

# Nazi Racism Lesson

Sally N. Levine

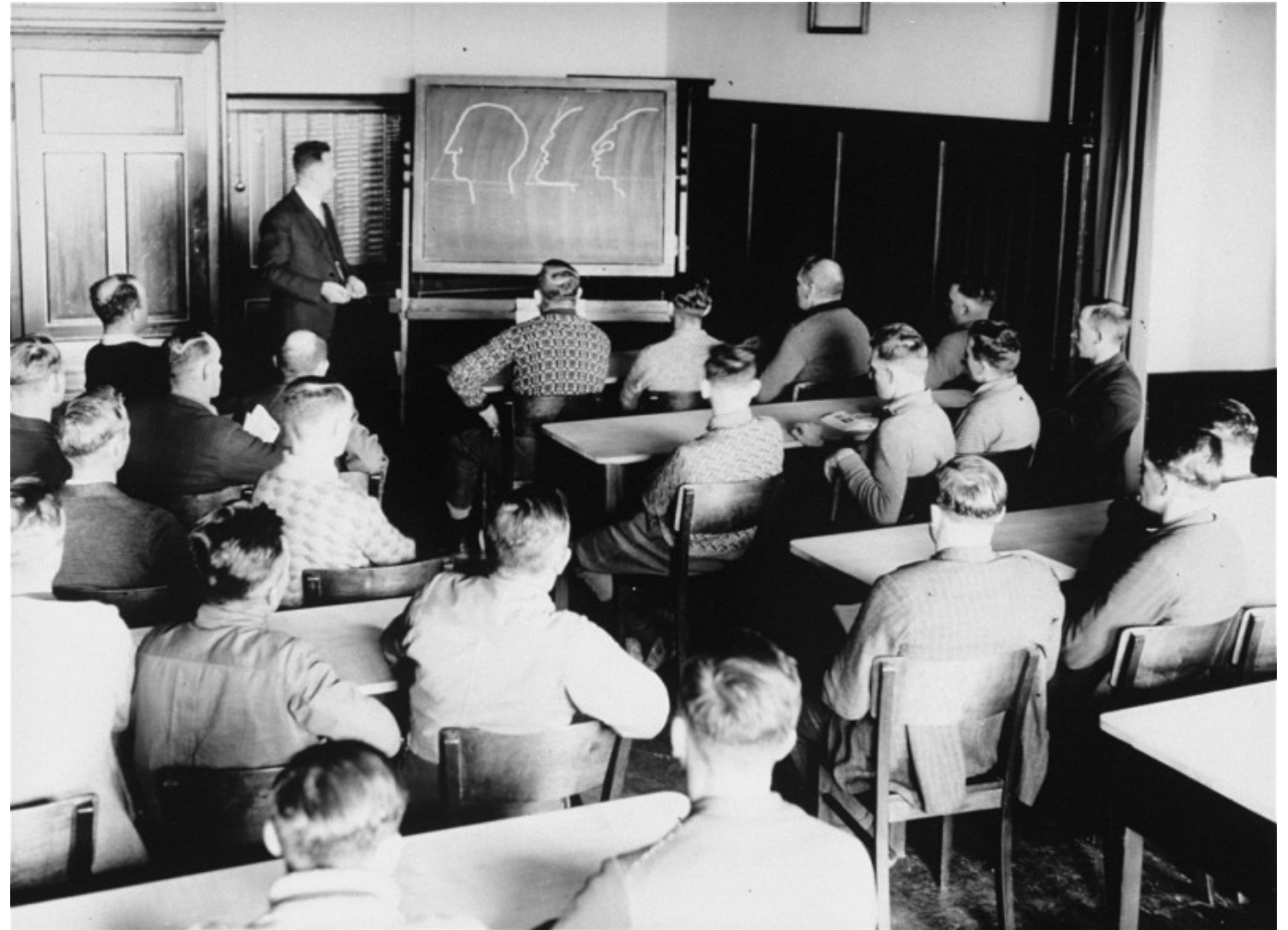
Museum Teacher Fellow, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Executive Director, Georgia Commission on the Holocaust

