

Holocaust Notes



Pre-War

- Jews were living in every country in Europe before the Nazis came into power in 1933
- Approximately 9 million Jews found in all walks of life: farmers, factory workers, business people, doctors, teachers, and craftsmen
- The Soviet Union and Poland had the largest populations



Anti-Semitism



- Jews have faced prejudice and discrimination for over 2,000 years.
- Jews were scapegoats for many problems, such as the “Black Death,” which killed thousands in Europe during the Middle Ages.
- Political leaders used anti-Semitism to portray Jews as a race rather than a religion.

Weimar Republic

- After Germany lost World War I, a new government formed and became the Weimar Republic.
- Many Germans were upset that they lost the war and had to repay (make reparations) a total of \$70 billion to all of the countries they had “damaged” in the war.
- Extremists blamed Jews for Germany’s defeat in WWI.

Totalitarian State



- Totalitarianism is the total control of a country in the government's hands
- It rules using fear and paranoia, and crushes individual's rights.
- During this time in Germany, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis passed laws which restricted the rights of Jews: the Nuremberg Laws.

Totalitarian State



- Jews were prohibited from marrying or having sexual relations with persons of “German or related blood.”
- Jews were required to carry identity cards, stamped with a red “J,” which allowed police to easily identify them.
- The Nazis used propaganda to justify the Nuremberg Laws and promote their anti-Semitic ideas.

Persecution

The Nazi plan for dealing with the “Jewish Question” evolved in three steps:

1. Expulsion: Get them out of Germany
2. Containment: Put them all together in one place – ghettos
3. “Final Solution”: annihilation

Persecution

Nazis targeted other individuals and groups in addition to the Jews:



- Gypsies (Sinti and Roma)
- Homosexual men
- Jehovah's Witness
- Handicapped Germans
- Poles
- Political protestors

U.S. and World Response

- The Evian Conference took place in the summer of 1938 in France.
- 32 countries met to discuss what to do about the Jewish refugees who were trying to leave Germany and Austria.
- Despite voicing feelings of sympathy, most countries made excuses for not accepting more refugees.



World War II

- Germany began World War II when it invaded Poland in 1939.
- German forces conquered most of Europe in the next two years.
- The Axis powers included Germany, Italy, and Japan
- The Allied powers included the United Kingdom, France, the Soviet Union, China, and the United States

Final Solution

- The Nazis aimed to control the Jewish population by forcing them to live in areas that were only for Jews, called *ghettos*.
- Ghettos were established across all of Nazi occupied Europe, especially in areas where there was already a large Jewish population.



Final Solution



- Ghettos were closed by barbed wire or walls and guarded by SS or local police.
- Life in the ghettos was hard: food was rationed; several families often shared a small space; disease spread rapidly; heating and sanitation were limited.

Final Solution

- In January of 1942, high-ranking Nazis met at the Wannsee Conference
- The Final Solution was the plan to establish death camps with gas chambers.
- There were six death camps: Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, Chelmno, Sobibor, Majdanek, and Belzec.

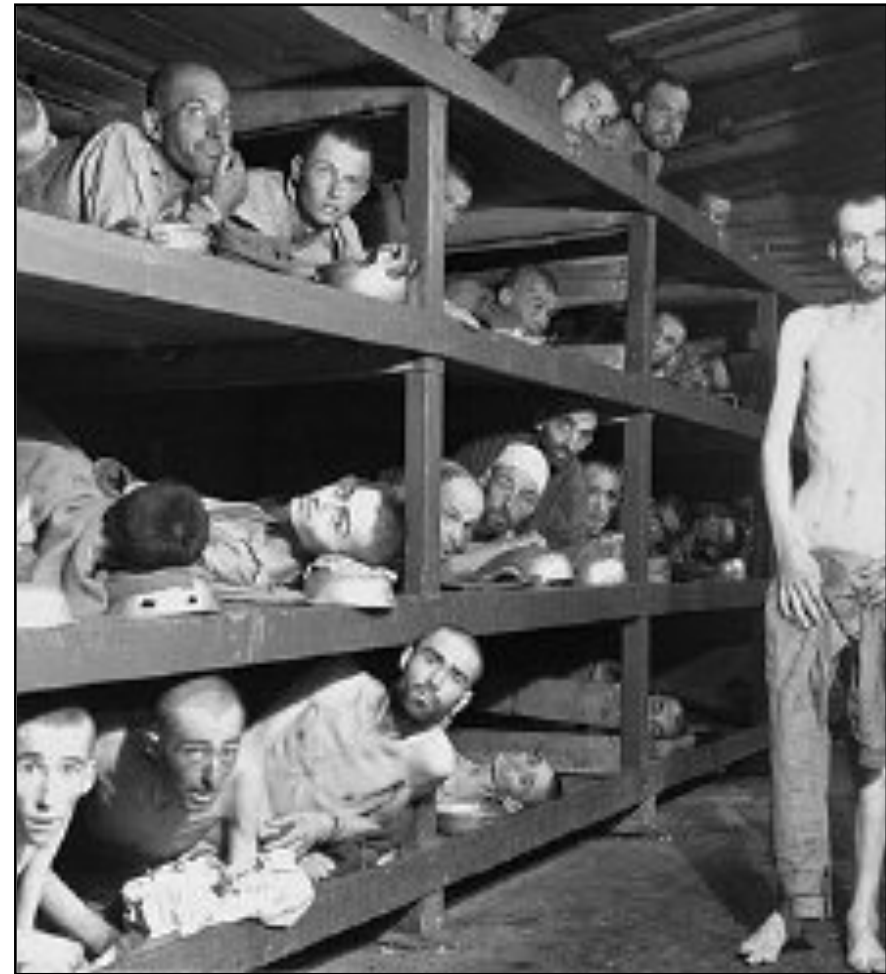
Final Solution

There were many other concentration and labor camps where people died from exposure, lack of food, extreme working conditions, torture, and executions.



