Holocaust Research Paper

The totalitarian state of Nazi Germany was defined by the government’s use of police terror and persecution to keep its citizens in line. In addition to ruling its citizens with an iron fist the Nazi government also perpetrated the Holocaust, which would result in up to six million Jews and millions of others dying (1). Police terror was greatly utilized by the Nazi government to ensure that the citizens of Germany fell in line without question and did little to protect their fellow citizens from the holocaust. Persecution was the other greatly utilized element of a totalitarian state utilized by the Nazi government in order to ensure the holocaust could proceed with little resistance from the people of Germany. Nazi Germany was a totalitarian state that used the totalitarian tactics of police terror and persecution to ensure that the holocaust was executed without incident.

In order to maintain control over the people of Germany during the holocaust the Nazi converted the German police force into an instrument of terror. In exchange for ending media scrutiny of the police, the German police force fused with the Schutzstaffel, and became the lead perpetrators of the Holocaust. One of the most important freedoms given to the police in their effort to terrorize the Nazi’s domestic enemies was the ability to make preventative arrests without evidence (2). The German police force would become a crucial element in executing the Holocaust since they would keep the people of main land Germany in line and partake in the relocation and systematic murder of the groups effected by the Holocaust within Germany. Without the support of Germany’s police force the Nazis would never have been able to execute the Holocaust on such a large scale and in an as effective manner.

The systematic persecution of groups labeled as enemies to the Aryan race was one of the effective enablers of the Holocaust, utilized by the Nazi government. The Nazi government first target for persecution where political opponents who where sent to Dachau which was the first concentration camp to be established. The Nazi then moved onto targeting Jews and the Roma on the grounds that their race made them genetically inferior to the Aryan race and thus needed to be removed from society (3). The Nazi persecution of groups that they singled out from what was conveyed as normal German society would create an othering effect that would make the Aryan people of Germany much less empathetic to the plight of their non-Aryan peers. By breaking down any kind of societal or social connections between the groups they targeted and the people of Germany the Nazi successfully got the people of Germany to back the Holocaust despite its immense death count.

In order to ensure that they could successfully perpetrate the Holocaust without domestic disturbance the Nazi government used a combination of police terror and persecution to keep the people of Germany in line and unassociated with affected groups. The Nazi used police terror to make sure the people of Germany where afraid to stand up to the Holocaust. The German police not only enabled the Holocaust but also where the main party involved in the movement of targeted citizens and their eventual murders. Persecution also played a major factor in the Nazi governments success in executing the Holocaust because it socially isolated the targeted groups from the rest of Germany. The German police’s involvement in the oppression of the Nazi’s domestic enemies in combination with the persecution of the groups targeted in the Holocaust created a climate that would enable one of the largest atrocities in human history to occur with little resistance from the citizens of the country that perpetrated it.