# Nazi Racism

## RATIONALE

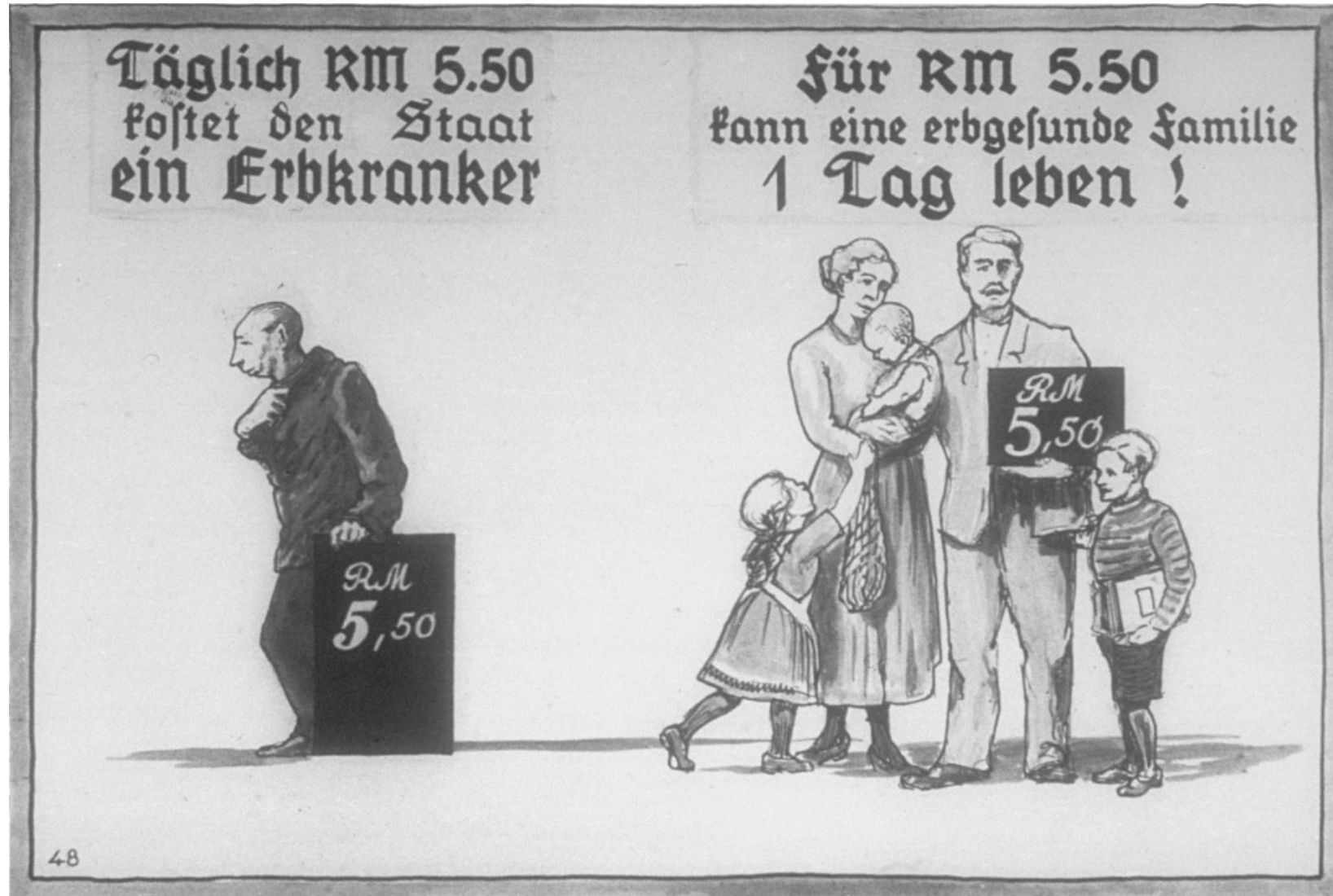
Why teach about Nazi ideology and racism?



German adults attend a class in racial theory. Germany, date uncertain.

--Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München

# EUGENICS



# ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

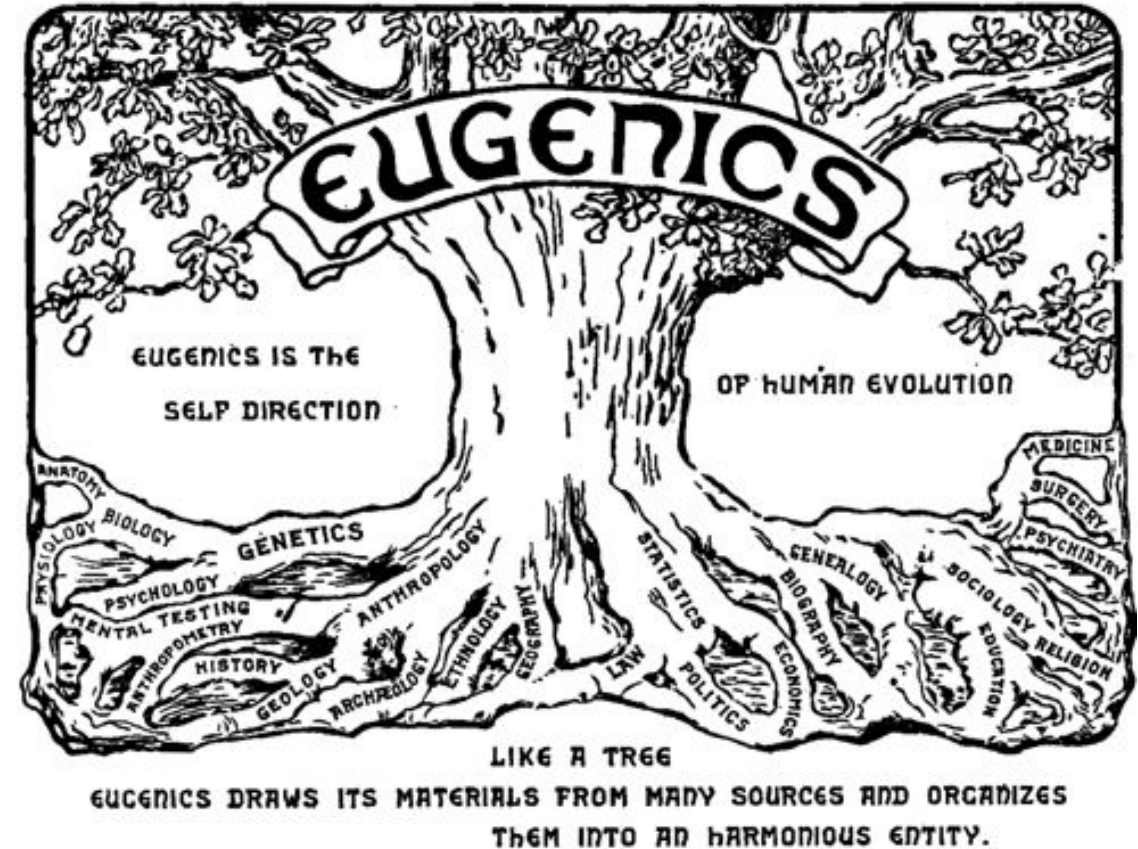
What is race?

What is racism?

What is Nazi racism?

