From the beginning of the war Eastern Europe was regarded by the Germans as a colony destined for exploitation of the German people. As early as 1929, the "Akademie fuer das deutsche Recht," at the request of the Government, prepared a draft of a plan for colonization and Germanization of Poland. This thoroughly elaborated political and economic plan proceeds on the assumption that Germanization 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 jiidischer Ausbeutung." One of the best means of materializing this protection would be, in the opinion of the author of the report, the complete removal 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. Exclusion
of work and confiscation not only of small but also of large real estate, farms, and
the like went on at an accelerated tempo, entering ever more new regions. However,
the confiscated property was turned over not by the Nazis but by Reich Germans of pure
blood. Moreover, in order to inspire 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.

Following

\[\text{\textit{V. Holstov, in a note of April 27, 1942 delivered to the Allies after the order}}\]


\[\text{\textit{Reichs} \textit{Führer}}\]

\[\text{issued by Reichs} \textit{Führer-Justizoberpräsident} \text{in the Occupied Ukraine}}\]

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 for anyone else. You and your children will fill
with German life the land which has been saturated with German blood.\[3\]

In its instructions issued on July 12, 1941, the German military High Command
provides for

\[\text{\textit{The cultivation in each officer and soldier of the German army
of a feeling of national social concern in this area.}}\]\n
a special fund for German veterans was set up mainly at the expense of Jewish
property.

\[\text{\textit{Directions for the handling of the Jewish Question, issued at the beginning
of the war, provide that}}\]\n
\[\text{\textit{2) \textit{Spittel Document, p.}}\]

\[\text{\textit{3) Professor Treitsch, \textit{Die Zukunft der deutsch deutschen Stämme}, Moscow, 1941, pp.43-64.}}\]
"the entire Jewish property is to be seized and confiscated with
exceptions of that which is necessary for a bare existence. As far
as the economical situation permits, the power of disposal of their
property is to be taken from the Jews as soon as possible through
orders and other measures given by the seminaries, so that the
saving of property will quickly cease."

On September 19, 1940, Governing 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 authorised 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 "Mainland." But looting of Jewish property plunged not only
material objectives, but also "ideological" ones. On March 1, 1942, Hitler charged
Rosenberg

"to explore libraries, archives, loques, and other ideological and
cultural establishments of all kinds for suitable material and to
 confiscate such material and for the ideological tasks of the RSHA
and for scientific research work by the university (Reichskolleg)."

2) REA., 1, 1928, p. 1290. An analogous decree was promulgated by Prussia for the
Government General on January 27, 1940. ReA., 294-295, State Commission of Approach,
3) REA., 1, 1928, p. 1290. An analogous decree was promulgated by Prussia for the
Government General on January 27, 1940. ReA., 294-295, State Commission of Approach,
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

"curses 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 Lammers 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 Reichs 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 'Welle Schule'." 10) The army High Command, in its turn, hastened to issue the necessary instructions. Keitel, Chief of the High Command of the armed 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. 11)

9) In addition to his title of Reichsminister, Rosenberg received the purpose title of "Consultant for the Supervision of the entire spiritual and philosophical indoctrination and education of the people" by decree dated 29 July 1940. This title is sometimes called "Special Purpose Staff for Special Service Staffs." By order of September 23, 1940, the army High Command defined in detail his functions. Doc. 159-751, Natl. Consistency


11) Doc. 159-751, Natl. Consistency and Apportionment, Vol. III, p. 185. As early as June 20, 1940, about two weeks after Paris' occupation, Gen. Keitel gave an order to Gen. von Rokholberg, 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 expropriation, but had a guarantee for the peace negotiations. (Off. Tr., p. 3095 - 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, Goebbels sanctioned this request instructing all Party organizations, State and military authorities to offer Rosenberg full cooperation in his "battle against Jews, Poles, and other affiliated forces of opposite Weltanschauung." 12

This Staff for Special Purposes, represented, in appropriately termed by Dr. Gorkhofer, member of the French Prosecution, "the official organization for pillaging." 13

It may be added only that this body was one of the largest and best organized hiding places 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 Purposes Staff it was proposed to the Reichsleiter that the furniture and other contents of the unoccupied Jewish homes should also be secured and dispatched to the Minister for the Occupied Eastern Territories, for use in the occupied Eastern Territories."

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 'police' continued to search all Jewish houses without notice, regardless

13) Dr. Gorkhofer, "The Official Organization for Pillaging." 14)
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 11,605,016 H was found in Paris. Scrap metal, paper and textiles alone weighed 3,251,352 kg.

The property of Jews pillaged because of "ideological" reasons was then sent to various organizations in Germany. About 36 divisions and private individuals received 577 loaded wagons, the German police - 251 wagons, post office employees - 156, and German State Railways - 1,176. Mainly railroad workers who suffered from housebreakers received much of the stolen furniture for their services in transporting items. Believers, 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 housebreakers, the German Government reserved the right of ownership of this property. In this connection the Government systematically pursued

15) This operation was called "W. Action."
the policy initiated after the 1938 pogroms when it took away the pillaged property
from the lecturers and then sold it at regular prices to its own citizens, or trans-
ferred 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 ultimate evaluation by the
persons suffering the bomb damage remains in absolute till a labor ac-
counting. Up to the time of restoring the goods are Reich property
and are subject to the evaluation right of the Reich Minister for the
occupied Eastern Territorial."

