

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lessons Learned from the Holocaust

1. What were the Nuremberg Trials?

2. Look at the info from the *Trial of Adolf Eichmann*, a German Nazi SS and organizer of the Holocaust. Look at the charges against him and the defense strategy.

2A) What is the main defense that Eichmann uses?

2B) Do you think this is a valid defense? Explain why or why not?

3. In your opinion, A) Who bears ultimate responsibility for the crimes of Nazi Germany? Why?

3B) How far can we extend the blame for the Holocaust? Explain.

3C) Who is guilty? Why or why not?

3D) Is the whole world guilty? Explain.

4A) What did the world know?

4B) Why did the allied forces (Great Britain, France, and U.S.) decide NOT to take action to liberate concentration camps before the end of the war?

4C) Do the allied powers bear some responsibility for the Holocaust? Why or why not?

5A) Why didn't the European non-Jewish population take more action to defend the rights of the Jews?

5B) Are those who did not take action, guilty? Why or why not?

6A) One of the many disturbing conclusions that some people have made from the Holocaust is the idea that under the right circumstances, ordinary men can be transformed into murderers. A) Do you agree with this conclusion?

B) Were those people who participated in the Holocaust "psychopaths" or were they ordinary people?


C) Why do you think ordinary people can be driven to murder?

7A) As citizens, when should we follow the law, and when, if ever, is it justifiable to break the law?

7B) How would some of the other authors we have discussed answer this question (Locke, Hobbes, Machiavelli, Rousseau)?

8. Josef Stalin is responsible for the deaths of 10-20 million noncombatants and Hitler is responsible for the deaths of 12 million. Why do you think Nazi Germany and the Holocaust get more attention?

9. The Nuremberg Trials were controversial because it was the first time an international tribunal tried a defeated nation for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Was it hypocritical for the United States to claim moral superiority over the Germans when the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki could also be seen as crimes against humanity?



10. Have we learned anything from the lessons of the Holocaust? Explain your answer and include specific examples.

