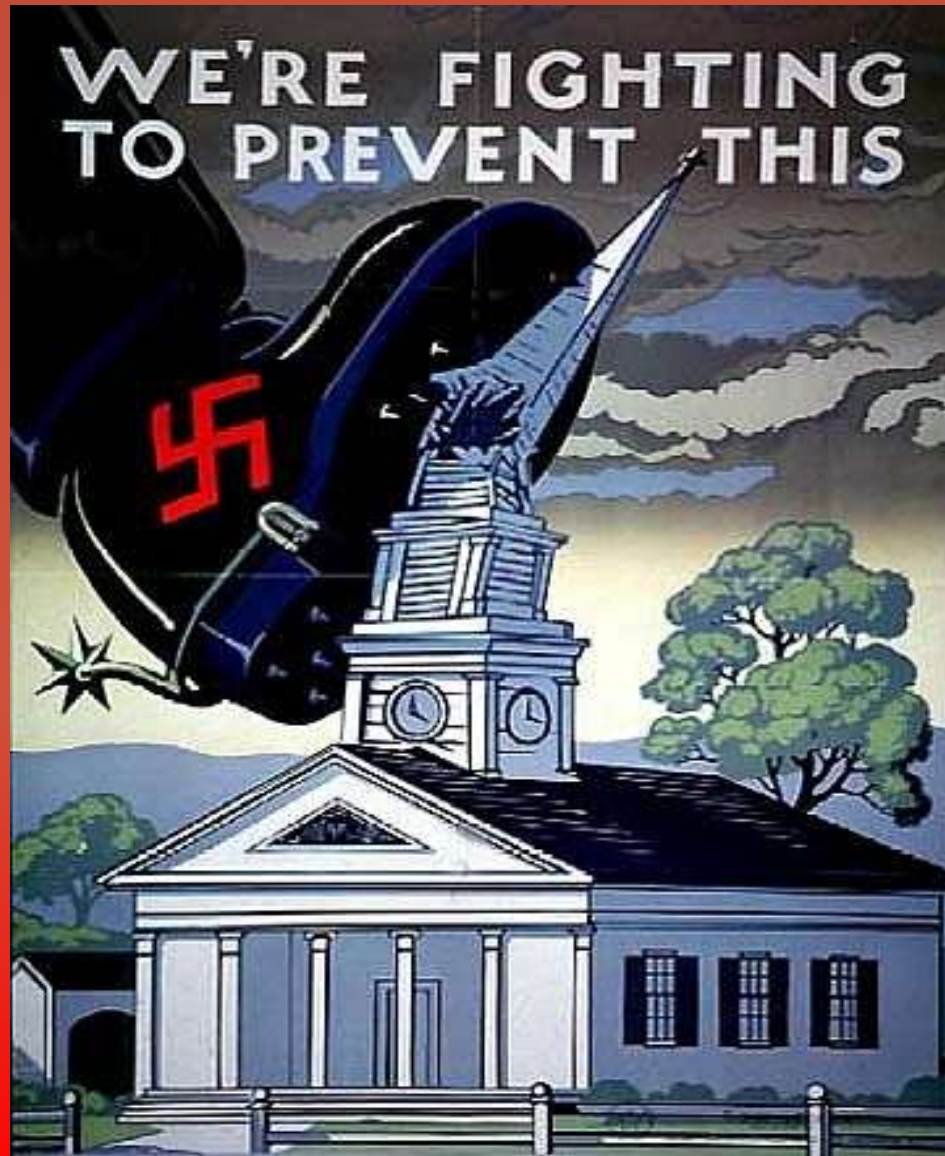
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War bonds generate capital (Money) for the government and make civilians feel involved in their national militaries.



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Look at the Swastika and tell me what other images it looks like....

