

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT
Examining the Holocaust through American Newspapers
From Lynley Gates

Grade – 11th

Length of class period – 45 minutes

Inquiry – What information were Americans being presented about Nazi atrocities during and in the aftermath of the Holocaust?

Objectives

SWBAT analyze American attitudes about the Holocaust, both past and present.

SWBAT use primary sources to determine American opinion immediately after an event.

SWBAT write using evidence.

Materials

Various Historical Newspaper Articles

- “Nazis Establish Camps to Punish Children”
- “Forty Nazis Convicted of Killings at Dachau”
- “Horrors of Nazi Slavery Bared at War Trial”
- “New Mass Executions in Poland Reported”
- “Nazi Mass Killings Laid Bare in Camp”
- “Nazi Plan to Kill All Jews Disclosed”
- “Savage Blows Hit Jews in Hungary”

Graphic Organizer for reading

Short Essay Assignment

Activities

1. Students read individually three of the seven news articles, while reading they will take notes on a graphic organizer capturing evidence to support the essential question. 20 minutes
 - a. What information were Americans being presented about Nazi atrocities during and in the aftermath of the Holocaust?
2. As a group debrief on all of the articles. Since students chose three to read, hopefully all seven will be able to be represented. 10 minutes
 - a. Ask students what was reported in what they read? What values and attitudes are present in what they read? How do these differ with what they've learned about the Holocaust.
 - b. Optional if time- create a timeline of Holocaust and WWII events, and place these articles on that timeline.
3. Short Essay 15 minutes (possible extension into homework)

- a. Using the sources, ask students to write a paragraph in which they determine how American attitudes about the Holocaust and Genocide differed in 1945 from today.
- b. Following their paragraph have students re-write or write their own news story, reflective of today's values on genocide.
 - i. Ask students to really think about the language they might use to describe events like these if they were to occur today.

How will you assess what student learned during this lesson?

1. Graphic Organizer from student reading
2. Verbal Questioning
3. Short essay

Connecticut Framework Grade Level Expectations –

1.9 Demonstrate an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

2.1 Access and gather information from a variety of primary and secondary sources including electronic media (maps, charts, graphs, images, artifacts, recordings, and text).

The Holocaust through American Newspapers

Directions: Take notes on the following chart while reading *three* of the attached news articles.

Article Title and Date	Article Title and Date	Article Title and Date
Which Newspaper is this from?	Which Newspaper is this from?	Which Newspaper is this from?
Summarize briefly the story reported.	Summarize briefly the story reported.	Summarize briefly the story reported.
Is there anything reported that reflects what you've already learned about the Holocaust?	Is there anything reported that reflects what you've already learned about the Holocaust?	Is there anything reported that reflects what you've already learned about the Holocaust?
Are there any values or judgments reflected in what is reported?	Are there any values or judgments reflected in what is reported?	Are there any values or judgments reflected in what is reported?
What would be your reaction to this news?	What would be your reaction to this news?	What would be your reaction to this news?

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Short Essay: The Holocaust through American Newspapers

Directions: Using the newspaper articles for evidence, completely answer the following questions.

1. Write a paragraph or two in which you determine how American attitudes about the Holocaust and Genocide differed in 1945 from today?
 - a. Include information about what you've already learned about the Holocaust and what we know as a society many years removed from the event.
 - b. Consider things that might not have been known by average Americans when these articles were written.
2. Re-write one of the stories you read or write your own news story, reflective of today's values on genocide.
 - a. When writing, really think about the language you might use to describe events like these if they were to occur today.
 - b. Consider how you might describe horrific events.

Nazis Establish Camps To Punish Children

The Hartford Courant (1923-1986); Aug 3, 1944;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Hartford Courant (1764-1986)

pg. 1

**Nazis Establish Camps
To Punish Children**

Stockholm, Aug. 2.—(AP.)—The Nazis have established concentration camps for children to punish Austrian schoolboys in small towns who organized into anti-Nazi groups and sabotaged orders from their Hitler Youth leaders. Independent sources from Germany said today.

