

Background Essay on the Nuremberg Trials



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During the Nazi regime from 1935-1945, under the leadership of Adolf Hitler, 11,000,000 were killed in what is today known as the Holocaust. The Holocaust is commonly known for the mass killing of Jewish Europeans, but was also a mass killing of any person considered “undesirable” for Hitler’s superior Aryan race. This not only included individuals who were Jewish, but also the disabled, homosexuals, Gypsies

(those with Romanian descent), Jehovah's Witnesses, or individuals who had family members generations before who practiced the Jewish faith.

Hitler was originally from Austria but fought in the German army during World War I. Due to reparations left to Germany after World War I, once Hitler came to power, he and his Nazi regime created a series of laws known as the Nuremberg Laws. Created in the city of Nuremberg, the site of Nazi conventions known as the Nuremberg Rallies, these laws sought to “purify” the German race. The laws included denying citizenship to German Jews, not allowing marriage between Jews and non Jews, requiring Jews to register property, prohibiting Jews from public places, and forcing them to close their businesses. Additionally, Jewish individuals had to have identity cards on them at all times, a red “J” stamped on a part of their body, and an identifiably Jewish name. Those who did not were forced to change their names.

In 1933, shortly after Hitler became the Chancellor of Germany, concentration camps were established. These camps were established throughout Europe including Dachau, Auschwitz, Buchenwald, and Treblinka. In these camps Jewish men, women, and children along with those of the other groups were murdered through shootings, harsh labor, starvation, and gas chamber.

As the end of World War II approached, Allied leaders from the United States, England, France, and the Soviet Union, grappled with the appropriate response to these horrendous Nazi crimes against humanity. In October 1945, five months after the defeat of the Germans, an International Military Tribunal indicted 24 Nazi leaders on one or more of the following four counts: conspiracy, crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Throughout the course of one year (1945-46), the first of the Nuremberg Trials involved 403 open sessions, over 100 witness accounts, and extensive cross-examinations of evidence. On September 30 and October 1, 1946, twelve of the defendants were sentenced to death by hanging, three were sentenced to life imprisonment, two received twenty years’ imprisonment, one was sentenced to fifteen years, one to ten years, and three defendants were found not guilty. One of the initial 24 defendants committed suicide prior to the trials, and another was deemed medically unfit to stand trial. Over the course of the next three years 12 subsequent trials were held, after which twelve additional death sentences and 85 prison sentences were imposed.



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The international response to the Nuremberg Trials was controversial. Overall, the majority favored the trials as they brought to light the extent of the human rights violations conducted by the Nazis. However, a small minority critiqued the trials as imposing retroactive justice upon the accused, while others believed that although many Nazi leaders were brought to justice, the thousands members of the Nazi regime and “silent bystanders” who allowed Nazi violence to take place, went unpunished. The debate remains, *Was Justice Served as a Result of the Nuremberg Trials?*



📷 The dock at Nuremberg, where Nazis like Rudolf Hess (right) were sentenced. Photograph: Str/AP

Source 1

Solomon Radasky, Holocaust survivor from Warsaw Ghetto and Concentration Camp. Interview adapted from www.holocaustsurvivors.org.

The soldier put me in handcuffs, and he walked behind me with a rifle like I was his prisoner. When I got to Shultz's shop, I could not find my sister. Then I found that I was stuck there. I could not go back because the ghetto had been surrounded by German soldiers. The next morning was April 19, 1943, which was the day the Warsaw **Ghetto** Uprising began.

On May 1, 1943, I was shot in the right ankle. The bullet went through the meat and not the bone, so I did not lose my leg. I was taken to the **Umschlagplatz**. The Treblinka extermination camp could only take 10,000 people a day. In our group we were 20,000. They cut off half of our train and sent it to Majdanek concentration camp. Majdanek was another death camp.

At Majdanek they took our clothes and gave us striped shirts, pants and wooden shoes. I was sent to Barracks 21. As I lay in my bed, an older man asked me how I was. He said, "I can help you." He had been a doctor in Paris. He took a little pocket knife and operated on me. To this day I do not understand how he could have kept a knife in the camp. There were no medicines or bandages. He said, "I have no medication, you have to help yourself. When you urinate use some of the urine as an antiseptic on your wound."

