

## Who were the Rhineland Bastards?

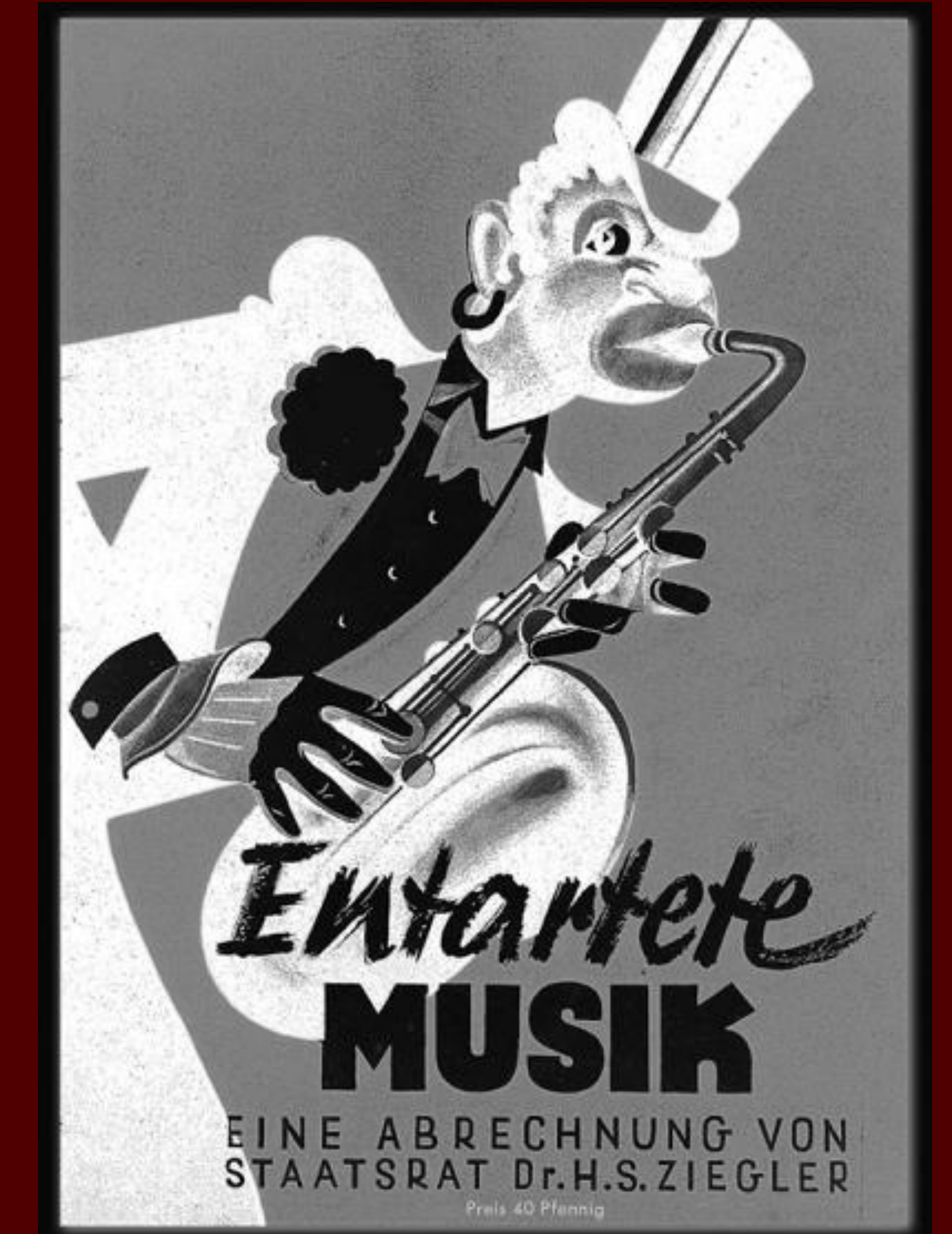


Source: suite.io/eric-brothers

"Rhineland Bastard" was a derogatory term commonly used when referring to Afro-German children. Initially the term denoted only those whose father had been an Allied soldier of African descent, more specifically children of soldiers in the French colonial troops who occupied the important industrial Rhineland. The term gained popularity during the years of the Weimar Republic 1919-1933 and eventually began being used exclusively to refer to all Afro-German children regardless of their father's occupation or heritage. The Rhineland Bastards were victims of persecution, sterilization, and brutality.

## Degenerate Music

Many black performers and jazz musicians of the Third Reich had their reputations destroyed, because they played what was known as degenerate music, or Entartete Musik. Jazz musicians were called "Gaëtano", meaning Gypsy, and "Schwarzer", meaning black. Many musicians whose art was considered degenerate went into exile, including Kurt Weill, Paul Hindemith, Arnold Schoenberg, Berthold Goldschmidt, and more. Boris Blacher, Karl Amadeus Hartmann, and others retreated into internal exile, and some musicians like Viktor Ullmann and Erwin Schulhoff were sent to concentration camps. Degenerate music was also displayed in exhibits in Germany in 1938.