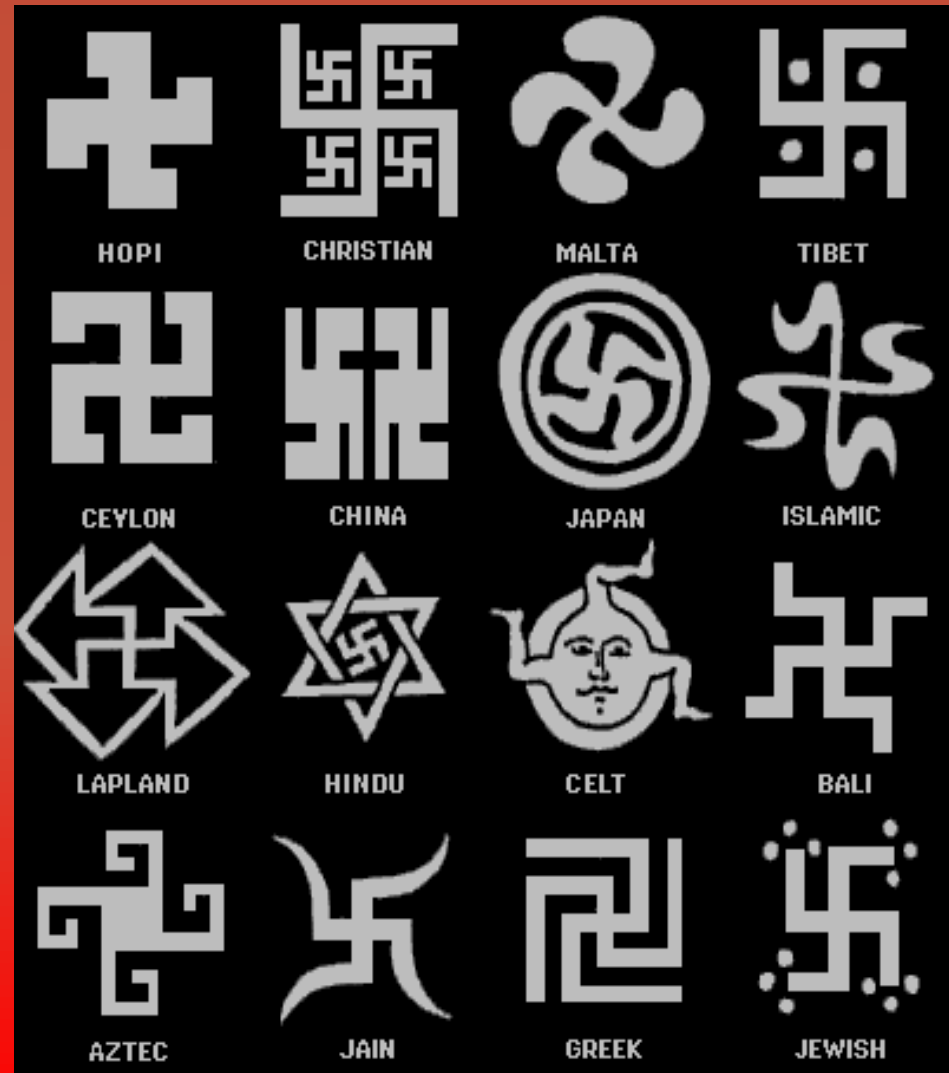


The **swastika** is an equilateral cross with its arms bent at right angles, in either right-facing  $\卐$  form or its mirrored left-facing  $\卍$  form.



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The swastika symbol is one of the oldest symbols on the Earth and can be found in all religions and traditions across the globe.



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Roman Empire Mosaic



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Mosaic swastika in excavated Byzantine.



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Greek helmet with swastika marks on the top 350-325

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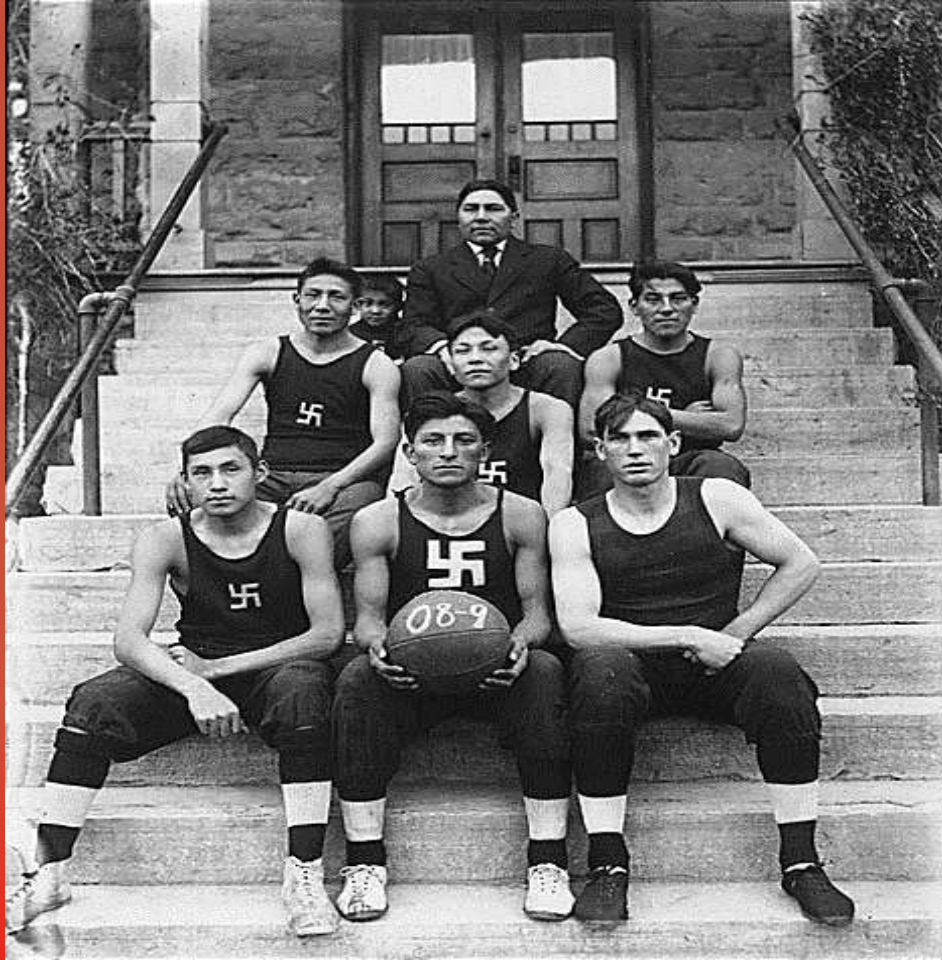


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In Indian custom, new cars are sometimes painted with a Swastika to signify blessing for road safety.

