HIST1320 Class Notes - 10/24

**Walter Gross piece:**

Wanted to make sure that some kept having children to ensure a strong population when Nazis attempted to take over the world.

His speech was to ensure that they also preserved the Aryan race.

Gross defines people into three groups: those with average gifts, leaders, and the defective group. His piece starts to lay the found work for eliminating the “defective” group.

Gross harshly criticized the social welfare system and rehabilitation system. He claims that these people are genetically inclined to not be able to function normally in society.

Nazi leaders used these types of psychological propaganda to dehumanize other races.

**(slide show) Official anti-semitism:**

Germans had many categories of “mixed race” individuals. It became very convoluted. A whole industry developed around proving your Aryan genealogy so that you could keep you citizenship.

**Burleigh and Wippermann:**

Although bloodline was in theory how they justified whether or not you were deported, in the case of “mixed race” people, with one or two Jewish grandparents, it often came down to whether or not you looked Jewish. Three or four Jewish grandparents meant one was fully Jewish.

Today we’re focusing on other categories of people who were seen as racially inferior. (see slides)

The tests on “feeble mindedness” were subjective — people could be failed solely because the administrator of the tests did not like you.

First step to prevent “damage” to society: sterilization, so certain populations couldn’t reproduce.

Then, there was a sense of urgency to euthanize (murder) people with preparations for total war again.

Nazis understood there was a certain trend to just obey orders and do as you’re told.

Examples of resistance:

Workers at institutions realized what was going on and had a moral dilemma - began to help patients.

Families realized what’s going on but were relatively powerless.

Notable example: Bishop of Munster, who vocally condemned killing people. Warned that once Germans started doing this to one group of people, they could easily do it to others, like the elderly.