One way in which a country of rational people committed the Holocaust was through a long history of Anti-Semitism, which meant that the idea that Jews were somehow different and dangerous was widely shared in society. This racism against Jews was not something that only took place in Germany; it was widespread across the world. However, in Germany, Hitler and the Nazis used this racism as part of their rise to power. For centuries, Jews had been accused of the ‘Blood Libel’, the idea that they stole and murdered Christian babies and used them in religious ceremonies. This idea still being present in society enabled Nazi persecution. In medieval times, Jewish communities could not live in the main part of the village but rather in an isolated area with other Jews known as ‘ghettos’. Moreover, King Edward expelled all the Jews from England in 1290. The isolation that was forced upon Jews made them very easy targets. When the Black Death swept through Europe in 1348, many Jewish communities were not as badly affected because they lived further away from the villages and thus were not infected. As a result, neighbouring Christians responded by blaming the Jews for bringing the plague and murdered many of the Jews in retaliation. These attacks on Jews were called pogroms – they were common in all parts of Europe, especially after a crisis or a plague. For example, 510 Jewish communities were wiped out after the Black Death. Therefore, anti-Jewish racism paved the way for the Holocaust. Of the four steps to genocide (definition, isolation, ghettoization, and extermination), we can see three taking place in this example.