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A Native American Basketball team, 1909 / The aviator Matilde Moisant wearing a swastika medallion in 1912...the symbol was popular as a good luck charm with early aviators



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The Nazi Party formally adopted the swastika in 1920.

This was used on the party's flag (*right*), badge, and armband.



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Adolph Hitler painted Germany in the Swastika...



Everyone had a great admiration and love for the symbol



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- In August 1936, Adolf Hitler's Nazi dictatorship scored a huge propaganda success as host of the Summer Olympics in Berlin.



- The Games were a brief, two-week interlude in Germany's escalating campaign against its Jewish population and the country's march toward war.

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- Jesse Owens won four Gold Medals at the 1936 Olympics...Hitler of course refused to shake his hand.



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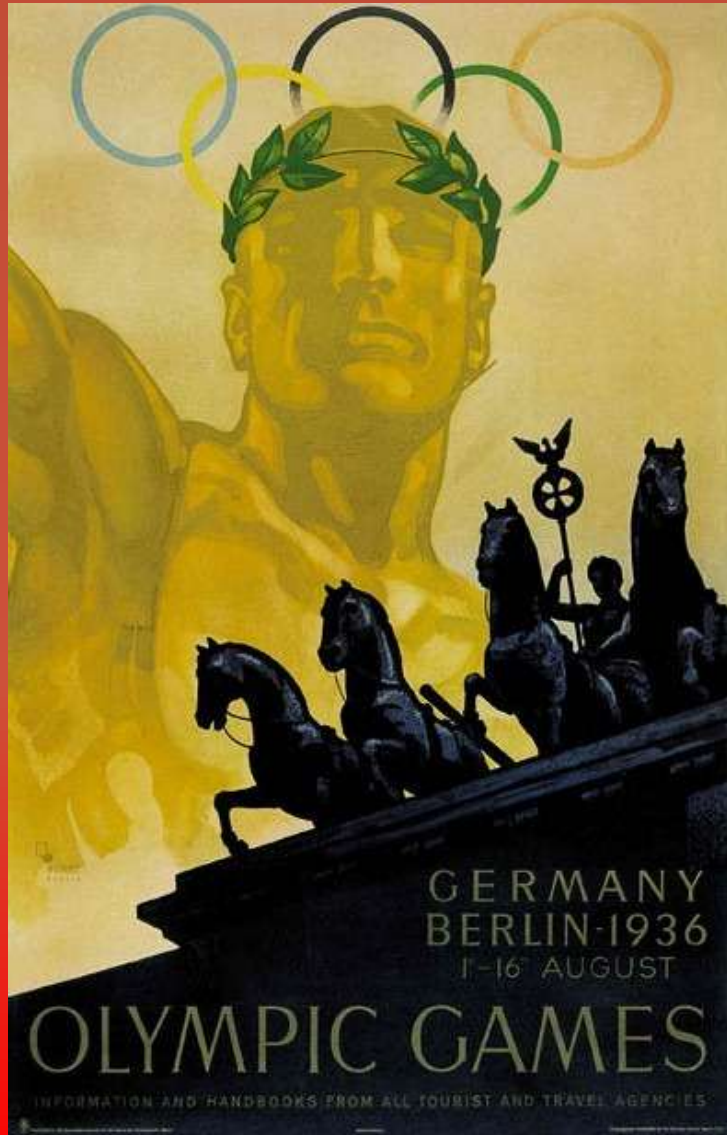


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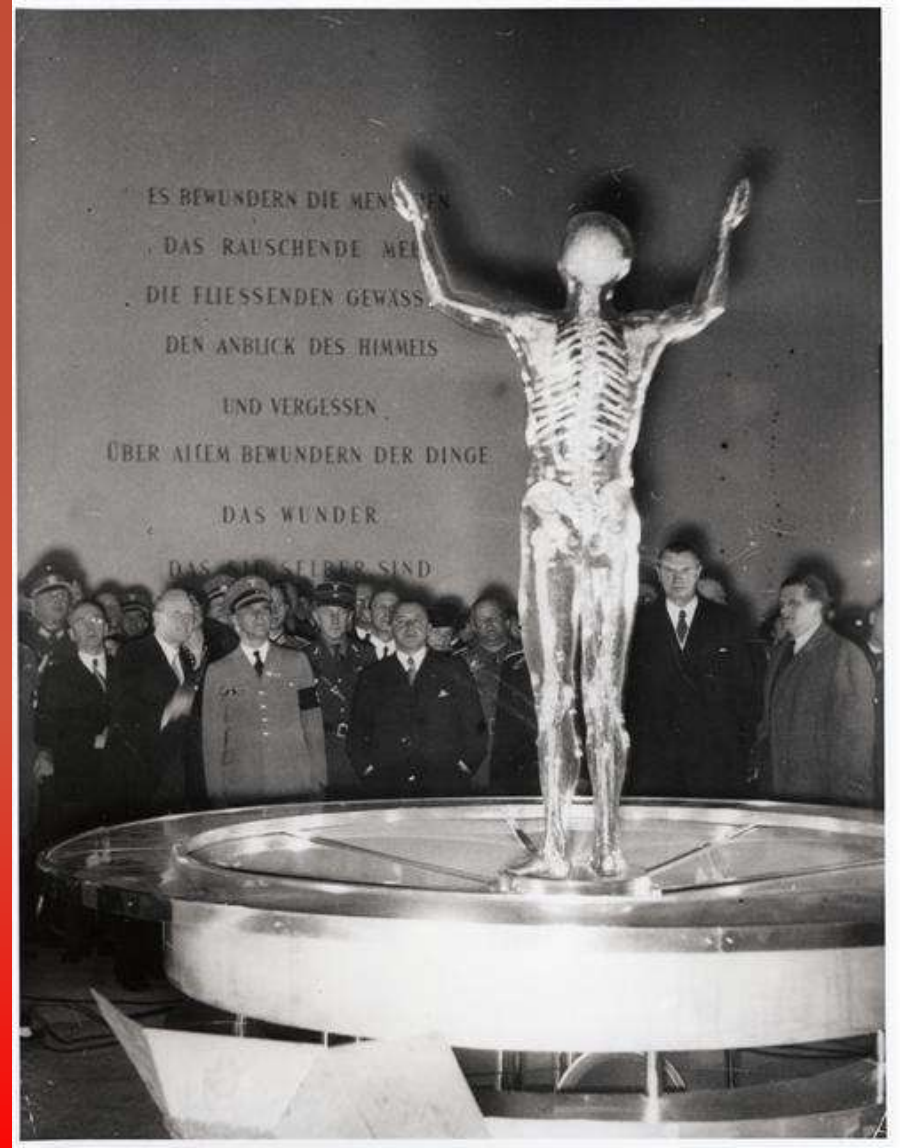
An “SA”, “Storm Division”, or “Brown Shirt” recruiting poster.

