I. The Final Solution

A. Spring 1941 Adolph Hitler, the leader of Germany, decided

to annihilate all the Jews living in occupied German territory

1. Designated task to Reich Marshall Herman Goering

2. who ordered Reihard Heydrich, chief of Reich Security

to a organize

3. "a complete solution to the Jewish question in the German sphere of influence" (4AJ)

4. the solution Heydrich arrive at is what is called the

Holocaust or Shoah

a. extermination and forced labor camps

b. set up in Poland

B. "Die Judenfrage"

1. Most Germans agreed that there was a Jewish question or problem that needed to be solved

2. The nature of the question

a. Jews were a malevalent race, freqently portrayed

in popular German culture as devils

b. They were a threat to German society

i. Germans blamed Jews for their defeat in

WWI

ii. Germans blamed Jews for the depression,

unemployment which followed

iii. conceived of a world wide Jewish conspiracy through control of large financial

institutions that was intent on destroying

Germany

iv. two Americans contributed to this paranoia, Charles Lindberg and Henry Ford

c. Jews were a threat to Aryan master race because

their blood which was "evil" would contaminate

German blood

d. historically anti-semitism was defined in religious terms

i. When Christianity became the dominant

religion in western society Judaism was

defined as a heresy

ii. Jews were persecuted because of their

religion

iii. Judaism was considered a particular threat

to Christianity because it has the same textual

sources but repudiates the messiaship of

Jesus- sacriligious defiance

iv. the solution to Judaism was conversion, if

not conversion,

v. Jews who wouldn't convert were persecuted

vi. pogroms, Crusades, inquisitions

"The clerics believed that if Christianity was indeed the true faith and its followers were the new Israel, then Judaism had to be discredited in the eyes of the faithful. In medieval sermons, plays, and religious literature, the Jews were often protrayed as the adversaies of the church who from the time of the Crucifixtion threatned good Christisn."

EG fourth century,John Chrysostom, a Chruch Father,"Where Christ-killers gather, the cross is ridiculed, god blashemed, the father unacknowledged, the son insulted, the grace of the Spirit rejected . . .If the Jewish rites are holy and venerable, our way of life must be false. But if our way is true, as indeed it is, theirs is fraudulent . . .I am speaking of their present day madness HWE 52

Medieval Christianity was no different, they thought of Jews as the agents of both evil and the devil. By the thirteenth centruy the Jew became synonymous with the devil. Peter the Venerable of cluny, "whether a Jew can be human for he will neither yield to human reasoning, nor find satisfaction in authoritative utterances, alike divine and Jewish." 53 HWE

Spanish Inquisition and the later Papal Inquisition which sought out heretics through torture and hearsay directed at the Jews

And with the First Crusades there was a massacre of Jewish areas

e. defining Jews in racail terms was a new form

of anti-semitism

i. mythology of the super race or Aryan race

ii. which identified "blood" as the defining

racial characteristic - homogenous group

iii. based on Hitler's and western Europe"

so-called racial science

iv. Jewish race

binary opposite of German Volk

malevolent and corrosive therefore

the active cause of everything wrong

with society because they were

powerful and well organized

less than human

iv. also led to need to deal with the questions

another racially inferior group - gypsies

f. new definition of Jew equals new understanding

of problem and new solution

i. conversion can't be an answer because the

problem is racial not religious

"that even the most honest Jew, under the inescapable influence of his blood, the carrier of his Semitic morality which is fully oposed to your German morality must work everywhere only towards the subvesion and destruction of the German nature, german moraltiy, German civilization."

ii. Hitler not the first to come up with extermination, it had been on the table in

German society since late 1800s

"Even before Hitler and the Nzis, Between 1861 and 1895 there were 28 proposed solution to the Jewish, of thoe 28 19 were for the physical extermination of the Jews"

C. Hitler's early solutions

1. Hitler was appointed Chancellor by coalition in 1932

2. Won popular election in 1933

a. took complete control after burning of Reichstag

b. passed Enabling Act in 1933

c. in Dec 1933 announce unity of "party and state" and himself as "fuhrer"

2. Dismissal of non-Aryans, defined as Jews, from civil

service - April 7, 1933 The Law for the Re-establhisment

of the Professional Civil Service

3. Nurmeber Laws 1935

a. took away citizenship rights

b. prohibited different types of associations

i. sexual and marriage

ii. work relationships

4. Forced emigration

a. western coutries did not want Jewish immigrants

b. Flight Tax on wealth

5. Violence - Kristallnach

a. SA destroyed businesses, synagogues

b. kill 91 Jews and 30,000 sent to concentration

camps

6. Final solution for Polish and Russian Jews

a.The Einsatzgruppen

i. the Germans had made a decision to kill all of the Jews in Eastern Poland and Russia as German troops advanced into Russia.

