

Chapter 1 : The Holocaust for the Next Generation

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The Next Holocaust and the Refuge in Edom: Part 2 Updated Briefing: Print this article What is the purpose of the Great Tribulation? What is the prophetic role of Ammon, Moab, and Edom now known as Jordan? Where do those who are in Judea flee? Where does Jesus return? The Mount of Olives? Last month we explored the historical backgrounds of Ammon, Moab and Edom. This month we'll take a look at their prophetic destiny: He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: It appears this is one of the few areas that escape the rule of the coming world leader commonly known as the Antichrist. Prophetic Relevance Jesus warned the dwellers in Judea that when they see the Abomination of Desolation "a desecrating idol installed in the Holy of Holies of the Temple" to immediately flee to the mountains. The remnant of Israel will find refuge there for three-and-a-half years while God protects them and provides for them. From other passages, we learn that the remnant will flee to Bozrah in the mountains of Edom. The Great Tribulation The Tribulation is often used as a generic term for the entire seven years of the 70th Week of Daniel. However, the Great Tribulation is actually defined as the last half of the week: And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: However, devastating as that was, it hardly fits the text. It is to be followed by dramatic cosmic signs and the Second Coming of Christ: Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: Tortuous attempts to allegorize this text just don't work. The worst is yet to come. It has been estimated that the Nazi Holocaust killed one Jew in three; it appears the next one will take two out of three: And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: I will say, It is my people: I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: Interesting Old Testament passage: God says, I will go and return to my place To return, He must have left it! Watch those untils in the text: The term offence is singular and specific. Apparently, a prerequisite condition for the Second Coming of Christ is for Israel to acknowledge her Messiah and to petition His return. This would help explain why Satan continues to be so intensely committed to the Jews destruction. The Armageddon Campaign And he gathered them together into a place called in the He-brew tongue Armageddon. The campaign includes the following stages: The Assembly of the Army Rev Gods viewpoint is one of mockery Joel 3: This is the Day of Vengeance Isa The Fall of Jerusalem Zech More than half the city will be taken into slavery by the Gentile forces from the Valley of Jezreel. The Armies at Bozrah Jer The world army pursues a faithful remnant, which fled to the mountains of Edom in Jordan. Bozrah is pinpointed, which was located in the region of Mount Seir, on the western side of Edom in southern Jordan Micah 2: An ancient sheepfold had a narrow entrance so that the shepherd could count his sheep, and, once inside, he could guard a single entrance to contain them. I am the door, John Sela, now Petra, fits the description, shaped like an ancient sheepfold, with a narrow passageway the Siq opening up to a spacious city surrounded by cliffs. The National Regeneration of Israel: Israels required confession Lev When the faithful remnant petitions Jesus to return, He comes to rescue them. The Second Coming of Christ Isa If this battle wasn't stopped, all mankind would be destroyed; however, the Lord interrupts it, at Petra in Edom, fighting for His remnant of believers. He is described as covered with the blood of His enemies. His armies are not re-quired in the fighting. From Bozrah to the Valley of Jehoshaphat Isa The Antichrist is powerless be-fore Christ Hab 3: His armies are destroyed Zech Bozrah to Megiddo is miles; 1, furlongs Rev The Victory Ascent upon the Mount of Olives: His ultimate victorious return to the Mount of Olives is described in Zechariah That leads to the establishment of the Lords Millennial Kingdom on the Earth. Many experts believe the weapons that will be used at Armageddon are in inventory today. Role and Placement of Ezekiel 38 However, we hold the view which is disputed by reputable Bible scholars that Ezekiel 38 is not

part of Armageddon scenario: In Ezekiel, the invasion comes from the north; Armageddon, from the whole earth; Definite armies from the north Magog ; not all nations of the world; Egypt not involved cf. King of the South in Dan See The Magog Invasion for further study. This article was originally published in the.

Chapter 2 : The Holocaust - HISTORY

The ugly specter of anti-Semitism was on display again last month in Iran. It should send a shudder up and down your spine, and serve as a warning that this disease has not been eradicated and threatens world peace.

In addition, usually a combination of motivations and pressures were in play. For the Holocaust as other periods of history, most scholars are wary of monocausal explanations. Antisemitism and Support for Nazism Cultural explanations focus on values, beliefs, and prejudices, particularly antisemitism of various forms, including Nazi antisemitism. Within Nazi Germany, everyone did not support Nazism or the Nazi regime to the same degree and to the extent suggested by iconic photographs and film footage of Nazi-staged spectacles. Enough enthusiasts could always be found to stage enormous public shows of support such as the annual Nazi Party rallies. On a day to day basis, the Nazi regime only needed most people to obey the law, try to stay out of trouble, and promote their own interests as best they could under the current circumstances. Nazi propaganda and changing norms and laws did erode older, pre-Nazi ties to Christian teachings or leftist, anti-Nazi political beliefs, especially in the absence of the public expression of opposing views under the Nazi dictatorship. Still, those who espoused extreme antisemitic views remained a minority. Thus the limited support of ordinary Germans for the national boycott of Jewish businesses of April 1, , for example, and the shocked response of many Germans to the unprecedented violence and destruction of the Kristallnacht pogroms of November 9-10, In German-occupied countries, the need to prove loyalty to new German masters, particularly if one had previously cooperated with Soviet occupiers, provided many individuals with powerful motivation to collaborate. Toward the end of the war, as German defeat seemed imminent, opportunism and the drive for self-preservation again rose to the fore: Generally, the course of the war proved critical in shaping the choices of individuals at all levels of German and European societies: Social-Psychological Explanations Let us look more fully at some of these explanations already alluded to earlier in the discussion. Certainly fear for the consequences—“if not physical harm than sanctions of some other kind”—rose to the fore in various situations and at certain times—“say, in the early months of Nazi rule characterized by terror to eliminate political opposition and during the war and occupation, especially in eastern Europe directly ruled by the Germans. Focusing too much on fear, however, obscures and oversimplifies the more complicated dynamic behind the choices ordinary people made with regard to the persecution, then killing of Jews. Overemphasizing fear belies the range of complicit behaviors discussed above. Doing so also ignores the political reality that even within Nazi Germany, leaders were sensitive to public opinion. This was true of ordinary people who may have had little or only superficial relations with individual Jews and of the traditional elites with more influence—“Church, university, military, and business leaders. From the beginning of Nazi rule and the fateful years leading up to them, these leaders failed to speak out against hateful speech, violence, and after , legal measures that progressively stripped German Jews of their rights. For example, mindful of popular opinion, German authorities did not harm or punish the non-Jewish wives of Jewish men when the women publicly protested the pending deportation of their loved ones in Berlin on February 27, That protests in these two cases aimed at specific actions or policies and not the regime itself was significant. Sophie Scholl, Hans Scholl, Christian Probst, and other members of the resistance group were tried and executed as traitors to the Fatherland. In his book *Ordinary Men*, Christopher Browning analyzes the factors that turned most men of one police battalion into first-time, then hardened killers. A similar dynamic may have been at play for the less studied eastern European collaborators who participated in the German-led shootings; only a few opted out of the face-to-face killing of men, women, and children to serve as guards or in other capacities. Gain came in many forms and dimensions. The systematic plunder of Jewish assets in Germany and German-occupied Europe by agents of the Nazi regime has been well documented. It included businesses bought at less than fair market or reduced competition because of the liquidation of Jewish-owned businesses. In Nazi Germany the property taken from the Jews following their deportation was distributed through public auctions, the proceeds of which accrued to state finance offices. Goods could then be sold off little by little in exchange for food. This strategy became a matter of

