From the beginning of the war Eastern Europe was regarded by the Germans as a
colony destined for colonisation of the German people. As early as 1918, the
"Akademie fuer das deutsche Recht," at the request of the Government, prepared a
draft of a plan for colonisation and Germanisation of Poland. This thoroughly
elaborated political and economic plan proceeds on the assumption that Germaniza-
tion of Poland would evoke a strong reaction on the part of the Poles against the
Germans, but would then find a fertile soil thanks to the difficult position with
which the Poles would be faced. In order to discharge this anti-German feeling, it
was necessary on the one hand to create a conflict with other peoples living in
Poland, and in the first place with Jews, and on the other to show the Poles that the
German Government would protect them from the Jewish domination by organizing a
"Schutz vor juridischer Ausbeutung." One of the best means of materialising this
protection would be, in the opinion of the author of the report, the complete re-
moval of Jews and, particularly, of "parasitical" Jews from certain regions.

Apparently, the policy suggested by the elite of juridical scholars and published
in the "Akademie fuer das deutsche Recht" was approved by the Government. Expulsion

1) (Czeka), Rechtswissenschaftlicher Polenpolitik nach nationalistischen
Gesichtspunkten. Ein juristischer Teil als Vortrag fuer den nationalen-
rechtlichen Ausschuss der Akademie fuer deutsche Recht, Doz. 0119-95,
Reich Kommissar and Adjutant, Vol. 1, p. 472.
of Jews and confiscation not only of small but also of large real estates, farms, and
the like went on in an accelerated tempo, involving ever more new regions. However,
the confiscated property was taken over not by the Nazis but by Reich Germans of pure
blood. Moreover, in order to induce the army to commit not only military but also
criminal deeds, orders were issued informing that whoever took part in such acts would
have the privilege to receive his share in the conquered territories.

V. Tolstoy, in a note of April 27, 1942 delivered to the Allies states the order

Hitler issued by Reich Commissioner Rakovsky in the General Ukraine:

"I have already given you my word that in the Eastern regions,
which you have conquered, you will be given enterprises and places
of employment before anyone else. You and your children will fill
with German life the land which has been saturated with German blood."

In its instructions issued on July 11, 1941, the German military High Command
provides for

"the utilization in each officer and soldier of the German army
of a jargon of national racial concerns in this area."

a special fund for German veterans was set up using the spoils of Jewish
property.

"Directives for the Handling of the Jewish Question," issued at the beginning
of the war, provide that

2) "Jews Documents," p.
3) Professor Travkin, "Historical Documents About the Stalin era," Moscow, 1944, pp.43-64.
On September 19, 1936 Göring signed a decree providing for the confiscation of property in the part of Poland annexed by Germany. This decree made a distinction between mandatory confiscation and authorized confiscation. The former category included:

- Sequestration of movable and immovable property, stores and other intangible property interests of Jews and persons who have fled or are not merely temporarily absent.

Property belonging to persons of German origin was not subject to confiscation.

Needless to give proof of the fact that the entire Jewish property was confiscated or lost. An analogous decree was issued also for the Baltic States, which, as we saw above, were called the 'Ostland.' But looting of Jewish property pursued not only material objectives, but also "ideological" ones. On March 1, 1942, Hitler charged Rosenberg:

- to explore libraries, archives, lodges, and other ideological and cultural establishments of all kinds for suitable material and to confiscate such material and for the ideological and for scientific research work by the university (Bolsch school).

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6) http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/29549-germany-1933-1945
The same decree provides for cultural goods which are in the possession or are the property of Jews, which are abandoned or whose origin cannot be clearly established. This measure was prompted by the necessity to conduct a spiritual struggle against "Crazy Germanism and the ideological enemies of National Socialism... (who are) the originators of the present war against the Reich."

On the strength of this order State Secretary Lemmser sent out a memorandum on July 5, 1942 informing the Highest Reich authorities and the services directly subordinate to the Führer that Rosenberg had been authorized to take all the necessary measures for the implementation of the orders given by the Führer and to request the competent Reichswehr and police services to seize the material found in order to support the RSHA in fulfillment of its spiritual task and for the later scientific research work of the 'Heinrich Schulz'.

