

Lesson Resource: Exploring British Responses to the Nazis' persecution of Jews and the Holocaust

Information for teachers: this lesson resource draws upon original primary sources from The Wiener Holocaust Library's archive to explore Britain's response to the Nazis' prewar persecution of Jews and the Holocaust. All sources are courtesy of The Wiener Holocaust Library unless otherwise stated and can be reproduced for educational purposes only. The Wiener Holocaust Library should be acknowledged in all reproductions.

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The Wiener Holocaust Library works closely with the University College London Centre for Holocaust Education. For more resources, support and guidance on teaching the Holocaust visit their website: <https://www.holocausteducation.org.uk/teacher-resources/>

Possible age groups: 14-18 year olds: (England and Wales) KS 4, 5

Relevant curricula (England and Wales): KS3 History; GCSE History Edexcel: Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939; GCSE History OCR: Germany 1925-1955: The People and The State. Edexcel A-Level History - Germany and West Germany, 1918–89; OCR History Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany 1919–1963; AQA History: Democracy and Nazism: Germany 1918-1945.

Prior knowledge assumed: a basic understanding of the Nazis' racial beliefs, antisemitism and their policies towards Jews, an understanding of the key events of the Second World War and the Holocaust, such as ghettoisation, establishment of death camps, and the Holocaust in the Soviet Union.

Session aims: to use contemporary source material to assess the variety of ways in which different people and groups in Britain responded to news of Jewish persecution and murder before and during the Holocaust, the context which shaped these responses, and how they changed over time. These resources and activities will challenge the misconceptions that Britain was a) unaware of Jewish persecution and mass murder as it unfolded and b) went to war on behalf of the Jews. However, we do not recommend sharing these aims with students, as this could introduce misconceptions that they do not already hold.

Suggested activities: This lesson resource could be used virtually as a framework for an online lesson or printed and used as a guide for an in-person class. We recommend that it is used under the guidance of a teacher and not for self-study. Specific tasks/questions about each source can be found throughout. Students' answers to these questions could be discussed and written up, or students could also work in small groups on different tasks then feedback or present back on their section to the whole group.

Definitions of words in bold can be found in the **glossary** at the end of the worksheet.

Supplementary information for teachers about the sources and wider context can be found at the end of this document.

Exploring British Responses to the Nazis' persecution of Jews and the Holocaust



1) Study the photograph (left) and answer the following questions:

- a) Where do you think this photograph was taken?
- b) The man in the photograph is called Ludwig Neumann. Who do you think Neumann is? Why might he be here?

We will be returning to this picture and the story of the man photographed at the end of the worksheet.

Section A) Prewar Persecution

Nuremberg Laws and Kristallnacht

- 2) a) Study the four images and captions below and create a mindmap of the different ways in which Jews were targeted by the Nazis between 1933 and 1939.
- b) Based on these sources, what do you think the main aim of the Nazis' policy towards Jews was?



A young boy sweeping up broken glass from a Jewish shop window after **Kristallnacht**, an anti-Jewish **pogrom** led by the Nazis in November 1938. Businesses were destroyed, synagogues were set on fire, and over 25,000 Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps, such as Buchenwald and Dachau



A drawing by Gerda Nabe, a young German girl, in her school textbook. The drawing represents the 1935 Nuremberg Laws, which stripped Jews of their German citizenship -making them **stateless** in their own country- and banned them from marrying 'Aryans'.