life-and-death for Jews, but the temptations for their helpers were great. The war demoralized people who were decent and honest all their lives, and now without any scruples they appropriated for themselves Jewish property. In the majority of cases, almost 95 percent, they did not return either possessions or goods, excusing themselves that this was done by the Germans through theft, etc. In Lithuania, locals who participated in mass shootings got the first cut of property, usually housing, then auctioned off household belongings to the wider population, in this way spreading complicity. The Germans sensed very well that among the Poles not everyone is against the extermination of the Jews and, moreover, that among them are such who will aid in this as the price of inheriting the remainder of Jewish belongings. However, it is not in order to assure us that we can count on her in time of need. Since we are made to feel that for her we are as living corpses, who is worthy of inheriting our things, especially bedding? Probably only she, who has known us for so many years and is fond of us. She leaves very surprised and angry because in order not to be bothered by her anymore, we gave her a black skirt. Some, taking them, promise that in the worst of situations they will receive and hide the owners. Examples of this abound not only in communities in Germany where police became distressed at the number of denunciations, often false, provided by those with ulterior motives revenge as well as the desire to reduce business competition, but elsewhere in Europe. Members of police, paramilitary, or military unit are trained to follow established chains of command. The shocks were not real but the subjects did not know that. In their opinion, this provides stronger motivation than coercion. In Nazi Germany, the socialization, including political indoctrination, of young people became a priority for the regime, reflected in the Nazification of education and as of , compulsory membership in Hitler Youth. Their attitudes and beliefs are in flux, which may make it even harder, even if one has moral qualms, to resist the lead of othersâ€™ dominant peers or older authority figures. Young people may have a greater tendency to act on impulse or get caught up in the moment. Their limited knowledge and life experiences can affect their perspective and judgment in a way that when they are older and wiser, may stir regret. Such developmental issues made youth particularly vulnerable to exploitation by the Nazis and their collaborators. Thus one reason for the necessity of change is self-protection. If they view the victims as good human beings, bystanders will experience empathy. As the victims suffer, so will they suffer. To protect ourselves, we distance ourselves from victims. Passive bystanders will also further devalue victims, beyond the cultural devaluation that characterizes their society, and come to see them as deserving their fate. Bystanders can avoid turning against the victims if they identify with the victims, if they help them or resist the system that harms them, if they see the perpetrators as responsible and turn against them. However, without support from likeminded others, this is extremely difficult. Not all such helpers were saint-like individuals motivated by altruistic or religious feelings. For some poor people simply getting the money the victims provided for their room and board became a form of survival during hard times and was worth the risk taken. Some farmers in countries such as France and Netherlands who faced labor shortages welcomed the placement by resistance groups of Jewish teens who could work for them in exchange for room and board. Some were able to overlook them to serve their own material interests or as part of anti-Nazi resistance efforts. Also, that all forms of antisemitism were not alike bears repeating: Jews with the best chance of surviving were those who had contacts who were not Jewish.

It will spark a mass-ethnic violence as horrific as the Holocaust in America. This enemy is a terrorist, a murderer, a heckler all in one, and it is no one else but the American people itself. In the wake of horrific acts of violence in San Bernardino and Orlando, people were quick to put the blame on America's Muslims.

The treaty made Germany take full responsibility for the war, reduced the extent of German territory, severely limited the size and placement of their armed forces, and forced Germany to pay the allied powers reparations. These restrictions not only increased social unrest but, combined with the start of the Great Depression, collapsed the German economy as inflation rose alongside unemployment. In the German parliament, the Nazi party, led by Adolf Hitler, gained popularity. The number of seats Nazis controlled in the parliament rose from 12 in 1932 to 90 in 1933, making them the largest political party. The strong showing guaranteed the Nazi party would need to be part of any political coalition. Shortly after Hitler came to power, the Reichstag building, seat of the German parliament, burnt down. Communists were blamed for setting the fire and Hindenburg declared a state of emergency, passing the Reichstag Fire Decree that suspended basic rights like trial by jury. The German Communist Party was suspended and over 4,000 members were detained without trial. From this moment on, the Nazi regime adopted hundreds of laws restricting the rights and liberties of the Jewish people. The government defined a Jewish person as someone with three or four Jewish grandparents, not someone who had religious convictions. Over those two nights, hundreds and possibly thousands of synagogues were burned; more than 7,000 Jewish-owned businesses were looted and destroyed, and almost 30,000 Jews were killed during the violence. Some 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and transported to concentration camps. Grynszpan did not attempt to escape and claimed that the assassination was motivated by the persecution of the Jewish people. Although the events of November 9th and 10th were reported to be a spontaneous outburst of violence among the German people, they were actually closely organized by the Nazis. After this night, the German government supported dozens of laws and decrees that took away Jews property and livelihood. By the end of the year, Jews were prohibited from attending school. Those able to flee the country did. In the year after Kristallnacht, more than 100,000 Jews left Germany as the situation deteriorated. On June 22, 1941, France signed an armistice with Germany, which divided France between the German-occupied territory in the north and the Vichy regime in the south. Morgan Hauser via Wikimedia In the first half of 1941, after conquering Yugoslavia and Greece, Germany broke off its alliance with the Soviet Union and launched an invasion of the Soviet Union known as Operation Barbarossa. To the Nazi regime, there would have been no doubt that a war against Bolshevism was implicitly a war against the Jewish population of the Soviet Union. Beginning with the British air raids on Cologne in May of 1942, the Allies launched a strategic bombing campaign that would target cities and industrial plants across the Reich for the next three years. In the summer of 1942, Germany and its allies focused on the Soviet Union unsuccessfully. The Soviet Union gained the dominant role, which it would maintain for the rest of the war. In December the Germans started an unsuccessful counterattack in Belgium and northern France, known as the Battle of the Bulge. Continuing to gain momentum, the Soviets began an offensive in January 1945, liberating western Poland and then forcing Hungary to surrender. When the Soviets began advancing towards the Reich Chancellery, Hitler committed suicide on April 30, 1945. No ghettos were ever established within the borders of Germany and most were only meant as a temporary means of isolating Jews from the German population until they could be moved elsewhere. It was not until Kristallnacht that the prisoners became primarily Jewish. Once Germany took over Poland in 1939, it created forced-labor camps. Thousands of prisoners died from working conditions, exhaustion, and starvation. After the outbreak of World War II, the number of concentration camps increased exponentially. The number of prisoners of war camps also rose, but after the first years of the war most were converted into concentration camps. Nazis forcibly relocated Jews from ghettos to concentration camps. Treatment inside the concentration camps were horrible. Prisoners were given tiny rations of food and forced into physical labor. They often slept more than three to a bed without pillows or blankets, even in the winter months. In many concentration camps, Nazi doctors conducted medical experiments on prisoners against their will, in many cases killing the prisoners in the process. Their job was to decide the most efficient way to

