

Holocaust and America's Response to Other Genocides

Nazi Genocide: What was America's role in the Holocaust?

Following its defeat in World War I and the punitive peace treaty that followed, Germany fell into a deep and extended economic depression. Nationalist leaders found a willing audience when they looked for scapegoats who could be blamed for the country's troubles. Adolf Hitler's National Socialist Party claimed that the Jewish people were traitors during the war and a blight on the nation. Hitler claimed that the Aryan race (northern Europeans) were genetically superior to all others and that the Jews were inferior. When he rose to power in the early 1930s, he began to impose punitive policies to punish and shame the Jews.

Extermination of the Jewish People

With the start of the war, Jews were rounded up and forced into work camps to make war supplies for their Nazi captors. They imposed similar policies on nations that they conquered, including France and eastern Europe. As the war progressed, the Nazis moved to even harsher measures until they reached the "ultimate solution" to the Jewish question: extermination of all Jews under their control. Concentration camps began the grisly process of killing Jews in massive numbers. Allied troops that began liberating these camps in 1945 were shocked at Nazi inhumanity, and German leaders responsible for giving such orders were tried and convicted in the Nuremberg Trials by international courts for their crimes.

While America knew about pre-war Nazi discrimination against the Jews, it did little to protest or demand an end to it. There was a heated debate in the nation about American involvement in or isolation from European disputes. The U.S. refused to expand its immigration policies to accept more Jews fleeing from Nazi persecution.

Anne Frank's Iowa Pen Pal

Iowa played a peripheral role in the debate on Nazi persecution. Some Iowans who traveled to Europe, including some Jewish Iowans, reported on disturbing trends in Germany. One connection stands out. In 1939, a teacher in the southeast Iowa town of Danville arranged for her students to select names pen pals. Margaret Wagner, 10, chose a girl her own age who lived in Amsterdam in the Netherlands. The girl's name was Anne Frank. Margaret and Anne wrote several letters back and forth until Anne stopped writing. Margaret did not know why.

The reason was that Anne and her family had gone into hiding where they would stay for several years until they were discovered by the Nazis and sent to a concentration camp where Anne died. After the war, Anne Frank's diary written as the family was in hiding, was discovered and became one of the most famous documents in the Jewish experience under Nazi oppression. Today, a museum in Danville, The Anne Frank Connection, tells the story of the two girls. Their letters are on display, one of the two places in the world where visitors can see the correspondence itself.

In 2013, there was a groundbreaking for the Iowa Holocaust Memorial on the grounds of the Iowa Capitol. Today, it stands as a grim reminder of the Nazi genocide and a memorial to those who suffered it.

Supporting Questions

What was the Holocaust?

- [Telegram from Sir G. Ogilvie Forbes about "Kristallnacht," November 10, 1938 \(Document\)](#)
- [Telegram from Gerhart Riegner to S.S. Silverman about Jewish Extermination in Concentration Camps, August 10, 1942 \(Document\)](#)
- [Letter to British Labour Leader Clement Attlee about Jewish Persecution from the "Central Leadership" Group in Poland, Date Unknown \(Document\)](#)
- [Illustration of European Refugees in Germany during World War II, 1945 \(Image\)](#)
- [German People of Nordhausen Digging Mass Graves for Concentration Camp Victims, April 1945 \(Image\)](#)
- [Unidentified German Concentration Camp Liberated by the U.S. Army, April 20, 1945 \(Image\)](#)
- [Czech Survivor of a Nazi Concentration Camp in Flossenburg, Germany, May 4, 1945 \(Image\)](#)

How did America respond to the Holocaust?