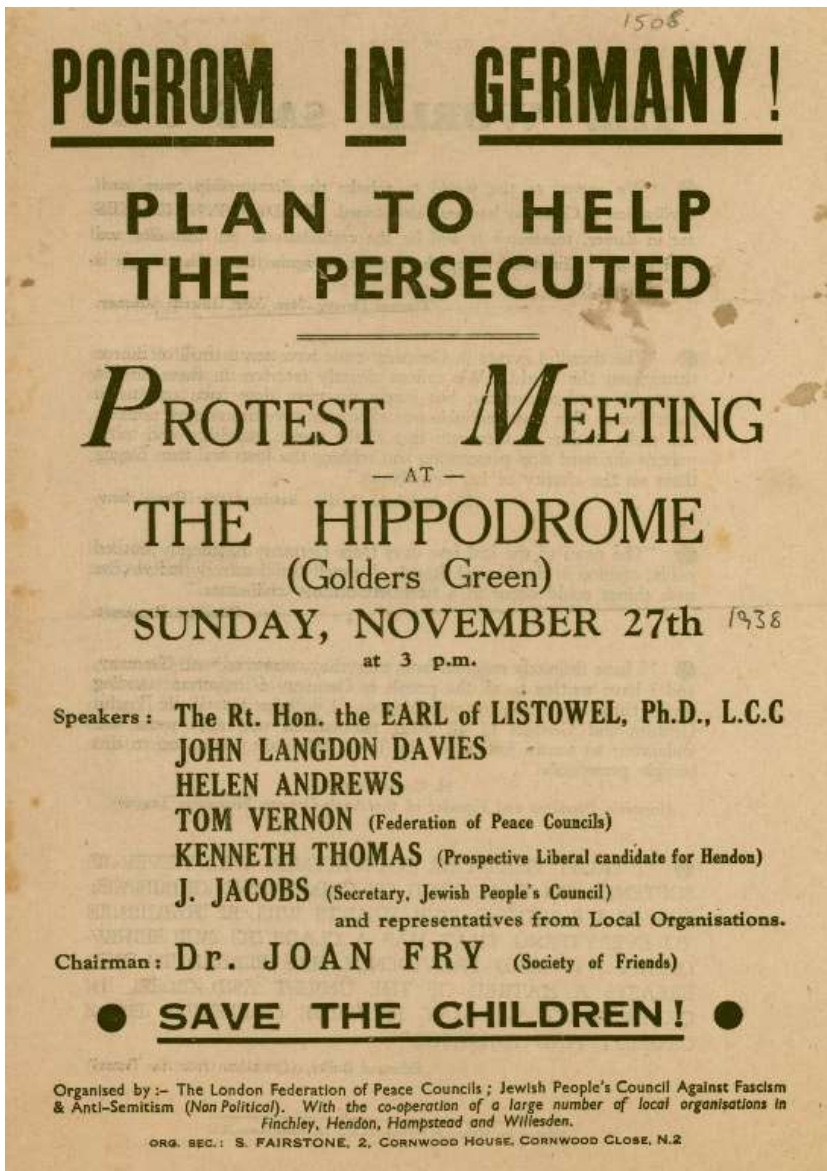
(Above) A label (c.1930s) stating 'do not buy from Jews'. This label was likely created to encourage Germans to **boycott** Jewish businesses.

(Right) The front page of Dr. Malvine Sara Rhoden's passport. In August 1938 all Jews who had supposedly 'non-Jewish' first names were forced to adopt the middle name Sara or Israel. In October 1938, a law was passed forcing Jews to have the letter J stamped in their passports.



3) Look at the leaflet below, produced in Britain in 1938.

- What action is being planned by the British Jewish community and other organisations to help Jews who were being persecuted in the **Third Reich**?
- What does this action suggest about the British Jewish response to *Kristallnacht*? Explain your answer.



'A Plan To Help The Persecuted' leaflet, produced by the British Jewish community and organisations in North London following *Kristallnacht*, also known as the November Pogrom, in November 1938.

The ferocity of the *Kristallnacht* pogrom mobilised support for German and Austrian Jews in Britain and inspired schemes to rescue Jews from Nazi persecution such as the [Kindertransport](#) and [Kitchener Camp Programme](#), which were funded and organised by the British Jewish community. These schemes helped to increase the number of Jews who were able to [emigrate](#) and find refuge in Britain prior to the Second World War.

Fascism in Britain

Although many people in Britain felt sympathy for persecuted Jews in Germany, some supported **fascism** and **antisemitism**.

The most notable supporters of these ideas were the British Union of Fascists (BUF) and their leader Oswald Mosley. The BUF were a pro-Nazi, **fascist**, antisemitic political party founded in 1932. At their peak in the mid-1930s they had a membership of 40,000 people. By 1936, the party's popularity had declined.

- 4) What might the initial popularity of the BUF suggest about the response to Nazism in Britain in the early 1930s?



Oswald Mosley, leader of the British Union of Fascists, c.1930s.

Section B) During the Second World War

Following the outbreak of the Second World War, emigration from the **Third Reich** became extremely difficult for Jews, and their persecution under the Nazis intensified before it became **genocidal** in 1941.

During the early years of the Second World War, refugees that had managed to enter the United Kingdom before the war broke out were regarded with increasing suspicion by the British authorities and the British public. After Nazi Germany's military successes in the spring and summer of 1940, the British public and the British authorities became even more wary of refugees and concerns that refugees (now described as 'enemy aliens' – people from enemy states living in Britain) could be Nazi sympathisers grew. Anti-German reports in the British press increased the concern of the British public.

As a result, immigrants (including Jewish refugees) from Germany, Austria and Italy who had been in Britain for less than twenty years were assessed as to the level of risk that they were judged to pose to British security: high, medium or low.

Initially, only those identified as high risk were **interned** - held in a prison camp -, and medium risk 'aliens' faced restrictions. Jewish refugees were in the main identified as low risk and did not face these measures.

However, at the height of fears about a German invasion of Britain after the attack of France, Belgium and the Netherlands in May 1940, a much larger groups of 'aliens' were interned, including thousands of refugees from Nazism.

