

Nazi Germany DBQ Outline Activity

For this assignment, you will need to analyze a series of primary source documents and use that analysis to create an outline that addresses the following prompt:

“Analyze the methods of how, and extent to which, the Nazis had control of German society”

Your group must complete the following tasks:

1. Complete the document analysis organizer
2. Outline your main ideas and supporting evidence (see attached)

Because this is a challenging task, you will be rewarded with 10 quiz grade points as follows:

Successfully and thoroughly analyzes all documents <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Student is able to correctly identify the main point of all documents</i>• <i>Student outlines documents based on methods and extent</i>• <i>Student develops a thesis statement that ties all the info together</i>	____ / 5 points
Successfully creates an that addresses the prompt <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Outline contains a well-developed thesis and relevant main points</i>• <i>Outline organizes the documents in a manner that supports the main ideas</i>• <i>Outline address all parts of the prompt</i>• <i>Outline includes relevant outside information from this unit and possibly beyond</i>• <i>Outline is clear and convincing</i>	____ / 5 points
BONUS POINTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Make a clear and convincing connection to another historical topic</i>	____ /1 point

TOTAL SCORE: _____ / 10 points

Document 1

German Newspaper account of the Nazi Party Nuremberg Rally in September 1936.

"... We have witnessed many great marches and ceremonies. But none of them were more thrilling, and at the same time more inspiring, than yesterday's gathering of 140,000 political leaders (heads of various local Nazi party groups) who were addressed by the Führer (Hitler) at night, on the Zeppelin Meadow which floodlights had made bright as day Twenty straight columns cut across the square There are innumerable swastika flags flutter in the evening breeze, torn from the darkness by the floodlights, and providing a sharp contrast to the pitch black nocturnal sky. The Zeppelin Field proves to be too small. The stands will not hold the vast stream of people who are moving in with out pause.... The Führer is there! Reich Organizational Leader Dr. Ley gives him a report of the men who are standing in parade formation... Dr. Ley speaks: 'We believe in a Lord God, who directs us and guides us and who has sent you, My Führer.' These are the final words of the Dr. Ley and are underlined by the thunderous applause that rises from 140,000 spectators and that lasts for minutes."

Document 2

Nazi Ambassador to Canada in a pamphlet entitled "*I Had Given Him My Heart*," (1938) referring to his conversion to Nazism during a political rally in the early 1930s.

Hitler's words were like lightning. When he spoke of the disgrace of Germany, I felt ready to spring on any enemy... glancing around, I saw that his magnetism was holding these thousands as one... I was a man of 32, weary of disgust and disillusionment, a wanderer seeking a cause... a yearner after the heroic without a hero. The intense will of the man, the passion of his sincerity, seemed to flow from him into me. I experienced a feeling that could be likened only to a religious conversion ... I felt sure that no-one who heard Hitler that night that he was the man of destiny... I had given him my heart.

Document 3

Law to Remove the Distress of the People and the State (The Enabling Act) - 1933

The Reichstag has passed the following law, which is, with the approval of the Reichsrat, herewith promulgated, after it has been established that it meets the requirements for legislation altering the Constitution.

Article 1. National laws can be enacted by the Reich Cabinet [led by Hitler]...

Article 2. The national laws enacted by the Reich Cabinet may deviate from the Constitution...

Article 3. The national laws enacted by the Reich Cabinet shall be prepared by the Chancellor and published in the Reichsgesetzblatt. They come into effect, unless otherwise specified, the day after their publication.

Article 4. Treaties of the Reich with foreign states which concern matters of national legislation do not require the consent of the bodies participating in legislation. The Reich Cabinet is empowered to issue the necessary provisions for the implementation of these treaties.

Article 5. This law becomes effective on the day of its publication. It becomes invalid on April 1, 1937

Document 4

Reich Citizenship Law of 1935

The Reichstag has unanimously enacted the following law, which is promulgated herewith:

Article 1

1. A subject of the state is a person who enjoys the protection of the German Reich and who in consequence has specific obligations toward it.
2. The status of subject of the state is acquired in accordance with the provisions of the Reich and the Reich Citizenship Law.

