Rights Under Attack

Trace how government actions stripped people of rights in Nazi Germany.

TOT.C.8.2.A "destruction of individual rights"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one government action in each paragraph, circle a right it restricted, and number the actions from earliest to latest. Use your marks to trace how the destruction of rights changed over time.

When Protection Became Persecution

1. In April 1933, a schoolteacher in Germany could lose a job for being Jewish, even after years of service. A law called the Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service removed many Jews from government jobs, including public teaching positions. Some exceptions applied at first, but the rule made ancestry, not ability, a test for employment. The Nazi government used its power to take away equal access to public work. Losing a job also meant losing income and a place in the community. This was not a private employer's choice. Discrimination had been written into law.

2. In September 1935, the Nazi government passed the Nuremberg Laws. One law stripped German Jews of citizenship and made them subjects of the state instead. Another prohibited marriages between Jews and people the Nazis classified as having German or related blood. Officials used family records to decide who counted as Jewish under these laws, even when a person did not practice Judaism. Jewish neighbors could still live on the same street, but the law no longer treated them as equal members of the nation. Their right to vote, along with their freedom to choose whom to marry, was removed by government decree.

3. On November 9 and 10, 1938, Nazi leaders directed attacks on Jewish people and property across Germany, including Austria, which Nazi Germany had annexed in March. Attackers smashed store windows and burned synagogues. Police were told not to stop the attacks on Jews, while protecting nearby property owned by non-Jews. Authorities arrested about 30,000 Jewish men and sent them to concentration camps. The violence threatened personal safety and the freedom to worship. Officials also forced the Jewish community to pay for the damage. A government that should have protected residents instead helped make them targets.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the 1933 law restrict equal access to public work?

2. How did the 1935 citizenship law affect German Jews' right to vote?

3. During the November 1938 attacks, how did police instructions deny Jewish people protection?

4. Compare the restriction on marriage in 1935 with the attacks on synagogues in 1938. Which freedom did each threaten, and how?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph of 5 to 6 sentences explaining how a government can destroy a right. Include one detail from the passage, then invent a different, clearly fictional government rule that threatens another right and explain its effect.

ANSWER KEY

Rights Under Attack

HIGH SCHOOL · TOT.C.8.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one government action in each paragraph, circle a right it restricted, and number the actions from earliest to latest. Use your marks to trace how the destruction of rights changed over time. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the 1933 law restrict equal access to public work?	**It removed many Jews from government jobs, including public teaching positions, because of their ancestry rather than their ability.**
2	How did the 1935 citizenship law affect German Jews' right to vote?	**The law stripped German Jews of citizenship and made them subjects of the state, removing their right to vote.**
3	During the November 1938 attacks, how did police instructions deny Jewish people protection?	**Police were told not to stop attacks on Jews, even as they protected nearby property owned by non-Jews.**
4	Compare the restriction on marriage in 1935 with the attacks on synagogues in 1938. Which freedom did each threaten, and how?	**The 1935 law restricted freedom to choose whom to marry by prohibiting certain marriages. The 1938 burning of synagogues threatened freedom to worship through violence.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1935, Nazi law took citizenship from German Jews, showing how a government can turn discrimination into official policy. Imagine a fictional city that requires a special permit for one group to publish a newspaper. Officials always deny that permit. This rule would take away that group's freedom of the press without destroying a single newspaper. When officials enforce unfair rules, people cannot rely on public institutions to protect their rights.

Accept answers that identify a specific government action and explain the right it restricted. For the open task, the invented rule must differ from the passage's examples and clearly threaten a right.