- [Columnist Dorothy Thompson Urges Congress to Help European Victims of the Nazis, April 22, 1939 \(Image\)](#)
- ["Murray Blasts Nazi Massacre of Jews" Newspaper Article, January 4, 1943 \(Document\)](#)
- [American Soldiers View Rows of Bodies at Lager Nordhausen Concentration Camp in Germany, April 1945 \(Image\)](#)
- [Ernest Michael Bressler's Certificate of Naturalization, May 7, 1945 \(Document\)](#)
- ["Jaws of Death" - American Soldiers Landing in Normandy, France on D-Day, June 6, 1944 \(Image\)](#)
- [Telegram from Holocaust Refugee Steffy Bressler Asking about her Brother in Germany from Des Moines, Iowa, June 6, 1945 \(Document\)](#)
- [Letter from Holocaust Survivor Ingrid Mazie in Mason City, Iowa, to Her Grandmother in Europe, October 25, 1950 \(Document\)](#)
- [S.Res. 458, A Resolution from the U.S. Congress Recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month and Honoring Holocaust Survivors, May 22, 2014 \(Document\)](#)
- [Registration Letter for Helga Levy of Des Moines, Date Unknown \(Document\)](#)
- [Postcard Asking for Financial Assistance for Holocaust Survivors, Date Unknown \(Document\)](#)

How has America responded to other genocides?

- [Action Items for Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs' \(APNSA\) Trip to Rwanda, December 1994 \(Document\)](#)
- [Letter from U.S. President Bill Clinton to Burundi President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, 15 January 1996 \(Document\)](#)
- [Sudanese Refugee Women and Children at Camp Mile in Chad, May 9, 2004 \(Image\)](#)
- [Sudanese Refugee Women and Children at Camp Tine in Chad, May 10, 2004 \(Image\)](#)
- [S.Res. 203 - A resolution by U.S. Congress Calling for China to Use Its Influence to Stop Genocide and Violence in Darfur, Sudan, May 16, 2007 \(Document\)](#)
- [S.Res. 455 - A Resolution by the U.S. Congress Calling for Peace in Darfur, March 5, 2008 \(Document\)](#)
- ["Waging Peace: Building a New Life in Chad after Conflict for the Victims of Darfur," January 12, 2009 \(Video\)](#)

[*Printable Image and Document Guide](#)

Additional Resources

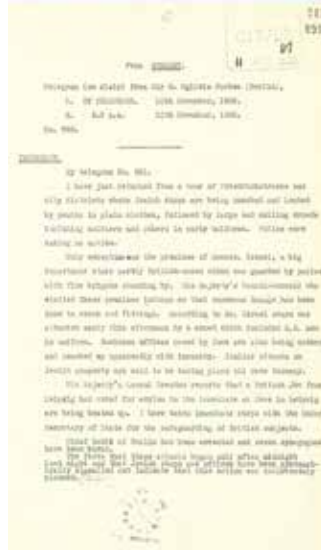
[United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#): This is the main website for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, which is based in Washington, D.C. The website offers many online resources, such as major photo collections, research articles and online testimonials of Holocaust survivors.

[The National Archives of the United Kingdom - Holocaust Exhibit](#): This website for the United Kingdom's National Archives includes primary sources related to the Holocaust.

[Yad Vashem - The World Holocaust Remembrance Center](#): Yad Vashem is Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. This is the memorial's official website, which includes large digital collections of photos, videos, etc., about the Holocaust, its victims and its survivors.

[World Without Genocide](#): This website is based out of the Mitchell Hamlin School of Law and includes genocide-related educator materials.

Telegram from Sir G. Ogilvie Forbes about “Kristallnacht,” November 10, 1938



Courtesy of The National Archives (United Kingdom), Forbes, G. Ogilvie, “Kristallnacht,” 10 November 1938

Description

This telegram was sent by Sir G. Ogilvie Forbes in Berlin, Germany, about the damage that occurred during Kristallnacht to many Jewish properties. Kristallnacht, also known as the “Night of Broken Glass,” refers to the violent anti-Jewish pogrom which took place on November 9 and 10, 1938, in Germany.

