

## Candidate 2 evidence

**How successful by 1939 was the Nazi's attempt to create a Volksgemeinschaft?**

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### *Aliens to the regime*

To Hitler, the idea of a Peoples Community all living together for the greater good of Germany was only acceptable if the German nation was completely pure. He wanted a race which was superior to all others. This is where his idea of a Volksgemeinschaft started to falter. Hitler believed the Jews were the cause for the countries downfall. The greedy Jews had left Germany to rot while they lined their pockets with money. He observed that it had been a combination of Jews and Marxists which had been successful in Russia, and they were now coming to threaten Germany. Hitler had expressed anti-Semitic views before he came to power, but once he was Chancellor he was quick to deny Jews many basic rights they were entitled to. This was an attempt to make Jews emigrate, but not all Jews gave into his scare-mongering tactics.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1933, the first boycott of Jewish shops began, which was the very early start of what would eventually become the Holocaust. Instead of defending their countrymen, like Volksgemeinschaft would have seemed to suggest, non-Jews actively joined in the campaign to get rid of the Jews. This could be seen as the Germans making sure that their own exclusion would never occur, as long as they adhered to the rules of Volksgemeinschaft. Like the black population in the Deep South of America, Jews were banned from certain restaurants, parks and public transport. Jewish people were sacked from their jobs, and even some Jewish businesses were seized and given to German businessmen. For two years the pressure against the Jews built up until in 1935 it culminated in the Nuremberg Laws for Citizenship and Race, which meant Jews were no longer considered citizens of the state. Also, an excerpt from the Nuremberg Laws says,

*"Marriages between Jews and subjects of German or kindred blood are forbidden"<sup>10</sup>. They were social outcasts and had little support from anyone in the country. Events such as Kristallnacht showed the true brutality of the Nazi regime for the first time, when thousands of Jewish businesses were destroyed and thousands of families sent to concentration camps. By reshaping the education system to promote the Nazis racial opinion, and manipulating their learning to indoctrinate the German youth to support the Nazis' anti-Semitic policies, in November 1938 all Jewish children were banned from attending German schools. This was a major step in Hitler's plan to create a Volksgemeinschaft as the Jews could no longer taint the pure German people, so the Nazis viewed this as a success.*

Although the Jews were persecuted by the entire nation, there were other groups who were discriminated against. For example, homosexuals were deemed to be an alien group. Their behaviour was considered to be against the laws of nature, and was offensive to the traditional German view on sex and marriage. Between 10-15,000 homosexuals were sent to labour camps to become the subject of medical experiments, or to be killed. They were never included as members of the Peoples Community as Germans found them disgusting and unnatural. The Romany Gypsies were also a group not included in the National Community. For years, throughout Europe, Gypsies had been persecuted. They were a small group living in Germany, with only 30,000 people, and were not seen as a direct threat to the Aryan race. However, they still were persecuted and were not part of Volksgemeinschaft. By 1939 they had been sent to labour camps, and then expelled to Eastern Europe. From being banished to concentration camps and being beaten, to

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<sup>10</sup> The Nuremberg Laws:  
Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor  
(September 15, 1935)

boycotting shops and destroying businesses, the Nazis never gained a true 'Peoples' Community where everyone was equal, regardless of social class and race.

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