 Forced labor was part of the program of the biological war introduced by
Hitler. Its objective consisted primarily in reducing the number of populations
in the occupied territories, and in using their manpower; in the case of the Jews,
it was a stage on the way to ultimate annihilation. In his Memorandum of May 7, 1941,
Reinhold states that

"The Jewish question will have to undergo a decisive solution
through the institution of ghettos or labor battalions. Forced
labor is to be introduced."

Forced labor began by forcibly separating families, confining to special labor
 camps, and depriving them of food. The food rations were such as to keep them
 first barely alive and to enable them to carry out their work. Lack of freedom,
 long working hours, and the most unsanitary conditions were designed for the pur-
 pose of the extermination of Jews.

As a rule forced labor began with deportation and ended in death chambers
 established in concentration camps, or by torture in labor camps. However, this
 crime has its specific characteristics which stand out from the number of other
 crimes committed by the Germans.

2) See Report of the Committee, 1941, "Decree concerning Food supply for Jews,
One of the direct consequences of the anti-Semitic measures of the German government was the recurrence of thousands and thousands of Jews and their search for some kind of work - even the ugliest and most abject rejected by German workers. However, a new factor appeared to influence the situation.

As the military operations were approaching, the need for manpower became increasingly urgent. Goering, as chairman of the Four-Year Plan Committee, using his dictatorial powers, invited Minister of Armament Walter Funk to take energetic measures for the creation of a large reserve of workers. The press was resounding with stories of the inclusion of Jews into the production process.

"It is not a question of Jews being unable to find work in Germany... It has now become a question of Jews not being allowed to be idle."

Though heavy in need of manpower and while still using them for the most difficult labor, the German government continued its policy of segregation and discrimination even in regard to this category of the Jewish population.

In March, 1939, the President of the German Institute of Labor Placement and Unemployment Insurance declared the following:

"It is not in the interest of the state to leave the labor power of unemployed Jews unused, and perhaps even to have to support them from public funds without receiving any service in return. An effort must be made to employ all unemployed and employable Jews as soon as possible and to combine this with the release of German workers for urgent and important state political projects. The employment of Jews shall take place in fields of enterprises of building construction, soil restoration, etc., separately from others."

4) Hitler's Ten-Year War on the Jews, Institute of Jewish Affairs, N.Y., 1943, p. 34.
Though working under the harshest physical and moral conditions with a minimum remuneration, and under discriminatory laws, Jewish laborers still had some kind of personal freedom. To be sure, their labor was compulsory (Arbeitspflicht). Forced labor (Arbeitseinsatz) for Jews was introduced in Germany after the outbreak of hostilities against Poland, and in Poland at the end of October 1939, when Jewish laborers were transformed into slaves.

At the end of September 1939, the German had worked out a detailed plan of dividing the entire Jewish population into labor battalions, supervised by SS men. At the same time, a decree of October 26, 1939 was published in occupied Poland concerning the introduction of compulsory labor for the Polish population in occupied Poland, with the provision that "a special decree would be issued with regard to Jews." On the same date a decree was published concerning the introduction of forced labor for the Jewish population of the Government General, providing that Jews were to be assembled in forced labor battalions.

By virtue of this decree, an ordinance was issued on December 12, 1939, regulating forced labor in the territory of the Government General for Jews between the age of 14 to 60. The labor term was fixed at two years in special labor camps, with a reservation that it was to be prolonged if the circumstances necessitated it. The ordinance also laid down that it was not to be confined to the urban areas. It was also ordered

6) Verordnungsbuch der Generalgouvernement, Section 2, Subsection 2, 1939, p.6.
Failure to register or report for forced labor carried a prison penalty up to ten years. The same punishment applied to members of Jewish councils when failing to register Jews for forced labor. Male Jews from 13 to 60 years of age were subject to registration.

The difference between compulsory labor and forced labor becomes quite obvious when comparing this decree with the October 26, 1939 decree concerning compulsory labor for Poles. Basically, the difference consisted in the following:

(a) Poles had the right to select their occupation and conclude labor agreements. For that purpose they were to receive labor cards.

(b) Poles who could prove permanent employment useful to the community were not to be called for public work service.

