2. Intent and Purpose

As early as on February 7, 1939, Alfred Rosenberg made a Public declaration in Berlin before a special audience of foreign diplomats and representatives of the foreign press, to the effect that Jewish millionaires should acquire territory outside of Europe as a home for all Jews, and that this place should by no means be called Jewish State, but simply a Jewish Reservation under German control. That the Reichsleiter Rosenberg, chief of the SS Party department for foreign affairs, made this responsible declaration is sufficient evidence for the seriousness of the German intention to eliminate all Jews from Europe.

The occupation of Poland by the German armies after September 1939 gave new impetus to the idea of the isolation of Jews, but necessarily changed the geographical place where it could be materialized. Nazi geopoliticians suggested that to this area be transferred the entire Jewish population of Germany and the occupied territories, amounting to approximately 600,000 persons.

Hitler decided to put into effect Rosenberg's plan for a
resettlement area for the Jews of Germany and selected for
that purpose a territory approximately 400 miles square
southwest of Lithuania.

The transfers of Jews began as early as the latter half
of October 1939 and proceeded on an accelerated pace. Every
day groups of from 5000 to 10,000 Jews were shipped from the
various territories annexed by Germany. The first group was
departed from eastern Poland, then many Austrian Jews from
Vienna alone arrived about 25,000 Jews. Then, after the Jews
of Poland-Lithuania had been accounted for, came the turn of
German Jews. The first to be deported were the Jews of Rostock,
in view of the fact that their city was located with Baltic
German and had been used and other terms in the area of mil-
itary operations. The usual practice in these deportations
was for local Nazis or members of the Nazi Party to break
into apartments of Jews at night and order them to be ready
to leave at once for an unknown destination. They were ordered
to leave all their possessions behind, except for such per-
sonal belongings as they could put into a small suitcase or
handing. They might take along with them only such jewelry as a wedding ring and a watch and such not exceeding $100.

Polishmen. They were also required to sign declarations that they had no debts for real estate and personal property, including bonds, mortgages, and deposits. They could not take along any food.

Most old men and women who lived in houses for the aged were not exempted from this procedure, nor was exemption made for veterans of the First World War. The deputies usually were transferred to small villages having any convenient and occupied with families of poor Jews or in rooms left by evacuated peasants. And, very often even the most primitive lodging possibilities were lacking; the people were brought to bare fields and left there; they were ordered to build huts using but no material and tools were given to them.

In December, 1939 the Lublin Reservation was overpopulated with Jews. Ronald Gamsius Villard, journalist and editor visited the Reservation, reported the following impressions:

[Rest of the text is not visible in the image provided.]
Whether it is poor or rich, this annihilation by force has been begun now in the land of slave and in a manner that cannot be interpreted as anything else than a determination to create not a Jewish State, but a vast insane concentration camp, which will certainly become nothing else than a collection of death. If they cannot find shelter in the desert lands of the expelled Jewish people they can choose to death or build new homes without means, without materials, without tools, without anything. (1)

Thus the European war was almost a year old, and the German de- 

clared that the time has come to intensify their biological warfare,

Rosebogy declared at a conference of the American Institute for

Jewish Settlements

The Jewish problem, which for 2000 years, has been solv-

ed by the nation of Europe will now find its solu-

tion through the National Socialis Revolution for 

each Germany and all of Europe... The Jewish dream of 

an autonomous state has vanished... now it is up to us to 

find a place and the manners in which to settle the 

Jews. This will happen, as we said, not in a Jewish 

State, but only in a manner which I would like to call 

Modern Hebrewism. It is to be hoped that future 

experiments will succeed and bring about the settlement 

of Jews under the expert supervision of police 

authorities, all to the last which they voluntarily 

wished the non-Jews to do... For Germany the Jewish 

problem will be solved only when the last Jew leaves 

the territory of Greater Germany... We believe that 

this war also represents a verifying historical 

world revolution. (2)

By the end of November 1939 not less than 150,000 Jews

were brought to

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(1) The German New Order in Poland, published by the Polish 

Ministry of Information, London, pp. 199-201; also in 

The Roosevelt Year Book of Current Historical Events,

(2) Blackford, 1929, Feb. 1, pp. 66-73. (Italics are ours)
the Indian reservations and left them without any possibility to live. As costs associated with it rose, evidences were on the increase there, especially typhus, dysentery, malnutrition. The suffering of the Jews brought to the Indian reservations became unbearable.