[Transcript of Telegram from Sir G. Ogilvie Forbes about “Kristallnacht”](#)

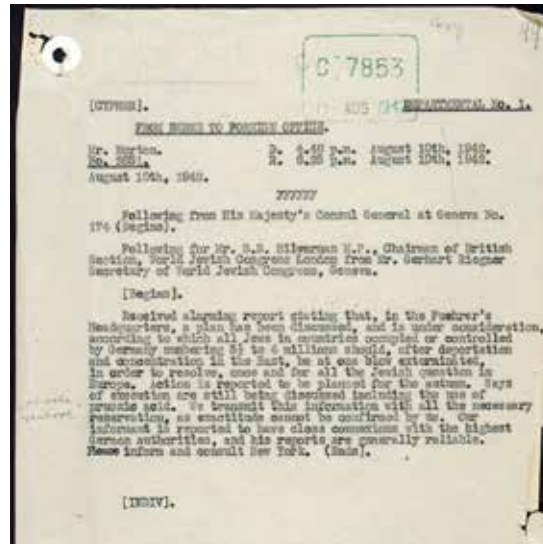
Text-Dependent Questions

- Describe what happened to Jewish stores and shops during Kristallnacht. Compare that to the partly British-owned store. What was the difference between these stores? What did that indicate about society in Germany at that time?
- What was the attitude of the police while these events were occurring?
- What evidence is there that shows that Kristallnacht was deliberately planned?

Citation Information

Forbes, G. Ogilvie, “Kristallnacht,” 10 November 1938. [Courtesy of The National Archives \(United Kingdom\)](#)

Telegram from Gerhart Riegner to S.S. Silverman about Jewish Extermination in Concentration Camps, August 10, 1942



Courtesy of The National Archives (United Kingdom), Riegner, Gerhart, "Riegner Telegram," 10 August 1942

Description

This telegram, stored in the United Kingdom's National Archives, is from Gerhart Riegner to S.S. Silverman, both members of the World Jewish Congress. The focus of the telegram is about rumors that the Nazis are rounding up and deporting millions of Jewish people to exterminate in concentration camps.

[Transcript of a Telegram from Gerhart Riegner to S.S. Silverman about Jewish Extermination in Concentration Camps](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- When was this document created? Describe the plan that has been discussed?
- How many Jews does the document estimate will be exterminated? What are some of the specific methods of execution being discussed?
- This telegram was sent between two members of the World Jewish Congress. This organization advocates on behalf of Jews across the world. Why would it be important for the World Jewish Congress to know about what was being planned?

Citation Information

Riegner, Gerhart, "Riegner Telegram," 10 August 1942. [Courtesy of The National Archives \(United Kingdom\)](#)

Letter to British Labour Leader Clement Attlee about Jewish Persecution from the “Central Leadership” Group in Poland, Date Unknown



Courtesy of The National Archives (United Kingdom), Central Leadership of the Movement of Working Classes in Poland, “Letter to Attlee,” Date Unknown

Description

This letter was sent from the Central Leadership of the Movement of Working Classes in Poland to the leader of the British Labour Party, Clement Attlee. The letter focuses on the ill-treatment of the Jewish people in Europe. Attlee would become prime minister of the United Kingdom in 1945.

[Transcript of the Letter to British Labour Leader Clement Attlee](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- Describe what is happening to Jewish people in Poland. What is the German justification for killing a large number of Poles?
- What is the author of the letter asking of Clement Attlee?
- Reread this section, “*We ask you, however, to find some means of checking the totalitarian barbarity of the Germans. Warnings of retribution after the war and of punishment to be meted out to war criminals is not enough. They will not break down the criminally passive complicity of the German people, who tolerate these crimes. The German people must understand now, to-day, that they are responsible for the Nazi crimes.*” Why would the author believe that all Germans are to blame, rather than just the Nazis?

Citation Information

Central Leadership of the Movement of Working Classes in Poland, “Letter to Attlee,” Date Unknown. [Courtesy of The National Archives \(United Kingdom\)](#)

Illustration of European Refugees in Germany during World War II, 1945



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Brodie, Howard, "[European refugees in Germany during World War II]," 1945

Description

This reproduction of a drawing by Howard Brodie shows European refugees pulling a large cart, bicycling and soldiers riding horses in one direction, as more soldiers walk in the opposite direction. The image is supposed to European refugees in Germany during World War II.

Text-Dependent Questions

- Describe what you see in the image.
- The European refugees are walking in the opposite direction of the soldiers. Why would that be the case?
- What message is the artist trying to convey?

