From Exclusion to Genocide

Trace how Nazi antisemitic policies changed over time

SS24.HOS.7c "Assess the main purposes of the Nazi antisemitic laws and policies and explain how they evolved over time.*"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each Nazi action, circle the purpose it served, and number the dated changes in order. Use your marks to trace how the policies escalated.

A Changing Campaign of Persecution

1 In April 1933, Nazi organizers called for a boycott of Jewish-owned businesses in Germany. Uniformed men stood outside shops, trying to scare customers away. That same year, a law pushed many Jews out of government jobs, including teaching in public schools. The Nazis wanted to remove Jews from public life and make it harder for them to earn a living. These actions rested on antisemitism, a false and hateful claim that Jews were a danger to Germany. Boycotts and job bans also tested how much persecution officials could carry out while neighbors, employers, and other institutions watched.

2 In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws changed exclusion into a formal legal status. They took German citizenship from Jews and banned marriages and sexual relationships between Jews and people classified as German or related blood. Nazi officials used ancestry rules, not a person's beliefs, to decide whom the laws targeted. Their goal was to separate Jews from the rest of society and promote a false idea of racial purity. In 1938, Nazi-led attacks during Kristallnacht destroyed synagogues and Jewish businesses, and thousands of Jewish men were sent to concentration camps. The violence showed that legal discrimination could be enforced through terror.

3 After Germany invaded Poland in 1939, Nazi rule spread to millions more Jews. In occupied Poland, German authorities forced many Jews into crowded ghettos, where hunger and disease killed large numbers. After the 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union, mobile German killing units and their collaborators shot Jewish communities. In 1942, Nazi officials coordinated wider deportations to killing centers in occupied Poland, where Jews were murdered on a vast scale. Exclusion and economic damage had become systematic genocide, the planned destruction of a people. The shift was not automatic: leaders made choices, and war gave them control over more people and territory.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the 1933 boycott and job law work toward the Nazis' purpose of excluding Jews?

2. Compared with the 1933 measures, what new kind of exclusion did the 1935 laws create, and what false idea did they promote?

3. How did the 1938 attacks change the methods used against Jews while continuing earlier goals?

4. How did war change the reach and purpose of Nazi policies from 1939 to 1942?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence museum label about a fictional Jewish family living in Germany from 1933 to 1942. Include one plausible change to their lives in 1933, 1935, and 1942, connect each change to a Nazi policy and its purpose, and explain why the changes were not inevitable.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.HOS.7c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each Nazi action, circle the purpose it served, and number the dated changes in order. Use your marks to trace how the policies escalated. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the 1933 boycott and job law work toward the Nazis' purpose of excluding Jews?	**The boycott discouraged customers from entering Jewish-owned shops, while the job law removed many Jews from government work. Both pushed Jews out of public life and threatened their income.**
2	Compared with the 1933 measures, what new kind of exclusion did the 1935 laws create, and what false idea did they promote?	**The 1935 laws made exclusion a legal status by taking citizenship from Jews and banning certain relationships. They promoted the false idea of racial purity.**
3	How did the 1938 attacks change the methods used against Jews while continuing earlier goals?	**Nazi-led attacks added widespread destruction and imprisonment to earlier legal and economic measures. Terror reinforced the goal of separating Jews from society.**
4	How did war change the reach and purpose of Nazi policies from 1939 to 1942?	**War placed millions more Jews under Nazi rule. Policies escalated from forced confinement in ghettos to mass shootings and deportations to killing centers, pursuing genocide rather than exclusion alone.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1933, the fictional Adler family lost income when Miriam, a public school teacher, was dismissed under a Nazi job law meant to push Jews out of public life. In 1935, the family lost German citizenship under the Nuremberg Laws, which made exclusion a legal status based on ancestry. By 1942, Nazi officials had deported the Adlers from Germany to a killing center in occupied Poland. This reflected a new purpose: not merely isolating Jews, but murdering them on a vast scale. These changes were not inevitable; Nazi leaders chose increasingly violent policies as war expanded their power.

Accept other historically plausible family experiences if the response identifies a policy and its purpose for each year. Look for a clear distinction between exclusion and genocide, without suggesting that escalation was inevitable.