

Knowledge Organiser – Topic Ten: Occupation: The Holocaust

Key People

1	Heinrich Himmler, Head of the SS - put in charge of leading the organisation the Final Solution
2	Reinhard Heydrich - Led the Wannsee Conference, key figure in the implementation of the Final Solution.
3	Adolf Eichmann – labelled as the mastermind behind the specific detail of establishing the extermination camps. His work earn him the title of ‘Chief Executioner of the Third Reich’

Key Words

4	Final Solution	Nazi policy of exterminating European Jews. Introduced by Himmler and administered by Eichmann. The policy resulted in the murder of 6 million Jews in extermination camps.
5	Genocide	Deliberate killed of a specific group of people from a specific nation or ethnic group.
6	Holocaust	Term generally given to mass slaughter carried out by the Nazis during WW2. Comes from a Jewish term for a sacrificial offering which was burnt completely on an altar.
7	Shoah	Modern Hebrew word which means catastrophe, the preferred term for the mass murder of Jews under the Nazi regime.
8	Extermination Camps	Camps that were set up for the sole purpose of exterminating the inmates. The camps were designed to do this systematically with gas chambers to carry out the mass murders and crematoria to destroy the bodies. Examples include Auschwitz, Treblinka, Sobibor, Chelmno and Belzec.

Key Events/ Groups

9	Einsatzgruppen	Mobile killing squads that carried out mass murders in the east after 1939.
10	Ghettos	Enclosed areas in towns and cities where the Nazis forced the Jews to live in isolation after 1939. The largest was in Warsaw.
11	Wannsee Conference	Meeting held on January 20 th 1942 between senior Nazi official, led by Heydrich. Here they discussed the co-ordination of what they called the “Final Solution of the Jewish Question”. During this meeting they decided on a plan for the systematic murder all European Jews.

Key Information

12	Life in the Camps	<p>People were transported from all over Nazi occupied Europe. Jews were told they were being ‘evacuated’ to the east. The aim was hide their intention to avoid mass panic. On arrival all possessions would be confiscated for use by the Nazis,. Arrivals were then sorted. The majority were sent straight to the gas chambers disguised as shower blocks.</p> <p>Those who were selected for forced labour had their head shaved, a identification number tattooed on to their arm and were issued with a striped uniform. The workers were used to complete tasks to keep the camps running, for example transporting bodies to the crematoria and checking bodies for valuable items like gold teeth. Few of those selected for work survived more than a few months. When they were to sick or weal to work, they were killed.</p> <p>Others were selected to be subjects for medical experiments.</p>
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Knowledge Organiser – Topic Eleven: Occupation: Occupation in the East & West

Eastern Case Study: Poland

1	Background	Poland was created at the end of WW1. Before this it had been part of Germany. The Nazis saw it as their right to take their land back. After invading in October 1939 the Nazis divided the country and began to remove all Polish control and culture, as they considered the Poles to be racially inferior.
2	Eastern General Plan	Drawn up by Himmler in 1940, this would be the template for all occupation in the East. Many native poles were moved into the General Government region. It was governed by a Nazi who introduced a rule of terror and set about destroying culture, education and leadership. 30,000 of the most talented people in Poland were arrested, many were tortured and murdered. 1.9 million non-Jewish Poles were killed. 1.5million were deported to work in labour camps. Poles were forced to wear a P on their arm and sexual relationships with Germans were banned.
3	Warsaw Ghetto	Ghettos were enclosed areas that isolated Jews. Hundreds were set up in Poland, the largest being the Warsaw Ghetto (completed Nov. 1940). By March 1941, the ghettos had 445,000 Jewish inhabitants. This made up a third of Warsaw's population, they lived in 2.4 per cent of the space. The poor conditions led to disease and death. Over 140,000 died in the Ghetto's three year existence.
4	Liquidation of the Ghetto	July 21 st 1942 the Nazis began the mass-deportation of inhabitants to the Treblinka death camp. By Sept 21 st 300,000 had perished in the gas chambers. By October only 10% of the official ghetto population registered in July were still present. In April 1943 the surviving inhabitants started a final battle against the Nazis. It was unsuccessful and by mid-May the ghetto was destroyed.

