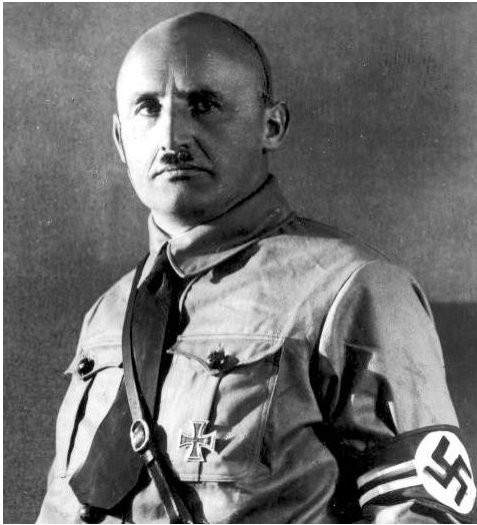


“Poisoning” the Minds of the Young

Student Name: _____



Julius Streicher, publisher of
Der Giftpilz

Highlight three facts in the following paragraphs that you think will be relevant information for you to know when reading about this book:

“*Der Giftpilz* is a children's book published by Julius Streicher in 1938. He was executed as a war criminal in 1946. The title is German for "the poisonous mushroom/toadstool". The book was intended as antisemitic propaganda. The text is by Ernst Hiemer, with illustrations by Philipp Rupprecht (also known as *Fips*); the title alludes to how, just as it is difficult to tell a poisonous mushroom from an edible mushroom, it is difficult to tell a Jew apart from a Gentile. The book wants to "warn" German children about the dangers allegedly posed by Jews to them personally, and to German society in general. A copy of the book is on display at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D. C. An English-language translation of the book was produced by U.S. neo-Nazi activist Gary Lauck, and thereafter marketed on his website for \$10. Lauck also produced an Estonian language translation in 2007, and claims to be

working on translations into many other languages. The Estonian Internal Security Service have investigated the case under the section of Estonian penal code criminalizing incitement to social hatred, but concluded that it is unlikely to have the jurisdiction or means to prosecute the author, as under American law, websites are covered by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.”

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Der_Giftpilz)

Front page of Gary Lauck’s website promoting copies of
The Poisonous Mushroom

In your journals, answer one or all of the following questions in your second entry. Remember to label it Journal 2 and put today’s date:

Has studying the education system in Germany during this time period had an impact on how you see your own education? How? Why?

When it comes to education, what do you think the role of the teacher, the student, and the parent are when it comes to what is being taught and how it is being taught in the classroom?

Do you feel as if you have encountered any propaganda in a classroom or school in your educational career thus far? Give a specific example and how it affected you.