

Holocaust Student Notes

10 Historical Core Concepts

10 Historical Concepts

1. Pre-_____
2. Antisemitism
3. _____ Republic
4. Totalitarian State
5. _____
6. U.S. and World _____
7. The _____ Solution
8. Resistance
9. _____
10. Aftermath

Pre-War

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

Antisemitism

- Jews have faced _____ and discrimination for over _____ years.

- Jews were _____ for many problems. For example, people blamed Jews for the “Black Death” _____ that killed thousands in Europe during the Middle Ages.
- In _____ Empire in the late 1800s, the government incited attacks on Jewish neighborhoods called _____. Mobs murdered Jews and _____ their homes and stores.
- Hitler idolized an Austrian _____ named Karl Lueger who used antisemitism as a way to get _____ in his political campaign.
- Political leaders who used antisemitism as a _____ portrayed Jews as a _____ instead of a religion.
- Nazi teachers began to apply the “principles” of _____ science by measuring skull size and _____ length and recording students’ eye _____ and hair to determine whether students belonged to the “Aryan race.”
- The film, Europa, Europa, was the winner of the Best Foreign Film Golden Globe in 1991. It is based on the _____ story of Solly, a Jewish teenager, trying to survive in Nazi Germany.
- Solly becomes a Hitler Youth and is in a Nazi _____ lecture when the teacher uses him to demonstrate who is a true “Aryan” student.

Weimar Republic

- After _____ lost World War I, a new government formed and became the Weimar Republic.

- Many Germans were _____ not only that they had lost the war but also that they had to _____ (make reparations) to all of the countries that they had “damaged” in the war.
- The total bill that the Germans had to “pay” was equivalent to nearly _____.
- The German army was _____ in size.
- Extremists blamed _____ for Germany’s _____ in WWI and blamed the German Foreign Minister (a Jew) for his _____ in reaching a settlement with the Allies.
- The German mark became worth _____ than the paper it was printed on— hyperinflation occurred.
- Nearly _____ Germans were unemployed.

Totalitarian State

- Totalitarianism is the _____ control of a country in the government’s hands
- It _____ individual’s rights.
- It demonstrates a policy of _____.
- In a totalitarian state, _____ and fear dominate.
- The government maintains total control over the _____.
- The government is capable of _____ .
- During this time in Germany, the Nazis passed laws which restricted the rights of Jews: _____ Laws.

- The Nuremberg Laws stripped the Jews of their German _____. They were _____ from marrying or having sexual relations with persons of “German or related blood.”
- Jews, like all other Germans, were required to carry _____ cards, but their cards were now stamped with a red “J.” This allowed _____ to easily identify them.
- The Nazis used _____ to promote their antisemitic ideas.
- One such book was the _____ book, The Poisonous Mushroom.

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

Handicapped _____

Political _____

- Kristallnacht was the “_____ of Broken Glass” on November 9-10, 1938
- Germans attacked _____ and Jewish homes and businesses

U.S. and World Response

- The _____ Conference took place in the summer of 1938 in Evian, 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.
- Some American congressmen proposed the _____-Rogers Bill, which offered to let _____ endangered Jewish refugee children into the country, but the bill was _____ in the Senate.
- Antisemitic _____ played a role in the failure to help refugees.
- The SS St. Louis, carrying refugees with _____ visas, were denied admittance both in _____ and in _____. After being turned back to Europe, most of the passengers perished in the Holocaust.

Final Solution

- The Nazis aimed to _____ the Jewish population by forcing them to live in areas that were designated for Jews only, called _____.
- Ghettos were established across all of _____ Europe, especially in _____ where there was already a large population of Jews.
- Many ghettos were closed by _____ or walls and were guarded by SS or local police.
- Jews sometimes had to use bridges to go over _____ streets that ran through the ghetto.
- Life in the ghettos was hard: _____ was rationed; _____ families often shared a small space; _____ spread rapidly; heating, ventilation, and sanitation were _____.
- Many children were _____ in the ghettos.
- Einsatzgruppen were _____ killing squads made up of Nazi (SS) units and police. They _____ Jews in mass shooting actions throughout eastern Poland and the western Soviet Union.
- On January 20, 1942, 15 high-ranking Nazi _____ met at the _____ Conference to learn about how the Jewish Question would be solved.
- The _____ Solution was outlined by Reinhard _____ who detailed the plan to establish _____ camps with gas chambers.
- Death camps were the means the _____ used to achieve the “Final Solution.”
- There were _____ death camps: Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, Chelmno, _____, Maidanek, and Belzec.

- Each used gas chambers to _____ the Jews. At Auschwitz, prisoners were told the gas chambers were “_____.”
- Most of the gas chambers used _____ from diesel engines.
- In Auschwitz and Maidanek “_____” pellets, which were a highly poisonous _____, supplied the gas.
- After the gassings, prisoners _____ hair, gold teeth and _____ from the Jews before the bodies were _____ in the crematoria or buried in mass graves.
- There were many _____ and _____ camps where many people died from _____, lack of _____, extreme work conditions, torture and _____

Resistance

- Despite the high _____, some individuals attempted to resist Nazism.
- The “White Rose” _____ protested Nazism, though not Jewish policy, in Germany.
- The White Rose movement was founded in _____ by Hans Scholl, 24-year-old medical student, his 22-year-old _____ Sophie, and 24-year-old Christoph Probst.
- The White Rose stood for _____ and innocence in the face of evil.
- In February 1943, Hans and Sophie were caught distributing _____ and were arrested.
- They were _____ with Christoph 4 days later.

- Other famous acts of resistance include the _____ Uprising (Uprising), Sobibor escape (Escape from Sobibor), Sonderkommando _____ Crematorium IV at Birkenau (The Grey Zone), and Jewish _____ who escaped to fight in the forests.

Rescue

- Less than _____ of the non-Jewish European population helped any Jew in some form of rescue.
- _____ and _____ were the most successful national resistance movements against the Nazi's attempt to deport their Jews.
- In Denmark, _____ of the 8,000 Jews were saved by ferrying them to _____.
- The Danes proved that _____ support for Jews could save lives.
- The War Refugee Board was established by the U.S. Secretary of Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., and it worked with _____ organizations, diplomats from _____ countries and European _____ groups to rescue Jews from Nazi-occupied territories.
- Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg worked in _____ to protect tens of thousands of Jews by distributing _____ Swedish (a neutral country) passports.

Aftermath

- Soviet soldiers were the first to _____ camp prisoners on July 23, 1944, at Majdanek in _____.

- British, Canadian, _____, and French troops also freed camp prisoners.
- Troops were shocked at what they saw.
- Some prisoners were _____ to the point of being skeletal.
- Many camps had dead bodies lying in piles “like _____.”
- Many prisoners _____ even after liberation.
- Many of the camp prisoners had _____ to go, so they became “displaced persons” (DPs).
- These survivors stayed in _____ in Germany, which were organized and run by the _____.
- Initially, the conditions were often very poor in the DP camps.
- Jewish displaced persons, eager to leave _____, pushed for the founding of a Jewish state in British controlled _____.
- U.S. President _____ issued an executive order allowing Jewish refugees to enter the United States without normal immigration _____.
- The Nuremberg _____ brought some of those responsible for the _____ of the war to _____.
- There were 22 major Nazi _____ tried by the Allies in the International Military Tribunal.
- _____ subsequent trials followed as well as _____ trials throughout formerly occupied Europe.
- The International Military Tribunal took place in _____, Germany in 1945 and _____.
- _____ prominent Nazis were sentenced to death.

■ Most claimed that they were only _____, which was judged to be an invalid defense.

■ Why study the Holocaust?