We had to walk 3 kilometers to work. I had to hold myself up straight without limping and walk out of the gate of the camp. I was scared. If I limped, they would take me out of line. At Majdanek they hung you for any little thing. I did not know how I would make it. God must have helped me and, I was lucky. We stood at the roll call in our wooden shoes. Then when we got out of the gate we had to take off our wooden shoes and tie them over our shoulders with a piece of string. We had to walk to work barefoot. There were little stones on the road that cut into your skin and blood was running from the feet of many people. The work was dirty field work. After a few days some people could not take it anymore, and they fell down in the road. If they could not get up, they were shot where they lay. After work we had to carry the bodies back. If 1,000 went out to work, 1,000 had to come back.

One day as we were standing at roll call, a man in the back of the line smoked a cigarette. Heavy smokers would find a piece of paper and light it just to feel like they were smoking something. A German, the Lagerfuhrer, came up riding a tall, black horse. The horse had a white patch on his head and its legs were white too. It was a beautiful horse. The **Lagerfuhrer** held a whip in his hand. This man was a monster. It was late in the day and the sun was going down. He saw the smoke from the cigarette.

The Lagerfuhrer looked down at us and demanded to know who had smoked a cigarette. No one answered. "I am going to hang 10 dogs," he said. "I will give you 3 minutes." They called us dogs because we had tags with our numbers on them; my number was 993. We looked from one to the other, but no one answered.

The Lagerfuhrer did not wait 3 minutes; he did not wait 2 minutes. He took his whip and he cut off 2 rows of 5 prisoners. I was in the group of 10. He asked, "Who wants to go up first on the bench?" You had to go stand on the bench and put the rope around your neck. I was in the first three to go up on the bench. I climbed up and put the rope around my neck. He started beating us. He beat me so much the blood was running down my head.

Glossary:

Ghetto: a section of a city in which all Jews were required to live.

Umschlagplatz: the square in Warsaw where Jews were gathered for deportation from Warsaw to the Treblinka camp.

Lagerfuhrer: the head officer of a concentration camp

Source 2

Jenny Schaner, a native of Austria, was arrested by the Gestapo in October, 1941 and deported to Auschwitz in July, 1942. Interview adapted from, www.holocaustresearchproject.org.

We had to put down all our bags. Men were sent to one side, women to the other, on the right side, stood SS men with loaded **carbines**. The arrivals were locked up for the night in a block without water and without toilets; the next morning they saw the miserable people who populated the compound through a small window. We thought they were Russian prisoners of war, later we found out that they were women. That same morning the new prisoners were "**acclimatised**," we had to strip completely, our heads were shaved, and then we were given striped dresses and wooden clogs. We couldn't walk in them, and after twenty-four hours my feet were blistered.

We had to build a pond. That was terrible. Young SS men were running around hitting the women over the head with shovels. We couldn't understand the whole thing. We didn't know what was happening to us. I did this for ten days.

The Dutch women suffered particularly, that they found it more difficult to bear up. One of them turned to the work-detail leader and begged him, "For God's sake, sir, I cannot work like this, I am pregnant." And the SS man answered, "What you swine, you pig!" Then he knocked her down and she was carried away on a stretcher.

I was so desperate that I told a female guard that I could not do this much longer and asked whether there wasn't any office work; I was a stenographer – typist. "Perhaps," she said and told me not to go out to work the next morning. I then stayed in the block and was taken out of the work detail. First she worked in the admissions office where she saw much misery.

One day an SS man asked her, "Do you have strong nerves?" She said yes and came to the Political Section, to the "**registry**" where the death lists were kept. Personal data, day of death, and cause of death had to be entered, with great precision. If there was a typing error, they might become terribly angry.

In the death books were entered the names of those who had died in the camp as a result of sickness or on the electrified barbed wire, or had been shot, or hanged by the execution squad. Not "processed" were those who had been sent directly from the ramp into the gas ovens. The individual death reports were signed by doctors.

