



Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies
Free Power Point Presentations for the Classroom

Tom White, the Coordinator of Educational Outreach, is available to present the following series of power point presentations in your classroom. The topics are suitable for different level abilities of students. These can be scheduled on relatively short notice. Contact: 603-358-2746; twhite@keene.edu.

1. Judaism & Historical Anti-Judaism

For classes such as World Perspectives I, Western Civilization, Intro to Holocaust, or Sociology, this presentation gives an overview of the history of Judaism and its religious traditions, ideas, and values. The roots of historical anti-Judaism are also traced, from antiquity to the European Middle Ages. This is a good starting point for any study of the Holocaust.

2. A History of Anti-Judaism & Antisemitism

An overview of the history and development of antisemitic tropes and ideas from Pre-Christian anti-Judaism to Christian anti-Judaism and antisemitism to modern antisemitism. This presentation examines the difficult relationship between Judaism and Christianity and Christianity's wrestling with its own assumptions and traditions in light of the darkness of the Holocaust. This history is critical to any understanding of the origins of anti-Judaic thought, its pernicious persistence, and its current resurgence.

3. Traveling and Studying in Israel

This presentation is the culmination of three weeks studying at Yad Vashem (Israel's Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority) in Jerusalem. This January 2007 tour will illustrate the geography and history of Israel. Particular focus will be given to the Old City of Jerusalem as well as Jewish, Christian and Muslim holy sites. Additionally, the landscapes of the Galilee, Masada and the Dead Sea, the Jordanian and Lebanese borders will be visited. The presentation will end by highlighting the Yad Vashem campus.

4. Holocaust Denial: Deceit and Distortion

Holocaust denial is an active propaganda effort to deny the reality of the approximately 6 million victims of the Shoah. This presentation will answer questions such as, "How do we know what we know?" "Who would deny the Holocaust and why?" The context and origins of Holocaust denial (initiated by the Nazis themselves) will be presented as will the role of the historian as witness. Fundamental denier motives, distortions and tropes will be examined. Using the documented facts of the Shoah, this presentation will illustrate how denier arguments have no basis in truth.

5. Terrorism: A Nazi Connection

Although Christianity and Islam have a long history of anti-Judaism, many antisemitic myths were unknown in the Muslim world for centuries. Although the Quran has negative references to Jews, those passages were often ignored or forgotten. Only in the 20th century have Muslim extremists adopted antisemitism in its most virulent form. The genocidal nature of this antisemitism and its emergence in the Middle East has connections to Nazi Germany. By exploring the Grand Mufti, Haj al-Husseini's close relationship with Hitler, Himmler, and Nazi Germany this power point examines an origin of terrorist ideology. Contemporary images from the Middle East are explored as the newest mutation of antisemitism is confronted.

6. The Rise of the Nazis (1933-1938)

This presentation will focus on the origins and rise of the Nazis; the accession to political power; the human rights violations and antisemitic policies. A major focus will be on how human rights violations escalate without being checked and the responsibility of individuals when facing such violations. An ideal introductory presentation for high school and middle school dealing with the issues of personal responsibility and witness.

7. The Nazis and the Holocaust (1933-1944)

Similar to presentation #5, "Rise of the Nazis," this power point broadly traces the assumption of power by the Nazis, Nazi ideology, the securing of political power, the rise of the police state, T4, and the evolution of Nazi policy towards the "Jewish Question." This serves as a general historical introduction of the evolution of Nazi Germany into a genocidal state and includes the escalation of policy into the development of the death camps.

8. Discrimination and Law in Nazi Germany 1933-1938

The Nazis passed over 2000 laws in their persecution of German Jews. This simple figure shows how the Nazis were obsessed not only with the "Jewish Question," but also in their need to act "legally." Hitler had a great contempt for law, but came to see its use as an absolutely necessary in his war to progressively remove human rights from those he perceived as dangerous threats to the German Volk. Why? This presentation deals with the legal dimension of the Holocaust and its role in the lead-up to the Final Solution. The actions of the police and the judiciary will be highlighted with a particular focus on Franz Schlegelberger. He served in the Ministry of Justice from 1931-1942. For the last seventeen months of his service, Schlegelberger was Director of the Ministry of Justice. Key themes in the development of human rights violations will be discussed to illustrate early warning signs of genocide.

9. Elie Wiesel: Profound Fear & Extraordinary Hope

This power point presentation traces the life of Elie Wiesel from his birth in Sighet, Romania; his early, formative years; the round-up of his family and deportation to Auschwitz; the fate of him and his family; and his post war experiences. The writing of *Night* and approaching it in the classroom will be discussed. The story is told through his quotes and his message for humanity.

10. A “Perfect Storm”: Antecedents and Precursors to the Holocaust

This presentation examines the preexisting prejudices, myths, anxieties and fears that the Nazis astutely utilized to not only become a mainstream political party, but one with “moral authority” within German society. Focus will be given to persecution of the offspring of French-African soldiers after World War I; homosexuals; the handicapped; the Sinti and Roma; Jehovah’s Witnesses; and the Jews. In the cases of these minorities, professionals and many segments of society became invested with the questions thrust before them and wrestled – through growing frustration – to imagine more radical solutions...from sterilization to deportation to... While obsessed with “the Jews”, the Nazi persecution of these other groups helped them develop “useful” ideas and techniques that would emerge in the Final Solution. Nazism existed and was attractive precisely because it could effectively “other” the other. In confronting issues such as homophobia and racism this presentation seeks to emphasize the need for eternal vigilance for the “other” in our midst.

11. Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Germany 1933-1938

“Along the stations toward extinction...each gender lived its own journey.” Using Marion Kaplan’s work and images and memoirs, the focus here is on the role of everyday Germans on a daily level, in the social death of their neighbors. Often overlooked is the initiative of ordinary Germans in complying with the new tone of the government without serious legislation being passed in the early stages of the regime. Also misunderstood is that the mixed messages being sent by Nazi leadership did not make the so-called “writing on the wall” clear until 1938. A comparison of male and female German Jewish experience will reveal the difficulties in accurately assessing the dangers facing this small minority of Germans.

12. The Holocaust: 1941-1945

This presentation focuses on the evolution to genocide that took place from 1939-1945. The major emphasis is on how Nazi policy developed from forced emigration in the 1930s to the “Final Solution” by 1941. Specific attention will be placed upon the racial laboratory of Poland 1939-1940 and how Nazi policy evolved from the difficulties in implementing the fantasy world of Hitler, Himmler, and the SS. Events will be explored from the context of the time and not from hindsight. Topics to be covered are: Defining the Holocaust and genocide; Emerging role of the SS; Difficulties and failures of emigration policy; Evian Conference; The Holocaust within the context of World War II; The failure and complicity of the Wehrmacht; T4; The Commissar Order; Wannsee Conference; the Einsatzgruppen and the “Final Solution.” (For advanced classes.)

13. Hiding and Passing: Background for *Europa, Europa*

This power point traces the life and times of Solomon Perel in preparation for showing the film “Europa, Europa.” Using events and images from his early life through the end of the war (including photographs of himself, the places, and other characters portrayed in the movie) this presentation addresses such issues as: Factors in deciding to hide or pass as a non-Jew; the dangers and difficulties in hiding or passing; and the difficulties and personal impact of hiding or passing.

14. Anne Frank – An Indestructible Voice

This presentation frames Anne’s Frank’s voice and experiences within the historical context of her life. Special attention is given to the life of Otto Frank and the memories of Hannah (Goslar) Pick, Anne’s childhood friend. The life and decisions of the Frank family (such as emigration and going into hiding) are placed within the context of the Nazi era. Otto Frank’s failed attempt to get his two children (Margot and Anne) into the United States is highlighted. This presentation also traces the family’s history after their betrayal in the Secret Annex.

15. The Righteous: Danish Rescue

This power point was designed for elementary students reading *Number the Stars*. It gives a general account of the history of the rescue of Danish Jews. (Grades 5-8)

16. Rescue and The Righteous: Resisting Evil/Weapons of Hope

Using the Jewish foundation for the Righteous’ eight “Traits that Transcend” this presentation seeks to introduce students to the subject of rescue during the Holocaust. Rescue will be placed in its historical context while approaching the question of how these people did what they did to save Jews. Examples of a “Righteous Among the Nations” will be using to illustrate each trait as well as a contemporary figure to reinforce how these traits transcend the confines of history.

17. The United States and the Holocaust: Context and Memory

A contextual examination of what the U.S. knew about the Holocaust and how it reacted. U.S. policy is presented in context of the years of peace (1933-1939) and the years of war (1939-1945). Topics covered include: U.S. immigration policy and the quota system, U.S. attitudes of pacifism, isolationism, racism, xenophobia and antisemitism in the 1930s, Evian Refugee Conference, Voyage of the *St. Louis*; and the failed Wager-Rogers *kindertransport* bill. In addition, Allied knowledge and responses to the Holocaust will be examined.

18. Sudan: Genocide in Darfur

Darfur is now probably the world’s worst humanitarian crisis. This power point presentation begins with the current legal of genocide and the inherent difficulties in the application of the term. A brief video clip, “Darfur Destroyed” will introduce the topic. The presentation will then highlight the current situation in Darfur, the background history, and the geographic and politically-sponsored catalysts that have led to genocide. According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Sudanese government actions against Darfur currently include: Inflaming ethnic conflict; impeding international humanitarian access, resulting in deadly conditions of life for displaced civilians; bombing civilian targets with aircraft; and murdering and raping civilians. This presentation will be a call for “disruptive empathy” (Rene Girard’s idea that we need to immediately get involved to stem the tide of history). Ideas for individual and group action will be presented in this call to help those suffering the effects of genocide.