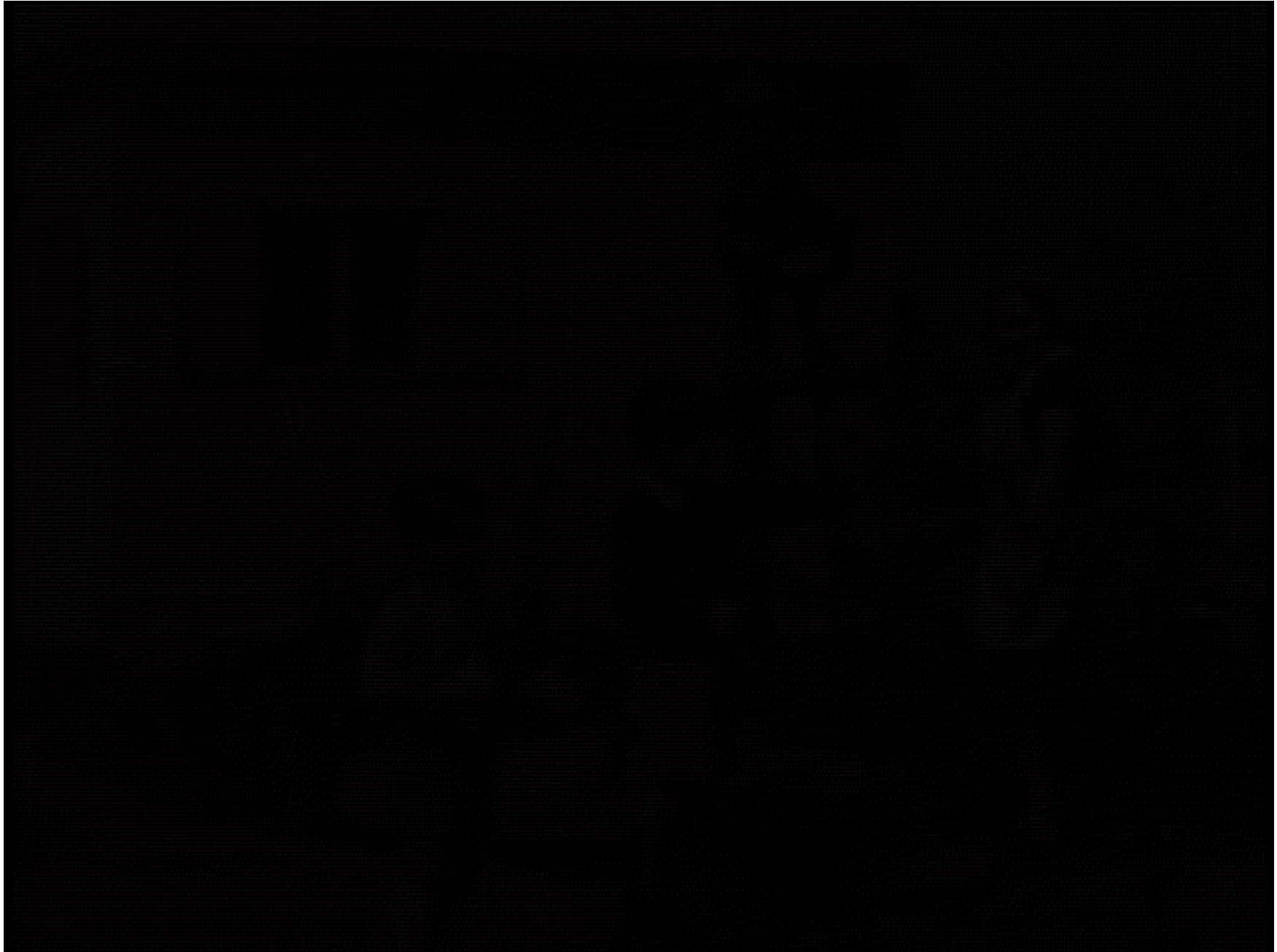
What role did racism play in the Holocaust?

