



Teacher material

Everyday inclusion and exclusion (not only) in Nazi society

Activity Plan

Print out all images and texts and cut them out. Mix them up, so that images and texts don't combine any more in the original order.

TEACHER NOTE

Use it as a starter if you want to discuss, why "Germans allowed these Nazi crimes to happen".

1. Students divide up in groups of two or three. The teacher distributes the images and texts separately.

The students are instructed to look at their picture, read the text and answer the following questions in their groups:

- What situation is depicted here?
- Who is talking?
- What are they saying?
- What might the different responses be?
- In what context is this happening?

2. Each group presents their image/text to the rest of the class. If one group recognises the situation, they add their text/cartoon and explain.

3. When all groups have presented their images/texts, the group as a whole discusses the relevance of this – in relation to the past as well as today.

Can you imagine these situations happening in your society? With people you know? For what reasons do people act this way? How the other could respond? How would you react in such a situation?

This activity shows students the small actions which are part of the bigger working of an authoritarian system. It can give them a close look at life in Nazi Germany, at people living their own lives, thinking about their surroundings and their future. It is not necessary to say in the beginning that this is about Nazi Germany. This will open the opportunity, to talk about the situations more closely, rather than remove it too far into the distant past.

Source:

All images and texts are selected from: Kurt Halbritter: Adolf Hitlers Mein Kampf - Gezeichnete Erinnerungen an eine Große Zeit" („Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf – sketched memories of a Great time“), Frankfurt/ Main, 1968.

Kurt Halbritter, born at Frankfurt/Main in 1924, was a German Satirist and Caricaturist in. He completed an apprenticeship in print media. After obtaining his professional certificate, he was drafted in 1942 to the Marines and was in British captivity after 1944. He returned to his home town and taught at a crafts and design school in Offenbach. Afterwards he worked as a free-lance illustrator. He died on 21 May 1978.

“Adolf Hitler's Mein Kampf – sketched Memories of a Great time“ was published in 1968 with the intention to show how the Nazi ideology was transferred into



daily life by ordinary people. Halbritter refers to the chapters of Hitler's book: Leadership and Society, Propaganda and Organisation, the Aryans as the founders of culture, Voelkisch State and Race Hygiene, and the Right to Soil and Territory. The cited Hitler quotations go with illustrations showing denunciation of friends and acquaintances, mutual spying, the belief in Hitler's promises, the distrust and suspicion of everyone against everyone and the fear for survival. Inclusion and exclusion are going hand in hand: The introduction of the "German salute" and the yellow star supported a clear cut between "us" and "them". The scenes with the short texts show how dividing lines are drawn in dialogues and private as well as public attitudes – not by invisible forces, but through people's mundane everyday actions.

Small changes in habits seem like minor intrusions, but in combination, they result in the division and separation of a whole society - not only in Nazi Germany.