



Forced Sterilization and Das Schwarze Korps & Nazi  
Negrophobia

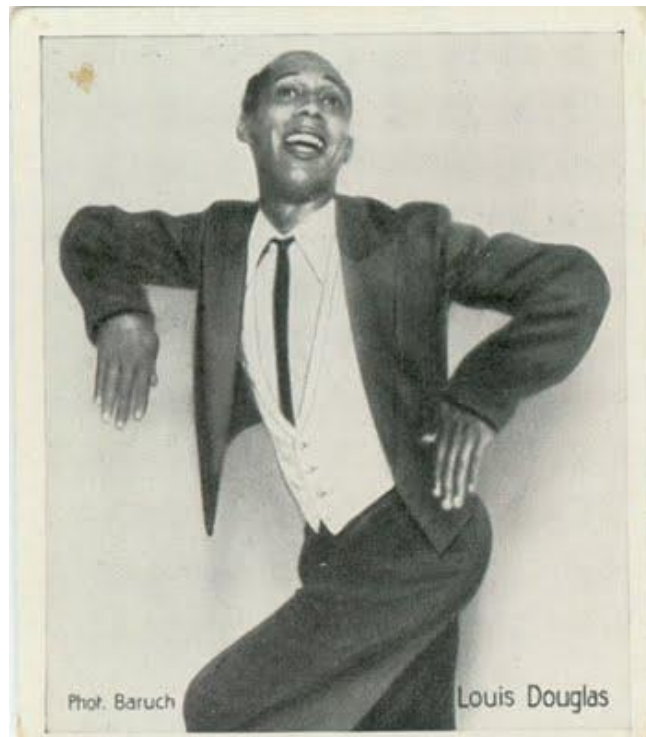
HITLER'S BLACK VICTIMS

# Imaging Blackness: Negrophobia and the Nazi Propaganda Machine

- The Nazis made Blacks and blackness critical elements of the cultural conversations and performances of the time period
- Nazi propaganda sought the subjugation, degradation, and elimination of those of African descent
- By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the end of WWI, Germany had been very welcoming of black entertainment, particularly from the United States
- The Pre-Nazi era black entertainers arrived in Germany in great numbers
- Most American black entertainers went to Germany and other parts of Europe seeking a life free from American racism
- European countries as a rule provided a better life for black immigrants



**Dora Dean & Charles Johnson**



**The Bohee Brothers**



- The Nazis sought to ban black performers as soon as they came to power.
  - 1931 law outlawed the employment of foreign musicians except for concert soloists.
  - Had a disproportionate impact on African American entertainers
  - But Nazis soon found themselves employing Blacks to serve their own interests
- Nazi use of blackness and Blacks in their propaganda went through several stages.
  - Prior to the Nazis coming to power, Blacks were vilified by the Nazi leadership as Hitler had written in Mein Kampf
  - Nazi propaganda was aimed at the German people and its objective was to convince and reinforce Hitler's vision of Aryan world dominance.
  - Cartoons were one major form of media used. They were used to justify Nazi treatment of Jews and demonstrate the practice of racism in the United States.

- Nazi cartoons sought to expose the contradiction of the U.S. government's criticism of Germany's treatment of the Jews while failing to address its own racial problems like the public and private executions of African Americans.



**"It is a good thing for us  
Negroes that no Americans  
live here!"**

- Despite the Nazi's focus on how badly Blacks were treated in the United States, they still considered Blacks to be less than human.
- Blackness became a useful instrument of propaganda and ideology to be used against the United States on the same grounds on which Germany was being accused.
- Goebbels and the Nazis used blackness and black culture wherever possible to advance the Nazi cause.

# Nazi Sterilization of Afro-Germans

- The Nazis modeled their compulsory (mandatory) sterilization law after the one enacted in California in 1922
- Between 1929 and 1941, more than 70,000 people had been involuntarily sterilized.
- In California twice as many Blacks as Whites were sterilized
- The Nazi sterilization law went into effect January 1, 1934
  - 225,000 were sterilized in the first three years of the program
  - Totals are as high as 300,000 to 400,000 between 1934 and 1939
- 1933 Nazis decided the Rhineland children had to be “prevented from reproducing.”
- “It is essential to exterminate the leftovers from the black shame on the Rhine...children created either through rape or by white mothers who were whores...”
- The 1933 sterilization law did not allow for sterilization based solely on race
- Nazis simply chose to carry on in secret sterilizing with supposed “parental consent.”