

# Contents

---

Foreword by Dr. Carl Wieland	xiii
Preface by Dr. David Herbert	xv
Acknowledgements	xix
00 Introduction	01
01 The Holocaust: Government-sponsored mass murder inspired by social Darwinism	17
02 Adolf Hitler: A doctrinaire Darwinist	37
03 Was Adolf Hitler a Christian?	55
04 Darwinism, Nazi race policies and the Holocaust	75
05 Hitler's leading Darwinian scientists	103
06 Hitler's academics and doctors	127
07 Dr. Josef Mengele: Darwin's angel of death	149
08 Martin Bormann: Hitler's right-hand man	165

09	Heinrich Himmler: Darwinist and mass murderer	177
10	Dr. Joseph Goebbels: Darwinist father of the Holocaust	191
11	Hermann Göring comes under the influence of Hitler and Darwinism	207
12	Reinhard Heydrich: Fervent anti-Christian and Holocaust mastermind	219
13	Dr. Alfred Rosenberg: The "scribe of the new gospel" of Darwinism	229
14	Julius Streicher: Anti-Catholic Darwinist and Hitler's mentor	243
15	Lebensborn: Breeding better Nazis using Darwinism	253
16	Darwinism in the biology textbooks of the Third Reich	265
17	What can be learned from attempts to apply Darwinism to society	295
	Bibliography	315

# The Holocaust: Government-sponsored mass murder inspired by social Darwinism

---

## INTRODUCTION

**I**n 1942, journalist Wallace Deuel wrote, “The Nazis are [now] engaged in the greatest programme of selective human breeding in all modern history. They have set out to change, by controlled procreation, the whole character of the German people.”<sup>1</sup> Part of this programme of applying social Darwinism to society was the elimination of less fit humans, including Jews, Slavs and other “inferior” racial groups, a genocide programme collectively known today as the Holocaust.

The period of recent history called the Holocaust formally began in 1933 when Hitler assumed power in Germany. It ended only in 1945 when the Nazis were soundly defeated by the Allied nations. The term holocaust is from the Greek word *holokauston*, meaning “sacrifice by fire,” and refers to the Nazis’ persecution and planned total slaughter of all Jewish people in Europe. The Hebrew word *Shoah*, meaning “devastation, ruin or waste,” is also used to refer to this historical genocide.

---

<sup>1</sup> Wallace Deuel, *People under Hitler* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1942), 180.

In addition to murdering Jews, the Nazis used Darwinian-inspired eugenics to justify the removal of several other “inferior races” and groups from the human gene pool. The categories the Nazis judged as “sub-human peoples” included Slavic peoples (especially Poles and Russians), Gypsies, Asiatic and Mongolian races and the disabled.<sup>2</sup> These peoples were labelled racially inferior and less evolved, and, consequently, were claimed to have a genetically corrosive influence on society. Anyone who actively resisted the Nazis, such as Jehovah’s Witnesses and the communists, were often sent to forced labour camps to die or were murdered directly.<sup>3</sup>

The primary perpetrator of the Holocaust was a political party called the Nazis, an acronym for *Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei* (in English, National Socialist German Worker’s Party) and their supporters. The Nazis used a variety of terms to conceal their actual goals, which included the application of active social Darwinism to governmental policy, requiring the extermination of all inferior races. For example, the “Final Solution” phrase was a euphemism they used to refer to their plans to murder every Jew living in Europe.

## THE GOD OF THE NAZIS

What the Nazis called Biologism (*Biologismus*) was “an essential feature of National Socialism,” which acquired its ideological base largely by applying biology, specifically Darwinian evolution, to humans. The Nazis taught that both “the biological doctrine of race... and of the concept of ‘Living Space,’ [were], according to... Social Darwinism” fully

justified by the “eternal struggle for existence” and the “right of the stronger.” The theory of heredity had a particular impact, influencing National Socialist marriage law and providing a logic for the euthanasia program. The ideology of the “Volk Community”

---

2 Peter Longerich, *Holocaust: The Nazi Persecution and Murder of the Jews* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010), 241.

