

VIEWER GUIDE: *PATH TO NAZI GENOCIDE*

Please take some time to view the following on-line film before the workshop on January 10 -11. Even if you are only attending one day, this film will enhance the planned presentations. Participants will receive credit for the hours of preparation by bringing the completed Viewer Guide with them to the workshop.

Path to Nazi Genocide (38 minutes)

<http://www.ushmm.org/learn/introduction-to-the-holocaust/path-to-nazi-genocide>

1. In the introduction to the film, the narrator identifies three things that the Nazis used to help them further their military, political and racial goals. As you watch the film, note how each of these plays a role in how the history develops:

- EDUCATION
- SCIENCE
- TECHNOLOGY

2. What are some of the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles that dramatically impacted Germany after World War I?

3. What impact did the loss of World War I have on everyday life in Germany?

4. What uncertainties existed in Germany in the 1920s?

5. Why did some Germans fear the Communists? How did this help the Nazi rise to power?

6. What parallels to the United States existed in Germany in the 1920s?

7. What was the historical context in which Hitler came to power? How did Hitler become Chancellor?

8. Explain how the burning of the Reichstag helped Hitler to consolidate his power. What were some of the harsh measures taken at that time and why did many people support those measures?

9. What is meant by a 'national community' and how did the Nazis build one? Explain how propaganda played a role in building a national community.

10. What parallels to the United States existed in Germany in the 1930s?
11. Give some examples of how laws facilitated the persecution of Jews and others and helped pave the way to the path to genocide.
12. What was life like for minorities in the United States in the 1930s? How might this have affected how some Americans responded to the persecution in Germany?
13. How were the obstacles for Jews heightened after Kristallnacht?
14. What options did Jews in Germany have following Kristallnacht?
15. How did the “fog of war” after September 1, 1939 enhance the Nazi ability to further their racial and political ideology?
16. Jews and other Enemies of the State became imperiled as the Nazis marched through and conquered Europe.
 - List the countries conquered by the Germans by 1942.
 - Explain how collaborators in these countries assisted the Nazis in pursuing their racial goals.
17. How did the Nazis carry out the Final Solution to the Jewish Question?
18. As the camps started to be liberated in summer 1944, how did some Americans respond to the news coming from Europe?
19. Reflect on what you saw in the film. The Nazis could not have carried out such large scale genocide on their own. What roles did ordinary people play and what actions did they take?

