# The Sterilization Law in Nazi Germany, 1933-1939

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Notes for Teachers

The sterilization Law enacted in 1933 provides a lateral view for students studying the totalitarian nature of Nazi Germany. Under the Nazi rule, millions of people were subjected to involuntary sterilization in the name of racial hygiene, an effort to purify the German bloodline and establish internationally their superiority as a nation.

The DBQs are divided into 4 parts. Different kinds of primary sources are used to demonstrate the views and responses of the Nazis, the sterilized, the physicians and the churchmen. Besides providing supplementary knowledge of Nazi policies to students, the design of this date-based question set is also aiming at building up students’ logical reasoning skills and analytical power.

As the Law is not included in the current History syllabus, for each part of the DBQs, teachers may briefly explain the situation faced by each group, with the help of the notes provided in the question sheets. Teachers may also refer to the book list for further reference. It is highly recommended that teachers discuss with their students over the controversial issues of sterilization in its context after completing the whole set of questions.
Part I  The Nazis beliefs of Reproduction

Nazi leaders believed that only a genetically pure “racial” body would prosper. Thus, state intervention should ensure that only “valuable” and “Aryan” Germans married and reproduced, while others should be prevented from reproducing. Under the Nazi rule, millions of people were subjected to involuntary sterilization(絕育) in the name of racial hygiene, an effort to purify the German bloodline and establish internationally their superiority as a nation. Let’s see how the Nazis justified their policies from the following sources.

Source A: Marriages and Births in Germany from 1922 to 1940

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Per 1,000 of the population</th>
<th>Live births per 1,000 women of childbearing age</th>
<th>Illegitimate births per 1,000 births</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marriages</td>
<td>Live births</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>90.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>79.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>75.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>71.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>67.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>59.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>58.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>73.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>77.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>80.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>84.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* not recorded
Source B: Outlines of Law for the Protection of the Hereditary Health of the German People, 1935 (Marriage Health Law)

1. Remember that you are a German.
2. If you are genetically healthy you should not remained unmarried.
4. You should keep your mind and spirit pure.
5. As a German choose only a spouse of the same or Nordic blood.
6. In choosing a spouse ask about his ancestors
7. Health is also a precondition for physical beauty.
8. Marry only for love.
9. Don’t look for a playmate but for a companion for marriage
10. You should want to have as many children as possible.

Source C: A picture showing an ideal German family
Source D: Extracts of the text of the Law for the Prevention of Genetically Diseased Offspring, 1933 (The Sterilization Law)

1. (i) Anyone who has a hereditary illness can be rendered sterile by a surgical operation if, according to the experience of medical science, there is a strong probability that his/her offspring (後代) will suffer from serious hereditary defects of a physical or mental nature.

(ii) Anyone is hereditarily ill within the meaning of this law who suffers from one of the following illness: (a) Congenital feeblemindedness. (先天性弱智) (b) Schizophrenia. (精神分裂症) (c) Manic depression. (躁狂症) (d) Hereditary epilepsy. (遺傳性癲癇) (e) Huntington’s chorea. (羊癇風舞蹈症) (f) Hereditary blindness. (遺傳性失明) (g) Hereditary deafness. (遺傳性失聰) (h) Serious physical deformities. (嚴重肢體殘缺)

(iii) In addition, anyone who suffers from chronic alcoholism can be sterilized.

12. If the Court had decided finally in favour of sterilization, the sterilization must be carried out even against the wishes of the person to be sterilized.

Reasons for the Law: Since the National Uprising public opinion and the continuing decline in the birthrate. However, it is not only the decline in population which is the cause of serious concern but equally the increasingly evident genetic make-up of our people. Whereas the hereditarily healthy families have for the most part adopted a policy of having only one or two children, countless numbers of inferiors and those suffering from hereditary ailments are reproducing unrestrainedly while their sick and asocial offspring are a burden on the community.

Source E: Extract of a minute of the meeting of senior social workers in Hamburg on 10 November 1937

It is well-known that worthless people cause a lot of expense, and there was a time when an excessive amount of money was spent on this group. Today by contrast it frequently seems that nothing more can be done for such people……During this summer, as an experiment, family social workers have already worked on sterilization proposals.
Source F: A Nazi Propaganda concerning Sterilization

An Informative Circular on Sterilization
(pursuant to article 2, paragraph 3, of the ordinance for the implementation of the Law for the Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Diseases of December 5, 1933, Reich Law Gazette 1: p.1021)

The objective of sterilization, that is, the termination of the reproductive capacity of men and women, is to prevent the further transmission of hereditary disease. Such diseases are congenital feeblemindedness, schizophrenia, manic depressive insanity, hereditary epilepsy, St. Vitus’ Dance (Huntington’s chorea), hereditary blindness, hereditary deafness, severe hereditary bodily malformation, as well as severe alcoholism.

