Words and Refuge

Judging responses to the November pogrom

SS24.HOS.8b "Critique American and world responses to the November pogrom (Kristallnacht) and the persecution of Jews in Germany and Nazi-controlled territories."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions that helped Jews reach safety, circle actions that expressed disapproval, and number limits on those responses. Use your marks to judge what each response accomplished.

After the November Pogrom

1. On November 9 and 10, 1938, Nazi leaders directed attacks on Jewish communities across Germany and annexed Austria. Mobs burned synagogues, smashed shop windows, and attacked Jewish homes. Police often stood aside while firefighters protected nearby buildings rather than the synagogues. At least 90 Jews were killed, and about 30,000 Jewish men were sent to concentration camps. The violence, known as Kristallnacht or the November pogrom, made the danger clear to foreign governments.

2. President Franklin D. Roosevelt publicly condemned the violence and recalled the U.S. ambassador to Germany for consultations. These actions signaled disapproval, but the United States did not increase its immigration quotas for refugees. Britain allowed the Kindertransport, which brought roughly 10,000 mostly Jewish children from Nazi-controlled lands to safety in 1938 and 1939. Parents generally could not come with them, and private groups helped pay for the children's care. The rescue saved lives but separated families.

3. In July 1938, before the pogrom, countries met at the Évian Conference to discuss Jewish refugees. Most refused to significantly expand admissions, leaving few safe routes when the attacks came months later. After the pogrom, governments abroad protested, yet most kept restrictive entry rules. As Nazi control spread, more Jews faced persecution. A protest could name the crime without giving its targets a place to escape. To judge these responses, weigh what officials said against what their policies allowed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How effective was the U.S. response? Use one action and one limit from the passage.

2. What did Britain's response accomplish, and whom did it leave out?

3. How does the Évian Conference affect your judgment of governments' protests after the pogrom?

4. Judge the claim, “Foreign governments gave Jewish refugees all the help they could.” Use two details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you advise a government in late 1938. In four sentences, propose one immediate response and one refugee policy, explain how each would help, and name one difficulty your plan would face.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline actions that helped Jews reach safety, circle actions that expressed disapproval, and number limits on those responses. Use your marks to judge what each response accomplished. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How effective was the U.S. response? Use one action and one limit from the passage.	**The United States condemned the violence and recalled its ambassador, but it did not increase immigration quotas, limiting refuge.**
2	What did Britain's response accomplish, and whom did it leave out?	**The Kindertransport brought roughly 10,000 mostly Jewish children to safety, but their parents generally could not come.**
3	How does the Évian Conference affect your judgment of governments' protests after the pogrom?	**Most countries had already refused to significantly expand refugee admissions, and later protests generally did not change restrictive entry rules.**
4	Judge the claim, “Foreign governments gave Jewish refugees all the help they could.” Use two details from the passage.	**The claim is not supported: Britain rescued children but generally excluded their parents, while the United States did not increase its immigration quotas.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would urge the government to condemn the pogrom publicly and admit Jewish families seeking refuge. Condemnation would identify the violence as wrong rather than treating it as a local dispute. Admitting families would offer safety without separating children from their parents. Housing and supporting new arrivals would cost money, so the government would need to fund those services.

Accept judgments supported by accurate passage details, including a distinction between public protest and access to refuge. For Your Turn, look for two proposed actions, their likely effects, and a plausible difficulty.