An informant just returned from Germany said the Nazis have five concentration camps for children.

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Forty Nazis Convicted of Killings at Dachau

Leaders of Concentration Camp Where 30,000 Slain Found Guilty by U.S. Court

DACHAU (Germany) Dec. 12. (U.P.)—Forty Nazi specialists in human torture were found guilty today by an American military court of committing horrible atrocities at the notorious Dachau concentration camp where 30,000 persons were slain.

The eight-man court hearing the trial which started Nov. 15 announced that sentences will be pronounced tomorrow. The court, deliberating for an hour and 15 minutes, did not return a single verdict of acquittal in the first atrocity trial conducted in the American occupation zone of Germany.

(The Allied-sponsored German Dana News Agency, in an unsubstantiated dispatch, reported from Dachau that all defendants had been sentenced to death.)

It was expected that many of the convicted Nazis will be sentenced to die for their crimes, which include bestial experiments on human "guinea pigs."

The defendants stood erect and displayed no emotion as the court president, Brig. Gen. John M. Lentz, read the verdict. The No. 1 defendant, Dr. Kraus Karl Schilling, stroked his beard and peered straight ahead.

He was charged with killing 1100 to 1300 persons with malarial experiments and during his defense he pleaded for a chance to complete his notes for "the benefit of science."

Lentz announced that in every case the verdict of guilty was returned by at least a two-thirds majority.

HORRORS OF NAZI SLAVERY BARED AT WAR TRIAL

'Work Them to Death' Order Revealed

BY HAL FOUST

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

NUERNBERG, Germany, Dec. 12—Prosecution of 21 high Nazis before the international military tribunal today became history's biggest murder trial, with not one victim, but uncounted millions. It became the most extensive kidnaping case in all human experience, with uncounted millions of laborers conscripted from occupied countries by the Nazis.

The now familiar story of these crimes was documented for future generations to read of the price of total war, and for history to know what happened to European civilization in World War II.

United States Prosecutor Thomas J. Dodd introduced captured German documents to show that concentration camp prisoners were worked to death as a matter of policy, just as the Jews were exterminated as a matter of Nazi policy.

Slave Hunts Revealed

The documents revealed that slave hunts in occupied countries in response to periodic orders from the reich for hundreds of thousands of more male and female laborers to replace losses from overwork, undernourishment, punishment, disease, and murder. The evidence covered the barbaric deprivation, exactions, and penalties suffered after imprisonment.

Presiding Lord Justice Geoffrey Lawrence called attention of the court to a line in an order to SS kidnapers from the security police in March, 1943, concerning the recruitment of workers from Poland and Russia.

"As a rule, no more children will be shot," the order said.

The day also produced evidence that the Nazis forced prisoners of war into arms jobs in violation of The Hague conventions and on some occasions made them man guns aimed at compatriots.

Krupp Plant Named

The day's evidence indicated that at least one of the big industrialist war mongers, the Krupp munitions family, could have been appropriately included in the prisoner panel as advocated by the American prosecution and successfully opposed by the British.

Dodd read this document from the files of the Krupp works: "During the last few days we have established that food for the Russians employed here is so miserable that the people are getting weaker every day."

The prosecutor's finger was pointed today mainly at Albert Speer, successful businessman type, middle aged at 40, who was reichs minister for armaments and war production, and at Fritz Sauckel, 58 and bald, with Hitler type mustache, who was the labor mobilization chief. One needed men for war plants, and the other supplied the demands.

Hermann Goering was involved as reich marshal and deputy fuehrer.

6,691,000 Employed

A partial conception of the number of victims involved is contained in a survey introduced into the record estimating that in January, 1945, there were 6,691,000 foreigners including 1,873,000 prisoners of war, employed in arms and munitions plants in the old reich. This does not include millions employed in occupied territory, nor millions who died.

Prosecutor Dodd read from a September 18, 1942 directive of SS Chief Heinrich Himmler that "anti-social prisoners" in concentration camps were "to be worked to death." "Anti-social elements" were described as "Jews, gypsies, Russians, Ukrainians, Poles with more than three year sentences, and Czechs and Germans with eight year sentences."

