Trace the Claim

How false history becomes present-day propaganda

TOT.C.11.1 "Describe how Holocaust denial has helped contribute to the creation of contemporary propaganda against the state of Israel and the Jewish people."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline each denial or distortion of Holocaust history and circle the accusations about Israel or Jewish people that it supports. Draw arrows to show the links between them.

From False History to New Accusations

1. Holocaust denial falsely claims that the Nazi murder of about six million Jews did not happen or that the evidence is fabricated. A related tactic, Holocaust distortion, admits some killings but greatly minimizes their scale or shifts blame away from the perpetrators. These claims contradict Nazi records, physical evidence, and survivor testimony. Denial does more than dispute history. It tries to weaken the evidence that helps people recognize antisemitism, hatred of Jews, and its consequences. When an audience accepts that false starting point, a propagandist can present new accusations as corrections to a supposedly dishonest historical account.

2. Consider a fabricated online post that calls the Holocaust a hoax, then claims Israel was founded because Jews invented a tragedy to gain political support. The first claim denies a documented genocide. The second turns that denial into propaganda against Israel by portraying the state's creation as the product of fraud rather than a complex history shaped by Zionism, British rule in Palestine, Jewish displacement, war, and international decisions. It also spreads propaganda against Jewish people by treating millions of individuals as a single group acting together to deceive the world. Neither accusation follows from historical evidence.

3. Another post might accept that Nazis killed Jews but falsely claim Jews exaggerate the Holocaust whenever they discuss Israel. That move turns testimony and remembrance into supposed evidence of manipulation. It can make unrelated Jewish communities targets of suspicion or blame for actions of the Israeli government. Repetition on social media can carry these claims into new debates, even when the original denial is omitted. Evidence-based criticism of an Israeli policy is different: it names a specific decision and supports its argument with verifiable facts. It does not deny genocide or assign collective guilt to Jews.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the fabricated post in paragraph 2 use Holocaust denial to make a false claim about Israel's founding?

2. How does that same post turn its false account of history into propaganda against Jewish people?

3. In paragraph 3, how can a claim that Jews exaggerate the Holocaust lead to suspicion of Jewish communities today?

4. According to the passage, what separates evidence-based criticism of an Israeli policy from the propaganda described here?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A fictional post falsely calls survivor accounts invented and urges people to blame a local Jewish cultural center for a new Israeli law. In four sentences, explain the link between the post's false history and its proposed action, then describe how to challenge the post while allowing evidence-based criticism of the law.

Trace the Claim

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, underline each denial or distortion of Holocaust history and circle the accusations about Israel or Jewish people that it supports. Draw arrows to show the links between them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the fabricated post in paragraph 2 use Holocaust denial to make a false claim about Israel's founding?	**It calls the Holocaust a hoax, then falsely portrays Israel's founding as the result of Jews inventing a tragedy to gain political support.**
2	How does that same post turn its false account of history into propaganda against Jewish people?	**It treats millions of Jewish people as one group that acted together to deceive the world.**
3	In paragraph 3, how can a claim that Jews exaggerate the Holocaust lead to suspicion of Jewish communities today?	**It casts testimony and remembrance as manipulation, which can lead people to distrust Jewish communities or blame them for Israeli government actions.**
4	According to the passage, what separates evidence-based criticism of an Israeli policy from the propaganda described here?	**Evidence-based criticism addresses a specific policy using verifiable facts. It does not deny the Holocaust or blame Jewish people as a group.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The post's attack on survivor accounts denies evidence of Nazi genocide. That false claim invites readers to dismiss Jewish testimony as dishonest, making the post's other accusation seem easier to accept. Blaming a local Jewish center for an Israeli law assigns responsibility to people who did not make that decision. I would point to documented Holocaust evidence, then discuss the law using verified facts about the Israeli government's actions rather than blaming Jewish people.

Accept responses that explain a causal link from denial or distortion to propaganda, not merely that both claims are false. For Part 3, look for a distinction between criticizing a government decision and blaming Jewish people collectively.