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Intro to World Religion

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### Natzi Regime

In a world which humans have evolved off religious beliefs and revolutions it is safe to say religious groups are undoubtedly influential. Religious groups often times keep to themselves and go about their practices safely and non disruptively. However, whenever a religious group embraces an individual to lead them to glory, the individual may disrupt the overall balance of society and influence a change that will affect entire nations and citizens. Adolf Hitler, with the help of the Nazi Regime almost successfully wiped out the Jewish faith by rising to power and spreading anti-Semitism throughout Germany. His practices were ruthless, consisting of concentration camps, human experimentation, public execution, and complete repression of the Jewish people and their faith. Hitler had a vision for supremacy. A vision that would lead to the genocide of millions of people and loss of peace within a country. Despite the fear instilled in every person of Jewish faith, Hitler also sparked a revolution inspiring other nations to reach out and give a helping hand to the Jewish people in Germany.

Hitler's beliefs in supremacy are sprouted in the early 1920s. After the loss of the World War, Hitler was angry and disappointed in his country which he fought so valiantly for. His anger and disappointment led his gathering with local socialists gangs. His ambition and strong

willed- tongue began gathering followers. Although it was not a large mass of followers, Hitler's voice began to speak of "unemployment, rampant inflation, hunger and economic stagnation in postwar Germany would continue until there was a total revolution in German life." (History.com Staff. "Nazi Party." *History.com*). It is these words and mindset that would fuel the nation to embrace a change to better the country itself. Although these words had begun to spread, Hitler's influence had not yet taken hold to the public. As his impatience for change grew, he took what followers he had and led an attack on the German government in attempt to overthrow the current leaders." In November 1923, after the German government resumed the payment of war reparations to Britain and France, the Nazis launched the "Beer Hall Putsch"—their first attempt at seizing the German government by force." (History.com Staff, Hitler Sent to Landsberg Jail.). This rebellion led to the arrest and imprisonment of Adolf Hitler. During this imprisonment, Hitler will spend 9 months and write his famous autobiography "Mein Kampf". In the autobiography he fills the pages with words of supremacy and "aryan race". Preaching the desire for a "pure" race and the downfall of the Jewish people.

Hitler's rise began shortly after his release from prison. He joins a group called the National Socialist German Worker's party, or Nazi party in 1919, his words and perseverance took him to the top and he was made the leader of the Nazi Party. Desperate for power and change, Hitler began to target the public of Germany with propaganda. "The key reason to support Hitler and the Nazi regime was Hitler himself. Aided greatly by propaganda genius Goebbels, Hitler was able to present an image of himself as a superhuman, even god like figure"

(Wilde, Robert. "Who Supported Hitler and Why?" *About.com Education*). Such propaganda soon caught the public's attention, leading to larger audiences at rally's. Larger numbers of people began to listen to Hitler, not just those of the Nazi party, but the citizens of Germany themselves. "In 1929, Germany entered a period of severe economic depression and widespread unemployment.(History.com Staff. "Nazi Party." *History.com*). This economic depression is the ground floor which Hitler gained the respect and loyalty of the people in Germany. Desperate for redemption and respect, the majority of citizens in Germany blindly follow and pledge loyalty to Adolf Hitler.

Loyalty to Adolf Hitler meant loyalty to the practices and belief of anti-Semitism. Around the country, Jews began to face prejudice and hate. Once Hitler took his place as leader, violence against the Jewish community broke out and led to "Lists of specific businesses and individuals to be boycotted were published. Nazi pickets were posted in front of stores and factories belonging to Jews and in front of Jewish professional offices to prevent anyone from entering." (*Grobman, Gary, The First Steps Leading to the Final Solution*). Shortly after the boycotts begin, Hitler soon issued the elimination of Jews within the workforce. This left the Jewish people without work and soon poverty hit the religious group. Hitler's influence was everywhere and had successfully entered the minds of the common man. As segregation continued in attempt to cleanse Germany into an Aryan race, the Jews were soon forced into Ghettos. "Life in the ghettos was usually unbearable. Overcrowding was common. One apartment might have several families living in it. Plumbing broke down, and human waste was

thrown in the streets along with the garbage. Contagious diseases spread rapidly in such cramped, unsanitary housing.”(United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. "Life in the Ghettos.").