exterminate the Jews. They decided that Jews would be sent to extermination camps where they would be sent to showers. But instead of water coming out of the faucet, they faced their death when poisonous Zyklon-B gas leaked through the showerheads to suffocate them. The first such extermination camps were introduced during Operation Reinhardt, which targeted the elimination of the Jewish people within the General Government of Occupied Poland and Ukraine. After the first killing center open at Chelmno, the use of these extermination tactics spread quickly. At the height of deportations, the Birkenau killing center murdered 6, Jews a day. While there were only 23 main camps between to , the Nazi regime established some 20, other camps used for forced labor, transit or temporary internment. Newspapers in the United States had reported on the oppression of the Jews in Germany during the war. In , many newspapers were writing details of the Holocaust, but these stories were short and were not widely read. The reports were unconfirmed and sometimes denied by the United States government. In , Josiah DuBois, Jr. The International Response Despite, wide reporting of Holocaust atrocities including gas chambers, many prominent analysts doubted the authenticity of these reports. Although the plan was adopted by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill poor information-sharing between parts of the British government led the order to be ignored and the plan dropped. Such calculations were hardly the low point of Allied Responses. Where would I put them? Some were the work of prominent individuals like Raoul Wallenberg and Carl Lutz who worked largely alone while other operations were far more complex. A network of Catholic bishops and clergymen organized local protests and shelter campaigns throughout much of Europe that are today estimated to have saved , lives. Danish fishermen clandestinely ferried more than 7, Jews into neutral Sweden while the French town of Chambon-sur-Lignon sheltered between 3, and 5, refugees. Louis On May 19th, , the S. Louis sailed from Hamburg, Germany to Havana, Cuba with passengers; almost all of them were Jews escaping with their lives. Most of the passengers had applied for U. State Department in Washington, the U. Louis were aware that they might not be able to enter Cuba, but the passengers were never told. But, a week before the ship left, Cuban President Federico Laredo Bru published a decree that overturned all recent landing certificates. Most of the passengers were not prepared for the bureaucratic mess they were about to face in Cuba. Louis arrived in Havana harbor on May 27th. Of the passengers on board, only 28 passengers were allowed into Cuba. This story gained a lot of publicity; it was spread throughout Europe and the United States. The United States government decided not to take the steps to permit the passengers into the country. Louis left Cuba for Europe. Louis sailed so close to Florida that they could see the lights of Miami. Great Britain took , the Netherlands admitted ; Belgium took , and passengers found temporary refuge in France. Just over half survived the Holocaust. Twelve leading Nazi officials were sentenced to death for the crimes they had committed, while three received life sentences in prison, and four had prison terms for up to twenty years. Three defendants were acquitted. However, many of the Nazis who perpetrated the Holocaust were never tried or punished, including Hitler who had committed suicide. Since then, the international community has continued and improved accountability through forums such as the International Criminal Court, and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Never Again After the Nuremberg war crimes trials finished, the United States spearheaded the effort to end genocide and become a champion for the prevention of crimes against humanity. Presidents of the U. To fill this void, civil society organizations such as United to End Genocide have taken up the pledge and advocate for the international responsibility to prevent mass atrocities like genocide.

Chapter 4 : Preventing the Next Holocaust | Elan Kawesch | The Blogs

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The Holocaust also called Ha-Shoah in Hebrew refers to the period from January 30, - when Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany - to May 8, , when the war in Europe officially ended. During this time, Jews in Europe were subjected to progressively harsher persecution that ultimately led to the murder of 6,, Jews 1. These deaths represented two-thirds of European Jewry and one-third of all world Jewry. Background After its defeat in World War I, Germany was humiliated by the Versailles Treaty, which reduced its prewar territory, drastically reduced its armed forces, demanded the recognition of its guilt for the war, and stipulated it pay reparations to the allied powers. With the German Empire destroyed, a new parliamentary government called the Weimar Republic was formed. The republic suffered from economic instability, which grew worse during the worldwide depression after the New York stock market crash in . Massive inflation followed by very high unemployment heightened existing class and political differences and began to undermine the government. The Nazi Party had taken advantage of the political unrest in Germany to gain an electoral foothold. At the bottom of the front page of each issue, in bold letters, the paper proclaimed, "The Jews are our misfortune! The influence of the newspaper was far-reaching: Soon after he became chancellor, Hitler called for new elections in an effort to get full control of the Reichstag, the German parliament, for the Nazis. The Nazis used the government apparatus to terrorize the other parties. They arrested their leaders and banned their political meetings. Then, in the midst of the election campaign, on February 27, , the Reichstag building burned. A Dutchman named Marinus van der Lubbe was arrested for the crime, and he swore he had acted alone. Although many suspected the Nazis were ultimately responsible for the act, the Nazis managed to blame the Communists, thus turning more votes their way. The fire signaled the demise of German democracy. On the next day, the government, under the pretense of controlling the Communists, abolished individual rights and protections: When the elections were held on March 5, the Nazis received nearly 44 percent of the vote, and with 8 percent offered by the Conservatives, won a majority in the government. The Nazis moved swiftly to consolidate their power into a dictatorship. On March 23, the Enabling Act was passed. The Nazis marshaled their formidable propaganda machine to silence their critics. They also developed a sophisticated police and military force. The Gestapo Geheime Staatspolizei, Secret State Police , a force recruited from professional police officers, was given complete freedom to arrest anyone after February . With this police infrastructure in place, opponents of the Nazis were terrorized, beaten, or sent to one of the concentration camps the Germans built to incarcerate them. Dachau , just outside of Munich, was the first such camp built for political prisoners. By the end of Hitler was in absolute control of Germany, and his campaign against the Jews in full swing. The Nazis claimed the Jews corrupted pure German culture with their "foreign" and "mongrel" influence. They portrayed the Jews as evil and cowardly, and Germans as hardworking, courageous, and honest. The superior race was the "Aryans," the Germans. The word Aryan, "derived from the study of linguistics, which started in the eighteenth century and at some point determined that the Indo-Germanic also known as Aryan languages were superior in their structures, variety, and vocabulary to the Semitic languages that had evolved in the Near East. Oxford University Press, , p. The Jews Are Isolated from Society The Nazis then combined their racial theories with the evolutionary theories of Charles Darwin to justify their treatment of the Jews. The Germans, as the strongest and fittest, were destined to rule, while the weak and racially adulterated Jews were doomed to extinction. Hitler began to restrict the Jews with legislation and terror, which entailed burning books written by Jews , removing Jews from their professions and public schools, confiscating their businesses and property and excluding them from public events. The most infamous of the anti-Jewish legislation were the Nuremberg Laws , enacted on September 15, . Many Jews attempted to flee Germany, and thousands succeeded by immigrating to such countries as Belgium , Czechoslovakia, England , France and Holland. It was much more difficult to get out of Europe. Even if they obtained the necessary documents, they often had to wait months or years before leaving. Many families out of desperation sent their children first. In July , representatives of 32