10) The army High Command, in its turn, hastened to issue the necessary instructions. Keitel, Chief of the High Command of the armored Forces, issued an order on the same day providing that corresponding measures should be carried out in all the territories of Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and France which are occupied by us.

9) In addition to his title of Reichsmarshall, Rosenberg received the purpose title of "Commissioner for the Suppression of the entire spiritual and philosophic indiscipline and education of the people!" His plenipotentiary is sometimes called "Special Purpose Staff For Special Services Staff." By order of September 21, 1942, the High Command defined in detail his functions. Doka, 185-26, Reich Conservancy and Agrology, Vol. III, p. 194.

11) Doka, 187-90, Reich Conservancy and Agrology, Vol. III, p. 187. As early as June 20, 1940, about two weeks after Paris was occupied, Gen. Keitel gave a decree to Gen. von Rokelberg, Military Governor of Paris, to seize the art works and objects of historical interest in private possession, especially in the possession of the Jews. This measure was not to be regarded as appropriation, but had a guarantee for the peace negotiations. (Off. Tr., p. 5006 - italics ours).
Rosenberg immediately began implementing the assignment given him and soon requested permission "to form staffs in all occupied territories." By decree of May 1, 1941, Goering sanctioned this request instructing all Party organizations, State and military authorities to offer Rosenberg full cooperation in his "battle against Jews, Freemasons and other affiliated forces of opposite Weltanschauung." 12

This Staff for Special Purposes represented, as appropriately termed by Mr. Gortkoffer, member of the French Special Commission, "the official organization for pillaging." 13

It may be added only that this body was one of the largest and best organized pillaging plants in the world for stolen and looted property. This is confirmed by the following report on the activities of Rosenberg's staff in France from the beginning of their activities up to August 1, 1941:

"In addition to this nature of property (cultural), at the suggestion of the Director Unit of the Special Purpose Staff it was proposed to the Reichsführer that the furniture and other contents of the unoccupied Jewish houses should also be secured and dispatched to the Minister for the Occupied Eastern Territories, for use in the occupied Eastern Territories." 14

The report also describes the way in which these measures were carried out. Although at first only abandoned property of the Jews who fled was to be confiscated, members of the "commissariats" gangs were searching all Jewish houses without remorse, regardless

12) ibid., 1117-79, (Note: Oponewy and Aggrovation, Vol. III, p. 797)
13) ibid., 1117-79 (Note: Oponewy and Aggrovation, Vol. III, p. 797)
whether they abandoned their property or closed their homes in the belief that their property would thus be safe. The looted property was then loaded on trucks, for which purpose 150 trucks were used daily in the course of several months, at first the property was dispatched to special camps where 700 Jews had to sort and repair the stolen goods. Among other things, foreign currency in the amount of 11,695,816 M was found in Paris. Scrap metal, paper and textiles alone exceeded 3,292,352 kg.

The property of Jews pillaged because of "ideological" reasons was then sent to various organizations in Germany. 39 divisions and private individuals received 977 loaded wagons, the German police - 251 wagons, post office employees - 106, and German State Railways - 1,776. Mainly railroad workers who suffered from houseburning received such a large amount of stolen furniture for their services in transporting Jews. Belgian, French and Dutch workers often sabotaged these activities by damaging boxes and wrappings, but the German workers disclosed the sabotage and protected Jewish furniture designed for Germans. It is interesting to note that while sending household furniture to the German population which had suffered from houseburnings, the German Government reserved the right of ownership of this property. In this connection the Government systematically pursued  

[15] "This operation was called "Aktion."
the policy initiated after the 1938 pogroms when it took away the pledged property from the Jews and then sold it at regular prices to its own citizens, or transferred it to the state. The aforementioned memorandum states that the furniture has been given to persons suffering the bomb damage on a loan basis, while

"The determination of the value and the definite evaluation of the persons suffering the bomb damage remains in abeyance till a labor accounting. In the case of restituting the goods are Reich property and are subject to the evaluation right of the Reich Minister for the Occupied Eastern Territory."

