





During the Nazi era, in Germany, Hitler and his supporters were obsessed with racial identity.

The "Lebensborn" program was part of the Third Reich's effort to expand the Aryan race. Before children could be sent to foster parents, or to adoptive parents, health-care employees would first have to examine them to determine whether their ancestry was acceptable to the Nazi regime.

This photo depicts part of what happened during the "measurement" process. We learn more about this image from the U.S. National Archives, where the picture is maintained:

At the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology, Human Genetics, and Eugenics, a racial hygienist measures a woman's features in an attempt to determine her racial ancestry. Berlin, Germany, date uncertain.

## Credits:

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Image, described above, online via the U.S. National Archives.

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