

DEVOURING



Ryszard Pajewski, aged 9 in Warsaw, Poland, atop rubble after German bombing, 1939.¹

With continual advancements throughout 20th-century technology came continual advancements in normalizing extreme forms of terror and destruction. Pictured above are the ruins of Warsaw after being bombed by Germany during their invasion of Poland at the start of WWII.² The question arises how any political conflict could motivate this aftermath, with a lone child survivor of a destroyed city. Developments in extreme nationalism, power in masses, and unnecessary military power would unfortunately be enough to **normalize** further mass destruction and killing:

A New and Extreme Normalization

¹ Julien Bryan, "POLAND in 1939 and in 1959."

² Joshua Cole and Carol Symes, *Western Civilizations*, 881.

NORMALIZED

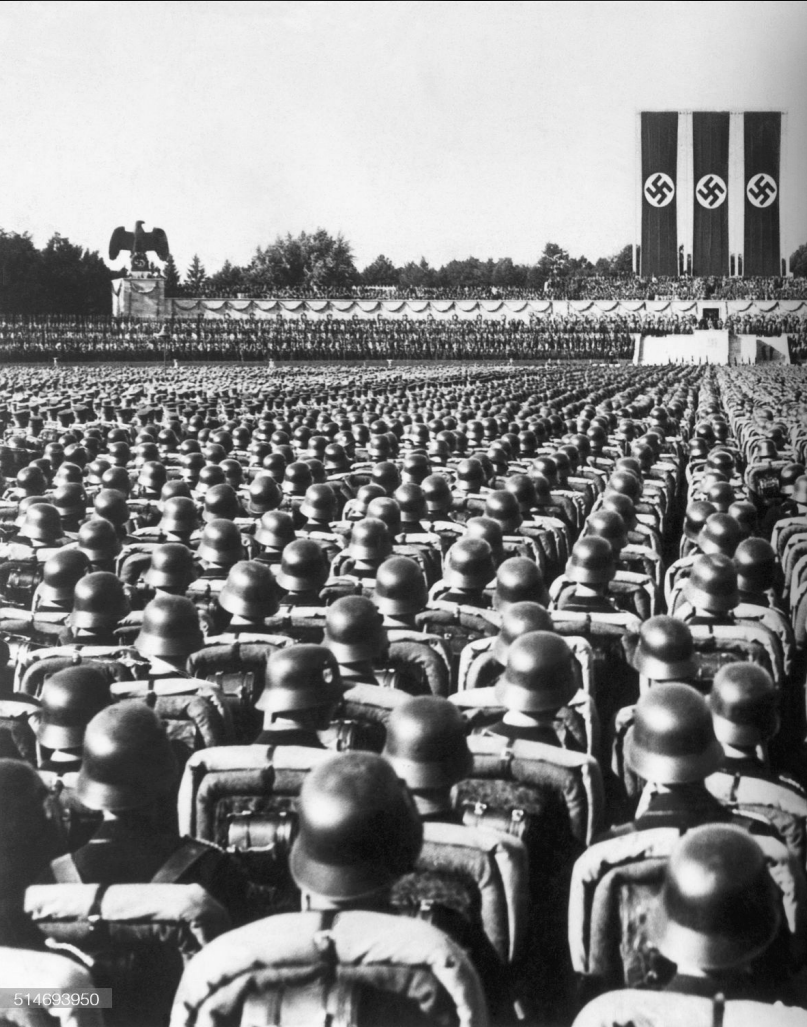


“Can You Be Responsible For This? You’re Helping the Enemy!” - translation of text on German propaganda, warning citizens to turn off lights at night to avoid getting targeted by bombs of Ally powers.³

German authorities attempt to **normalize** the concept of mass bombing through colorful publicity. The cartoonish propaganda style is a twisted method of desensitizing citizens from the grave scale of bomb warfare and is a hypocritical attempt to justify their own use of bombs such as in Poland in 1939.

³ Ludwig Hohlwein, “Can You Be Responsible For This? You’re Helping the Enemy!”, 1942.

UNITED CORRUPTION



Mass of identical-looking soldiers in Nuremberg, listening to Adolf Hitler in 1936, years even before WWII began.⁴



Mass of identical-looking corpses of Jews and prisoners of war at Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, 1945.⁵

Desensitization did not only occur with the general public but also with military masses. Uniting behind Hitler's "ethnic cleansing" vision is an example of ultranationalism, making it easier to conform and **normalize** murder that should appear unethical from any perspective outside of the scapegoating vision. The left and right pictures contain a shared concept, in different ways: a mass of **lost individuals**.

⁴ Getty Images, "Soldiers at Nazi Party Rally," 1936.

⁵ Fritz Klein. "Mass Grave 03," 1945.

