

Questions for Holocaust “Historical Overview”

by Dr. Michael Berenbaum

Introduction (*this section has no heading*) Paragraphs 1-7

1. In paragraphs 1 and 2, Berenbaum uses words and definitions to describe the term, Holocaust. What are the words, and how do they describe what the Holocaust meant to different groups?
2. A. What groups were listed as victims of the Holocaust? B. Why is this significant?

Why Jews?

3. When did Antisemitism appear?
4. In paragraphs 9-12, why do you think that political antisemitism developed? On what evidence do you base your response?
5. What influenced Hitler to take action against Jews? What was the result?

Nazi Persecution

6. How was the Nuremberg Legislation of 1935 so detrimental to Jews living in Germany?
7. Describe the process used by the Nazis to attempt to eliminate Jews from society.
8. A. Why do you think Hitler ordered “mercy killings?” B. Why is this term a misnomer?

Ghettoization and War

9. What was the purpose of ghettos and transit camps?
10. Paragraph 27 describes Nazi acquisition of additional countries and territories. In paragraph 28, why were Jews unable to immigrate to friendlier places?

Implementation and the Final Solution: *Einsatzgruppen*

11. What was the “Final Solution to the Jewish Problem,” and how was it carried out, according to paragraph 30?
12. Who murdered the Jews, according to paragraphs 33 and 34?

From *Einsatzgruppen* to Death Camps

13. What purpose did railroads serve in the killing process?
14. What period of time did it take for death camps to complete the elimination of most of the Jews?
15. Although the text lists five camps where millions were murdered, Berenbaum’s research points to how many possible death/slave labor/concentration camps during the Holocaust?
16. Paragraphs 39 to 41 include what happened to victims in death camps. Why would the author include these acts in his text?
17. Why do you think the elimination process of Jews in Hungary went so quickly when in Germany it took 12 years?

World War II and the War Against the Jews

18. A. What was the purpose of death marches? B. What struggle did these marches present for the Nazis? C. For the Jews who were involved?

Resistance

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19. How were some Jews able to fight back against the Nazis?

20. A. What obstacles made resistance difficult? B. Even so, why did some Jews fight back?

Liberation and its Aftermath

21. Why did most Jews find that going home was difficult? What did they often do instead?

22. What was the purpose of the Nuremberg Trials?

23. Explain the purpose of the Genocide Convention. What important declaration followed the adoption of this convention?

24. How has “the world” tried to change as a result of the Holocaust?

25. What struggles have Holocaust survivors faced, according to paragraphs 58-60? How must they view life after the Holocaust?

What is the Role of Holocaust Memory in the Contemporary World?

26. Define relativism.

27. Why does Berenbaum call the Holocaust “the nuclear bomb of moral epithets?”

28. To whom does he refer when he uses the term “parochial community?”

29. In Paragraph 64, why do you think all the people listed are unable to answer the question, “Why?”