

The Holocaust - Outline due 2 Classes

- Holocaust represents ultimate ideological genocides
 - Spawned interest in studying genocides
- Hitler/Nazis didn't develop ideology
- *Volkism*
 - 1st appeared in Ger in late 19th cen
 - Time of Iron Chancellor – Otto von Bismarck
 - Volkish thinkers sought to bind together Germans
 - They felt that:
 - Believed Germans had special destiny & unique mission
 - Attracted to racist doctrines
- Race = key to history
 - Race not just physical features

- Races achieve greatness thru purity
 - German race was purer than other races

- Superiority revealed physical characteristics:

- Germans = descendants of Aryans
 - Aryans were creators of European civilization

 - Germans inherited superior racial qualities

- Houston Stewart Chamberlain
 - Inner qualities related to physical characteristics

 - Germans had right to dominate “racial inferiors”

- Pan-German Association
 - Hitler exposed to Pan-Germans; embraced their visions

- Influence seen *Mein Kampf* (1925)

- Clearest window into Hitler's mind
 - Not concerned w/ objective truth of idea
 - Not systematic thinker
 - Rise of Nazism based on higher validity of blood, instinct, & will

- Remarkably consistent ideology
 - World-view rooted in myth & ritual
 - Sought to remake world according to his fantasies

- Nazism rejects both Judeo-Christian & Enlightenment traditions
 - "New World Order"

- Race = key to world history
 - Liberalism was dying
 - Marxism would inherit future

- Nazism would

- Divides world: superior & inferior races
 - Struggle for survival

- Germans would win epic struggle
 - Warns nation would degenerate & perish

 - Conflict between races desirable

- *Lebensraum*
 - *Untermenschen*

 - Ludendorff first pushed for it
 - Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (1918)

 - Treaty of Versailles (1919)

 - Lebensraum to grow master race

- Anti-Semitism
 - Sought war against Jews
 - Aryans were originator
 - Jews were counterpart to Aryans
 - Pledges to stop “a double revolution”
 - Jew was mortal enemy of racial nationalism
 - Moral outlook of ancient Hebrew prophets in total opposition to Hitler’s
 - Functional purpose
 - All Germans felt joined to together
 - Their will was strengthened
 - Gained self-respect
 - Provided a powerless but recognizable target

- Disorients the intellect

- Propaganda
 - Successful leaders must win support of masses

 - Must aim principally at the emotions

 - Motivated by primitive feelings

 - Simple slogans

 - Masses aroused by spoken word

 - Most effective means = mass meeting