

Institute for the Study of the Jewish Problem

(*Institut d'Etude des Questions Juives*, IEQJ), French anti-Jewish institution that was active from 1941 to 1943. With the financial backing of the German occupation authorities in France, the IEQJ spread anti-Jewish propaganda among the French, called for the removal of Jews from the economic and cultural spheres of French life, and urged the French people to tell on Jews and surrender them to the authorities. The institute's greatest achievement was an exhibit called "The Jew and France," whose purpose was to show how Jews had allegedly harmed France throughout French history. From the point of view of the IEQJ, the exhibition was a wild success: 500,000 people came to see it in Paris alone, before it moved on to two other locations.

In May 1942 the Vichy government's Office for Jewish Affairs was put under the direction of Louis Darquier de Pellepoix, an infamous antisemite who pledged to collaborate even more closely with the Nazis. This made the IEQJ's activities redundant. In June the director of IEQJ decided to attach it to Darquier's office. The IEQJ was then renamed the Institute for the Study of Jewish and Ethno-Racial Problems; however, it never got off the ground, and by July 1943, it had been completely dissolved. (For more on Vichy, see also France.)