

Nuremberg Race Laws 1935

The Nuremberg Laws were two laws which excluded the Jews from German life, as well as took away some of their natural rights. They were first declared at the annual Nazi rally held in Nuremberg in 1935. At that rally, Hitler delivered a speech about the Jewish controversy to unite party activists and state officials to deal with the Jewish issue. Subsequently, on 15 September 1935 the two laws were approved.

The first law, **Reichsbürgergesetz** (Law of the Reich Citizen), was designed to deprive Jews of their German citizenship. Only Germans or those with related blood were considered citizens of the Reich from then on. The second law, **Gesetz zum Schutze des Deutschen Blutes und der Deutschen Ehre** (Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honour), or simply **Blutschutzgesetz**, forbade marriage or sexual relations between Jews and those of German blood. This law also prohibited the employment of German maids under the age of forty-five in Jewish households. Jews were not even allowed to raise the German flag. This law basically stated that the purity of German blood was absolutely necessary in order to preserve the German people.

On account of these laws German Jews lost their independence from one day to the next. They were no longer allowed to vote or hold public offices since they were no longer considered citizens of the Reich. The Nuremberg Laws also made it more difficult for the Jews to go out into public places such as the theatre or shops. Jews were not even allowed to seek medical attention anymore. Soon thereafter all Jews were recognised by the big red "J", which was short for "Jude," that was stamped on their passports. "Jews Forbidden" signs also went up all over Germany, which made it very difficult for the Jews to get service or lodge in hotels. The Nuremberg Laws were only the beginning of the Nazi policy of antisemitism. The Nuremberg Laws paved the way to the Holocaust, which showed people how far Germans would go to "cleanse" their nation.

NUREMBERG LAW FOR THE PROTECTION OF GERMAN BLOOD AND GERMAN HONOUR, 15 SEPTEMBER 1935

Moved by the understanding that purity of the German Blood is the essential condition for the continued existence of the German people, and inspired by the inflexible determination to ensure the existence of the German Nation for all time, the Reichstag has unanimously adopted the following Law, which is promulgated herewith:

Article 1

- 1) Marriages between Jews and subjects of the state of German or related blood are forbidden. Marriages nevertheless concluded are invalid, even if concluded abroad to circumvent this law.
- 2) Annulment proceedings can be initiated only by the State Prosecutor.

Article 2

Extramarital intercourse between Jews and subjects of the state of German or related blood is forbidden.

Article 3

Jews may not employ in their households female subjects of the state of German or related blood who are under 45 years old.

Article 4.

- 1) Jews are forbidden to fly the Reich or National flag or to display the Reich colours. They are, on the other hand, permitted to display the Jewish colours. The exercise of this right is protected by the State.

Article 5

- 1) Any person who violates the prohibition under Section 1 will be punished by a prison sentence with hard labour.
- 2) A male who violates the prohibition under Section 2 will be punished with a prison sentence with or without hard labour.
- 3) Any person violating the provisions under Section 3 or 4 will be punished with a prison sentence of up to one year and a fine, or with one or the other of these penalties.

Article 6

The Reich Minister of the Interior, in coordination with the Deputy of the Führer and the Reich Minister of Justice, will issue the Legal and Administrative regulations required to implement and complete this Law.

Article 7

The Law takes effect on the day following promulgations except for Section 3, which goes into force on 1 January 1936.

*Nuremberg, September 15, 1935 at the Reich Party Congress of Freedom
The Führer and Reich Chancellor Adolf Hitler, The Reich Minister of the Interior Frick,
The Reich Minister of Justice Dr. Gürtner, The Deputy of the Führer R. Hess.*

THE REICH CITIZENSHIP LAW OF 15 SEPTEMBER 1935

The Reichstag has adopted by unanimous vote the following law which is herewith promulgated.

Article 1

- 1) A subject of the state is one who belongs to the protective union of the German Reich, and who, therefore, has specific obligations to the Reich.
- 2) The status of subject is to be acquired in accordance with the provisions of the Reich and the state Citizenship Law.

Article 2

- 1) A citizen of the Reich may be only one who is of German or kindred blood, and who, through his behaviour, shows that he is both desirous and personally fit to serve loyally the German people and the Reich.
- 2) The right to citizenship is obtained by the grant of Reich citizenship papers.
- 3) Only the citizen of the Reich may enjoy full political rights in consonance with the provisions of the laws.

Article 3

The Reich Minister of the Interior, in conjunction with the Deputy to the Fuehrer, will issue the required legal and administrative decrees for the implementation and amplification of this law.

Promulgated: 16 September 1935. In force: 30 September 1935.

FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY DECREE OF 14 NOVEMBER 1935

On the basis of Article III of the Reich Citizenship Law of 15 September 1935, the following is hereby decreed:

Article 1

- 1) Until further provisions concerning citizenship papers, all subjects of German or kindred blood who possessed the right to vote in the Reichstag elections when the Citizenship Law came into effect, shall, for the present, possess the rights of Reich citizens. The same shall be true of those upon whom the Reich Minister of the Interior, in conjunction with the Deputy to the Fuehrer shall confer citizenship.
- 2) The Reich Minister of the Interior, in conjunction with the Deputy to the Fuehrer, may revoke citizenship.

Article 2

- 1) The provisions of Article I shall apply also to subjects who are of mixed Jewish blood.
- 2) An individual of mixed Jewish blood is one who is descended from one or two grandparents who, racially, were full Jews, insofar that he is not a Jew according to Section 2 of Article 5. Full-blooded Jewish grandparents are those who belonged to the Jewish religious community.

Article 3

Only citizens of the Reich, as bearers of full political rights, can exercise the right of voting in political matters, and have the right to hold public office. The Reich Minister of the Interior, or any agency he empowers, can make exceptions during the transition period on the matter of holding public office. The measures do not apply to matters concerning religious organisations.

Article 4

- 1) A Jew cannot be a citizen of the Reich. He cannot exercise the right to vote; he cannot hold public office.
- 2) Jewish officials will be retired as of 31 December 1935. In the event that such officials served at the front in the World War either for Germany or her allies, they shall receive as pension, until they reach the age limit, the full salary last received, on the basis of which their pension would have been computed. They shall not, however, be promoted according to their seniority in rank. When they reach the age limit, their pension will be computed again, according to the salary last received on which their pension was to be calculated.
- 3) These provisions do not concern the affairs of religious organisations.
- 4) The conditions regarding service of teachers in public Jewish schools remains unchanged until the promulgation of new laws on the Jewish school system.

Article 5

- 1) A Jew is an individual who is descended from at least three grandparents who were, racially, full Jews...
- 2) A Jew is also an individual who is descended from two full-Jewish grandparents if:
 - a) he was a member of the Jewish religious community when this law was issued, or joined the community later;
 - b) when the law was issued, he was married to a person who was a Jew, or was subsequently married to a Jew;
 - c) he is the issue from a marriage with a Jew, in the sense of Section I, which was contracted after the coming into effect of the Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honor of 15 September 1935;
 - d) he is the issue of an extramarital relationship with a Jew, in the sense of Section I, and was born out of wedlock after 31 July 1936.

Article 6

- 1) Insofar as there are, in the laws of the Reich or in the decrees of the National Socialist German Workers' Party and its affiliates, certain requirements for the purity of German blood which extend beyond Article 5, the same remain untouched...

Article 7

The Fuehrer and Chancellor of the Reich is empowered to release anyone from the provisions of these administrative decrees.