The Simon Family

Bernard Simon (far right) was a German-Jewish refugee who had emigrated to Britain as a child in 1933 with his mother Gerty Simon.

He was interned by the British government with his father Bernard Simon (left) in June 1940.

Look at the documents relating to Bernard Simon's internment below and answer the following questions.


- 5) Where was Bernard Simon interned? Does this surprise you? If so, why?
- 6) What do you think conditions were like for interned 'enemy aliens'? Give details.
- 7) Why do you think the British government took the decision to intern Bernard Simon and other Jewish refugees?



Wilhelm (left) and Bernard (right) Simon, c. 1939.

- 8) What does the policy of internment suggest about the attitudes in Britain towards refugees in Britain during the war?

E40665



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Order for Detention of Enemy Alien.


WHEREAS by Regulation 20 of the National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations it is provided that if the Minister or any person authorised by the Minister to act under that regulation is of opinion that it is necessary or expedient in the interests of the public safety, the defence of the Commonwealth or the efficient prosecution of the war to detain any enemy alien he may make an order directing that the enemy alien be detained :

AND WHEREAS the Minister has, pursuant to the provisions of section 17 of the National Security Act, 1939-1940, delegated to me, Captain Albert Richard Heighway, an officer of the Adjutant-General's Branch at Army Headquarters, the powers and functions conferred upon him by Regulation 20 of the National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations insofar as the exercise of those powers is necessary for the purpose of making Orders for the detention in Australia of those persons on board His Majesty's Transport "Dunera," who have been sent from the United Kingdom to Australia for internment in Australia in accordance with arrangements entered into by the Government of the Commonwealth and the Government of the United Kingdom :

AND WHEREAS I am of opinion that it is expedient in the interests of the public safety, the defence of the Commonwealth, or the efficient prosecution of the war that **Bernd Max Leopold SIMON** , being an enemy alien on board His Majesty's Transport "Dunera," who has been sent from the United Kingdom to Australia for internment should be detained.

NOW THEREFORE I do hereby order that the said **Bernd Max Leopold SIMON** shall be detained.

Dated this **Sixth** day of **September** One thousand nine hundred and forty.



Captain.

h 2612/40

'Order for the Detention of Enemy Alien' issued to Bernard Simon, c. September 1940.

COPY (5th April 1941) 1954/113/9
CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION.

The Secretary of State,
 Home Office,
 LONDON, ENGLAND.

U.K. INTERNEES.

I, the undersigned declarant, hereby respectfully claim compensation for loss or damage to personal effects owned by me and shipped on the S.S. "Dunera" from England to Australia on 10th July, 1940, particulars whereof are set out hereunder.

Surname (in block letters) - SIMON, No. E40665
 Christian Name (in full) - BERND MAXIMILIAN LEOPOLD
 Nationality - GERMAN place of birth - BERLIN
 Name of Internment Camp in England where first interned - LINGFIELD
 Name of Internment Camp in England where interned immediately before being brought to Australia - LINGFIELD
 Total Amount of Compensation claimed, Sterling £11-17s.-0d. (Eleven pounds and seventeen shillings)

List of Articles in Respect of which Compensation is Claimed.

Description of Article	Date when purchased	Place where purchased	Condition of article	Price paid (value)	Price paid (value)	Amount Claimed	£	s.	d.
<u>LOST, I.</u>									
A) 2 Blankets	1938	London	Slightly used	-	-	2	10	-	-
1 Pyjama Jacket	1938	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
1 Shirt	1937	-	used	-	-	-	5	-	-
1 Pullover	1939	-	new	-	-	-	10	-	-
1 T-shirt	1940	-	slightly used	-	-	-	7	-	-
1 Underwear	1939	-	new	-	-	1	10	-	-
1 Dressing Gown	1939	(after arrival)	new	-	-	-	5	-	-
2 pairs Socks, 2 Trunks, 8 Handkerchiefs	28, 29, 40	-	slightly used or new	-	-	1	-	-	-
1 Celluloid Dressing Case, 1 "Tasman" Razor, 1 Mirror	1938	Berlin	slightly used	-	-	-	15	6	-
1 Toilet Brush, 2 pairs Socks	1939/40	London	-	-	-	-	14	6	-
1 Badger Shaving Brush	1939	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-
1 pair Longhair Socks - Large, Sunday Underwear	1939/40	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
B) 1 Parker "Vacumatic" Fountain pen	1938	Berkus, London	very good condition	£1-5s.-0d.	-	1	5	-	-
<u>DAMAGED, II.</u>									
1 Suitcase	about 1930	Germany (Klein)	used	-	-	1	-	-	-
						£ 11	17	-	-

Left: Bernard Simon's claim for compensation for belongings stolen or damaged on-board HMS Dunera, the ship which transported him and other internees to Australia. The Dunera became infamous for the terrible treatment and poor conditions Jewish refugees experienced on board.

