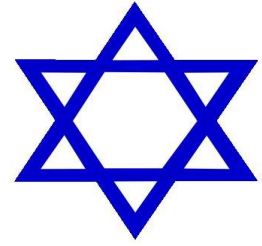


POWERPOINT PRESENTATION # 13 (For Eighth Grade)



THE HOLOCAUST (The Diary of Anne Frank)

The Jews 1940 – 1945

Just imagine for a second...

...that you and your family and your friends and your neighbors and everybody in this country get blamed for all the problems of the world just because you're... Puerto Rican!

Absurd, you say? I bet Anne Frank felt the same way.

Imagine now that, lets say, that the United States decides to pass laws against us to “protect” everybody else from our influence. Laws that could, with time, eventually deny us of our right to exist! That's what it was like to be a Jew in Europe during the 1930s and 40s.

Prelude to the Final Solution

When Adolph Hitler seized power in 1933 in Germany he used his new powers under the ‘Enabling Law’ to begin his attack on the Jews.

The Nazi Party blamed the Jews for Germany’s economic and social problems. They had to be dealt with in a radical way for the good of Germany.

By 1939, half of Germany’s 500,000 Jews had emigrated to escape the brutal Nazi persecution.

In 1939, Germany invaded Poland which had a much larger population of 3 million Jews.

In 1941, Germany invaded Russia which had a population of 5 million Jews.

Change of Tactics: Einsatzgruppen

Himmler sent four specially trained SS units called “Einsatzgruppen battalions” into German occupied territory and shot at least 1 million Jews.

Victims were taken to deserted areas where they were made to dig their own graves and shot.

When the SS ran out of bullets they sometimes killed their victims using flame throwers.

The ‘Final Solution’ to the ‘Jewish Problem’

In January 1942, Heinrich Himmler, Hitler’s Right-hand Man, decided to change tactics once again and called a special conference at Wannsee.

At this conference it was decided that the existing methods were too slow and inefficient and that a new ‘Final Solution’ was necessary.

How did the Nazi decide who was Jewish?

At the Wannsee conference it was decided that if one of person’s parents was Jewish, then they were Jewish.

If only one of their grandparents had been Jewish then they could be classified as being German. In 1940, all Jews had to have their passports stamped with the letter 'J' and had to wear the yellow Star of David on their jacket or coat.

Concentration camps

Concentration camps were camps that the Jewish, Gypsie, or other people were forced to go to, to be tortured or forced to do work. Adolf Hitler and the German Nazi Soldiers did not like those kind of people so they decided to put them in camps, called Concentration camps. They put them in these camps mostly because of their looks and their religion. The camps were built to fit many people in them. They also had many bunk beds to save room.

What Were They Meant For?

Concentration camps were first meant for the Jewish, Gypsie, or other slave workers. In 1941 some of the camps started being for killing the Jewish people. Some of the ways the Germans killed them were by poisonous gas and testing medical experiments on the people. Some of the experiments that the Germans tested on their prisoners were diseases and the cures for them.

What are Some of the Concentration Camps?

By 1942, the Germans had built 6 death camps. Some of these death camps were Auschwitz, Belzec, Chelmno, Majdanek, Sobibor, and T.II. Some other Concentration camps were Bergen-Belsen, Buchenwald, Dachau, Sachsenhausen, Treblinka, and Theresienstadt. These camps were forced work camps and not killing camps. The worst death camp out of them all was Auschwitz.

What tactics did the Nazis use to get the Jews to leave the Ghettos?

Deception

The Jews were told that they were going to 'resettlement areas' in the East.

In some Ghettos the Jews had to purchase their own train tickets.

They were told to bring the tools of their trade and pots and pans.

Terror

The SS publicly shot people for smuggling food or for any act of resistance.

Starvation

The Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto were only fed a 1000 calories a day.

A Human being needs 2400 calories a day to maintain their weight. Hungry people are easier to control.

SS Tactics: Dehumanisation

The SS guards who murdered the Jews were brain washed with Anti-Semitic propaganda.

The Jews were transported in cattle cars under terrible conditions.

Naked, dirty, and half starved people look like animals, which helped to reinforce the Nazi propaganda.

The SS encouraged their new guards by them to set fire to a pit full of live victims – usually children.
Tactics: What happened to new arrivals?

The Nazis would force large groups of prisoners into small cement rooms and drop canisters of Zyklon B, or prussic acid, in its crystal form through small holes in the roof. These gas chambers were sometimes disguised as showers or bathing houses.

Processing the bodies

Specially selected Jews known as the *sonderkommando* were used to remove the gold fillings and hair of people who had been gassed.

The *sonderkommando* Jews were also forced to feed the dead bodies into the crematorium.

Destruction Through Work

Also known as extermination through labor is a principle that guided the operation of the Nazi concentration camp system, defined as the willful or accepted killing of forced laborers or prisoners through excessive heavy labor and inadequate care. Working conditions were characterized by:

- no pay
- constant surveillance of workers
- physically demanding labor (for example, road construction, farm work, and factory work, particularly in the arms industry)
- excessive working hours (often 10 to 12 hours per day)
- minimal nutrition, food rationing
- lack of hygiene
- poor medical care and ensuing disease
- insufficient clothing (for example, summer clothes even in the winter)
- torture and physical abuse through such methods as *Torstehen* (forcing victims to stand outside naked with arms raised) or *Pfahlhängen* (hanging from a stake)

Was the Final Solution successful?

The Nazis aimed to kill 11 million Jews . Today there are only 2000 Jews living in Poland. The Nazis managed to kill at least 6 million Jews. From among them you will meet teenager named Anne Frank. Men like Oskar Schindler helped Jews escape the Final Solution.

Not all Jews went quietly into the gas chambers. In 1943, the Warsaw Ghetto revolted against the Nazis when the Jews realised what was really happening.

Seatwork

1. Who was the German leader that initiated the Jewish Holocaust?

2. Why were the European Jews persecuted by the Nazi?

3.What three things did the Nazis use to make the Jews leave the ghettos?

4.What was the Final Solution?

5.Who were the sonderkommando?

Never forget!