

LESSON: Overview of the Holocaust (4-Day)

PACKET 5

Instructions: Examine the sources in this packet and answer the following questions.

- Which aspect of the Holocaust do these sources best represent?
 - Antisemitic Propaganda
 - Exclusion and Legal Discrimination
 - Physical Separation and Ghettos
 - Theft and Confiscation of Property
 - Deportation
 - Concentration Camps and Forced Labor
 - Mass Killing
- What do these primary sources reveal about the ways that ordinary people were active participants or passive witnesses to persecution and even murder during the Holocaust?

Testimony from Kurt Klein

[Kurt Klein](#)

Transcript

“And it also represented an ominous threat because from early on, Hitler and all the others made it quite clear how they felt about the Jews and what they would be doing to the Jews, but it also meant that sometimes you would see all these slogans on the walls directed, many of them directed against Jews. and so you you had a feeling even earlier on that you were truly being singled out. You hardly knew for what reason, but you knew that all this propaganda was directed against you. And it made it difficult at times to carry on because you obviously...in my father's case I don't know the details, but you couldn't do business with people who felt that way. Nevertheless things were still more or less alright until Hitler actually came to power but I could see that the Nazi Party was gaining strength and so could the others but actually nobody believed that they were capable of doing the things which in fact it turned they they later did.”

Did you lose friends because of this atmosphere?

“Once Hitler was in power...I don't remember losing any earlier, but once Hitler was in power it...there was a gradual alienation from the rest of my schoolmates. Some of them were better than others but many of them initially apologized for some of the

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things that Hitler said he was going to do, assuring us that he, of course, didn't mean people like us, my parents or our friends. And then gradually you could almost see the direct relation of their indoctrination in the Hitler Youth, let's say, of how much more hostile they became until in the end they stopped talking altogether or they might perhaps taunt you. Even then it was well-known that there were concentration camps and they would say things to the effect that if you people behave, you might be alright but if you don't watch out, you might all wind up in concentration camps. And after which they of course didn't...I mean long before then they had stopped to associate with you. At first these people had been in my house constantly and I had been in their homes and they had eaten in our home and I ate in theirs, and there was really no difference. I grew up considering myself a part of that scene, never thinking that I was going to be singled out for something like this, and I saw the gradual evolution of how all this changed. It was bewildering to someone growing up amid the turmoil of that period.”

US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Interview with Kurt Klein, October 11, 1990,
RG-50.030.0106

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Photograph



US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Stadtarchiv Neustadt an der Weinstrasse

A troupe of actors in a carnival parade in Neustadt an der Weinstrasse, Germany, mocks Jewish life. The actors' costumes and makeup depict offensive Jewish stereotypes and their float features a display including a burning synagogue. [This photo](#) was taken in February 1939.

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Photograph



US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration

[This photograph](#) depicts an advertisement outside the opera house in the center of the city of Vienna, Austria. It depicts an offensive stereotypical caricature of a Jewish man and states "To be Jewish is criminal. Read the latest edition of *Der Stürmer*." This advertisement was likely placed soon after the country of Austria was annexed (added) to Nazi Germany in March 1938, and instructs citizens to read the antisemitic newspaper *Der Stürmer* ("The Stormer").