

Rights Under Power

Identify how governments can oppress groups and deny human rights.

6.9.C "identify and describe examples of human rights abuses by limited or unlimited governments such as the oppression of religious, ethnic, and political groups."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action that denies rights, circle each targeted group, and box details that show whether the government is limited or unlimited.

When Government Power Harms

- ① Human rights are basic freedoms and protections that people should have because they are human. A government abuses human rights when it uses power to harm people or deny fair treatment because of their religion, ethnicity, or political beliefs. An unlimited government has few legal checks on its leaders, so leaders can silence opponents easily. A limited government has laws and elected bodies that should restrain power, yet it can still commit abuses when unfair laws or officials deny rights to certain groups.
- ② In Nazi Germany, Adolf Hitler's government persecuted Jewish people and other groups. Nazi laws stripped Jews of citizenship and barred many from jobs, schools, and public life. In November 1938, Nazi-led violence destroyed synagogues and Jewish-owned businesses, and police arrested thousands of Jewish men. These actions targeted an ethnic and religious group. Nazi Germany was an unlimited dictatorship: Hitler and the Nazi Party controlled the government, crushed political opposition, and did not allow citizens to freely replace leaders through fair elections.
- ③ South Africa's apartheid government enforced racial separation from 1948 to the early 1990s. Under apartheid, Black South Africans faced rules that controlled where they could live, work, and travel. Many had to carry pass documents, and they were denied full political participation at the national level. The government also banned or restricted organizations that opposed apartheid and imprisoned some activists. South Africa had a parliament and elections, but most Black citizens could not vote for national representatives. This shows that a government with some limited features can still oppress an ethnic group through discriminatory laws.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which group did Nazi Germany target, and name two ways the government abused that group's rights.

2 What details in the passage show that Nazi Germany was an unlimited government?

3 Describe two ways apartheid laws abused the rights of Black South Africans.

4 What limited feature did South Africa have, and why did that feature not stop human rights abuses?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences, 40 to 60 words, about a fictional government that abuses the rights of a religious, ethnic, or political group. Name the group, describe two rights being denied, and state whether the government is limited or unlimited with one detail as evidence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each action that denies rights, circle each targeted group, and box details that show whether the government is limited or unlimited. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which group did Nazi Germany target, and name two ways the government abused that group's rights.	Jewish people were targeted. Answers may include stripping citizenship, barring people from jobs or schools, destroying synagogues and businesses, or arresting thousands of Jewish men.
2	What details in the passage show that Nazi Germany was an unlimited government?	Hitler and the Nazi Party controlled the government, crushed political opposition, and did not allow citizens to replace leaders through fair elections.
3	Describe two ways apartheid laws abused the rights of Black South Africans.	Answers may include controlling where people could live, work, or travel; requiring pass documents; denying full national political participation; restricting opposition groups; or imprisoning activists.
4	What limited feature did South Africa have, and why did that feature not stop human rights abuses?	South Africa had a parliament and elections, but most Black citizens could not vote for national representatives and discriminatory laws still oppressed them.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the fictional country of Luma, the council banned the River Faith from meeting and refused its members permits for jobs. Only one political party may run in Luma, so citizens cannot choose new leaders. This unlimited government abuses the religious group's rights through unfair laws.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the abuses when they match details in the passage. For the open response, check for a named group, two denied rights, a government type, and evidence supporting that type.