Most of the recorded causes of death were fictitious. Thus, for example, we were never allowed to enter "shot while escaping" in the book. I had to write "heart failure." And "cardiac weakness" was the cause listed instead of "malnutrition."

The three prisoners wrote for fourteen to sixteen hours a day. Personal data and causes of death filled line after line, page after page, and still it wasn't possible "to include all the daily deaths." The families got letters saying that despite the best possible medical care, it was not possible to save the life of the prisoner:

*"We express our heartfelt condolences at this great loss. Upon request you may get the **urn** against a payment of 15 marks." The urn of course, did contain the ashes of someone, but not those of a particular person.*

One day approximately fifty children were brought to the camp by truck. The oldest were five years old. I still remember a little girl, she might have been four. A little girl went up to **Quackernack** (an SS man) and said something to him.

The boy whose hand she held was perhaps a year older, he may have sensed something..... With her little brother at her side she stood there and lifted her little head and asked something..... Quackernack kicked her. She lay sprawling.

All the children were crying. We too were crying. We were horrified. Then they took their baggage up again and followed Quackernack. I don't know where he took them.

Glossary:

Carbines: a light, automatic rifle

Acclimatised: to adapt, or become used to a new situation or environment

Registry: a place where records such as names, birthdates, addresses, etc. are kept

Urn: a vase that holds the cremated remains of the dead.

Quackernack: Walter Quackernack, who was an Oberscharfuhrer (a higher rank) in the SS and was tried for war crimes at the second Belsen Trial. He was executed

Graphic Organizer for Sources 1 & 2

<p>Sourcing Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We notice that this source is an interview. How might that influence its tone and purpose?	
<p>Contextualization Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We notice that the source was in a concentration camp in the early 1940's. What was the situation for Jewish people at this time?2. What events were going on in the world during this time?3. What events were going on in the United States at this time?	
<p>Close Reading</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How does this interview describe the treatment of Jews by Nazi's in the concentration camp?2. What impact did do you think these events had on the individuals after leaving the concentration camps?	

Source 3

Walther Funk, minister of economics in Germany, was found guilty on counts two, three, and four, and was sentenced to life imprisonment. Quotes taken from, The Nuremberg Interviews: An American Psychiatrist's Conversations with the Defendants and Witnesses, by Leon Goldensohn, 1945-46.

On the charge that as president of the Reichsbank he accepted such items as eyeglasses, watches and gold teeth from corpses: I knew nothing about it. Of course, I knew the **Reichsbank** had a deposit from the **SS**, but where the gold came from I never knew...My God, if I had known such things!...I would have refused the deposit in the Reichsbank.

On his role as minister of economics: I became minister of economics in February 1938, and almost at once, it was demanded that Jews be eliminated from economic life and their stores shut. It led to difficulties because people were refusing to buy in Jewish shops....I was in favor of the program going slowly, and adequate payment should be given Jews whose businesses were to be sold. I even went so far as to believe that certain economic rights should be held by the Jews.

On his feelings of guilt: I am guilty of one thing - that I should have cleared out and not had anything to do with these criminals in the first place. Later, it was too late. I was in it up to my neck. But as for the atrocities, I had not a thing to do with them, did not know about them.....In reality, I am guilty as every German who participated in a regime that did cruel, inhuman things. But as to the specific charges, there are legal ways of proving that they are not accurate and I think I did well to repudiate these charges.

Glossary:

Reichsbank: The central bank of Germany from 1876-1945. This bank was controlled by the Nazi's during WWII.

SS: Short for *Schutzstaffel*, the SS was the paramilitary force that served as Hitler's bodyguard, the Nazi's protection squadron, and was responsible for overseeing the operations of concentration camps.

Source 3 Graphic Organizer

<p>Sourcing Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We notice that the source is an interview of someone who is being charged for criminal actions. How might this affect what information the person might give to the interviewer?	
<p>Contextualization Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. This interview was conducted during the Nuremberg Trials. What major events had just come to an end during this time?	
<p>Close Reading Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What major reasons does Funk give to attempt to prove his innocence?2. Funk states that he believed “adequate payment” should have been given to Jews whose businesses were sold, yet this never occurred. What does this tell us about Funk?3. Does Funk admit his guilt in this interview? Why or why not?	