Citation Information

Brodie, Howard, "[European refugees in Germany during World War II]," 1945. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

German People of Nordhausen Digging Mass Graves for Concentration Camp Victims, April 1945



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "German people of Nordhausen ... digging graves for the mass burial of dead prisoners from the concentration camp ... / Driza.," April 1945

Description

This photograph shows residents of Nordhausen, Germany, digging mass graves for prisoners that were murdered in a concentration camp. The photo was taken April 1945 by a member of the U.S. Army, which liberated the camp.

Text-Dependent Questions

- Describe what is happening in this photo. What is the photographer trying to convey in this image?
- This photo was taken after the liberation of this concentration camp, meaning it was freed by U.S. Soldiers. The men in the civilian clothing are residents of Nordhausen, Germany, where the concentration camp was located. What are they doing? Why would the men who live in this town carry out this task?
- After looking at this image, read the [telegram from Gerhart Riegner](#). What is similar between both sources? Use evidence to support your answers.

Citation Information

"German people of Nordhausen ... digging graves for the mass burial of dead prisoners from the concentration camp ... / Driza.," April 1945. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

Unidentified German Concentration Camp Liberated by the U.S. Army, April 20, 1945



Courtesy of Library of Congress, “[View of unidentified German concentration camp at time of liberation by U.S. Army],” 20 April 1945

Description

This photograph captures an unidentified German concentration camp at the time of liberation by the U.S. Army on April 20, 1945. The photo shows a small building with barbed wire fencing around it. These camps, which were located all over German-occupied Europe, contained large numbers of people — particularly Jews and other persecuted minorities — in deplorable conditions. Prisoners were expected to provide forced labor and many awaited mass execution. The most infamous Nazi concentration camps included Dachau, Belsen and Auschwitz.

Text-Dependent Questions

- Describe what you see in this photo.
- Describe the methods used to keep the prisoners inside of the concentration camp.
- For what purposes might the buildings have been used?
- Compare this photo to [Czech Survivor of a Nazi Concentration Camp](#), which shows the interior of a building at a concentration camp. What is similar between the photos? What is different?

Citation Information

“[View of unidentified German concentration camp at time of liberation by U.S. Army],” 20 April 1945. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

Czech Survivor of a Nazi Concentration Camp in Flossenburg, Germany, May 4, 1945



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "This 23-year-old Czech victim of dysentery in Nazi camp at Flossenburg, Germany, was found by 97th Division of U.S. Army / Signal Corps U.S. Army," 4 May 1945

Description

This photograph shows an emaciated 23-year-old Czech man being held up by two other men. This young man was suffering from dysentery — an severe infection of the intestines — at a Nazi concentration camp in Flossenburg, Germany. He was found by the 97th Division of the U.S. Army when the camp was liberated.

Text-Dependent Questions

- The man in the middle is a 23-year-old Czech man who was suffering from dysentery, which is a severe infection of the intestines. Describe what is happening in this photo.
- Compare this photo to [German People of Nordhausen Digging Mass Graves for Concentration Camp Victims](#). How do these photograph help you to understand what the Holocaust was?

Citation Information

"This 23-year-old Czech victim of dysentery in Nazi camp at Flossenburg, Germany, was found by 97th Division of U.S. Army / Signal Corps U.S. Army," 4 May 1945. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

Columnist Dorothy Thompson Urges Congress to Help European Victims of the Nazis, April 22, 1939



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Harris & Ewing, "Woman columnist tells committee that something must be done..."
22 April 1939

Description

American journalist and radio broadcaster Dorothy Thompson, right, is shown talking to U.S. Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers, left, after she testified before the Joint Congressional Committee on Immigration. Thompson, an influential female voice at the time, told the committee that "something must be done" to allow the removal of Austrian and German victims of "Nazi wrath" to America. Thompson said she supported a pending congressional bill which would allow selected refugee children to live and grow up in American families.

Text-Dependent Questions

- The two women in the photo are Dorothy Thompson, right, and U.S. Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers, left. Dorothy Thompson testified before the Joint Congressional Committee on Immigration about how she supported a pending congressional bill which would allow selected refugee children to live and grow up in American families. How does this demonstrate American's desire to help victory of the Holocaust?
- Compare this photo to the [Letter to British Labour Leader Clement Attlee](#). Describe the different points of view between the author and Dorothy Thompson. Why might these two people have differences in opinion.

