



Breeding Hatred: Dissecting the Pedagogy of Propaganda of Nazi Anti-Semitism in German Children's Literature

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Abstract

The coercive possibility of pedagogical tools, especially children's literature has always been recognized by the totalitarian regimes. Other than using radio, television, films, press, theatre as a tool for spreading propaganda, a close study of German children's books show strong racial overtones. These books archive the strategies employed by the totalitarian government to poison the impressionable minds of the German children and indoctrinate them with Nazi ideology. The primary objective of this paper is to argue and expose the venomous xenophobic propaganda behind such texts and how within an educational and pedagogical context, texts like them and others can generate enormous amount of racial discrimination and position the Jews almost as a biological and racial "other". Analysing the propaganda literature intended for children can help scholars and historians of Holocaust understand that racial bias, sense of racial superiority and antagonizing sentiments are not instinctive or inborn, rather these are meticulously instilled. I have referred to popular German picture books like *Trust No Fox on his Green Heath* and *No Jew on his Oath* (1936) and *The Poisonous Mushroom* (1938) among others for this purpose.

Keywords: Children's Literature, Pedagogy, Propaganda, Holocaust, Anti-Semitism.