Source: manchesterwire.co.uk

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# The Rhineland Bastards

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Languages,  
Cultures, &  
Communication

## Degenerate Art

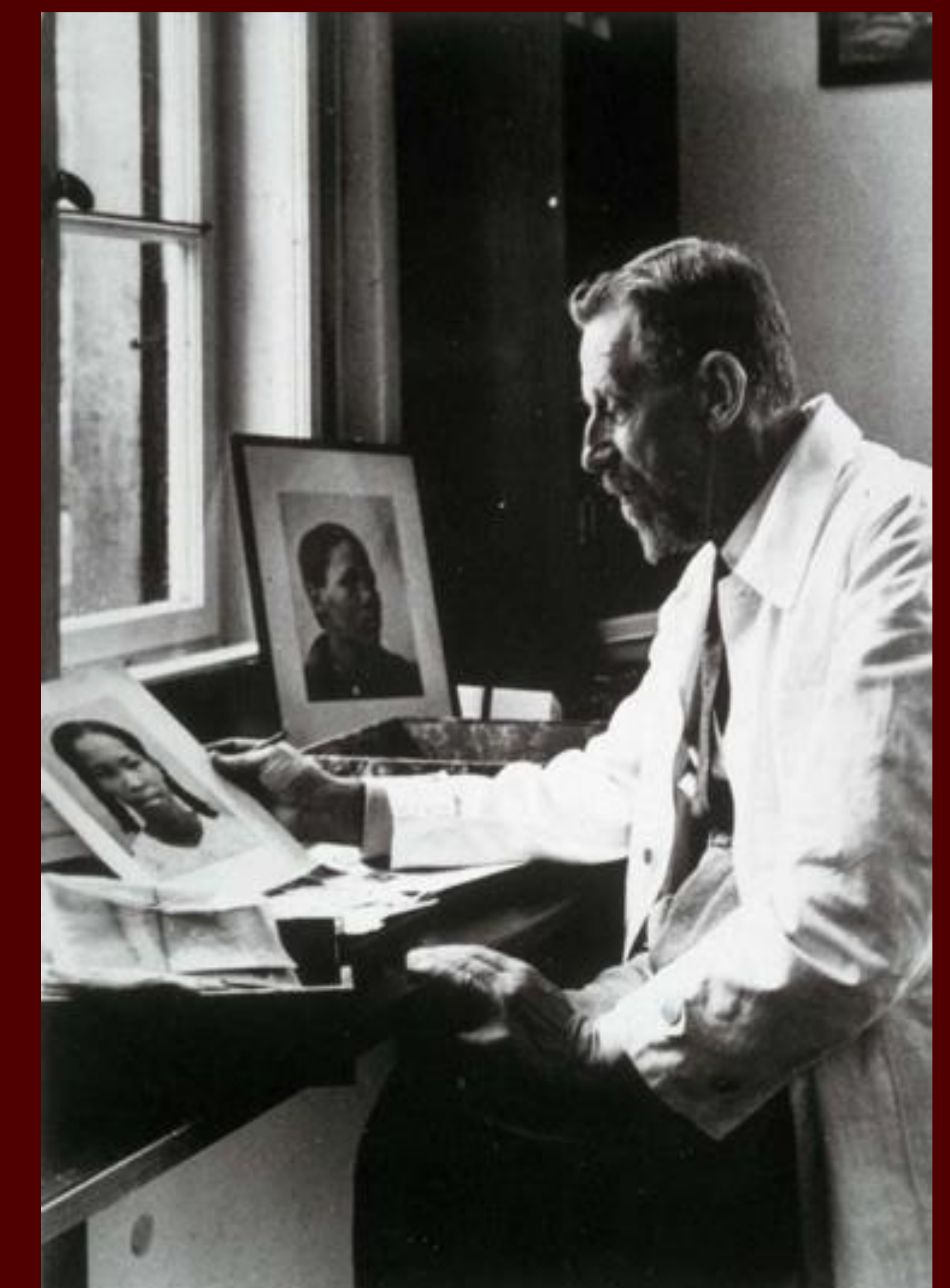


Source: openculture.com (top) and cnn.com (bottom)

Degenerate Art, or Entartete Kunst, is modern art banned during the Third Reich, because it was considered un-German, Jewish, or Communist in nature. The Nazis only promoted traditional art that glorified the "blood and soil" values of racial purity, obedience, and militarism. Degenerate artists were forbade to exhibit or sell art and were deemed enemies to the state. After Hitler's rise to power in 1933, actions were taken to cleanse Germany of degeneracy, such as organized book burnings, the replacement of modern art curators by party members, and the firing of artists from their teaching jobs. Over 5,000 works were seized from artists such as Nolde, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Heckel, Max Beckmann, Marc Chagall, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Vincent Van Gogh. The confiscated degenerate art was then presented to the public in an exhibit in 1937.

## Commission Number 3

"Commission Number 3" was created by the Nazis to deal with the so-called problem of the "Rhineland Bastards". It was a Nazi-formed organization that ordered Afro-Germans to be sterilized under the 1933 Law for the Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Offspring. The law permitted over 400 children of mixed parentage to be arrested and sterilized, and the Nazis went to great lengths to conceal what they were doing. The program began in 1937, when local officials were asked to report on all "Rhineland Bastards" under their jurisdiction. What happened to these Afro-Germans is very complex – their experiences were not uniform. Some of these children were subjected to medical experiments and others mysteriously disappeared.



Source: Wikipedia