



The Holocaust and War Crimes

I can describe the Holocaust and
the Allies' response to war crimes.



The “Final Solution”

Nazi Germany persecuted people who were deemed inferior to supposedly superior humans (“Aryans” were at the top of the imagined racial hierarchy)

The millions of so-called “sub-humans” who were targeted for enslavement and extermination, which culminated in a genocide known as the Holocaust, included people who were Jewish, Slavic, Romani (“Gypsies”), black, leftists, gay, and/or disabled

Nazi Germany murdered roughly 6 million Jews and more than 1 million other victims, which Hitler referred to as the “final solution” to what he called the “Jewish problem.”



Concentration Camps

A terrifying invention of Nazi Germany, concentration camps were designed to systematize and maximize the mass murder of stigmatized groups.

Some concentration camps were work camps and some were death camps. Sometimes they were in pairs like Auschwitz-Birkenau.

More than 1 million people were killed at Auschwitz.



Path to the Holocaust

Hitler treated Jewish people as scapegoats; he convinced many that Jews were to blame for all of Germany's problems

From 1932 to 1939, the Nazi Party routinely produced anti-Jewish propaganda and began to pass anti-Jewish laws

By 1941, all Jewish people over the age of six were forced to wear the Star of David in plain sight



Path to the Holocaust

These were part of a campaign to convince the people of Germany that Jews and other minorities were less than fully human - and did not deserve to be treated as people.

This process is called Social Death, and has been used many times throughout history.

Why would this be the first part of Hitler's Plan?



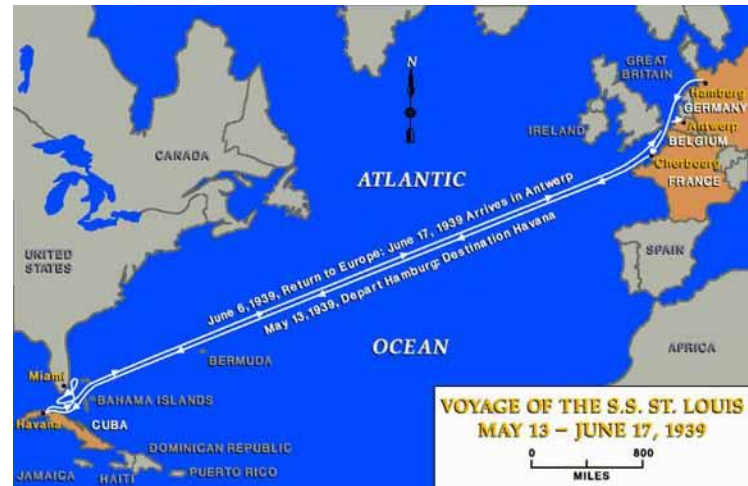
The U.S. response

The Allied response to the Holocaust could have been much better.

Initially, many Americans were resistant to the admission of large numbers of Jewish refugees to the U.S.

SS St. Louis: In 1939, 900 Jewish refugees were denied entry to the Port of Miami; at least 250 died during the Holocaust.

War Refugee Board: created by Pres. Roosevelt in early 1944, it managed to rescue about 200,000 European Jews and 20,000 other victims.



Liberation of camps

The Allies rescued victims of concentration camps across Europe following the defeat of Nazi Germany in spring 1945.

Reports had surfaced as early as 1942, but this was the first time that the Allies saw the scale of the Nazi's "final solution;" it became apparent that the Holocaust was systematic, planned in great detail, and required the cooperation of many people. Two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population had been wiped out in less than a decade.



Nuremberg Trials

Held by the Allies in the fall of 1945 to put Nazi officials on trial for crimes against humanity committed during the Holocaust

The Nuremberg Trials established the precedent that national leaders could be held accountable for crimes against humanity.



Info about the Nuremberg Trials

The goals were to: a) punish those responsible; and b) prevent future crimes against humanity



Statements about the Nuremberg Trials

Bringing perpetrators to justice in courts is an effective way to prevent future crimes.

Strongly
Disagree

Strongly
Agree



1



2



3



4



5

scale positions

Info about the Nuremberg Trials

One of the men charged with crimes against humanity was Julius Streicher. He was Minister of Propaganda of the Nazi Party. He was responsible for spreading hateful lies about Jews in the newspaper and other forms of media, such as children's books.



Statements about the Nuremberg Trials

Spreading hateful lies that result in harm to individuals is a crime against humanity.

Strongly
Disagree

Strongly
Agree



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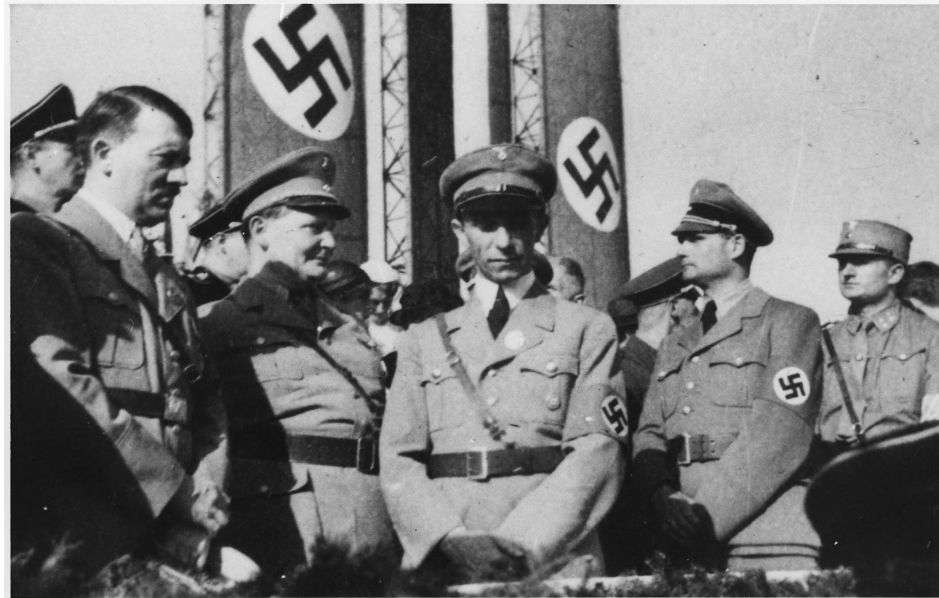


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scale positions

Info about the Nuremberg Trials

Many Nazis charged with crimes against humanity argued that they were only following the orders of their superiors.



Statements about the Nuremberg Trials

The only person responsible for the Holocaust was Hitler. Nazi leaders were following orders. They should not be punished to the same extent.

Strongly
Disagree

Strongly
Agree



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scale positions

Info about the Nuremberg Trials

19 of the defendants were found guilty of crimes against humanity. 12 were sentenced to death, while 7 were given prison sentences.

Between 1946 and 1949, many more trials of Nazi collaborators were held. 97 additional individuals were found guilty of war crimes.

This included doctors who conducted experiments on concentration camp victims and judges who sent people to concentration camps.

Statements about the Nuremberg Trials

It is possible to achieve justice for the crimes committed during the Holocaust.

Strongly
Disagree

Strongly
Agree



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scale positions