



HMMSA HOLOCAUST ACTIVITY SESSION

Analyzing the Holocaust

The Nazi Creed:

Read this excerpt from Hitler's book *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle), published in 1925. Answer the following questions.

1. Compare and contrast paragraphs #2 and #8.
2. Reread paragraph #6. How does it relate to #2 and #8?
3. Which paragraph stands out to you? Why?
4. Why do you think people believed this ideology¹?
5. Why doesn't this writing make sense?

¹Ideology: a system of ideas and morals, especially one which forms the basis of economic or political theory & policy.

The Nazi Creed, translated and summarized from *Mein Kampf*:

1. *Men are not created equal. As the most superior race on earth, Germans are true creators of culture. Since only they are capable of solving mankind's future problems, the future of civilization depends on them. Therefore, Aryan blood must be kept pure, or these superior qualities will be lost. Marriages to inferior races are forbidden. Germans must create a pure master race to rule the world.*
2. *Jews, the most inferior race, are true destroyers of culture. They have deliberately invaded and drained all countries of the world of money and power. Therefore, the future of world power rests on either the rightful German masters or the Jews. Germans must save the world by ridding it of this Jewish population.*
3. *Slavs¹, Blacks, and Mediterranean peoples rank only slightly above Jews. They are fit to live only as slaves for Germans.*
4. *The German master race will take as much land to the east as it needs for Lebensraum (extra living space). Political boundaries are nonsense. If others resist, Germany will use its arms and take land by force.*
5. *Democracy and majority rule are stupid. The masses are ignorant sheep that need leading by brilliant statesman. This divinely ²appointed leader is Adolph Hitler, who will rule the world with a few chosen elite. The Third Reich, or New German Empire, will last a thousand years. It will be a Nazi totalitarian state with total control of government and lives of all citizens.*
6. *Propaganda, or a system to spread political ideas, must be used to gain support of the ignorant masses. Since the people are dull and forgetful, propaganda must be limited to only a few points and repeated over and over again in slogans. It is not important that these ideas be true, for people are willing to believe anything. In fact, the bigger the lies, the better.*
7. *Force and fear are the only means to keep the masses under control. Reason and argument have no place in the Third Reich.*
8. *Give the people a single enemy to hate and to blame for all their troubles. Then they will not feel guilty and will aim all their frustrations in one direction. Blame the Jews for everything.*
9. *Thou shalt have no other god but Germany! (Hitler proposes that this be the 11th commandment in the Bible.) Christianity is just a scheme created by the Jews. Christian love, mercy, and charity must be replaced by pride, willpower, defiance, and hate. Honor not a heavenly father but the Fatherland!*

¹ A Slav is an Eastern European person

² Divinely means by the power of God.