Yet just as suddenly as they started the establishment of the Indian reservations, the Germans dropped the idea of a plan. This happened because it became clear to them that it would take even more time to bring millions of Jews to public cemeteries than it would take to concentrate them in many different places. So they struck upon the idea of the establishment of ghettos in Poland. This was a very old idea, and for several years already the German authorities, headed by Streicher, threatened the Jews with the extermination. Yet the Germans never did it quite a way and important twist. In the middle ages the ghettos was a means of segregation. the Jewish population lived separately from the Gentiles. Now the Jews were segregated not for life but for death.

From this context the idea of a ghetto was the following:
to destroy the Jews not by directly taking their lives, not by taking away from them all preconditions of life, not by reducing in a second way the human being, but by reducing him to the level of a vermin, with reduced organic functions of life alone. All reform the Germans gave for the desirable of the ghettos establishment was for instance, the necessity to prevent black market and speculation, to prevent the gentle population from the spread of epidemics, are quite inconsistent, since just in the ghettos black market and speculation became the only possible way to save oneself from starvation, and epidemics were on the increase in all ghettos as a quite natural result of undernourishment, overcrowding, lack of the most elementary hygiene and sanitary help. The only valid reason for the establishment of ghettos was the German desire to create the most appropriate conditions for a "slow motion" extermination of Jews, and to keep them all fixed together for rapid final extermination.

5. The First Period of Ghettization (Spring 1940 to Winter 1941)

This period of "slow motion" extermination lasted in Poland from Spring 1940 to the end of 1941. The first large ghetto was established in July, its gates were locked on May 1, 1940.
Arthur Szydlowski, the notorious Gauleiter of Lódz, wanted to fund the highly developed Lódz industry with Jewish manpower and forced, therefore, to create at least approximately normal conditions in the Lódz ghetto. These conditions looked like this: the ghetto was surrounded by high terror, from which the Germans could look into the ghetto at any time; everywhere there was no light that they blinded his eyes and helped the Germans to spot those who tried to approach under cover of darkness, the fence. They were shot instantly, on an average of 15 shots a day. A special Jewish currency was introduced, and those found in possession of dollars and even German marks were shot immediately. Bread and butter went within the ghetto 50 times more than without the fence, and the same with all other products. Typhus, dysentery, tuberculosis spread so fast that the Lódz ghetto of 200,000 population had about 2,500 cases of death due to "natural" causes every month. That in Lódz the "sterilisation" extermination would have taken eleven years to finish off the original number of 200,000. In terror all conditions of
life was so much worse that not less than 9,000 died every month, and the entire ghetto of 220,000 could be exterminated in less than five years.

Nowhere the Ghetto ruled the streets with iron hand. If a fire broke out in a Jewish house, the managers were forbidden to put it out; they had to call a Ghetto official who decided what to do with it. There were special squads searching for food in Jewish houses; if the smallest amount of such was found, the owner was at once hanged on a public place.

Penalties for leaving the boundaries of the Warsaw Ghetto, for instance, were the following: At first the penalty was a fine of up to 2000 złoty or three months imprisonment and forced labor. Later the fine was raised to 10,000 złoty and the penalty had the right to shoot at Jews attempting escape. On September 15, 1941 a decree providing death penalty for attempts to escape went into effect. All who helped the Holocaust became subject to the same penalty.
while failure in shooting was punished as an accomplished deed.

In many ghettos Jews were deprived of gas and electricity. Jail
confinements were no longer permitted under the pretext of the
fear of epidemics, delivery of packages was suspended. The use of
radio sets was banned. Complete isolation was enforced.

Deprived, morally stunned, physically depleted, the Jews
were thrust within walls upon which barbed wire and pegs
were nailed, isolating their isolation from the rest of the world.