ii. The invasion of which began in June 22, 1941.

iii. This was to be accomplished by what were called Einzatsgruppen, or mobile killing units,

iv.there were four in total, three headed by Phds, and

v. they were broken into smaller units Sonderkammandos, the leaders were highly educated, one was a pastor.

vi. method (227HWE, 3AJ

vii. 1.4 million Jews

b.Police Battalions

i. These units were not just composed of every day, ordinary Germans, volunteers.

ii. Frequently told that they did not have to participated in mass murder, few passed.

iii. Other job of police battalions, search out Jews who escaped or found hiding places.

iv.Typically more men volunteered than was necessary, many of the men went on many missions,

"For them it was a hunt pure and simple, the purpose of which was to denude the ountryside of the offending beasts." (HWE 237) "Jew-hunt) from E. Hoffman

They came across a series of underground bunkers, whereupon they yelled for the Jews to come out. Silence greeted them. The Germans threw in tear-gas grenades, which revealed to them something of their victims: ". . . from the bunkers rang out the cries and whimpers women and children." The Germans again ordered them to come out, to no effect. "And when no one emerged, hand grenades were thrown again and again until it had become completely lifeless inside the bunker in question . . . I cannot state the exact number of victims becasue we did not excavate the bunker after finishing the operation. Nor did we verify the deaths of the occupants." HWE, 237, E.N. Hoffman

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D. The Final Solution

1. Required the killing of an estimated 11 million

2. needed cooperation and more efficient method of killing

3. Wannsee Conference

"happy agreement on the part of the participants" "extrordinary enthusiasm."

4. Method

a. The general plan for the "final solution" was to deport Jews from all the countries of Europe to Easter Europe, centrally Poland,

b. the extermination camps were locatedd: these were **Chelmo, Treblinka, Sobibor, Maidenek, Belzec,** and the most notorious **Auschwitz**, which was a combination concentration camp and death camp, 18 sq miles, factories, Krupps, FArben, Siemens (Birkenau was the death camp at Auschwitz)

c. Chelmo began work in late 1941 using gasing vans,

d. sping and summer of 1942 for the rest, Auschwitz used Zyklon B (hydrogen cyanide, or prussic acid -- produced by Farben)

e. At this point we might add that the distinction between a concentration camp - forced labor- and a killing center is an illusion, the concentration camps killed through labor and starvation -- 2.5 million Russian soldiers were starved to death, Mauthausen had a 100% death rate, as did Treblinka, accept for around 23o who escaped at the end, however, most of those were killed by Polish peasants (Steiner)

5. Eichmann

a. This vast undertaking was put in the hands of Adloph Eichmann a mid-level bureaucrat with a

i. genius for organization who at is trial never denied that he did what he did, organized the deportation of millions to death camps, and

ii. was proud that he served Hitler well

iii. Hannah Arendt, as far as Eichmann could see no one refused to cooperate, no one protested

6. Eichmann’s method and its dependence on massive cooperation

a. foreign governments enact laws making Jews stateless

i. deprive them of their citizenship, and their civil rights and

ii. rights to due process

iii. no longer persons before the law

b. identify and register 11 million Jews

i. yellow star

ii. local civil authorities

iii. local police

iv. Jewish Councils

e. temporary ghettoization

i. local police

ii. nation’s military

iii. Jewish councils

iv. local population

f. transportation,

i. cattle cars to transport large numbers of ews to extermination centers

ii. logistical cooperation

g. arrival

i. force labor Auschwitz

ii. extermination camps Treblinka

h. death marches

i. large gettos

i. Warsaw, Lodz, Lublin

i. W 4000 died per week

6. "Success"

**Totals:** Of the approximately 5.5 million Jews killed by the Nazis, close to 3 million were slauthered in the extermination centers and almost 1.5 million were massacred in the mobile killing actions. Most of the rest died in other mass shootings, or on the deportation trains, or from the lethal conditons that prevailed in the ghettos (starvation, cold, disease, and crowding), death marches

Kurt Gerstein Christian 209,210 engineer, account HH.

Rudolph Hoss in his autobiography from prison 214 HH.