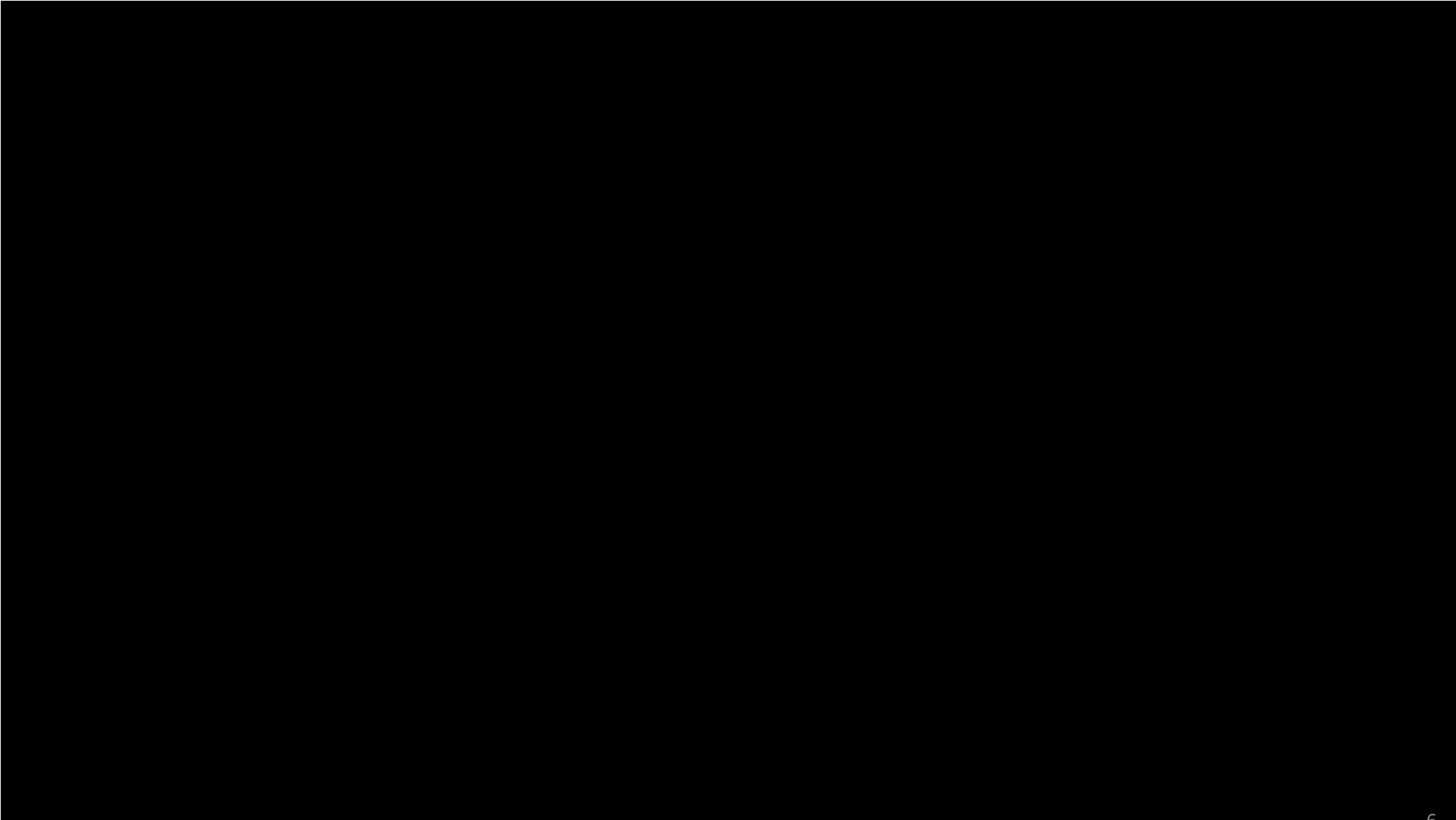
What specific actions during the Holocaust can be categorized as racist or antisemitic?



