

Name: _____ Period: _____

Holocaust Document Analysis

Directions: Read the documents found in Part A and answer the questions or questions after each document.

Historical Context

Adolf Hitler rose to power on “the empty stomachs of the German people,” but he maintained and strengthened his rule through fear and hatred. Throughout the Holocaust, many atrocities to human rights occurred, most notably to people of Jewish decent. Millions of innocent men, women and children suffered and lost their lives due to the propaganda filled hatred of Adolf Hitler.

Document #1 - Kristallnacht Order *(The document was retrieved from the archives of Shamash: The Jewish Internet Consortium.)*

Message from SS-Gruppenführer Heydrich to all State Police Main Offices and Field Offices, November 10, 1938 (before *Kristallnacht*, the "night of broken glass," the first large scale pogrom against the Jews). Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression - Washington, U.S Govt. Print. Off., 1946, Vol. III, p. 545-547.

Regards: Measures against Jews tonight.

- Only such measures may be taken which do not jeopardize German life or property (for instance, burning of synagogues only if there is no danger of fires for the neighborhoods).
- Business establishments and homes of Jews may be destroyed but not looted. The police have been instructed to supervise the execution of these directives and to arrest looters.
- In Business streets special care is to be taken that non-Jewish establishments will be safeguarded at all cost against damage.
- As soon as the events of this night permit the use of the designated officers, as many Jews, particularly wealthy ones, as the local jails will hold, are to be arrested in all districts. Initially only healthy male Jews, not too old, are to be arrested. After the arrests have been carried out the appropriate concentration camp is to be contacted immediately with a view to a quick transfer of the Jews to the camps

1. How would The Kristallnact Order change life for the Jews?

2. Were German citizens treated the same way as the Jews were?

Document #2 - Life in the Warsaw Ghetto

Life in the Warsaw Ghetto, Emanuel Ringelblum quoted in Yad Vashem Documents on the Holocaust, pp 228-229:

Smuggling began at the very moment that the Jewish area of residence was established; its inhabitants were forced to live on 180 grams of bread a day, 220 grams of sugar a month, 1 kg. of jam and 1 kg. of honey, etc. It was calculated that the officially supplied rations did not cover even 10 percent of the normal requirements. If one had wanted really to restrict oneself to the official rations then the entire population of the ghetto would have had to die of hunger in a very short time.... The German authorities did everything to seal off the ghetto hermetically and not to allow in a single gram of food. A wall was put up around the ghetto on all sides that did not leave a single millimeter of open space.... They fixed barbed wire and broken glass to the top of the wall.

1. List three characteristics of ghetto life?

Document #3 - Diary Excerpt

On Her Old Country, Germany

"Fine specimens of humanity, those Germans, and to think I'm actually one of them! No, that's not true, Hitler took away our nationality long ago. And besides, there are no greater enemies on earth than the Germans and Jews." - October 9, 1942

1. According to this diary entry, why did Anne Frank feel that the Germans were the enemy?

Document # 4 - Discriminatory Decrees Against the Jews

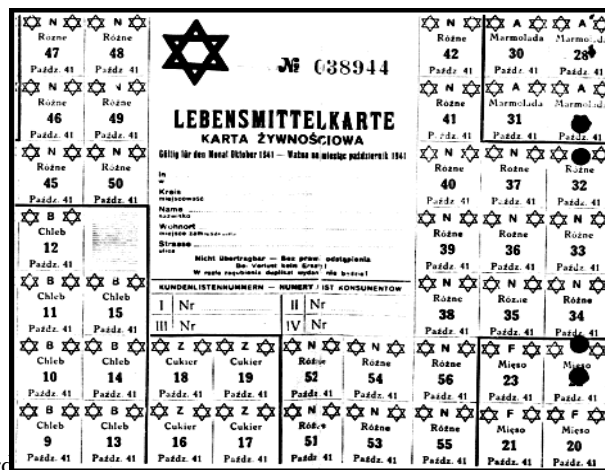
This document was retrieved from the archives of Nizkor. Source: Nazi Conspiracy & Aggression, Volume I, Chapter XII, Office of the United States Chief Counsel for Prosecution of Axis Criminality, United States Government Printing Office, Washington, 1946, pp. 980-982.

DISCRIMINATORY DECREES AGAINST JEWS : When the Nazi Party gained control of the German State, the conspirators used the means of official decrees as a weapon against the Jews. In this way the force of the state was applied against them. Jewish immigrants were denaturalized. Native Jews were precluded from citizenship. Jews were forbidden to live in marriage or to have extramarital relations with persons of German blood. Jews were denied the right to vote. Jews were denied the right to hold public office or civil service positions. Jews were relegated to an inferior status by the denial of common privileges and freedoms. Thus, they were denied access to certain city areas, sidewalks, transportation, places of amusement, restaurants. Progressively, more and more stringent measures were applied, even to the denial of private pursuits. They were excluded from the practice of dentistry. The practice of law was denied to them. The practice

of medicine was forbidden them. They were denied employment by press and radio. They were excluded from stock exchanges and stock brokerage 1934. They were excluded from farming.

1. How did life change politically, economically, and socially for the Jews? (one of each)

Document #5 - Ghetto Ration Card



Ghetto ration card for October 1941. This card
 Photo credit: Meczenstwo Walka, Zagłada Żydów Polsce 1939-1945. Poland. No. 137.

1. Why do you think the Nazis gave ration cards out to Jews in the ghetto?

2. Do you think that it would be possible to survive with this amount of food?

Document #6 - Testimonies of SS-Men from Various Camps

Testimony of SS Scharführer **Erich Fuchs**, in the Sobibor-Bolender trial, Dusseldorf.

Quoted in "BELZEC, SOBIBOR, TREBLINKA - the Operation Reinhard Death Camps", Indiana University Press - Yitzhak Arad, 1987, p. 31-32:

If my memory serves me right, about thirty to forty women were gassed in one gas chamber. The Jewish women were forced to undress in an open place close to the gas chamber, and were driven into the gas chamber by the above mentioned SS members and the Ukrainian auxiliaries. when the women were shut up in the gas chamber I and Bolender set the motor in motion. The motor functioned first in neutral. Both of us stood by the motor and switched from "Neutral" (Freiauspuff) to "Cell" (Zelle), so that the gas was conveyed to the chamber. At the suggestion of the chemist, I fixed the motor on a definite speed so that it was unnecessary henceforth to press on the gas. About ten minutes later the thirty to forty women were dead.

From the testimony of SS-Unterscharfuehrer Wilhelm Bahr in his trial at Hamburg.

Quoted in "Truth Prevails", ISBN 1-879437

1. Based on the testimony of this SS officer, what happened to the women prisoners of the Sobibor Concentration camp?

Document # 7 – Early Nazi Policies



"Beware, do not shop in Jewish stores."

Nazi boycott of Jewish businesses

1. How would the boycott of Jewish businesses help the Nazis?

2. How would the boycott of the businesses change the economic livelihood of the Jews?

Document #8 - Identification badges

living under Nazi rule



In May 1942, all Jews aged six and older are required to wear a yellow Star of David on their clothes to set them apart from non-Jews.

1. What was the purpose of Identification badges?

Document # 9 - Photo of a camp prisoner

A prisoner in Dachau is forced to stand without moving for endless hours as a punishment.

He is wearing a triangle patch identification on his chest.

1. What was life like for prisoners in the Concentration Camp?

