

Name _____

Date _____

The Holocaust - Answer Key

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. After the end of the First World War, Germany faced serious problems. Many Germans were upset that their country had been defeated. They were angry that the new government, the Weimar Republic, took the blame for the war and accepted the Treaty of Versailles. This treaty weakened Germany's economy. The Nazi Party gained power because many Germans felt discontented. The Nazi Party was made up of proud German nationalists, many of whom were obsessed with racial purity. The Nazis believed that Aryans, or people of pure German descent, were superior to others. The Nazi Party gained power and support because of its focus on German excellence. Adolf Hitler, the head of the Nazi Party, portrayed himself as a strong leader who could bring wealth and power back to Germany. Germans supported him because they felt Hitler could restore Germany as a superpower in Europe. Hitler was appointed chancellor in 1933. By the following year, Hitler and the Nazi Party had created a dictatorship called the Third Reich. Hitler now ruled Germany with absolute power and began to pursue an agenda of escalating antisemitism.

Which of the following statements best describes how Adolf Hitler rose to power in Germany?

A. Adolf Hitler seized power from the Weimar Republic after losing the election for chancellor.



B.

Many Germans felt that the Nazi Party would restore Germany's former glory, and Hitler was appointed chancellor.

The text states that following World War I, "Germans supported him because they felt Hitler could restore Germany as a superpower in Europe. Hitler was appointed chancellor in 1933."

C. Leaders of the Weimar Republic felt that the Nazi Party could better rule Germany and peacefully transitioned power to Adolf Hitler.

D. Many Germans felt that the Nazi Party would restore peace and equality in Germany and voted to create the Weimar Republic, which Hitler led.

2. The Nazis' persecution of Jewish people grew more severe over time. At first, they called for boycotting Jewish businesses and prevented Jews from entering public spaces like restaurants. Starting in 1939, Jewish people in Germany and Nazi-occupied territories were rounded up and forced to live in ghettos. These crowded, walled-off areas were meant to segregate Jews from the rest of the population. In 1941, Nazi authorities began to deport Jewish people to concentration camps. Jews from all parts of Nazi-occupied Europe were packed into trains and transported to camps located throughout Germany and Poland. Nazi intentions were clear. They used the phrase "the Final Solution" to describe their "answer" to the "Jewish question"; that is, the systematic mass murder of European Jews and others they deemed inferior. Upon arriving at these camps, Jewish people became prisoners. Families were torn apart, and men and women were separated into different living quarters. Nazi officers took away their clothes and belongings, shaved their heads, and tattooed identification numbers on their arms. Forced to perform hard labor in terrible conditions, many prisoners starved, froze, or succumbed to disease. Those who became too weak or sick to work were killed. The Nazis also established death camps that were designed for one specific purpose: mass murder. At these centers, Nazis killed large groups of prisoners in gas chambers, later burning or dumping their bodies in mass graves.

The Nazis' "Final Solution" refers to { }.

- A. the legal exclusion of Jews from public life
- B. the suspension of German Jews' citizenship rights
- ✓ C. the systematic murder of European Jews
- The text states that the Nazis "used the phrase 'the Final Solution' to describe their 'answer' to the 'Jewish question'; that is, the planned mass murder of European Jews and others they deemed inferior."*
- D. the mass emigration of Holocaust survivors from Europe

3. When Soviet, British, and American forces liberated concentration camps and death camps in 1945, the true horrors of the Nazi regime were fully exposed. Thousands of people were rescued, but many still died from the effects of long-term disease and starvation. Of those who survived, most had no homes to return to; they had been destroyed in the war. Jewish refugees struggled to rebuild their lives. Many were forced to start new lives abroad. Following the Holocaust, international courts had trials to hold Nazi war criminals accountable. Adolf Hitler, the mastermind of the genocide, was never brought to trial. He died by suicide toward the end of the war. During the Nuremberg trials, which took place from 1945 to 1946, an international court heard the cases of 22 high-ranking Nazi officials. Of that group, 12 were charged with crimes against humanity and executed. However, many Nazis avoided trial and went on to live relatively normal lives without facing any consequences for their actions in the war. Throughout the 20th century, activists and intelligence agents worked to hunt down Nazi leaders and collaborators living undercover around the world.

According to the passage, most Nazi war criminals { }.

- A. repented for their crimes and were released from prison
- B. were brought to justice during the Nuremberg trials
- C. were only recently imprisoned for their crimes



- D.** were never held accountable for their crimes

The text states, "Many Nazis avoided trial and went on to live relatively normal lives without facing any consequences for their actions in the war."