Below: An extract from Bernard Simon's recollections in 1990 of his internment and the conditions in the Hay Camp in Australia in 1940/1941.

Escape from the camp (to spend an evening with a girl-friend in Hay) was impossible. There were two rows of electrified barbed wire fences, closely guarded day and night. In fact, at one point the commandant decided that, for security reasons, the space between the fences ought to be warded and that it was our duty to do this. Everybody in the camp, when we heard this, was furious. In the end, I believe, the camp leader and some friends did the job themselves.

The Holocaust 1941 - 1945

Following the start of the Second World War, the Nazis' measures against Jews intensified and they began to commit mass murder.

In mid-1942, information about the mass murders of Jews began to reach Britain. One of the first reports of large-scale murders was printed in the *Jewish Chronicle* newspaper on 19 June 1942.

The headline of the report stated:

'News is filtering through recent ghastly massacres of Jews in Nazi Europe. Some eighty-five thousand men, women and children are mentioned in the reports to hand'.

Two weeks later, a report by Szmul Zygielbojm was printed in the national newspaper, *The Daily Telegraph*. The report stated that 700,000 Jews had been murdered by gas and specifically named the **Chelmno death camp**. Despite these reports, there was little immediate response or acknowledgement from the British government.



'Stop Them Now! German Mass Murder of Jews in Poland'.

A pamphlet published by Polish Jewish refugee Szmul Zygielbojm in September 1942, containing reports of the Nazi **atrocities** against Jews from the Polish underground movements and eyewitness reports from Polish citizens. Zygielbojm hoped to raise awareness of the murders and inspire action to help save Polish Jews, including his family, who were trapped in the Warsaw Ghetto.

- 9) Why do you think the British government might have been slow to respond to reports of mass murders of Jews?

The British government first directly addressed the Nazis' mass killings of Jews in occupied Poland via a joint Allied statement, which was read in the House of Commons by the British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden in December 1942. The statement described and condemned the Nazis' persecution of the Jews in Europe, and in the following days it was widely reported in the press.

However, while the British government undoubtedly recognised the implications of the unfolding destruction of the European Jews, in the midst of fighting an ongoing war, it continued to follow a strategy that considered winning the war the only and 'most effective' way to save Jewish lives.

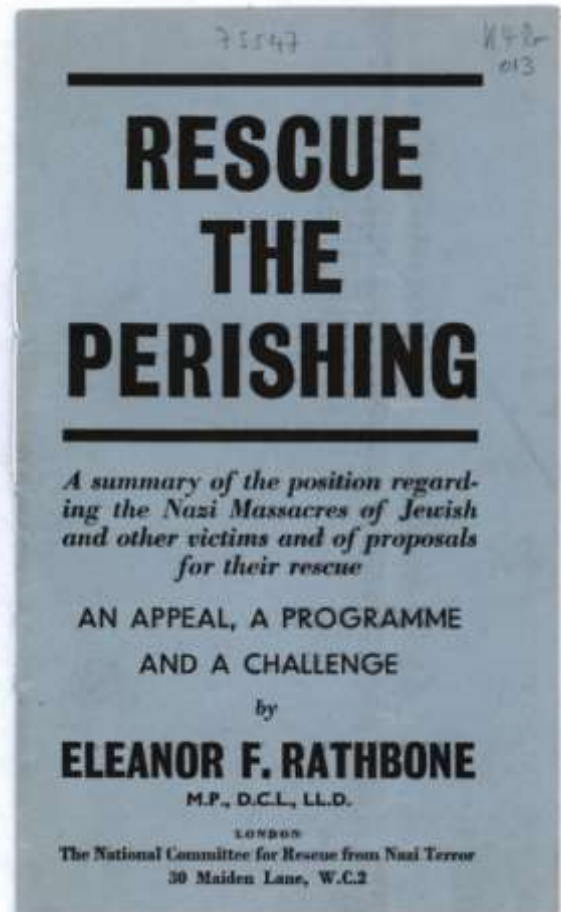
Individual action

Many individuals in Britain, such as Szmul Zygielbojm, responded to news of Nazi persecution by working tirelessly to raise awareness and sympathy for Jews. One of these individuals was Eleanor Rathbone, a Member of Parliament (MP) and prominent campaigner on a variety of social issues. In 1943, Rathbone published this pamphlet.

Read the extract (below) from Rathbone's pamphlet 'Rescue The Perishing' (right).

- 10) What does this extract indicate about the response in Britain to Rathbone's efforts?

'Rescue The Perishing' pamphlet, published by Eleanor Rathbone in May 1943.



