What were the ideologies that led to the establishment of forced labor camps, concentration camps, and death camps during World War II? Under what conditions do such events occur?

What were the similarities and differences between the Japanese occupation of Asian countries and Nazi Germany's occupation of Europe?

What was the attitude of the Western powers towards people fleeing these war torn regions? What should it have been?

How do these events compare with the situation today? What lessons can be learned from this past? Are they being learned? Why or why not?

Before and during World War 2 the Nazi party practiced anti-Semitism. This was originally to force the Jewish People to immigrate out of Germany. This marked the Jews as outsiders and the German looked upon them with disgust. Thus began the movement for a perfect Germany, and under Adolf Hitler all undesired people were sent to labor camps and separated from the rest of the country, the main target for these camps were Jews. (Bentley, Ziegler and Streets-Salter, Traditions, 619)

The similarities between Nazi occupation of Europe and Japanese occupation of Asia are as follows: important locals joined the government, because it was an opportunity for them to build their reputation. Another similarity is that some citizens would assist the invading troops to abolish their past crimes or satisfaction from hate towards existing government. The Nazi’s and Japanese allowed occupied countries to have local leaders because of the belief that countries should rule themselves (local) instead of being ruled by another power (foreign). (Bentley, Ziegler and Streets-Salter, Traditions, 619)

The differences between Nazi and Japanese occupation are: how the people of occupied countries resisted the newly found leaders. Graffiti would be seen on buildings in German occupied countries spreading anti-German propaganda, but Japanese resistance was more subtle with people leaving places of business when soldiers would enter, disrespecting them. Another difference was how their own countries citizens acted towards their countries aggressiveness. In Japan most citizens stayed loyal to their countries decisions, while in Germany there was resistance, but it was not very effective. (Bentley, Ziegler and Streets-Salter, Traditions, 619)

Western powers would limit the migration of Jews in their country, because of concerns that German victories would cause there to be too many refugees that they could handle. I believe that they did the right thing, because you should put your own countries needs before taking on others, and if their country didn’t have the supplies to sustain the Jewish refugees it would weaken their country making it more vulnerable for German takeover. (Bentley, Ziegler and Streets-Salter, Traditions, 619)

Today there are thousands of Syrian refugees trying to escape from their country which is in the midst of a civil war. Just like the Jewish people, countries are questioning the idea to take on these refugees, but unlike the Jews this is due to the fear that terrorists are hidden among them. What we learned from the past was that we should have provided more assistance towards the fleeing Jews. More assistance may have saved thousands of them from dying in the labor camps. I do believe this lesson has been learned, many European countries are taking in these refugees with open arms, but this has come at a cost with some of them attacking the country that they were sent to.

Works Cited

Jerry H Bentley, Herbert F. Ziegler, and Heather Streets-Salter, *Traditions & encounters: a brief global history, Third Edition* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2010)