At the same time, Rosenberg's Kinetostab was active in collecting paintings and objects of art. In an extensive report by Robert Schles, Chief of the Special Staff for Pictorial Art, which embraces nearly a four-year period of activities - from October, 1940, till July, 1944 - it is stated that 35,900 art objects...

were inventoried." The author of the report particularly stresses that "the clearly established Jewish origin of the individual owner was proved in each case..."

At the same time he calls attention to the extreme difficulty in establishing identification, because of the

"problems castling by French authorities, as well as by over-filing of Jewish possessions by trusteeship of French authorities covering up for the French"

anticipating such a possibility, the Supreme Command provided, by decree of October

20, 1940, that

...the ownership status (for art objects) before the war in France, prior to the declaration of war on 1 September 1939, shall be the criterion. Ownership transfers after that date are irrelevant and legally invalid.

Disregarding the material value of the looted art objects, Schola had to admit that “it could not be expressed in figures.” The paintings, period furniture of the 17th and 18th centuries, the Gobelins, the antiques and renaissance jewelry of the Rothschilds are objects of such a unique character that their evaluation is impossible, since no comparable values have as far appeared on the market.

In his opinion the collection of French furniture of the 17th and 18th centuries is perhaps even more highly to be evaluated than paintings, as well as the collection of Gobelins and Persian tapestries. It contains numerous world famous objects.

But the ambers of Rosenberg’s Elefantentab searched these valuable not only among the “abandoned” Jewish property. They found them in the luggage of emigrants in Holland, Belgium and occupied parts of France.

The third object of the ideological plunder were books, and particular importance was attached to them. By order of the Supreme Command of the armed forces...

The material fine libraries, archives, tapes and similar things, safeguarded by the Special Purpose Staff Rosenberg in the execution of its mission, is to be treated like armed forces goods. All other goods are expressly excluded from this.

2) Gno. 107-9, Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression, Vol. III, p. 469
3) In Holland the lack of property belonging to Jews who emigrated to the Netherlands was introduced by zeeman’s report and they were forced to leave.
Books were to serve as a basis for the establishment of the "Joho Schule" in Frankfurt-am-Main—The Institute for Exploration of the Jewish Question.

The report of this "Scientific" Institute admits that all collected material and books were derived from Jewish property, not centrally collected to serve the research, doctrine and education of the German people.\(^{22}\)

For this purpose the following were despoiled:

1. The library of the "Alliance Israélite Universelle" (Paris) — 40,000 volumes in 19 languages including Judaism and Hebrew, a very valuable collection of clippings regarding the Dreyfus affair and 250 manuscripts.

2. The library of the "Archives Rabbicares" (Paris) — 20,000 volumes.

3. The library of the "Fédération des sociétés de Secours aux déshérités" (Paris) — 4,000 volumes.

4. 20,000 volumes from the stock of the Jewish bookstore Lipschitz of Paris, containing valuable bibliographical works.

5. Various collections of the entire Rothschild family and important archive material concerning the position of Jews in France.

6. Collection of "Yosepheliana" books — 35,000 volumes, mainly German language literature on the Jewish question.

7. The library of the "Reform Jewish Community in Amsterdam" — about 25,000 vol.

8. About 240,000 volumes located in the USSR and Poland.

\(^{22}\) Roe, 171-72, Nazi Genocide and Jew报仇, Vol. III, p. 239.
Altogether the report refers to 290,000 volumes which were packed in 3,000 boxes and sent to Germany.

If the SS men, postal workers and others who suffered from harassment were interested in plundering and receiving Jewish furniture and property, the elite of the SS and party, and in the first place Hitler himself and Goering, were interested in appropriating art objects.

