

Politics of Divide and Conquer

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1. Jews.



Yellow Star of David

11 million

Main Ideas:
Key Words:
Analysis:

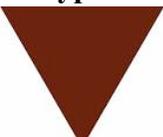
Even lower than the Slavs in Nazi racial doctrine were the Jews, and Hitler was determined to eradicate the 11 million who lived in Europe. Soon after the out-break of the war, Jews in Poland were herded into ghettos, first in Lodz and then in Warsaw and other cities. It was from the ghettos that many Jews were sent for final liquidation, but the death rate within them was already 20 percent per year by 1942. John Louis Beatty, Oliver A. Johnson, *Heritage of Western Civilizations, Select Readings, Second Edition* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1958), 925.

A total of roughly nine million Jews lived in the twenty-one countries that would be occupied by Germany during World War II. By the end of the war, two out of every three of these Jews would be dead. Susan D. Bachrach, *Tell Them We Remember: The Story of the Holocaust* (New York: Little and Brown Company, 1994), 2.

Sam Bankhatler, from Lodz, Poland, was a 14-year-old Jew who was sent to Auschwitz. There was always anti-Semitism in Poland. The slogan even before Hitler was, "Jew, get our of here and go to Palestine." As Hitler came to power, there was not a day at school I was not

spit on or beaten up. Rhoda G. Lewin, 5.	
The Jew was never in possession of a culture of his own, the foundations of his intellectual work were always provided by others. Adolph Hitler, <i>Mein Kampf</i> (1933) 372, 376.	
In judging the Jewish people's attitude on the question of human culture, the most essential characteristic we must always bear in mind is that there has never been a Jewish art and accordingly there is none today either; that above all the two queens of all the arts, architecture and music, owe nothing original to the Jews. What they do accomplish in the field of art is either patchwork or intellectual theft. . Adolph Hitler, <i>Mein Kampf</i> (Houghton Mifflin Co., 1939), 377	

<p>2. Jehovah Witnesses.</p>  <p>Purple Triangles 20,000</p>	<p>Main Ideas: Key Words: Analysis:</p>
<p>Jehovah's Witnesses, members of a small Christian sect, were victimized because of their religious beliefs. Witnesses' beliefs prohibited them from entering the army or showing obedience to any government by saluting the flag, or in Nazi Germany, raising their arms in the "Heil Hitler" salute. Soon after Hitler took power, Witnesses were sent to concentration camps. Those who remained at large lost their jobs, unemployment and social welfare benefits, and all civil rights. Susan D. Bachrach, 20.</p>	
<p>In Germany the Jehovah's Witnesses were a relatively small sect of about 20,000. Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York Inc., <i>Purple Triangles</i> (video), 1991.</p>	

<p>3. Gypsies</p> 	<p>Main Ideas: Key Words: Analysis:</p>
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Black or Brown Triangles 30,000	
Beginning in 1933, German physicians were allowed to perform forced sterilizations, operations making it impossible for the victims to have children. Among the targets of this public program were Gypsies, an ethnic minority numbering about 30,000 in Germany, and handicapped individuals, including the mentally ill and people born deaf and blind. Also victimized were about 500 African-German children, the offspring of German mothers and African colonial soldiers in the Allied armies that occupied the German Rhineland region after World War I. Susan D. Bachrach, 12.	
By 1945 more than 220,000 of Europe's 700,000 Gypsies had been murdered by the Nazis. Martin Gilbert, Fellow at Merton College, Oxford, <i>Atlas of the Holocaust</i> (New York: William Morrow and Company, 1993), 141.	

<p>4. Handicapped</p>  <p>Black Triangles 270,000</p>	<p>Main Ideas: Key Words: Analysis:</p>
Many Germans did not want to be reminded of individuals who did not measure up to their concept of a "master race." They physically and mentally handicapped were viewed as "useless" to society, a threat to Aryan genetic purity and ultimately, unworthy of life. Susan D. Bachrach, 32.	
Despite public protests in 1941, the Nazi leadership continued this program in secret throughout the war. More than 200,000 handicapped people were murdered between 1940 and 1945. Susan D. Bachrach, 32.	
The Nazis' scheme to exterminate "inferior" peoples extended as well to gypsies, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, and the mentally ill. Between 1938 and 1941 the Nazis perfected their gassing technique on 70,000 mentally ill Germans. German scientists perfected a form of cyanide known as Zyklon B, but even at its most "efficient," gassing took between 15 and 20 agonizing minutes to kill most victims in chambers designed to look like showers. John Louis Beatty, 925.	

