

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

This essay is based on the accompanying documents. It is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of this question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.

Historical Context: Throughout history, governments have adopted policies or have taken actions that have contributed to the denial of human rights to certain groups. These groups include **Ukrainians** in the Soviet Union, **Jews** in Europe, and the **Chinese** during Japanese occupation. This denial of human rights has had an impact on the region in which it occurred as well as on the international community. Efforts by governments, groups, and individuals to resolve these human rights violations have met with mixed results.

Task: Select *two* groups mentioned in the historical context whose human rights have been denied and for *each*

- Describe the historical circumstances that contributed to the denial of this group’s human rights
- Explain how a specific policy or action contributed to the denial of this group’s human rights
- Discuss the impact this denial of human rights has had on the region in which it occurred and/or on the international community





In developing your answers to Part II, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- (a) describe means “to illustrate something in words or tell about it”
- (b) explain means “to make plain or understandable; to give reasons for or causes of; to show the logical development or relationships of ”
- (c) discuss means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail”





Short-Answer Questions

Directions: Analyze the documents and thoroughly answer the questions in the spaces provided.





Document 1

Vocabulary 		When & Where 
	<p>...Stalin came to power after Lenin's death in 1924, inheriting a government that was still struggling to control an unwieldy empire. The new premier [leader] soon turned his attention toward Ukraine, the largest and most troublesome of the non-Russian Soviet republics. The Ukrainians were a fiercely independent people, given to ignoring directives from Moscow and stubbornly maintaining their individualistic, agrarian way of life. That independent spirit made them a problem. At a time when Stalin wanted to build a strong industrial base, they clung to their rural peasant traditions. At a time when he wanted to abolish private ownership of land, they refused to surrender their farms. In short, the Ukrainians had become a threat to the revolution....</p> <p>Source: Linda Jacobs Altman, <i>Genocide: The Systematic Killing of a People</i>, Enslow Publishers</p>	
Who 		Why 





Document 2

Vocabulary 		When & Where 
	<p>Addendum to the minutes of [December 6, 1932] Politburo [meeting] No. 93. The Council of People's Commissars and the Central Committee resolve: To place the following villages on the black list for overt disruption of the grain collection plan and for malicious sabotage, organized by kulak [wealthy Ukrainian farmers] and counterrevolutionary elements: ... The following measures should be undertaken with respect to these villages: 1. Immediate cessation [stoppage] of delivery of goods, complete suspension of cooperative and state trade in the villages, and removal of all available goods from cooperative and state stores.... The Council of People's Commissars and the Central Committee call upon all collective and private farmers who are honest and dedicated to Soviet rule to organize all their efforts for a merciless struggle against kulaks and their accomplices in order to: defeat in their villages the kulak sabotage of grain collection; fulfill honestly and conscientiously their grain collection obligations to the Soviet authorities; and strengthen collective farms. CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS OF THE UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC — V. CHUBAR. SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY (BOLSHEVIK) OF UKRAINE — S. KOSIOR. 6 December 1932.</p> <p>Source: Soviet Archives Exhibit, Library of Congress (adapted)</p>	
Who 		Why 





Document 3

Vocabulary 		When & Where 
	<p>...What have been the historical consequences of the Great Famine-Genocide? By ravaging the country side, the famine not only destroyed millions of innocent human beings—estimates range from 4 to 10 million—but also retarded [slowed] by generations the natural evolution [development] of Ukrainian nationhood. The traditional Ukrainian values of hope, individualism and hard work disappeared. Fear, apathy and alcoholism became the hallmarks of the collective farm. Cities of Ukraine remained bastions [strongholds] of Russification. In general, the traumatized survivors found themselves voiceless cogs in the huge bureaucratic machine that the Soviet Union had become....</p> <p>Source: Dr. Oleh W. Gerus, “The Great Ukrainian Famine-Genocide,” Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies, University of Manitoba, August 4, 2001 (adapted) Speech at the unveiling of a monument in Manitoba, Canada, to the victims of the famine-genocide in Ukraine.</p>	
Who 		Why 





Document 4

Vocabulary 		When & Where 
	<p>. . . On the night of May 10, 1933, thousands of Nazi students, along with many professors, stormed universities, libraries, and bookstores in thirty cities throughout Germany. They removed hundreds of thousands of books and cast them onto bonfires. In Berlin alone, more than twenty thousand books were burned. The book burnings were part of a calculated effort to “purify” German culture. Since April 12, the Nazi German Student Association had been purging libraries, working from lists of books deemed “un-German.” The authors of some of the books were Jews, but most were not. . . .</p> <p>Source: Michael Berenbaum, <i>The World Must Know: The History of the Holocaust as Told in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum</i>, Little, Brown and Co.</p>	
Who 		Why 