Inside the ghetto they were crowded even more densely than
in the most crowded quarters of the most crowded cities of
the world. Parks and gardens were not crowded within the
area of the ghetto, as a partial result of which hygiene and
health conditions were so much better than even the worst
of wars. It was regarded as a privilege, in comparison.

(1) Verordnung über Aufenthaltseinschränkungen
in Kranken- und Todesfällen. Verordnungsblatt

(2) Verordnung über die Einrichtung der Beispiele von
Kranken und Todesfällen in Krankenhaus und.

Verordnung über die Einrichtung der Beispiele von
Kranken- und Todesfällen im Krankenhaus.
The Failure to Stop the Genocide: The Case of the Jews

However terrible was the general situation of the
Jewish ghettos in 1941, it then almost paralleled condi-
tions as compared with the ghettos of the same period
established by the Germans in the Caucasus. The latter
ghettos never knew the stigma of almost four centuries.

In Rovno, for instance, the Germans entered on June 28,
1941. In July, 1942 became the Gauleiter of White Russia.
In August he ordered the establishment of a ghetto in
Rovno. From the first moment in gangs of German soldiers
and gendarmerie officials started attacking the ghettos by day
and night, burning Jewish houses, raping Jewish women,
murdering young and old at their hearts' content. In
October, 1941 the Germans chased the whole population of
the ghettos out of town, armed them to a large anti-tank
ditch, cruelly machine-gunned and then buried them all.
Together, those who were dead and those who were still alive.

In Yekaterinoslav the Germans entered in July, 1941.
a ghetto for 20,000 Jews. On September 1, 1942, they started a
program which lasted 25 days and took the lives of 20,000 Jews.
Two months later the program was repeated in all its details. Only
a few thousand Jews survived to perish ten months later, in the
third and final program.

This picture is typical for the rest of the SSPA: wherever
a ghetto was established, this was done only to have all Jews
ready for their rapid and radical extermination.

What happened with the Russian ghettos in 1941 becomes the
lot of the Polish ghettos in 1944. The only difference lay in
the fact that in Poland the Germans paid more attention to all
channels to use up the Jewish manpower, and the stronger they felt
the growing value of the manpower shortage, the more difficult it
became for them to part with any thousands of skilled Jewish
laborers. They found their way out as follows: they reserved
some and more to the so-called "Grodno Programs" (killing of old
folk, children, and all those unfit to work) and either transformed
the ghettos into concentration and labor camps or liquidated the
ghettos and transferred all those fit to work to labor camps. In
connection with this new policy, the Jews in Poland, trying to
more themselves, started a desperate fight for jobs "useful"

In the frame of the Germans, the Jews were treated as strangers to the family, not allowed to speak, not allowed to work, not allowed to wear German clothes, not allowed to go to the cinema. The Jews were forced to work in factories, not allowed to leave the factories, not allowed to go to the cinema, not allowed to go to the theatre, not allowed to go to the park, not allowed to go to the beach.

In the summer of 1941, the Germans deported 25,000 Jews to a death camp, leaving only 5,000 still alive. The Jews were forced to work in factories, not allowed to leave the factories, not allowed to go to the cinema, not allowed to go to the theatre, not allowed to go to the beach.

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substituted several smaller camps, which they called "reservations," for the large concentration camps. Then, in January, on September 1, 1943, the Germans cleared the whole population of the ghetto of all "independent" elements and transformed the ghetto into a labor camp. Then they divided all inmates of this camp into several smaller groups which they moved partly to the suburbs of Rannos and partly to the provinces.