2. "*We have not the Accommodation.*"

Many of those whom we are trying to bring in (see Point I of the National Committee's Twelve-Point Programme) have already families with homes in this country. Many others would join the Armed Forces. For others, offers of hospitality, of empty houses available on loan, have been pouring in upon Refugee Organisations, which have themselves offered help in finding accommodation. But if the numbers exceeded these resources or included some whose political reliability was in doubt, the Isle of Man Internment Camps for aliens have at present less than half as many inmates (over 4,600 fewer) than they had two years ago, and the numbers are steadily diminishing.

3. "*There might be Spies among them.*"

See the last part of the preceding reply.

4. "*If we let in more Jews, it might Promote Anti-Semitic Feeling.*"

Anti-Semitism is an ugly infection from Hitlerism. It exists and may be increasing. But it is an insult to the British people to suppose that even those who "don't like Jews" would rather leave them to be massacred than find asylum for a few more thousands of them. A recent Gallup Poll, referring to the Nazi's "disgusting barbarism" towards the Jews asked "Do you think that the British Government should or should not help any Jews who can get away?" Seventy-eight per cent. of those approached replied "Yes," this being almost the largest majority ever recorded in a Gallup Poll. Over half of those so replying wanted admission to be extended to "as many as can come." Those questioned were 2,450 adult civilians in 175 constituencies throughout England, Scotland and Wales, chosen scientifically, according to the well-known Gallup method, to form a cross section of the whole public.

Extract from the 'Rescue The Perishing' pamphlet, published by Eleanor Rathbone in May 1943.

In the following years, the sympathy and shock expressed in Britain in response to the reports of the Nazis' mass murders of Jews dwindled, and the campaign to help Jews on a national scale lost momentum.

Within the Anglo-Jewish community, discussion of **Palestine** – a part of the British empire where it was proposed the Jewish homeland would be - and worries about domestic antisemitism within Britain meant there was no coordinated, sustained campaign to address the issue.



Can you remember this photograph of Ludwig Neumann, shown at the beginning of this worksheet? Look at your answer to question one.

Ludwig Neumann was a German Jewish businessman who owned a large clothing factory. Neumann was imprisoned by the Nazis in late 1938 in Dachau concentration camp. His business had been seized a month before. He came to Britain as a refugee in 1939.

This photograph was taken after he arrived in Britain, when he was briefly interned by the British government in an internment camp on the Isle of Man in 1940.

11) What does the case of Ludwig Neumann tell us about responses in Britain to the Nazis' persecution of Jews and the Holocaust?

Glossary

Antisemitism - Hostility, prejudice, or discrimination towards Jews.

Aryans - In Nazi terminology, this word was used to describe people of North Western European descent with 'pure blood'. Typical and desirable physical traits included blonde hair and blue eyes.

Atrocities - Acts or actions of very great cruelty, usually involving physical violence.

Boycott – to avoid something or to withdraw your custom from a commercial business.

Chelmno death camp – The first Nazi extermination camp. The camp began operating on the 8 December 1941. Over 150,000 people were murdered at the camp using a variety of methods. The camp was liberated on the 17 January 1945.

Fascism - An authoritarian and nationalistic right-wing system of government and social organisation.

Fascist - An advocate or follower of an authoritarian and ultra-nationalistic right-wing system of government and social organisation.

Genocidal - Relating to or involving genocide (an act committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group).

Graphic – vivid or explicit.

Internment – The process of confining someone or a group of people for political or military reasons,

Kristallnacht - *Kristallnacht*, also referred to as the November Pogrom or the Night of Broken Glass, was a series of violent antisemitic attacks which took place across Germany on the 9 – 10 November 1938. From the 10 - 16 November, over 25,000 men were arrested and sent to concentration camps, such as Buchenwald and Dachau. A smaller number of women were also arrested. Conditions in the camps was horrific and both men and women endured extreme violence.

Nuremberg Laws – The Nuremberg Laws were two antisemitic laws announced at the Nazi Party conference in 1935. The Reich Citizenship Law declared that only 'Aryans' were German citizens, and as Jews were considered to be non-'Aryan', this stripped them of their citizenship. The second law was the Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honour, which banned marriage and sexual intercourse between Jews and 'Aryans' and forbid the employment of 'Aryan' women under the age of 45 in Jewish households.

Palestine – A geographic area in western Asia of historic religious significance. Between 1922 and 1947 the area was under British mandate. In 1947, the territory known as Palestine was split into an Arab and Jewish state by the United Nations. It continues to be an area of tension and conflict.

Pogrom - An organised massacre of a particular ethnic or religious group of people.

SS – The *Schutzstaffel*, more commonly known as the SS, were initially a small sub-division of the SA responsible for protecting Hitler. After Himmler took over leadership of the SS in 1929, it was dramatically expanded and made an organisation in its own right. The SS were the most ideologically committed division of the Nazi state. They were in charge of racial policy and were also used as a force to terrorise and control people. They became key to the administration and organisation of the Holocaust.

