Nazi Anti-Jewish Laws

During the first six years of Hitler’s dictatorship, government at every level -- Reich, state and municipal -- adopted hundreds of laws, decrees, directives, guidelines, and regulations that increasingly restricted the civil and human rights of the Jews in Germany. Here are examples of anti-Jewish legislation in Nazi Germany, 1933-1939:

April 7, 1933

Laws for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service
"Civil servants who are not of Aryan (non-Jewish) descent are to be retired."

April 7, 1933

Law Regarding Admission to the Bar
"Persons who, according to the Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service of April 7, 1933, are of non-Aryan descent may be denied admission to the bar." (May not practice Law)

April 25, 1933

Law Against the Crowding of German Schools limits the number of Jewish students in public schools.
"In new admissions, care is to be taken that the number of Reich Germans who…are of non-Aryan descent…does not exceed the proportion of non-Aryans within the Reich German population."

May 21, 1935
Army law expels Jewish officers from the army.

Nuremberg Laws

With the passage of the Nuremberg Laws by the Reichstag on September 15, 1935, the first direct attack on individual Jews was launched. These laws mark a sharp progression toward an irreversible anti-Semitic policy. In the future, no Jew would be able to escape intensified persecution.

September 15, 1935

Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor
"Marriages between Jews and subjects of German or kindred blood are forbidden...Extramarital intercourse forbidden between Jews and subjects of German or kindred blood...Jews are forbidden to fly the Reich and national flag and to display Reich colors...They are, on the other hand, allowed to display the Jewish colors...Whoever violates the prohibition...will be punished by penal servitude."

September 15, 1935

Reich Citizenship Law
"A Reich citizen is only that subject of German or kindred blood."

November 14, 1935

First Decree to the Reich Citizenship Law
"A Jew cannot be a Reich citizen. He is not entitled to the right to vote on political matters; he cannot hold public office...A Jew is anyone descended from at least three grandparents who are fully Jewish as regards race...Also deemed a Jew is a Jewish Mischlung subject who is descended from two fully Jewish grandparents and...who belonged to the Jewish religious community...who was married to a Jew...who is the offspring of a marriage concluded by a Jew...who is an offspring of extramarital intercourse with a Jew..."

January 11, 1936
Executive Order on the Reich Tax Law forbids Jews to serve as tax-consultants.

April 3, 1936
Reich Veterinarians Law expels Jews from the veterinary profession.

October 15, 1936
Reich Ministry of Education bans Jewish teachers from public schools.

April 9, 1937
The Mayor of Berlin orders public schools not to admit Jewish children until further notice.

August 17, 1938
Executive Order on the Law on the Alteration of Family and Personal Names requires Jews to adopt an additional name: "Sara” for women and “Israel” for men.

April 22, 1938
Decree against the Camouflage of Jewish Firms forbids changing the names of Jewish-owned businesses.

April 26, 1938
Order for the Disclosure of Jewish Assets requires Jews to report all property in excess of 5,000 reichsmarks.

July 11, 1938
Reich Ministry of the Interior bans Jews from health spas.

October 3, 1938
Decree on the Confiscation of Jewish Property regulates the transfer of assets from Jews to non-Jewish Germans.

October 5, 1938
The Reich Interior Ministry invalidates all German passports held by Jews. Jews must surrender their old passports, which will become valid only after the letter “J” had been stamped on them.

{November 9-10- Kristallnacht, “Night of Broken Glass.” Widespread violent attacks on Jews, Jewish business, Jewish homes, synagogues, and Jewish property. Nearly 100 Jews are killed and over 25,000 Jewish men are arrested and imprisoned in concentration camps.}

November 12, 1938
Decree on the Exclusion of Jews from German Economic Life closes all Jewish-owned businesses.

November 15, 1938
Reich Ministry of Education expels all Jewish children from public schools.

November 28, 1938
Reich Ministry of Interior restricts the freedom of movement of Jews.

December 14, 1938
An Executive Order on the Law on the Organization of National Work cancels all state contracts held with Jewish-owned firms.

February 21, 1939
Decree Concerning the Surrender of Precious Metals and Stones in Jewish Ownership.

August 1, 1939
The President of the German Lottery forbids the sale of lottery tickets to Jews.