

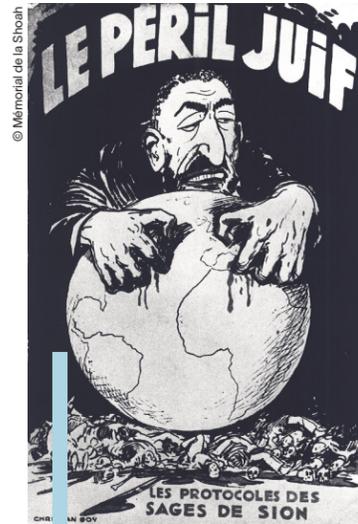
CORE CONTENT

This graphic lays out the main context, ideas and events - the core content - that teachers should be familiar with before teaching about the Holocaust.

Two additional key factors to consider:

The different and sometimes fluid categories of people involved in the Holocaust and their **motivations, perspectives** and **roles**: These categories include perpetrators (Nazis and their collaborators and enablers), bystanders and witnesses, beneficiaries, resisters and rescuers, and victims and survivors.

The diverse **contexts** for victims and survivors: Although all Jews were targeted by the Nazis, the forms and timing of attacks on Jews varied in different countries, resulting in different survival rates and experiences for Jews across Europe and beyond.



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IDEAS AND DEVELOPMENTS THAT PRECEDED THE HOLOCAUST

- The ancient roots of anti-Jewish attitudes, dating back to the early Christian period
- The evolving forms of anti-Jewish persecution in the following centuries
- The development of imperialism, nationalism, racism and eugenics
- The social and political effects of World War I

THE AFTERMATH OF THE HOLOCAUST

- Trauma and rebuilding for survivors
- Displaced persons camps
- The struggle to emigrate
- Efforts at attaining justice, such as the Nuremberg Trials
- The concept of genocide and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights



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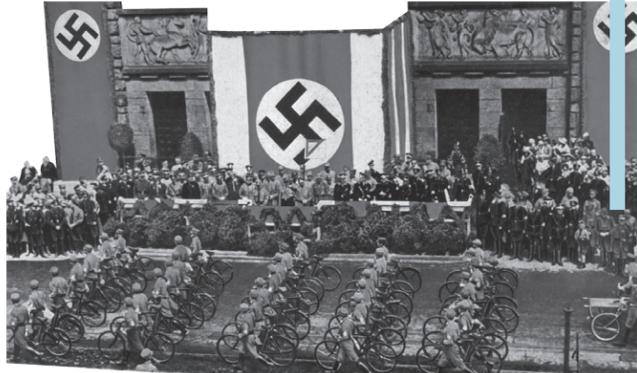
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JEWISH LIFE

- The centuries-long history of Jewish communities in Europe
- The diverse Jewish communities and their range of cultural and religious practices before the Holocaust

NAZISM

- The core tenets of Nazi ideology
- The central role of antisemitism
- The political process by which Hitler came to power in 1933



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The Holocaust

The Holocaust refers to Nazi Germany's attempt to annihilate the Jewish population of Europe. Adolf Hitler, leader of the Nazi Party, saw Jews as the primary enemy of the "Aryan" race and believed that Germany would become powerful only by ridding itself of Jews.

Starting in 1933, Nazi Germany took measures to humiliate, isolate and persecute Jews.

The Nazis also targeted other groups in Germany, including Roma and Sinti, people with disabilities, Jehovah's Witnesses, Afro-Germans, homosexuals and political opponents.

With the outbreak of World War II in September 1939, Nazi policies and violence extended to each country occupied by Germany. During the war, the Nazis and their collaborators began systematically killing Jews and other target groups.

By the time World War II ended in 1945, six million Jews had been murdered in the Holocaust.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PRE-WAR NAZI YEARS

- The social and political revolution in Germany
- The intensifying persecution of Jews and other target groups
- The opening of concentration camps for Nazi target groups beginning in 1933
- The Nuremberg Laws of 1935
- The Kristallnacht pogrom in 1938
- The Jewish refugee crisis and the voyage of the MS *St. Louis* in 1939
- The beginning of the program to murder Germans with disabilities in 1939

1945

1939

1933

THE UNFOLDING OF THE HOLOCAUST DURING WORLD WAR II

- The expansion of Germany across Europe and its system of alliances that brought the Jewish population under Nazi control
- The spread of systematic methods of anti-Jewish persecution, such as the ghettos in Eastern Europe
- The evolution of persecution and violence into mass killing operations, such as Einsatzgruppen shootings starting in 1941
- The development of the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question" in mid-1941, the Nazi leadership's plan to murder all Jews
- The creation of killing centres in occupied Poland using gas to murder Jews
- The deportation of Jews from all over Europe to Nazi camps and killing centres
- The forced death marches of camp prisoners in the final months of the war



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