Logo of the Second International Congress of Eugenics, 1921. Source: Wikimedia











# Die Nürnberger Gesetze

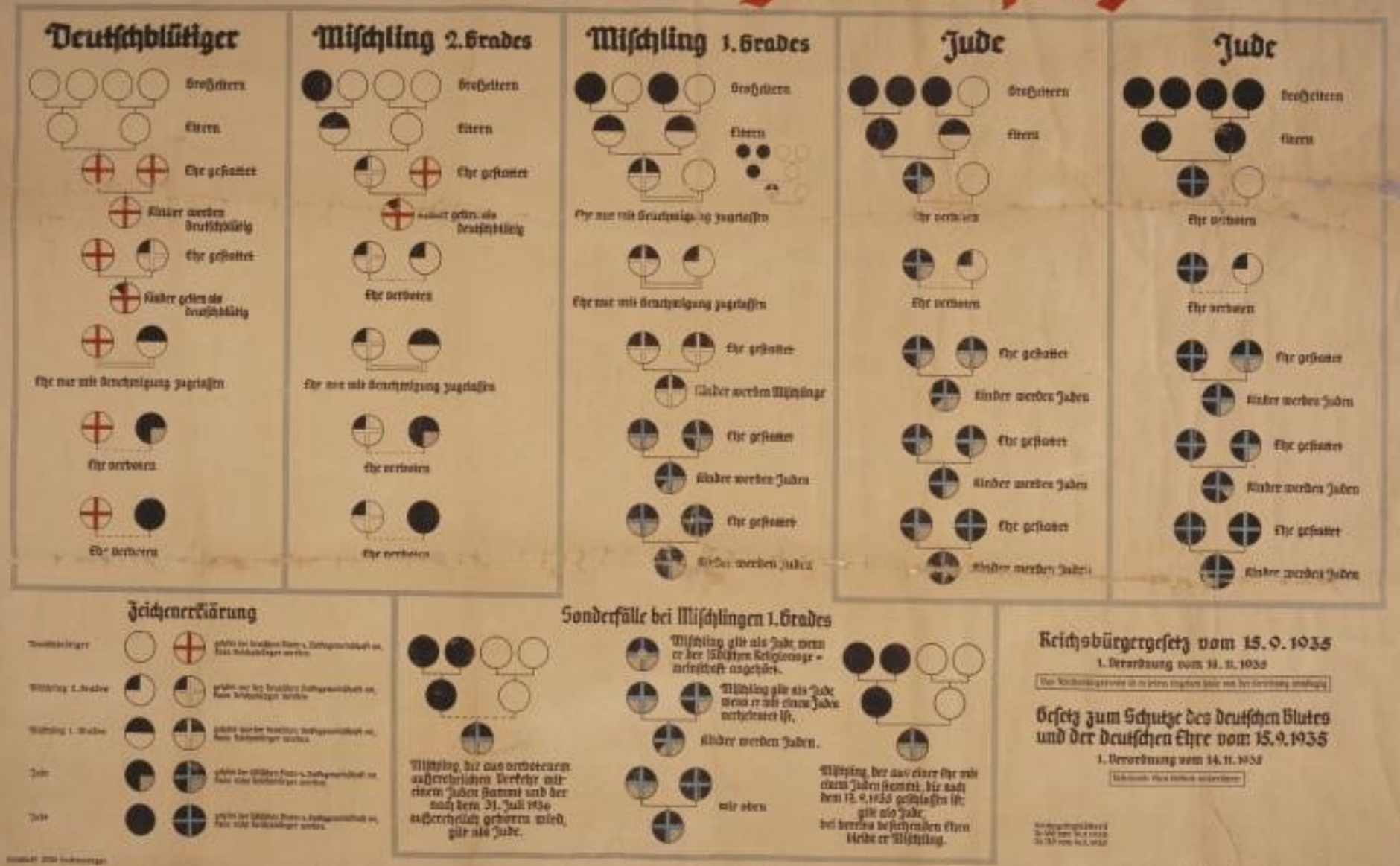


Chart with the title "Die Nürnberger Gesetze" [Nuremberg Race Laws]. --US Holocaust Memorial Museum