These soldiers played a key role in Hitler's rise to power, they acted as his personal body guard



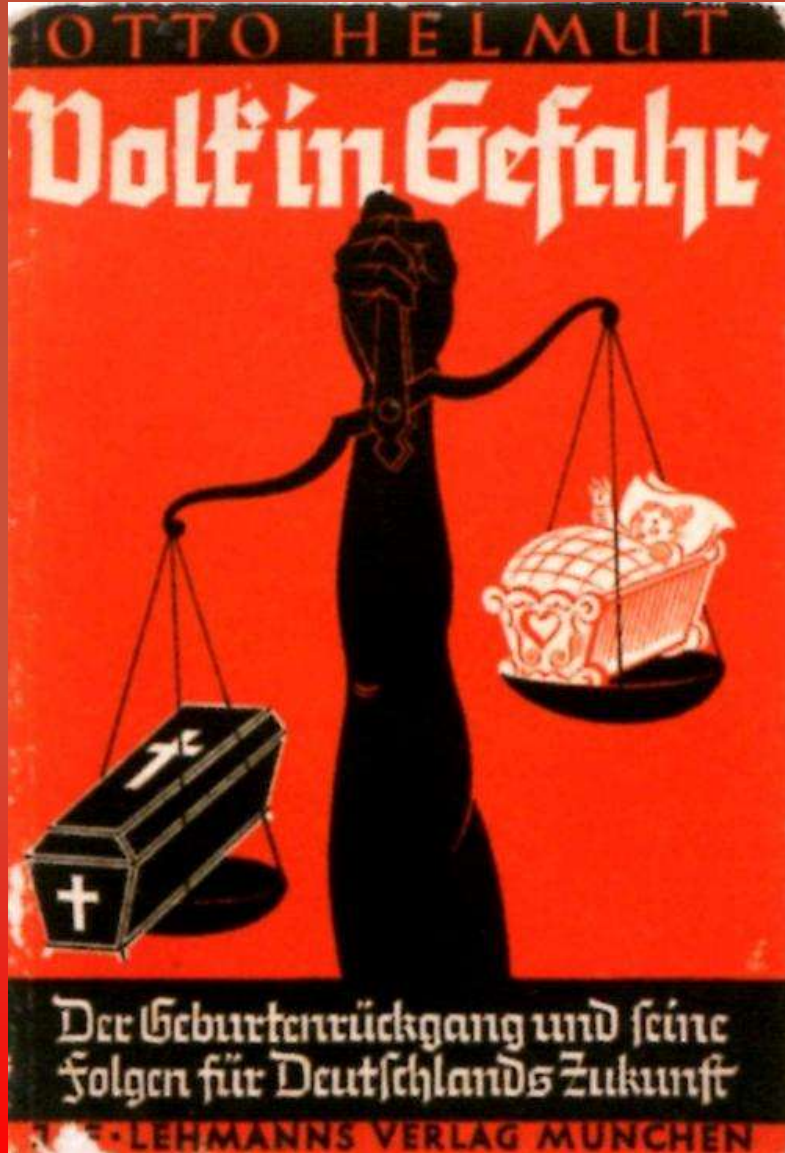
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- From 1933 to 1945, Nazi Germany carried out a campaign to "cleanse" German society of individuals viewed as biological threats to the nation's "health."
- Enlisting the help of physicians and medically trained geneticists, psychologist, and anthropologists, the Nazis developed racial health policies that began with the mass sterilization of "genetically diseased" persons and ended with the near annihilation of European Jewish population.