Questions:

1. With reference to Source A, briefly describe the birth trend in Germany during the period 1920-1940. Suggest reasons for such a pattern with the help of other given sources.

2. According to Source B and C, what were the racial, physical, mental and moral characteristics of an ideal family in Nazi Germany?

3. According to Source D, E and F, how did the Nazis justify the implementation of the Sterilization Law?

4. With reference to the sources, how can you relate the Marriage Health Law and the Sterilization Law to Nazi racial polices?
Part II  Impacts on the Sterilized

The reactions of the victims to sterilization were bitter and complex. Although hardly anybody applied to be sterilized himself or herself, actually there were, while some appealed for the court’s decision against their sterilization. Between 1934-1939, estimates on the number of people sterilized range from 200,000 to 400,000, as much as 0.5% of the German population.

Source G: Statements from parents whose deaf children had been sterilized

1. My son Heinz H. has just been sterilized in an operation. As a single mother, I have to welcome wholeheartedly that this was done to my son, if for no other reason than to avoid later mentally inferior offspring. I would also like to note that after this operation my son has suffered no negative effects. On the contrary, in mental terms he does better than before.

2. I let my congenitally deaf and dumb son be sterilized for purely eugenic reasons when he was 13 years old. My son got over the operation quite promptly. He does gymnastics, swims, cycles, makes day-long hikes and performs heavy physical work in third year of his apprenticeship as a baker. He has never complained about pains around the incision or otherwise complained about abdomen. In his mental development as well as we have noted no impairment nor any new demands on us as a result of the sterilization.
Source H: Comments by a medical student, checking up on sterilized women in 1936

(sterilized women) were actually so inferior, that they welcomed sterilization….Other women saw sterilization as a relief, because they were in such financial straits. In these cases, moral difference and economic need are so great that they dominated their thoughts and attitude toward children and toward the sterilization law….On leaving, I often heard behind me scornful and mocking laughter at the idea that childless was a sacrifice. Many said that bitterly that ‘children only cost money; only the rich can afford them’… Others viewed the loss of motherhood as a loss of purpose in life…For them, the only solace (安慰) could be the conviction that their sacrifice had not been in vain, but had been made to the German people.

Source I: A Nazi Propaganda concerning Sterilization

An Informative Circular on Sterilization
(pursuant to article 2, paragraph 3, of the ordinance for the implementation of the Law for the Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Diseases of December 5, 1933, Reich Law Gazette I: p.1021)

Sterilization is performed as follows: without the removal of the testicles or ovaries, the spermatic cords or Fallopian tubes are tied off, made impassable, or are severed.

The operation is performed by professional physicians in medical facilities designated for the purpose.

No negative consequences for the health of either men or women are to be feared from sterilization. Sexual sensation and the capacity for sexual intercourse are not affected by the operation.
Source J: Letter from Josef Goebbels regarding publicity of sterilization procedures

Note: Josef Goebbels was the Reich Minister of Propaganda and Popular Enlightenment in Hitler’s government

Transcript
The Reich Minister for Public Education and Propaganda

Berlin, June 12, 1935
To: the Reich and Prussian State Minister of the Interior
At Berlin NW 4G, Konigsplatz 6

Re: Publicity concerning the implementation of the Law for the Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Diseases

... I have the express assignment from the Führer to suppress all publicity in the press concerning the effects of the sterilization law. The sterilization performed under this law deal with procedures that were and still are vital to the well-being of the German people, but the dissemination of general information about them to a wider public is not desirable for socio-psychological reasons. On the other hand, there are no reservations concerning the treatment of these questions in professional scientific publications.

Heil Hitler!
(signed) Dr. Goebbels
Source K: Questionnaire sent to the sterilized by researchers

Responses to Questions 20, 21 and 22

Question 20: Do you still suffer from psychological pain?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>928</td>
<td>76.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>4.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>19.59</td>
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</table>

Question 21: Do you still suffer from physical pain?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>49.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>11.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>469</td>
<td>38.60</td>
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Question 22: Where is the physical pain located?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Groin / surgical scars</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>11.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdomen (下腹)</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>52.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrotum (陰囊)</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>10.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower back</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General discomfort</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>9.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical distress caused by pain</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>4.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Source L: Statements from sterilized persons