Slaughtering of Jewish civilians would be done in public by the Nazi Regime in attempt to decrease the overpopulation occurring within the Ghettos. Once it became apparent the numbers of Jewish people were overwhelming the ghettos, concentration camps were built. The camps were meant to seclude and capture Jewish people. Some camps were meant for work and others solely for death. The Jewish people soon found themselves completely isolated from the world. They were stuck within the walls and fences of camps which slowly starved, worked, or burnt their souls to death. Hitler’s mindset had embraced the people and Nazi Regime to the extent, that Germany was experiencing full out genocide. “Calculating the numbers of individuals who were killed as the result of Nazi policies is a difficult task. There is no single wartime document created by Nazi officials that spells out how many people were killed in the Holocaust or World War II.” (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. "Documenting Numbers of Victims of the Holocaust and Nazi Persecution." *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*). In Hitler's attempt to kill off the Jewish people in their entirety, 11 million people will die. There is an estimated 6 million Jews killed during the holocaust. There were 6 million Jews killed because of the beliefs of an extremist socialist group. Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Regime flourished off the prospect of a superior country filled with citizens of “Aryan” race. The regime which was directly influenced by Adolf Hitler, fully embraced the thoughts and ways of an ambitious man hungry for power. The individual thoughts of Hitler engulfed the minds of millions. To the point of total repression

among the Jewish people. The society of Germany had contorted its image of Jewish people to nothing more than a rat. The perspective of the people was that Jewish people held no significance but were a destructive, distrustful, and repulsive vermin. When in reality, it was all the manipulation of a man tormented by war and desperate for power. The spread of anti-Semitism by Hitler was in reality a facade to unite the people with a common enemy. Blaming the Jews for the loss in War and economic power was not logical, however, it gave the country something to blame their failures on. Presenting the idea of the extermination of Jews, gave the people false hope that without them, their country would flourish and the economic balance would be restored. This manipulation from Adolf Hitler and the devotion of the Nazi Regime almost wiped out an entire culture. The Jewish people were slaughtered and tormented for their religion and beliefs. The beliefs of the Jewish people and the beliefs of Adolf Hitler forever affected the history of man. The conflict in beliefs resulted in total genocide and the death of millions. The controversy in religion and beliefs not only affected Germany but other nations as well. "On 15 March 1939 the German army invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia. This brought over half a million Jews under German control. The German invasion of Western Poland on 1 September 1939 led to the start of the Second World War (WW2). Between 1939 and June 1941 the German army invaded and occupied many countries, including the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Denmark, Yugoslavia, Greece, Norway and Western Poland. By this time many millions of Jews were living in territories under German control." (London Jewish Cultural Centre. "Which Countries Did the Nazis Occupy?" *Which Countries Did the Nazis Occupy?* ).

Hitler continued to lead and prevail in the extermination of millions of Jewish people and other civilians. After the Nazi Regime invaded Poland there is a full out rebellion against Hitler, his allies, and his followers. This rebellion is better known as World War 11. Other nations like Britain, France, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, India, the Soviet Union, China, and the United States declare war and spark a revolution to reach out and give a helping hand to the Jew in Germany and all those under wrath of Adolf Hitler. The repercussions to Hitler's regime and power are monumental. The beliefs of one individual spread into the ears of others and influenced a group of people to completely disregard and hate a mass amount of people connected solely by their beliefs.

The variety of perspective in the global community is of utmost importance if peace is to be maintained throughout the world. Lack of multiple worldviews will lead to close-mindedness, arrogance, prejudice, and misperceptions. Adolf Hitler contorted his mind to fully embrace anti-Semitism and believed that Jewish people and their faith was the root of the German Economic Downfall and to blame for the loss of World War 1. With his strong minded persona he was able to manipulate a nation into believing his own individual beliefs and turned thousands against an entire religious group. When a variety of perspective is promoted through a country's government there is less influence of prejudice behavior. Often times lack of information can lead an individual to believe a certain way or act in a certain way. It is important to inform the public to maintain multiple worldwide views in attempt to promote understanding and avoid violence among man.

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