**ANTI-SEMITISM TO GENOCIDE**

Anti-Semitism, anti-Jewish has a long history in western society, especially in Europe where Jews have been segregated in "ghettos."

Anti-Semitic behavior from exclusion from mainstream society to violence (frequent pogroms -- organized killing sprees in Europe and Russia) and scapegoating have been common throughout the history of the west.

One myth that has been enduringly persistent is that the Jews - all of whom are wealthy and greedy -- actually control the world from behind closed doors. This myth was perpetuated throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth century by the high visibility of banking families in Europe, especially the Rothschilds

Anti-Semitism has not been has virulent in the U.S. however there is a strong strain of anti-Semitism -- West Hartford tennis Club-- strange mixture of not knowing what it is. Anti-Semitism in the U.S. was partly responsible for the U.S. not taking significant action prior to the Holocaust when the Germans threatened to deport the Jews and during the War when the Holocaust was going on

Hannah Arendt in her book The Origins of Totalitarianism claimed that mistaken anti-Semitism and the holocaust -- genocide, the systematic extermination of the Jewish people in Europe was a condition that aided the genocide, Jews mistakenly believed it was the same old thing and would pass, or that it was only directed at German Jews.

In 1935 the German Government, led by popularly elected chancellor Adolph Hitler enacted the Nuremberg Laws which deprived Jews in Germany of their civil rights and enacted many social prohibitions on them, such as intermarriage. In 1938 before the outbreak of WWII the Nazis provoked what was called Kristallnact. This and threats of deportation and actual deportation from the Reich were merely prefatory to the final solution.

In the spring of 1941 Hitler ordered Reinhart Heydrich to begin implementing the Final Solution to the Jewish Question, a euphemism for the extermination of all the Jews of Europe, estimated at 11 million.

Just prior to the invasion of Russia Heydrich organized the Einzatsgruppen ( mobile killing units). These units followed behind the German army as it advanced into Russia. Its task was the mass machine gunning of Russia and Polish Jews. In two sweeps in 1941 and early 1942 the EZ killed 1.5 million Jews

Another more efficient plan was devised, but required the cooperation of most of the institutions within Germany. In the Wanesse Conference Heydrich explained the plan to heads of Germany's civilian institutions. His plan was received quite well received. Arendt in her book Eichmann in Jerusalem says that there was not an institution in Germany that did not actively participate in the Final Solution.

The killing centers were set up in Poland, Chelmo, Treblinka, Sobibor, and the most notorious which covered almost 18 sq miles Auschwitz, these centers were responsible for exterminating close to 3 million Jews.

The two most stunning characteristics of this were that there was no organized effort to stop this even though the west knew it was going on since Nov 42

and the cooperation from countries, bureaucracies, local police, Jewish councils. In Elie Wiesel's book Night the Nazis are almost invisible

the banality of evil

Durkheim argues that the basis of any society is moral, the conscience collective, shared norms and values. Modern western society as a complex moral basis, the Judeo-Christian tradition, and modern Enlightened political thought. What is the moral basis of society, and how does the Holocaust undermine them.

1)Trust that the most basic rights, right to exist, won't be violated, especially by those institutions that are set up to guarantee it. also the right to life, liberty, and happiness

2) Belief that most people would have to be forced or psychotic to wantonly humiliate, torture and kill others, especially the innocent, women and children

3) Morality compels us to resist evil like the Holocaust despite the consequences

4) Intimate relationships are sacred and immutable, father-son, friend. We would never kill someone over a crumb

5) Da ist kein warum en Auschwitz?

6) I know myself, my identity, I would not act certain ways