



**Student Project on Antisemitism and the Holocaust
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
Washington D.C., May 7 – 11, 2012**

Goethe-Gymnasium – Ruth-Cohn-Schule – School Without Walls, D.C.

work process report

NS Racial Ideology, Laws and Propaganda

After a brainstorming session on NS ideology, racial laws and propaganda, we discussed how to link these aspects. It seemed quite difficult to link propaganda with the two other aspects. Finally, we agreed on the question: "Was propaganda important for the acceptance of the NS ideology by the non-Jewish German population?"

In order to get a detailed overview, we decided to take a close look at the exhibition on propaganda before researching and analysing literature from the museum library and archive. This way we hoped to find the link between the three aspects. The exhibition provided us with helpful information on propaganda – in general as well as on its specific forms. But we did not make any significant progress as to our research question.

On the basis of the information we had gathered, we expanded our research to the books in the museum library. We formed three pairs, each pair focusing on one aspect. We decided to keep the presentation on the NS racial laws short and rather concentrate on law and judiciary as well as on the acceptance of the NS racial laws among the non-Jewish German population.

Overwhelmed by the vast amount of information, we wrote everything down on separate sheets, in English and in German. We selected the most relevant books for our research. It took much effort to focus our research on the aspects we had chosen for the presentation. After three days of research, we discussed our results and how to link them to a group presentation. The NS racial ideology and legislation did go well together, since the racial laws reflected the NS ideology and “transported” it into the non-Jewish German population. However, we did not find any answer on how these laws were communicated, which would have been very helpful to link the aspects we had been researching.

Back in Berlin, we produced a power-point presentation on the aspects of NS racial ideology, what it was based on, which laws reflected and enacted this ideology, and by what means it was communicated. We concluded our presentation with the verification of our research question: the NS ideology was communicated to the non-Jewish German population by means of propaganda via every available modern technology of mass communication and eventually many – if not most – non-Jewish Germans believed in it and acted accordingly.

