

## The Shame, Humiliation and Revenge Politics of Nazi Germany

During the Third Reich (1933–1945), the Nazis systematically utilized public humiliation and shame politics to target Jews and perceived opponents, aiming to enforce racial ideology, destroy social ties, and solidify power. These, and other, efforts were designed to create a "racial community" by isolating and degrading marginalized groups.

- **Public Humiliation:** Nazis orchestrated public acts of humiliation against individuals in Germany and occupied countries, often carried out by officials, police, and ordinary citizens.
- **Photographic Denunciation:** Starting in 1933, the Nazis used, and sometimes published, photographs of non-Jewish Germans patronizing Jewish-owned businesses to coerce them into breaking ties and to accelerate the exclusion of Jews from public life.
- **Targeting "Racial Shame" (Rassenschande):** The regime established anti-miscegenation laws and propaganda that labeled sexual relations between Jews and Aryans as "racial shame" or "blood disgrace".
- **Forced Rituals:** Jews were subjected to public degradation, including having their beards shaved, being forced to clean streets, or wearing humiliating signage.
- **Manipulation of Emotion:** Hitler and the Nazis mobilized personal and national shame—blaming Jews for Germany's loss in World War I and economic hardships—to build a consensus for violence, according to research from the [University of Hamburg](#).

These practices were not merely random acts, but rather an integral component of Nazi efforts to terrorize and alienate victims, say specialists at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

*The Union of Saints calls on Americans to end the use of disturbing shame and revenge politics, especially within activist spheres, where these serve as foundational strategies, disturbingly so. Where activists join in the chorus, repeating the message without thought or consideration of the consequences.*