

# The Holocaust



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Jews in Nazi Germany From Boycott to Destruction

- April 1933 Hitler ordered the SA and SS to organize a boycott of Jewish shops and businesses.

- In 1934 Jews were banned by law from public places such as swimming pools and parks.  
- Laws were also passed making it possible to sack teachers, civil servants, and lawyers who happened to be Jewish.

- Very important because Hitler defined who was Jewish and thus defined his enemy.  
- German citizenship removed from all Jews.  
- Inter-marriage banned  
- 1936 – further laws banning Jews from holding property and from working.

- November 1938 first very public violent attack on Jewish homes, business, and synagogues.  
- Violence went on for over a week  
- around 100 Jews killed and 20,000 put in concentration camps  
- Jews themselves fined for damages caused (one billion marks)

- The outbreak of war intensified the attacks on the Jews.  
- After the outbreak of war all Jews in occupied territories were forced to live in ghettos.  
- In the summer of 1941, Himmler ordered the SS "Special Action Groups" to kill all Soviet Jews

- Wannsee Conference, January 1942, planning done for complete destruction of Jews in Europe  
- 12 "men" (leading Nazis), headed by Adolph Eichmann, planned the operation in intricate detail.  
- Exterminations camps are setup in Eastern Europe.  
- 6 Million Jews are murdered.

## Holocaust Primary Sources

### Document 1 - Hitler's View on Jews #1

If I am ever in power the destruction of the Jews will be my first and most important job. As soon as I have the power I shall have gallows after gallows erected. Then Jews will be hanged one after another and will stay hanging until they stink.

Source: Letter from Hitler to Josef Hell, 1922

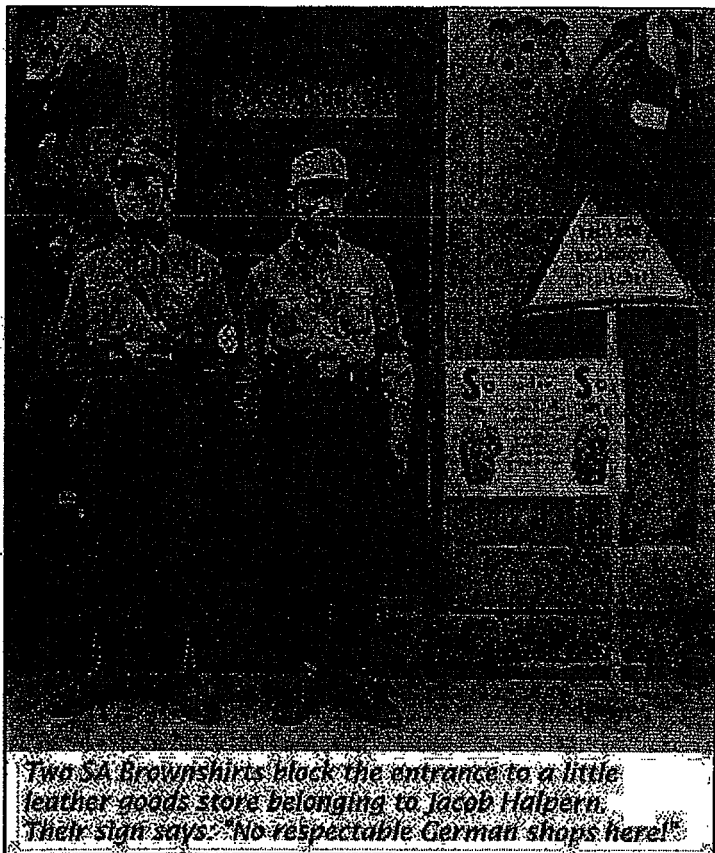
1) What does Hitler plan to do once he takes power?

### Document 2 - Hitler's View on Jews #2

"The Jewish youth lies in wait for hours on end.....spying on the unsuspecting German girl he plans to seduce.....He wants to contaminate her blood and remove her from the bosom of her own people. The Jew hates the white race and wants to lower its cultural level so that the Jews might dominate."