Villages Raided

Evidence of recruitment of men and women for labor was voluminous. Documents authenticated that whole villages were raided for men and women. Houses were burned when men fled to the woods. Aged parents were held as hostages and sometimes killed when they failed to produce fugitive sons or daughters for forced labor.

One record said that babies born on slave trains were being thrown out of train windows. One document was a complaint from the Nazi administrator that trainloads of sick and incapacitated slaves being returned to their native lands should not be allowed to dump their dead in view of trains passing in the opposite direction with replacements for German factories. This is bad for morale, said the complaint.

NEW MASS EXECUTIONS IN POLAND REPORTED

Victims Come From All Groups, Underground Says

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, June 24—The Germans have started new mass executions in Polish concentration camps, Dr. Emanuel Scherer, a representative of the Jewish labor movement in the Polish National Council, announced tonight.

The announcement was based on a message received from underground representatives of the movement in Poland. The executions, possibly because the launching of the new Russian offensive threatens to overrun Poland, are being carried out regardless of race and creed.

The message said that new mass murders were taking place at the Oswiecim concentration camp. They were carried out by gas in the following order: Jews, war prisoners, whatever their nationality, and invalids. A hundred thousand Jews have already been sent to Oswiecim for execution, in addition to the prisoners of war of many nationalities confined there.

Similar mass murders were reported being carried out at other Polish camps, although proof of this is not yet certain. The message closed with an appeal to the civilized world for help.

NAZI MASS KILLING LAID BARE IN CAMP: Victims Put at 1,500,000 in Huge Death Factor
By W.H. LAWRENCE By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
New York Times (1923-Current file): Aug 30, 1944.
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times (1851-2008)
Pg. 1

NAZI MASS KILLING LAID BARE IN CAMP

**Victims Put at 1,500,000 in
Huge Death Factory of Gas
Chambers and Crematories**

By W. H. LAWRENCE

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LUBLIN, Poland, Aug. 27 (Delayed)—I have just seen the most terrible place on the face of the earth—the German concentration camp at Maidanek, which was a veritable River Rouge for the production of death, in which it is estimated by Soviet and Polish authorities that as many as 1,500,000 persons from nearly every country in Europe were killed in the last three years.

I have been all through the camp, inspecting its hermetically sealed gas chambers, in which the victims

Continued on Page 9

NAZI MASS KILLING LAID BARE IN CAMP

Continued From Page 1

were asphyxiated, and five furnaces in which the bodies were cremated, and I have talked with German officers attached to the camp, who admitted quite frankly that it was a highly systemized place for annihilation, although they, of course, denied any personal participation in the murders.

I have seen the skeletons of bodies the Germans did not have time to burn before the Red Army swept into Lublin on July 23, and I have seen such evidence as bone ash still in the furnaces and piled up beside them ready to be taken to near-by fields, on which it was scattered as fertilizer for cabbages.

Ten Mass Graves Opened

I have been to Krempitski, ten miles to the east, where I saw three of ten opened mass graves and looked upon 368 partly decomposed bodies of men, women and children who had been executed individually in a variety of cruel and horrible means. In this forest alone, the authorities estimate, there are more than 300,000 bodies.

It is impossible for this correspondent to state with any certainty how many persons the Germans killed here. Many bodies unquestionably were burned and not nearly all the graves in this vicinity had been opened by the time I visited the scene.

But I have been in a wooden warehouse at the camp, approximately 150 feet long, in which I walked across literally tens of thousands of shoes spread across the floor like grain in a half-filled elevator. There I saw shoes of children as young as 1 year old. There were shoes of young and old men or women. Those I saw were all in bad shape—since the Germans used this camp not only to exterminate their victims, but also as a means of obtaining clothing for the German people—but some obviously had been quite expensive. At least one pair had come from America, for it bore a stamp, "Goodyear welt."

