Conquest and Control

Examine Nazi war policy in occupied Eastern Europe

TOT.C.8.3.E "war policy (e.g., terror, ethnic cleansing, looting operations in conquered countries, occupation of Eastern Europe)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, number examples of forced removal with 1, terror or mass killing with 2, and looting with 3. Underline one sentence that explains how a policy helped Germany control occupied lands.

War Beyond the Battlefield

1 In September 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland. German leaders did not treat the conquered country as an ordinary battlefield. They planned to rule its people and resources for Germany's benefit. Occupation officials closed many secondary schools and universities, seized property, and arrested teachers, priests, and other community leaders. These actions weakened institutions that could help Poles resist. German authorities forced many Polish families from their homes so German settlers could take the land. This removal was part of a broader racial policy that ranked people by Nazi ideas of ancestry, not by anything they had done.

2 After Germany attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941, the occupation of Eastern Europe grew even more deadly. Special killing units called Einsatzgruppen followed the German army and murdered Jewish communities, along with other civilians targeted by Nazi authorities. German forces also starved and killed millions of Soviet prisoners of war. Across occupied areas, officials confined Jews in ghettos and later deported many to killing centers. These policies were not isolated battlefield accidents. They were organized acts of terror and mass murder aimed at controlling territory and destroying groups the Nazi regime marked as enemies.

3 Occupation also meant taking what people needed to live. German officials seized grain, factory equipment, and other goods from conquered lands and sent supplies to Germany or its armed forces. In parts of the occupied Soviet Union, food requisitions left civilians with too little to eat. Violence helped enforce these demands: refusing an order could bring arrest, forced labor, or execution. Yet occupation was not identical everywhere or at every moment; local conditions and German offices shaped its methods. Taken together, forced removals, mass killing, and economic plunder show how Nazi war policy joined military conquest to rule over civilians.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did arresting community leaders in Poland help German authorities maintain occupation?

2. Which action in Poland shows that Nazi policy aimed to remove people based on racial ideas, and what was its purpose?

3. Why does the passage describe the killing units' actions as war policy rather than battlefield accidents?

4. How did the seizure of grain and equipment serve Germany's war effort while harming people under occupation?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 90 word museum label explaining how at least two different Nazi occupation policies worked together in Eastern Europe. Use details from two different paragraphs and explain why these actions were planned policies, not just battlefield fighting.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, number examples of forced removal with 1, terror or mass killing with 2, and looting with 3. Underline one sentence that explains how a policy helped Germany control occupied lands. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did arresting community leaders in Poland help German authorities maintain occupation?	**It weakened institutions that could organize resistance to German rule.**
2	Which action in Poland shows that Nazi policy aimed to remove people based on racial ideas, and what was its purpose?	**Authorities forced Polish families from their homes so German settlers could take the land.**
3	Why does the passage describe the killing units' actions as war policy rather than battlefield accidents?	**The units followed the army and deliberately murdered Jewish communities and other civilians targeted by Nazi authorities.**
4	How did the seizure of grain and equipment serve Germany's war effort while harming people under occupation?	**The goods supplied Germany or its armed forces, while food seizures left some civilians with too little to eat.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Nazi occupation of Eastern Europe was more than a series of battles. In Poland, authorities arrested community leaders and removed families to make room for German settlers. Removing leaders made it harder for people to organize against such orders. After the 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union, killing units murdered Jewish communities. German officials also took food and equipment from occupied lands. These policies worked together: violence helped enforce control, while seized supplies supported Germany's war effort. They targeted civilians through deliberate actions rather than battlefield combat.

Accept other accurate examples from the passage when students explain a policy's purpose or effect. The museum label should connect at least two policies using evidence from two paragraphs and identify them as deliberate actions against civilians.