countries met in the French town of Evian to discuss the refugee and immigration problems created by the Nazis in Germany. Nothing substantial was done or decided at the Evian Conference, and it became apparent to Hitler that no one wanted the Jews and that he would not meet resistance in instituting his Jewish policies. By the autumn of 1938, Europe was in effect sealed to most legal emigration. The Jews were trapped. On November 9, 1938, the attacks on the Jews became violent. Hershel Grynszpan, a year-old Jewish boy distraught at the deportation of his family, shot Ernst vom Rath, the third secretary in the German Embassy in Paris, who died on November 9. Nazi hooligans used this assassination as the pretext for instigating a night of destruction that is now known as Kristallnacht the night of broken glass. They looted and destroyed Jewish homes and businesses and burned synagogues. Many Jews were beaten and killed; 30,000 Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps. Soon after, in 1939, the Nazis began establishing ghettos for the Jews of Poland. More than 10 percent of the Polish population was Jewish, numbering about three million. Jews were forcibly deported from their homes to live in crowded ghettos, isolated from the rest of society. This concentration of the Jewish population later aided the Nazis in their deportation of the Jews to the death camps. The ghettos lacked the necessary food, water, space, and sanitary facilities required by so many people living within their constricted boundaries. Many died of deprivation and starvation. Each group contained several commando units. The Einsatzgruppen gathered Jews town by town, marched them to huge pits dug earlier, stripped them, lined them up, and shot them with automatic weapons. The dead and dying would fall into the pits to be buried in mass graves. In the infamous Babi Yar massacre, near Kiev, 30,000 Jews were killed in two days. In addition to their operations in the Soviet Union, the Einsatzgruppen conducted mass murder in eastern Poland, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia. It is estimated that by the end of 1941, the Einsatzgruppen had murdered more than 1. On January 20, 1942, several top officials of the German government met to officially coordinate the military and civilian administrative branches of the Nazi system to organize a system of mass murder of the Jews. This meeting, called the Wannsee Conference, "marked the beginning of the full-scale, comprehensive extermination operation [of the Jews] and laid the foundations for its organization, which started immediately after the conference ended" Yahil, *The Holocaust*, p. While the Nazis murdered other national and ethnic groups, such as a number of Soviet prisoners of war, Polish intellectuals, and gypsies, only the Jews were marked for systematic and total annihilation. Jews were singled out for "Special Treatment" Sonderbehandlung, which meant that Jewish men, women and children were to be methodically killed with poisonous gas. In the exacting records kept at the Auschwitz death camp, the cause of death of Jews who had been gassed was indicated by "SB," the first letters of the two words that form the German term for "Special Treatment. All were located near railway lines so that Jews could be easily transported daily. A vast system of camps called Lagersystem supported the death camps. The purpose of these camps varied: Some camps combined all of these functions or a few of them. All the camps were intolerably brutal. In nearly every country overrun by the Nazis, the Jews were forced to wear badges marking them as Jews, they were rounded up into ghettos or concentration camps and then gradually transported to the killing centers. The death camps were essentially factories for murdering Jews. The Germans shipped thousands of Jews to them each day. Within a few hours of their arrival, the Jews had been stripped of their possessions and valuables, gassed to death, and their bodies burned in specially designed crematoriums. Many healthy, young strong Jews were not killed immediately. These people, imprisoned in concentration and labor camps, were forced to work in German munitions and other factories, such as I. Farben and Krupps, and wherever the Nazis needed laborers. They were worked from dawn until dark without adequate food and shelter. Thousands perished, literally worked to death by the Germans and their collaborators. The Germans forced the starving and sick Jews to walk hundreds of miles. Most died or were shot along the way. About a quarter of a million Jews died on the death marches. Jewish resistance did occur, however, in several forms. Staying alive, clean, and observing Jewish religious traditions constituted resistance under the dehumanizing conditions imposed by the Nazis. Other forms of resistance involved escape attempts from the ghettos and camps. Many who succeeded in escaping the ghettos lived in the forests and mountains in family camps and in fighting partisan units. Once free, though, the Jews had to contend with local residents and partisan groups who were often openly hostile. Jews also staged armed revolts in the ghettos of Vilna, Bialystok, Bedzin-Sosnowiec, Krakow, and Warsaw.

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising was the largest ghetto revolt. Massive deportations or Aktions had been held in the ghetto from July to September, emptying the ghetto of the majority of Jews imprisoned there. When the Germans entered the ghetto again in January to remove several thousand more, small unorganized groups of Jews attacked them. After four days, the Germans withdrew from the ghetto, having deported far fewer people than they had intended. The Nazis reentered the ghetto on April 19, the eve of Passover, to evacuate the remaining Jews and close the ghetto. The Jews, using homemade bombs and stolen or bartered weapons, resisted and withstood the Germans for 27 days. They fought from bunkers and sewers and evaded capture until the Germans burned the ghetto building by building. By May 16 the ghetto was in ruins and the uprising crushed. Jews also revolted in the death camps of Sobibor, Treblinka and Auschwitz. All of these acts of resistance were largely unsuccessful in the face of the superior German forces, but they were very important spiritually, giving the Jews hope that one day the Nazis would be defeated.

Chapter 5 : Wiles: 'The Next Holocaust [Victims] Are American Christians | Right Wing Watch

Holocaust survivors and their liberators are dying off. New generations are less concerned with the horrors Hitler inflicted, less aware of how those horrors were permitted to blight the world. To the young, the Holocaust was an anomaly.

