

How was it possible?

How was it possible to murder over 6 million Jewish men, women and children without a public outcry? Well, it didn't start with murder but with Nazi policies and propaganda which insidiously built up over time.

The propaganda pedalled anti-Jewish myths, increasing division and eventually dehumanising Jews.

Anti-Semitism was based on centuries-old stereotypes, singling out those who were different and the illogical concept of the superior Aryan race.

This ideology was reinforced by doctors and the judiciary and its belief in the master race. This led to the first restrictions on the rights of Jewish people identified as outsiders in their own towns and cities.

They were isolated further when in 1935 sweeping legislation removed their citizenship, their right to vote and stopped them from marrying non-Jews. Over time they could not work as teachers, lawyers or doctors.

They were not allowed to attend state schools. They could not even own a radio and were forced to carry special identity cards.

THEN one night in November 1938, after years of anti-Semitic propaganda, German citizens, encouraged by the Nazis, attacked and ransacked 7,500 Jewish businesses, burnt hundreds of synagogues and murdered 91 Jewish citizens.

The only arrests made were 30,000 Jews. The division was now complete.

The following year, when Germany invaded Poland, the Nazis had large numbers of Jews under German control and began to confine them to ghettos.

After their victories early in Autumn 1941, the Nazis implemented what they called "a solution to the Jewish problem", one that would result in the murder of two thirds of all Europe's Jews.