



وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي

جامعة الموصل

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في التاريخ الحديث

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ABSTRACT

The period of the rise of Nazism and its control over Germany and parts of Europe (1933–1945) is considered one of the darkest chapters in human history, due to the systematic racist policies directed against large segments of populations. Within the context of these policies, the Roma (Gypsies) were subjected to a campaign of ethnic persecution and organized genocide historically known as the Porajmos. This tragedy did not receive the same level of coverage and in-depth study as that devoted to other persecuted groups, such as the Jews. While the Jewish genocide has received extensive attention in historical studies, the persecution of the Roma under the Nazi regime remains, to this day, one of the most neglected aspects of that tragic era.

The importance of this topic lies in shedding light on the persecution of the second largest social group in Europe after the Jews—the Roma—about whom Arab studies still know little, despite more than 80 years having passed since their persecution by the Nazis. This study may open the door for Arab and Iraqi researchers to investigate the fate of other minorities in Europe that were persecuted by the Nazis.

The researcher's choice of this topic stems from a strong desire to write about European history, based on the belief that the Arab academic library still suffers from a significant shortage of studies dealing with this history. In addition, the researcher aims to reveal the falsity of the propaganda promoted for a long time by the Zionist entity, which claimed that the Nazis persecuted only the Jewish minority in Europe and no other minorities, and that the establishment of a state for the Jews in Palestine was therefore a form of compensation.

During the preparation of this study, the researcher encountered several difficulties, most notably the scarcity of Arabic studies addressing this topic, the limited number of reliable foreign sources dealing with it, as well as the difficulty of obtaining such sources and their high financial cost.

The study consists of an introduction, four chapters, and a conclusion that presents the main findings reached by the researcher.

The first chapter, titled “the Persecution of the Roma in Europe until 1933,” serves as a preliminary framework. It discusses the concept of ethnic persecution by defining it linguistically and terminologically, identifying the parties responsible for it, and explaining the actions that fall under the category of ethnic persecution. It also examines the origins of the Roma and their arrival in Europe, tracing their history from their departure from India and their movement through various countries until reaching Europe, as well as the reasons for European hostility toward them. Furthermore, the chapter explores the historical development of the persecution of the Roma in Europe, focusing on four countries: France, Austria, Russia, and Germany. These countries were chosen because they controlled large parts of Europe for several centuries. The chapter highlights the measures and decrees issued by the governments of these countries against the Roma from the time of their arrival until 1933, and explains their impact on Roma communities.

The second chapter, titled “The intellectual and legislative foundations of the persecution of Roma in Nazi Germany 1933-1939 (1933–1939),” discusses the position of the Nazi Party toward the Roma and the reasons behind their persecution, which the researcher classifies into four main causes. The chapter then examines the measures taken by the Nazis against the Roma between 1933 and 1939. It begins with the sterilization of Roma under the Law for the Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Offspring, followed by the Expulsion from the Reich Law issued in 1934 and its impact on the Roma. It also addresses the Nuremberg Laws of 1935 and their consequences for the Roma, as well as the municipal detention camps in which Roma were confined during the 1930s, highlighting the hardships they faced there. In addition, the chapter examines the 1936 Decree for Combating the Gypsy Plague and the establishment of the Racial Hygiene Research Center and its role in persecuting the Roma, including the reasons for its establishment, the

doctors who worked there, and the activities carried out to classify the Roma racially. The chapter also discusses the Preventive Crime Decree of 1937 and its effects on the Roma, the Reich Work-Shy Campaign of 1938, and the 1938 Decree for Combating the Gypsy Plague and their consequences for the Roma.

The third chapter, titled “Nazi racial persecution of Roma during World War II 1939-1945 (1939–1945),” examines the outbreak of World War II and its effects on the Roma in Germany. It also discusses the deportation of the Roma to Poland in May 1940 and the conditions they endured there. The chapter further addresses the dismissal of Roma from the German army and the prohibition of marriage among the Roma during the war. It then examines the Labor Law and Social Legislation of 1942 and its impact on the Roma, as well as the Auschwitz Decree of 1942 and its consequences, which involved the deportation of the Roma to the Auschwitz camp where they suffered extremely harsh conditions that ultimately ended in their execution in gas chambers. The chapter also discusses the conditions of the Roma in concentration camps such as Sachsenhausen, Dachau, Buchenwald, Ravensbrück, Lackenbach, and Mauthausen, highlighting the suffering they endured in these camps. In addition, it addresses the medical experiments conducted on the Roma in concentration camps and the forced labor imposed upon them.

The fourth chapter, titled “Nazi persecution of Roma in occupied Europe 1939-1945” examines the persecution of the Roma in Western and Central Europe, beginning with Austria, followed by France and Czechoslovakia. It then discusses the persecution of the Roma in Eastern Europe, particularly in Poland, the Yugoslavia and Soviet Union.

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Nazi racial persecution of Roma

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