(c) Wages for Poles were provided for "at equitable rates."

(d) The welfare of Poles subject to compulsory labor and that of their families were to be protected as far as possible.

Forced labor for Jews was conceived and established as a punishment. They were forced to work on the basis of labor agreements and were subjected to special labor.
The decree made no provision for their wages; they were deprived of their working equipment (tools) and subject to hard labor up to ten years for any violation of the provisions of this decree. The work of Jews assured the character of slave labor, the sole feature being lack of freedom in selecting work and in concluding labor agreements. The return of slave labor in even more intensified by the

January 20, 1940 decree of the Chief Director of SS and Police in the Government General for the Occupied Polish Territories, charging the Jewish Councils with supervision, collection, and control of Jewish laborers; the Jewish Councils were also charged with selecting men for labor battalions, and often were required to fill labor quotas beyond their possibilities.

In addition, the Jewish Councils were compelled to send workers to set up barracks for Jewish labor camps and to furnish concepts with working clothes, shoes, and food until they reached destination.

Three labor groups were introduced under this system: labor battalions, labor camps, and penal camps. The labor battalions were located in the vicinity of towns in which the Jews lived; the labor camps were built in centers where large public works projects were to be carried out and the laborers were brought to these camps for an extended stay; the penal camps were concentration camps destined for those who violated regular forced labor or in any other way violated the forced labor law. Among these Jews there were skilled workers whom the war industry needed badly.
Frank also admitted it in his diary:

"...but in these territories the Jews had had various skilled trades, and it would be a loss if this manpower could not be usefully exploited."

However, this rational exploitation Frank saw only in that the Jews had to be "gathered in colonies and had to be employed wherever there was a pressing need."

But Frank's views changed his opinion as to using Jews where there was a need for manpower, since the Jewish population "must be extracted from the Jewish Jewish citizen," it was to be put to work on roads.

Sending of Jews for compulsory labor went on in an accelerated tempo and was extended the residential Jewish manpower. In this connection is of interest a memorandum of the Chancellor, Governor of Vienna, of November 9, 1940 concerning a telephone conversation he had with Colonel Huber of the Gestapo. In reply to the question of how many able-bodied Jews are still available in order to take places for the contemplated road projects, the author of the memorandum uncannily stated that "there are not many Jews available." However, he cautiously called attention to the fact that if Jews should still be available, the Gestapo has no scruples to use the Jews even for the removal of the destroyed synagogues."
Many deportations to Poland had already begun in the fall of 1941. At the same time, the Polish Jewish Chronicle published an official statement to the decree concerning employment of Jews. whereby the author, R. Szyjewicz, legal expert, stated that:

"The German people's sound racial feelings will not allow unreserved participation of the foreign workers in the social improvement of the third Reich. It is necessary to exclude their social inferiority as compared to the German race. Members of alien races are merely protectors of the German Reich, and as such, not entitled to the privileges enjoyed by German workers."

According to this decree (October 21, 1941) Jews were barred from the German working community, and thus excluded from legislation protecting workers.

They could not work on Sundays, holidays, or overtime work; they received no pay for time off caused by illness or childbirth. Jews were excluded from old age security, unemployment, and retirement funds; and they could be discharged on 24 hours notice.

Also, they were forced to work in segregated groups and had to accept whatever work was assigned to them by official employment agencies, regardless of the nature of the work or its location.

Jewish labor service camps were set up very rapidly all over Germany. In the vicinity of Berlin separate barracks were built for Jews working on road gangs under

65 supervising. Jews employed in factory workshops were segregated under Nazi factories and, in many places, forced to wear yellow armbands. This lasted, however, only until general mass deportation carried away the last Jewish groups as well.

On November 26, 1940, the Plenipotentiary General for Warburg sent a secret circular to the President of the "Master" Employment Office requesting exchange of Jews still in the Reich against Polish laborers who in turn were to be deported. The Jews were to be deported on a satellite system. The circular also states that as a rule this should first be applied to Jews engaged in metal work. The remaining skilled Jewish laborers will be left until their Polish replacements have become sufficiently familiar with the work.

