

Lernen aus der Geschichte e.V.

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Das mehrsprachige Webportal publiziert fortlaufend Informationen zur historisch-politischen Bildung in Schulen, Gedenkstätten und anderen Einrichtungen zur Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts. Schwerpunkte bilden der Nationalsozialismus, der Zweite Weltkrieg sowie die Folgegeschichte in den Ländern Europas bis zu den politischen Umbrüchen 1989.

Dabei nimmt es Bildungsangebote in den Fokus, die einen Gegenwartsbezug der Geschichte herausstellen und bietet einen Erfahrungsaustausch über historisch-politische Bildung in Europa an.

Lesson 3

Excerpt ["Section III"] from the Wannsee Protocol of January 20, 1942, on the subject of the "Final Solution to the Jewish Problem"

The full protocol consists of a fifteen-page summary of the cabinet level discussion at the Wannsee villa on January 20, 1942. It was sent to the German Foreign Office by Reinhard Heydrich on March 2, 1942, and used in the Nuremberg trials. Only copy sixteen of a total of thirty numbered copies survived.

III.

Another possible solution of the problem has now taken the place of emigration, i.e., the evacuation of the Jews to the East, provided that the Führer gives the appropriate approval in advance.

These actions are, however, only to be considered provisional, but practical experience is already being gained which is of the greatest importance in relation to the future final solution of the Jewish question....

Through appropriate administration in the course of the final solution, the Jews are to be allocated for appropriate labor in the East. Able-bodied Jews, separated by gender, will be taken in large work columns to these areas for work on roads, during which a large portion will doubtless be eliminated through natural causes.

Any remaining part of the group will undoubtedly consist of the most resistant portion. It will have to be treated accordingly, because it is the product of natural selection and would, if released, act as the seed of a new Jewish revival (as the experience of history tells us).

In the course of the practical execution of the final solution, Europe will be combed through from west to east....

In Hofer, Walther (ed.). "National Socialism: Documents." ["Der Nationalsozialismus. Dokumente."] Frankfurt on Main, 1979. p. 303ff.

Classroom assignment:

At the so-called Wannsee Conference, representatives of the Nazi German state and party discussed the "Solution to the Jewish Question." Explain the meaning of this "solution," referring to the corresponding text passages from the original document.

Followed by: Visit to the Wannsee Villa Memorial in Berlin.