

Don't buy from Jews." They painted anti-Jewish slogans of the word "Jew" on shop windows. Germans who dared to shop in Jewish stores were insulted and often beaten.



By the end of 1933, there were signs on thousands of roads, shops, and other places with the message "Jews not wanted." During 1934, a campaign took shape to create "Jew free" villages. Mobs of Nazi supporters entered villages and dragged Jews from their homes. They whipped, beat, and insulted their victims. Some were cruelly murdered.

In September 1935, the Nazi party held a meeting in the town of Nuremberg. They announced two new laws. The first law said that only a person of "German or related blood" could be a German citizen. This law stripped the Jews of their German citizenship. The second law was called the "Law for Protection of German Blood and German Honor." It made marriage between Jews and other Germans illegal. Severe punishment awaited anyone who dared to violate the law.

The Nuremberg laws took away all of the civil rights of Germany's Jews. The laws also completely separated them from the rest of society. There was little the Jews of Germany could do to defend themselves.

The Nazis had several methods of terror that they used to enforce their power. The most important of them were the Gestapo and the SS. The Gestapo was a police force that the Nazis set up in early 1933. However, the Gestapo was not an ordinary police force. Its mission was not to protect German citizens. The Gestapo was part of a larger and even more deadly organization called the SS. The SS began in the 1920s as a few men who served as a special guard for Hitler. After 1933, it became the most active method to cause Nazi terror. By 1939, the SS had over 250,000 men. It was the SS that took charge of the extermination of Jews. It rounded up Jews and controlled the death camps where they were murdered. The SS was the most efficient killing machine in history.

