

OCCUPATION: TASK INSTRUCTIONS

The key question: How did occupation affect peoples' lives?

Your task

The Ministry of Information have asked you to evaluate a drawing by Terence Cuneo. You must decide whether this source is just propaganda (meant to persuade or convince in a particular way), or if its messages can be supported by other sources.

Use the table to record your views.

How did occupation affect peoples' lives?

This image is one of many which were produced by the British government. It is designed to show British people what life was like living under Nazi rule.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: OCCUPATION

The British Ministry of Information produced this drawing during the war. It was one of a series of drawings that went under the title of 'Under Nazi Rule'

Catalogue ref: INF 3/1794



WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: OCCUPATION

What is this source?

Terence Cuneo (1906-1996) was an artist who worked for the government at the British Ministry of Information from 1941. This is part of a series of drawings that he produced under the title 'Under Nazi Rule'.

The Ministry of Information produced thousands of pieces of propaganda during the war. It produced films, books, radio programmes and cartoons.

What's the background to this source?

At the time this image was drawn German forces controlled most of Western Europe. Britain was the only democratic country still opposing Nazi Germany.

Throughout the war Germany was very short of workers and resources to supply its war effort. Some historians think that these shortages were the main reason why the war broke out in 1939.

It's worth knowing that...

This particular example was probably designed as a poster. The artist has left a space for a caption to be inserted.

Not all of the drawings produced were used. Some were not quite right. Sometimes drawings were thought to be too upsetting.

How does the artist get his message across through his drawing?

1. What is shown happening to the people in this in the picture?
2. The overall feel and tone of the scene, is it cheerful, frightening or depressing?
3. How the does artist use colour or shading?
4. How is the scene composed? How are different people positioned? What can we tell from their facial expressions or from the weapons/equipment shown?
5. Is the picture drawn from a particular point of view?
6. What you think the caption might have been?
7. What is the picture trying to tell us about countries controlled or occupied by the Nazis?
8. Do you think a photograph of a similar scene would be more objective (truthful)?

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/>

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: OCCUPATION

You could:

- Write a paragraph on how the artist gets his message across.
 - Or use **Worksheet (a)** to comment on the image. If you would like more help, use **Worksheet (b)** to start you off.
 - Or copy the drawing into a software package (eg desktop publishing, presentation or even animation or video) and explain how it achieves its aims.
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WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: OCCUPATION

HOW DID OCCUPATION AFFECT PEOPLES' LIVES?

Extracts from an account of events in Poland, September 1939 to March 1940

Catalogue ref: FO 371/24472

Extract a

The lack of food is best illustrated by the dramatic account related to me by the girls, concerning a carthorse which dropped dead in one of the main streets of Warsaw. As soon as the carman disappeared, apparently to seek some help, the dead horse was carved up by hundreds of people who, at the end of ten minutes left a bare skeleton on the pavement.

The lack of food is also illustrated by the fact that the price of bread as and where available, has gone up four-fold, and cereals, flour, rice and sugar are almost non-existent.

Whenever the German soldiers get to know of some stock of food either in a warehouse or shop, they walk in and take it away, either not paying at all, or paying very little for it.

Another daily occurrence is the intrusion of German soldiers and Officers, as well as of Gestapo Agents into private houses where the tenants are robbed of everything they possess, under the threat of being shot.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: OCCUPATION

Extract b

The curfew is rigorously observed in Warsaw, and at the end of Jan. it was imposed from 8 p.m. till 8 a.m. Those who arrive at railway stations after the curfew hours, are advised to apply to the station master for special permits.

