

Weimar and Nazi Germany



Detail from Hartmann Schedel, *Libor cronicarum cum figuris et ymaginibus ab inicio mundi* [the *Nuremberg Chronicle*] (Nuremberg, 1493), fo. 230^v, Sp. Coll. Euing BD9-a2. By permission of the Librarian, Department of Special Collections, Glasgow University Library.

Compelling Question: *Why did the Holocaust happen?*

What types of societal problems existed in Nergmay/Germany?

What caused the Nazi Party election victory?

Could something like this happen again today (or tomorrow)?

What allowed the Nazi persecution of Jews to happen?

What resistance took place?

Tentative Project: Make a five-minute video in which you explain to your future child what the Holocaust was and why it happened. Or, find the [name of a Holocaust victim](#) and make a video dedicated to him/her in which you explain what you learned about the Holocaust and why it happened.

Date	Topic	Unit	Lesson	Homework Reading
1/26	Weimar Unemployment and Inflation			Goldhagen
1/29- 2/2	Finding Primary Sources			
	Great Depression and Election			Zeller 23-28
	Nazi Germany			Zeller 131-146
	Nazi Germany			Hoss + McLeod
2/5-2/9	WWII Europe			Browning. No Ordinary Men. Part 1

	Browning Part II			Docs. 3 and 5
	Kristalnacht and Deportation			Hilberg
	Joseph Brandman Testimony Video			
2/12-2/16	Holocaust resistance Work on Outline			
	WWII Japan			
	UN/UDHR			

Holocaust Assessment: Joining the Historical Debate

Due: Tuesday, 2/13

Background: The question of why the Holocaust happened has become a central issue of debate in Holocaust studies. This question is so important if we are ever to use history to try to understand our current situation and the evolving nature of human rights abuses. How do we recognize early signs rather than the endpoint of genocide?

Historical Question: Why did the Holocaust happen, beginning in Germany, in the 1930s-40s?

Your task: Explain why the Holocaust happened, beginning in Germany, in the 1930s-1940s. In order to do this, you must:

- A) Make clear references to at least two possible explanations, evaluating their legitimacy and value as answers to the central question. Explanations you may want to consider are:

- Goldhagen's anti-Semitism thesis
- The "structuralist" argument
- The "obedience" thesis

- B) Analyze **at least** three primary sources we looked at in class or for homework and explain how they support or contradict those explanations.

Your options: You may choose one of two mediums to present your explanation.

- A) A 2-4 page formal essay, which follows MLA format
- B) A video that you produce in which you explain the cause of the Holocaust. In this video, you must find a way to "show" those sources that you refer to. You may want to consider to whom you are speaking: your future grandchild? A Holocaust victim?

Germany after the Great War

Source A: Mass Demonstration in Berlin's Lustgarten against the Treaty of Versailles (1919)

Source B: The Destruction of Heavy Weaponry after the Signing of the Treaty of Versailles (1919)

Source C: Butchering a Horse in the Streets of Berlin (1920)

Source D: Family Members Share a Single Sausage for Dinner (c. 1920)

Source E Line Outside of a Berlin Grocer (1923)

Source F: Wallpapering with Worthless Banknotes (1923)

Source G: Friedrich Kroner, "Overwrought Nerves" (1923)

Source H: Striped Bathing Suit (1925)

Source I: In the "Eldorado" Transvestite Bar on Motzstrasse, Berlin (1926)

Source	What do you see? (Be specific)	What is an issue that this source describes about Weimar Germany?
Source	What do you see? (Be specific)	What is an issue that this source describes about Weimar Germany?

Great Depression

Source A: Unemployed Stenotypist Seeks Work (December 1931)

Source B: Homeless Men's Shelter (date unknown) (Economics - 1929-1933: Depression)

Source C: Betty Scholem on the Depression (August 1931)

Source	What do you see? (Be specific)	What is an issue that this source describes about Weimar Germany?

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM

We are committed to maintaining the Republic and a policy that will allow Germany to take its rightful place among the free governments of Europe.

We will support the present German Republic so that freedom, democracy, and justice will live in the hearts of our German countrymen.

We will honor all of Germany's obligations, political and financial, in order that Germany's honor and respect will not be decreased in the eyes of the world.

We plan to create more jobs by undertaking an extensive program of public works.

We will cut government expenditures to lower taxes.

We believe in the right of those who disagree with the party to speak and write on those issues without interference.