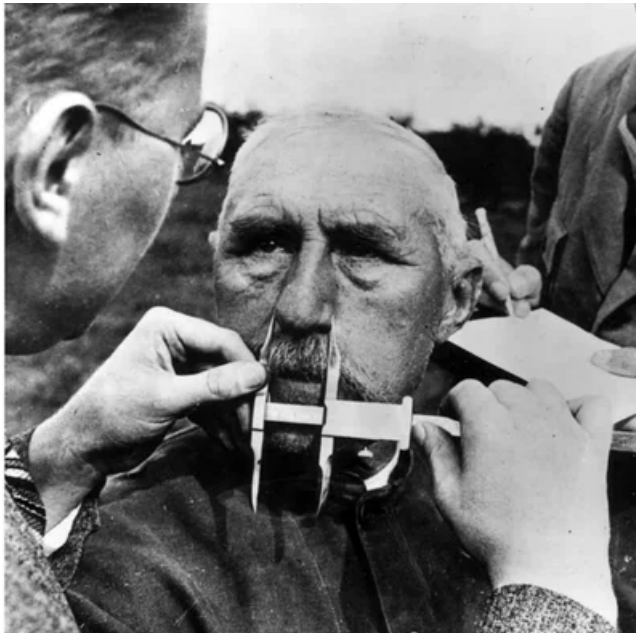


## Definition Card #2

**Pseudo:** not genuine; sham. Fake or false.

**Science** is the study of the nature and behavior of natural things and the knowledge that we obtain about them.

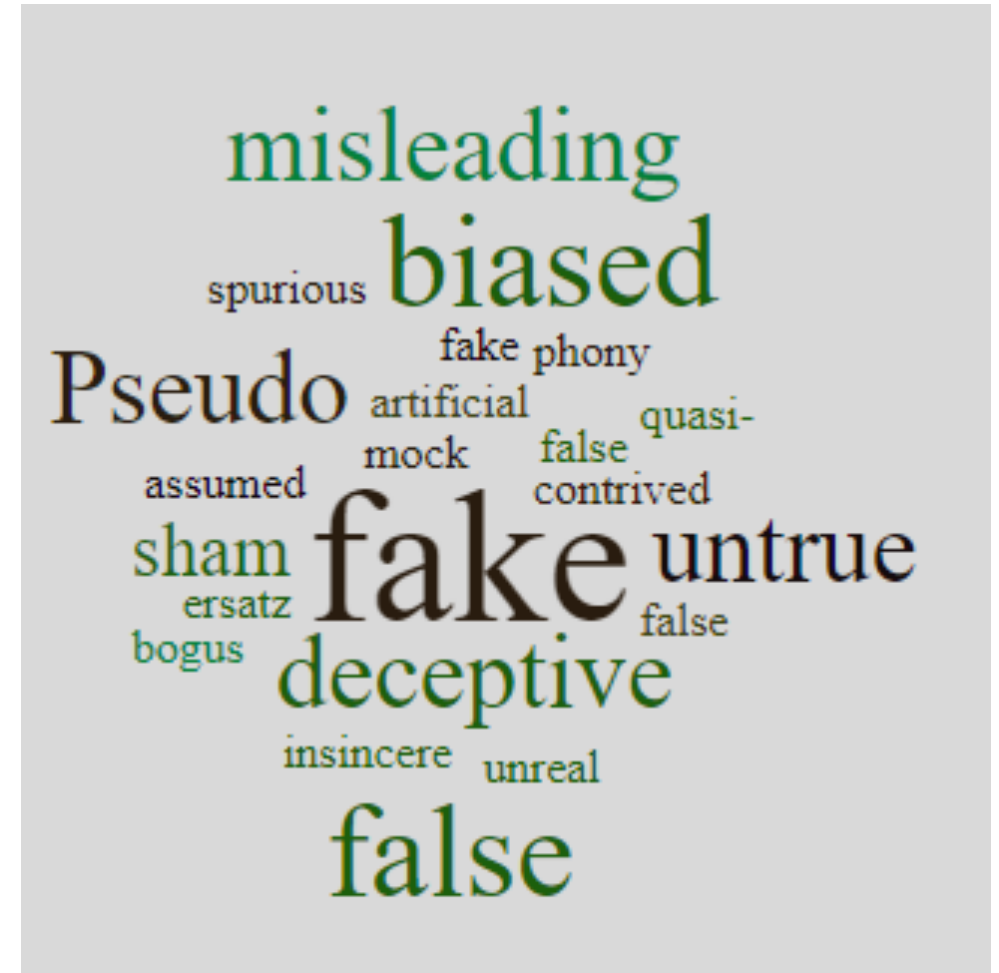
This knowledge is obtained by the systematic study of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment. A systematically organized body of knowledge on a particular subject.



--Universal History Archive Getty Images



--Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1986-044-08 /  
Unknown / CC-BY-SA 3.0



# FIVE THINGS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RACE

1. Race is a modern idea.
2. Race has no genetic basis.
3. Human subspecies don't exist.
4. Skin color really is only skin deep.
5. Most variation is within, not between, "races."

Source: PBS.org

## LESSON: Nazi Racism

### WORKSHEET: KWL Chart

NAME:

INSTRUCTIONS: Fill out the chart below.

#### Modified KWL Chart

#### KLW

What did you already <b>know</b> about race?	What did you <b>learn</b> ?	<b>W</b> hat are the questions you still have about race?