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The Nazi regime actually awarded a bronze “Honor Cross of German Motherhood” to “fit” Germanic Aryan women who had four or five children, a silver version to women who had six or seven children and a gold version of the cross to women who had eight or more children.





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Text states “Long Live Germany”

This is a direct religious comparison depicting Hitler as a god like figure.



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Text reads, "**Before:**  
Unemployment, hopelessness,  
desolation, strikes, lockouts.  
**Today:** Work, joy, discipline,  
camaraderie. Give the Führer  
your vote!"





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1930's poster with the text stating,  
"Germany is free"

What is Hitler looking at?



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Text reads, "To Germany"





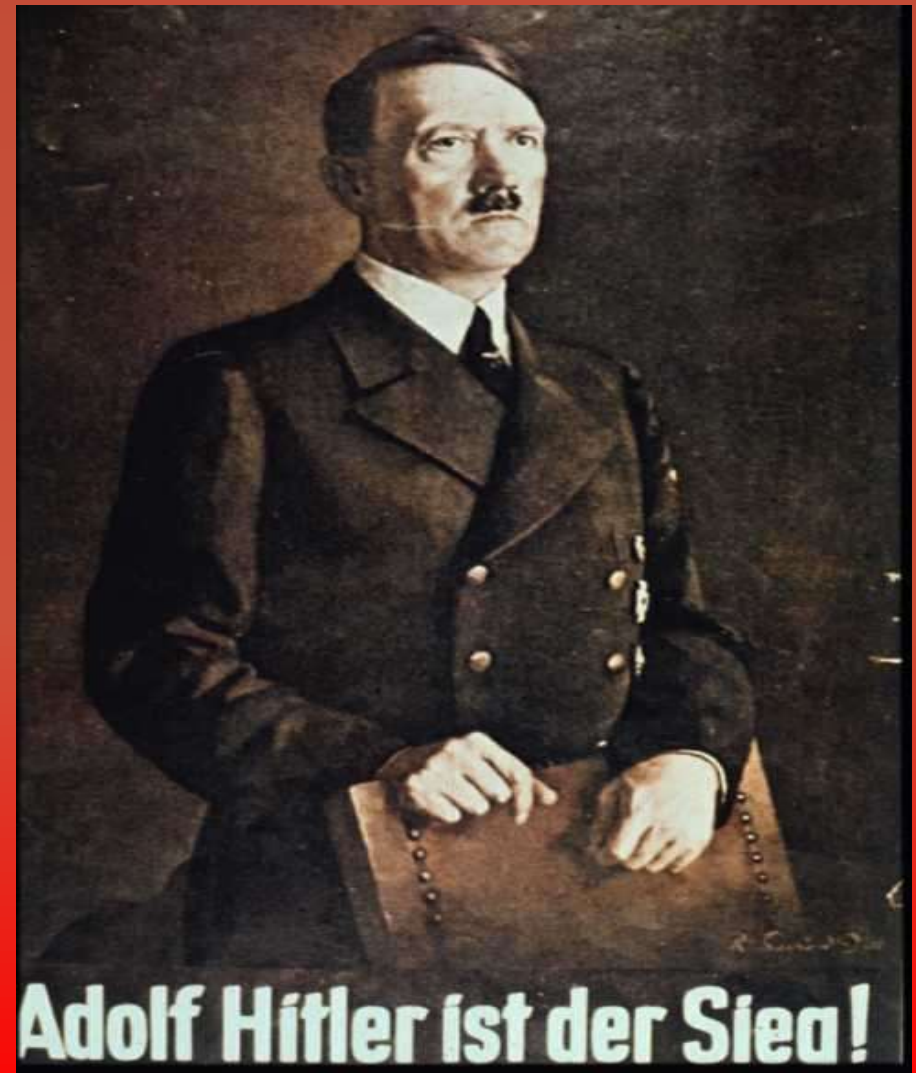
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1940 poster reads: "Youth Serves the Führer. All 10-year-olds into the Hitler Youth." Membership in the Hitler Youth had become mandatory in 1936.



