

THE RACIAL LAWS

Anti-Semitism was not a major concern of the Italian people in modern Italy until Mussolini introduced the Racial Laws to impress Hitler.

Mussolini mobilized the press and radio broadcasts to further galvanize support for his anti-Semitic propaganda which constantly bombarded the Italians, fostering anti-Semitic feelings in some of them.

In addition, on July 14, 1938 he embraced the "Manifesto of the Racial Scientist", which stated that the civilization of Italy is of Aryan origin, and that there exists a pure Italian race to which Jews do not belong. This Manifesto was false and dishonest but it was utilized to justify the racial laws enacted between September 2, 1938 and November 17, 1938.



- Foreign Jews were forbidden to settle in Italy, Libya or in the colonial possessions of the Aegean.
- The Italian citizenship granted to Jewish foreigners after January 1, 1919 was revoked, and they were required to leave within six months.
- *Jews were banned from jobs in the government, banking, insurance, education, entertainment industry and the practice of law.*
- *Jews were banned from attending all education institutions.*
- Marriage was prohibited between Jews and non-Jews.
- Jewish property was confiscated.
- Jewish businesses were “Aryanized” (Jewish businesses confiscated by non-Jews).
- All foreign Jews were required to leave Italy.
- Jews were forbidden to employ non-Jewish Italian domestics.
- Jews were forbidden to serve in the military.
- A special Jewish census conducted in 1938 and continually updated facilitated the future arrests of thousands.

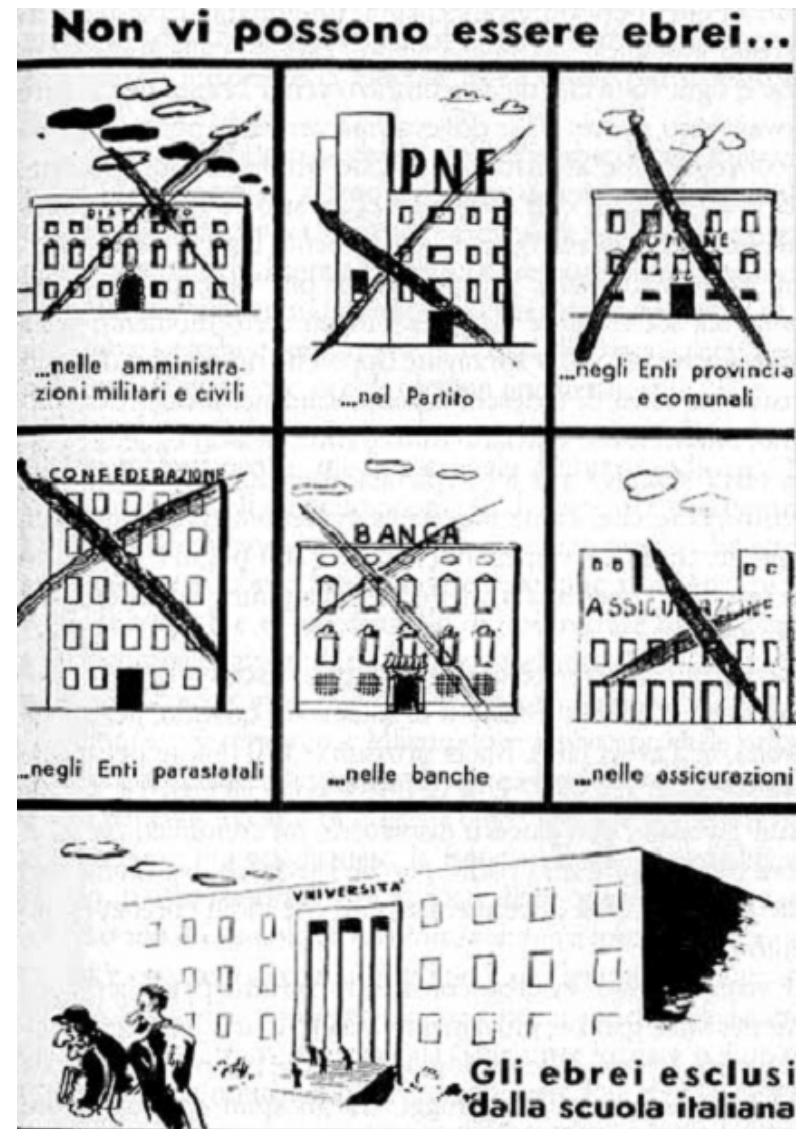


JEWISH TEACHERS AND STUDENTS ARE BANNED FROM ITALIAN SCHOOLS

In Italy Jews were banned from schools and universities at the very beginning of the discriminatory policy (September 1938). Children and youth were, therefore, among the first sectors of the Jewish population to be persecuted because the school system was considered the place where the new Fascist generation was about to be formed.

In addition to the expulsion of Jewish pupils from Italian schools, 279 high school teachers and principals, more than 100 primary school teachers and principals, hundreds of university professors, 114 authors of schoolbooks and many school custodians and secretaries, were deprived of their jobs.

Most of the Jewish university, secondary and primary school students clearly remember, even today, the moment they realized that they had been banned from school and the deep emotional pain they felt as a result of this shocking discriminatory action. The commemorative plaque remembers the 112 Roman pupils deported and killed in extermination camps.



Our school, the Istituto Comprensivo Regina Margherita, was founded in 1888 in Trastevere at about 1 km from the main synagogue and the ghetto.

In our school Jewish pupils and teachers were banned too, some of them were arrested in the roundup of October 16, 1943 and deported. More than 1,000 Roman Jews citizens were seized that day and later transported to Auschwitz, but only 16 survived.