3 Jerry Bergman, “The Jehovah’s Witnesses’ Experience in the Nazi Concentration Camps: A History of Their Conflicts with the Nazi State,” *Journal of Church and State* 38, No. 1 (Winter 1996): 87–113.

was also derived from...biologism, which from the alleged primacy of species preservation over self-preservation inferred a natural law of the subordination of the individual to the community.<sup>4</sup>

The Nazis stressed that *Kampf* (often translated as “struggle”) was “a central concept of National Socialist ideology.” They taught that the basic force in human life was the struggle “among opposing powers and forces for dominance or destruction.” To lend support to achieve this goal the Nazis appealed “to the authority of”

[Charles] Darwin (“struggle for existence”), and Nietzsche (struggle as the manifestation of the “will to power”). In the Social Darwinist sense, struggle was explained as the agent of political and racial selection.<sup>5</sup>

Darwin’s 1871 book, *The Descent of Man*, influenced the Nazi “Theory of Descent” (*Abstammungslehre*) idea and explained the existence of

the present variety of species as the result of a process of natural selection. The struggle for existence allows only the best-adapted individuals to survive and reproduce, while the others are “culled out.” In the biologicistic worldview of National Socialism, the Theory of Descent became the model for human society, peoples, and races as well. Fantasies of master races and theories of racial value have their origins here.<sup>6</sup>

Darwinism influenced not only the development of the worldwide eugenics movement but also the academic elite’s attempt to disenfranchise Christianity. As science historian Ronald Numbers concluded, in Darwin’s “revolutionary essay *On the Origin of Species* (1859), Darwin aimed primarily ‘to overthrow the dogma of separate creations’

---

4 Christian Zentner and Friedemann Bedürftig, eds., *The Encyclopedia of the Third Reich* (New York: Da Capo Press, 1997), 86.

5 Zentner and Bedürftig, eds., *The Encyclopedia of the Third Reich*, 488.

6 Zentner and Bedürftig, eds., *The Encyclopedia of the Third Reich*, 192.

and extend the domain of natural law throughout the organic world. He succeeded spectacularly.<sup>7</sup> As this book will document, in almost all cases, acceptance of Darwinism was accompanied by the rejection of Christianity, either as a cause or an effect. Many leading Nazis, such as Martin Bormann, were aggressively hostile to Christianity and what it stood for.

### THE GERMAN SOCIETY FOR RACIAL HYGIENE

An important factor that contributed to the Holocaust was the support of many leading German academics. One example is The German Society for Racial Hygiene (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Rassenhygiene*), an association founded in 1905 by Professor Alfred Ploetz to

propagate the doctrine of racial purity as the sole means to stem the [genetic] decline of German Volk. It applied principles of animal and plant husbandry to human society ("social biology"), thus foreshadowing National Socialist racism (social Darwinism). It dissolved at the war's end in 1945.<sup>8</sup>

The *Gesellschaft für Rassenhygiene* was the major political organization behind the German racial policies and, as documented in Chapters 6 and 12, was supported by many leading scientists.

### HITLER'S WORLDVIEW

Hitler was a committed Darwinist and "spoke repeatedly of his Darwinian worldview, such as in his book *Mein Kampf*," which documented that he "possessed an internally logical and consistent ideology and that he felt committed to its premises and goals to the end" of his life.<sup>9</sup> The basis of his worldview was "a central concept of National Socialist ideology," namely that the Darwinian "struggle for existence governed all beings," and involved "the right of the stronger applied to individuals as well as to communities" to suppress the racially inferior who

7 Ronald L. Numbers, *Science and Christianity in Pulpit and Pew* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007), 53.

8 Zentner and Bedürftig, eds., *The Encyclopedia of the Third Reich*, 339–340.

9 Zentner and Bedürftig, eds., *The Encyclopedia of the Third Reich*, 192.

were destined for destruction. For the “sake of self-preservation” a “stronger race will displace the weak ones,” and the “ridiculous fetters of so-called humanity” would break asunder, “in order to allow in its place the humanity of Nature, which destroys the weak in order to make way for the strong.”<sup>10</sup>

Hitler was guided by the

“nearly ironclad principle” of “Nature’s will to live” in the “internal exclusivity of species among all living beings on earth.” ... If unequal individuals were crossed, the offspring “no doubt will be superior to the racially inferior parental half, but not as advanced as the superior one. As a result it will later lose out in the struggle against a superior type. Such mating contradicts Nature’s will to improve breeds.” The result of this “ubiquitous instinct for racial purity in Nature is not only the sharp demarcations dividing individual races, but also their own internally uniform nature.” These “iron laws of Nature” were also responsible for the evolution of human history, in which race and racial purity were allotted decisive significance.<sup>11</sup>

## THE EXTENT OF THE HOLOCAUST

It is estimated that 55 million people died as a result of the Nazis war on those persons they regarded as “inferior races.” Specifically, over 11 million people were murdered directly as part of the Holocaust, including over 5 million Slavic Christians and 6 million Jews. The Nazis murdered close to two-thirds of all Jews then living in Europe, including an estimated 1.1 million children, in their quest to create a superior race.

