From Exclusion to Genocide

Trace how Nazi policy toward Europe's Jews changed over time

SS24.WH.11b "Trace how the Nazis' plan for the European Jews evolved from 1933 to the Final Solution."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle dates and underline actions the Nazis took against Jews. Number three major changes in their approach, in order, to help you trace how the policy evolved.

How Nazi Policy Changed

1. In 1933, the Nazis took power in Germany and began pushing Jews out of public life. A boycott targeted Jewish businesses, and laws removed Jews from government jobs. The 1935 Nuremberg Laws stripped German Jews of citizenship and banned marriage between Jews and non-Jewish Germans. In November 1938, Nazi-led attacks destroyed synagogues and Jewish shops. Officials arrested thousands of Jewish men. These measures isolated Jews and pressured many to leave Germany, often losing their property.

2. After Germany invaded Poland in 1939, Nazi control extended over millions more Jews. Occupying authorities forced many into crowded, sealed ghettos, where hunger and disease killed many people. When Germany invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, mobile killing units followed its army and shot Jewish communities in mass executions. Deportations from Germany and other occupied areas also increased. Nazi policy had moved from excluding and forcing Jews out to confining them and murdering entire communities.

3. By late 1941, the Nazis had begun using killing centers in occupied Poland. At a meeting in Wannsee in January 1942, senior officials coordinated the deportation and murder of Europe's Jews, a policy they called the Final Solution. The meeting did not begin the killings. Trains carried Jews from across Europe to killing centers such as Treblinka and Auschwitz-Birkenau, where many were murdered in gas chambers. Nazi Germany and its collaborators murdered about six million Jews during the Holocaust.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Nazi actions against Jews change between 1933 and November 1938?

2. How did the treatment of many Jews in occupied Poland differ from the earlier pressure on Jews to leave Germany?

3. What change did the 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union bring to Nazi actions against Jews?

4. Why is it inaccurate to say the 1942 Wannsee meeting began the murder of Europe's Jews?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75- to 95-word museum label tracing three stages of Nazi policy from 1933 to the Final Solution. Explain two changes and why the Wannsee meeting was not the start of mass killing.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.11b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle dates and underline actions the Nazis took against Jews. Number three major changes in their approach, in order, to help you trace how the policy evolved. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Nazi actions against Jews change between 1933 and November 1938?	**The Nazis began with boycotts and laws excluding Jews from public life, then carried out attacks and arrested thousands of Jewish men.**
2	How did the treatment of many Jews in occupied Poland differ from the earlier pressure on Jews to leave Germany?	**Earlier measures pressured Jews to leave Germany. In occupied Poland, authorities confined many Jews in sealed ghettos.**
3	What change did the 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union bring to Nazi actions against Jews?	**Mobile killing units began shooting Jewish communities in mass executions, moving beyond exclusion and confinement to mass murder.**
4	Why is it inaccurate to say the 1942 Wannsee meeting began the murder of Europe's Jews?	**Mass shootings and the use of killing centers had already begun. The meeting coordinated deportation and murder across Europe.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

An exhibit begins in 1933, when Nazi laws and boycotts pushed Jews out of German public life. By 1938, violence and arrests added pressure to leave. After Germany invaded Poland, ghettos trapped many Jews instead of driving them away. In 1941, mobile units began mass shootings as Germany invaded the Soviet Union, marking a shift to widespread murder. At Wannsee in 1942, officials coordinated deportation and killing across Europe. They did not invent the policy there: shootings and the use of killing centers had already begun.

Accept accurate descriptions of the shifts from exclusion and pressure to leave, to confinement, to mass murder. Responses should distinguish the Wannsee meeting's coordinating role from the earlier start of killings.