<p>5. Homosexuals</p>  <p>Pink Triangles tens of thousands</p>	<p>Main Ideas: Key Words: Analysis:</p>
<p>Homosexuals were victimized by the Nazis for reasons of behavior. The Nazis viewed homosexual relations as "abnormal" and "unmanly" behavior which, by not producing babies, threatened Nazi policies encouraging the reproduction of Aryans. Soon after Hitler took office, the storm troopers began raids against homosexual clubs. Many homosexuals were arrested and imprisoned in concentration camps. Susan D. Bachrach, 20.</p>	
<p>Eighteen million people-Jews, homosexuals, Gypsies, the handicapped, POWs, Jehovah's Witnesses, leftists, artists-had been locked up in some 520 concentration camps across occupied Europe, according to generally accepted estimates used to teach German school-children about Nazi crimes. Eleven million, about half of them Jews were gassed in extermination camps. <i>Associated Press, Denver Post, 4/2/95, 17 A-23 A.</i></p>	
<p>6. Germans</p>  <p>Black or Red Triangles 1 million</p>	<p>Main Ideas: Key Words: Analysis:</p>
<p>Frau Karma Raubut was a young schoolgirl during the war. In the German ideal of upbringing, whatever was creative was killed. If it dance out of line and did something that did not reflect the authoritarian father or mother, it got thrashed. One should not undervalue these small things. There little mosaic stones were already there and really paved the way for something like Hitler. Alison Owings, <i>Frauen: German Women Recall the Third Reich</i> (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Ruter's University Press, 1993), 343.</p>	
<p>Klaus R. Fischer was born in Munich in 1942. His mother served in the German Navy and his oral surgeon father in the German Army. Today Fischer, 52, is professor of</p>	

<p>history and philosophy at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, Calif. "People forget that as many as one million Germans were locked up in concentration or labor camps because they were dissidents or for some reason." Margaret Carlin, <i>Rocky Mountain News</i>, Aug. 27, 1995.</p>	
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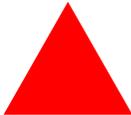
<p>7. Poles</p>  <p>Black Triangles 3 million</p>	<p>Main Ideas: Key Words: Analysis:</p>
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<p>The Nazis viewed the Poles as "subhumans." They wanted to turn them into slaves to serve German masters. Killing Polish leaders was the first step. German soldiers carried out massacres of university professors, artists, teachers, writers, politicians and many Catholic priests. The second step was to allow no Pole to continue schooling beyond the fourth grade. The primary focus of Polish education was to teach Poles to obey the Germans. Susan D. Bachrach, 30.</p>	
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<p>The Nazis kidnapped as many as 50,000 Polish children from their parents and took them to Germany to be adopted by German families. Chosen were children whose physical appearance most fit the Nazi notion of a master race-blond hair, blue eyes, fair skin. Many of these children were later rejected and sent to special children's camps, where they died of starvation or disease. Susan D. Bachrach, 30.</p>	
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<p>By 1945, nearly 6 million Jews and probably as many others-Poles, Gypsies, and Magyars especially-had died in places like Auschwitz, Buchenwald, and Dachau. These camps were also supposed to be centers of production. A Krupp arms factory, an I. G. Farben chemical plant, and a coal mine were part of the Auschwitz complex. But its chief product was a corpse, at a rate that reached 12,000 a day. Mortimer Chambers, University of California, Los Angeles, Raymond Grew, University of Michigan, David Herlihy, Brown University, Theodore K. Rabb, Princeton University, Isser Woloch, Columbia University, <i>The Western Experience, fifth edition Since 1600</i> (New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc.,</p>	
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1991), 1225.	
<p>Frau Mathilde Mundt was a schoolteacher. The thieves were the Poles. They did everything. In 1938 the Germans had been so tormented by the Czechs, like by the Poles, the Czechs having been extremely mean and even worse, after the war. They killed half a million Germans. Horrendous. I saw it on television once. I cried and prayed to God, no? Anyway the Sudetenland became part of Germany. Alison Owings, 93.</p>	
<p>Since 1935, the Poles had published a map reaching to the Elbe River, everything with Polish names. (The famous and phony map, meant to convince Germans that Poland planned an invasion, has been acknowledged as the work of Nazi propaganda). And they forced a very large number of Germans during a heat wave to make a long march to the other side of Warsaw. Those who couldn't keep going got shot. And they killed sixty thousand Germans. They Hitler said on the radio one day, I heard it, We cannot allow that anymore. We wanted to avoid war at all costs. But the Poles were so hateful to all the Germans there and those who lived along the border. The Poles went to Schneider-Muhl daily and killed the workers who were on their way to work. Alison Owings, 93.</p>	
<p>Frau Irene Burchert was a Catholic farm girl living in East Prussia during the war. In 1939 the Poles came in the night and looted. Our men chased them away with clubs. Those were not German soldiers. Those were Poles. And came over the border and looted houses everywhere. (Most historians agree that the men were not Poles but Germans in Polish uniforms. This incident was staged to prompt German civilians to support retaliation against Poland). Alison Owings, 142.</p>	