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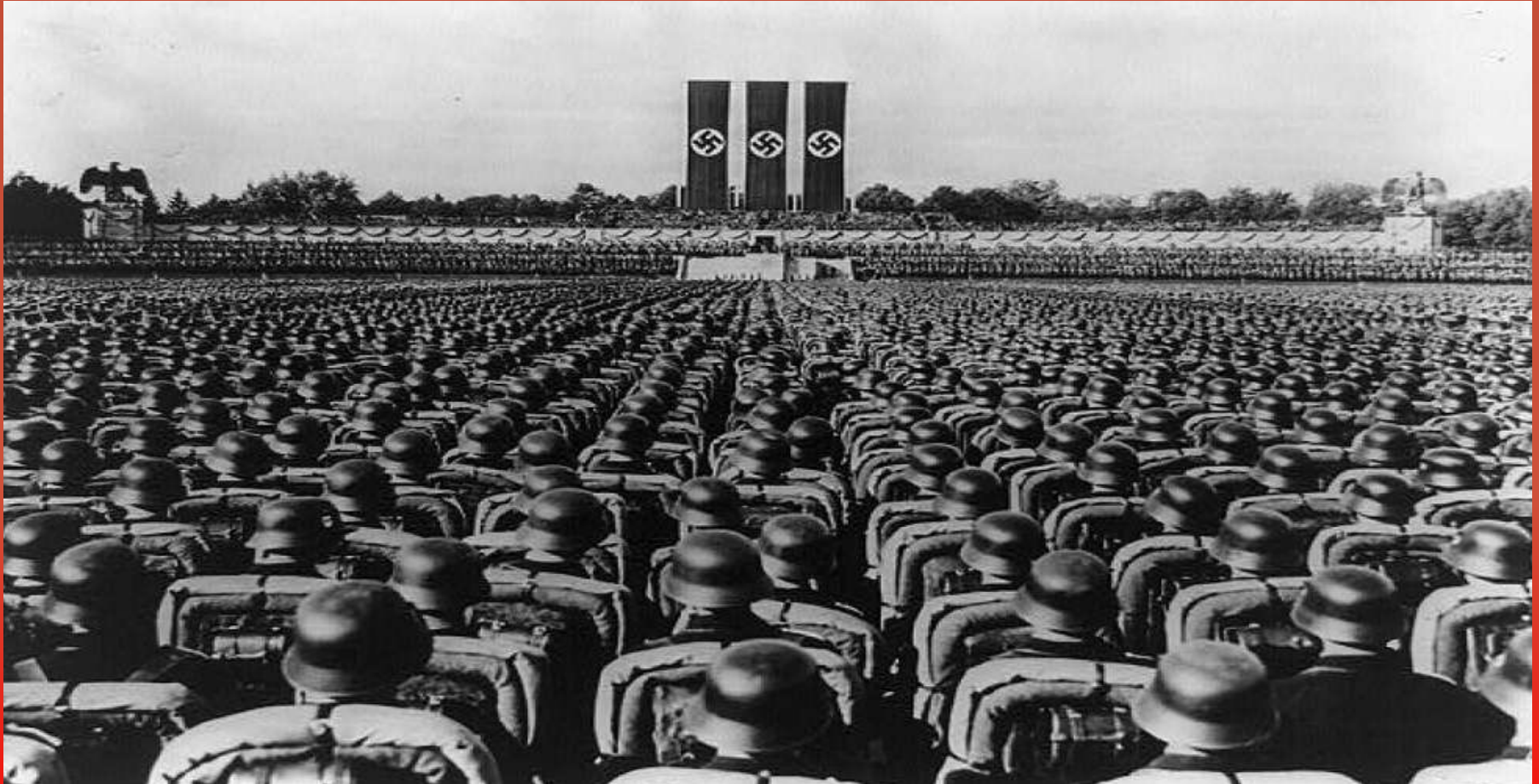
This is another common World War II poster. The caption: "Adolf Hitler is victory!"





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The Nuremberg Rally was the annual rally of the Nazi Party from 1923-1938 in Germany



These rallies were large propaganda events held by the state

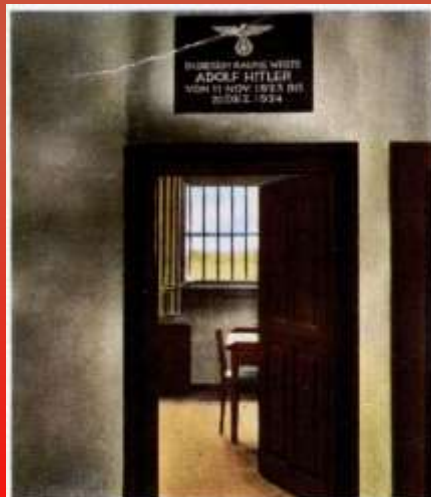
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These rallies were turned into a propaganda movie by Leni Riefenstahl called, "Triumph of the Will"



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■ Nazi trading cards...

