

LESSON: Overview of the Holocaust (4-Day)

PACKET 2

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 Rochelle Blackman Slivka

[Rochelle Blackman Slivka:](#)

Transcript

“We had our own police there. They organized police, fire department. They had stores in the ghetto. We had even schools for children. The little kids used to go to school. I personally was too old to go to school already. When the war started I was seventeen years old and we had to have a permit to live. At first they gave us yellow cards. Those who didn't get a yellow card were taken away from the ghetto and we never saw those people. And a couple of months, we used to, people used to go out from the ghetto to work in factories or in railroad station, wherever they needed some help, workers, they sent us, our Jews, there. And a couple months later they decided to change those cards again for different kind of cards. Pink cards. And then they took away those that didn't have any pink cards and we never saw those people again. And it was pretty frightening all the time. Every time they used to give us a little more bread or horse meat we knew that's it's going to be a roundup of Jews the next couple days. They even came in one day, the SS, with the help of the Ukrainian police and the Lithuanian police and took away all the children from school, and those little kids never had a chance to say goodbye to their parents. The parents, when they came home from work they didn't find their kids anymore. We lived all the time in fright; we were frightened all the time. We didn't know what was going to be next or who is going to be next. One time they caught my father walking on a street. They round him up too, but he escaped

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from there somehow. I don't remember how, but he did escape. My mother was sick at the time in the ghetto and she died. She was in the hospital and we didn't have enough medication to help her, and she died in the ghetto. We weren't allowed to go to the cemetery even to see where she was buried. My father went because he helped to dig the grave in the cemetery and he knew exactly where, but the children weren't allowed to go out of the ghetto. We lived in fear all the time. And every day was about the same thing as the previous day.”

US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Interview with Rochelle Blackman Slivka, June 15, 1990, RG-50.030.0216

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Photograph



United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Leopold Page Photographic Collection

Polish and Jewish laborers construct a section of the wall that separated the Warsaw ghetto from the rest of the city. [This photograph](#) was taken in Warsaw, Poland, between 1940-1941. At this time, Poland (including Warsaw) was occupied by Nazi Germany.

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Photograph



United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Archiwum Panstwowe w Krakowie

[This photograph](#) shows Polish Jews whom the Germans forced to move into the newly-created Krakow ghetto. They are carrying their belongings in horse-drawn wagons. The photo was probably taken in the winter of 1940-1941, when Poland (including Krakow) was occupied by Nazi Germany.