<p>8. Russians.</p>  <p>Red Triangles 12 million</p>	<p>Main Ideas: Key Words: Analysis:</p>
<p>Russia alone lost about 20 million people, and the Germans murdered more than 12 million in concentration</p>	

camps, half of them Jews who had never seen combat. Mortimer Chambers, 1234.	
Himmler was ultimately responsible as well for the deaths of 3.7 million Soviet prisoners of war in captivity. John Louis Beatty, 925.	

<p>9. Slavs</p>  <p>Black Triangles 30 million</p>	<p>Main Ideas: Key Words: Analysis:</p>
<p>Hitler resolutely determined to impose a "new order" on Europe, a task that would require slaughter on a scale hitherto inconceivable in history. Lebensraum (living space for German) in the east, asserted Heinrich Himmler (1900-1945), the SS chief, in January 1941, required the annihilation of 30 million Slavs, whom the Nazis regarded as subhuman. To this end he authorized special SS "action teams" (<i>Einsatzgruppen</i>) to slaughter at will in the Soviet Union. These units typically forced their victims, many of whom were Jews, to dig mass graves and then line up on their rims to be shot. The executioners sent many wounded victims toppling into the pits still alive, there to be smothered by the bodies of others. John Louis Beatty, 925.</p>	
<p>Slavs were rated much lower on the Nazi racial scale, and they were driven from the German borders in "population transfers" that vacated land for German settlers; eventually some 5 million Slavs were shipped like cattle to labor in Germany. By 1944 the 8 million foreign workers in Germany constituted one-fifth of the work force. Mortimer Chambers, 1225.</p>	

<p>10. Propaganda. All propaganda has to be popular and has to adapt its spiritual level to the perception of the least intelligent of those towards whom it intends to direct itself. Adolph Hitler, German Furher, <i>Mein Kampf</i>, 1933.</p>	<p>Main Ideas: Key Words: Analysis:</p>
<p>The great masses of people will more easily fall victims to a big lie than to a small one. Adolph Hitler, <i>Mein Kampf</i>, 1933.</p>	
<p>Sam Bankhatler, Lodz, Poland was a 14-year-old Jew who was sent to Auschwitz. When I sit in a place, I see 65% of</p>	

<p>the people will pick up the sports page of the newspaper. They don't care what is on the front page! And this is where the danger lies. All you need is the economy to turn a little sour and have one person give out the propaganda. With 65% of the population the propaganda works, and then the other 35% is powerless to do anything about it. Rhoda G. Lewin, ed., <i>Witness to the Holocaust, An Oral History</i> (Boston, Massachusetts: Twayne Publishers, 1990), 8.</p>	
<p>Propaganda has absolutely nothing to do with the truth, said Nazi minister of Propaganda, Paul Josef Goebbels. Propaganda is organized carefully designed lying. Seymour Rossel, <i>The Holocaust: the World and the Jews, 1933-1945</i> (West Orange, New Jersey: Behrman House Inc., 1992), 82.</p>	
<p>Joseph Goebbels (Nazi propaganda official) added, "Any lie, frequently repeated, will gradually gain acceptance. Seymour Rossel, 82.</p>	

<p>11. Divide and Conquer. In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up. Martin Niemoeller, German Protestant Preacher, 1892-1984.</p>	<p>Main Ideas: Key Words: Analysis:</p>
<p>The Protestant denominations agreed to form a new body, the Evangelical Church, under a national bishop; but when the bishop Hitler chose tried to "Aryanize" it, dissenters formed the separate Confessional Church. Mortimer Chambers, 1181.</p>	
<p>Although most Protestant clergymen remained politically neutral, a brave minority, including Martin Niemoller, organized the Confessional church and denounced both totalitarianism and racism. Because of their outspoken criticism, more than 800 Confessional ministers were interned in concentration camps. Richard L. Greaves, Robert Zaller, Jennifer Tolbert Roberts, <i>Civilizations of the West</i> (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1992), 907.</p>	
<p>Individual voices spoke out against Nazism clearly and</p>	