## THE PERSECUTION BEGINS

The events leading up to the Holocaust were gradual and required a decade until the mass killing occurred by gassing in concentration camps. The beginning of the active Nazi persecution against Jews was

10 Zentner and Bedürftig, eds., *The Encyclopedia of the Third Reich*, 426–427.

11 Zentner and Bedürftig, eds., *The Encyclopedia of the Third Reich*, 426–427.

April 1, 1933, when the Nazis instigated their first formal action against German Jews by announcing a boycott of all Jewish-owned businesses. The first major formal step that would lead to the Holocaust was the Nuremberg Laws, passed on September 15, 1935, that began to exclude Jews from public life by the force of law. These laws stripped German Jews of their German citizenship and of all the rights of citizenship.

The Nuremberg Laws also prohibited marriages and extramarital sex between Jews and Germans because, in harmony with the racist eugenic policies of Nazi Germany, the Nazis believed the inferior genes of Jews would pollute the superior Aryan gene pool. The Nazis reasoned that reducing Jewish-Aryan contact as much as possible would lower the likelihood of sexual relations between the two "races," and, consequently, reduce the level of Aryan race degeneration.

The Nuremberg Laws also set the legal precedent for further anti-Jewish legislation and the anti-Jewish actions that soon followed. The Nazi leaders realized that they had to implement their genocide programme gradually to reduce public opposition, but ostensibly lawfully, to achieve their long-term eugenic goal of a pure, superior Aryan race. Additional anti-Jew laws included excluding Jews from parks, terminating them from civil service jobs (i.e., teaching and government work) and requiring Jews to register their property. One law even made it illegal for Jewish doctors to treat anyone other than Jewish patients. The wide-ranging set of anti-Semitic laws that were passed had the clear intent of, in Hermann Göring's words, "Aryanizing" Germany.

Jews were also required to turn over all precious metals they owned to the government, as well as Jewish-owned bonds, stocks, jewellery and art works. Furthermore, pensions for Jews dismissed from civil service jobs were arbitrarily reduced. Next, Jews were physically segregated within German towns, their driver's licenses suspended, Jewish-owned radios were confiscated, a curfew to keep Jews off the streets between 9 P.M. and 5 A.M. in the summer, and between 8 P.M. and 6 A.M. in the winter was passed and laws protecting tenants were not applicable to Jewish tenants.<sup>12</sup>

---

12 Michael Burleigh and Wolfgang Ippenmann, *The Racial State: Germany, 1933-1945* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991), 92-96.



# HITLER AND THE NAZI DARWINIAN WORLDVIEW

This book takes a fresh look at Germany's most influential Nazi leaders, examining their backgrounds, education and convictions. It provides compelling evidence that the rising influence of Darwinism, eugenics and race theory in early twentieth-century society set the foundation for the Nazi pursuit of engineering a German "master race"—and exterminating European Jews, Gypsies, Blacks, most Slavs and the Christian religion in the ensuing madness of the Holocaust of World War II.

The effect of social Darwinism, eugenics and anti-Semitism, and their relative acceptance in the scientific and medical communities of Germany and many other countries worldwide, opened the door to mass murder, medical experimentation and military conquest. This title examines the roots of Nazi ideology and unmasks the Darwinian "survival of the fittest" theory behind it.

**Jerry Bergman** (Ph.D.) has taught biology, genetics, chemistry, biochemistry, anthropology, geology and microbiology at the college/university level for over forty years. Dr. Bergman has taught at the University of Toledo Medical School and Bowling Green State University in Ohio. He was selected by his students for *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* in 2000 and 2005. Dr. Bergman has over 900 science publications to his credit, in twelve languages, has published thirty books and monographs and has been a consultant for over twenty science textbooks. He has spoken frequently about his research on American radio and television programs and at conferences throughout the world.

**joshua**  
press

[www.joshuapress.com](http://www.joshuapress.com)

EUGENICS / DARWINISM / HOLOCAUST

ISBN 978-1-894400-49-7



9 781894 400497