Citation Information

Harris & Ewing, "Woman columnist tells committee that something must be done for refugee children. Washington, D.C., April 22. Dorothy Thompson, newspaper columnist, witness before the Joint Congressional Committee on Immigration, told the Committee today that 'something must be done' to allow the removal of Austrian and German victims of Nazi wrath to America. She supported a pending bill which would allow selected refugee children to live and grow up in American families. She is shown here talking to Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers, Committee member. Left to right: Mrs. Rogers, Miss Thompson," 22 April 1939. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

“Murray Blasts Nazi Massacre of Jews” Newspaper Article, January 4, 1943



Courtesy of Library of Congress, “Murray Blasts Nazi Massacre of Jews,” *The CIO News*, pp. 2, 4 January 1943

Description

This newspaper article from *CIO News* highlights the atrocities of the Nazis on the Jewish people. The president of the labor union Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), Philip Murray, is quoted saying that the United States needs to “redouble our pledge of devotion to the cause of complete United Nations’ victory” against the Axis powers.

[Transcript of “Murray Blasts Nazi Massacre of Jews” Newspaper Article](#)

[Printable Excerpt of “Murray Blasts Nazi Massacre of Jews” Newspaper Article](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- What does Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) President Philip Murray say about the Nazi massacres of the Jewish people?
- What did Murray declare the labor’s answer to this massacre to be? What is Murray’s pledge?
- What does Murray hypothesize would happen in America if Adolf Hitler were to win the war?

Citation Information

“Murray Blasts Nazi Massacre of Jews,” *CIO News*, pp. 2, 4 January 1943. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

American Soldiers View Rows of Bodies at Lagar Nordhausen Concentration Camp in Germany, April 1945



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "American soldiers look at the long rows of bodies at Lagar Nordhausen concentration camp where the prisoners died from malnutrition, cruelty and disease in bestial conditions," April 1945

Description

This photograph shows a gratuitous scene at the Lagar Nordhausen Concentration Camp. American soldiers, who liberated the camp in 1945, are seen looking at the many bodies of prisoners that were murdered by the Nazis in the camp. Lagar Nordhausen was a sub-camp of the concentration camp Dora-Mittelbau in Thuringia, located in east-central Germany.

Text-Dependent Questions

- This photo is from the Lagar Nordhausen Concentration Camp, which was liberated by American troops. Based on the image, what are the environmental and human costs of war?
- What is the role of American medics and emergency personnel in a situation like this photo?
- Compare this photo to [German People of Nordhausen Digging Mass Graves for Concentration Camp](#). What roles did American soldiers play after the liberation of the concentration camps?

Citation Information

"American soldiers look at the long rows of bodies at Lagar Nordhausen concentration camp where the prisoners died from malnutrition, cruelty and disease in bestial conditions," April 1945. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

Ernest Michael Bressler's Certificate of Naturalization, May 7, 1945



Courtesy of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society, "Ernest Michael Bressler's Certificate of Naturalization," 7 May 1945

Description

This document is the certificate of naturalization for Ernest Michael Bressler, who is the husband of [Steffy Bressler](#). The Austrian couple came to America to flee the Holocaust and were resettled in Des Moines. Both were able to become citizens of the United States.

[Transcript of Ernest Bressler's Certificate of Naturalization](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- This is a naturalization document, what does that mean?
- Describe what it might be like for the man who is filing out and receiving this document.
- How might you feel if you had to file this document?
- How does this document demonstrate how America and Iowa responded to the Holocaust?

Citation Information

"Ernest Michael Bressler's Certificate of Naturalization," 7 May 1945. Courtesy of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society

“Jaws of Death” - American Soldiers Landing in Normandy, France on D-Day, June 6, 1944



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Sargent, Robert F., “Into the Jaws of Death - U.S. Troops Wading Through Water and Nazi Gunfire,” 6 June 1944

Description

This photograph from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, New York, shows American soldiers landing in Normandy, France, on the morning of June 6, 1944, the beginning of the long-awaited invasion to liberate continental Europe from Nazi Germany. Most of the troops that came ashore were from the United States, Great Britain and Canada, with smaller contingents from France, Poland, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece and the Netherlands. German defenses included thousands of soldiers dug into bunkers, artillery, mines, barbed wire, machine guns and hazards to prevent landing craft from coming ashore. Allied casualties (killed, wounded, missing in action and taken prisoner) on June 6 totaled over 10,000 — 6,603 U.S., about 2,700 British and 946 Canadian — of which 2,500 were killed.