An Uncle of the girls, who returned from a short visit to a provincial town whence he was expelled a week or two earlier, arrived at the Warsaw railway station with the rest of the belongings he was able to save from the said visit. At about 8.10 p.m. he duly applied for his permit from the station master, and then walked home, a short distance from the station. As he was about to enter his house, he was shot in the back, and dropped dead on the pavement. During the night, members of his family who expected his arrival, made enquiries by telephone, and they at last were informed that he had left the stationmaster's office in possession of a permit at about 8 p.m. The following morning his wife found him dead on the pavement, with a label attached to his clothing, stating "Found in the street without a permit at 8.10 p.m." The label was issued by a Gestapo Officer. His wife found on him the permit allowing him to be in the street until 9 p.m.

What is this source?

This source is taken from an account of the experiences of two Polish girls who escaped from Poland and arrived in Britain. They then told their story to officials at the British Foreign Office.

The two girls were aged 16 and 18. They arrived in Britain via Berlin, Vienna, Milan and Paris.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/>

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: OCCUPATION

What's the background to this source?

The Nazis invaded Poland in September 1939. Soon afterwards the USSR invaded Poland from the East and the country collapsed. Conditions for Polish civilians were appalling.

As soon as they had conquered the country the Nazis set about putting their policies into action. There were two main policies. The first was to clear Poles out of lands and homes so that German settlers could take their place and gain new living space or Lebensraum. The second policy was the rounding up of Polish Jews and forcing them to live in areas called ghettos. Many Jews were killed during this process, but at this stage the policy of mass murder had not yet come into force.

It's worth knowing that...

The two girls were from a wealthy family. Her family managed to do a deal with a Nazi official to get papers and permission to travel across Europe.

The girls were actually Polish Jews but the Nazi official got them papers that said that they were Aryans. This arrangement very probably saved their lives.

Does this source support the drawing by T. Cuneo?

1. What does the story about the carthorse tell us about food shortages in Poland?
2. According to **both extracts**, how are peoples' lives controlled in occupied Poland?
3. What are the strengths and weaknesses of **this source** as evidence of what it was like to live under Nazi rule?

Use the table to record your views.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: OCCUPATION

Extracts from a letter written by a young Polish girl February 2nd 1940

Catalogue ref: FO 371/24472

Extract a

For the killing of one German whole massacres among the Poles are being perpetrated every day and in general shooting of people goes on constantly for the most trivial reasons, as well as putting them to prison. Tens of thousands of completely innocent people are filling the prisons. In spite of it all Warsaw is as a paradise compared to Pomerania or Posnania, where people are being driven out of their dwelling places and not allowed to take anything with them. Then they put them into unheated trucks and leave them somewhere in the open country in this cold. Untold horrors are being done with the Jews.

Extract b

All classes and all professions are equally staunch in their absolute hatred of the Germans and no wonder. If you had lived through the siege, or rather the murder of Warsaw and passed some further months under the rule of the enemy, you would understand..... They are complete savages without even a vestige of the most commonplace decency or any kind of moral feeling. . . And if all this is to last longer, then - after a far far away victory of the Allies nothing will be left here except the naked soil. The nation will have died. Everybody here believes that the Germans will leave in summer at the latest. To imagine any other solution to be possible would drive one to madness. People are afraid even to think of it. And in spring people are to be driven to Germany to do field work.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: OCCUPATION

What is this source?

This source is taken from a letter written by a Polish girl from Warsaw who lived through the German invasion of Poland.

The letter was sent to a relative in Britain. That relative then passed the letter on to the Foreign Office so that they could see what was happening in Poland.

What's the background to this source?

The Nazis invaded Poland in September 1939. Soon afterwards the USSR invaded Poland from the East and the country collapsed. Conditions for Polish civilians were appalling. As well as food shortages and other hardships, the population was strictly controlled. There was a curfew and listening to the radio was punishable by death.

As soon as they had conquered the country the Nazis set about putting their plans into action. The first was to clear Poles out of their homes and off the land so that German settlers could take their place and gain new living space or "Lebensraum". The second was to round up the Polish Jews and force them to live in ghettos. A ghetto is usually a poor section of a city inhabited mainly by people of the same race, religion, or social background, often because of discrimination. Many Jews were killed during the process of forcing them into the city ghetto areas, but at this stage the policy of mass murder had not yet come into force.