Source 4

Franz von Papen, German statesman, was acquitted at Nuremberg, but was sentenced to eight years in a labor camp by a German denazification court. Biography edited from, <http://www.britannica.com/biography/Franz-von-Papen>.

Franz von Papen, (born Oct. 29, 1879, Werl, Ger.—died May 2, 1969, Obersasbach, W.Ger.), was a German statesman and diplomat who played a leading role in dissolving the Weimar Republic and in helping Adolf Hitler to become German **chancellor** in 1933.

From 1921 to 1932, he was a deputy in the Prussian parliament and belonged to the Catholic Centre Party. Though he had certain links with German leaders, former aristocrats, big business circles, and the German army, Papen himself had no political following. He was elevated to the role of Chancellor in 1932 by the President of Germany.

Papen established a conservative **authoritarian** government without a political base or voting majority in the German parliament. In an effort to remain peaceful with the Nazis, who formed the second largest party in Parliament, he lifted the ban on the Nazis' Sturmabteilung (a military group that provided protection for Nazi rallies and assemblies). Hitler, however, who wanted to rule Germany himself, remained in opposition to Papen.

As a way to gain revenge on his political rival, Papen came to terms with Hitler (Jan. 4, 1933) and persuaded the German president to appoint the Nazi leader to the chancellorship. As vice chancellor, Papen **naively** thought he could restrain the Nazis. Though he soon realized how mistaken he had been, he continued to serve Hitler. Papen narrowly escaped with his life during Hitler's attack on the Sturmabteilung on June 30, 1934. Hitler replaced this military group with his own defense corps (the SS). Papen resigned the vice chancellorship three days later. He was then sent as ambassador to Austria (1934–38), and eventually became ambassador to Turkey (1939–44), where he attempted to keep that country out of an alliance with the Allies.

Papen was arrested by the Allies in April 1945 and placed on trial as a war criminal. Found not guilty by the Nürnberg tribunal of **conspiracy** to prepare aggressive war, he was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment by a German court as a major Nazi, but in 1949, on his appeal, he was released and fined.

Glossary:

Chancellor: the head of government in some European countries such as Germany

Authoritarian: a government requiring strict obedience to authority

Naively: lack of experience, wisdom, or judgement

Conspiracy: an agreement between two or more persons to commit a crime at some time in the future.

Source 4 Graphic Organizer

<p>Sourcing Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We notice that the source is a biography of someone who was charged with war crimes. How might this impact the tone, as opposed to the person telling their account?	
<p>Contextualization Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Where there any situations occurring with the Jewish people in Europe when von Papen became involved in the German government?2. What was occurring politically with Germany during the time von Papen rose to power?	
<p>Close Reading Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Why would von Papen want to appeal to Hitler and “get on his good side?”	

Source 5

Wilhelm Keitel, chief of the High Command of German Armed Forces, was found guilty on all four counts, and was sentenced to be hung on October 16, 1946. Quotes taken from, The Nuremberg Interviews: An American Psychiatrist's Conversations with the Defendants and Witnesses, by Leon Goldensohn, 1945-46.

On his role in Hitler's military machine: I had no authority. I was field marshal in name only. I had no troops, no authority - only to carry out Hitler's orders. I was bound to him by oath. One of Hitler's prime ideas was that each minister was to mind his own business. That's why I learned about some of the (war-crime) business for the first time in this court.

On his personal responsibility for anti-Semitism in the army: As for Jewish measures - I tried to keep the army clear of anti-Semitism. Hitler decreed that World War I veterans who were Jews would be safe. But even that went to pieces. What could I do?...I was in it up to my neck by the time I realized the way things were going. What could I do? I could not **resign** in time of war; if I refused to obey I would be killed. Or I could commit suicide. On three different occasions I thought of resigning, but it was impossible.

On Hitler's brutality: I often had the sharpest and harshest clashes with Hitler. But had I taken my life, I wouldn't have improved things, because this demon went ahead with whatever he wanted and succeeded.

