

- 0. HITLER'S 'FINAL SOLUTION' Story Preface
- 1. STORY PREFACE
- 2. SUICIDAL RESISTANCE
- 3. UNLIKELY CHOICE
- 4. A BUDDING INTELLECTUAL
- 5. HITLER'S 'FINAL SOLUTION'
- 6. STALKING A MADMAN
- 7. ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF HITLER
- 8. HITLER'S HORRORS WORSEN
- 9. A MARTYR'S DEATH
- 10. FINAL MONSTROUS ACTS
- 11. BONHOEFFER'S LEGACY
- 12. POLITICALLY INCORRECT HEROES

Within a year after Bonhoeffer and his colleagues started the Confessing Church, the Nazis were no longer content to merely <u>humiliate</u> Jews. Why <u>merely</u> humiliate when one has the <u>power</u> to <u>do more</u>?

In 1935, the Third Reich did much more. The government passed race laws that specifically targeted Jews, a step that should have surprised no one who had listened to Hitler long before he ruled Germany. He set forth his plan in the book <u>Mein Kampf</u> (My Struggle) and in the <u>25-Point Program</u> of his party.

The "Nuremberg Laws" stripped all German Jews of their citizenship, making Jews "subjects," not citizens. "Legally" enabling the Nazis to begin their atrocities against the Jews, the laws specified <u>who was a Jew</u> and prescribed how they would be treated in Germany. In his speech about the Nuremberg Laws, Hitler even addressed the potential need for a "final solution" to the Jewish "problem." The Holocaust had begun.

Trying to stop the ever-widening influence of Nazi tyranny, Bonhoeffer joined the <u>Abwehr</u>, a German military intelligence organization led by Admiral Wilhelm Canaris. Its "agents" had access to vital war information. People working against the Third Reich, like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, were able to pass key information to anti-Nazi contacts.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/HITLER-S-FINAL-SOLUTION-Bonhoeffer-Martyr-of-Faith

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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