Source: *Mein Kampf* 1925

1) According to Hitler, what do the Jews want to do to the white race?



### Document 3

1) Why are these SA Brownshirts standing in front of this leather goods store?

2) Do you think this had an effect on Jewish businesses?

#### **Document 4 - Discrimination Against Jews**

Recorded by the Bavarian political police in the summer of 1935:

"...there were anti-Jewish demonstrations in the swimming pool in Heigenbrücken. Approximately 15-20 young bathers had demanded the removal of the Jews from the swimming bath by chanting in the park which adjoins the bath...A considerable number of other bathers joined in the chanting so that probably the majority of visitors were demanding the removal of the Jews...The district leader of the NSDAP [Nazi Party] who happened to be in the swimming baths, went to the [pool] supervisor and demanded that he remove the Jews....In view of this incident, the Spa Association today placed a notice at the entrance to the baths with the inscription: Entry Forbidden to Jews."

Source: <http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/triumph/tr-nurem-laws.htm>

- 1) What did the young bathers at the pool want to see done?
- 2) After this event, how did the Spa Association change its policy towards visitors?

#### **Document 5 - Jewish Voting Rights**

Article 4, (1): A Jew cannot be a citizen of the Reich. He cannot exercise the right to vote; he cannot hold public office.

Source: *The Nuremberg Laws on Citizenship and Race - September 15, 1935*

- 1) What rights are being denied to Jews in this law?

#### **Document 6 - Citizenship Law**

"A Reich citizen is only that subject of German or kindred blood who proves by his conduct that he is willing and suited loyally to serve the German people and the Reich."

Source: *Reich Citizenship Law - September 15, 1935*

- 1) According to this new law, who can be a Reich citizen?

### **Document 7 - New Marriage Laws**

**Section 1:** 1. Marriages between Jews and nationals of German or kindred blood are forbidden. Marriages concluded in defiance of this law are void, even if, for the purpose of evading this law, they are concluded abroad. 2. Proceedings for annulment may be initiated only by the Public Prosecutor.

**Section 2:** Relation outside marriage between Jews and nationals for German or kindred blood are forbidden.

**Section 3:** Jews will not be permitted to employ female nationals of German or kindred blood in their households.

*Source: Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor, September 15, 1935*

1) According to this law, who can't legally get married?

2) What other changes to society are made as a result of this new law?

### **Document 8 - Jewish Citizenship (extension of Nuremberg Laws)**

"A Jew cannot be a Reich citizen. He is not entitled to the right to vote on political matters; he cannot hold public office...A Jew is anyone descended from at least three grandparents who are fully Jewish as regards race...Also deemed a Jew is a Jewish Mischlung subject who is descended from two fully Jewish grandparents and...who belonged to the Jewish religious community...who was married to a Jew...who is the offspring of a marriage concluded by a Jew...who is an offspring of extramarital intercourse with a Jew..."

*Source: First Decree to the Reich Citizenship Law - November 14, 1935*

1) According to this decree, what happens to Jewish citizenship?

2) Under what conditions is a person considered Jewish?

### **Document 9 - Kristallnacht Order**

Regards: Measures against Jews tonight.

- a) Only such measures may be taken which do not jeopardize German life or property (for instance, burning of synagogues only if there is no danger of fires for the neighborhoods).
- b) Business establishments and homes of Jews may be destroyed but not looted. The police have been instructed to supervise the execution of these directives and to arrest looters.
- c) In Business streets special care is to be taken that non-Jewish establishments will be safeguarded at all cost against damage.

As soon as the events of this night permit the use of the designated officers, as many Jews, particularly wealthy ones, as the local jails will hold, are to be arrested in all districts. Initially only healthy male Jews, not too old, are to be arrested. After the arrests have been carried out the appropriate concentration camp is to be contacted immediately with a view to a quick transfer of the Jews to the camps.

