

**SSWH19: DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE GLOBAL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT OF WWII**



**Element B: Identify Nazi ideology and policies that led to the Holocaust and its consequences**

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**Nazi Ideology**

- In Mein Kampf Hitler defined Nazi racial ideology.
  - According to the Nazi party, the Germanic people of Europe were the only pure descendants of the ancient Aryans.
    - Nazism argued that the success of the Aryans in spreading their language across Eurasia was proof of their superiority.
- Modern Germanic peoples inherited this superiority and as a result were entitled to become a master race. Non-Aryan peoples were ranked.
  - Some groups were considered tolerable, while groups like the Slavs were considered naturally inclined to slavery, the Roma were considered genetically criminal, and the Jews were considered dangerous.
  - Germanic people who threatened the purity and security of the race were also viewed as a danger.
    - Germans with severe congenital disabilities, mental illness, and criminal backgrounds were considered a pollutant to the German bloodline.
    - Homosexuals were viewed as a threat to the virility of the race.
- Over the course of Nazi rule a variety of policies were put into action in response to these ideas.




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**The Holocaust: Non-Jews**

- Approximately 100,000 German men were arrested for homosexuality between 1933 and 1945.
  - While most homosexuals were held in traditional prisons between 5,000 and 15,000 were interned in concentration camps where they were used as forced labor.
- Starting in 1934, 300,000 to 400,000 people were forced to undergo sterilization procedures either because of a disability or their ethnicity.
  - Around 200,000 disabled and mentally ill Germans were executed between 1940 and 1942 during Nazi euthanasia programs.
- In the mid-1930s, Roma populations in Germany were corralled by police and forced into government camps.
  - Around 1940 the Nazis began sending the Roma to concentration camps where they were used as forced labor, subjected to bizarre research by Nazi doctors or executed.
    - By the end of the war, as many as 200,000 European Roma were dead.
- When the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939 they began to systematically execute Polish Catholic professionals, teachers, and government leaders.
  - The Nazis believed that without leadership, the Polish people would easily submit to slavery.
    - Approximately 3 million Polish Catholics were dead by the end of the war.
    - Several thousand German and Austrian Jehovah's Witness were arrested in the late 1930s for refusing to swear loyalty to the state.
    - Many of these Witnesses were subjected to forced labor in concentration camps, more than 1,000 died in these camps.




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**The Holocaust: Jews**

- ❑ While the Nazis targeted many groups in the Holocaust, the Jewish population of Europe was targeted with particular fanaticism.
  - Hitler exploited long held anti-Semitic feelings in Europe, arguing that the Jewish population was at fault for most of the country's hardships including defeat in World War I and the financial crisis of the Great Depression.
  - Hitler argued that Jewish people were dangerously clever and worked in collusion to exploit the non-Jewish population of Europe.
    - When Hitler took power in the 1930s he planned to drive the Jewish population out of Germany.
- ❑ In 1935 the Nuremberg Laws revoked German citizenship from the Jewish population.
  - Subsequent laws restricted Jewish business activities and tightly regulated financial transactions.
    - Hitler and the Nazi Party hoped this would pressure the Jewish population to leave Germany, many did; but by 1940 most of the world refused to accept any more German Jewish immigrants.
- ❑ In November of 1938 Nazi party members systematically attacked Jewish owned property all over Germany.
  - The windows of Jewish businesses, homes, and synagogues were smashed leading to the name Kristallnacht or the night of broken glass.
  - The following year, Nazi party officials began forcing the Jewish population into walled ghettos in German and Polish cities.
    - As the ghettos became overcrowded and the war raged on, Nazis built massive concentration camps in Germany and Poland where Jews from all over Europe were sent to work as slave laborers.




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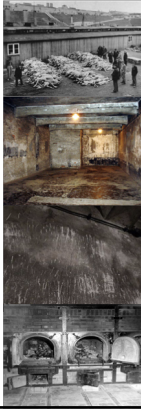
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**The Holocaust: Jews**

- ❑ In 1942, Nazi leadership decided to carry out the "final solution to the Jewish problem," the systematic execution of the Jewish population of Europe.
  - Before '42 Nazi SS units killed Jews with firing squads and mobile gas chambers in box trucks but these methods were deemed too slow.
- ❑ In 1942 massive complexes were built designed to kill and incinerate of up to 12,000 people per day.
  - Most of these were in Poland.
- ❑ Inmates arrived from all over Europe, those deemed fit enough to work became slave labor, the weak were sent to gas chambers.
- ❑ By the end of the war 6,000,000 Jewish people were dead.




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