

Notes adapted from *Tell Them We Remember: The Story of the Holocaust* by Susan D. Bachrach; published in collaboration with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Anti-Semitism:

Prejudice and discrimination against Jews; has occurred throughout history

Bystander: (will discuss as a class)

Someone who witnesses injustice and does nothing to stop it

Scapegoat:

Jews were unfairly blamed for events throughout history that were not their fault

How Hitler Comes to Power:

After WWI, Germany was poor from their debt to other countries

German government was considered weak as it rebuilt after WWI

Hitler promised improved economy, government, jobs, and military power for Germany

Hitler's totalitarian government:

Hitler's government party (Nazi's) had total control in Germany

Nazi Racism and the "Aryan" race:

A false race known as "the perfect race" that was created by Hitler

Aryan race described people as having blonde hair and blue eyes

Jews, gypsies, homosexuals, physically/mentally handicapped were seen as inferior

Hitler falsely considered Jews as a race (incorrect) rather than a religious faith (correct)

Boycott of Jewish Businesses:

Planned action to not buy or shop in Jewish stores

Nazi's created nation-wide boycott of Jewish businesses across Germany

Nazi ensorship:

Government (Nazi) control of all information (newspapers, radio, speech, television)

Nazi propaganda:

One-sided, incorrect, or harmful information distributed by Nazi's

Nuremberg Race Laws:

Laws imposed by Nazi's that made Jews into second-class citizens

Jews could not go to swimming pools, attend public events, go to public school, or gather together in any public place or place of worship

Yellow Star:

Anyone identified as Jewish (or anyone having Jewish grandparents, parents, etc.) required to wear yellow star on their clothing at all times

"Night of Broken Glass":

Planned, and advertised in the media, night of destruction of Jewish synagogues and businesses

Synagogue: *place of Jewish worship*

Pogrom: *attack on a people group, planned or supported by police or government*

Ghettos:

Jews were forced to leave their homes and live in run-down, fenced-in sections of the city

Ghettos were surrounded by gates with police guarding the areas

Evian Conference:

32 nations of the world held a conference about growing maltreatment of Jews in Germany

No country voted to admit Jews into their country, due to economic struggles

Voyage of the SS St. Louis:

Jewish refugees made it onto a ship to Cuba; ship was turned away from Cuba and the United States and forced to turn back to Europe

Refugee: *person who flees his native country due to persecution, war or disaster*

Immigrant: *person who chooses to come into a new country for new opportunities*

Deportations:

Jews were transported against their will in train/cattle cars to work camps

“Final Solution” – the Nazi’s ultimate goal to work to death, or murder, the Jewish population in Europe

At the Camps:

Jews were put to death or forced into slave labor; held prisoners at concentration camps around Europe

Death Marches:

Toward the end of the war, Jews were forced to march for hundreds of miles from camp to camp in freezing winter conditions

Those who could not keep up or were ill were left behind and died

Rescue/rescue examples:

Some citizens helped by hiding people, false papers, food, and money

Danish fishermen helped smuggle Jews out of the country by sailing them away on their fishing boats

Genocide: *planned, or deliberate, murder of an entire people group*

Resistance:

To fight back against a wrong government

Examples:

“The White Rose” – group of college students who protested the treatment of Jews with writing and artwork; those involved in the movement were executed when caught

***Warsaw Ghetto Uprising** – uprising of citizens in Warsaw ghetto that eventually overpowered German guards and took control of the ghetto for over a month before the leaders were captured and Germans killed 7,000 organizers*

Nuremburg Trials:

After the war, trials held in Nuremburg, Germany for “crimes against humanity” committed by Nazis. Not all responsible were able to be tried – many Nazis escaped, went into hiding, or committed suicide prior to trial

Telling the Story:

Although painful, many Holocaust survivors have committed to sharing their story with poetry, memoirs, artwork, and public talks