Stateless – Where a person is not recognised as a citizen to any country.

Third Reich – The term used to describe the German state while it was under the control of the Nazi Party, between 1933 and 1945.

Visas – A document issued on a passport by the authorities of a country to show that the bearer may travel to that country.

Teacher information

Possible answers

1) Study the photograph (left) and consider the following questions:

a) Where do you think this photograph was taken?

b) The man in the photograph is called Ludwig Neumann. Who do you think Neumann is? Why might he be here?

The photograph shows the German Jewish refugee Ludwig Neumann during his internment by the British Government on the Isle of Man c. 1940 as an 'Enemy Alien'. Students will likely assume that Ludwig is in a Nazi concentration camp in this photograph (Ludwig was imprisoned in Dachau concentration camp in 1938 before he managed to flee from Nazi Germany to Britain). Teachers can use this photograph to introduce and discuss the idea that the British response to the Holocaust and the Nazis' pre-war persecution of Jews was not straightforward but complex - and not always positive.

2) a) Study the four images and captions below and create a mindmap of the different ways in which Jews were targeted by the Nazis between 1933 and 1939.

Potential answers could include: financially boycotted, businesses destroyed, subject to pogroms and violent attacks, citizenship removed, forced name changes (addition of middle names 'Sara' and 'Israel'), addition of Jewish 'J' stamp to passport.

b) Based on these sources, what do you think the aims of the Nazis' policy towards Jews was?

To dehumanise Jews, to ostracise/exclude them from society, and to make them feel unwelcome in Germany.

3) What action is being planned by the Anglo-Jewish community and organisations in North London to help Jews who were being persecuted in the Third Reich? What does this action suggest about the Anglo-Jewish response to *Kristallnacht*?

A protest meeting, with a specific focus on discussing how to help Jewish children ('save the children!'). It suggests that the Anglo-Jewish responses was one of shock and condemnation, which led them to actions such as this protest meeting in an attempt to help those stuck in Germany.

4) What do you think the initial popularity of Oswald Mosley and the BUF tell us about the response to Nazism in Britain in the early 1930s?

The existence and initial popularity of the British Union of Fascists shows us that fascism was not seen by everyone in Britain to be a completely negative idea (as it largely was from the late 1930s onwards) – in the early 1930s, a substantial minority actively supported similar ideas to the Nazis and thought that Britain would be improved by taking a similar approach to the Third Reich. The existence and support of the BUF also demonstrates the presence of a more radical antisemitism in Britain, which

contrasts the attempts by other sympathetic organisations in Britain at that time to help persecuted German Jews.

5) Where was Simon interned?

Bernard Simon was interned in Australia. He was transported to Australia on board HMS Dunera, which has become notorious for its inhumane conditions and terrible treatment of Jews.

6) What do you think conditions were like for interned 'enemy aliens'?

Difficult, refugees were separated from their families, their movement was controlled, and they were often subject to mistreatment. However, while it was almost never a positive experience, the experience of those who were interned varied significantly depending on where they were placed.

7) Why do you think the British government took the decision to intern Bernard Simon?

Several factors contributed to the decision to intern Bernard Simon: the government took a blanket decision and centralised their policy towards refugees, as a refugee, the government suspected that Bernard could be a spy (although it is worth pointing out to students that Bernard arrived in Britain as a child, and had been in the country for seven years when he was interned), the media in Britain had generated pressure on the government to take action on refugees.

8) What does the policy of internment suggest about the attitudes towards refugees in Britain during the war?

From 1940 onwards, attitudes towards refugees became even more cautious and negative. As showed by the BUF article, the war increased feelings of antipathy towards foreigners and refugees in Britain, regardless of their own political stance.

9) Can you think of any reasons why the British government might be slow to respond to reports of mass murder?

There are various possible answers to this question, including: the reliability of reports in wartime, the British government not wanting to seem as if they were at war on behalf of the Jews - as this may have increased domestic antisemitism -, a lack of practical ideas which would help the Jews, a unwillingness to sacrifice material or people to the rescue effort during the Second World War (or, a concentration on winning the war).

10) What does this extract indicate about the response in Britain to Rathbone's efforts?

Rathbone's efforts were met with resistance and anti-foreign feeling remained.

11) What does the case of Ludwig Neumann (both his escape from Nazi Germany and refuge in Britain, and his internment) tell us about responses in Britain to the Nazis' persecution of Jews and the Holocaust?

This question is intended as a summary – students should identify that although Britain provided as place of refuge for Neumann, it also interned him, which were two contrasting events. Thus, at the time between 1933 and 1945, there were a variety of responses in Britain which were complex and ever shifting – contrary to popular public memory of the event.

