

## HOLOCAUST DEFINITIONS

### Imperial War Museum, London, UK

Under the cover of the Second World War, for the sake of their “new order,” the Nazis sought to destroy all the Jews of Europe. For the first time in history, industrial methods were used for the mass extermination of a whole people. Six million were murdered, including 1,500,000 children. This event is called the Holocaust.

The Nazis enslaved and murdered millions of others as well. Gypsies, people with physical and mental disabilities, Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, trade unionists, political opponents, prisoners of conscience, homosexuals, and others were killed in vast numbers.

### United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC, USA

The Holocaust refers to a specific genocidal event in twentieth-century history: the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Jews were the primary victims — 6 million were murdered; Gypsies, the handicapped, and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny.

### Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, Israel

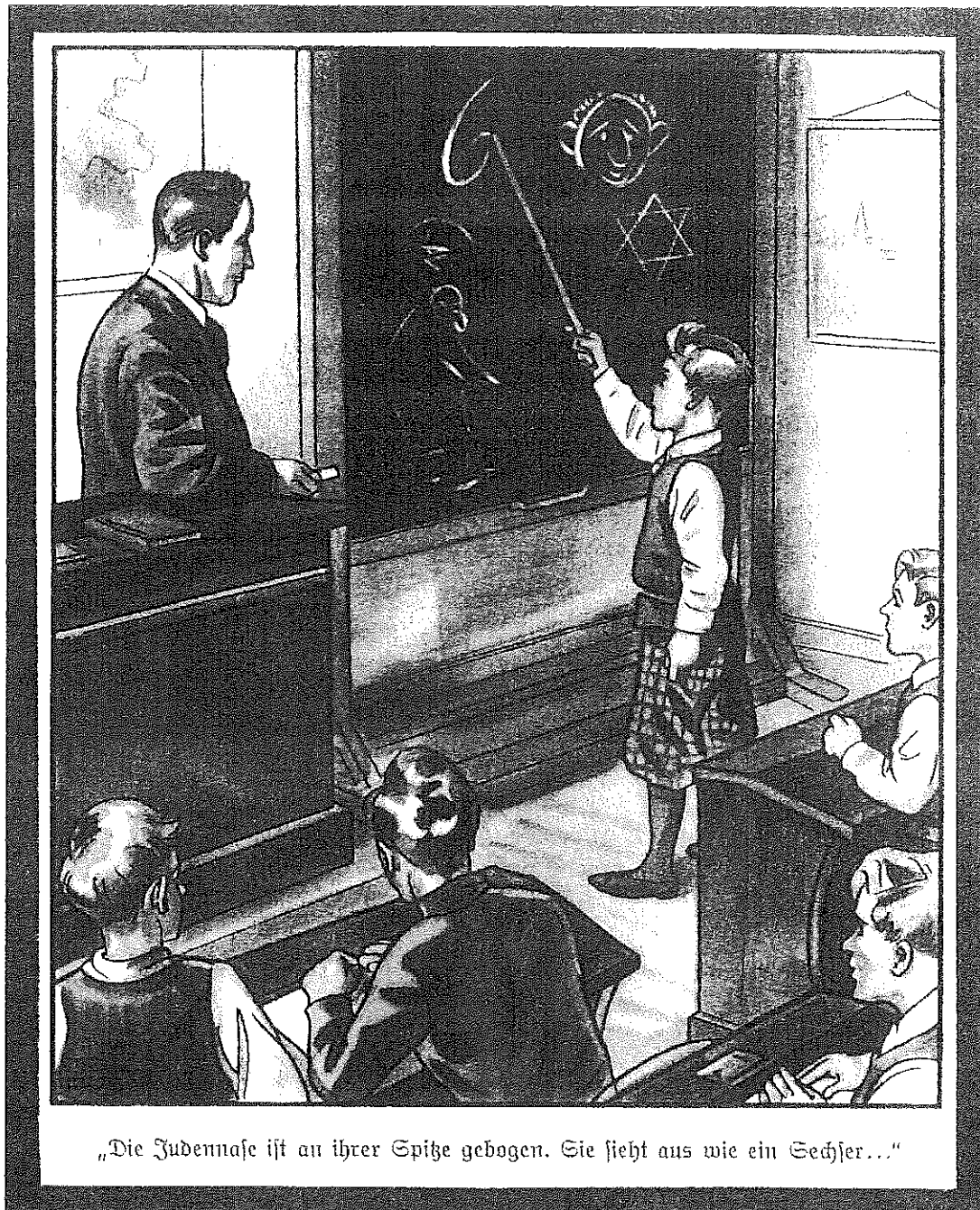
The Holocaust was the murder of approximately six million Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators. Between the German invasion of the Soviet Union in the summer of 1941 and the end of the war in Europe in May 1945, Nazi Germany and its accomplices strove to murder every Jew under their domination. Because Nazi discrimination against the Jews began with Hitler’s accession to power in January 1933, many historians consider this the start of the Holocaust era. The Jews were not the only victims of Hitler’s regime, but they were the only group that the Nazis sought to destroy entirely.