German-occupied Europe , Concentration and extermination camps, and ghettos. Territories of the Axis Powers are in olive green. The logistics of the mass murder turned the country into what Michael Berenbaum called "a genocidal state". Bureaucrats identified who was a Jew, confiscated property, and scheduled trains that deported Jews. Companies fired Jews and later employed them as slave labour. Universities dismissed Jewish faculty and students. German pharmaceutical companies tested drugs on camp prisoners; other companies built the crematoria. The killings were systematically conducted in virtually all areas of occupied Europe – more than 20 occupied countries. Hundreds of thousands more died in the rest of Europe. They included the head of the German Red Cross, tenured professors, clinic directors, and biomedical researchers. Some dealt with sterilization of men and women, the treatment of war wounds, ways to counteract chemical weapons, research into new vaccines and drugs, and the survival of harsh conditions. History of the Jews in Germany , Christianity and antisemitism , Martin Luther and antisemitism , Religious antisemitism , and Racial antisemitism Throughout the Middle Ages in Europe, Jews were subjected to antisemitism based on Christian theology, which blamed them for killing Jesus. Even after the Reformation , Catholicism and Lutheranism continued to persecute Jews, accusing them of blood libels and subjecting them to pogroms and expulsions. The movement embraced a pseudo-scientific racism that viewed Jews as a race whose members were locked in mortal combat with the Aryan race for world domination. This did not mean that antisemitism had disappeared; instead it was incorporated into the platforms of several mainstream political parties. Many Germans did not accept that their country had been defeated, which gave birth to the stab-in-the-back myth. Inflaming the anti-Jewish sentiment was the apparent over-representation of Jews in the leadership of communist revolutionary governments in Europe, such as Ernst Toller , head of a short-lived revolutionary government in Bavaria. This perception contributed to the canard of Jewish Bolshevism. Open about his hatred of Jews, he subscribed to the common antisemitic stereotypes. He viewed Marxism as a Jewish doctrine, said he was fighting against " Jewish Marxism ", and believed that Jews had created communism as part of a conspiracy to destroy Germany. Enemies were divided into three groups: The latter two groups were to be sent to concentration camps for "re-education", with the aim of eventual absorption into the Volksgemeinschaft. Jews were not allowed to own farms. Works by Jewish composers, [81] authors, and artists were excluded from publications, performances, and exhibitions. Fellow citizen, that is your money too. The courts reached a decision in 64, of those cases; 56, were in favor of sterilization. In addition there were specialized killing centres, where the deaths were estimated at 20,, according to Georg Renno, the deputy director of Schloss Hartheim , one of the "euthanasia" centers, or ,, according to Frank Zeireis, the commandant of the Mauthausen concentration camp. Eberhard Karl University received 1, bodies from executions between and The neuroscientist Julius Hallervorden received brains from one hospital between and Where they came from and how they came to me was really none of my business. They were put on a flight to Warsaw. The former said that only those of "German or kindred blood" could be citizens. Anyone with three or more Jewish grandparents was classified as a Jew. He was expelled from the Kaiser Wilhelm Society and the Prussian Academy of Sciences , and his citizenship was revoked. Austrian Nazis broke into Jewish shops, stole from Jewish homes and businesses, and forced Jews to perform humiliating acts such as scrubbing the streets or cleaning toilets. About , Austrian Jews had left the country by May , including Sigmund Freud and his family. Kristallnacht The synagogue in Siegen burning, 10 November

Chapter 6 : The Next Holocaust

Accounts of the Holocaust is a clever play on words and a new way to relate meaningful and real stories of the Holocaust using the ubiquitous platform, Facebook/05/ PM EST.

But the trend is ominous: At a Muslim school in Ottawa, two teachers praise a student for writing a story in which fantasy "heroes" assassinate an Israeli official and bomb Israeli soldiers. The eight-page story, whose cover features a star of David in flames, was showcased for days in a school display before "shocked" school administrators noticed it. Then Livingstone likens a Jewish reporter to a Nazi concentration-camp guard. In alone, 77 violent anti-Semitic attacks are recorded in Britain, along with several hundred acts of anti-Semitic vandalism and verbal assaults. In France, acts of violence and vandalism against Jews double in the course of a year. Perpetrators appear to come from both the Arab-Muslim population and the "far right. Even in peaceful, tolerant Switzerland in March , a synagogue is badly damaged and a Jewish-owned clothing store destroyed -- both on the same night, both by arsonists. The problem is not only in Europe or Canada: The Medium, an entertainment weekly published at Rutgers University in New Jersey "celebrates" Holocaust Remembrance Week with a full-page cover cartoon of a frightened, bearded man sitting on the edge of an open-doored oven. Three throws for one dollar. Instead, she is served ham. It is part of a pattern of ostracism by guards and inmates, who try to hinder her practice of Judaism. At the University of California at Irvine, officials are silent when a Holocaust exhibit created by Jewish students is vandalized. Expect the prejudice and violence against us to get worse as the decades roll ominously forward. The reasons are legion. And many ominous signs are screaming for our attention -- right here, right now, in the "civilized" world. Holocaust survivors and their liberators are dying off. New generations are less concerned with the horrors Hitler inflicted, less aware of how those horrors were permitted to blight the world. To the young, the Holocaust was an anomaly. A freakish, once-in-history event. The twenty-first century has also already been called "The Muslim Century. Muslim countries are often crowded with unemployed or underemployed young men -- exactly the demographic most prone to violence. These cultures also tend to encourage a culture of righteousness and vengeance against all perceived enemies -- of which we Jews are Enemy Number One. The resulting cultural disruptions also tend to create climates of violence, hatred, and fatal misunderstanding. The United States once seemed isolated from all this. Then we received an explosive wake-up call on September 11, , when we realized that Americans, too, can be the target of rage from abroad. They were attacking Jews. Or rather, they were attacking what they perceived to be a "Jewish" economic system and "Jewish" foreign policy. Many people -- even a few "respectable" voices in the media have gone so far as to hint that Jews or Israel masterminded the September 11 destruction in some devious attempt to further gain sympathy and manipulate U. So the attacks have, in a multitude of ways, been publicly aimed at Jewish people. Instead of condemning this violent hatred, however, many more Americans -- especially on always-influential college campuses -- have joined in the hate-fest. More and more intellectuals and members of the media condemn Israel for its treatment of the Palestinians. Questioning the motives of any government is politically fair game, and is often necessary. Israel should have no special exemption from criticism. But the dirty little secret is that many of the critics of the nation of Israel use that political stance as a publicly acceptable way of venting dislike for the Jewish people -- as shown by the example of the University of California at Irvine officials, who apparently considered bigotry against Muslim students to be a problem but bigotry against Jewish students to be acceptable. In this country, some of the apparent bigotry may seem merely distasteful rather than violently harmful. The Rutgers University student publication, The Medium, features a lot of offensive humor, aimed in many directions. Their cartoon inviting readers to "knock a Jew into the oven" appeared to be drawn by someone with ninth-grade skills and sixth-grade mentality. And the editors of the publication later apologized for their grotesquerie. But as far as we heard, those supposedly educated university students never apologized for earlier writing "Die, Jew, Die! First is the widespread worship of the state -- the belief that central government knows best and that government must and can solve all problems. In our country, we see galloping growth, not only in the federal budget, but in central control. A nationalist government now inserts