Text-Dependent Questions

- Describe what is happening in the photo.
- What dangers are ahead for these soldiers?
- Describe the vulnerability of the soldiers as they unload and head toward the beach.

Citation Information

Sargent, Robert F., “Into the Jaws of Death - U.S. Troops Wading Through Water and Nazi Gunfire,” 6 June 1944.
[Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

Telegram from Holocaust Refugee Steffy Bressler Asking about her Brother in Germany from Des Moines, Iowa, June 6, 1945

AMERICAN RED CROSS
Washington, D. C.
International Red Cross Committee
Geneva, Switzerland
CIVILIAN MESSAGE FORM

Name: Steffy Bressler
Street: 3775 - 35th St.
City: Des Moines, Iowa
Relationship to person sought: Sister
Charge: 100% - 100%

Dear Doctor - can you tell me the whereabouts of my brother Dr. Kurt Deutsch, last life sign in October 1942.

Yours truly
Steffy Bressler

Name: Dr. Friedrich Willman
Address: Julianeck Allee 10
Vienna II - Salzburg
Country: Austria

Vienna
about 1900
Austria

Courtesy of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society, Bressler, Steffy, 6 June 1945

Description

This telegram through the American Red Cross was written by Steffy Bressler, a Jewish woman who escaped the Holocaust and resettled in Des Moines, Iowa. Bressler wrote Dr. Friedrich Willman seeking information on the whereabouts of her brother in Germany. The telegram was written on June 6, 1945, and Bressler said the last sign that her brother was alive was in October 1942.

[Telegram from Holocaust Refugee Steffy Bressler Asking about her Brother in Germany from Des Moines, Iowa](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- Steffy Bressler, who wrote this telegram, is married to [Ernest Bressler](#). What is Steffy attempting to learn by sending this telegram?
- Describe the emotions Steffy Bressler might be feeling.
- How would you feel about not knowing the whereabouts of a loved one who is living in a place that is at war? Explain.

Citation Information

Bressler, Steffy, 6 June 1945. Courtesy of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society

Letter from Holocaust Survivor Ingrid Mazie in Mason City, Iowa, to Her Grandmother in Europe, October 25, 1950



Courtesy of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society, Mazie, Ingrid, 25 October 1950

Description

Ingrid Mazie was a young survivor of the Holocaust. Her adopted parents were killed in the Holocaust and she went to New York as a refugee. She was then adopted by a couple in Mason City, Iowa, and this is a letter she wrote in 1950 to her grandmother in Europe.

[Transcript of Ingrid Mazie's Letter to Her Grandmother](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- Who is the author of this letter, and who is she writing to?
- Where does this survivor live? What evidence is there in the document that implies she is happy where she is living?
- What does she say about her life in the "old homeland" and her life in America? Why would she keep those memories separate?

Citation Information

Mazie, Ingrid, 25 October 1950. Courtesy of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society

S.Res. 458, A Resolution from the U.S. Congress Recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month and Honoring Holocaust Survivors, May 22, 2014



Courtesy of U.S. Congress, "S.Res.458 - A resolution recognizing May as Jewish American Heritage Month and honoring Holocaust survivors and their contributions to the United States of America," 22 May 2014

Description

This U.S. Senate resolution recognized May 2014 as Jewish American Heritage Month. The resolution also expressed appreciation for the contributions made to the United States by the survivors of the Holocaust and encouraged the people of the United States to learn about the efforts and achievements of Holocaust survivors who immigrated to the United States in the years following World War II. Finally, this resolution expresses admiration for the more than 100,000 Holocaust survivors living in the United States who continue to bear witness to their personal stories.