## GENOCIDE DEFINITION

In 1948, the United Nations defined genocide as any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group, including

- killing members of the group
- causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group
- deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part
- imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group
- forcibly transferring children of the group to another group

## NAZI PROPAGANDA



© Yad Vashem, Film and Photo Archive (196/223)

The inscription in this picture reads: “The Jewish nose is wide at the end and looks like the number six...” The number six is connected to Satan and this explanation of the “Jewish nose” gives it a devilish meaning. Even though the message of this caricature is of a mythological nature, it is presented as truth in that it is being taught by a respectable Aryan teacher in a normal class. It can also refer to a situation known by the children in 1930s Germany when special instructors came to their classes to explain Nazi racial ideology.

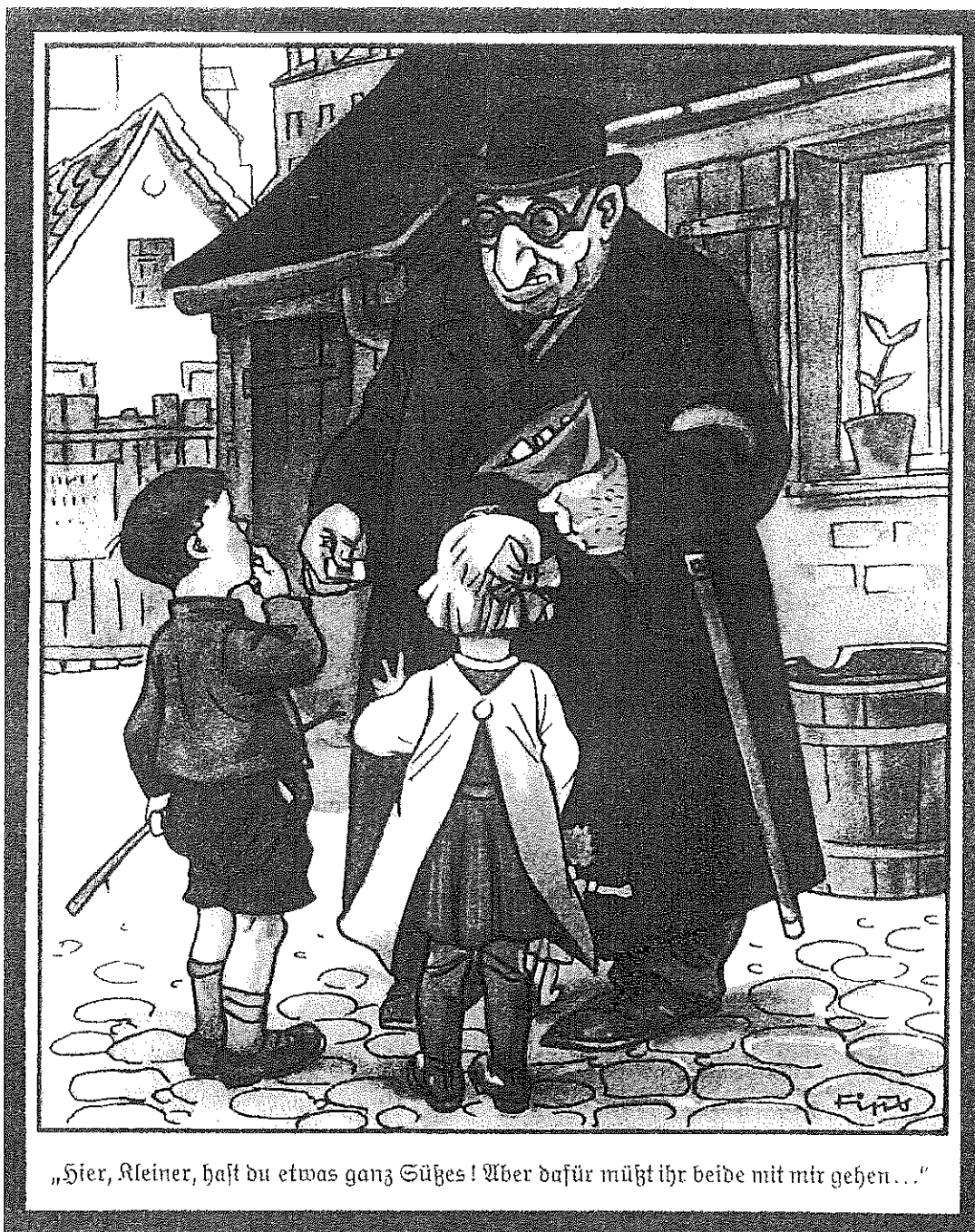
More about this picture and a suggested activity is available on the Yad Vashem Web site, [www1.yadvashem.org/about\\_holocaust/holocaust\\_antisemitism/antisemitism\\_english.pdf](http://www1.yadvashem.org/about_holocaust/holocaust_antisemitism/antisemitism_english.pdf).