Supplementary information

Additional information and sources on pre-war persecution, the fascist movement, the Kindertransport, the Kitchener camp scheme, and the [British response to the Holocaust](#) as it

unfolded and in the aftermath of the war can be found on the Library's educational website, [The Holocaust Explained](#). Links to relevant sections of the website have been integrated throughout the text.

Szmul Zygielbojm: Szmul Zygielbojm was a Polish Jewish politician who fled to Britain as a refugee in 1939. His wife and son were unable to emigrate with him and were subsequently imprisoned in the Warsaw Ghetto. In Britain, Zygielbojm was one of the first to actively try and raise awareness of the Nazi atrocities as they unfolded. In 1943, Zygielbojm learned that the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising had been suppressed and all the remaining inhabitants of the ghetto, including his wife and son, had been murdered by the Nazis. On 11 May 1943, he took his own life, writing in his suicide note that while the Nazis were responsible for the mass murder of the Jews, all humans were indirectly responsible for the lack of action to save them.

Ludwig Neumann: Ludwig Neumann was a successful German Jewish businessman who owned a large clothing factory. Neumann was incarcerated by the Nazis in late 1938 in Dachau concentration camp. His business had been seized a month before. He came to Britain as a refugee in 1939. After being briefly interned in Britain on the Isle of Man, he worked as an anti-aircraft gunner for the British Home Guard during the war. After the war, Ludwig worked in Merseyside as a business consultant.

Wilhelm and Bernard Simon:

Bernard (Bernd) Simon was born in Berlin in 1921. He was a pupil at Anna Essinger's school in Herrlingen, and moved to England with the school when it relocated to Bunce Court near Faversham (England). His mother, Gerty, accompanied Bernard to England. Gerty Simon was a well-known photographer in Berlin and was able to re-establish herself in Chelsea in the 1930s.

Bernard's father, Wilhelm Meno Simon (1885-1966) was born in Strasbourg where he went to school. He studied law and economics at Strasbourg and Munich universities and in 1912 became an assistant judge in charge of a department of the Strasbourg district court. After World War One, he was appointed to the special commission dealing with export and import licences at the ministry of economics in Berlin. When this office was dissolved in 1924, he practised as a lawyer and notary in Berlin until he came to Great Britain as a refugee in 1939.

Both Bernard and Wilhelm were arrested as enemy aliens in June 1940 and sent to the Isle of Man. Wilhelm was quickly released but Bernard was sent to Australia on the infamous Dunera where he was imprisoned at Hay and Tatura. Bernard was eventually released and able to return to the UK in order to take care of his now ageing parents. After the war Bernard forged a career with *Time Life* magazine.

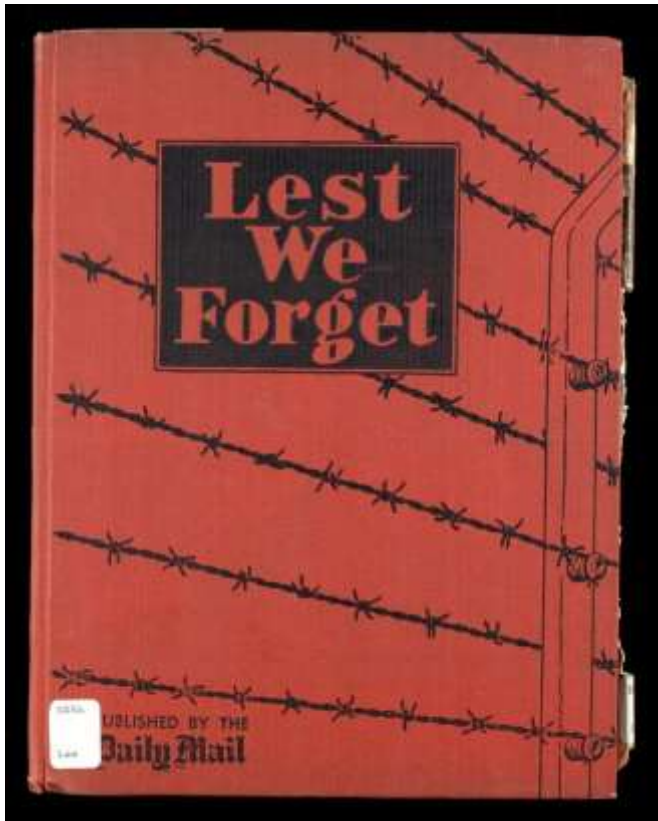
Supplementary exercise

If you have older or more advanced students, the below sources and questions could be used as additional, advanced material to expand this resource and cover the immediate postwar period as well.

Immediate postwar period

Although reports about the Holocaust had been circulated in Britain since 1942, when the British army liberated the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in April 1945, the British public were shocked at the powerful and **graphic** photographs and reports that emerged.

Look at the book pictured below.