As early as November 5, 1940, Goering sent a letter to Rosenberg's Special Purpose Staff subdividing all art objects into 5 categories, whereby in the first category were included those art objects about which the Fuhrer has reserved for himself the decision as to their use, and in the second category those art objects which serve to the completion of the Reich Marshall's collection. 23)

The ideological purposes of looting crossed with the aims of personal enrichment, which Goering unsuccessfully tried to deny during the trial.

On April 16, 1943, Rosenberg wrote to the Fuhrer congratulating him on the occasion of his birthday and sending "some joy and discrimination". 24)

The folder containing photos of some of the most valuable paintings... secured from elsewhere Jewish art collections in the occupied Eastern territories. These objects represent an addition to the collection of 51 of the most valuable objects of art delivered some time ago to your collection. 23) (italicics ours).

23) Apparently, this report does not list all the books and archives located in Holland. In a special report on Holstein, obtained from the Jerusalem Library Beth-Medrash Etz Chayy., established in Amsterdam in 1910, the Netherland Jewrotice Bund, containing books published from the years 1860 to 1910, or the collection of Israel-Hayyim, consisting of 4,000,000 pictures devoted to Jewish life. Sec. 176-25, Such, deportation and extermination, Vol. III, pp. 220-221.

Thus we see that 32 valuable paintings, and not photos, were sent previously to
Hitler. Rosenberg closed his service letter by stating that during the forthcoming
searched audience he will give the Führer

Another 32 failures of pictures, with the hope that this short occupation
with the beautiful things of art which are nearest to your heart will
send a ray of beauty and joy into your reversed life.

Courage, in a letter to Rosenberg, stating that his collection of paintings is
the most important private collection at least in Germany, if not in Europe, expressed
his desire to have one of the requested works from Jews, pointing out that
the Führer had already approved his plan.

However, one must be just and say that Courrig's love for painting was not con-

fined only to those which belonged to Jewish collections. He showed the same passion
for paintings in Paris museums as well. An interesting conversation between Courrig
and one of the masters of Rosenberg's Ministry was made public during the trials.
Courrig ordered that all art objects collected in Vosk de France be sent immediately to
Germany. When the official of Rosenberg's office, highly experienced in handling
property, warned that the order could most likely raise protests on the part of the
military commander in France and that the jurists would probably be of a different
opinion," the Feldmarchal answered:

"Dear Sonjas, let us worry about that; I am the highest justice in the
state."

26) NLS, 92-0, P 9, Nezal Constancy and Aggression, Vol. III, p. 12.
The plundering of Jewish property was not, naturally, limited to those few dates. We tried to give only a picture of systematic looting of cultural treasures collected by Jews, as well as looting of furniture and all other forms of household property. When Göring and Rosenberg were charged accordingly, they attempted to defend themselves by saying that it referred to worthless property. But when they were asked who was responsible for the fact that the owner had to flee or live in hiding, there was no answer.

Against this the general background of German atrocities, these plunders do not appear too horrible. After all, the extermination of six million people Jews, one cannot dwell too much on looting of paintings, even if they represent the most invaluable cultural treasures. But this looting pursued the same aim of destruction of Jews as a people which possessed its own libraries, picture galleries in private possession, archives, and an own culture rich in its varied folklore, developed under the influence of conditions of life and history of the peoples among whom the Jews lived.

By destroying the centers of Jewish culture, the Germans destroyed these spiritual treasures which are subject neither to evaluation nor to calculation. Major Welch, member of the U.S. Prosecution, was quite right when concluding his speech on the crimes against the Jewish people, he said the following:
The slaughter of the Jews in Europe cannot be expressed in figures alone, for the impact of this slaughter is even more tragic to the future of the Jewish people and mankind. Ancient Jewish communities, with their own rich cultural, spiritual, and economic life, have found their life in the nations in which they flourished, have been completely obliterated. The contributions of the Jewish people to civilization, the arts, the sciences, industry and culture, need not, I am sure, be elaborated upon before this Tribunal. Their destruction, carried out continuously, deliberately, intentionally and systematically by the Nazis, represents a loss to civilization of special qualities and abilities that cannot possibly be replaced.