Ewald von Kleist's testimony about Wilhelm Keitel: If you want my own plain opinion about Keitel's orders, I will tell you. They were the orders of a stupid follower of Hitler. I myself paid very little attention to them and I think any attempt to justify his orders would be a mistake on the part of those of us who are steeped in military tradition and good conduct. I knew Keitel fairly well and I think that he is a decent person. It was simply that Hitler wanted a weak general in that powerful position in order to be able to have complete control over him.

Note: Throughout his time as chief of the OKW (the High Command of German Armed Forces), Keitel issued numerous military orders against Russia, Allied forces, and Jews.

Glossary:

Anti-Semitism: prejudice against, hatred of, or discrimination against Jews as an ethnic, racial, or religious group.

Resign: To voluntarily leave a job or other position.

Ewald von Kleist: A leading German field marshal during WWII who was tried for war crimes in 1945.

Source 5 Graphic Organizer

<p>Sourcing Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We notice that this source is an interview of someone who is being charged for criminal action. How might this affect how this person answers the interview questions?2. We also notice a statement made about Keitel by another person who is being put on trial. How might this statement either help or hurt Keitel's case?	
<p>Contextualization Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. This interview was conducted during the Nuremberg Trials. What major events had just come to an end during this time?	
<p>Close Reading Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What reasons does Keitel give for remaining in his position within the German army?2. What was Keitel's relationship like with Hitler?3. How does Keitel attempt to assert his innocence?	

Source 6

Accounts from *Bystanders at Mauthausen* (Excerpt from pp. 370-72 in *Facing History and Ourselves: Holocaust and Human Behavior*)

Background

After the Nazis invaded Austria, they took over buildings in a number of villages. One of those buildings was Hartheim Castle. In 1939, the Nazis began using this building to kill individuals deemed unfit for society because of physical or mental **handicaps**. As evidence of mass murders mounted, Christopher Wirth, the director of the operation, met with local residents. He told them that his men were burning shoes and “other belongings.” The strong smell? “A device had been installed in which old oil and oil by-products underwent a special treatment... in order to gain a water-clear oily fluid from it which was of great importance to U-boats (German submarines).” Wirth ended the meeting by threatening to send anyone who spread “absurd rumors of burning persons” to a concentration camp. The townspeople took him at his word. They did not break their silence.

Here are two testimonies (reports) of people who lived in the town of Mauthausen where the castle is located:

Karl S., a resident of Mauthausen:

From a window in his father’s barn, Karl S. could see buses arriving at the castle, sometimes two to three buses came as frequently as twice a day. Soon after they arrived, Karl remembers that “enormous clouds of smoke streamed out of a certain chimney and spread a penetrating **stench**. This stench was so disgusting that sometimes when we returned home from work in the fields we couldn’t hold down a single bite.” Karl mentioned that he did not know for sure what was happening in the castle because only people from outside of the town worked on the renovations of the building and because the Nazis did not allow townspeople to get close to the building.

Sister Felicitas, a former employee:

“My brother Michael, who at the time was at home, came to me very quickly and **confidentially** informed me that in the castle the former patients were burned. The frightful facts which the people of the vicinity had to experience at first hand, and the terrible stench of the burning gases, robbed them of speech. The people suffered dreadfully from the stench. My own father collapsed unconscious several times, since in the night he had forgotten to seal up the windows completely tight...When there was intense activity, it smoked day and night. Tufts of hair flew through the chimney onto the street. The remains of bones were stored on the east side of the castle and in ton trucks driven first to the Danube [River], later also to the Traun [River].”



