

Handouts

A very brief history of the persecution of the X

1890	Conference organised in Germany on the "X scum". Military empowered to regulate movements of X.
1909	A policy conference on "The X Question" is held. It is recommended that all Xs be branded with easy identification.
1920	Two academics introduce the notion of "lives unworthy of life," suggesting that Xs should be sterilized and eliminated as a people.
1922	(And throughout the 1920s): All Xs in German territories are photographed and fingerprinted.
1926	A law is passed in Germany to control the "X plague." (This treatment is in direct violation of the terms of the Weimar Constitution of Germany.)
1927	In Bavaria, Germany, special camps are built to imprison Xs. Eight thousand Xs are put into these camps.
1928	All Xs placed under permanent police surveillance. More camps are built to contain Xs.
1934	Xs taken for sterilisation by injection and castration, and sent to camps at Dachau, Dieselstrasse, Sachsenhausen and elsewhere. Two laws issued in this year forbid Germans from marrying people of other races.
1938	Between June 12 and June 18, hundreds of Xs throughout Germany and Austria are arrested, beaten, and imprisoned. Xs are the first targeted population to be forbidden to attend school.
1939	The Office of Racial Hygiene issues a statement saying "All Xs should be treated as hereditarily sick; the only solution is elimination. (The aim should therefore be the elimination without hesitation of this defective element in the population)."
1940	The first mass genocidal action of the Holocaust: 250 X children are used as guinea pigs to test the cyanide gas crystal, at the concentration camp at Buchenwald. Employment of any kind is forbidden to Xs in this same year.
1941	In July the Nazi Final Solution to "kill all Jews, Xs and mental patients put into operation". The Holocaust begins. 800 Xs are murdered in one action on the night of December 24 in the Crimea.
1944	August 1, 4,000 Xs are gassed and incinerated at Auschwitz-Birkenau in one mass action.
1945	By the end of the war, 70-80% of the X population had been annihilated by Nazis. No Xs were called to testify at the Nuremberg Trials, no-one testified on their behalf. No war crime reparations have been paid to the X as a people.
1950	The first of many statements over the years to follow, by the German government, that they owe nothing to the X people by way of war crime reparations.
1992	Germany "sells" X asylum seekers back to Romania for \$21 million, and begins shipping them in handcuffs on November 1. Some Xs commit suicide rather than go. The German press agency asks western journalists not to use the word "deportation" because that word has "uncomfortable historical associations."
2010	French president links Xs to crime calling their camps sources of prostitution and child exploitation. French authorities dismantle over 100 camps and deport more than 1,000 Xs, mainly to Romania.

Edited version of a Brief Romani Holocaust Chronology, by Ian Hancock
Full version available at <http://www.osi.hu/rpp/holocaust.html>