I have been through a warehouse in downtown Lublin in which I saw hundreds of suitcases and literally tens of thousands of pieces of clothing and personal effects of people who died here and I have had the opportunity of questioning a German officer, Herman Vogel, 42, of Millheim, who admitted that as head of the clothing barracks he had supervised the shipment of eighteen freightcar loads of clothing to Germany during a two-month period and that he knew it came from the bodies of persons who had been killed at Maidanek.

Evidence Found Convincing

This is a place that must be seen to be believed. I have been present at numerous atrocity investigations in the Soviet Union, but never have I been confronted with such complete evidence, clearly establishing every allegation made by those investigating German crimes.

After inspection of Maidanek, I am now prepared to believe any story of German atrocities, no matter how savage, cruel and depraved.

As one of a group of nearly thirty foreign correspondents brought to Poland on the invitation of the Polish Committee of National Liberation, I also had an opportunity to sit with the special mixed Soviet-Polish Atrocities Investigation Commission, headed by Vice Chairman Andrey Witos of the Polish Committee, and to question six witnesses, including three German officers—Vogel, Theodore Shoelen and Tanton Earness—who will probably face trial for their part in the administration of the death camp.

Responsible Germans Listed

For the correspondents, the commission's prosecutor, a Pole, summed up the evidence taken. He said it had been decided that these Germans bore the main responsibility for the crimes committed at Maidanek and in the Krempitski Forest:

General Globcnik, Gestapo and SS chief of the Lublin district.

Governor Wendler of the Lublin district, described as a distant relative of Heinrich Himmler.

Former Governor Zoerner of the Lublin district.

Lisske, who had charge of all the concentration camps in the Lublin district.

General Weiss, who was in charge of the Maidanek camp.

Company Commander Anton Tummann, who at one time had charge of Maidanek.

Mussfeld, who was in charge of the crematorium.

Klopmann, who was chief of the German political department in the Lublin district.

It is impossible in the space here

available to relate details of all the evidence of crimes we saw and heard, but for the benefit of those who have not had the opportunity to see with their own eyes, here is the story as it came from the lips of a German who had been a prisoner in Maidanek and was left behind by the retreating Germans. He is Hans Staub, a 31-year-old, tall, husky man with close-cropped hair, who had been imprisoned for engaging in black-market meat operations in Germany.

Despite German orders that prisoners were to keep out of the crematorium area, he managed to slip inside the brick fence one day and secrete himself about the time a truck loaded with about a dozen persons drove up. Among them was a Polish woman he estimated to have been 28 or 29 years old.

The prisoners were guarded by Tommy-gunners, who ordered them to alight from the truck and undress. The woman refused and this enraged Mussfeld, who beat her. She screamed and Mussfeld lost his temper, shouting, "I'll burn you alive."

According to Staub, Mussfeld then directed two attendants to grab the woman and bind her arms and legs. They then threw her on an iron stretcher, still clothed, and pushed her body into the oven.

"I heard one loud scream, saw her hair flame and then she disappeared into the furnace," Staub said.

According to several witnesses, the peak death production day for Maidanek was Nov. 3, 1943, when for some reason not made clear the Germans executed a total of 18,000 to 20,000 prisoners by a variety of means, including shooting, hanging and gassing.

Camp Covers 670 Acres

This is Maidanek as I saw it. It is situated about a mile and a half from the middle of Lublin on the highroad between Chelm and Cracow. As one approaches he gets a view of the concentration camp almost identical with those pictured in American motion pictures. The first sight is a twelve-foot-high double-barbed-wire fence, which was charged with electricity.

Inside you see group after group of trim green buildings, not unlike the barracks in an Army camp in the United States. There were more than 200 such buildings. Outside the fence there were fourteen high machine-gun turrets and at one edge were kennels for more than 200 especially trained, savage man-tracking dogs used to pursue escaped prisoners. The whole camp covered an area of 670 acres.

As we entered the camp the first place at which we stopped obviously was the reception center and it was near here that one entered the bath house. Here Jews, Poles, Russians and in fact representatives of a total of twenty-two nationalities entered and re-

moved their clothing, after which they bathed at seventy-two showers and disinfectants were applied.

