In the Russian Empire of the 19th and early 20th centuries, anti-Jewish violence (pogroms) resulted in the murder of half a million Jews, and the destruction of property and homes of many times more. Until WWI, pogroms were relatively mild and spontaneous. During WWI and the Russian Civil War (1914-1922), pogroms were systematic and officially sanctioned. Researchers regard these as early examples of officially sponsored racial warfare; and as precursors to full-scale genocide and the Holocaust (Dekel-Chen, et al, 2010).