

After Atrocity

U.S. efforts to build safeguards after World War II

11.8c "In response to World War II and the Holocaust, the United States played a major role in efforts to prevent such human suffering in the future."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a rescue effort, an accountability measure, and a human-rights standard. Mark one limitation on their reach or effectiveness.

Three Paths Toward Prevention

- ① U.S. officials received reports of Nazi mass murder during World War II. In 1942, the United States joined an Allied declaration condemning the extermination of European Jews. Restrictive immigration policies and official inaction nevertheless limited rescue. Roosevelt established the War Refugee Board in 1944 after pressure from Treasury officials and rescue advocates. It worked with diplomats and private organizations on rescue and relief. Its late creation shows that earlier choices mattered, while wartime conditions also constrained action.
- ② After Germany's defeat, the United States, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union created the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal. Justice Robert Jackson led the U.S. prosecution. Leading Nazi defendants faced charges including crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Jackson argued for individual accountability under law rather than revenge. The proceedings established an influential precedent: official position did not automatically shield leaders from responsibility for atrocities.
- ③ Eleanor Roosevelt served as a U.S. delegate to the United Nations and chaired its Commission on Human Rights. She helped an international group develop the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948. It articulated standards including life, fair treatment, and freedom of belief. The declaration was not itself a binding treaty or an automatic enforcement system. It offered a shared standard for later activism and lawmaking, while discrimination and abuses continued, including within the United States.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What evidence in paragraph 1 suggests that U.S. intervention was possible but limited during the Holocaust?

2 What legal idea did Robert Jackson argue for at Nuremberg?

3 How did the Nuremberg judgments seek to prevent future human suffering?

4 What was one limitation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and why could it still matter?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence exhibit label explaining how two U.S. efforts in the passage aimed to prevent future suffering. Name each effort, describe its method, and explain one limit or unresolved problem mentioned in the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline a rescue effort, an accountability measure, and a human-rights standard. Mark one limitation on their reach or effectiveness. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What evidence in paragraph 1 suggests that U.S. intervention was possible but limited during the Holocaust?	American officials received reports and the government condemned Nazi extermination, but immigration rules and other choices limited rescue. The War Refugee Board was created only in 1944, though it supported rescue and relief.
2	What legal idea did Robert Jackson argue for at Nuremberg?	He argued that individuals, not only states, should be held responsible for grave crimes.
3	How did the Nuremberg judgments seek to prevent future human suffering?	They set a precedent that national leaders could be prosecuted for major crimes, even when they acted through official power.
4	What was one limitation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and why could it still matter?	It was not legally binding and did not automatically end discrimination. It still provided an international standard that activists and governments could invoke.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At Nuremberg, Robert Jackson helped prosecute Nazi leaders, showing that individuals could be held responsible for crimes against humanity. This legal precedent challenged the idea that official power excused atrocities. Eleanor Roosevelt helped lead the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which stated an international standard for human dignity. Because the declaration was not legally binding and did not automatically end discrimination, its impact depended on later people and governments using it.

Accept equivalent evidence-based explanations that distinguish rescue efforts, criminal accountability, and human-rights standards. For the open response, require two accurately named efforts, an explanation of how they worked, and one accurate limitation or unresolved problem.