It's worth knowing that...

In other parts of the letter the girl indicates that conditions in other parts of Poland were even worse than they were in Warsaw.

Unlike source 2, the writer of this source was still in Poland and she was writing to a relative in Britain. She was therefore writing to her own family rather than trying to influence British government officials. They only received this letter because a family member passed it on.

Does this source support the drawing by T. Cuneo?

1. According to both of **these extracts**, how did the Germans deal with any kind of resistance?
2. After reading this source, do you feel more inclined to trust or mistrust the drawing by T. Cuneo or the other document from Poland in the source box?

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: OCCUPATION

3. What are the strengths and weaknesses of **this source** as evidence of what it was like to live under Nazi rule? Use the table to record your views.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: OCCUPATION

Report on Gestapo methods of interrogation used in Norway, 17th March 1941

Catalogue ref: HS 8/852

They work by listening to rumours; when a rumour is connected with an individual, they look up his history and shadow him. They do not wait to produce a case against him before taking action, but satisfied that suspicions may be founded, they will make a domiciliary visit, examine all his rooms and effects and remove him at once.

They do not disclose where they are taking him or why he is being taken, and they allow no one to speak to him after he has been apprehended. If he has money it is confiscated and all papers, letters and books are impounded for examination. It is common practice when a case is incomplete to leave a prisoner in prison for many weeks, perhaps months. This is done deliberately to create fear in his mind and to weaken his resistance. Suddenly and unexpectedly they will examine him for from twelve to twenty hours without food or rest.

The interrogators work in shifts. They may arrest all the contacts which a suspect may have made during his daily life, and examine the suspect and a selected contact in an endeavour to confound one or the other. For instance, each may be asked what was the subject of conversation between them. "A" replies they talked about fishing. "B" that they talked about sport. The Gestapo compare the answers and tell the prisoners they are both lying and must remain in prison to think things over. Each, individually, becomes uncertain what the other has said and finally, the weaker may give up and confess what they were really talking about.

In interrogations, the pressure is usually more mental than physical. The examiner threatens, coerces and often appears to lose his temper. They rely more on this mental form of violence and on a continuous bombardment of questions with a prisoner who is becoming physically and mentally weakened.

The following is the case of a Norwegian who withstood successfully a Gestapo examination.

Arrested at 06.00 hours at his home, placed in prison and completely isolated. Some days passed and one evening he was informed he was not to go to bed as he would be examined at 11 p.m. He waited until 2 a.m. when he was told that it was postponed. Two days later the same thing happened. The day after, he was examined without warning.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: OCCUPATION**What is this source?**

This is an extract from a report on interrogation methods used by the Gestapo in Norway. Officials who worked for the British intelligence services wrote it.

It was probably compiled after interviews with members of the Norwegian resistance movement who had been interrogated by the Gestapo.

What's the background to this source?

After invading Poland, Hitler's forces invaded Denmark and Norway. Norway was especially important to Hitler. In the First World War Germany had been starved of food and supplies by the British Royal Navy. Hitler wanted to avoid this happening again. Norway had ports and airfields that his submarines and aircraft could use to attack the Royal Navy and also Britain's supply lines from the USA.

The Norwegians resisted with British help when Germany invaded in April 1940. However, the British were defeated and Norway surrendered in June 1940. Despite this, there was an important underground resistance movement in Norway. This movement had strong links with British intelligence and received supplies and equipment throughout the war.

It's worth knowing that...

Norway's experiences during the war are still being debated and are a sensitive issue. There is no doubt that there was heroic resistance by Norwegians but there was also collaboration as well.

The report states that the Gestapo relied heavily on rumours. Recent research by historians shows that there were relatively few Gestapo officers compared to the numbers of people they watched over. They did rely heavily on gossip and rumours from Dutch informers.