At the same time, Rosenberg's Kinetostab was active in collecting paintings
and objects of art. In an extensive report by Robert Scholz, 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 23,300 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 iden-
tification, because of the

"proven standings by French authorities, as well as by the confiscating
of Jewish possession by trusteeship of French Ministries covering up
for the French."

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

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 this date are irrelevant and legally invalid.

Discussing 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 Sevres, the antiques and renaissance jewelry of the Rothschilds and objects of such a unique character that their evaluation is impossible, since no comparable values have so 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 Sevres and Persian tapestries. The collection of the Rothschilds and the “harem” of the palace. They found that in the history of emigrants in Paris, such objects were books, and particular importance was attached to them. By order of the Supreme Command of the armed Forces...

In Holland, Belgium and occupied zones of France...

21) In Holland “aktivierung of property belonging to Jews” 

Italic: *italics only*
Books were to serve as a basis for the establishment of the "Yale Schule" in Frankfurt-on-the-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 legally solicit" to serve the research, doctrine and education of the German people." 22)

For this purpose the following were despatched:

1) The Library of the "Alliance Israélite Universelle" (Paris) - 25,000 volumes in many languages including Judaism and Hebrew, a very valuable collection of clippings regarding the Dreyfus affair and 200 manuscripts.

2) The Library of the "Bundes Rabbinische" (Paris) - 20,000 volumes.

3) The Library of the "Fédération des Sociétés de Sion en de France" - 4,000 volumes.

4) 25,000 volumes from the stock of the Jewish bookstore Lippinck 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 "Neo-Hebrew" books - 50,000 volumes, mainly German language literature on the Jewish question.

7) The Library of the "Vlachorodic Jewish Community in Amsterdam" - about 25,000 vol.

8) About 200,000 volumes locked in the USSR and Poland.

#Shgemshaa

22) loc. cit. 78, Nazi Genocide and Annexation, vol. III, p. 220,
Altogether the report refers to 250,000 volumes which were packed in 5,000 boxes and sent to Germany.

If the SS men, post office employees and those who suffered from harassment were interested in plundering and receiving Jewish furniture and property, the elite of the SS, 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 Fuehrer had 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."

The "ideological" purpose of looting ceased with the aims of personal enrichment which Goering unsuccessfully tried to deny during the trial.

On April 16, 1943, Rosenberg wrote to the Fuehrer congratulating him on the occasion of his birthday and sending "some joy and some happiness"

A folder containing photos of some of the most valuable paintings... secured from countless Jewish art collections in the occupied Eastern territories. These photos represent an addition to the collection of 19 of the most valuable objects of art delivered since November to your collection." 23 (Italics ours).

23) Apparently, this report does not list all the books and archival material
in Holland. In a special report on Holland, skimmed from the Jerusalem Library Beth-Menora, establishd in Amsterdam in 1770, the Netherlands Israelite Seminary, containing books published from the year 1580 to 1600, or the collection of Dr. Shapira, consisting of 2,000,000 pictures devoted to Jewish life. See, No. 178-79, Nazi

Thus we see that 30 valuable paintings, and not statues, were sent previously to

Germany. Rosenberg closed the earlier letter by stating that the following

requested audience he will give the Pashner.

Another 20 skeletons of pictures, with the hope that this short occupation
with the beautiful things of art which are nearest to your heart still

shed a ray of beauty and joy into your revered life.\(^{26}\)

Goring, in a letter to Rosenberg, stating that his collection of paintings is
the most important private collection in Germany. If not in Europe, expressed
his desire to have the most of the confiscated works from Jews, pointing out that
the Pashner had already approved his plan.

However, one must be just and say that Göring'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 Göring
and one of the managers of Rosenberg's Ministry was made public during the trials.

Göring ordered that all art objects collected in Jews' hands be sent immediately to
Germany. When the official of Rosenberg's office, highly experienced in looting of
property, remarked that the order could not likely arise protests on the part of the
military command in France and that "the jurists would probably be of a different
opinion," the Reichsminister answered

"Dear Renné, let on worry about that; I am the highest justice in the
state.\(^{27}\)

\(^{26}\) GB, O.L., 10, Miss Conferences and Agreement, Vol. III, p. 48.

\(^{27}\) GB, O.L., 10, Miss Conferences and Agreement, Vol. III, p. 48.
The plundering of Jewish property was not, naturally, limited to these 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 Goering 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 plunderers do not appear too terrible. After the extermination of 6 million persons, 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 Walsh, 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, bound up for centuries with the life of 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, if in awe, be elaborated upon before this Tribunal. Their destruction, carried out contemptuously, deliberately, intentionally and systematically by the Nazis, represents a loss to civilization of special qualities and abilities that cannot possibly be replaced."

38) Off. Tr., p. 1207.