Western Case Study: Netherlands

5	Background	May 10 th 1940 the Nazis invaded the Netherlands. After 4 days of ground fighting the Luftwaffe began a bombing campaign. Fearing continued destruction the Dutch government surrendered.
6	Occupation begins, 1940.	The Nazis saw the Dutch as sharing the same racial background as Germans and therefore were treated very differently to the Poles. The education system was kept the same and civil servants could keep their jobs if they wanted to. There was general compliance with the regime.
7	Turning point, 1941-42	In Feb, the first 425 Jewish men were rounded up for deportation. Dutch communists decided to retaliate with a strike. The Nazis responded violently: nine were killed and hundreds were arrested. After the first death sentences were issued against the Dutch people.
8	Intimidation and Violence, 1943-44	By 1942 all Jews had to wear the Star of David. In 1943 the Nazis began to deport Jews, 107,000 (76%) of Dutch Jews were deported. This was partly due to compliance but also due to the difficulty of hiding people in a densely populated country. With severe shortages of workers in Germany, the Nazis announced they would take Dutch ex-soldiers to work as forced labourers. Strikes erupted across the country and the Nazis responded brutally. Dutch resistance developed. By 1944 there were 300,000 men in hiding. 20,000 resistance members were arrested. Most were sent to the four Dutch concentration camps. 2000 were executed.
9	Late 1944 - 1945	The exiled Dutch Government called for railway strikes- 30,000 rail workers went into hiding, causing transport shortages. Food shortages meant 20,000 Dutch people died of starvation. But on May 5th the Netherlands was liberated by the Canadians.

Knowledge Organiser – Topic Twelve: Occupation: Accommodation, Collaboration & Resistance

Key Words

1	Accommodation	working with the Nazis to help them rule
2	Collaboration	obeying Nazi rule
3	Resistance	opposing the Nazis
4	Perpetrator	someone who actively takes part in committing a crime

Key Concepts

5	Rule in the West	<p>Nazi rule in the West was relatively humane. Whilst day to life wasn't pleasant and all Jews were persecuted, the Nazis did not attempt to exterminate entire western populations. However, they did react brutally towards resisters.</p> <p>Germany required resources and man power. Raw materials, produce and industrial good were all taken leading to shortages in the country. Citizens of occupied countries were forced to work for the Nazis.</p>
6	Rule in the East	<p>Nazi in the East was brutal and cruel. The Nazis viewed the East as essential Lebensraum (living space) for Germany. To do this the Nazis believed the East needed to be 'cleansed' of non-Aryan populations. Jews and Slavic populations (e.g. Poles and Russians) were especially targeted. When Germany invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, Einsatzgruppen followed the German army with the orders to kill every Jew they found.</p> <p>Forces labourers from the east were essentially slaves, and endured terrible conditions. About 2 million Poles were forced into slave labour.</p>

Case Studies

7	Belgium	The DeVlag movement wanted stronger ties with Nazi Germany. They helped the Nazis recruit members to the Waffen-SS and had 50,000 members by 1943.
8	Denmark	The Danes were allowed to keep their government in return for establishing favourable relations. Production and trade was redirected towards Germany, in return laws against the Jews were rejected.
9	France	The 'French Resistance' took action against Nazi occupation. They published underground newspapers and provided intelligence to the Allies. June 1944, the French Interior force was formed to help the Allies push out the Nazis.
10	Croatia	In Croatia, the Ustasa, an extreme right-wing political party were inspired and encouraged by the Nazis to build their own concentration camps. They killed 25,000 Jews.
11	Latvia	In Latvia. The SS created the Latvian Auxiliary Security Police. The group took up the job of purging all internal enemies by killing Jews and Communists. The group alone murdered 26,000 Jews (half the Jewish population of Latvia).
12	Bielski Partisans (Poland)	The Bielski partisans, led by four brothers, managed to escape a ghetto in Poland to the forest. Hundreds joined them, at its peak 1236 lived in the forest. They survived for two years, completing numerous sabotage missions against the Nazis.