Typical of this whole process is also the fate of the Riga Ghetto. Established in October 1941, it existed for 21 months during which time at least 250,000 native Jews and Jews from other countries perished there. Only 3,000 skilled workers survived the final liquidation of the Riga Ghetto in July 1943. They were distributed among several reservations, of which 21 existed in the district of Riga. Between July and October 1944, when the Red Army drew closer and closer to Latvia, no less than 400,000 Jews were deported from these labor camp reservations; most of them were transferred to Eastern Baltic and massacred in the woods there. What happened to the remainder of the victims, how and where this remainder has been slaughtered — this is as yet unknown.
The German intentions toward the Jews became quite clear in the first weeks of the German-Polish war when thousands of Jews were shot or tortured to death in the towns and villages of Poland. This was the occupation which brought along the complete and immediate economic and social uprooting of the Polish Jews. Yet all that was only the beginning, and much more radical plans against the Jews loomed on the horizon. Hardly a month passed since the Germans took over the country, and already the Germans started shifting thousands of Jews toward the Lublin district where they established the so-called Jewish reservation. Alfred Rosenberg, the originator of this plan emphasized that this reservation was not meant to be a Jewish state. In reality, it was purely and simply a huge concentration camp where for the greater part of prisoners even the most primitive lodging possibilities were missing: the people were brought to the bare fields and left there - they were ordered to build barrack-like no materials and tools were given to them. By the end of November 1939, not less than 150,000 Jews were brought to
the Lublin district and left there without any possibility
to live in and recover were in at once, epidemics were
in the camp there, especially typhus, dysentery, cholera
The sufferings of the Jews brought to the Lublin reservation
became unbearable.

Yet just as suddenly as they started the establishment
of the Lublin reservation the Germans dropped the whole
plan. This happened because it became clear to them that
it would take more time to bring millions of Jews to Lublin
much more time than it would take to concentrate them in
many different places. So they struck upon the idea of
the establishment of ghettos in Poland. This was a very
old idea, and for several years already the German Jews
had been, headed by Speer, threatened the Jews with
the sterilization, yet the Germans added to it a quite
new and important twist. In the middle ages the ghetto
was a means of segregation, the Jewish population lived
separately from the Gentiles. Now the Jews were segregated
not for life but for death.

From the outset the idea of a ghetto was the following:
to destroy the Jews not by directly taking their lives, but by taking away from them all prerequisites of life. Nothing was simpler than that: the only thing needed was to interfere with normal organic functions of life itself.

All reasons the Germans gave for the urgency of the ghetto establishment like, for instance, the necessity to prevent black market and speculation, to protect the Jewish population from the spread of epidemics, are quite inconsistent since just in the ghettos black market and speculation became the only possible way to save oneself from starvation and the epidemics were on the ramp in all ghettos as a quite natural result of unhygienic living, overcrowding, lack of the most elementary hygiene and medical help. The only valid reason for the establishment of ghettos was the German desire to create the most appropriate conditions for a "slow motion" destruction of Jews, not to have them all handy together for rapid final extermination.

This period of "slow motion" destruction lasted in Poland from spring 1941 to the end of 1941. The first large ghettos were established in Lodz, the decap were located...
On May 1, 1943, the notorious Galician, Dr. Benjamin, evicted the highly developed Wola
labourers with Jewish appearance and tried, therefore, to
create at least approximately normal conditions within
the labour camps. Three conditions looked like this: the ghettos
were surrounded by high towers, from which the Germans could
look into the ghettos at any time; everywhere hung lamps so
bright that they blinded the eyes and helped the
Germans to spot those who tried to approach under cover
of darkness the fence—the they were shot instantly, on an average
of 35 Jews a day. A special death currency was introduced,
and those found in possession of dollars and even German
marks were shot immediately. Bread and better new within
the ghettos 50 times more than without it fences; and the
same was with all other products. Syphilis, dysentery, tuber-
culosis spread so fast that the whole ghetto of 200,000
population had every month about 1,500 cases of death due
to "natural" causes. Due to lack the "other action"
extermination would have taken 11 years to finish off the
original number of 800,000. In Wola all conditions of
life were so much worse that not less than 9,000 died every
month, and the whole ghetto of 500,000 could be exterminated
in less than five years.

Everywhere the Gestapo ruled the ghettos with iron
hand. If a fire broke out in a decent house, the families
were forbidden to put it out; they had to call a Gestapo
official who decided what to do with it. There were
special squads searching for food in Jewish houses; if
the smallest amount of meat was found, the owner was at
case hung on a public place.