E. Hungary 1944

1. Hungry joined Axix, already anti-semitic

2. In 1928 they had passed a law limiting per cent of Jewish students allowed in the universities, and in

3. 1938 and 1939 they passed laws limiting Jews in most sections of the economy,

4. later inter racial marriages were forbidden, the official status of the Jewish religion was abolished, Jews were removed from the Army

5. Despite this believed "it could not happen here."

6. Hannah Arendt says that the Jews, espcially the Jews in urban areas, knew, they knew about Auschwitz and they knew about the Einzatsgruppen, that Elie Wiesel did not know at age 15 is true.

7. In March 1944 Eichmann arrived with his staff which was about 10 men.

a. It took only a short time for Eichmann to organize the deportation of 450,000 Jews.

b.The government passed the necessary laws and decrees, he orgainized the Jewish Council

c.The ghettoization was accoplished by the Hungarin police.

d.Eichmann is said to have promised the Jewish Council that nothing would happen to the Jews,

e. April 7th order to move Jews into Ghettos, April 14 order was executed.

f. Hungarian police organized the deportation

g. The Hungarian populationdid not resist because they were allowed to expropriate Jewish wealth left behind

h. Of those deported, 75% were gassed immediately, because the crematorium could not handle such volume, open pits were resorted to. HH Mueller315.

F. The Ghettoes:

1. The Germans organized huge urban ghettos,large numbers of Jews were virtually imprisoned, in fenced off section of town, with little food,

2. Warsaw, Lodz, Lublin. Most were killed eventually, or shipped to Auschwitz, many died, starvation, disease

3. Warsaw 4000 died per week

G. Death Marches

I. Night

A. Elie Wiesel (b Sep 30, 1928 Sighet, Hungary)

1. originally published While the World Remained Silent 800 pages

2. French 1958 English 1960

B. Story personalized account of the deportation of Jews in Hungary in 1944

1. largest remaining population in Europe

2. Nazis came in 1944 March, one month later 15,000

from Sighet

3. 75% of Hungarian Jews gassed immediately

4. used open pits because of backlog

5. called the holocaust which means burnt offering,

shoah in Hebrew or hurbn in Yiddisn

C. Point of View

1. told through the eyes of fifteen year old Eliezer

a. Eliezer "my god is strenght(help)

b. "Eli" - "my god", first two words of Psalm 22

c. Eleazar transformed to Lazarus

2. ambivalent witness

a. Wiesel waited 10 years to write

b. 1954 meeting with Francois Mauriac

D. Themes

1. dehumanization and death

2. religious struggle

3. father-son relationship

4. abandonement

E. Narrative structure: Nightmare

1. Experience of the nightmare

“Surely it was all a nightmare? An unimaginable nightmare?28)

2. taken-for-granted world

a. embedded in religious community with

strong religious beliefs

b. strong family relationships

c. moral order

d. “Night fell” p10

3. world of the concentration camp

a. dehumanization and death

b. no moral order

c. undermines religious beliefs

“In one ultimate moment of lucidity it seemed to me that we were damned souls wandering in the half world . . . (34)

F. Dehumanization and death

1. loss of identity

a. true equality

b. shaved, disinfected, prison clothes

2. delayed killing

"From the power to transform him into a thing by killing there proceeds another power, and much more prodigious, that which makes a thing of him while he still lives. He is living, he has a soul, yet he is a thing."

3. words with meaning:

a. Nazis: dog, swine, beasts

b. furnace and stomach

“There remained only a shape that looked like me.”(34)

G. No Moral Order

1. “Today anything is allowed. Anything is possible”

(30)

2. Primo Levi “Survival At Auschwitz”

H. Religious beliefs

1. Covenant: God’s relationship to the Jewish

people

a. God is all powerful and just

b. acts in history

c. historical events reflect God’s actions

d. but we are just

2. Arrival and revolt

a. burning children (30)

b. beginning of revolt against God

“For the fist time I felt revolt rise up in me. Why should I bless his name?

c. God’s ways: mysterious, test

“But I had ceased to pray.”

3. Open revolt

a. the death of the child (62)

b. Rosh Hashanah (63)

c. On Yom Kippur he demonstrated is rebellion

by not fasting

4. A new faith

a. selection is the last judgment

b. faith in Hitler

5. Eliezer and Job

I. Father-Son relationship

1. Only humanity in the Kingdom of Night is this relati- onship of mutual caring and support

a. "My hand shifted . . . not to lose him"(27)

b. even after operation runs into snow "I did not want to lose him”