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. | Female, born 1918:  
   | I was forcibly sterilized by the Nazis in July 1938. It was an extremely painful torture, the doctor bored around in the sensitive part of my vagina with his finger. I suffered terrible pain…….  
| 2. | Female, born 1914:  
   | I too belong to the forcibly sterilized. My ancestors had absolutely not transmitted any hereditary diseases. My fiancé at the time also told me that I was not genetically defective. A year later, in 1935, I was very badly disillusioned by the health authority in Osnabrück. About three months after the operation, my fiancé said to me that we had to break up; he couldn’t be expected to keep a wife with a “Hitler cut” for the rest of his life.  
| 3. | Male, born 1912:  
   | My wife died in 1979. She was sterilized and suffered her whole life that she couldn’t have any children. She so badly wanted to be a mother…Now I, her husband, stand here all alone; if I had had children, I wouldn’t feel so lonely in my old age.  
| 4. | Male, born 1917:  
   | In 1935, I was as apprentice cabinetmaker. After my adamant refusal, I was hauled away by force by the Gestapo from the workshop in XX and immediately delivered to the hospital in XX. There I was forcibly sterilized. My deaf brother was not sterilized, thanks to the Second World War. He had two healthy children. My sister, happily married in XX, also had seven healthy children. I still suffer from it, and question why it was just me who had to suffer a fate with such terrible consequences.  
| 5. | Female, born 1920:  
   | When I was fifteen I was brought to XX to be sterilized. Unfortunately, I have no witnesses, just the scar on my abdomen….With time, the abdominal pains were replaced by pains of the heart when my fiancé backed out of the marriage because I could no longer have children. That happened to me three times, so that I withdrew more and more from life. The pain got worse and worse.  
| 6. | Female, born 1920:  
   | I am writing you now that I am so lonesome without children. My husband died in 1981. I am very unhappy. Why were the Nazis so cruel as to sterilize me? I wanted to have at most two children. I was scarcely 17 years old when I was forced to go to the hospital in Königsberg in East Prussia to be sterilized.  

|   |   |
Questions:

5. Comment on the reliability of Source G and I in studying the impacts on the sterilized? You may refer to other sources given as well.

6. With reference to Source L, what are the negative impacts on the sterilized women in particular?
Part III  Role and Responsibility of Physicians

The Sterilization Law would not be able to come into existence without the cooperation of physicians, in consideration of their application of knowledge in eugenics (優生學), science of the production of healthy intelligent children. As a result, their associations with the Nazis and ethics involved in performing sterilizations were crucial. The following documents help understand the role and responsibility of German physicians in the implementation of the Sterilization Law.

Source M: Extract of Texts of the Sterilization Law

5. The responsibility for the decision lies with the Hereditary Court which has jurisdiction over the district where the person to be sterilized officially resides.
6. The Hereditary Health Court is to be connected administratively to the Magistrates Court. It consists of a magistrate as chairman, a medical officer, and a further physician qualified to practice within the German Reich who is particularly familiar with the theory of hereditary health…

Source N: Letter from a Berlin Doctor regarding the Sterilization operation

You must be sterilized because your disease would be inherited by your offspring. But you do not need to be sad about it. It's not so bad. You can still marry. The operation is a trifle. It would be much worse to have miserable children. You know that yourself.
Source O: A Statement from a sterilized person

After I married my wife, I had a terrible disappointment in our conjugal relations (婚姻生活)……They used to say in the papers in the Nazi period: “Marital relations are in no way affected by sterilization.” I couldn’t suspect that this was just a terrible lie of doctors who had sanctioned sterilization……

Source P: Grounds given for sterilization in the adjudication of the Sterilization Law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for sterilization</th>
<th>K. H. Bauer a</th>
<th>Mikulicz-Radecki b</th>
<th>Verschuer c</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Congenital feeble-mindedness</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
<td>66.8%</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schizophrenia</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>34.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hereditary epilepsy</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>24.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe alcoholism</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manic-depressive insanity</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hereditary deafness</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hereditary blindness</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huntington’s chorea</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious bodily malformation</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(hereditary)</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

100.0% 100.0% 100.0%

a. Based on a sample of 6,052 men.
b. Based on a sample of 6,032 women.
c. Based on a sample of 325 men and women.

Source Q: IQ Tests for selecting candidates for sterilization

1. The suitcase test: In a box 60 x 30 x 30 cm are twenty different objects of different shapes, such as books and bottles, which with careful packing exactly fill the box. Pack them all in such a way that the lid may be closed without force.