*Source: Message from SS-Gruppenführer Heydrich to all State Police Main Offices and Field Offices - November 10 1938*

- 1) When can a German not burn a synagogue?
  
- 2) What may be done to Jewish homes and businesses?
  
- 3) What is to happen to Jews as soon as the events of the night permit?

### **Document 10 - Life in the Warsaw Ghetto**

Smuggling began at the very moment that the Jewish area of residence was established; its inhabitants were forced to live on 180 grams of bread a day, 220 grams of sugar a month, 1 kg. of jam and 1 kg. of honey, etc. It was calculated that the officially supplied rations did not cover even 10 percent of the normal requirements. If one had wanted really to restrict oneself to the official rations then the entire population of the ghetto would have had to die of hunger in a very short time.... The German authorities did everything to seal off the ghetto hermetically and not to allow in a single gram of food. A wall was put up around the ghetto on all sides that did not leave a single millimeter of open space.... They fixed barbed wire and broken glass to the top of the wall.

*Life in the Warsaw Ghetto, Emanuel Ringelblum quoted in Yad Vashem Documents on the Holocaust, pp 228-229*

- 1) What would happen if everyone lived by the rations permitted?
  
- 2) What did the Germans build to keep Jews in the ghetto?

### **Document 11 - Belzec Concentration Camp**

After leaving the undressing barracks, I had to show the Jews the way to the gas chambers. I believe that when I showed the Jews the way they were convinced that they were really going to the baths. After the Jews entered the gas chambers, the doors were closed by Hackenholt himself or by the Ukrainians subordinated to him. Then Hackenholt switched on the engine which supplied the gas...

I could see that the lips and tips of the noses were a bluish color. Some of them had their closed, other's eyes rolled. The bodies were dragged out of the gas chambers and inspected by a dentist, who removed finger rings and gold teeth...

*Source: Testimony of SS - Unterscharführer Schluch, In the Belzec-Oberhauser trial*

- 1) Where did the Jews heading to the gas chambers believe they were going?
  
- 2) What was done to the bodies once they were dead?

### **Document 12 - Treblinka Concentration Camp**

When I came to Treblinka the camp commandant was a doctor named Dr. Eberl. He was very ambitious. It was said that he ordered more transports than could be "processed" in the camp. That meant that trains had to wait outside the camp because the occupants of the previous transport had not yet all been killed. At the time it was very hot and as a result of the long wait inside the transport trains in the intense heat many people died. At the time whole mountains of bodies lay on the platform....

Finally, new and larger gas chambers were built. I think that there were now five or six larger gas chambers. I cannot say exactly how many people these large gas chambers held. If the small gas chambers could hold 80-100 people, the large ones could probably hold twice that number... When the Jews had got off, Stadie or Maetzig would have a short word with them. They were told something to the effect that they were a resettlement transport, that they would be given a bath and that they would receive new clothes. They were also instructed to maintain quiet and disciplined. They would continue their journey the following day.

Then the transports were taken off to the so-called "transfer" area. The women had to undress in huts and the men out in the open. The women were then led through a passageway, known as the "tube", to the gas chambers. On the way they had to pass a hut where they had to hand in their jewelry and valuables.

*Source: Willi Mentz testifies about his days in Treblinka*

- 1) What happened to many Jews as they waited in the railcars?
  
- 2) What were the Jews told by the leaders of the camp when they did get off the railcars?

# Historian's Notebook - The Final Solution



The "Final Solution" was the plan that the Nazis had to kill all of the Jews in Europe. Under this plan, they were able to kill nearly 6 million Jews. They did this either in mass slaughter sites in towns or by forcing Jews to relocate to one of the 8 extermination camps.