2. Father saves Eliezer

a. early he lets Eliezer have his bread

“Personally I’m not hungry.”(41)

b. in march through snow

i. "My father's presence is the only thing

that stopped me"

ii. vow to keep each other from sleeping

iii. fathers voice as life line (100)

c. on the train from Gleiwitz to Buchenwald

i. someone is choking Eliezer

ii. father saves him through surrogate Meir

Katz

3. Eliezer saves Father

a. causes disturbance when father is selected in

Gleiwitz

b. train to Buchenwald when father is mistaken for

dead, wakes him

4. Relationship: burden and guilt

a. Eliezer is afraid he will abandon his father

b. Bela Katz Sonderkommando put owns father's body into crematorium

c. Pipel beats own father for not making his bed properly

d. Rabbi Eliahou and his son (97) and terrible thought

e. "Meir, Meir"

5. Eliezer's abandonment

a. Kapo hits father who crawls like an animal

"I did not move . . ."

b.Buna Idek beats father with iron bar "anger against father"

c. After alert hoping not to find father 'all my strength for my own survival

d. drinks father's soup after rejecting it

6. Eliezer judges himself guilty

7. Abandonment of the Jews

a. neighbors

i. occupied homes, shops

ii. denial about killing centers Nordhausen

iii. spontaneous acts of violence

b. legal and civil authorities

i. ignored the Constitution and the

rule of law

c. physicians and doctors

i. Euthanasia

ii. human experiments

d. church “German churches cooperated whole

heartedly”

i. Lutheran

ii. Catholic

e. Universities

f. US

i. restrictive covenants

ii. St. Louis

iii. postponed information release for

further investigation

iv. page 40

v. refusal to bomb train lines or

crematoriums for fear of killing

civilians

8. Resistance is futile

a. Denmark

b. Italy

c. Huegenots in Le Chambon sur Lignon

d. White Rose and Army Sgt

e. German soldiers could ask for reassignment

Rwanda

I. Western society incl the US recognized and accepted their failure to act, ex post facto,

A. Genocide happened within so-called civilized and enlightened society

B. Undermines moral foundation of western society

C. Human Rights aggreement

1. get take away political rights

2. rights of refugees

D. Genocide Convention - resolution 260A (III) (149 ZR)

E. At the opening of the Holocaust museum "Never Again"

Clinton

II. Rwanda 1994

A. 900,000 Tutsis killed in 100 days by Hutus

1. irony not even clearly delineated ethnic group

2. Tutsis were cattle and Hutus farmers

3. Tusis although minority ruled

a. highly organized society

b. obedient people, respectful of authority

4. Belgian colonial rule

a. maintained power structure

b. produced a racial ideology

5. Power structure reversed

6. killings began

B. Not a civil war, not random

1. highly organinzed, coordinated and systematic murder

of Tutsi men, women, and children

2. hundreds of thousands of Hutus participated under

the banner of Hutu Power and the slogan"Do your work"

3. most killing down by machetes

4. state radio directed the slaughter, identifying targets

and locations

5. Drs killed patients, teachers killed students, students

killed students, ministers killed their congregation,

neighbor killed neighbor, family member killed family

C. World Remanined Silent -1

1. UN commander told Kofi Annan what was going to happen and that he could stop it with 5000

2. Kofi Annan then head of UN Peacekeeping said don't

intervene

3. Immediately Hutus killed and mutilated a contingent

of Belgian peacekeepers who did not resists

4. UN for all practical purposes disappeared

D. World Remained Silent -2

1. Presidential Decision Directive 25

a. no American involvement

b. also urged others not to get involved

c. would not use the word genocide because that

would mean keeping our word (153)