2. You are mayor of a city in time of war. Suddenly, from high command comes an order that all windows are to be removed. How should this be done, and what should be used in place of glass for the windows?
Source R: A letter written by a mother to the courts protesting against the decision to sterilize her daughter

My daughter is absolutely not in agreement with this decision, and nor are we, my husband and I. Firstly, because she is not feeble-minded, but merely indifferent, and that is not a matter requiring sterilization. The children she has had are healthy and normal, and not one of them is an idiot. I think it is absolutely unnecessary to do something like this to her. You are doing her wrong, and you will reap the consequences of it, or we will take the matter to our Führer……

Source S: Book extract of a scholar commenting on Nazi doctors

…….the Nazis came to power in 1933. Physicians joined the Party earlier and in greater number than any other profession. By 1937 physicians were represented in the Party with seven times the frequency of any other profession for the employed male population. German physicians were attracted to the Party by promises that the Nazis German power following defeat in World War I, and also would restore honour to the medical profession. They also were attracted to the Party by Nazi support for practice of eugenics, and the promise of rectification of the social and economic

Questions:

7. According to Source M, which profession do you think was decisive in selecting who has to be sterilized?

8. What were the perceptions of this profession towards the Sterilization Law as implied in Source N? How can Source S help in understanding their attitude?

9. Among the nine categories of people requiring sterilization, which one was the main target of the sterilization program? Support your answer with evidence. What do you think of the grounds for sterilization of this category?

10. Do you think that German physicians had any responsibilities for the sufferings of the victim in Source O?
Part IV  Reactions of the Churches

In 1933 Hitler signed an agreement with the Pope saying that the Nazis would not interfere in the Catholic Church. In return, the Pope ordered bishops to take an oath of loyalty to Hitler. However, Hitler’s desire to mould the German people into a national community loyal only to him created difficulties for Christians, who were taught that the first duty was to God and one’s conscience (良心). How would the Christians react to the Sterilization Law?

Source T: Extract of the congregations of Casti Connubii

…….It is not permitted to request sterilization for oneself or to submit others to sterilization. That is Catholic teaching……

Note: Casti Connubii was a papal encyclical promulgated by Pope Pius XI in 1930. It stressed the sanctity of marriage, and prohibited any forms of artificial birth control, and reaffirmed the prohibition on abortion.

Source U: Comments by the director of a course for health administration in Dortmund

The nuns here face difficult conflicts of conscience when they receive orders to deliver the girls to forced sterilization. On the one hand, such a girl has been entrusted to the sisters for protection. The sisters see the whole point of their work in their responsibility for individual girls. If the Home resists then eventually the authorities will proceed with force and fetch the girls with the help of the Überfalkkommando (the roundup squad). If the Home does not resist, then people will assume that we have given our approval. The questions become worse if the girl herself object.
Source V: Extract of Archbishop Gröber’ final contract recommending sterilization

……that the obligation for directors of hospitals and institutions to file reports on their inmates as laid out by administration directives of 5 December 1933 for the [sterilization] law……in no way contradicts Catholic doctrine. This obligation can be met by the devout Catholic without conflicts of conscience. The bishop requests that Catholic nuns in public institutions not be required to carry out the [sterilization] law of 14 July 1933.

Source W: Comments by a Catholic agency director on the Sterilization Law

……If we fundamentally refuse, we will run the risk that the Nazis will accuse us of not being staunch (堅定的) Nazis. We might not receive any more clients……

Source X: Extract of a Protestant social worker’s report

Our Land and Volk stand at a turning-point of immeasurable meaning. Our Vaterland needs not only eugenically superior people, but morally better people……As long as sin exists in the world, we will need the blessings [Segnungen] of science to combat it.

Questions:

11. With reference to Source T and U, why did the nuns “face difficult conflicts of conscience”?

12. In Source V Archbishop Gröber’ said, “This obligation can be met by the devout Catholic without conflicts of conscience”. Try to explain why it contradicted with the nuns’ sayings with reference to Source W?

13. What was the Protestants’ attitude towards sterilization according to Source X?

14. How did the implementation of the Sterilization Law reflect the relationship between the Nazis and the Churches?
Suggested Answers:

Part I

1. The number of live births dropped since 1920. After experiencing the trough in 1933, it rose steadily towards the end of the given period. The number of illegitimate births was more or less constant during 1920-1933, but a steady decrease can be observed since 1934.

The patterns can be explained by the enacting of reproduction laws under the Nazi rule. The Law for the Protection of the Hereditary Health of the German People (Marriage health Law) in 1935 encouraged marriages and reproduction of genetically healthy Germans, while the Law for the Prevention of Genetically Diseased Offspring (the Sterilization Law) prohibited genetically diseased German from having babies. Both regulations helped reducing the number of illegitimate births.

