

EHRI Online Course in Holocaust Studies
Federal Archives (Bundesarchiv Berlin; BArch), R. 3101, 34740, Bl. 35-38
Persecution and Deportation in Western Europe – The Expropriation and Economic
Destruction of the Jews in Germany and Western Europe
Translation: *A03 Report of the Reich Economy Ministry regarding Jewish assets after the
November Pogrom*

Reich Minister for Economic Affairs (Reichswirtschaftsminister)

Berlin, W 8, 21 November 1938

Confidential

To:
Xxxxxx
Xxxxxx
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Re: Registration of Jewish Assets

Enclosed is a strictly confidential listing of the registrations received for the whole territory of the Reich (except for the Sudeten German territories) based on the Decree for the Registration of Jewish Assets from 26 April 1938.

The “Accompanying Report” attached states which proportion of the Jewish assets registered can be seized immediately.

Accompanying Report

The survey of Jewish assets now completed for the whole of the Reich prompts the following observations:

1. The assets of non-Jewish spouses as well as that of inland [inländisch] and stateless Jews are to be regarded as non-contentious. The low amount of assets in the name of non-Jewish spouses indicates that there has been no noteworthy transference of assets to the non-Jewish from the Jewish spouse.
2. Also beyond doubt are the inland assets of foreign Jews domiciled in the Reich. If this view is concurred with, then the assets available for seizure are as follows:

- 1.) the assets of inland Jews and
- 2.) the assets of stateless Jews

The addition of the net worth can be broken down as follows:

a) Agricultural and forestry assets:	112 million RM
b) Real estate:	2 343
c) Business assets (after deduction of debts):	1 195
d) Other assets:	4 881
e) Gross assets (addition of a – d)	8 531 million RM

From which debts and charges are to be deducted provided that they do not concern business assets:	1 408
million RM	
f) Net assets (registered assets after deduction of all debts):	7 123

A review of these assailable assets in terms of liquidity results in the following:

To be seen as illiquid assets are:

- a) Agricultural and forestry assets
- b) Real estate
- c) Business assets

Business assets are calculated as the difference between active and passive assets. The information gathered does not identify how much liquid funds (bank accounts, postal cheques, securities, immediately sellable raw materials) are actually covered in these assets because the situation varies from business to business. Besides, the liquid funds in the business assets are generally necessary for maintaining business operations and should therefore be ruled out from being seized immediately.

The only liquid assets from those listed are “other assets” amounting to 4 881 million RM. It needs to be considered however that “other assets” also includes life insurance policies yet to mature as well as usufruct and bond rights. A small portion of this amount must therefore be considered as illiquid. The liquid assets of 4 881 million RM are offset by a debt burden of 1 408 million RM. How much of these debts are on real assets and properties, how much is unsecured and thus before seizure of the so-called “other assets” should be deducted so as to satisfy the creditors, cannot be identified from the survey.

Finally, it needs to be noted that the above figures are based on a statistical survey dated 27 April 1938, but in the meantime considerable assets, which cannot even be estimated in numbers, have been sold to non-Jewish businessmen below their true value. Moreover, the distinct possibility exists that the amount of liquid assets has increased as a result of the de-Jewification (Entjudung) already underway, while illiquid business assets has decreased.

On the basis of the Decree for the Registration of Jewish Assets, the following assets were registered in the Reich (figures in millions of RM)

Inland	Foreign	Stateless
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Jews	Non-Jewish spouses of Jews	Jews	Non-Jewish spouses of Jews	Jews	Non-Jewish spouses of Jews
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a) Agricultural and forestry assets	112	9	13	0.1	0.1	0.03
b) Real estate	2 293	126	229	3.3	50.3	1.04
c) Business assets	1 177	59	86	1.6	17.6	0.08
d) Other assets	4 844	216	223	4.5	37.0	0.46
Sum of a) to d) (gross assets)	8 426	410	551	9.5	105.0	1.61
e) Debts and charges not concerning business assets	1 376	65	136	1.9	31.5	0.34
f) Registered assets (net)	7 050	345	415	7.6	73.5	1.27
g) No. of registrations	135 750	6 000	9 567	153	2 269	47

translated by Paul Bowman