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The German Federal Archives (*Bundesarchiv*) contain many pictures of the country's National-Socialist years. This image depicts a photograph, taken by Georg Pahl on the 1st of April 1933, which illustrates the country's growing antisemitism under the Nazi regime. As the Nazi boycott against Jewish businesses took hold, members of the SA covered the window of a Jewish-owned business in Berlin with a sign which says: "Germans, defend yourselves. Do not buy from Jews." *Bundesarchiv*, Bild [picture] 102-14468 / Georg Pahl / License: [CC-BY-SA 3.0](#)

In February of 1933, twenty different (and mysterious) fires broke out, simultaneously, at the government building in Berlin where the Reichstag (Germany's parliament) met. Using that situation to seize power, Hitler claimed that he was "protecting" the country's security.

Two months later, Jews who lived in Berlin were already in trouble. The capital had the largest Jewish community in Germany - totaling about 160,000 people - and their businesses were targeted for a national boycott in April.

A placard, placed in front of a Jewish-owned store on April 1st, says:

Germans, defend yourselves, do not buy from Jews.

It was just the beginning of official anti-Semitism, both in Berlin and in all Nazi-controlled territory.

On the 10th of May, 1933, Nazis in Berlin burned "un-German" books, including those written by Jewish authors. Such actions bring to mind a line from *Almásor*, an 1821 play by Heinrich Heine:

Wherever they burn books they will also, in the end, burn human beings.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/A-NEW-LEADER-IN-BERLIN-Victory-in-Europe-End-of-WWII>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/A-NEW-LEADER-IN-BERLIN-Victory-in-Europe-End-of-WWII>

Questions 2 Ponder

Does Political Propaganda Replace Personal Analysis?

How would not buying goods and services from Jewish-owned business cause Germans to "defend" themselves, as displayed by Nazi signs in shop windows?

Were such signs, urging people to boycott Jewish businesses, examples of Nazi propaganda? If so, how would people resist such propaganda in favor of thinking for themselves?

How Does Governmental Censorship Lead to Suppression of Civil Rights?

As Hitler's grip on Germany tightens, Third-Reich officials decide to censor, then burn, "un-German" books. How would government officials decide which books were "un-German?"

Was it predictable that burning "un-German" books, as an act of censorship, would ultimately lead to ever-worsening acts of government suppression? Explain your answer.

Media Stream



Fires at the Reichstag Building

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Fires-at-the-Reichstag-Building->



Placard: Do Not Buy From Jews

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Placard-Do-Not-Buy-From-Jews>



Nazi Book Burning

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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Heinrich Heine

Image of Heinrich Heine, online courtesy Archiv für Kunst und Geschichte, in Berlin (Germany).

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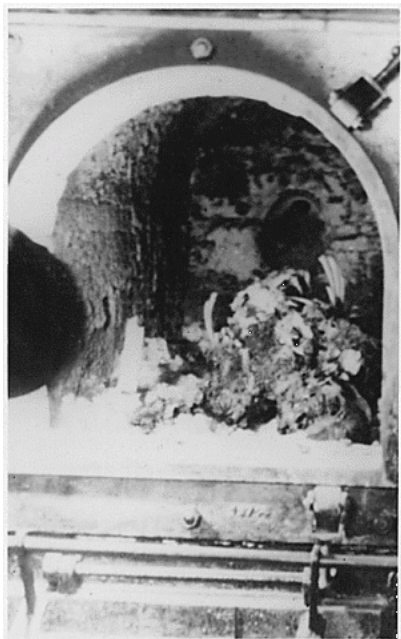
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Destroying Books

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Destroying-Books>



Nazi Crematorium

Image online, courtesy the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum website.

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