<p>courageously. In 1937 Martin Niemoeller, the leader of the Confessional Church, was arrested for his opposition to Nazism. Mortimer Chambers, 1181.</p>	
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<p>12. Involvement. The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing. Sir Edmund Burke, a British statesman, 1770.</p>	<p>Main Ideas: Key Words: Analysis:</p>
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<p>Hinda Kibort was a 19-year-old Jew from Kovno, Lithuania. The onlooker, the bystander, is as much at fault as the perpetrator because he lets it happen. That is why I have this fear of what is called the "silent majority." So when a non-Jewish friend or a student asks, "What can I do?" I say, when you see something anti-Semitic happen, get up and say, "This is wrong," or "I protest." Send a letter to the newspaper saying, "This should not happen in my community," and sign your name. Then maybe somebody else will be brave enough to come forward and say that he protests too. Rhoda G. Lewin, 55.</p>	
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<p>Peter Gersh was an 18 year old Jew from Miechow, Poland. I hate no one, but if I hated anyone, I would hate the Polish people. The priests and the Catholic Church, they instilled hate in the Polish people every Sunday and every day. Poles beat up Jews before the war, and in the war they had a field day. They were guarding the Jewish work force, and some were just brutal, filled with hatred. The German's didn't give them weapons, so they killed Jews with shovels. Rhoda G. Lewin, ed., 35.</p>	
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<p>The only sure bulwark of continuing liberty is a government strong enough to protect the interests of the people, and a people strong enough and well enough informed to maintain its sovereign control over its government. Franklin Delino Roosevelt, Fireside Chat, 1938.</p>	
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<p>13. Authoritarian Personality. In 1924 Dartmouth sociologist John Moffatt Mecklin interviewed hundreds of Klansmen across the country. He found the vast majority to be conventional Americans, thoroughly human, kind fathers and husbands. Their basic problem was that they were conspicuously lacking in critical independence of thought, which must be possessed by any individual, or group which undertakes to shape public opinion in a democracy. Robert K. Tucker, <i>The Dragon and the Cross: The Rise and Fall of the Ku Klux Klan in Middle America</i></p>	<p>Main Ideas: Key Words: Analysis:</p>
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(Hampden, Connecticut: Archon Books, 1991) 3.	
<p>The general personality pattern has been given the label authoritarianism because one of its central factors is a need or wish to impose authority or commands on others, and also to submit to leaders because they have a position of authority, not because they are right. Authoritarianism has been linked with a sense of futility or helplessness, that is the individual cannot influence her or his own fate. William J. Gode, Columbia University, <i>Principles of Sociology</i> (New York: McGraw Hill Books), 1977), 317.</p>	
<p>Frau Erna Tietz was a schoolgirl during the war who was an antiaircraft gunner in Berlin. I did not listen to foreign broadcasts because they were uninteresting. I just believed thoroughly in what our government said. Not only Goebbels alone, but our army reports. And that's how it was. We heard something about concentration camps. And that came from a foreign country and then we said, That only counterpropaganda. My friends did not know what the initials stood for concentration camp. We always said a concert camp. Well, that a jolly camp, for a place to vacation. Alison Owings, <i>Frauen: German Women Recall the Third Reich</i> (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Ruter's University Press, 1993), 274.</p>	
<p>14. Oppression. Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforce, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is in an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe. Frederick Douglas, former American slave and abolitionist, Speech on the 24th Anniversary of Emancipation in the District of Columbia, 1886.</p>	<p>Main Ideas: Key Words: Analysis:</p>
<p>No man can put a chain about the ankle of his fellow man without at last finding the other end fastened about his own neck. Frederick Douglas, Speech at the Convention of Colored Men, Louisville, KY 1883.</p>	
<p>Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and under a just God cannot long retain it. Abraham Lincoln, 1860.</p>	
<p>Liberty was no vague term with our revolutionary forebears. To the Americans of 1776, liberty meant, first, freedom under laws of their own making. Second, liberty meant the right to do anything that did not harm another. John Locke said, "Where law ends, tyranny begins."</p>	