In addition, in September, 1941, Hitler, as Reich Leader of the SS, in agreement with the Plenipotentiary General for Warburg and the Police Minister for Prussia and Hunsland, for reasons concerning the security of the state, decided to remove:

"From their places of work all Jews who were still working freely and not on strike and either transferred them to a labor camps or collected them for removal."

In France the deportations of Jews to labor camps were announced by an ordinance of General von Stulpnagel:

"A large number of criminal Judeo-Bolsheviks will be deported to forced labor in the Eastern territories."

Similar measures were introduced by the occupation authorities in other occupied countries as well. Jews were deported to Poland where they were placed in 39 labor camps.

General Makowsky, the in 1943 reduced the Jewish population of Galilee by about 95,000. In his report (which as mentioned above) states that at first the SS and Police leadership set up 22 camps and that Jewish laborers, under the most difficult conditions, worked on the task assigned than in building yards at a distance of 160 km. He also states that Jews worked by the Star of David were sent to perform other work. But later on the Jewish laborers were not placed in camps, because of shortage of the latter, the authorities case across all sorts of "improvised" camps on the part of the Jews. Of much concern was, particularly stressed

while Jews, in order to acquire any certificate of labor, not only needed all paper, but also paid anybody themselves. For the benefit of the German Jews it was deemed necessary to interfere most energetically to stop these actions. Perhaps the German Jews understood the horror faced by tortured and deported people who gave away everything they owned in order to save their lives at least for a while. Thus for the triumph of right and justice, all labor camps...
difficulties caused by frozen or non-functional ovens were declared invalid.

One of the above supervisors, Walter Schrae, in a sworn statement reveals
about the conditions which prevailed in the camp:

"I was told by one of the women that these women were standing near the oven, I
had to draw them back to their work. They had to work in the cold, on their knees,
and they were not permitted to wear any clothing. The conditions were so terrible
that one woman even committed suicide.

In order to create a so-called "sanitary zone for women in the camp, the Nazi
authorities ordered all women to leave the camp. The work was then done by men.

The Nazis claimed that this was a "sanitary measure," but the conditions were so
terrible that many women died. The work was so hard that the conditions were so
inhuman that many women committed suicide.

During the Holocaust, many died from starvation and disease.

By the end of 1943, only about 100,000 Jews remained in the labor camps of
Poland. They were concentrated in special labor camps in Galicia, Galicia, and the
Lodz Ghetto. They were subject to military discipline and had to work.

[18] In addition to hate, a deportation order was issued by the SS and
the Lodz Ghetto in the District Ghetto, causing the dismissal of unskilled labor.
It is provided for housing, such as bread, milk, bread, and sugar, for the
Jewish laborers. However, the conditions were so terrible that many women
died from starvation and disease.
seven days a week, with one hour rest during the day and not more than five hours
sleep during the night. During their "free" rest hour they were permitted to take
walks, but not more than two persons together.

The Jewish labor camps were cut off from the outside world. There was no
social life. The slightest infraction of camp regulations was punished by
death. The internees were treated in the most inhuman fashion. To the superiors
they represented no individuals but numbers under which they were identified.
Jews were killed not only for infraction of camp regulations, such as walking on
the sidewalk instead of the pavement, unauthorized change of position in a factory,
or absence from work; reasons for killing were also a lingering illness or loss
of working capacity. This has been testified also by Jan Karski who cites the
following words of one of the leaders of the Jewish underground:

"Those whose muscles are still capable of any effort are used
for forced labor. The others are murdered by quotas. First
comes the sick and aged, then the unemployed, then those whose
work is not directly connected with the German war needs;
finally, those who are ready, in summary, in factories. Ultimately, they intend to kill us all."[21]

Karski, whose name will forever be connected with the establishment of
slavery in the first half of the twentieth century, in one of his orders

describes in the following words the conditions under which the slaves were to
live:

"All the men must be fed, sheltered, and treated in such a way
as to exploit them to the highest possible extent at the lowest
maintainable source of expenditure." 239 (italics ours).

This, however, was the general minimum program for non-Jewish workers.

For Jews a minimum program was set up, which stopped neither before torture
nor examination.