From Laws to Trials

Trace Nazi persecution and the Allied response

USH.5.3 "Describe the policies that led up to the Holocaust and Hitler's state-sponsored "Final Solution" and explain the Allied response to war crimes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three Nazi policies that increased persecution, and number them in order. Circle two actions the Allies took in response.

How Persecution Became Mass Murder

1 A sign barring Jewish customers was one visible step in Nazi Germany's campaign of persecution. After Hitler took power in 1933, the regime used boycotts and firings to push Jews out of public life. The 1935 Nuremberg Laws stripped German Jews of citizenship and barred marriages between Jews and people classified as German. In November 1938, Nazi-led attacks destroyed synagogues and Jewish businesses. These policies made discrimination legal, encouraged violence, and left Jews increasingly isolated.

2 After Germany invaded Poland in 1939, Nazi authorities forced many Jews into crowded ghettos, where hunger and disease killed thousands. Following Germany's 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union, mobile killing units shot Jewish civilians in mass killings. In 1942, Nazi officials coordinated deportations across Europe as part of the state-sponsored "Final Solution," their plan to murder Europe's Jews. Trains carried people to killing centers, including Auschwitz-Birkenau, where many were murdered with poison gas. By war's end, the Nazis and their collaborators had murdered about six million Jews.

3 The Allies publicly condemned the mass murder of Jews in 1942, but their rescue efforts remained limited while the killing continued. In 1944, the United States created the War Refugee Board to help people escape Nazi persecution. As Allied armies advanced, they liberated camps and gathered evidence of Nazi crimes. After the war, the United States, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union held trials at Nuremberg. Prosecutors used documents and witness testimony to show how leaders organized war crimes and crimes against humanity.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the 1935 laws and the 1938 attacks change life for Jews in different ways?

2. How did Nazi actions change after the invasions of Poland and the Soviet Union?

3. How did the coordinated deportations of 1942 advance the "Final Solution"?

4. How did the Allies respond to Nazi crimes during the war and after it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum caption connecting one prewar Nazi policy to one wartime killing policy. Include one Allied action, then explain why that action could not reverse the earlier harm.

ANSWER KEY

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three Nazi policies that increased persecution, and number them in order. Circle two actions the Allies took in response. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the 1935 laws and the 1938 attacks change life for Jews in different ways?	**The laws removed citizenship and restricted marriage; the attacks destroyed synagogues and businesses, adding organized violence to legal discrimination.**
2	How did Nazi actions change after the invasions of Poland and the Soviet Union?	**Nazi authorities forced many Jews into ghettos after invading Poland. After invading the Soviet Union, mobile killing units carried out mass shootings of Jewish civilians.**
3	How did the coordinated deportations of 1942 advance the "Final Solution"?	**Nazi officials arranged deportations across Europe, sending Jews by train to killing centers where many were murdered.**
4	How did the Allies respond to Nazi crimes during the war and after it?	**During the war, they condemned the killings, aided some people fleeing persecution, and liberated camps. Afterward, they tried Nazi leaders at Nuremberg.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Nuremberg Laws stripped German Jews of citizenship, making exclusion a government policy. Later, Nazi officials coordinated deportations to killing centers to murder Europe's Jews. After the war, Allied powers held trials at Nuremberg and presented evidence against Nazi leaders. Those trials held leaders accountable, but they could not bring back the people who had been murdered.

Accept accurate examples from the passage, including boycotts, ghettos, mass shootings, rescue efforts, and camp liberation. Captions should connect policies across time and distinguish an Allied response from a reversal of the harm.