An SS has the woman (whose hair is covered in the tradition of an Orthodox Jewish wife) with her infant child to join those being sent to the crematoria (picture below). We also can see a man that is standing between the columns missing his pants and one shoe. This was a common occurrence in the overcrowded boxcars. On the left stand inmates in striped camp clothing. The main gate to the death Camp under which the train pass is at the rear left of this historic photograph.

**Observations:** Make a list of what you see in this picture.

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**Conclusions:** Based upon the picture or the reading, answer the following questions:

1. What was the Holocaust?

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2. Why do you think the Nazis wanted to kill all the Jews in Europe?

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3. What were two of the ways that Nazis would kill large numbers of Jews?

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4. Based upon the evidence, what do you think the smoke could be from?

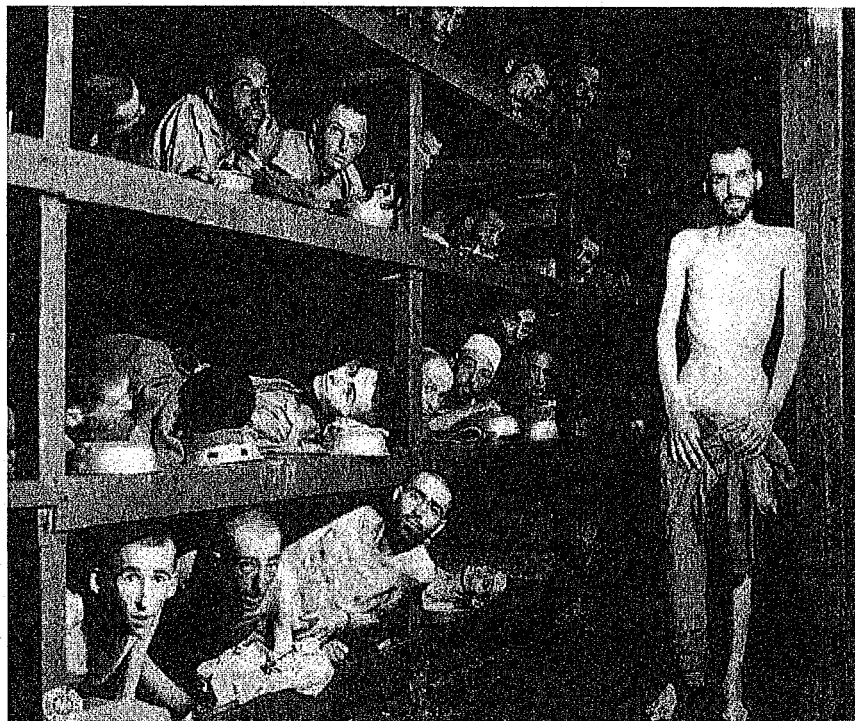
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5. What is a similar situation that is happening right now in the world?

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# Historian's Notebook - The Holocaust



## The Holocaust

The Holocaust was the mass murder of six million Jews and millions of other people leading up to and during the Second World War.

The killings took place in Europe between 1933 and 1945. They were organized by the German Nazi party which was led by Adolf Hitler.

The largest group of victims were Jewish people. Nearly 7 out of every 10 Jews living in Europe were murdered.

Most of the victims were killed because they belonged to certain racial or religious groups which the Nazis wanted to wipe out. This kind of killing is called genocide.

The Nazis also killed large groups of people who they thought were inferior. We will never know exactly how many died but there were many millions of non-Jewish victims, including:

- Civilians and soldiers from the Soviet Union
- Catholics from Poland
- Serbians
- Romany Gypsies
- Disabled people
- Homosexuals
- Jehovah's Witnesses

**Observations:** Make a list of what you see in this picture.

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**Conclusions:** Based upon the picture or the reading, answer the following questions:

1. Based upon the reading, what do you think this is a picture of?

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2. Why do you think these men look like this?

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3. Why do you think people allowed such a horrible thing as the holocaust to happen?

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4. What is a situation that is happening in the world that is similar to the Holocaust?

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5. What percentage of Jews in Europe were killed?