The Family by Samuel Bak, 1974

Glossary:

Handicaps: any disadvantage that makes success more difficult

Stench: an offensive smell or odor; stink

Confidentially: spoken, written, acted on, etc., in strict privacy or secrecy

Source 6 Graphic Organizer

<p>Sourcing Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We notice the accounts are from two bystanders. How might this affect their view of the Holocaust?2. The second part of this source is a painting. How could art be used to convey a different message about the Holocaust instead of verbal accounts?	
<p>Contextualization Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How had the Nazis impact Austria by 1939 where the accounts are being taken from?2. The painting was completed in 1974. How might views have changed on the Holocaust nearly thirty years later that are conveyed in the painting?	
<p>Close Reading Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Do you think the individuals above complied with the Nazis out of fear or were there other motives?2. Is there any way that the individuals above could not have known what was occurring in the castle?3. Is there any significance about a castle being chosen as the location for these atrocities to take place?4. What body part of the individuals in the painting relates to bystanders? What message do you think Bak is trying to send through the people he included in his painting?	

Source 7

Information taken from www.wiesenthal.com 2013 Annual Report

Most Wanted Nazi War Criminals As of April 1, 2013

ALOIS BRUNNER – SYRIA Key **operative** of Adolf Eichmann Responsible for **deportation** of Jews from Austria (47,000), Greece (44,000), France (23,500), and Slovakia (14,000) to Nazi death camps Status – Lived in Syria for decades; Syrian refusal to cooperate **stymies** prosecution efforts; convicted in **absentia** by France Alois Brunner is the most important unpunished Nazi war criminal who may still be alive, but the likelihood that he is already deceased increases with each passing year. Born in 1912 and last seen in 2001, the chances of his being alive are relatively slim, but until conclusive evidence of his demise is obtained, he should still be mentioned on any Most Wanted List of Holocaust perpetrators.

HANS (ANTANAS) LIPSCHIS – GERMANY Served in the SS from October 1941 until 1945 at the Auschwitz – Birkenau death camp where he participated in the mass murder and persecution of innocent civilians, primarily Jews. Status: Escaped to the United States after World War II, but was deported by the American Office of Special Investigations to Germany in April 1983. Currently under investigation by the German authorities for his role in the Nazi death camp.

IVAN (JOHN) KALYMON – UNITED STATES Served in Nazi-controlled Ukrainian Auxiliary Police in Lvov (then German occupied Poland, today Ukraine) during the years 1941-1944, during which time he participated in the murder, roundups and deportation of Jews living in the Lvov Ghetto. Status: On January 31, 2011, Kalymon was ordered deported from the United States to Germany, Ukraine, Poland, or any country willing to admit him, for **concealing** his wartime service with forces in **collaboration** with Nazi Germany and his participation violent acts of persecution. No such country has yet been found and he therefore remains in the United States.

MIKHAIL GORSHKOW – ESTONIA Served as interpreter for the **Gestapo** in Belarus and is alleged to have participated in the mass murder of Jews in Slutsk. Status: Fled from the United States to Estonia before he was **denaturalized** for concealing his wartime service with the Nazis; had been under investigation in Estonia since his arrival several years ago, but in October 2011 the Estonian authorities closed the investigation against Gorshkow, claiming the case was one of “mistaken identity,” a decision which was severely criticized by the United States, Russia, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

THEODOR SZEHINSKYJ – UNITED STATES Served as an armed SS Death’s Head guard at the Gross Rosen (Poland), Sachsenhausen (Germany) and Warsaw (Poland) concentration camps where he actively participated in the persecution of civilian prisoners. Status: Escaped to the United States after World War II, but was stripped of his American citizenship in 2000 by the Office of Special Investigations and was ordered deported in 2003. To this date, no country has been willing to admit him and he therefore remains in the United States.

HELMUT OBERLANDER – CANADA Served in **Einsatzkommando** 10a (part of Einstazgruppe D), which operated in southern Ukraine and Crimea and is estimated to have murdered more than 23,000 people, mostly Jews. Status: Escaped to Canada after World War II, but was stripped of his Canadian citizenship in August 2001, after his wartime service with the Nazis was revealed. In May 2004, his citizenship was restored but it was **revoked** a second time in May 2007, a decision which was overturned by a Federal Court of Appeal in November 2009. On September 27, 2012, Oberlander’s citizenship was revoked again by Order in Council P.C. 2012-1137. He is currently **appealing** the decision before the Federal Court of Canada.

