

AIM: What can we learn about (and from) the Holocaust?

I. DO NOW: Watch the video. Write down one fact you learned that you didn't know about the Holocaust.

II. SLIDE-SHOW IMAGES (History Channel): As you view the images, make note of any that you find particularly impactful.

III. PRIMARY SOURCES:

Document 1

Q1: How does Heinrich Himmler attempt to justify the 'eradication' of Jewish people in Germany?

“The Jews are the sworn enemies of the German people and must be eradicated. Every Jew that we can lay our hands on is to be destroyed now during the war, without exception. If we cannot now obliterate the biological basis of Jewry, the Jews will one day destroy the German people.”

– Rudolf Hess, Commandant of Auschwitz quoting the orders he received from Heinrich Himmler

Document 2

Q2: According to Brack, why should some Jewish people be kept alive? Why does he suggest that those kept alive should be 'rendered incapable of reproduction'?

“According to my impression there are at least 2-3 million men and women well fit for work among the approximately 10 million European Jews. In consideration of the exceptional difficulties posed for us by the question of labor, I am of the opinion that these 2-3 million should in any case be taken out and kept alive. Of course, this can only be done if they are at the same time rendered incapable of reproduction.”

– SS Oberfuehrer Viktor Brack in a letter to Heimlich Himmler (June 23, 1942)