itself into everything from the schooling of our children to decisions about our health. Even our churches and synagogues are beginning to turn to the state for handouts to fund their traditional social programs and obligating themselves and their members to the inevitable control that goes with government funding. Along with state-worship comes an inevitable surrender of personal morality. This is a surrender of a very deep part of the individual soul to the state -- and an extremely dangerous trend. Our children are taught what to think, not how to think. Therefore they lack the ability to recognize propaganda and the ability to think independently and critically about what political and cultural leaders tell them. As in Nazi Germany, medicine -- which ought to support the health and well-being of individuals -- is now being turned into the pragmatic "socio-scientific" discipline that too often serves death, not life. Although the document pays lip service to patient and family wishes, its real spirit is contained in passages like these: Society must establish the limits and the priorities for life-sustaining treatment options. Cost effectiveness should be used whenever feasible to inform decisions about appropriate life-prolonging treatments. In other words, health care is to be rationed, and decisions on who receives care are not to be based on the needs, means, or wishes of the individual, but are to be by and for "society. Nazi doctors were so eager to "purify" the human race and eliminate the "unfit" that their enthusiasm for sterilization and euthanasia actually had to be curbed by Nazi officials! And do you know where the Nazis first learned their concepts of "superior" races and elimination of the "unfit"? From American and British "scientific" social reformers of the early twentieth century. State worship and a culture of death are dangerous to everyone. But especially to members of minority groups -- whether they be Jews, disabled people, or someday Christians. Once people with vast, uncurbed power decide that the "good of society" requires ostracizing or eliminating any group, death will reign. All the more reason to target Jews. When institutions want to turn to killing, Jews will often stand in the way. One spark is all it will take to ignite violence. When I speak of growing anti-Semitism, I must make one thing very clear. Free speech -- including opinions against my own people -- is a right. The most vile opinion in the world is, and should be, an opinion vigilantly protected by the Bill of Rights. We have no right to censor our enemies -- nor should we ever claim such a right. But if they commit, or actively threaten, violence against us, we have every right to defend ourselves, our families and our institutions. All Jews and for that matter all individuals of conscience should be prepared and proficient at self defense. Anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry should never be censored. But if we are to survive as civilized beings, such vileness must be swept away through a vast change of hearts and minds. Otherwise, the potential consequences are nearly all dire. Two thousand years of history warn us to beware of exactly this. Add the ever-present, and growing contingent of other anti-Semites. Let them make a strategic alliance with some other power-craving faction -- and Jews can be crushed. He made it clear to his worldwide flock that anti-Semitism was a terrible evil and a danger to all. What if a future pope keeps silent in the face of anti-Semitism? Or even subtly encourages it? In the name of "patriotism," "freedom," or "democracy," he tells us that the Jews are subverting all that is wholesome and holy about America. Let just one of these things happen and a new holocaust could ignite. A nation that has forgotten history, a nation that stamps approval on bigotry, a nation in distress, a nation that considers killing the "unfit" a pragmatic public good, is fertile ground for genocide to grow. Jews have been a traditional target. Given the growing hatred, we probably will be again. But history teaches that no group is exempt. Christians have also been targets -- and may be at some future date, if Muslim extremists or dogmatic atheist rulers get their way. My point is that the attitudes and actions that preceded the Nazi Holocaust are growing again. We see the danger signs everywhere -- from the examples given at the top of this article to the bizarre prison death of Jewish Defense League leader Irv Rubin in -- a death that was officially ruled a suicide, but shows earmarks of murder and cover-up. More "polite" versions of anti-Semitism are becoming acceptable, even trendy, among opinion-makers. If even just a handful of these "leaders" decide to move the masses -- well, again history shows us what a propagandized, stirred-up, follow-the-leader population will do. If the new holocaust strikes, it might seem almost an accident. The citizens of America or Europe may look around afterward and ask each other, "How did that happen? What did we do? But by then it will be too late. The time to address prejudice and prevent genocidal violence is now. Jews who fail to appreciate this historical reality are dangerously naive. We must be prepared to defend ourselves, whether against the casual anti-Semitic violence of the streets or future mass

violence from a government gone mad. Our own safety, and the safety of our families, institutions, and communities, ultimately depends on us. The following are just a few:

Chapter 7 : Causes and Motivations – United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Slipping on cobblestones in a downpour, I toured the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp with basketball Hall-of-Famer Ray Allen last year. It was the athlete's first trip to Poland; he was there to.

The opinions, facts and any media content in them are presented solely by the authors, and neither The Times of Israel nor its partners assume any responsibility for them. Please contact us in case of abuse. In case of abuse, Report this post. This is a living lesson for us as a people. Perhaps most shocking of all, two-thirds of Millennials have not heard of the most infamous site of genocide arguably in the world, Auschwitz-Birkenau, where one million Jews were gassed and their bodies cremated. What can we do? So long as extremist ideologies hold sway, these communities will be at risk. Additionally, we were learning that many local survivors were living in less than ideal situations, oftentimes isolated from the community and in need of friendship. Keeping in mind those factors, our project aims to a disseminate accounts of the Holocaust on campus through a variety of channels, b provide companionship and support to local Holocaust survivors in need, and c engage students of any and all backgrounds in serving as agents of memory. To that end, we are fortunate to have organized several student missions to Europe since , including Poland, Germany, and the Netherlands. Together, Restoring their Names fellows of diverse backgrounds worked together to clean up an abandoned Synagogue in Poland. They are half-Jewish, and of no religion. They are Russian and Taiwanese and Indian. Each of these students brings a unique perspective to our shared mission. However, not everyone can have that experience, and not everyone wants to. In Boston, our fellows have helped teach thousands of other students about the Holocaust. In April, we worked with local campuses to up their game around Holocaust education tied to Yom HaShoah, the annual commemoration. At BU, no fewer than seven survivors and second generation speakers held discussions in dorms and other locations on campus, engaging far more students of diverse backgrounds than a more centralized ceremony inside Hillel would likely draw. It is essential that Holocaust education take place every day of the year, and not be limited to annual, hour-long gatherings. As such, we have helped one-dozen Boston campuses bring compelling programming year-round, ranging from Nazi-hunter Efraim Zuroff to the screening of several new Holocaust films. In June, our fellows will volunteer at a large event set for the New England Holocaust Memorial, which was vandalized twice last year. As one would expect from a project led by Millennials, we have put a lot of time and creativity into social media. Tens of thousands of people have engaged with our content, many of whom would not have the Holocaust in their feed were it not for our project. Outside of the Hollandsche Schouwburg in Amsterdam, Together, Restoring their Names fellows held the photographs of Dutch children who died in the Holocaust. Our memory work and interaction with the history keeps it alive, and has the potential to prevent it from happening again.

Chapter 8 : The Holocaust - United to End Genocide

The word "Holocaust," from the Greek words "holos" (whole) and "kaustos" (burned), was historically used to describe a sacrificial offering burned on an altar. Since , the word has.