2. Racially, the family members, including the ancestors, should be of the same or Nordic blood. Physically, they should be genetically healthy. Blond hair, high nose and light skin were ideal Nordic appearance. A large family was preferable. Moreover, family members should be free from mental problems. In terms of morality, both of the body and mind should be pure. They should be loyal to their beloved mates.

3. The hereditary unhealthy Germans were reproducing more and more babies, which are further transmitter of disease. It was a burden for the whole society for they have to spend money on looking after sick and asocial who has no productivity.

4. The Nazis saw hereditary healthy Nordics as valuable manpower for the country. Racism is the dominant element of Nazism. They believed that the Nordic race was superior to all other peoples and was destined to rule the world. Since Germanness was threatened by the rising births of hereditary diseased babies and by gradual disintegration through the Jewish race, they were so eager to enact these two laws to regulate marriage and reproduction.
5. Source G doesn’t represent the views of the majority of the sterilized. While the parents in Source G welcomed sterilization and stated that there were no negative impacts on the physical and mental health of their sterilized children, the victims gave opposite responses in the questionnaires distributed to them as demonstrated in Source K. With reference to Source H, the words of parents might be solaces only for they sacrificed for the whole German people. Furthermore, the reliability of Source G was lower because they were not spoken by the sterilized themselves.

The reliability of Source I is low. The propaganda stated that “No negative consequences for the health of either men or women are to be feared from sterilization.”, which was absolutely not true with reference to the questionnaires in Source K and the statements of the miserable victims of Source L. More importantly, the propaganda hid the possible negative consequences of sterilization from the public. It is revealed clearly from Source J, the letter from Josef Goebbels, that Hitler ordered the officials “to suppress all publicity in the press concerning the effects of the sterilization law” because “the dissemination of general information about them to a wider public is not desirable for socio-psychological reasons”.

6. They suffered from physical pain during the sterilization operation. Disrupted sexuality was thus resulted. Also, most suffered subsequent psychological distress resulted from broken marriage and not being able to find a mate. The loss of motherhood was an exceptional bitter for sterilized women.
Part III

7. Physicians / Medical officers are decisive in selecting who has to be sterilized.

8. They were in favour of the Law. As seen from Source N, the doctor put that disease will be inherited to offspring if that patient didn’t sterilize, and “it would be much worse to have miserable children”.

According to Source S, the physicians had long been working for eugenics, science of the production of healthy intelligent children. Their associations with the Nazis also suggested why physicians were in favour of the Law. Many physicians were Nazis because they believed the Party was able to restore glory and prestige to Germany, as well as to solve the socio-economic problems of the country.

9. Congenital feeblemindedness was the main target of sterilization. According to Source P, this group accounted for the largest percentage among the reasons for sterilization in two out the three regions.

The judgments of congenital feeblemindedness were rather subjective. As shown in Source Q, the IQ tests used for testing one’s intelligence were quite difficult and not relevant to daily experiences of the general public. Referring to Source R as well, the definitions of congenital feeblemindedness seemed to be ambiguous since the mother stressed that her sterilized daughter was not feeble-minded but merely indifferent, the children of her daughter were healthy ones.

10. The physicians were responsible in the sense that they told lies on the impact of sterilization, and this brought painful experience regarding conjugal relations to patients. Source O was a case of the poor morality among physicians.

OR

The physicians were not responsible in the sense that they just followed the Nazi instructions that the side-effects of being sterilized had to be concealed in order to minimize the psychological distress of the sterilized.
Part IV

11. The nuns faced difficult conflicts of conscience because they had to assist in the delivery of girls to forced sterilization while they realized that sterilization was not permitted in Catholic Teaching.

12. Archbishop Gröber said so because he worried that the Nazis will intervene the churches’ affairs. Source W was an example in which the Catholic agency director worried that if they oppose the Law the Nazis would took revenges on them.

13. The Protestants were in favour of the Law because they believed that the Law was for the good of Germans. They justified the use of science to produce morally better people.

14. The Nazis, who devoted their loyalty to Hitler only, were aiming at putting the Christians under control. The Catholics, despite facing conflicts of conscience, avoided confronting over the sterilization issue. On the other hand, the Protestants had closer relationship with the Nazis for long. But they saw sterilization as God’s will, rather than the Führer’s wish, as implied by the sentence in Source X, “As long as sin exists in the world, we will need the blessings of science to combat it.” As a result, both Churches didn’t attempt strongly in opposing the Sterilization Law.
References