Does this source support the drawing by T. Cuneo?

1. Why were rumours so important to the Gestapo?
2. Explain how the Gestapo used "mental pressure" on their suspects.
3. Why did they tend to use this over physical torture?
4. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this document as evidence of what it was like to live under Nazi rule?

Use the table to record your views.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/>

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: OCCUPATION

Extracts from a British intelligence report on the German occupation of the Netherlands, 9th September 1940

Holland under occupation; FO 371.24392

1 The Dutch people, especially the peasants and working classes, have now recovered from the great moral abandonment and defeatism which came over the country after the military collapse.

The Germans are also getting very fed up with the way they are boycotted by the Dutch, and they complain openly about this. At the same time, it is believed that there is no organised movement among the Germans of disloyalty towards the Nazi régime. In conversation with the Dutch it is very seldom that Germans dare make any statements of an anti-Nazi nature, although this has occasionally occurred after drinking. The food conditions in Amsterdam, in spite of rationing, are still fairly normal, and the Germans are especially well fed. The Dutch, however, are absolutely certain that Holland will suffer famine conditions this winter, because the Germans have taken away all the reserve stocks, including feeding stuffs and seed for sowings. The Dutch are quite sure that the Germans will not return any substantial part of these stocks, and that the Dutch will be left to suffer.

What is this source?

This is part of a report written by officials in the British intelligence services. The main purpose of the report was to get an idea of morale among German troops in Holland and also of the Dutch people under Nazi rule.

The opening section of this document states that the information came from an 'absolutely first class source in Amsterdam'. So the British were convinced that this was an accurate report.

What's the background to this source?

After invading Poland, Hitler's forces invaded Denmark and Norway. After that, Hitler turned his attention to Belgium, Holland and France. By mid June all three countries had surrendered.

The Netherlands was very important to the Nazis because it had important ports that could be used for shipping supplies and for the war effort.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/>

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: OCCUPATION

It's worth knowing that...

As in Norway, the experience of the people of the Netherlands during the war is still being debated and can sometimes be a sensitive issue. There is no doubt that there was heroic resistance by Dutch people but there was also collaboration as well.

Although there were relatively few Dutch Jews, a very high proportion of them were turned over to the authorities and sent to labour camps. The most famous example was Anne Frank, whose diary has been read by millions.

Does this source support the drawing by T. Cuneo?

1. What do we learn about relations between the Dutch people and the German soldiers?
2. Do you think that conditions for civilians in the Netherlands were similar or different to those in Poland? Explain your answer as fully as possible.
3. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this document as evidence of what it was like to live under Nazi rule?

Use the table to record your views.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: OCCUPATION

Photographs showing the German occupation of Poland, 1940

Catalogue ref: CN 11/8/3

Source a – German occupation notices

Polish civilians reading German occupation notices.



<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/>

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: OCCUPATION**What is this source?**

These photographs were in the hands of the British Government. They show scenes of life in Poland under Nazi rule.

The photographs came from a news agency called Interphoto News Pictures. The agency would probably have sold them to newspapers around the world as well as to the British government.

What's the background to this source?

The Nazis invaded Poland in September 1939. Soon afterwards the USSR invaded Poland from the East and the country collapsed. Conditions for Polish civilians were appalling. For Polish Jews conditions were even worse.

As soon as they had conquered the country the Nazis set about putting their plans into action. The first was to clear Poles out of their homes and off the land so that German settlers could take their place and gain new living space or "Lebensraum". The second was to round up the Polish Jews and force them to live in ghettos. A ghetto is usually a poor section of a city inhabited mainly by people of the same race, religion, or social background, often because of discrimination. Many Jews were killed during the process of forcing them into the city ghetto areas, but at this stage the policy of mass murder had not yet come into force.

It's worth knowing that...

As in Germany, many Polish Jews were well educated and held professional jobs such as university professors, doctors, lawyers. They would lose out because they lost their incomes when the Nazis ran them out of work and they generally did not grow food themselves so they would find it hard to obtain it.