<p>Samuel Eliot Morison, Professor of History at Harvard, <i>The Oxford History of the American People</i> (New York, Oxford University Press, 1965), 271.</p>	
<p>15. Common Cause. What happened in Selma, Alabama is part of a far larger movement, which reaches into every section and state of America. It is the effort of American Negroes to secure for themselves the full blessings of American life. Their cause must be our cause, too. Because it's not just Negroes, but really it's all of us, who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice. And we shall overcome. US President Lyndon Johnson, Address to Congress, 1965.</p>	<p>Main Ideas: Key Words: Analysis:</p>
<p>Martin Luther King objected to violence and hated on moral grounds: "It thrives on hatred rather than love . . . destroys community and makes brotherhood impossible. It solves no social problem; it merely creates new and more complicated ones. 1961.</p>	
<p>The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people. For many of our white brothers as evidenced by their presence here today have come to realize that their destiny is part of our destiny. They have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone. Martin Luther King, March on Washington, 1963.</p>	
<p>Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Martin Luther King, Letter from Birmingham jail, 1963.</p>	
<p>All men were made by the same Great Spirit Chief. They are all brothers. The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it. You might as well expect the rivers to run backward as that any man who was born a free man should be contented when penned up and denied liberty to go where he pleases. Chief Joseph, Nez Perce, 1880.</p>	
<p>Never doubt for a minute that a thoughtful committed small group of people can change they world. Indeed they are the only kind that ever have. Margaret Mead.</p>	
<p>Democracy cannot be saved by supermen, but only by the unswerving devotion and goodness of millions of little men. Adlai Stevenson, Speech, 1955.</p>	
<p>16. Golden Rule. What you do not want done to yourself,</p>	<p>Main Ideas: Key Words:</p>

do not do to others. Confucius, <i>The Confucian Analects</i> , 470 B.C.	Analysis:
We should behave to our friends as we would wish our friends to behave to us. Aristotle, 320 B.C.	
What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others. Confucius, 470 B.C.	
Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. <i>Holy Bible</i> , Matthew	
I have always thought that all men should be free; but if any should be slaves, it should be first those who desire it for themselves, and secondly those who desire it for others. Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally. Abraham Lincoln, Address to an Indiana Regiment, March 17, 1865.	

17. Counter Productive? The racial struggle denied Germany the means to consolidate her victories. Nazism could offer the conquered peoples of Europe nothing but death and enslavement. The racism that provided the cutting edge of German military power in the first two years of the European conflict was arguably the most important single factor in Nazism's final defeat. RAC Parker, <i>Struggle for Survival: The History of the Second World War</i> (Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 1989), 44.	Main Ideas: Key Words: Analysis:
In 1941 German brutality was counter productive. In the long term may well have been the most important single factor in ensuring German failure in the east. HP Willmott, <i>The Great Crusade: A New Complete History of the Second World War</i> (New York: The Free Press, 1989), 139.	
Neither of the Axis powers had the transport infrastructure, the long term investment plans and financial reserves, the management techniques and skilled labor necessary to turn economic potential into war material on the scale necessary to meet their widening military commitments, and, crucially, neither had the political will and moral authority to enable them to supplement their own war efforts by enlisting the support of peoples under their jurisdiction. HP Willmott, 315.	
All through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murders and for a time	

they can seem invincible, but in the end they always fall. Think of it always. Mohandas K. Gandhi, Gandhi (Burbank, California: Columbia Pictures Home Video, 1982).	
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<p>1. What lessons are to be learned from the politics of divide and conquer?</p>	
<p>Start small and work your way up</p>	
<p>Starting small means that you alienate fewer people at one time</p>	
<p>Eliminate opposition to build your own support base</p>	
<p>Focus the power of the whole against a minority,</p>	
<p>Then use tyranny of the majority</p>	
<p>Starting small means that you can test the waters to find out if others object</p>	
<p>Starting small allows you to eliminate resistance piece by piece, step by step</p>	
<p>Starting small allows you to set a precedent which allows you to exterminate the opposition</p>	

<p>2. What lessons can you learn about resisting such divide and conquer tactics?</p>	
<p>A. It is easier to stop a movement before it gains momentum</p>	
<p>By eliminating your opposition piece by piece, your support grows by the bandwagon effect.</p>	
<p>B. It is easier to stop a movement before it gains legitimacy</p>	
<p>By eliminating your opposition bit by bit, your supporters become a bigger and bigger part of the electorate.</p>	
<p>C. Stop bad precedents before they mushroom</p>	
<p>D. Consider Checks and Balances.</p>	

3. United We Stand, Divided We Fall.	
Seek Common Cause with all potential victims.	
4. The Power of a Committed Minority.	
5. Minority Rights! Natural Rights, Inalienable Rights!	