[Transcript of S.Res. 458](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- What is the purpose of this U.S. Senate resolution?
- How many people does the resolution say the Nazis murdered during the Holocaust? How many Jews found refuge in the United States during and after World War II? Why would these numbers be important to include?
- According to the resolution, what are some different ways that survivors of the Holocaust who came to the U.S. contributed to American society? Why might those contributions be noted?
- Describe how America impacted the lives of many Holocaust survivors.

Citation Information

"S.Res.458 - A resolution recognizing May as Jewish American Heritage Month and honoring Holocaust survivors and their contributions to the United States of America," 22 May 2014. [Courtesy of U.S. Congress](#)

Registration Letter for Helga Levy of Des Moines, Date Unknown



Courtesy of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society, "Registration Letter for Helga Levy of Des Moines," Date Unknown

Description

This registration letter was for Helga Levy, a Holocaust survivor who resettled in Des Moines, Iowa. The registration letter also included her alien registration card. This documentation allowed her to apply for citizenship in the United States.

[Transcript of Registration Letter for Helga Levy of Des Moines](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- Who is this document written for and what is the purpose?
- Describe what it might be like for Helga Levy to receive this document.
- Compare this document to [Ernest Bressler's Certificate of Naturalization](#). Helga held an Alien Registration Card and Ernest Bressler had a Certificate of Naturalization. What are the differences?
- How does this document demonstrate how America and Iowa responded to the Holocaust?

Citation Information

"Registration Letter for Helga Levy of Des Moines," Date Unknown. Courtesy of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society

Postcard Asking for Financial Assistance for Holocaust Survivors, Date Unknown



Courtesy of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society, "Survival Means Sacrifice," Date Unknown

Description

This postcard was mailed to people in America asking for financial assistance or volunteers to help with aging Holocaust survivors. This postcard was addressed to "Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Mazie" in Des Moines, Iowa.

[Transcript for Postcard Asking for Financial Assistance for Holocaust Survivors](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- What is the purpose of this postcard?
- Describe the author's point of view regarding the document. How does the author attempt to appeal to the receivers of this card to help?
- Explain why does the author state that, "We Are Responsible For The Survival Of The Jewish People ... Be They Young or Old!"?

Citation Information

"Survival Means Sacrifice," Date Unknown. Courtesy of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society

Action Items for Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs' (APNSA) Trip to Rwanda, December 1994



Courtesy of National Archives, "APNSA Trip to Rwanda," December 1994

Description

This document is a list from the Clinton Administration of action items for the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (APNSA). This document was prepared for the APNSA to take to a meeting regarding the civil war and genocide in the African country of Rwanda.

[Transcript of Action Items for APNSA's Trip to Rwanda](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- Why would an American president need an Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs?
- This document was created for President Clinton's trip to Rwanda in 1994. What are the action items of the trip? Why would it be important to list the goals for the trip?
- Why might one of the goals listed not involve sending U.S. military personnel to Rwanda?
- Genocides, other than the Holocaust, have happened around the world. Why would America get involved? What are the positive reasons for engaging? What are the cons?

Citation Information

"APNSA Trip to Rwanda," December 1994. [Courtesy of National Archives](#)

Letter from U.S. President Bill Clinton to Burundi President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, 15 January 1996



Courtesy of National Archives, Clinton, Bill, "President Bill Clinton to President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya," 15 January 1996

Description

This letter was written to Burundi President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya from U.S. President Bill Clinton. In the letter, Clinton expresses concern about the violence in the country and promises to send Ambassador Madeline Albright to the country to stress the importance of the government ending the violence. However, Clinton will not promise political or economic support, because, as he says in the letter, the government came to power through force.

[Transcript of President Bill Clinton's Letter to Burundi President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- Who is this letter written to, and who is it from?
- What has President Bill Clinton asked of Ambassador Madeline Albright? Why would this be an important task?
- What does President Clinton pledge to support? What does the president say the United States will not provide and why?
- Why would America want to help Burundi and its people?

