

White Rose Student Essay Contest

2019-2020 Theme:

The Holocaust in the East

Historical events impact individuals in unique and varied ways, framed by many factors including experience, geography, the progression of time. The effort to personalize the history of the Holocaust seeks to counter the perception that there was one universal perspective.

Jews living in Eastern Europe (defined here as Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Belarus, Ukraine and the Soviet Union) constituted the largest population of Jews in the world. Beginning with the Nazi invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, Polish Jews faced immediate persecution and acts of violence. By summer 1941, Operation Barbarosa brought total war and genocide to the Jews of eastern Poland and the Soviet Union. Those two years represented a radicalization of Nazi policy toward the Jews that was driven by ideology, conditions of war, and opportunity, culminating in the formulation of the Final Solution.



RESEARCH

Explain the evolution of Nazi policy toward Jews in one of the following East European countries (Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Belarus, Ukraine, Soviet Union), how it was affected by the progression of the war, and its impact on the life of one Jewish family or individual.

REFLECTION

Reflect on how the Holocaust is memorialized today in the country you studied.

This year's contest is made possible by a gift from Katherine DeBruce and by members of MCHE's White Rose Society.

Postmark entry deadline – March 27, 2020

For complete details, including required sources for student research, criteria, eligibility, entry forms, and recommended teaching approaches, visit

mchekc.org/essay