Glossary:

Deportation: the lawful relocation of an undesired person from a state or country

Operative: a person engaged, employed, or skilled in some branch of work

Stymies: prevent or hinder the progress of

Absentia: while not present

Concealing: to hid; withdraw or remove from observation; cover or keep from sight

Collaboration: to work, one with another; cooperate

Gestapo: the German secret police during the Nazi regime, organized in 1933 and known for its brutal methods and operations

Denaturalized: to take away one's rights and privileges of citizenship

Einsatzkommando: a sub-group of the Einsatzgruppen killing group whose job was strictly to kill undesirable groups.

Revoked: to take back or withdraw

Appealing: a request for aid, support, sympathy, mercy, etc.

Source 7 Graphic Organizer

<p>Sourcing Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. When was this report written?2. How much time had passed between the Nuremberg Trials and the creation of this report?	
<p>Close Reading Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What has been the punishment of those former Nazis who have been recently captured? Why do you think their punishment is so different than those who were sentenced at Nuremberg?	

Source 8

American judge, lawyer, Democratic Party activist, and presidential speech writer Samuel Rosenman's Memorandum for the President, War Crime Trials, April 19, 1945.

III. Scope and Dimensions of the War Crimes Problem

The crimes to be punished. "The criminality of the German leaders and their associates does not consist solely of individual outrages, but represents the result of systematic and planned reign of terror within Germany, in the satellite **Axis** countries, and in the occupied countries of Europe. This conduct goes back at least as far as 1933, when Hitler was first appointed Chancellor of the **Reich**. It has been marked by mass murders, imprisonments, expulsions and deportations of populations; the starvation, torture and inhuman treatment of civilians; the wholesale looting of public and private property on a scale unparalleled in history; and, after initiation of "total" war, its prosecution with utter and ruthless disregard for the laws and customs of war."

-IV. Difficulties of an Effective War Crimes Program.

Difficulties of identification and proof. The names of the chief German leaders are well known, and the proof of their guilt will not offer great difficulties. However, the crimes to be punished have been committed upon such a large scale that the problem of identification, trial and punishment of perpetrators presents a situation without parallel in the administration of criminal justice. In thousands of cases, it will be impossible to establish the offender's identity or to connect him with the particular act charged. Witnesses will be dead, otherwise incapacitated and scattered. The gathering of proof will be laborious and costly, and the mechanical problems involved in uncovering and preparing proof of particular offenses one of appalling dimensions. It is evident that only a **negligible** minority of the offenders will be reached by attempting to try them on the basis of separate prosecutions for their individual offenses. It is not unlikely, in fact, that the Nazis have been counting on just such considerations, together with delay and war weariness, to protect them against punishment for their crimes if they lost the war.

Glossary:

Memorandum: a short note giving a reminder or advice on a future matter

Axis: The Axis Powers during WWII consisted of Germany, Japan, and Italy.

Reich: Empire

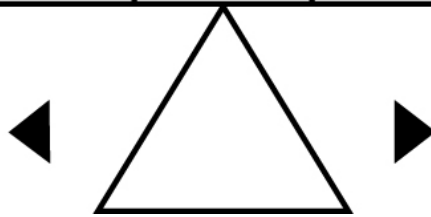
Negligible: So small that it is not important.

Source 8 Graphic Organizer

<p>Sourcing Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We notice that the source is a memorandum to the president. How will that affect the tone?2. What are Rosenman's positions in the United States government?	
<p>Contextualization Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The date on the memorandum is April, 1945. What positions are the United States and Europe in in terms of World War II?2. Look at the date of the memorandum. Why does Rosenman believe it would be difficult to gain substantial evidence at this time/	
<p>Close Reading Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. This was written after the events of the Holocaust were revealed and before the Nuremberg Trials. Based on these events and the tone of the memorandum, what do you think Rosenman's attitudes towards the Nuremberg Trials were?2. Look back at Rosenman's positions in the United States government. What would be beneficial about having someone like Rosenman give President Truman advice?	

Weighing the Evidence Graphic Organizer

Directions: Sort the information from your source graphic organizers to answer the question, *Was Justice Served as a Result of the Nuremberg Trials?*



Was Justice Served As a Result
of the Nuremberg Trials?

YES

NO