

# Pink Triangles

## The Nazi Persecutions of Homosexuals

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# Essential Questions

- Why was Weimar culture tolerant of homosexuals?
- What historical events led to the rise of the Nazis to power?
- What parts of Nazi ideology made them particularly repressive towards homosexual men?
- How were homosexuals treated compared to other persecuted groups?

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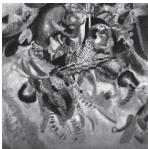



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# Weimar Culture

- 1919—The Democratic parliamentary republic was founded in Weimar, Germany, following the end of World War I
- Culture of this period was one of the richest in art, film, theater, architecture, design, literature, and music
- German Expressionism dominated art and film
- Modernism, an artistic movement, emphasized new forms of writing, painting, architecture, and film
- Advancements were also made in science, technology, and philosophy

Wassily Kandinsky, *Fugue*

*Metropolis*, a film by Fritz Lang

Bauhaus School of Architecture and Design

Poet and playwright Bertolt Brecht

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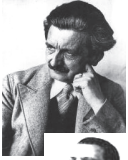
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## Gay Culture in Weimar Germany

Adolf Brand



Hannah Hoch, artist



Hannah Hoch, *Cut with the Kitchen Knife*



Magnus Hirschfeld, Institute of Sex Research



Christopher Isherwood (left) and poet W.H. Auden

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## Hitler Comes to Power



Ernst Röhm, head of the SA



Nazis burning the library of Magnus Hirschfeld



Hitler and SA (Brownshirts) members at a Nazi rally

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- 1933–1945—approximately 100,000 men arrested for being homosexuals; 50,000 were convicted
- Not known exactly how many were sent to concentration camps
- In the camps, homosexuals had a 60% death rate, compared to 35% for Jehovah's witnesses and 40% for political prisoners

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Richard Grune



Albrecht Becker

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## Klaus and Erica Mann



Klaus Mann in the U. S. Army



Erica Mann

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## Postwar Period



Robert Jackson delivers the opening speech in Nuremberg, Germany at the first trial for war crimes



Berlin memorial to homosexual victims of the Nazis. The inscription reads "Struck Dead, Hushed Up."

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