

Summary

The thesis is divided into nine separate chapters. In the first chapter, I focused on the aftermath of the First World War. Shortly after the cessation of fighting, representatives of the powers involved met in France to establish responsibility for the outbreak of the global conflict. The Treaty of Versailles imposed high financial reparations on Germany and also stipulated a reduction of the German army and, last but not least, the removal of a part of the German territory.

The second and third chapters are devoted to postwar developments in Germany. After the war, Germany became a republic, namely a democratic republic. The Weimar Republic even had one of the most democratic constitutions in Europe. From its establishment, the republic was facing hardly surmountable difficulties in the field of internal politics, economy and later finance. It is therefore no wonder that the citizens, disappointed in democracy, heeded the positively sounding mottos of the National Socialists on the eradication of unemployment and the improvement of living standards for all.

I have divided the era of Hitler's Germany into three periods in terms of taking antisemitic measures for the purposes of better orientation in the text. In the first period, the Nazis focused primarily on the elimination of the Jews (with some exceptions) from certain professions and the Jews' marginalisation. After 1935, the situation seemingly settled down, as the rate of adoption of discriminatory legislation slowed for a short while. The year 1938 and especially its conclusion introduces the third period of adoption and implementation of the anti-Jewish programme. Above all, there is an apparent qualitative shift from a "mere" discrimination against the Jews and making their lives difficult, through spontaneous violence, to targeted, government-planned and executed liquidation, i.e. the beginnings of the Jewish Holocaust, in the narrow sense of the word.

A separate chapter of the thesis is devoted to the crucial legislative feat, the Nuremberg Laws adopted in mid-1930s. On the basis of these laws, people living in Germany were divided into the Reich nationals and second-class citizens with restricted rights. The regulations forbade any "mixing" of the Germans with those of non-German blood.

Although the Final Solution to the Jewish Question as such is not the subject-matter of this thesis, I believe that it was suitable to refer to it to illustrate the overall picture. That is why I deal with the Final Solution in the last but one chapter, mainly to demonstrate the overlap of the actual anti-Jewish policy over the statutory background.

The last chapter is devoted to the persecution of the Roma population. The treatment of the Roma in many respects resembled the treatment of the Jews, and it should be noted that in the assessment of individual cases, the state authority often acted in a more uncompromising and ultimately more drastic manner. Despite the fact that the number of the Roma victims is far below the number of the Jewish ones, I believe that this issue should not remain in the background when speaking about the racist actions of Nazi Germany. If we measured the numbers of the Roma and the Jewish victims and thus relativised them, we would commit the same crime as the ideologues, creators and apparatus of the Third Reich. And important information could remain hidden. Namely that the terms *shoah* and *porajmos* have the same meanings, i.e. state-organised mass murder.