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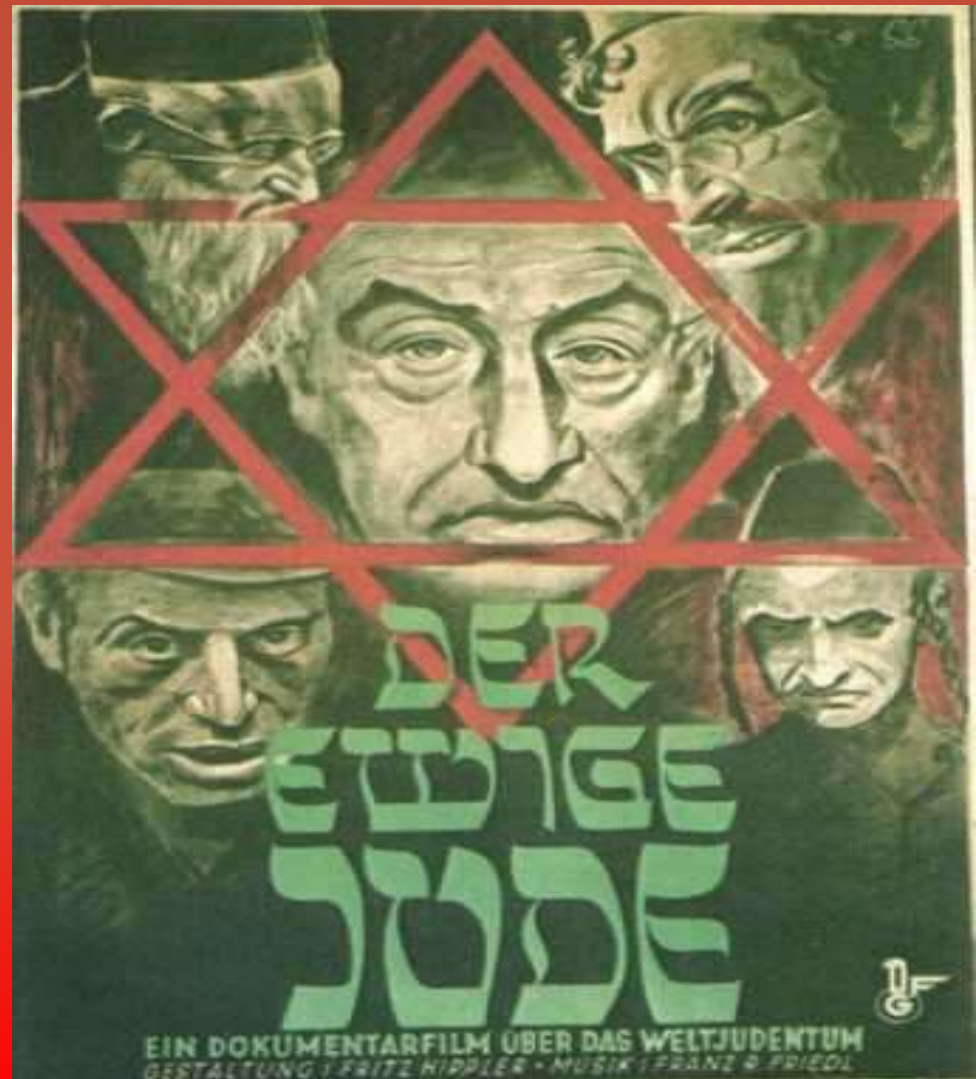
The caption: "The Jew: The inciter of war, the prolonger of war."





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This 1940 poster advertises the worst of the Nazi anti-Semitic films, "The Eternal Jew."



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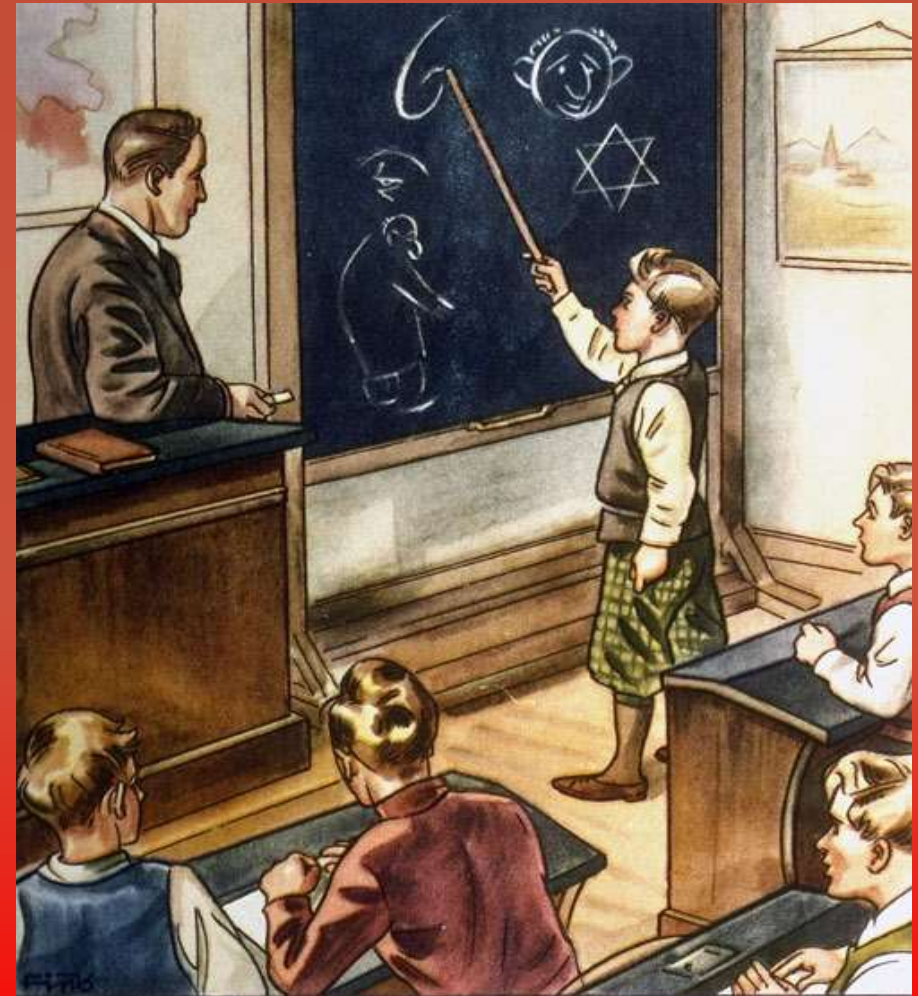
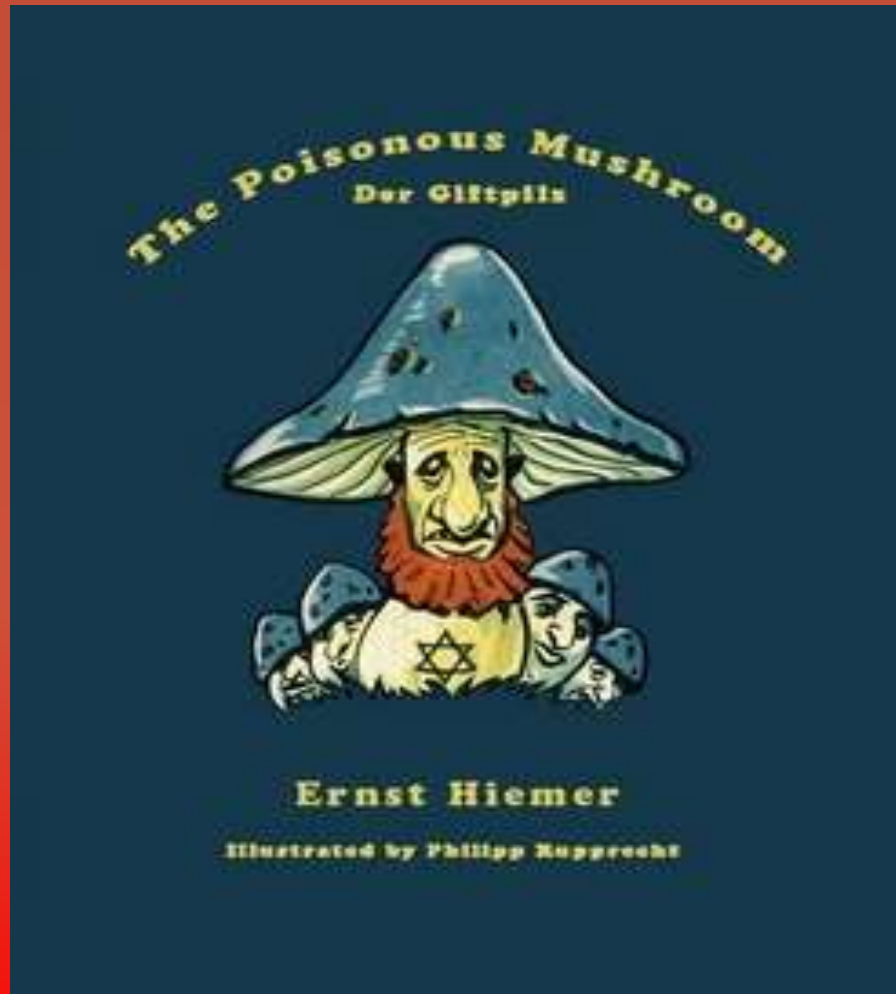