2. when other countries realizing it was genocide

were ready to send troops

a. Albright delayed vote

b. US delayed further by withholding promised

weapons

E. The world helped - 1 - France

1. Hutu and France had close ties after Belgians

left in 1959

2. France funneled arms to keep Hutus in power and

aid the killing

3. kept UN from condemning the atrocity

4. both US and France kept Rwanda ambassador on

Security Council

5. Sent troops to set up safety zone Operation Turquoise

safety for Hutu

F. World helped - NGOs

1. RPF was the group that stopped the slaughter, formerly

exiled Tutsis

2. As Hutu -genocidaires - fled to Uganda and Belgian Congo

3. NGOs set up humanitarian centers for them

4. Centers run by Hutu Power and served as staging

areas to attack and kill Tutsis

G. How can this problem be solved

1. over 100,000 Hutus in prison

2. Tutsis return home, Hutus in their house

3. Neighbors killed their relatives

I. The Final Solution

A. Spring 1941 Hitler ordered through "a complete

solution to the Jewish question in the German sphere

of influence

B. Translation: Genocide

C. Reinhard Heydrich, chief of Reich Security, was to

develop the plan

1. identification and transportation of all Jews

in Europe

2. and their systematic extermination in death camps located in Poland

C. Conventional Wisdom: Judenfrage

1. Germans unquestioningly accepted the Jews

presented a problem

2. Jews were an evil and dangerous race

a. caused defeat in WWII

b. cause of depression, unemployment

c. involved in worlwide conspiracy

d. a threat tocontaminate the Aryan race with their blood

e. racial anti-Semitism

D. Religious Anti-Semitism

1. western society has history of anti-semitism

2. Jews were both segregated and persecuted

from the time Christianity became dominate

3. Judaism was heresy, especially threatening

a. share the same text

b. refuse to believe Jesus is messiah

c. no way to reconcile their beliefs with Christianity

d. "Christ-killers" "devils"

4. Forms of persecution

a. segregated into ghettoes

b. excluded from occupations

c. targets of pogroms wherever they lived

d. massacred by crusaders

e. targets of Spanish and Papal Inquisitions

f. scapegoats, black plague, crop failure

g. Jews treated significantly better under

Muslim rule in Spain prior to late 15th century

5. solution

a. conversion

b. assimilation

c. failure to convert

E. Racial Anti-Semitism

1. the concept of race emerged during colonialism

2. race scientists

3. Jews identified as a separate race by blood

a. inferior race

b. evil and malevolent race

4. ethnic group

5. conversion and assimilation no longer solution

6. must be eliminationist

a. Hitler not the first

b. 1861-1895 19 plans for extermination

D. Hitler's early solutions

1. Nuremberg Laws 1935

2. Forced Emigration

3. Kristallnact 1938 - violence and camps

E. Final Solution I

1. German invasion of E. Poland and Russia

2. Einsatzgruppen

3. Police Battalions

4. Limits

F. Final Solution

1. Fordism applied to mass murder

2. Wannsee Conference and the bureaucracy of

murder

"happy agreement on the the part of the participants"

"extraordinary enthusiasm"

3. General plan: deport Jews to death camps in

Poland, Chelmo, Treblinka, Sobibor, Maidenek,

And Auschwitz, began work in late 41, early 42

a. Zyklon B

b. embraced by corporations

4. Heydrich and Eichmann's specific plan

a. foreign government enacts laws making

Jews stateless

b. identify and register: yellow star

c. temporary ghettoization

d. load on cattle cars

e. arrival: selection or death

f. permanent gettoes, eg Warsaw

g. death marches

G. Abandonment of the Jews

1. neighbors, occupied houses, hunted escaped Jews,

ignored the camps Norhausen

2. civil, political, legal authorities ignored the

violations of the rights of Jews

3. Universities

4. Church

a. Lutheran Church

i. pastors offered help

ii. preached Nazism from pulpit

b. Catholic Church

5. US and GB

a. St. Louis

b. restrictive covenants

c. no plan, bombing Auschwitz

H. Resistance was futile

1. Italians

2. Denmark

3. Huegenots Le Chambon sur Lignon

4. White Rose and German army Sgt

I. Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948

1. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms

set forth in the declaration

2. all persons are "entitled to the protection of the

law"

J. Covenant on the Prevention and Elimination of Genocide

K. International Criminal Court

II. Night

A. Orignally 800pages While the World Remained Silent

B. Story

1. Deportation of Jews from Hungary 1944

2. 450,000 (15,000 Sighet) 75% gassed immediately

3. personalized account

C. Point of View

1. Young boy named Eliezer

2. Distant ambivalent witness

D. Themes

1. Dehumanization

2. religious

3. father-son relationship

4. abandonement

E. mis en scene: Nightmare

1. "surely it was all a nightmare . . . and unimaginable

nightmare" p28

2. taken for granted world

a. religious beliefs

b. family relationships

c. moral order

3. World of night "universe of the concentration camp"

a. dehumanization and death

b. no moral order

c. challenge religious beliefs

d. undermine relationship with father

D. Dehumanization and death

1. identity

2. delayed killing

3. words with meaning

E. Moral order

1. 'brothers keeper"

2. Primo Levi: Survival at Auschwitz

F. Religious beliefs

1. God of the Covenant

2. arrival

a. the pits

b. revolt

3. Open revolt

4. new faith

a. selection as the last judgment

b. faith in Hitler

5. Job

G. Father-son relationship

1. Mutual caring and support

a. father saves Eliezer

b. Eliezer saves Father

2. Relationship

a. burden

b. guilt

H. Abandonment

I. International Law

1. Universal Declaration Of Human Rights

2. Covenant on the Elimination and Prevention

of Genocide

3. International Criminal Court