The Nuremberg Laws Deprived Jews of Their Rights in Nazi Germany

By Encyclopedia Britannica, adapted by Newsela staff on 04.19.17

Maria (right), a 6-year-old girl of the Romanian Jewish community, wears a yellow Star of David badge bearing the word "Jude," a symbol of Nazi persecution, along with another girl during a ceremony at the Holocaust memorial in Bucharest, Romania, October 11, 2011. About 800,000 Jews lived in Romania before World War II. Half of them died during the war or were sent to concentration camps. Only about 6,000 Jews live in Romania currently, according to official statistics. AP Photo/Vadim Ghirda

The Nazis were the group that ran Germany during the 1930s and 1940s. Adolf Hitler was the leader of the Nazis. The Nazis took away the rights of the Jewish people. They were able to do this by changing the law. The Nazis passed new laws on September 15, 1935. These were called the Nuremberg Laws. The laws were called that because they were made in the city of Nuremberg. The Nuremberg Laws were the idea of Hitler. The first law said Jews were no
longer citizens of Germany. The second law said Jews and Germans could not marry. Jews were not even allowed to fly the German flag. These laws led to the Holocaust. In the Holocaust, the Nazis killed millions of Jews.

**Jews had to carry special ID papers**

Later, the Nazis made more rules that separated Jews even more. They said Jews could not be German citizens. Jews could not vote. They could not have jobs working for the government. Before long, Jews had to carry special papers. They were stamped with a red “J” for Jude. It was the German word for “Jew.” Jews could not swim in public swimming pools or go to movie theaters. They could not act in movies. The Nazis kicked Jewish children out of schools. The Nazis said that Jews had to have “Jewish” names. If they didn’t, they had to change them. Jewish communities lost their rights.

The Nazis took over many countries. They forced the Nuremberg Laws on these countries too.

**Origins of “Aryan race”**

The Germans did this because they thought that Germans were better than all other people. The idea of an “Aryan race” started in the mid-1800s. Under this idea, Aryans were people from Germany and Scandinavia. They had light skin. The Nazis said Aryans did all the good
things that helped mankind. Nazis said Aryans were much better than Jews, Asians and black people. Scientists said there was no Aryan race. Germans were not better than anyone else. Still, Nazi believed it. They used these ideas to kill Jews, Roma (once called gypsies) and other people who were not Aryan.

Hitler believed the “Aryan race” was at the top. Everyone else was at the bottom. For Hitler, the German people were more important than anything. They were more important than truth or even human life.