We do not know under what circumstances these pictures were taken. Perhaps they were taken in secret and were then smuggled out of the country. However, in the early days of the invasion of Poland, life was so chaotic it might have been relatively easy for the news agency to get these pictures out of the country. Once the Germans were fully in control it would have been harder.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: OCCUPATION

Do these photographs support the drawing by T.Cuneo?

1. What do you think the Poles in **photograph a** might be feeling on seeing these notices and instructions?
2. Do **photographs b, c** and **e** support the information given in **the documents from Poland** in the box of sources?
3. It is possible that the Jews working in **photograph d** were professional people. If this were so, why would they have been made to do this work?
4. These photographs were taken by a news agency to be sold. Does this affect your view of their reliability?
5. What are the strengths and weaknesses of photographs as evidence of what it was like to live under Nazi rule?

Use this table to record you views.

Photographs showing the German occupation of Poland, 1940

Catalogue ref: CN 11/8/4

Source b - Polish Jews stacking clothing

Polish Jews stacking clothing and bed clothes outside their homes.



What is this source?

These photographs were in the hands of the British Government. They show scenes of life in Poland under Nazi rule.

The photographs came from a news agency called Interphoto News Pictures. The agency would probably have sold them to newspapers around the world as well as to the British government.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: OCCUPATION

What's the background to this source?

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As soon as they had conquered the country the Nazis set about putting their plans into action. The first was to clear Poles out of their homes and off the land so that German settlers could take their place and gain new living space or "Lebensraum". The second was to round up the Polish Jews and force them to live in ghettos. A ghetto is usually a poor section of a city inhabited mainly by people of the same race, religion, or social background, often because of discrimination. Many Jews were killed during the process of forcing them into the city ghetto areas, but at this stage the policy of mass murder had not yet come into force.

It's worth knowing that...

As in Germany, many Polish Jews were well educated and held professional jobs such as university professors, doctors, lawyers. They would lose out because they lost their incomes when the Nazis ran them out of work and they generally did not grow food themselves so they would find it hard to obtain it.

We do not know under what circumstances these pictures were taken. Perhaps they were taken in secret and were then smuggled out of the country. However, in the early days of the invasion of Poland, life was so chaotic it might have been relatively easy for the news agency to get these pictures out of the country. Once the Germans were fully in control it would have been harder.

Do these photographs support the drawing by T.Cuneo?

1. What do you think the Poles in **photograph a** might be feeling on seeing these notices and instructions?
2. Do **photographs b, c** and **e** support the information given in **the documents from Poland** in the box of sources?
3. It is possible that the Jews working in **photograph d** were professional people. If this were so, why would they have been made to do this work?
4. These photographs were taken by a news agency to be sold. Does this affect your view of their reliability?
5. What are the strengths and weaknesses of photographs as evidence of what it was like to live under Nazi rule?

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<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/>

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: OCCUPATION

Photographs showing the German occupation of Poland, 1940

Catalogue ref: CN 11/8/24

Source c - Polish tram with seating restrictions against Jews



What is this source?

These photographs were in the hands of the British Government. They show scenes of life in Poland under Nazi rule.

The photographs came from a news agency called Interphoto News Pictures. The agency would probably have sold them to newspapers around the world as well as to the British government.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: OCCUPATION

What's the background to this source?

The Nazis invaded Poland in September 1939. Soon afterwards the USSR invaded Poland from the East and the country collapsed. Conditions for Polish civilians were appalling. For Polish Jews conditions were even worse.

As soon as they had conquered the country the Nazis set about putting their plans into action. The first was to clear Poles out of their homes and off the land so that German settlers could take their place and gain new living space or "Lebensraum". The second was to round up the Polish Jews and force them to live in ghettos. A ghetto is usually a poor section of a city inhabited mainly by people of the same race, religion, or social background, often because of discrimination. Many Jews were killed during the process of forcing them into the city ghetto areas, but at this stage the policy of mass murder had not yet come into force.

