Chapter 16 Section 3
The Holocaust

Preview: How do you think the United States and other countries would respond to Jewish refugees and why?
On April 7, 1933 Hitler ordered all non-Aryans removed from government jobs. Thus began the systematic campaign of racial purification that eventually led to the Holocaust – the murder of 11 million people across Europe (more than half of whom were Jews).

Title: “Away with him”
The long arm of the Ministry of Education pulls a Jewish teacher from his classroom.
April 1933 (Der Sturmer Issue #12)
JEWS TARGETED

- Jews were the central target of the Holocaust
- Anti-Semitism had a long history in many European countries
- For decades Germany looked for a scapegoat for their problems
- Many Germans blamed Jews for their difficulties

(Placard reads, "Germans, defend yourselves, do not buy from Jews")
Jews Lose Rights

- Jews in Germany were subject to increasingly restrictive rights
- In 1935 – Nuremberg Laws stripped Jews of their citizenship, jobs and property
- Also in 1935 Jews forced to wear bright yellow stars to identify themselves
KRISTALLNACHT (NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS)

- On November 9-10, 1938 Nazi Storm Troopers attacked Jewish homes, businesses and synagogues across Germany
- Over 100 Jews were killed, hundreds more were injured, and 30,000 Jews arrested
- 100s synagogues burned
- Afterward, the Nazis blamed the Jews for the destruction
Hundreds of Jewish homes and businesses were torched during Kristallnacht.
SOME JEWS FLED

- As a result of increasing violence, many German Jews fled the country
- However, few countries were willing to take in Jewish refugees
  - France 40,000 wanted no more
  - Britain refused 80,000 refugees
  - The U.S. accepted 100,000 refugees “persons of exceptional merit” including Albert Einstein, author Thomas Mann, architect Walter Gropius and Theologian Paul Tillich
Muralist Ben Shahn depicts the 1933 emigration of Albert Einstein and thousands of other Jews to America to escape Nazi terrorism.
THE PLIGHT OF THE ST. LOUIS

Many Americans feared Jews would take jobs at a time when unemployment was already high. One example of the indifference to the plight of the German Jews can be seen in the case of the St. Louis.
THE ST. LOUIS RETURNS HOME

- This German ocean liner passed Miami in 1939
- The U.S. coast guard followed the ship to prevent anyone from disembarking in America, although 740 of the liner’s passengers had U.S. immigration papers
- The ship returned to Europe – more than ½ of the 943 passengers were later killed in the Holocaust
HITLER’S FINAL SOLUTION

• In 1939 only about 250,000 Jews remained in Germany.
• But other nations that Hitler occupied had millions more.
• Obsessed with his desire to “rid Europe of Jews,” Hitler imposed what he called the Final Solution.
THE FINAL SOLUTION

- The Final Solution – a policy of genocide that involved the deliberate and systematic killing of an entire population – rested on the belief that Aryans were superior people and that the purity of the “Master Race” must be preserved.

Hitler was responsible for the murder of more than half of the world’s Jewish population.
**HITLER’S HATRED WENT BEYOND JEWS**

- Hitler condemned to death and slavery not only Jews but other groups that he viewed as inferior, unworthy or as “enemies of the state”
- This list included Gypsies, Slavs, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Africans, Chinese, homosexuals, physical disabled, mentally ill and mentally deficient
- Starts in Poland with “security squadrons” (SS) rounded up Jews-men, women, children, and babies-and shot them on the spot.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Jews</td>
<td>6,250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soviet prisoners of war</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polish Catholics</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbians</td>
<td>700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germans (political, religious, and resistance)</td>
<td>80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germans (handicapped)</td>
<td>70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homosexuals</td>
<td>12,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jehovah’s Witnesses</td>
<td>2,500</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
JEWISH GHETTOS IN POLAND

- Jews were also ordered into dismal, overcrowded ghettos with barbed wire and stone walls, in various Polish cities.
- Factories were built alongside the ghettos where people were forced to work for German industry.
- Many of these Jews were then transferred to concentration camps (labor camps) deep within Poland.
Concentration Camps

Jews in communities, not reached by killing squad, dragged from homes, herded on trains or trucks for shipment to concentration camps or labor camp.

Life was cycle of hunger, humiliation, and work that usually ended in death.

Crowded quarters, meager meals with rats and fleas.

Worked seven days a week, until they collapsed.

Those too weak to work were killed.
THE FINAL STAGE

- Hitler’s program of genocide against Jews took place primarily in 6 Nazi death camps located in Poland
  - The final stage began in early 1942
- The Germans used poison gas as the 3rd method to more quickly exterminate the Jewish population (mass slaughter and starvation)
- Each camp had huge gas chambers that could kill as many as 12,000 per day
Mass Exterminations

Arrive at Auschwitz, examine by doctors, separated those to work and those to did that day, leaving belongings behind
To die led to room outside gas chamber
At first bodies buried in huge pits
To conceal evidence used huge crematoriums, others burned bodies in pits
Other methods of death: shot, hanged, injected with poison, used in horrible medical experiments

The Survivors

About 6 M Jews died in death camps and Nazi massacres
Many had helped from ordinary citizens
Some Jews survived the horror of the concentration camps
Those who did come out of the camps alive were forever changed by what they had witnessed.
"They came for the Communists, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Communist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Jew.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Catholic.

Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak out for me."

- Pastor Martin Niemoller
“Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust . . . never.”

Elie Wiesel, a camp survivor