

Chamberlain, Houston Stewart

(1855--1927), Racial ideologist who served as a conceptual link between older theories of racism and Nazism. Chamberlain was British but chose Germany as his nationality. He believed that Adolf Hitler was just the man to implement his racial theories.

Chamberlain viewed the clash between two races, the superior Aryans and the inferior Jews, as the basis of European history. In his major work, "The Foundations of the Nineteenth Century" (1899), Chamberlain reached back to the time of Jesus to begin proving his theories. He maintained that the Jews had contaminated Jesus' Aryan doctrine, and that since then there has been a constant war waging between the two races. According to Chamberlain, the Germans are fated to destroy the Jews, as they are the highest cultural achievers and saviors of humanity, while the Jews are a bastard race of greedy, inferior foreigners whose interference in the world can only lead to cultural degeneration. All of Western history since Jesus' time leads to the resolution of this race struggle, with the Aryans completely destroying Judaism and rescuing the world from racial chaos.

These theories appealed to the Nazis because Chamberlain provided "historical" proof of their "duty" to rid the world of Judaism.