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A caricature from a book entitled *The Poisoned Mushroom*. Inside the book, the comparison to the mushroom is explained when a mother tells her child: “Just as it is difficult to distinguish between a poisonous mushroom and an edible mushroom, it is difficult to distinguish between a good Jew and a lying, thieving Jew.”

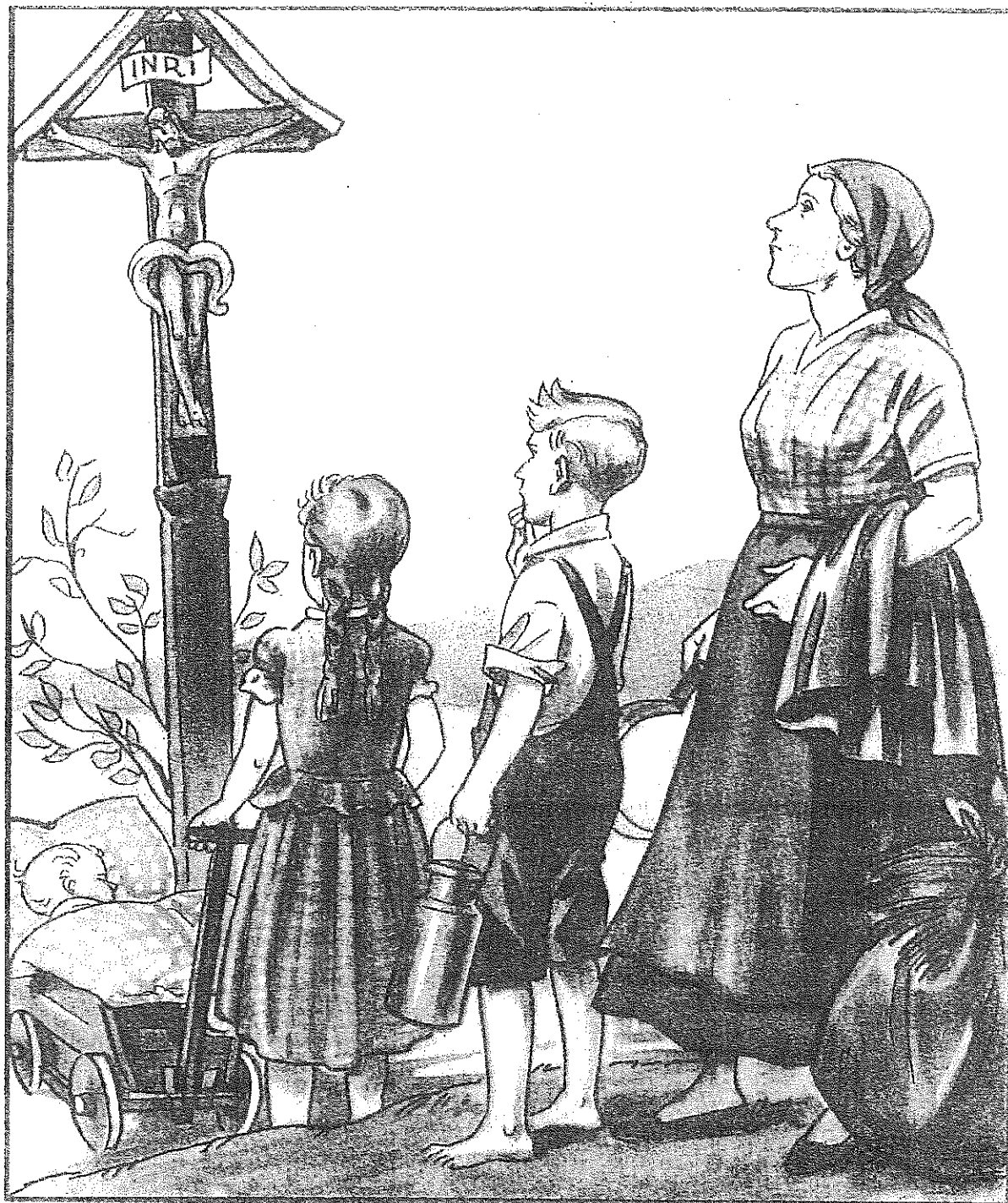
# NAZI PROPAGANDA



The caption in this picture reads: “Here my little one, you get something very sweet, but as a reward you both must come with me.” This caricature portrays an elderly Jew trying to poison small children with candy. It relies on one of the basic fears of all parents and the common instruction to little children not to take candy from a stranger. There are links made between “a stranger,” “danger,” “poison,” and “a Jew.” The Jew is portrayed as a dark, evil, threatening, manipulative stranger, as opposed to the innocent, pure, naïve Aryan children.



## NAZI PROPAGANDA



„Wenn ihr ein Kreuz seht, dann denkt an den grauenhaften Mord  
der Juden auf Golgatha...“

© Yad Vashem, Film and Photo Archive (1599/232)

The caption in this picture reads: “Whenever you see a crucifix, think of the horrible murder of Jesus by the Jews.” The Nazis used this common belief among Christians to further alienate Jews. Nazi ideology, however, was against all religions and viewed Christianity as a transferred form of Judaism. Some Aryan symbols appear in this picture such as the bright hair, the connection to nature, children, and the continuity of the race.

# NAZI PROPAGANDA



Der Deutsche ist  
 ein stolzer Mann  
 der Arbeit  
 und Ehre liebt  
 der nicht weicht  
 und voll ist  
 der Kraft und  
 der Ehre  
 der den Deutschen  
 den Deutschen!

Dies ist der Jude, der nicht arbeitet,  
 der nur die Hände in den Taschen hat!  
 Er meint, dass er die Welt beherrscht  
 und ist so stolz auf sich!



© Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin

The Jew in this caricature is portrayed as ugly, greedy, and controlling the media and stock exchange (the newspaper in his pocket with the title "Burse"). His eyes are made to look suspicious. Overall he is to be seen as unproductive, exploitive, unstable, and evil. By contrast, the German or Aryan is portrayed as hard-working, strong, stable, and honest. He is tall, in good physical shape, and has a direct look in his eyes.

## NAZI PROPAGANDA



National Archives, courtesy of USHMM

A woman reads a boycott sign posted in the window of a Jewish-owned department store in Berlin, April 1, 1933. The sign reads: "Germans defend yourselves against Jewish atrocity propaganda, buy only at German shops!"