Document 5

Vocabulary 		When & Where 
	<p>It's one of those things it is easy to talk about, "the Jewish race is being exterminated", says one party member, "that's quite clear, it's in our program, elimination of the Jews, and we're doing it, exterminating them"... This is a page of glory in our history which has never been written and is never to be written.</p> <p>I ask of you that what I say in this circle you really only hear and never speak of. We come to the question: how is it with the women and the children? I have resolved even here on a completely clear solution. That is to say I do not consider myself justified in eradicating the men - so to speak killing or ordering them killed - and allowing the avengers in the shape of the children to grow up for our sons and grandsons. The difficult decision has to be taken, to cause this Volk [people] to disappear from the earth.</p> <p>Source: Speeches by Reichsfuehrer-SS Himmler before senior SS officers in Poznan, October 4 and 6, 1943. This speech was recorded; the magnetic tapes are in the National Archives in Washington, DC]</p>	
Who 		Why 

Document 6

Vocabulary 		When & Where 
	<p>The 16 December 1941 entry in the diary of Hans Frank contains these figures: "We have now approximately 2,500,000 of them in General Government -- perhaps with the Jewish mixtures, and everything that goes with it, 3,500,000 Jews." (2233-D-PS) On 25 January 1944, three years and one month later, Frank wrote in his diary these words: "At the present time we still have in the General Government perhaps 100,000 Jews." (2233-F-PS)</p> <p>Thus, in this period of three years, according to the records of the then Governor General of Occupied Poland, between 2,400,000 and 3,400,000 Jews had been eliminated. The total number of Jews who died by Nazi hands can never be definitely ascertained. It is known, however, that 4 million Jews died in concentration camps, and that 2 million Jews were killed by the State Police in the East, making a total of 6 million murdered Jews. The source of these figures is Adolph Eichmann, Chief of the Jewish Section of the Gestapo. The figures are contained in an affidavit made by Dr. Wilhelm Hoettl, Deputy Group Leader of the Foreign Section of the Security Section, AMT VI, of the RSHA. Hoettl, in his affidavit, states as follows:</p> <p>"Approximately 4 million Jews had been killed in the various concentration camps, while an additional 2 million met death in other ways, the major part of which were shot by operational squads of the Security Police during the campaign against Russia." (2738-PS)</p> <p>Source: From The Chief Counsel for Prosecution of Axis Criminality, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington. 1946</p>	
Who 		Why 

Document 7

Vocabulary

When & Where







Who







Why




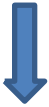

Document 8a

Vocabulary 		When & Where 
	<p>One day Second Lieutenant Ono said to us, “You have never killed anyone yet, so today we shall have some killing practice. You must not consider the Chinese as a human being, but only as something of rather less value than a dog or cat. Be brave! Now, those who wish to volunteer for killing practice, step forward.”</p> <p>No one moved. The lieutenant lost his temper.</p> <p>“You cowards!” he shouted. “Not one of you is fit to call himself a Japanese soldier. So no one will volunteer? Well then, I’ll order you.” And he began to call out names, “Otani—Furukawa—Ueno—Tajima!” (My God—me too!)</p> <p>I raised my bayoneted gun with trembling hands, and—directed by the lieutenant’s almost hysterical cursing—I walked slowly towards the terror-stricken Chinese standing beside the pit—the grave he had helped to dig. In my heart, I begged his pardon, and—with my eyes shut and the lieutenant’s curses in my ears—I plunged the bayonet into the petrified Chinese. When I opened my eyes again, he had slumped down into the pit. “Murderer! Criminal!” I called myself.</p> <p>Source: Testimony of Japanese private named Tajima</p>	
Who 		Why 

Document 8b

Vocabulary 		When & Where 
	<p>They would continue by raping the women and girls and killing anything and anyone that offered any resistance, attempted to run away from them or simply happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. There were girls under the age of 8 and women over the age of 70 who were raped and then, in the most brutal way possible, knocked down and beat up. We found corpses of women on beer glasses and others who had been lanced by bamboo shoots. I saw the victims with my own eyes—I talked to some of them right before their deaths and had their bodies brought to the morgue at the Kulo hospital so that I could be personally convinced that all of these reports had touched on the truth.</p> <p>Source: Testimony of John Rabe, Nazi businessman living in the international “safe zone” of Nanking. He is known to have sheltered thousands of Chinese. He was reported appalled by the rape in the city (NB: and estimated 80,000 women were raped and then killed) In this report he writes to Hitler.</p>	
Who 		Why 

Document 9

Vocabulary 		When & Where 
	<p>Seventy years ago this December 13th, the Japanese Imperial Army began its seizure of Nanjing, the capital of the Republic of China. Japanese troops killed remnant Chinese soldiers in violation of the laws of war, murdered Chinese civilians, raped Chinese women, and destroyed or stole Chinese property on a scale that will never be known. The violence and destruction was extensive, despite the efforts of some Japanese to minimize the scale. We know this because there was a relatively large foreign community in Nanjing at the time that bore witness to the carnage. Other Japanese have themselves worked assiduously to reconstruct the historical record.</p> <p>Similar disasters occurred in other towns of the Lower Yangzi and in East China, but what happened in Nanjing has become emblematic of the narratives of the inhumanity of the Japanese aggression and the sorrow of Chinese victimization. Those narratives continue to this day. Indeed, Timothy Brook writes of Nanjing that “the politics of memory are so powerful at this site that what actually happened in December 1937 almost doesn’t matter to the kind of record either side chooses to create.”</p> <p>Source: Richard Brooks, Brookings Institution 2014</p>	
Who 		Why 