COMMUNIST PARTY PLATFORM

We are committed to the overthrow of the presently existing, oppressive Republic and all of its economic and social institutions. We favor:

The abolition of private property.

The establishment of land reform programs, so that the government can take over the land and distribute it for the common good.

Government ownership of all industrial productive forces, so that they can be run for the benefit of the people rather than the capitalists.

To the German people: The cause of your misery is the fact that French, British, and American capitalists are exploiting German workers to get rich themselves. Germans, unite to get rid of this terrible burden.

NAZI PARTY PLATFORM

We demand the following:

1. A union of all Germans to form a great Germany on the basis of the right to self-determination of peoples.
2. Abolition of the Treaty of Versailles.
3. Return lands lost in World War I and colonies to give German adequate living space.
4. German blood as a requirement for German citizenship. No Jew can be a member of the nation.
5. Non-citizens can live in Germany only as foreigners, subject to the law of aliens.
6. Only citizens can vote or hold public office.
7. The state insures that every citizen live decently and earn his livelihood. If it is impossible to provide food for the whole population, then aliens must be expelled.
8. Guarantee for jobs and benefits for workers.
9. No further immigration of non-Germans. Any non-German who entered Germany after August 2, 1914, shall leave immediately.
10. A thorough reconstruction of our national system of education. The science of citizenship shall be taught from the beginning.
11. That German citizens and owners must publish all newspapers in the German language.
12. Eliminate the Marxist threat.

After the Election

Source A: The Reichswehr Swears an Oath of Allegiance to Adolf Hitler on the Day of Hindenburg's Death (August 2, 1934)

Source B: SA Members Arrest Communists in Berlin on the Day after the Reichstag Elections (March 6, 1933)

Source C: Decree of the Reich President for the Protection of the People and State ("Reichstag Fire Decree") (February 28, 1933)

Source D: Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service (April 7, 1933)

Source E: SA Members in Front of the Tietz Department Store in Berlin (April 1, 1933)

Source F: Against the Un-German Spirit: Book-Burning Ceremony in Berlin (Image 1) (May 10, 1933)

Source G: SS Marriage Order (December 31, 1931)

Source H: Victor Klemperer's Diary Entry on the Impending Boycott of Jewish Businesses (March 31, 1933)

Source	What do you see? (Be specific)	What is an issue that this source describes about how life changed in Nazi Germany?
Source	What do you see? (Be specific)	What is an issue that this source describes about Weimar Germany?

Source A: NSDAP Mass Rally at the *Sportpalast* in Berlin (August 15, 1935)

Source B: "For Aryans Only": Official Inscription on Park Benches (1935)

Source C: *The Eternal Jew* [*Der ewige Jude*], Film Poster (September 1940)

Source D: Gershom Scholem on the Atmosphere in Munich in the Early 1920s (Retrospective Account, 1977)

Source E: The Aryan Family (undated)

Source F: Youth League Camp Site (1933)

Source G: Young Girls Post a Notice Advertising the League of German Girls (1934)

Source H: Members of the Hamburg *Jungvolk* are Instructed in the Use of Carbine Rifles at a Hitler Youth Camp on the Baltic Sea (1938)

Kristalnacht Readings

Source A: *Message from SS-Gruppenführer [Heydrich](#) to all State Police Main Offices and Field Offices:*

Source B: *The Morning after the Night of Broken Glass [Kristallnacht] in Kassel: The Looted and Destroyed Jewish Community House (November 10, 1938)*

Source C: *The Morning after the Night of Broken Glass [Kristallnacht] in Berlin: Shattered Shop Windows (November 10, 1938)*

Source D: *American Consul Samuel Honaker's Description of Anti-Semitic Persecution and Kristallnacht and its Aftereffects in the Stuttgart Region (November 12 and November 15, 1938)*

Communal Choices Readings

Source A: *Jew Süß* [*Jud Süß*], Film Still (1940)

Source B: Viennese Jews are Forced to Scour the Streets (March/April 1938)

Source C: *Decree from the Head of the Security Police to the Heads of all State Police Offices*
(September 3, 1939)

Source D: Josef Meisinger on "Combating Homosexuality as a Political Task" (April 5-6, 1937)

Document A-Deportation of Stuttgart Jews to Riga, Latvia – Waiting in a Detention Camp on Killesberg Hill, Stuttgart (November 1941)

Source B: A Resident of the Lodz Ghetto is Abused and Humiliated (1942)

Source C: Hungarian Jews Wait in a Clearing before being led to the Gas Chambers at Auschwitz II-Birkenau (May/June, 1944)

Source D: Mass Execution of Lithuanian Jews by Members of the Wehrmacht and the Lithuanian Self-Protection Unit [*Selbstschutz*] (1942)

Joseph Brandman Holocaust Testimony

Background: This video testimony was taken by David Sherrin in 2007. It is the testimony of his grandfather, Joseph Brandman. He was born on January 9, 1918 in Riga, the capital of Latvia.