Article 2

1. A Reich citizen is a subject of the state who is of German or related blood, and proves by his conduct that he is willing and fit to faithfully serve the German people and Reich.
2. Reich citizenship is acquired through the granting of a Reich citizenship certificate.
3. The Reich citizen is the sole bearer of full political rights in accordance with the law.

Article 3

The Reich Minister of the Interior, in coordination with the Deputy of the Führer, will issue the legal and administrative orders required to implement and complete this law.

Document 5



Image from a German elementary school textbook in the 1930s

Document 6

Report on the interrogation methods of the Gestapo - 1941

They work by listening to rumours; when a rumour is connected with an individual, they look up his history and shadow him. They do not wait to produce a case against him before taking action, but satisfied that suspicions may be founded, they will make a domiciliary visit [visit to his home], examining all his rooms and effects and remove him at once.

They do not disclose where they are taking him or why he is being taken, and they allow no one to speak to him after he has been apprehended. If he has money it is confiscated and all papers, letters and books are impounded for examination. It is common practice when a case is incomplete to leave a prisoner in prison for many weeks, perhaps months, This is done deliberately to create fear in his mind and to weaken his resistance. Suddenly and unexpectedly they will examine him for from twelve to twenty hours without food or rest.

The interrogators work in shifts. They may arrest all the contacts which a suspect may have made during his daily life, and examine the suspect and a selected contact in an endeavour to confound one or the other. For instance, each may be asked what was the subject of conversation between them.

In interrogations, the pressure is usually more mental than physical. The examiner threatens, coerces and often appears to lose his temper. They rely more on this mental form of violence and on a continuous bombardment of questions with a prisoner who is becoming physically and mentally weakened.

Document 7

Eyewitness Account of a Nazi Book Burning, 1933

The whole civilized world was shocked when on the evening of 10 May 1933 the books of authors displeasing to the Nazis, including even those of our own Helen Keller, were solemnly burned on the immense Franz Josef Platz between the University of Berlin and the State Opera on Unter den Linden. I was a witness to the scene. All afternoon Nazi raiding parties had gone into public and private libraries, throwing onto the streets such books, as Dr. Goebbels in his supreme wisdom had decided were unfit for Nazi Germany. From the streets Nazi columns of beer-hall fighters had picked up these discarded volumes and taken them to the square above referred to.

Here the heap grew higher and higher, and every few minutes another howling mob arrived, adding more books to the impressive pyre. Then, as night fell, students from the university, mobilized by the little doctor, performed veritable Indian dances and incantations as the flames began to soar skyward. When the orgy was at its height, a cavalcade of cars drove into sight. It was the Propaganda Minister* himself, accompanied by his bodyguard and a number of fellow torchbearers of the new Nazi Kultur. 'Fellow students, German men and women!' he cried as he stepped before a microphone for all Germany to hear him. 'The age of extreme Jewish intellectualism has now ended, and the success of the German revolution has again given the right of way to the German spirit. [. . .] You are doing the right thing in committing the evil spirit of the past to the flames at this late hour of the night. It is a strong, great and symbolic act, an act that is to bear witness before all the world to the fact that the spiritual foundation of the November Republic has disappeared. From these ashes there will arise the phoenix of a new spirit. [. . .] The past is lying in flames. The future will rise from the flames within our own hearts. [. . .] Brightened by these flames our vow shall be: The Reich and the Nation and our Führer Adolf Hitler: Heil! Heil! Heil!

*Dr. Joseph Goebbels, who was Hitler's director of propaganda

Nazi Germany DBQ Outline

Thesis Statement:

Main Idea #1: _____

Summarize the supporting evidence of your main point AND cite the relevant documents:

Main Idea #2: _____

Summarize the supporting evidence of your main point AND cite the relevant documents:

Summarize any outside information from class and how it relates to your main ideas:

Clear and convincing connection to another time period in history (optional):

Conclusion statement (supports your thesis and summarizes your other main ideas: