A Perfect Storm: The Unifying Power of Hatred

Questions:

The Holocaust was not just possible, it became permissible. Unconscious creation of new “normals.” We see the same building blocks around us. We have the power to interrupt, to create safe spaces, to create hope. Who do we want to be?

1. Mass atrocity is a ________________, not an event.

2. Context (1920s – 1930s). What are some similar building blocks for mass atrocity today?


Groups Targeted for Persecution:

4. Rhineland Blacks
   - Initial context of persecution:
     - Deportation discussed, but dismissed as impractical.
     - Jews mentioned early on, but deemed to radical.
     - Working within the legal system.
     - Sensitivity to public opinion led to secret campaign.
     - Difficulties tracking down target group made large-scale application difficult.

5. Eugenics and Nazi Race Policy
   - Members of the KKK shaped U.S. immigration law from the 1880s into the 1920s. What was the slogan of the KKK? ________________
   - In Mein Kampf Hitler notes that U.S. states divides inhabitants into three categories: ____________________and _____________________.
   - First sterilization law (for certain categories of disabled) were passed in _________________.
   - First Nazi race law was passed on ____ _____ _____ and was shaped by ____________________ precedents (Human Betterment Society).
   - In the September 1935 Nuremberg Laws the Nazis separate Germans as citizens and ________________.
6. Homosexuals/asocials

Paragraph 175:

Learning by Doing: Racial Policy and Homosexuals
- Easy to manipulate homophobia.
- Learning how to organize roundups and find willing individuals.
- Working within the legal system.
- Expansion of government targets meant others came forward to offer expertise.

7. Handicapped

- Rudolf Hess described Nazism as “__________________________.”
- The Nazi program to murder the handicapped was called the _________________________.

Learning by Doing: Racial Policy and the “Handicapped”
- Learning effective propaganda techniques.
- Easy to engage and collaborate with institutions and adapt to professional concerns.
- Solving bureaucratic procedures and how to organize the murder and disposal of large numbers of people.
- Sensitivity to public concerns.
- Hitler learns to never put his signature on orders. No paper trails.

8. Sinti and Roma

9. Jehovah’s Witnesses

10. Jews

The road to Auschwitz was paved with righteousness.” - Claudia Koontz