Sometimes they went directly into the next room, which was hermetically sealed with apertures in the roof, down which the Germans threw opened cans of "Zyklon B," a poison gas consisting of prussic acid crystals, which were a light blue chalky substance. This produced death quickly. Other prisoners were kept for long periods; the average, we were told, was about six weeks.

Near the shower house were two other death chambers fitted for either Zyklon gas or carbon monoxide. One of them was seventeen meters square and there, we were told, the Germans executed 100 to 110 persons at once. Around the floor of the room ran a steel pipe with an opening for carbon monoxide to escape at every twenty-five centimeters.

Victims' Death Watched

We were told the victims always received a bath in advance of execution because the hot water opened the pores and generally improved the speed with which the poison gas took effect. There were glass-covered openings in these death chambers so the Germans could watch the effect on their victims and determine when the time had come to remove their bodies. We saw opened and unopened cans of Zyklon gas that bore German labels.

About a mile from the gas chambers was the huge crematorium. Built of brick, it looked and was operated not unlike a small blast furnace for a steel mill, operating with coal as fuel fanned by an electrically operated blower. There were five openings on each side—on one side the bodies were loaded in and on the other ashes were removed and the fire built up. Each furnace held five bodies at a time.

We were told it took fifteen minutes to fill each furnace and about ten to twelve minutes for the

bodies to burn. It was estimated that the battery of furnaces had a capacity of 1,900 bodies a day.

Near the furnaces we saw a large number of partial and complete skeletons. Behind a brick enclosure near by were more than a score of bodies of persons who, we were told, had been killed by the Germans on the day the Red Army captured Lublin, which they did not have time to burn before fleeing.

Not far from the furnaces were a large number of earthenware urns, which investigating authorities said witnesses told them were used by the Germans for ashes of some of their victims, which they sold to families for prices ranging up to 2,500 marks.

We saw a concrete table near the furnace and asked its purpose. We were told the Germans laid the bodies of victims there just before cremation and knocked out gold teeth, which were salvaged. We were told that no bodies were accepted for cremation unless the chest bore a stamp certifying that it had been searched for gold teeth.

It is the purpose of the Polish Committee of National Liberation to keep the main parts of Maidanek just as it now exists as an exhibition of German brutality and cruelty for all posterity to see.

M. Witos struck the universal feeling of all who have seen the camp when he expressed regret that the section of American and British public opinion that favors a soft peace with the Germans will not have an opportunity in advance of the peace conference to look at this plain evidence of the brutality of the Germans practiced toward their victims.

Among the few Polish people whom we had an opportunity to talk there is a widespread sentiment for stronger means of vengeance against the Germans, and the belief that some of those directly responsible for Maidanek should be executed in the terrible death camp they themselves erected.

Nazi Plan to Kill All Jews Disclosed

Germans Admit Millions Destroyed and Slave Status for Poles Set Up

NUERNBERG, Dec. 11. (AP)—The butchery of 6,000,000 Jews, 4,000,000 of them in Nazi concentration camps and the rest in the ghettos of Eastern Europe, today was recounted before the war crimes tribunal trying Hitler's 21 top henchmen.

This ghastly summation of Nazi bloodlust was made in an affidavit by Dr. Wilhelm Hoettl, righthand man of Ernst Kaltenbrunner, chief of the German military police. Both were captured last spring.

"Approximately 4,000,000 Jews had been killed in the various extermination camps," said the affidavit, "while an additional 2,000,000 met death in other ways, the major part of which were shot by operational squads of security police during the campaign against Russia."

Told of Killings

Hoettl attributed the 6,000,000 figure to Adolf Eichman, chief "Jew catcher" in the secret police. He said Eichman told him of the estimate in 1944, when he began to fear that he would have to pay for the "millions of Jewish lives" on his conscience.

The affidavit climaxed the American case on the extermination of Jews, which had told, from captured German documents, of the slaughter of more than 60,000 in the 29-day Warsaw ghetto massacre in 1943.