'Lest We Forget: The Horrors of the Nazi Concentration Camps Revealed for All Time in the Most Terrible Photographs Ever Published', c.1945.

- 1) Who was the book published by? Look at the title. What do you think the aim of publishing this book was?

LAST WARNING TO TRAITORS

AT last we are to have some action, such as *The Daily Mail* has long demanded, against Hitler's Fifth Column in Great Britain.

Details of new plans were announced by the Home Secretary, Sir John Anderson, yesterday. In one respect they introduce an entire change into British legal methods of dealing with such a problem.

It is that, in future, those who disseminate propaganda, whether by speech or in print, against the true interests of the State will first be given a written warning on the authority of the Home Secretary.

Before they have been warned they cannot be prosecuted. But after they have been warned, if they persist, they will become liable to prosecution and penalties up to seven years' imprisonment.

Hindering war effort

THIS new regulation is clearly aimed not merely at street-corner orators, whose petty incitements are of little concern, but at organisations, newspapers, and other publications which are regarded as hindering the war effort.

That this is so is shown by the wording of the new regulations, which provide not only that a warning given to the manager (i.e., the chairman, secretary, or other responsible official) of such an organisation shall be generally effective, but also that an official seal, stopping their use for any pur-

poses, may be put on printing presses of any description used for the production of subversive propaganda.

What will the procedure be?

In the first place the Home Secretary must be satisfied, not by an isolated remark, but by a consistent course of conduct, that there is "systematic publication of matter which is calculated to foment opposition to the prosecution of the war to a successful issue, and further, that the continuance of these activities may cause serious mischief."

Then the warning—a written warning—is given. Thereafter, if the conduct complained of continues, prosecution by the police is only permissible by authority of the Attorney-General, and can only be taken at assizes or courts of similar high jurisdiction.

Successful defence will be proof by the accused that he or she had no intent to foment such opposition or reason to believe that their activities would create it.

This regulation comes into force immediately by Order in Council, but Parliament has the right to discuss and amend it.

Another new regulation, also immediately enforceable, is to deal with any organisation or individuals who seek to dissuade from their duty men liable to be called up for service.

Hitherto an offence of this character has been confined to seduction from duty of those already enrolled. Now it will be an offence "to endeavour to incite persons liable to such service to evade their duties or to endeavour to incite persons from

enrolling voluntarily in any of the defence services."

Here, again, care has been taken to avoid penalising the mere expression of opinion.

The new regulation is aimed at those who try to incite young men liable to military service to simulate conscientious objections for the purpose of evading their duties.

Power to intern

APART from these new regulations, which are directed particularly to the prevention of defeatist propaganda by our local Quislings, other orders are now in force dealing with the imported variety. Three new powers are provided.

1. **Non-enemy aliens**, who would in normal times be deported as "unreliable" or "undesirable" residents, can now be interned. **Enemy aliens** have, of course, been liable to internment since the outbreak of war, though too few of them have been subject to it. This gives the Home Secretary similar powers to intern all aliens whose detention is regarded as necessary in the interests of national security.

(2) Persons of British nationality returning to this country from Germany or territory occupied by Germany are to be liable to detention at the ports or other restrictions pending police inquiries into their bona fides.

This rule, which experience has proved to be extremely necessary, is to be applied particularly in the case of repatriates who have no close association with this country. Such, for instance, as women of German origin who have acquired British nationality by marriage, and foreign-born children of British parents resident for many years in enemy territory.

Many such have been sent "home" to Britain lately by the

Now consider this article, written by Montague Smith and published in *The Daily Mail* on 10 May 1940, five years before they published the book above.

'Last Warning to Traitors' by Montague Smith, published in *The Daily Mail* on 10 May 1940.

Read the first paragraph. The phrase 'Fifth Column' refers to the idea, popular at the start of the war, that refugees who had fled Nazi Germany for Britain were spies for the Third Reich.

- 2) How was *The Daily Mail's* attitude towards 'enemy aliens' (refugees or immigrants, many of them Jewish) different in 1940 than in 1945? How might the paper's attitude have affected public opinion towards Jews in Britain throughout the war?

Answers

- 1) Who was the book published by? Look at the title. What do you think the aim of publishing this book was?**

The Daily Mail. The title, 'Lest We Forget' suggests that the aim of the book was to ensure the Nazis' genocidal actions were remembered.

- 2) How is The Daily Mail's attitude towards 'enemy aliens' (refugees or immigrants, many of them Jewish) different in 1940? How might this have affected opinion towards them in Britain throughout the war?**

In 1940, The Daily Mail contributed to raising fears in Britain that refugees ('enemy aliens') were spies for Hitler and Nazi Germany, and thus promoted anti-refugee, antisemitic feelings in Britain at that time and antipathy towards them throughout the war. In 1945, the book suggests that they were sympathetic to those caught up in the Holocaust.