In the whole of Poland there was only one small ghetto,
in the town of Plock, quite different than all others.
The Gestapo Chief, Schmeer, supervisor of the ghetto, told
openly the Jews that he would be satisfied, and so it was.
The Jews were left alone and even when the epidemics
broke out, Schmeer allowed a Polish doctor to treat patients
in the ghetto. Very soon the Jewish population of
this town increased from 5 to ten thousand. The nearby
town of Grodno also experienced a miracle, even if of a
different kind: the Germans marched the whole Jewish popu-
out of town and were about to shoot them, when a German
general, who passed by on the head of his troops, intervened
and ordered that only every tenth Jew should be shot.

However, difficult was the general situation of the
Polish ghetto in 1942. It was worse than prewar conditions
in comparison with the ghetto of the same period es-
established by the Germans in the U.S.S.R. The latter ghetto
never knew the stage of slowed down extermination. In Minsk,
for instance, the Germans arrived on June 26, 1941. In
July, the Jews became the hostages of Third Russia. In
August, they established a ghetto in Minsk. From the first
moments on, gangs of German soldiers and Gestapo officials
begun attacking the ghetto by day and night, looting
Jewish homes, raping Jewish women, killing young and old
at their hearts' content. In October 1941, the Germans
shoved the whole population of the ghetto out of town;
transported them to a huge anti-tank ditch, summarily machine-
gunned and then buried them all together, those who were
dead and the ones still alive.

In Vilnius-Vilna, the Germans arrived in July 1941.
In a ghetto for 55,000 Jews, on September 1, 1941, they
started a pogrom which lasted 15 days and of 10,000 Jews.

Two months later the pogrom was repeated in all its details.

Only a few thousand Jews survived to reach ten months
later, in the third and final pogrom.

This picture is typical for the whole of the U.S.S.R.

Whatever a ghetto was established this was done only to
have all Jews ready for their rapid and ruthless extermina-
tion.

What happened with the Duenia ghettos in 1941 became
the lot of the Polish ghettos in 1942. The only difference
lay in the fact that in Poland the Germans paid more atten-
tion to all classes of using up the Jewish manpower, and
the stronger they felt the growing pangs of manpower, the
more difficult it became for them to part with any thou-
sand of skilled Jewish laborers. The outlet they found
consisted in the following ways: they reacted more and
more to the so-called "Scholesterum" (killing of old
folk, children and all unfit to work) and other trans-
formations the ghettos into concentration and labor camps on
they liquidated the ghettos and transferred all fit to
work to other labor camps. In connection with this new
policy the Jews in Poland, trying to save themselves,
started a desperate fight for jobs "useful" to the German
people. Regardless of the camp then the Jews not only
did not get any wages but paid large amounts of money only
in order to be allowed to work. They dyed their hair in
order to look younger and to be accepted as workers.

In summer 1941 the Germans deported from the Bessarab
ghetto 25,000 to a death camp, leaving only 3,000 skilled
workers and their families. A few weeks later 250 women
and children were taken and deported, too. Then a new
order was issued to deport all women and children, even
if their husbands and fathers were skilled workers em-
ployed by the Germans. The ghetto at Iasi was turned to a
labor camp, with 120 inmates allowed for the Germans.
This process repeated itself with great regularity all
over Poland.

Then, in 1943, the military situation of the Germans
began deteriorating rapidly while the Jews showed none
and more determination to offer desperate resistance, the Germans started to avoid large concentrations of Jews in the rear of their army and substituted several smaller camps, which they called "concentration camps," for large concentration camps. Thus, in Kielce, on September 1, 1943, the Germans cleared the whole population of the ghetto of all "asians," closed off and transformed the ghetto into a labor camp. Then they divided all inmates of this camp into several smaller groups which they moved partly to the suburbs of Kielce and partly to the province.

Appalling for the whole process is also the fate of the Lódz ghetto. Established in October 1940, existed for 21 months; during this time at least 400,000 native Jews and 60,000 from other countries perished there. Only 3,500 million workers survived the final liquidation of the Lódz ghetto in July 1944. They were distributed among several reservations, of which those existed in the district of Lódz. Between July and October 1944, when the Red Army drove closer and closer to Lódz, not less
than 10,000 Jews were deported from these labor camps reservations, most of them were transferred to Eastern
Kreisau and murdered in the death factories. What happened
to the rest of the Jews here and where this rest has been
slaughtered, this is not known as yet.