It's worth knowing that...

As in Germany, many Polish Jews were well educated and held professional jobs such as university professors, doctors, lawyers. They would lose out because they lost their incomes when the Nazis ran them out of work and they generally did not grow food themselves so they would find it hard to obtain it.

We do not know under what circumstances these pictures were taken. Perhaps they were taken in secret and were then smuggled out of the country. However, in the early days of the invasion of Poland, life was so chaotic it might have been relatively easy for the news agency to get these pictures out of the country. Once the Germans were fully in control it would have been harder.

Do these photographs support the drawing by T.Cuneo?

1. What do you think the Poles in **photograph a** might be feeling on seeing these notices and instructions?
2. Do **photographs b, c** and **e** support the information given in **the documents from Poland** in the box of sources?
3. It is possible that the Jews working in **photograph d** were professional people. If this were so, why would they have been made to do this work?
4. These photographs were taken by a news agency to be sold. Does this affect your view of their reliability?
5. What are the strengths and weaknesses of photographs as evidence of what it was like to live under Nazi rule?

Use this table to record you views.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/>

Photographs showing the German occupation of Poland, 1940

Catalogue ref: CN 11/8/23

Source d - Polish Jews working in a public garden

Polish Jews working in a public garden. Three men and woman haul a ground roller whilst in the background three women tend a flowerbed.



What is this source?

These photographs were in the hands of the British Government. They show scenes of life in Poland under Nazi rule.

The photographs came from a news agency called Interphoto News Pictures. The agency would probably have sold them to newspapers around the world as well as to the British government.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: OCCUPATION

What's the background to this source?

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We do not know under what circumstances these pictures were taken. Perhaps they were taken in secret and were then smuggled out of the country. However, in the early days of the invasion of Poland, life was so chaotic it might have been relatively easy for the news agency to get these pictures out of the country. Once the Germans were fully in control it would have been harder.

Do these photographs support the drawing by T.Cuneo?

1. What do you think the Poles in **photograph a** might be feeling on seeing these notices and instructions?
2. Do **photographs b, c** and **e** support the information given in **the documents from Poland** in the box of sources?
3. It is possible that the Jews working in **photograph d** were professional people. If this were so, why would they have been made to do this work?
4. These photographs were taken by a news agency to be sold. Does this affect your view of their reliability?
5. What are the strengths and weaknesses of photographs as evidence of what it was like to live under Nazi rule?

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WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: OCCUPATION

Photographs showing the German occupation of Poland, 1940

Catalogue ref: CN 11/8/7

Source e - Polish guards inspect briefcase of a Polish civilian



<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/>

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: OCCUPATION

What is this source?

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What's the background to this source?

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WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: OCCUPATION

Do these photographs support the drawing by T.Cuneo?

1. What do you think the Poles in **photograph a** might be feeling on seeing these notices and instructions?
2. Do **photographs b, c** and **e** support the information given in **the documents from Poland** in the box of sources?
3. It is possible that the Jews working in **photograph d** were professional people. If this were so, why would they have been made to do this work?
4. These photographs were taken by a news agency to be sold. Does this affect your view of their reliability?
5. What are the strengths and weaknesses of photographs as evidence of what it was like to live under Nazi rule?

Use this table to record you views.

Worksheet (a)

The main message of the drawing is ...



Worksheet (b)

The main message of the drawing is ...

Travelling by train suggests that these men will...

This guard has a machine gun pointed at the men that suggests...

Large numbers suggest that conditions on train will...

The caption is missing. It might have said: 'Support the war effort, or this could be your family'. Can you think of a caption?

This guard is looking on to make sure that...

These men look like prisoners. This one looks as if...

This guard has a ...

Lots of dark shadows are included in the drawing to make it...

