The Shoah

HRT3M
Shoah “Catastrophe”

- Nazi Germany’s deliberate attempt to exterminate Jews between 1939 and 1945.
- The Holocaust targeted other groups including 500,000 Roma, 150,000 people with disabilities, 10,000 LGBQT and 2000 Catholic priests and Protestant ministers
Anti-Semitism in Europe

Before the Nazi’s came to power anti-semitism existed in Germany and other parts of Europe. Before Hitler came to power he spread his racist ideas through his book “Mein Kampf.” Hitler believed that there was a “master” race. He maintained that this race must remain pure.

When Hitler and the Nazi’s came to power, they began spreading their racist ideologies through propaganda including radio programming, children’s books, posters and pamphlets.
Anti-Jewish Propaganda
Zionism:

The persecution experienced in Europe since exile from the homeland after 70 CE, fuelled a desire to return to the land God had promised them. By the late 1800’s, many Jews supported zionism, a movement to establish a Jewish state in Palestine. Early Jewish settlers came to Palestine as early as 1890. Arabs living in the region objected to Jewish settlements which has resulted in political conflict.
Discrimination: Nazi “Science”

The Nazi’s hired scientists to support their racist agenda. Scientist worked toward trying to prove that the human race could be improved through purification and sterilization. German doctors performed procedures that limited the reproductive abilities of people that were considered “inferior” (mentally ill, physically disabled etc.)

Nazi teachers began to apply the principles of “racial science”. They measured skull size and nose length to determine whether students belonged to the “true Aryan race”. Jewish or Roma “Gypsy” children were humiliated in the process.
Discrimination: Boycotting Businesses

Germans were banned from shopping in Jewish shops.
Discrimination: The Nuremberg Laws (1935)

- Must show you are Jewish (arm band, display in home)
- Lost citizenship (no rights, can’t vote)
- Annulled marriages of Jewish to non-Jewish
- Jewish doctors couldn't practice
- Use of public facilities is forbidden (pools, restaurants, parks, and so on)
- Special social rules (walk in gutter, curfews, no bikes, and so on)
- Jewish children not permitted to attend school
Discrimination: Kristallnacht “Night of the Broken Glass

Kristallnacht, 1938: 200 Synagogues burned 8,000 Jewish businesses and homes looted 90 Jews murdered 25,000 Jews arrested and sent to concentration camps
Segregation

Once the war started, the Nazis rounded up Jews in conquered countries and temporarily placed Jews in ghettos of Polish cities.

Ghettos were crowded and dirty.

People in some ghettos staged uprisings, smuggled food.
Ghetto Living Conditions:

- Located in walled cities within Poland
- Jewish homes and possessions were given to Nazi officers
- Many had no housing at all
- Overcrowded; 9 people per room
- Warsaw Ghetto had 500,000 Jews living within its 840 acres
- Starvation and disease killed thousands each month
- Random killings
Jews captured during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1943 are lined up against a wall to be searched for weapons.

Two SS members survey the bodies of Jews killed in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1943.
How were people selected?

Jews were sent to concentration camps via train (crammed in like cattle). Once unloaded, families were separated into male and female lines. SS doctors carried out the selection process (work camp vs. extermination camp). Jews selected for work were “registered” and tattooed with a registration number, shaved of all body hair, disinfected and forced through extremely hot/cold showers. They were given striped pajamas and wooden clogs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jews sent to Extermination Camps:</th>
<th>Jews sent to Work Camps:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Elderly (male and female)</td>
<td>- Men and boys aged 14+</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Women with children</td>
<td>- Deemed “fit” for work</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Children aged 14+ under (male and female)</td>
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(20% of all Jews transported)
Living Conditions in Concentration Camps