Citation Information

Clinton, Bill, "President Bill Clinton to President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya," 15 January 1996. [Courtesy of National Archives](#)

Sudanese Refugee Women and Children at Camp Mile in Chad, May 9, 2004



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Fiedler, Konrad, "[Sudanese refugee women and children at Camp Mile, Chad]," *The New York Sun*, 9 May 2004

Description

This May 9, 2004, photograph taken by Konrad Fiedler, shows a group of Sudanese women and children refugees at Camp Mile, located in the country of Chad. The refugees had just received fresh rations. This camp opened four days before this photograph was taken to accommodate an overflow of refugees from Darfur. Sudan is the largest country in Africa. Darfur, a region in Western Sudan, encompasses an area roughly the size of Spain. The population of Darfur is estimated at 7 million people. The conflict in Darfur has also increased tensions in neighboring Chad and the Central African Republic as hundreds of thousands of refugees stream over the two countries' borders to escape violence.

Text-Dependent Questions

- Look closely at the image. The refugees just received fresh rations. What are rations? Describe what rations the refugees received.
- Think about the landscape. Why does the food and water for the refugees have to be brought in and rationed?
- What emotions might you feel if you were in this situation? Explain.
- Compare this photo with the [photo of Sudanese refugees at Camp Tine](#). What is similar between the photos? What is different?

Citation Information

Fiedler, Konrad, "[Sudanese refugee women and children at Camp Mile, Chad]," *The New York Sun*, 9 May 2004.
[Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

Sudanese Refugee Women and Children at Camp Tine in Chad, May 10, 2004



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Fiedler, Konrad, "[Sudanese refugee women and children at Camp Tine, Chad]," *The New York Sun*, 10 May 2004

Description

This May 10, 2004, photograph taken by Konrad Fiedler, shows a Sudanese woman holding a baby, with a group of children and women behind her, at Tine Camp, a refugee camp in the country of Chad. According to Konrad Fiedler, "The Sudanese refugees of Camp Tine (pronounced Tee-Nay), have been here for three months and do not understand why no one [i.e. no one] is coming to help them. Nearly all of the elderly have died, as well as 23 children." Sudan is the largest country in Africa. Darfur, a region in Western Sudan, encompasses an area roughly the size of Spain. The population of Darfur is estimated at 7 million people. The conflict in Darfur has also increased tensions in neighboring Chad and the Central African Republic as hundreds of thousands of refugees stream over the two countries' borders to escape violence.

Text-Dependent Questions

- Look closely at the photo. Describe the living conditions of the refugees.
- What emotions do you suppose this mother is feeling in this image?
- The photographer noted that "The Sudanese refugees of Camp Tine, have been here for three months and do not understand why no one [i.e. no one] is coming to help them." After looking at this photo read the [U.S. Senate Resolution 203](#). What role do you think the United States should take in assisting with issues of genocide in the world? Explain your reasoning.

Citation Information

Fiedler, Konrad, "[Sudanese refugee women and children at Camp Tine, Chad]," *The New York Sun*, 10 May 2004.
[Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

“Waging Peace: Building a New Life in Chad after Conflict for the Victims of Darfur,” January 12, 2009



Courtesy of Library of Congress, “Waging Peace: Building a New Life in Chad after Conflict for the Victims of Darfur,” 12 January 2009

Description

This 36-minute-long video features Brian Wakley, chief executive of nongovernmental organization Cord, discussing “Waging Peace: Building a New Life in Chad After Conflict for the Victims of Darfur” in a program sponsored by the African and Middle Eastern Division. Cord is a Christian-based organization that works in partnership with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and other U.N. organizations.

[Transcript of “Waging Peace: Building a New Life in Chad after Conflict for the Victims of Darfur” Video](#)

Text-Dependent Questions

- Describe what the international organization Cord does. In what areas of the world has Cord worked? Why would this group be important?
- How does Brian Wakley describe the situation in Chad? (*Starting at minute 5:49*)
- Explain why Wakley says that “absence of war” is a bad definition for peace, and how does he define the term?
- According to Wakley, what are the components for building peace?
- What does Wakley say about the role of education in building peace?
- Throughout the interview, Wakley tells a lot of stories, asking people to essentially put themselves in the shoes of refugees fleeing genocide. Why do you think he does this? Explain.

Citation Information

“Waging Peace: Building a New Life in Chad after Conflict for the Victims of Darfur,” 12 January 2009. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)