during his testimony at the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal on 26 November, 1945. Admitting that an approximation of four million Jews were murdered in concentration camps, and an additional two million by alternative methods, Hoettel confirmed the six million estimate believed true by historians. In addition, he suggested that Himmler believed the number to be much higher than six million (as cited in Shermer & Grobman, 2000, 175). Therefore, because Nazi personnel have confirmed that the Jews claimed by the revisionists to have fled Europe were, in actuality, murdered, mass emigration is no longer a viable excuse.

Chief US Prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials, Robert Jackson, also presented a much higher figure than the revisionists, stating that approximately sixty percent of the Jews estimated to have lived in the Nazi-controlled areas of Europe have perished, adding up to a total of 5.7 million fewer Jews living in the former Nazi-dominated countries than before the war (as cited in Seltzer, 1998, 532). Joseph Goebbels, head of propaganda and top Nazi official, in his diary on 27 March, 1942, presented similar information:

> Beginning with Lublin the Jews are now being deported eastward from the Government-General. The procedure is pretty barbaric, and one that beggars description, and there's not much left of the Jews. Broadly speaking one can probably say that sixty percent of them will have to be liquidated, while only forty percent can be put to work (as cited in Shermer & Grobman, 2000, 190).

Furthermore, just twenty days prior to this journal entry, he estimated that there were, at the time, still eleven million Jews living in Europe. Assuming that the Nazis were able to accomplish their goal of liquidating sixty percent of the Jews, six million Jews would have been killed due to Nazi persecution (Shermer & Grobman, 2000, 190). Although this was just a goal presented by Goebbels, it holds a lot of weight because he was closely connected to Hitler throughout the war, and knew of his plans for annihilation. Though the exact number of Jewish Holocaust victims remains uncertain, based on a compilation of written documents, perpetrator confessions and other forms of evidence, the most likely approximation lies between five and six million, far higher than the number believed and argued by the revisionists.

However, along with denying the death of six million Jews, revisionists are also known to question the standard belief that the mass murder of European Jewry was systematically planned, but argue instead that the goal of Hitler's Final Solution was deportation of Jews from Europe. They suggest that as the war progressed, the Nazis were holding more Jews than they could deport, and thus created ghettos and camps as a means for housing, not killing them, until they could eventually transfer the remaining Jews into non-European countries (Shermer & Grobman, 2000, 100-101). Evidence contradicts these claims, however. According to historian Peter Longerich, in the 1930s, it became clear

that the ultimate goal of the Final Solution was violence toward European Jewry, as the Nazis attempted to remove all of Germany's Jews. In addition, Longerich also claims that in the year preceding the official beginning of WWII, the term annihilation, used by the Nazis, heavily suggested genocidal outcomes for the regime's targeted peoples, as opposed to just deportation from Europe, as suggested by revisionists (Longerich, 2001, 16-17).

As the Soviet Army crossed into Germany, Hitler made clear that his intention of the Final Solution was, in fact, extermination of European Jewry, stating on 13 February, 1945:

> Against the Jews I fought open-eyed and in view of the whole world. At the beginning of the war I sent them a final warning. I did not leave them in ignorance that, should they once again manage to drag the world into war, they would this time not be spared – I made it plain that they, this parasitic vermin in Europe, will be finally exterminated (Shermer & Grobman, 2000, 196).

It is obvious that Hitler's intention in the Holocaust was mass murder of European Jewry, further countering the argument posed by revisionists that the main goal of the Nazis was deportation. This goal of Jewish annihilation is noted also in Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, where he expresses numerous times his disgust and distaste for the Jewish race. Though he commonly spoke of his plans ambiguously, in public, in private, and within his book, it is clear that he desired an end to the entire Jewish population. Specifically in volume 1 of *Mein Kampf* these plans become obvious when he said the following:

> When over long periods of human history I scrutinized the activity of the Jewish people, suddenly there rose up in me the fearful question whether inscrutable destiny, perhaps or reasons unknown to us poor mortals, did not with eternal and immutable resolve, desire the final victory of this little nation (Hitler, 1939, Years of study and suffering in Vienna).

It is clear that Hitler desired more than simply deportation of the European Jews to various countries outside Europe, but instead desired a "final victory" – an annihilation of the entire Jewish race.

Himmler, too, clearly stated the intention of Jewish annihilation when instructing Auschwitz commandant Rudolf Hoss that every Jew they could reach was "to be exterminated without exception" (Shermer & Grobman, 2000, 191). Similarly, on 4 October, 1943, he expressed the same notion, admitting that "the Jewish race is to be exterminated," and that this policy was, in fact, a large part of the Nazi program (Levin, 2001, 1001). Because Hitler himself, as well as Himmler, a top Nazi official, clearly expressed the intent of Jewish annihilation, it should be obvious that the revisionists are incorrect when suggesting that the only goal of the Final Solution was deportation.