YOUTH POWER



Mass of children in participation of the Hitler Youth program, 1939.⁶

So far, we have investigated mass fascist ideology and bomb weaponry in normalizing genocide. Even more extreme were attempts to **indoctrinate** children with both methods of normalization. The above picture showcases the Hitler Youth program that turned the German youth population into a **single unified entity** under the same fascist principles as the military masses. The pictures below are an application of Hitler Youth ideologies, leading to the bizarre outcome of children being equipped with artillery. These methods could be sustained without question only through **social normalization**, made more effective at a young age.



Hitler normalizing trench warfare to German children.⁷



Hitler Youth equipped with artillery, normalizing arming children, 1942.⁸

⁶ Heinrich Hoffmann, "A group of boys in Hitler Youth," 1939.

⁷ Roger Rössing, "On the military training of the Hitler Youth," 1950.

⁸ Holztrager. "World War II: German Children and the Military," 1942.

SCAPEGOATING

national goal

one solution

scapegoated



US Anti-Japanese Propaganda centralizing the defeat of Japan as the key to ending WWII, 1944.⁹

The scapegoating tactics in Germany unfortunately have parallels to the United States during WWII. This picture is a clear example of racial scapegoating after Pearl Harbor, similar to the anti-semitic scapegoating techniques in Nazi Germany, that promises some ultimate ‘solution’—that “the job’s done”—after terminating Japanese forces.¹⁰ The use of an ultimatum combined with destructive capacity through nuclear weaponry is the reason why the idea of bombing Japan became a **normalized** and accepted means to end war.

⁹ Nancy Meyers, “Stop him and the job’s done,” 1944.

¹⁰ Ibid.

SHADOWS



Permanent nuclear shadow left behind from victim of atomic bomb, Hiroshima, 1945.¹¹

The role of nuclear power in motivating atrocity also stains American history. These images depict remnant “shadows” of Hiroshima victims of the atomic bomb, taken in 1945. Nuclear technology achievements and the desire to quickly end the war in the Pacific helped **normalize** the idea of the atomic bomb solution to its deployment. Here, the aftermath is even more extreme than in the mass graves of Bergen-Belsen, showcasing the unnecessary murderings in eerie ways.



Another nuclear shadow from an individual sitting on steps to a building, 1945.¹²

¹¹ Getty Images, “World War II, after the explosion,” 1945.

¹² ICP Acquisitions Committee, “Flash burns,” 1945.

PERSISTENCE



"Human Shadow Etched in Stone" is an artifact kept in the Peace Memorial Museum,¹³ holding the exact same stone steps in the picture on the previous page. This 2006 picture truly is the same "shadow" left behind from the Hiroshima victim in 1945. Those close enough to the bomb would die within moments, and surrounding stone material would lighten in color due to radiation heat. Only the area beneath the citizen's remaining body would retain its true color, creating the shadow-like remnant.¹⁴

As such, the memories of victims of artillery and terror normalization live on.

¹³ Paul, *Human Shadow Etched in Stone*, 2006.

¹⁴ Ibid.

Bibliography

- Bryan, Julien. "POLAND in 1939 and in 1959: [A Boy's Weariness](#)." *Look*, 1959.
- Cole, Joshua and Carol Symes. *Western Civilizations: Their History & Their Culture*, 18th ed. 2:873-909. W. W. Norton & Company, 2014.
- Getty Images. "[Soldiers at Nazi Party Rally in Nuremberg](#)." *Bettmann*, 1936.
- Getty Images. "[World War II, after the explosion of the atom bomb](#)." *Universal Images Group*, 1945.
- Hoffmann, Heinrich. "[A group of boys in Hitler Youth](#)." The LIFE Picture Collection, *Getty Images*, 1939.
- Hohlwein, Ludwig. WWII: GERMAN POSTER. [German propaganda poster showing bombs falling on a city with lit windows](#), chromolithograph, 1942.
- Holztrager. "[World War II: German Children and the Military](#)." *Boy's Historical Clothing*, 1942.
- ICP Acquisitions Committee, "[Flash burns on steps of Sumitomo Bank Company, Hiroshima branch](#)." Unknown Photographer, 1945.
- Klein, Fritz. "[Mass Grave 03 at Bergen-Belsen KZ/Gedenkstätte](#)." *Imperial War Museum*, 41, 1945.
- Meyers, Nancy. "[Stop him and the job's done](#)." American War Posters from the Second World War, *The Bancroft Library*, 1944.
- Paul. [Human Shadow Etched in Stone](#). Peace Memorial Museum, via *Flickr*, 2006.
- Rössing, Roger and Renate Rössing. "[On the military training of the Hitler Youth](#)." *JJ Weber*, 1950 (recovered).