Nazi anti-Semitism and the origins of the Holocaust Even before the Nazis came to power in Germany in , they had made no secret of their anti-Semitism. Nazi anti-Semitism was rooted in religious anti-Semitism and enhanced by political anti-Semitism. To this the Nazis added a further dimension: Nazi racial ideology characterized the Jews as Untermenschen German: The Nazis portrayed the Jews as a race and not as a religious group. Religious anti-Semitism could be resolved by conversion, political anti-Semitism by expulsion. Ultimately, the logic of Nazi racial anti-Semitism led to annihilation. Hitler opposed Jews for the values they brought into the world. Social justice and compassionate assistance to the weak stood in the way of what he perceived as the natural order, in which the powerful exercise unrestrained power. When Hitler came to power legally on January 30, , as the head of a coalition government, his first objective was to consolidate power and to eliminate political opposition. The assault against the Jews began on April 1 with a boycott of Jewish businesses. A week later the Nazis dismissed Jews from the civil service, and by the end of the month the participation of Jews in German schools was restricted by a quota. On May 10 thousands of Nazi students, together with many professors, stormed university libraries and bookstores in 30 cities throughout Germany to remove tens of thousands of books written by non- Aryans and those opposed to Nazi ideology. As discrimination against Jews increased, German law required a legal definition of a Jew and an Aryan. Jews were reduced to subjects of the state. That task was left to the bureaucracy. Two basic categories were established in November: Thus, the definition of a Jew was primarily based not on the identity an individual affirmed or the religion he or she practiced but on his or her ancestry. Categorization was the first stage of destruction. For those Jews who felt themselves fully German and who had patriotically fought in World War I , the Nazification of German society was especially painful. Religious philosopher Martin Buber led an effort at Jewish adult education , preparing the community for the long journey ahead. By the late s there was a desperate search for countries of refuge. Those who could obtain visas and qualify under stringent quotas emigrated to the United States. Many went to Palestine , where the small Jewish community was willing to receive refugees. Still others sought refuge in neighbouring European countries. Most countries, however, were unwilling to receive large numbers of refugees. Responding to domestic pressures to act on behalf of Jewish refugees, U. In his invitation to government leaders, Roosevelt specified that they would not have to change laws or spend government funds; only philanthropic funds would be used for resettlement. Britain was assured that Palestine would not be on the agenda. The result was that little was attempted and less accomplished. Over the next 48 hours rioters burned or damaged more than 1, synagogues and ransacked and broke the windows of more than 7, businesses. Some 30, Jewish men between the ages of 16 and 60 were arrested and sent to concentration camps. Police stood by as the violenceâ€”often the action of neighbours, not strangersâ€”occurred. The pogrom was given a quaint name: In its aftermath, Jews lost the illusion that they had a future in Germany. Pedestrians viewing a Jewish store in Berlin damaged during Kristallnacht, November 10, The Jewish community was fined one billion Reichsmarks. Moreover, Jews were made responsible for cleaning up the damage. German Jews, but not foreign Jews, were barred from collecting insurance. In addition, Jews were soon denied entry to theatres , forced to travel in separate compartments on trains, and excluded from German schools. These new restrictions were added to earlier prohibitions, such as those barring Jews from earning university degrees, from owning businesses, or from practicing law or medicine in the service of non-Jews. Political dissidents, trade unionists, and Social Democrats were among the first to be arrested and incarcerated in concentration camps. Under the Weimar government, centuries-old prohibitions against homosexuality had been overlooked, but this tolerance ended violently when the SA Storm Troopers began raiding gay bars in Homosexual intent became just cause for prosecution. The Nazis arrested German and Austrian male homosexualsâ€”there was no systematic persecution of lesbiansâ€”and interned them in concentration camps, where they were forced to wear special yellow armbands and later pink

triangles. The goal of persecuting male homosexuals was either for reeducation—what might now be called conversion therapy—or punishment. They could be released from concentration camps if they signed a document renouncing their faith and promising not to proselytize. Few availed themselves of that option, preferring martyrdom to apostasy. Although their victimization was less systematic, it included forced sterilization and, often, internment in concentration camps. The Nazis also singled out the Roma and Sinti, pejoratively known as Gypsies. They were the only other group that the Nazis systematically killed in gas chambers alongside the Jews. For the Roma and Sinti, too, racial pollution and their depiction as asocials was the justification for their persecution and murder. Roma prisoners Roll call of Roma prisoners at the Dachau concentration camp in Germany. The murder of the disabled was the training ground for key personnel who were to later staff the death camps of Aktion Reinhard. The German public protested these murders. Following the invasion of Poland, German occupation policy especially targeted the Jews but also brutalized non-Jewish Poles. In pursuit of lebensraum, Germany sought systematically to destroy Polish society and nationhood. Dokumentationsarchiv des Oesterreichischen Widerstandes, courtesy of USHMM Photo Archives German expansion and the formation of ghettos Paradoxically, at the same time that Germany tried to rid itself of its Jews via forced emigration, its territorial expansions kept bringing more Jews under its control. When the division of Poland between Germany and the Soviet Union was complete, more than two million more Jews had come under German control. For a time, the Nazis considered shipping the Jews to the island of Madagascar, off the southeast coast of Africa, but discarded the plan as impractical; the Nazis had not prevailed in the Battle of Britain, the seas had become a war zone, and the resources required for such a massive deportation were scarce. Disease, malnutrition, hunger, and poverty took their toll even before the first bullet was fired. For the Jews, ghetto life was the situation under which they thought they would be forced to live until the end of the war. They aimed to make life bearable, even under the most trying circumstances. When the Nazis prohibited schools, they opened clandestine schools. When the Nazis banned religious life, it persisted in hiding. The Jews used humour as a means of defiance, so too song. They resorted to arms only late in the Nazi assault. In either case, when Germany attacked the Soviet Union, its former ally, in June of 1941, the Nazis began the systematic killing of Jews. Their task was to murder Jews, Soviet commissars, and Roma in the areas conquered by the army. Alone or with the help of local police, native anti-Semitic populations, and accompanying Axis troops, the Einsatzgruppen would enter a town, round up their victims, herd them to the outskirts of the town, and shoot them. They killed Jews in family units. Beginning in the summer of 1941, Einsatzgruppen murdered more than 70,000 Jews at Ponary, outside Vilna now Vilnius in Lithuania. When the killing ended in the face of a Soviet counteroffensive, special units returned to dig up the dead and burn their bodies to destroy the evidence of the crimes. It is estimated that the Einsatzgruppen killed more than 1.5 million Jews. Sometimes the mere presence of German troops in the vicinity was sufficient to spur a massacre. One example is what happened in the Polish village of Jedwabne, where neighbours murdered their Jewish neighbours. For years the massacre was blamed on the Germans, though many Poles likely knew that the local population had turned against its own Jews. In the Baltics, where the Germans were greeted as liberators by some segments of the population, the lure of political independence and the desire to erase any collaboration with the previous Soviet occupiers led nationalist bands to murder local Jews. Historians are divided about the motivations of the members of these mobile killing units. American historian Christopher Browning described one such unit, Police Battalion 301, as ordinary men in extraordinary circumstances in which conformity, peer pressure, careerism, obedience to orders, and group solidarity gradually overcame moral inhibitions. Yet both Browning and Goldhagen concurred that none of these killers faced punishment if he asked to be excused. Individuals had a choice whether to participate or not. Almost all chose to become killers. The language of the meeting was clear, but the meeting notes were circumspect: In early 1941 the Nazis built killing centres at Treblinka, Sobibor, and Belzec in occupied Poland. With the killing centres, the process was reversed. The victims were taken by train, often in cattle cars, to their killers. The extermination camps became factories producing corpses, effectively and efficiently, at minimal physical and psychological cost to German personnel. Assisted by Ukrainian and Latvian collaborators and prisoners of war, a few Germans could kill tens of thousands of prisoners each month. At Chelmno, the first of the extermination camps, the Nazis used mobile gas vans.

