

“He is to Blame for the War!” (1943/44)

Abstract

As World War II raged on, decisions were made at the highest levels to begin the deportation of Jews from Germany, or the “Old Reich” as it was often called. Posters such as the one below were plastered on buildings, pinned to local bulletin boards, and distributed throughout the country. Everywhere the message was clear: Jews both internal and external were to blame for the war against Germany. The man featured here is introduced not only as a “Jew,” identified by the yellow star fixed to his jacket, but also as someone of means, perhaps a banker or a businessman. The implication here is that Jewish greed was somehow responsible for the war. Antisemitic stereotypes of this sort were further fueled by the republication of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, a fabricated antisemitic tract first published in Russia in 1905 and later distributed by antisemites around the world. The *Protocols*, presented as the minutes from a Jewish meeting, supposedly proved the existence of an international Jewish conspiracy to control the world. It was a popular source for the regime after 1933.

Source



Source: Poster: Antisemitic Poster, 1943. Artist: Mjölneur [Hans Schweitzer]. Publisher: Reichspropagandaleitung der NSDAP. 22.85 x 33.09 cm. Bundesarchiv, Plak 003-020-020. Photograph: Antisemitic poster on the wall of a building in Salzburg, 1944. Photo: Hanns Hubmann. bpk-Bildagentur, image no. 30025313. For rights inquiries, please contact Art Resource at requests@artres.com (North America) or bpk-Bildagentur at kontakt@bpk-bildagentur.de (for all other countries).

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