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Between 1933 and 1939, the Jewish community in Germany experienced a series of increasingly restrictive laws and decrees that systematically marginalized, discriminated against, and laid the groundwork for their eventual persecution. The Nazi regime, led by Adolf Hitler, pursued a policy of racial discrimination that culminated in the Holocaust. During these years, numerous legal measures—ranging from social exclusion to economic disenfranchisement—were enacted to isolate Jewish citizens from German society. Understanding the scope and scale of these decrees provides insight into the systematic nature of Nazi anti-Semitic policies and their devastating impact on Jewish lives.

Overview of Anti-Jewish Legislation (1933-1939)

The period from 1933 to 1939 was marked by a rapid escalation in anti-Jewish legislation. The Nazis, who seized power in January 1933, initiated their discriminatory policies immediately, gradually intensifying as the years progressed. The legal framework established during these years laid the foundation for the more extreme measures that followed during World War II.

Key features of this legislation include:

- Legal segregation and exclusion: Laws that segregated Jews from the rest of German society.
- Economic disenfranchisement: Regulations that deprived Jews of their businesses and assets.
- Social marginalization: Measures that excluded Jews from public life, education, and cultural institutions.
- Propaganda and social pressure: Legal backing for anti-Semitic propaganda and actions.

Major Decrees and Regulations (1933-1939)

During these years, hundreds of decrees, laws, and regulations targeted Jewish individuals and communities. While it is difficult to quantify every single legal measure, historians have identified approximately 400 to 500 distinct decrees enacted within this period. Many of these were incremental steps that collectively created an environment of systemic discrimination.

Below is a chronological overview of some of the most significant decrees and their impacts:

1. The Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service (April 1933)

- Purpose: To exclude Jews and political opponents from civil service positions.
- Impact: Initiated the process of removing Jews from public sector employment.

2. The Law Against the Overcrowding of German Schools and Universities (April 1933)

- Purpose: To restrict Jewish students from attending German educational institutions.
- Impact: Segregated Jewish students and limited their access to education.

3. The Law for the Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Offspring (July 1933)

- Purpose: To institutionalize eugenics policies targeting Jews and other groups.
- Impact: Facilitated forced sterilizations.

4. The Decree on the Exclusion of Jews from the Legal Profession (September 1933)

- Purpose: To disqualify Jewish lawyers and judges.
- Impact: Marginalized Jews from legal careers.

5. The Nuremberg Laws (September 1935)

- Purpose: To define Jewish identity legally and racially, and strip Jews of German citizenship.
- Impact:
 - Declared Jews as non-citizens.
 - Prohibited marriage and sexual relations between Jews and "Aryans."
 - Restricted Jews from certain professions and public spaces.

6. The Reich Citizenship Law (September 1935)