Elsewhere they built permanent gas chambers linked to the crematoria where bodies were burned. Carbon monoxide was the gas of choice at most camps. Zyklon-B , an especially lethal killing agent, was employed primarily at Auschwitz and later at Majdanek. Auschwitz, perhaps the most notorious and lethal of the concentration camps , was actually three camps in one: Upon arrival, Jewish prisoners faced what was called a Selektion. A German doctor presided over the selection of pregnant women, young children, the elderly, handicapped, sick, and infirm for immediate death in the gas chambers. As necessary, the Germans selected able-bodied prisoners for forced labour in the factories adjacent to Auschwitz, where one German company, IG Farben , invested million Reichsmarks in alone to take advantage of forced labour, a capital investment. The conglomerate presumed that slave labour would be a permanent part of the German economy. Deprived of adequate food, shelter, clothing, and medical care, these prisoners were literally worked to death.

Chapter 9 : NEXT GENERATIONS - HOME

The Holocaust is one of the most notorious acts of genocide in modern history. The many atrocities committed by Nazi Germany before and during World War II destroyed millions of lives and permanently altered the face of Europe. In addition to Jews, the Nazis targeted the Roma, gays, Jehovah's.

Visit Website Did you know? Even in the early 21st century, the legacy of the Holocaust endures. Swiss government and banking institutions have in recent years acknowledged their complicity with the Nazis and established funds to aid Holocaust survivors and other victims of human rights abuses, genocide or other catastrophes. On January 20, 1933, he was named chancellor of Germany. At first, the Nazis reserved their harshest persecution for political opponents such as Communists or Social Democrats. The first official concentration camp opened at Dachau near Munich in March 1933, and many of the first prisoners sent there were Communists. Like the network of concentration camps that followed, becoming the killing grounds of the Holocaust, Dachau was under the control of Heinrich Himmler, head of the elite Nazi guard, the Schutzstaffel SS, and later chief of the German police. In 1933, Jews in Germany numbered around 1.5 million, or only 1 percent of the total German population. Under the Nuremberg Laws of 1935, anyone with three or four Jewish grandparents was considered a Jew, while those with two Jewish grandparents were designated Mischlinge half-breeds. Under the Nuremberg Laws, Jews became routine targets for stigmatization and persecution. From 1933 to 1945, hundreds of thousands of Jews who were able to leave Germany did, while those who remained lived in a constant state of uncertainty and fear. German police soon forced tens of thousands of Polish Jews from their homes and into ghettos, giving their confiscated properties to ethnic Germans non-Jews outside Germany who identified as German, Germans from the Reich or Polish gentiles. Surrounded by high walls and barbed wire, the Jewish ghettos in Poland functioned like captive city-states, governed by Jewish Councils. In addition to widespread unemployment, poverty and hunger, overpopulation made the ghettos breeding grounds for disease such as typhus. Meanwhile, beginning in the fall of 1941, Nazi officials selected around 70,000 Germans institutionalized for mental illness or disabilities to be gassed to death in the so-called Euthanasia Program. After prominent German religious leaders protested, Hitler put an end to the program in August 1941, though killings of the disabled continued in secrecy, and by 1945, people deemed handicapped from all over Europe had been killed. In hindsight, it seems clear that the Euthanasia Program functioned as a pilot for the Holocaust. Beginning in 1942, Jews from all over the continent, as well as hundreds of thousands of European Gypsies, were transported to the Polish ghettos. The German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 marked a new level of brutality in warfare. Mobile killing units called Einsatzgruppen would murder more than 3 million Soviet Jews and others usually by shooting over the course of the German occupation. Since June 1941, experiments with mass killing methods had been ongoing at the concentration camp of Auschwitz, near Krakow. The SS soon placed a huge order for the gas with a German pest-control firm, an ominous indicator of the coming Holocaust. Holocaust Death Camps, Beginning in late 1941, the Germans began mass transports from the ghettos in Poland to the concentration camps, starting with those people viewed as the least useful: The first mass gassings began at the camp of Belzec, near Lublin, on March 17, 1942. Five more mass killing centers were built at camps in occupied Poland, including Chelmno, Sobibor, Treblinka, Majdanek and the largest of all, Auschwitz-Birkenau. From 1942 to 1945, Jews were deported to the camps from all over Europe, including German-controlled territory as well as those countries allied with Germany. The heaviest deportations took place during the summer and fall of 1942, when more than 1 million people were deported from the Warsaw ghetto alone. Though the Nazis tried to keep operation of camps secret, the scale of the killing made this virtually impossible. Eyewitnesses brought reports of Nazi atrocities in Poland to the Allied governments, who were harshly criticized after the war for their failure to respond, or to publicize news of the mass slaughter. This lack of action was likely mostly due to the Allied focus on winning the war at hand, but was also a result of the general incomprehension with which news of the Holocaust was met and the denial and disbelief that such atrocities could be occurring on such a scale. At Auschwitz alone, more than 2 million people were murdered in a process resembling a large-scale industrial operation. A large population of Jewish and non-Jewish

inmates worked in the labor camp there; though only Jews were gassed, thousands of others died of starvation or disease. Nazi Rule Comes to an End, as Holocaust Continues to Claim Lives, By the spring of , German leadership was dissolving amid internal dissent, with Goering and Himmler both seeking to distance themselves from Hitler and take power. The following day, he committed suicide. The last trace of civilization had vanished around and inside us. The work of bestial degradation, begun by the victorious Germans, had been carried to conclusion by the Germans in defeat. Survivors of the camps found it nearly impossible to return home, as in many cases they had lost their families and been denounced by their non-Jewish neighbors. As a result, the late s saw an unprecedented number of refugees, POWs and other displaced populations moving across Europe. In an effort to punish the villains of the Holocaust, the Allies held the Nuremberg Trials of , which brought Nazi atrocities to horrifying light. Increasing pressure on the Allied powers to create a homeland for Jewish survivors of the Holocaust would lead to a mandate for the creation of Israel in