

# ADOLF HITLER'S SPEECH TO THE REICHSTAG JANUARY 30, 1939



ECHOES & REFLECTIONS

TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST. INSPIRING THE CLASSROOM.

The excerpts below are from a speech given by Adolf Hitler on the sixth anniversary of his appointment as chancellor of Germany. Amidst heightened war preparations, Hitler frames the looming hostilities as the fault of the Jews. He pledges a German defense against the Jewish people, whom he accuses of being war profiteers, communist traitors, parasites, and manipulators.

Vicious antisemitism had always been a core part of Nazi ideology, but this speech marked an escalation to the threat of genocide, although the plan for a “Final Solution” had not yet been formed.

**Directions: As you read and discuss the excerpts, complete the following task.**

- A.** The Nazis advanced their antisemitic ideology (belief system) through stereotyping, propaganda, and dehumanization, among other behaviors and actions.

**Underline** key phrases that demonstrate each and label them ('P' for propaganda, etc.)

- B.** This address is known as the “Prophet Speech” (prophet, from the Greek for spokesman, is an authority who foretells the future).

**Describe**, in a phrase, the future that Hitler imagines in 1939: \_\_\_\_\_

## EXCERPTS

...In connection with the Jewish question I have this to say:

For hundreds of years Germany was good enough to receive these elements, although they possessed nothing except infectious political and physical diseases. What they possess today, they have by a very large extent gained at the cost of the less astute German nation by the most reprehensible manipulations.

Today we are merely paying this people [back] what it deserves....

Above all, German culture...is German and not Jewish, and therefore its management and care will be entrusted to members of our own nation...Europe cannot settle down until the Jewish question is cleared up.

...We must once and for all get rid of the opinion that the Jewish race was only created by God for the purpose of being in a certain percentage a parasite living on the body and the productive work of other nations.

Today I will once more be a prophet: If the international Jewish financiers in and outside Europe should succeed in plunging the nations once more into a world war, then the result will not be the Bolshevization of the earth, and thus the victory of Jewry, but the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe.