

People with Disabilities



Historical Perspective

Karel Pancocha

How disabled people lived in the past?



Léčení nemocných tzv. polospánkem (letargií) v chrámech, podí
Asklépiá nazývaných asklépiony.

Ancient Greece

- ill people including people with disabilities could be “cured“ by half-sleep (lethargy)
- procedure took place in temples called “Asclepions“

How disabled people lived in the past?



the Middle Ages

- some people with disabilities were considered “evil”
- to burn such people was quite common even in the Czech lands

How disabled people lived in the past?



Klec pro blázny na Zelném rynku v Brně

16th century – BRNO

- in 1582 an asylum was founded
 - it was the 1st non-church institution
- people with disabilities and mental illnesses were exhibited in cages as curiosities during the town markets

How disabled people lived in the past?



18th century – VIENNA

- in 1784 the famous “Narrenturm” or madhouse tower was constructed
- Vienna was the capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire

How disabled people lived in the past?



19th century - Prague

- Saint Catherine Asylum founded in 1822
- for 260 residents



People with disabilities in the 20th century

1909

- the first congress of remedial (special) school teachers
- 12 000 students identified to have special needs
 - 18% of all school children

1913

- Jedlicka Institute for children and adults with physical disabilities
 - education, medical care, social care

1918

- Czechoslovakia becomes independent state

1919

- Kocianka Institute in Brno
 - education and work opportunities for people with disabilities

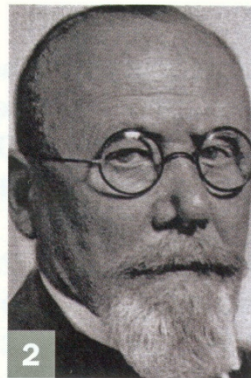
20's and 30's

- development of remedial (special) schools

20th century: Social engineering



Karl Binding (1841-1920)



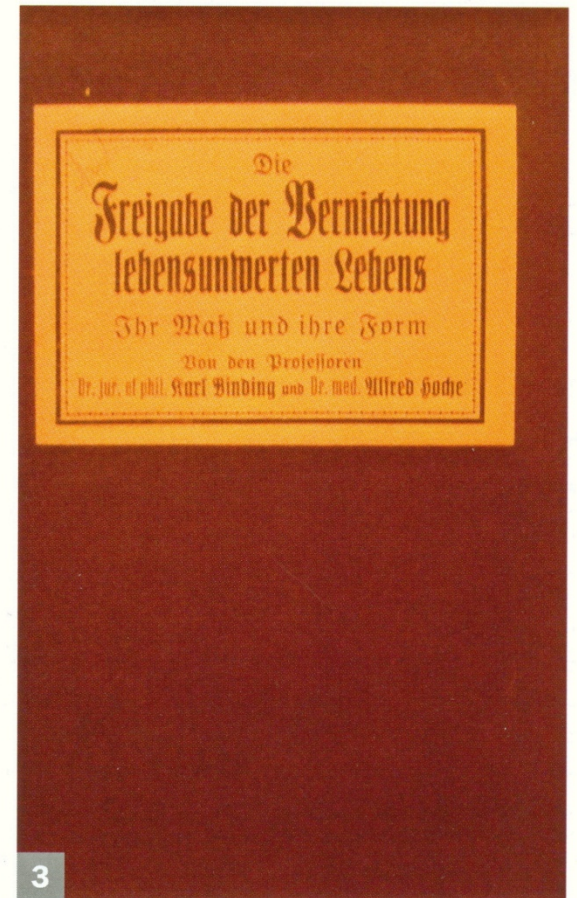
Alfred Hoche (1865-1943)

Dva vážení univerzitní profesoři, právník Karl Binding a psychiatr Alfred E. Hoche, požadovali roku 1920 „souhlas se zničením života nehodného žití“. Určili tři skupiny lidí, u nichž ho připouštěli. Patřily mezi ně těžce duševně postižené osoby či váleční poškozcenci. Předpokládali fungování zvláštních komisí složených z lékařů a právníků.

Die zwei hoch angesehenen Universitätsprofessoren, der Jurist Karl Binding und der Psychiater Alfred E. Hoche, forder- ten 1920 „Die Freigabe der Vernichtung

lebensunwerten Lebens“. Sie bestimmten drei Gruppen von zu tötenden Menschen. Darunter fielen schwer geistig behinderte Personen und Kriegsversehrte. Für die Herbeiführung der Euthanasie sahen sie spezielle Kommissionen von Ärzten und Juristen vor.

Two respected university professors, Karl Binding, a lawyer, and Alfred E. Hoche, a psychiatrist, called in 1920 for a 'destruction of lives not worth living'. They identified three groups of people who would be eligible. These included severely mentally ill persons and war invalids. They envisaged the establishment of special committees consisting of medical experts and lawyers.





20th century:

Laws on compulsory sterilization

1907: Indiana

- the 1st of more than thirty states to adopt legislation aimed at compulsory sterilization

1928: Switzerland

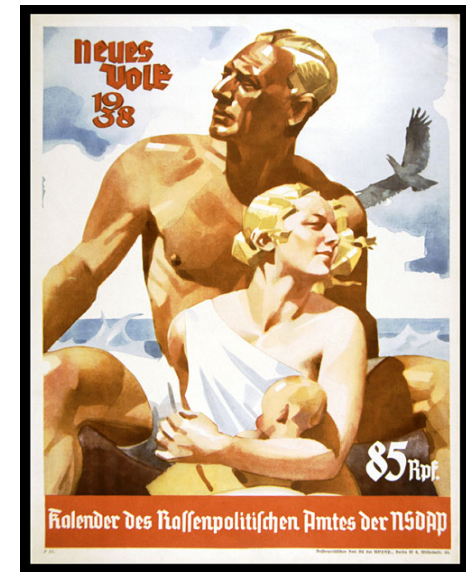
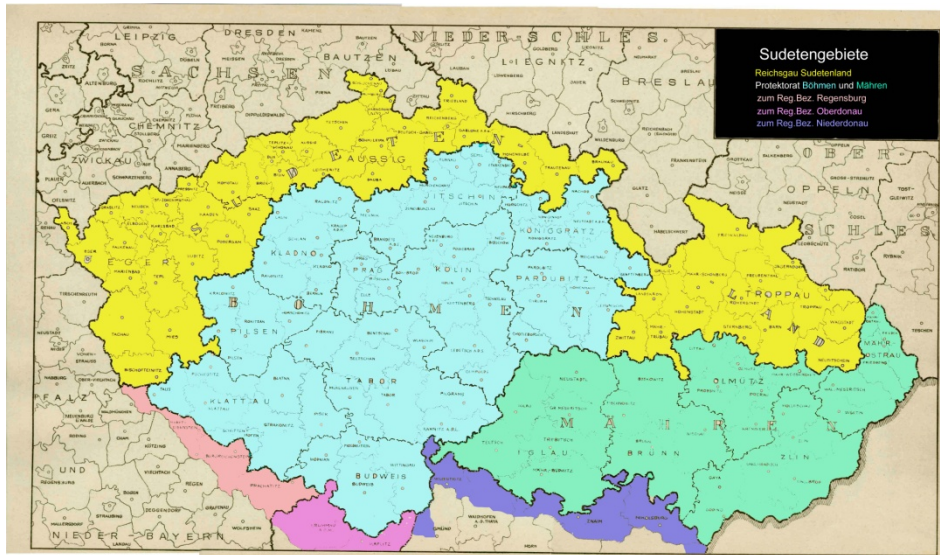
1933: Germany

- Law for the Prevention of Hereditary Diseased Offspring

1934: Sweden

- the “Sterilization Act”

20th century: Nazi occupation 1938 – 1945



Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia

- Schools and institution for people with disabilities in lack of finance
- often relocated or closed down



„This person suffering from hereditary defects costs the community 60,000 Reichsmark during his lifetime. Fellow German, that is your money, too.“

T4 Program

- program to eliminate people with disabilities from the society
- applied in Nazi Germany and also in other occupied countries including parts of Czech Republic



BERLIN, den 1. Sept. 1939.

Reichsleiter B o u h l e r und
Dr. med. B r a n d t

sind unter Verantwortung beauftragt, die Befugnisse namentlich zu bestimmender Ärzte so zu erweitern, dass nach menschlichem Ermessen unheilbar Kranken bei kritischster Beurteilung ihres Krankheitszustandes der Gnadentod gewährt werden kann.

Von Borchler mit
Übergabe am 29. 8. 40
Dr. Gietzner

Hitler's order to start the program.

20th century:

Communist regime 1948 - 1989



The myth of the worker, health, happiness,
full employment and manual work

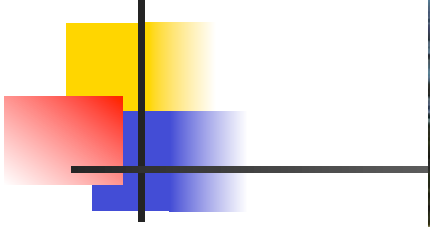


20th century:

Communist regime 1948 - 1989

- Children with mild/moderate disabilities
 - self containing schools
- Children with moderate/severe disabilities
 - institutionalized, not educated
 - medical care only
- Adults with disabilities
 - institutionalized

*parents officially encouraged by physicians to give their children with disabilities to institutions





1990 - present

Special Education Centers

- established in 1991
- assessment, counseling, integration

New constitution

- written in 1992
- **Article 33 – free, appropriate education for all**

integration

- in 1992 for children with special needs except children with intellectual disabilities
- in 1998 classes for children with severe disabilities
- in 2002 approval of integration for children with intellectual disabilities



1990 - present

School Education Act

- in 2004
- LRE, preferably integration

Terminology

- in 2005
- all special school renamed as Primary schools

Social Services Act

- in 2006 eligible people receive financial support to purchase social services
 - home care, housing, rehabilitation
 - interpreting services



Enduring issues

- special schools
 - 32 000 children in special schools
 - 38 000 children in special classrooms
- adults with disabilities in large institutions
- high unemployment among people with disabilities
- negative image of people with disabilities in the majority society