

Regulation for the Elimination of the Jews from the Economic Life of Germany (November 12, 1938)

Abstract

Attempts to remove and exclude Jews from the German economy began almost immediately after the NSDAP came to power in 1933, notably with the boycott of Jewish business on April 1 of that year. Despite increasing pressure from members of the SA and others, including harassment and violence, many Jews continued to run their businesses and advertise them publicly. In 1936, Hermann Göring was made Plenipotentiary of the Four-Year Plan. Aimed specifically at preparing the German economy for war, the Four-Year Plan sought to end unemployment by undertaking massive public works projects and was intended to make the country self-sufficient (achieving autarky) by producing synthetic oil and other products necessary for a war economy. By the end of 1938, new measures were added to the Four-Year Plan, which involved making the entire German economy “Jew free” [*judenfrei*]. This document, an excerpt from the new regulations, outlines some of these new measures. These regulations, which took effect in the New Year, effectively ended Jewish presence in the industrial, wholesale, and retail economy.

Source

On the basis of the regulation for the implementation of the Four-Year Plan of 18 October 1936 (*Reichsgesetzblatt*, I, p. 887), the following is decreed:

§ 1

1. From 1 January 1939, Jews (§ 5 of the First Regulation of the Reich Citizenship Law of 14 November 1935, *Reichsgesetzblatt*, I, p. 1333) are forbidden to operate retail stores, mail-order houses, or sales agencies, or to carry on a trade [craft] independently.
2. They are further forbidden, from the same day on, to offer for sale goods or services, to advertise these, or to accept orders at markets of all sorts, fairs or exhibitions.
3. Jewish trade enterprises (Third Regulation to the Reich Citizenship Law of 14 June 1938—*Reichsgesetzblatt*, I, p. 627) which violate this decree will be closed by police.

§2

1. From 1 January 1939, a Jew can no longer be the head of an enterprise within the meaning of the Law of 20 January 1934, for the Regulation of National Work (*Reichsgesetzblatt*, I, p. 45).
2. Where a Jew is employed in an executive position in a commercial enterprise he may be given notice to leave in six weeks. At the expiration of the term of the notice all claims of the employee based on his contract, especially those concerning pension and compensation rights, become invalid.

§3

1. A Jew cannot be a member of a cooperative.
2. The membership of Jews in cooperatives expires on 31 December 1938. No special notice is required.

§4

The Reich Minister of the Economy, in coordination with the Ministers concerned, is empowered to publish regulations for the implementation of this decree. He may permit exceptions under the Law if these are required as the result of the transfer of a Jewish enterprise to non-Jewish ownership, for the liquidation of a Jewish enterprise or, in special cases, to ensure essential supplies.

Berlin, 12 November 1938
Plenipotentiary for the Four-Year Plan Göring
Field Marshal General

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