Aftermath

- Soviet soldiers were the first to liberate camp prisoners on July 23, 1944.
- British, Canadian, American, and French troops also freed camps.
- Prisoners looked like “living skeletons” and many died even after liberation.



Aftermath

- Many of the camp prisoners had nowhere to go.
- They stayed in Displaced Persons camps in Germany, which were run by the Allies.
- Many Jews relocated to the newly formed Jewish state of Israel.
- U.S. President Truman allowed Jewish refugees to enter the US without normal immigration restrictions.

Aftermath



- The Nuremberg Trials brought some of those responsible to justice.

- There were 22 Nazi criminals tried by the Allies, 12 were sentenced to death.
- Most claimed that they were only following orders.
- National trials followed throughout Europe.

Aftermath



Never shall I forget...
Night by Elie Wiesel



Former prisoners of the "little camp" in Buchenwald stare out from the wooden bunks in which they slept three to a "bed." Elie Wiesel is circled.

HOLOCAUST NOTES

Name: _____

PREWRITE: What do you already know about the Holocaust?

Pre-War

- ☐ Jews were living in every country in Europe before the _____ came into power in _____.
- ☐ Approximately _____ Jews found in all walks of life: farmers, _____, business people, doctors, teachers, and craftsmen
- ☐ The Soviet Union and _____ had the largest populations

Anti-Semitism

- ☐ Jews have faced _____ and discrimination for over _____ years.
- ☐ Jews were _____ for many problems, such as the “Black Death,” which killed thousands in Europe during the Middle Ages.
- ☐ Political leaders used anti-Semitism to portray Jews as a _____ rather than a religion.



Weimar Republic

- ☐ After _____ lost World War I, a new government formed and became the Weimar Republic.
- ☐ Many Germans were _____ that they lost the war and had to _____ (make reparations) a total of \$70 billion to all of the countries that they had “damaged” in the war.
- ☐ Extremists blamed _____ for Germany’s _____ in WWI.

Totalitarian State

- ☐ Totalitarianism is the _____ control of a country in the government’s hands.
- ☐ It rules using fear and paranoia, and _____ individual’s rights.

□ During this time in Germany, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis passed laws, which restricted the rights of Jews: the _____ Laws.

□ Jews were _____ from marrying or having sexual relations with persons of “German or related blood.”

□ Jews were required to carry _____ cards, stamped with a red “J,” which allowed _____ to easily identify them.

□ The Nazis used _____ to promote their anti-Semitic ideas.



Persecution

□ The Nazi plan for dealing with the “Jewish Question” evolved in three steps:

1. _____: Get them out of Europe

2. _____: Put them all together in one place—ghettos

3. “Final Solution”: _____

□ Nazis targeted other _____ and groups in addition to the Jews:

Gypsies (_____ and Roma), _____ men,
Jehovah’s _____, Handicapped _____,
_____, and Political _____

U.S. and World Response

□ The _____ Conference took place in the summer of 1938 in France.

□ Thirty-two countries met to _____ what to do about the Jewish _____ who were trying to leave Germany and _____.

□ Despite voicing feelings of _____, most countries made _____ for not accepting more refugees.



World War II

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□ German forces conquered most of Europe in the next _____ years.

□ The Axis powers included Germany, _____, and Japan

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Final Solution

- ☐ The Nazis aimed to _____ the Jewish population by forcing them to live in areas that were only for Jews, called _____.
- ☐ Ghettos were established across all of Nazi _____ Europe, especially in _____ where there was already a large population of Jews.
- ☐ Ghettos were closed by barbed wire or _____ and guarded by SS or local police.
- ☐ Life in the ghettos was hard: _____ was rationed; _____ families often shared a small space; _____ spread rapidly; heating and sanitation were limited.
- ☐ In January of 1942, high-ranking Nazis met at the _____ Conference
- ☐ The _____ Solution was the plan to establish _____ camps with gas chambers.
- ☐ There were _____ death camps: Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, Chelmno, Birkenau, Maidanek, and Belzec.
- ☐ There were many other concentration and _____ camps where many people died from exposure, lack of _____, extreme work conditions, torture and _____.



Aftermath

- ☐ Soviet soldiers were the first to _____ camp prisoners on July 23, 1944.
- ☐ British, Canadian, _____, and French troops also freed camps.
- ☐ Prisoners looked like “_____ skeletons” and many _____ even after liberation.
- ☐ Many of the camp prisoners had _____ to go.
- ☐ These survivors stayed in _____ camps in Germany, which were run by the _____.
- ☐ Many Jews relocated to the newly formed Jewish state of Israel.
- ☐ U.S. President _____ allowed Jewish refugees to enter the US without normal immigration restrictions.
- ☐ The Nuremberg _____ brought some of those responsible to _____.
- ☐ There were 22 Nazi _____ tried by the Allies, 12 were sentenced to death.
- ☐ Most claimed that they were only _____.
- ☐ _____ trials followed throughout Europe.

