

Mischlinge

(lit., "hybrids"), part Jews. The racial Nuremberg Laws of September 1935 did not actually define who was legally to be considered a Jew. Thus, an additional decree was made in November 1935 which provided detailed definitions of Jew, Aryan, and *Mischling*.

Jews were defined as people with at least three full Jewish grandparents. A *Mischling* of the first degree, or half-Jew, was a person with two Jewish grandparents who did not belong to the Jewish religion or who was not married to a Jew as of September 15, 1935. A *Mischling* of the second degree, or quarter-Jew, was someone with one Jewish grandparent or an Aryan married to a Jew. In 1939, 72,000 first degree *Mischlinge* and 39,000 second degree *Mischlinge* were still living in Germany.

The *Mischlinge* issue was very important to Adolf Hitler. The policy in Germany was to assimilate second degree *Mischlinge* into the Aryan nation, while first degree *Mischlinge* were to be considered like Jews. In other countries, policies differed. Over the winter of 1941-1942, some Nazis proposed that all *Mischlinge* of the first degree be sterilized; however, nothing ever came of this because the Nazis feared the reactions of the many Germans related to the *Mischlinge*.