The prosecution quoted from Gov. Gen. Hans Frank's own diary to indicate his callousness toward wiping out millions of Jews, and read from an official war refugee report an estimate that 1,165,000 European Jews were executed at the Oswiecim camp in Southern Poland.

A souvenir volume of reports compiled by the S.S. showed that

a Maj. Gen. Stroop directed the annihilation campaign in Warsaw from April 17 to May 16, 1943. He boasted of having killed 7000 Jews in battle, 5000 to 6000 by explosions and fires, and that he had collected 40,000 others "whose extermination in camps can be proved." Total German losses in these "battles" and operations were 15 dead.

Just before the tribunal recessed until Monday, Justice Robert H. Jackson obtained permission to present the American case against six Nazi organizations—a proceeding which he said may affect the fate of great numbers of individual Germans.

He told the court that the prosecution intended to devote all the time remaining before the Christmas recess to presentation of evidence against the Reich Cabinet, the Nazi party's leadership corps, the S.S. (Elite Guard.) Gestapo, S.A., and the high command and general staff of the German armed forces.

United States' Attitude

He warned that the United States considers the determination of the guilt of Nazi organizations fully as important as the trial of the 21 leaders in the prisoners' box.

Details of the mass murder in Warsaw were submitted in a volume of S.S. reports.

A summary disclosed that the S.S. Police Chief in the city had ordered troops to "destroy the entire Jewish residential area by setting every block on fire." Behind guarded walls in the area were 400,000 Jews. This number was reduced by the Germans to less than one-fourth. Stroop evacuated the remainder on Himmler's orders, in a so-called "cleansing operation" to "preserve the health of the German forces."

SAVAGE BLOWS HIT JEWS IN HUNGARY

80,000 Reported Sent to Murder Camps in Poland—Non-Jews Protest in Vain

By **JOSEPH M. LEVY**
By Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ISTANBUL, Turkey, May 17 — The first act in a program of mass extermination of Jews in Hungary is over, and 80,000 Jews of the Carpathian provinces have already disappeared. They have been sent to murder camps in Poland. This action was ordered by the Sztojay government and carried out by the newly appointed Governor of those provinces, Field Marshal Andreas Vincze.

According to official reports from Hungary, one gathers that the present Magyar puppet rulers are devoting all their time to fighting the Jewish community. In all fairness to the people of Hungary, it should be stated that the vast majority of the masses abhor the atrocities committed upon their Jewish compatriots, most of whose ancestors lived in Hungary for centuries and played an important role in the country's social, economic and political life.

It should be remembered, also, that 50,000 non-Jewish liberal Hungarians who themselves are held in concentration camps cannot protest.

It is a small clique of adventurers and opportunists now at the helm of the Government and the army that is perpetrating these acts. There is no doubt that this clique has acquired a fairly large number of followers, nor is it surprising that the numbers of such sympathizers are growing, especially since scores of thousands of Jewish shops, homes and businesses are being distributed to influential prospective supporters.

Laszlo Endre, Under-Secretary of State for the Interior, is Hungary's chief sadist. What it took his Nazi masters ten years to do, Endre is trying to accomplish in a few months.

Thousands of Hungarian Jews are committing suicide rather than fall into the hands of these men. The humiliation suffered by Hungarian Jews is indescribable. It is far worse than anything suffered in neighboring Rumania. That the persecution of Jews in Hungary is intended as a political instrument to divert the public's attention is proved by the fact that no Jew is allowed to leave the country since the new régime came into power.

There is one consoling factor in this state of affairs. Thousands of non-Jewish Hungarians throughout the country are risking their lives in order to save Jewish lives. There have been several cases in Budapest where non-Jewish Hungarians have been mercilessly beaten and jailed for wearing a yellow Star of David as an expression of sympathy for their Jewish friends.

Official reports from neutral diplomatic sources in Budapest emphasize that unless drastic measures are taken immediately to put an end to the Hungarian Government's brutality 1,000,000 Hungarian Jews are doomed.