“The wandering Jew”



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- *Der Giftpilz* is a children's book published by Julius Streicher in 1938.



- The title is German for "the toadstool" or "the poisonous mushroom"



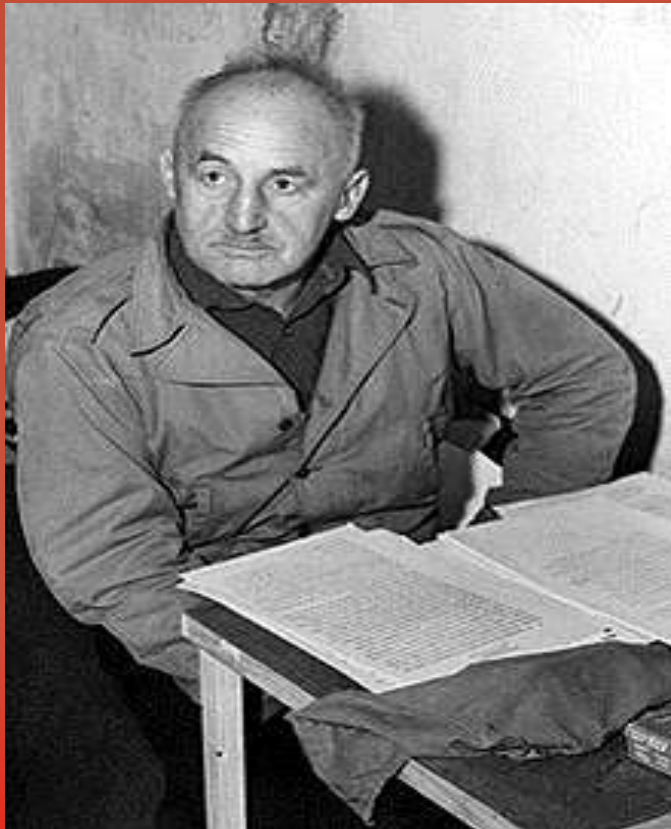
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- Julius Streicher was a prominent Nazi prior to World War II.



- He was the founder and publisher of *Der Stürmer* newspaper, which became a central element of the Nazi propaganda machine, after the war, he was convicted of crimes against humanity and executed.



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German children read an anti-Jewish propaganda book titled DER GIFTPILZ ( "The Poisonous Mushroom").

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Illustration from a children's book. The headlines say "Jews are our misfortune" and "How the Jew cheats." Germany, 1936.





Jews were depicted as “Sub-Human”

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"Der ewige Jude" (The Wandering Jew), a Nazi anti-Jewish propaganda exhibition, a case features "typical Jewish external features." Munich, Germany, November 1937.