- Slept on straw-stuffed mattresses
- So overcrowded that prisoners could sleep only on their sides
- Heating by iron stoves, but these were insufficient to heat the entire space
- Many barracks did not have sanitary facilities
- No electric lighting
- The prisoners also had limited opportunities for bathing (they had to undress in their barracks and then walk naked to the bathhouse leading to sickness and death)
- The barracks were frequently damp, and lice and rats were an enormous problem for the prisoners. Epidemics of contagious diseases erupted frequently
Jewish Victims: Those who were starved and no longer able to work were sent from work camp to death camp.
Sleeping quarters (bunk beds) at Dachau.
Working Conditions

Duties ranged widely:

- Administration tasks
- Heavy manual labour inside camp
- Factories (outside camp)  Construction projects (outside camp)
- Farms (outside camp)
- Coal mines (outside camp)
- Special Work Unit consisted of Jewish prisoners who were selected to work in the crematoriums in camps. They were chosen because of their strength and fitness
The Final Solution

The Nazis made the Holocaust official government policy and planned the death of Europe’s Jews. Hitler called the mass extermination of Jews “the Final Solution”
Jewish Victims: Those who were starved and no longer able to work were sent from work camp to death camp.
Mobile Killing Squads and Gas Vans

- Known as Einsatzgruppen, German police personnel travelled into invaded areas and killed mainly Jews.
- Victims were marched to the execution site, where trenches had been prepared or in some cases, the victims had to dig their own graves.
- After the victims had handed over their valuables, the Killing Squad shot without regard for age or sex, and buried them in mass graves.
- Shooting was the most common form of killing. A more convenient mode of killing was developed - the gas van. This was a mobile gas chamber surmounted on the chassis of a cargo truck which employed carbon monoxide from the truck's exhaust to kill its victims.
- Killing Squads were in use before specialized extermination camps were created.
Nazi Death Camps

- There was Dachau, Treblinka, Auschwitz (largest death camp), and many more
- Zyklon B = poison gas; labelled “Gift Gas”
- Jews were lead into a “Gas Chamber” where gas was dropped from the ceiling. They died within minutes, but it was an agonizing death. Gold teeth fillings were taken by Nazi guards. Bodies were disposed of in mass graves or by incineration.
The crematorium at Dachau, where they burned the bodies.
The Shoah: A Crisis of Faith?

How do we make sense of our faith in the midst of tragedy?
Justice and Legacy: The United Nations

The United Nations (UN) is an intergovernmental organization established on October 24, 1945 created following the Second World War to prevent another such conflict. The UN promotes international cooperation. At its founding, the UN had 51 member states. There are now 193 member states. The headquarters are in Manhattan, New York City.
The United Nations flag.
The Creation of Israel

On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted in favor of a Partition Plan that created the State of Israel. Israeli independence in 1948 was marked by massive migration of Jews from both Europe and the Muslim countries to Israel. About 42% of the world's Jews live in Israel today.
Implications on Palestine

Arabs living in Palestine were shocked by the creation of Israel. They felt betrayed by Western countries whom they had supported in WWII. Palestinian Arabs felt particularly betrayed by the British who in 1915 had promised them independence in Palestine.

The Arab-Israeli War lasted for 8 months. By the end of it, Israel had controlled not only its parcel, by about half of what was partitioned for the Arab state. Nearly 1 million Palestinians were displaced and made refugees.
MAKE HUMMUS NOT WALLS
Today...

- Israeli occupation of the West Bank (Heavy IDF presence) Illegal settlements
- Dialogue taking place to heal wounds on both sides
- Two state solution?
Hebron, West Bank

Hebron is a Holy City and home of the Patriarchs. This can be a contentious area.
Shuhada Street, Hebron

This street is forbidden for Palestinians. This used to be a street bustling with shops, but in 1994 a conflict erupted and Israeli Defence Forces denied access to Palestinians.

In Hebron, Palestinians are not allowed to travel on Israeli roads. This sometimes means taking the “long way” or going out a window or back door, rather than a front door.
Dialogue

What is the solution? How do people learn to get along? Where does this dialogue start and end?

These are some of the questions being asked today.