

broad variety of countries, which in turn led to the establishment of a series of historians' inquiry committees³² – all attracted new and more focused interest in the anti-Jewish economic practices of the Third Reich and its allies and collaborators. This research benefited, of course, from the opening of many archives in the former communist countries in Eastern Europe, and also from the internationalization of research on the Shoah, which broke through linguistic boundaries which had hitherto a restraining impact.³³

Analytical Conceptualizations of the Place of Economic Persecution within the Overall Framework of Nazi Anti-Jewish Policies

The “how” aspect, which – as said above – has been central to research on issues of economic persecution is undoubtedly of essential importance, and provides the basis without which a broader analysis cannot be done. It is also a reasonable result of the extensive documentation at hand in a variety of archives, from the top to the local levels. Yet it leaves the conceptual question of the place and role of Nazi economic persecutions of the Jews within the broader anti-Jewish enterprise open: were these persecutions unique or different in any way from the economic persecution of other groups by Nazi Germany and from economic persecution of Jews by other European antisemitic regimes at the time (such as Slovakia, Romania, Hungary)? Moreover, were there any fundamental changes and shifts in the place of economic persecution in the overall picture of Nazi antisemitic policies during the twelve-year existence of the Third Reich?

Regarding this question, Avraham Barkai's studies were of special importance. Barkai emphasized that Nazi economic thinking was eclectic, but its major features were anti-liberalism and anti-communism. It had absorbed a tradition of *völkisch*-etatic and anti-liberal and capitalist

32 See Barkan, *The Guilt of Nations*; Marrus, *Some Measure of Justice*; Diner/Wynberg (eds.), *Restitution and Memory*; Dean, *Robbing the Jews*; Beker (ed.), *The Plunder of Jewish Property During the Holocaust*.

33 Michman, *Holocaust Historiography*, pp. 357–388.