

Aryan Paragraph

(*Arierparagraph*), a type of regulation that blocked "non-Aryans" (Jews) from becoming members in German economic establishments, political parties, social clubs, volunteer organizations, student groups, sports groups, and other institutions. Regulations of this kind made their first appearance in Germany during the nineteenth century. They were included in the constitutions of racist and nationalist student associations, political groups, and social organizations, and were used to exclude Jews from their ranks.

After the Nazi rise to national power in January 1933, the Aryan Paragraph was used as a legal steppingstone to increased persecution. In April 1933 it was included in a group of laws that permitted the removal of Jews from various aspects of German society, such as the government, professional groups, universities and other places of academic learning. When the racial Nuremberg laws were passed in September 1935, the Aryan Paragraph became a basic fundamental of German law. (see also Anti-Jewish Legislation.)