0:00-6:20 - Answer Key

Mother, wife, sisters, and other relatives	Mira (Myra) Melnik	Forest	Sidewalk
1941	Star of David patch	Barber	

1. Occupation: _____
2. World War II started in Latvia in _____ when the German army bombed Riga.
3. One discrimination Jews faced in Latvia after Nazi occupation was to wear a _____.
4. Nazis also insisted that Jews could not walk on the _____.
5. All the Jews moved into the Ghetto.
6. On Dec. 8, 1941 the Nazis took 30,000 Jews in Riga and killed them in a _____.
7. Joseph lost his _____ on those three days.
8. Nazis brought in Jews from Lithuania including his future wife (David's grandmother) _____.
9. Ordered to dig graves (ditches) and to get wood.

6:20 - 14:30 (Resistance)

Colony = large group

Dondagen = his first concentration camp, a death camp

Dirty Jew	killed	tents	Bread
Shave	Cigarette	Servant	Brother

1. Jews attempted to resist in the ghetto by smuggling in weapons. The Nazis took the Jewish policemen and were _____.
2. In Dondagen, they slept in _____.
3. Joseph was ordered to clean windows in the barracks. A soldier dropped a _____, which Joseph picked up. The Kommandant threatened to kill Joseph, calling him a _____. Joseph offered to _____ his beard. If he messed up, the soldier could kill him.
4. The Kommandant made Joseph become his _____. Sometimes after Joseph cut Nazis' hair he would get a piece of _____. Joseph gave some of this food to his _____.

18:30 - 25:30 (Surviving)

Angels	3	Gold pieces	Grave
Woods	Stutthof	14	Gas Chamber

1. After the Russians moved closer to the front, the Nazis moved to the Jews to a camp called _____. Joseph, Mira, and his brother Paul decided to escape while walking. They bribed a guard with _____ that they had found in a box of Nivea creme. Joseph had _____ gold pieces. They ran into the _____. He saw _____ men dressed in black. The men gestured for them to go back. Joseph and Mira ran back to the group. Joseph believes those three men were _____. They didn't talk. The SS caught his brother and girlfriend who dug their _____.
2. Joseph found himself in the morning surrounded by 60 or so children. All the children were taken to the shower. It was actually the _____.

38:00 - End (Rescue)

Political prisoners	lice	9	Nazis
Untied	barge	SS	British
7000		6	seawater

*Joseph had participated in stealing of tobacco from Germans. He wasn't discovered because he had a friendship with a Jewish leader in the camp.

1. When the allied forces came near, the Nazis put all the Jews in a _____.

2. They spent about _____ days on the boat with no food or water. Joseph drank _____. They saw the large ship Capricorn. On the ships, besides Jews there were _____. The Norwegians _____ the boat. They jumped in the water and ran toward the city. The _____ came back and started to shoot everyone in the water.
3. The SS tried to make everyone return to the ship. Mira went to the back of the line to avoid going on the ship. The _____ army came in and replaced the _____ flag. The Nazis blew up the ship with _____ people.
4. After liberation, Joseph collapsed in the rain. The soldiers picked him up and put him up and sprayed him with powder to kill _____. He doesn't remember anything for the next _____ weeks.

America	Harry	1988	Boston
Albany	Bronx	Wolf	Soviet Union

5. Mira wanted to return to the _____ to find her parents. The Soviets and sent her parents had been sent to Siberia because they owned a factory. Joseph convinced her to go to _____.
6. Joseph and Mira got married. They found relatives in the _____ and he found one brother who had survived. The Soviet Union sent him to Siberia. Joseph didn't see his brother until _____. They left Germany in 1949 and arrived in _____. They went on a train and arrived in _____ where they lived for the rest of their lives.
7. His brothers _____ and _____ survived.

Video Reflection

One thing that surprised me in the story was....

One question I had was...

One thing I learned ...

