



ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM
& EDUCATION CENTER

Level III Vocabulary:

Anschluss- The annexation of Austria into Nazi Germany on March 12, 1938. The annexation had strong support from people of all backgrounds in both Austria and Germany. The desire for a union formed an integral part of the Nazi movement to bring ethnic Germans outside Nazi Germany into Greater Germany. The campaign against the Jews began immediately after the *Anschluss*. They were publicly humiliated, beaten, and their homes and shops were plundered. Jews were driven out of public life within months.

Babi Yar- A ravine on the outskirts of Kiev where Einsatzgruppen mobile squads killed at least 34,000 Jews over a one-week period in September 1941. Babi Yar has come to represent the horror of the Einsatzgruppen and the Holocaust by bullets.

British White Paper of 1939- A policy paper issued by the British government under Neville Chamberlain calling for the establishment of a Jewish national home in an independent Palestinian state within 10 years. It also limited Jewish immigration to 75,000 for 5 years.

Death Marches- A forced march of Nazi prisoners from camps in the east toward the German interior at the end of World War II. German armed forces were trapped between the Soviets to the east, and the advancing Allied troops from the west. Treated with enormous brutality during the forced marches, thousands of prisoners died either by starvation, exhaustion, or were shot to death.

“Degenerate Art”- Nazi term used to describe modern art. During the dictatorship of Adolf Hitler, modernist art, including many works of internationally renowned artists, was removed from state owned museums and banned in Nazi Germany on the grounds that such art was an "insult to German feeling", un-German, Jewish, or Communist in nature. Degenerate Art also was the title of an exhibition, organized by the Nazis in Munich in 1937, consisting of 650 modernist artworks chaotically hung and accompanied by text labels deriding the art. Designed to inflame public opinion against modernism, the exhibition subsequently traveled to several other cities in Germany and Austria. The Nazis promoted paintings and sculptures that were traditional in manner and that exalted the "blood and soil" values of racial purity, militarism, and obedience. Similar restrictions were placed upon music, which was expected to be tonal and free of

any jazz influences; disapproved music was termed degenerate music. Films and plays were also censored.

Nazi censorship- After succeeding in ending democracy in Germany, the Nazis orchestrated a large-scale censorship campaign. On the night of May 10, 1933, Nazis raided libraries and bookstores across Germany. They marched by torchlight in nighttime parades, sang chants, and threw books into huge bonfires. On that night, more than 25,000 books were burned. Some were works of Jewish writers, including Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud. Most of the books were by non-Jewish writers, including such famous Americans as Jack London, Ernest Hemingway, and Sinclair Lewis, whose ideas the Nazis viewed as different from their own and therefore not to be read. Censorship of any media that did not coincide with Nazi ideology played a large role in indoctrinating the German people to believe in Nazism and antisemitism.

Judenrat- A Jewish-German collaborative agency imposed by Germany to administer the Nazis plans in Jewish ghettos. The *Judenrat* constituted a form of self-enforcing intermediary that served the German administration for controlling larger Jewish communities in occupied areas. There is considerable debate between historians on the *Judenrat's* role in the Holocaust, with some believing the collaboration had no influence on the outcome of the Holocaust and some believing it made it easier for Germans to deport and kill Jews from ghettos.

Kapo- A prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp who was assigned by the SS guards to supervise forced labor and control other prisoners. *Kapos* received better treatment than other prisoners. Some *Kapos* were violent criminals who abused other prisoners. The SS used domination and terror to control prisoner populations with only a few SS functionaries and prisoner guards were key instruments in this system of domination.

Lebensraum- German word meaning "living space." Discussed by Germans before *Mein Kampf*, *Lebensraum* is the belief that Germany must expand to the East if it is to survive. Long before the Nazi period, many Germans looked to Eastern Europe as the natural source of their *Lebensraum*. In the Nazi state, *Lebensraum* became not just a romantic yearning for a return to the East but a vital strategic component of its imperial and racist visions. For the Germans, Eastern Europe represented their "Manifest Destiny." The German quest for *Lebensraum* led to the invasion of Poland and the Soviet Union. The concept of *Lebensraum* was not solely responsible for the Holocaust, but powerfully connected a variety of imperialist,

nationalist, and racist currents that would contribute to the murder of the Jews of Europe.

Scapegoat- A person or group of people unfairly blamed for problems. The Jews were the scapegoats of the Nazis, and unfairly blamed for all of the economic, political, and cultural problems in Germany in the 1920s and 1930s.