

Justice and Human Rights

Thematic Essay

Historical Context: Throughout history, the human rights of certain groups of people have been violated. Efforts have been made to address these violations

Task: Identify **two** examples of human rights violations that have occurred in a specific time and place and for each:

- **Define the term “human rights”**
- **Describe the causes of these human rights violations**
- **Discuss one specific effort that was made or is being made to deal with the violation**

Human Rights: Inalienable
fundamental rights to which a person
is inherently entitled simply because
she or he is a human being

Holocaust – Germany

Apartheid – South Africa

Causes of the Holocaust

- Weimer Republic fails to meet basic needs, economic/political instability leads to rise of the Nazi Party. Hitler Creates a Totalitarian State based on Fascism.
- Hitler makes Jews the SCAPEGOATS for Germany's loss in WWI and all of Germany's problems. Anti-Semitism grows over time.
- Hitler wants to create a Master Aryan Race and eliminate anyone who does not fit this mold.
- Nuremberg Laws are created to restrict the rights of all Jews.
- Kristallnacht – “Night of Broken Glass” begins organized violence against the Jews.
- Final Solution – Hitler's goal is to eliminate ALL JEWS through murder at concentration camps.

Efforts to Deal with the Situation

- After Germany Loses WWII all German officers associated with the Holocaust are put on trial for Crimes Against Humanity.
- Nuremberg Trials – Officers are found guilty of these crimes, “JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS” is NOT A DEFENSE
- The International Court of Justice continues to try war criminals for these crimes.
- The state of Israel is created to provide Jews with a formal homeland.

Causes of Apartheid in South Africa

- Industrialization → European Imperialism
 - Raw Materials, Resources
- White Man's Burden=Racism
- Berlin Conference – Scramble for Africa
- Legal Discrimination Against Blacks
 - The Native Lands Act (7.3% of the country's land to Africans, who make up 80% of the population).
 - Voting rights are limited for blacks
 - Forced to live on Homelands
 - Must carry ID, Need permission to leave, NON-CITIZENS
- White Minority (Dutch/British) Rule in South Africa
 - APARTHEID is created (1948) to further segregate the races and disenfranchise blacks.
 - Whites control government and economy

Efforts to deal with the Situation

- African National Congress is created to fight for black rights. (Ban is lifted)
- Nelson Mandela is a nationalist leader
 - Bishop Desmond Tuto also leads
 - Sharpeville Massacre: Mandela is thrown in jail but international outcry grows
- Mandela and FW DeKlerk (White) along with international cooperation end APARTHEID (1994)
- 1st Democratic Elections are held and Mandela is elected president
- Political/Economic divisions remain but blacks now have legal equality.