

from the plunder of others, especially of the economies of occupied countries and of their populations,⁴ or from plunder and confiscation occurring in other ethnic conflicts at all.

Awareness and Historiography

What is the place allotted to the economic element in both current public awareness and in the historiography of the Shoah (which, in my interpretation, encompasses the entire period of the Nazi regime, from 1933 through 1945)?

Public Awareness

Contemporaries were very much aware of and involved in the economic spoliation of the Jews which included various types of expropriation: Aryanization, special taxes, so-called contributions, as well as confiscation, plain robbery, plunder and more, but also removal from positions and professions.⁵ Not only Germans from all parts of society were involved in these practices by serving the regime and taking advantage of the situation, but bystanders in the occupied countries too.⁶ In the

4 For instance, German historian Götz Aly treats them together as forming the basis enabling the Nazi regime to conduct advanced social policies (for Germans only); see: Aly, *Hitlers Volksstaat*.

5 In the discussion here I will not deal with the exploitation of Jewish labor, although this has also economic meaning and is of much importance in the overall picture of the Shoah; see for instance: Gruner, *Jewish Forced Labor Under the Nazis*; Mędykowski, *Between Slavery, Extermination and Survival*. For glimpses into the varieties of non-Jewish and Jewish forced labor see: *Forced and Slave Labor*.

6 This has been pointed out in many recent studies carried out either by individuals or by multiple committees of historians. Regarding German policies and behavior of German society in general see for instance Bajohr, *Arisierung in Hamburg*; Bajohr, *Parvenüs und Profiteure*; Aly, *Hitlers Volksstaat*; Kreutzmüller, *Ausverkauf*; and more. There are quite a number of studies on German companies and their deep involvement in persecution and spoliation; see for instance Feldman, *Allianz and the German Insurance Business*; Hayes, *Die Degussa im Dritten Reich*; James, *The Deutsche Bank and the Nazi Economic War*; Lindner, *Hoehchst*; Spoerer, *C&A*. Regarding Europe in general see: Dean, *Robbing the Jews*; Beker (ed.), *The Plunder*