### Definition Card #3

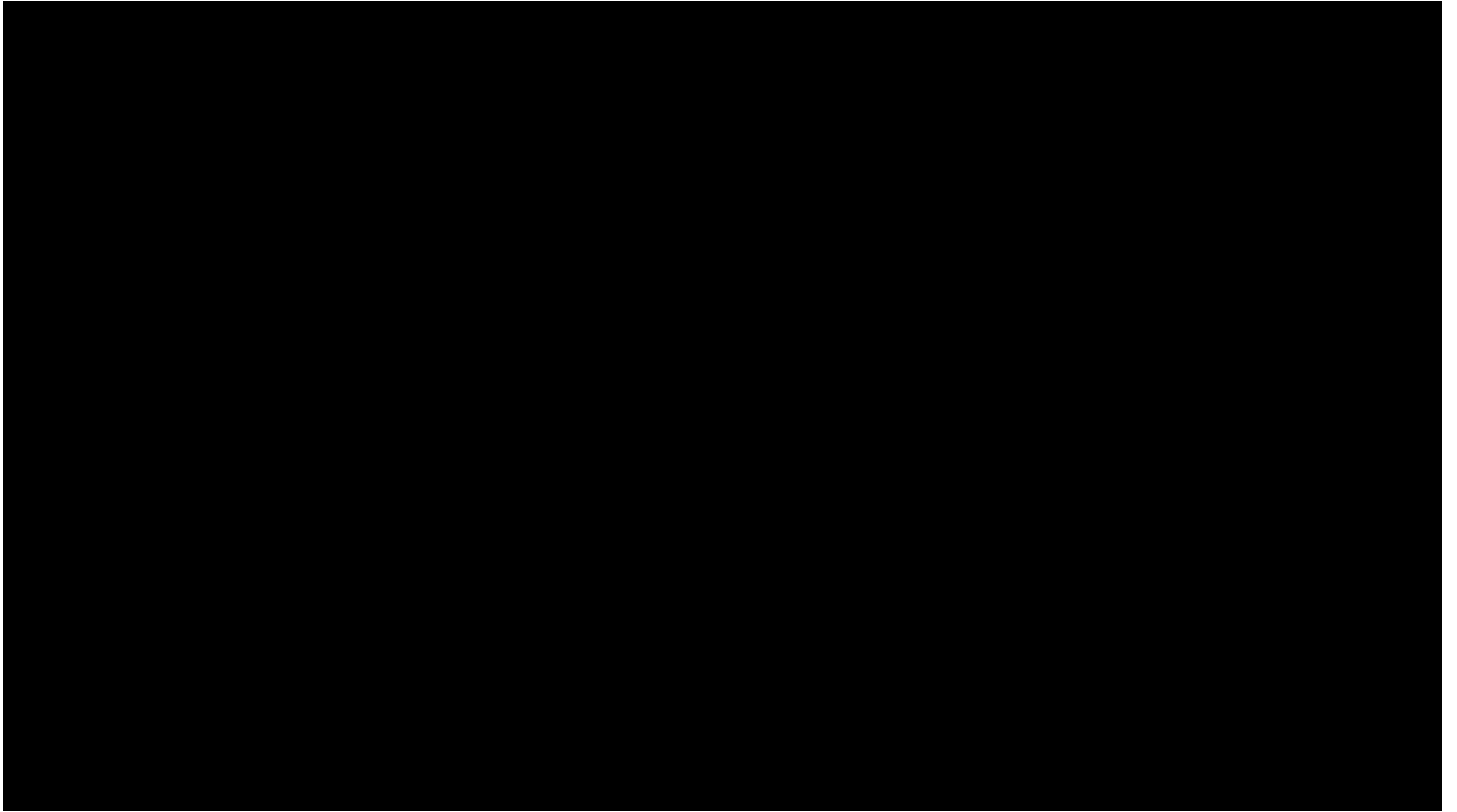
According to **Nazi theories of race**, Germans and certain other Europeans had perceived superior physical and mental traits.

They considered European peoples to be “Aryans,” descended from the ancient Indo-Europeans who settled throughout the European continent as well as in Iran and India.

The word **antisemitism** means prejudice against or hatred of Jews. The Holocaust, the state-sponsored persecution and murder of European Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945, is history’s most extreme example of antisemitism.

**Racial antisemitism** is the prejudice against or hatred of Jews based on **false scientific theories**. This aspect of racism was always an integral part of Nazism.





## LESSON: Nazi Racism

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

### WORKSHEET: Group 1 Interactive Tool

#### Group 1 Directions:

You will read and analyze **primary** and **secondary** historical sources to answer the questions assigned to your group. **Remember to use dictionaries to define unfamiliar words.**

The *Holocaust Encyclopedia* articles are **secondary sources**. As you read the articles locate the **ARE:**

The <b>assertion</b> the author is making. An assertion is a simple statement or the thesis of the article.	<b>Reasoning</b> is the “because” part of the argument.	<b>Evidence</b> supports reasoning. Look for at least three pieces of evidence.
---	---	---

# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

How did Nazi Germany use eugenics to support their racist ideas?

How did Nazi Germany spread racist ideas to its citizens?

Jewish people are not a racial group, and yet the Nazis and others believed Jews were a threat because of these false racial beliefs. Where did the false Nazi racist beliefs originate?

What role did racism play in the Holocaust?

How did Nazi racial ideology extend to other minorities?

Prior to this work did you associate Nazis with racism?

What evidence did you find that classifies Nazi ideology as racist?



**Please cut to 8:50 – 10:40**







Sally N. Levine  
sallylevine@holocaust.georgia.gov