

EUROPEAN WEEKLY

1938 Projekt – Pedagogical Proposal

Overview: Using the 1938 Projekt website, small groups of students will select a few specific entries from one month and create their own “Monthly Newsletter” covering events in Europe during the fateful year of 1938. The students will name their newsletter and include *at least* these four components (Long Form Report, Short Form Report, Op-Ed, and Political Cartoon matched with their own found photograph).

Rationale: This assignment combines the best features of research-based pedagogy including primary source analysis, collaborative execution, and original, creative production.

Age Category/Type of School: Early High School (Ages 12-15)/ Acceptable for any type of school.

Discipline: Social Studies (History, Cultural Studies, Geography, Sociology), but could be used in general studies or writing courses.

Intended Learning Outcomes: Students will develop a deeper sense of the tragedy faced by Europe’s Jews during the 1930s through an analysis of primary source documents. Using this information the students synthesize their research and publish their findings in an original “newsletter” designed off newsletters

Description of Activities:

Introduction: (1 Day/ Day 1)

Day 1-Focusing - Share the January 16th entry with the entire class. Entitled ‘The Noose Tightens: The Reichsvertretung der Deutschen Juden appeals to the government.’ Ask the class the following questions and record their responses:

- *What happened?*
- *How did this affect the Jewish populations?*
- *How does this relate to your understanding of the Holocaust?*

(These questions should help model for the students how to analyze the documents in the 1938 Projekt website and will prepare them to create their own work.)

Lesson Body: (3 Days/ Day 2-4)

Break the students up into groups of four (4) students. (If you have twenty students/five groups; thirty students/seven groups—you may have a few groups of five students)

Day 2- Research: In the student groups, students will research each of the months in the 1938 Projekt and select the four entries they are going to base their newsletter on. Each student should select ONE assignment (Long form, Short form, Op-Ed, Political Cartoon) and begin research on that particular item/event.

Day 3- Work Day: Students will work the entire class on synthesizing their research and developing their own specific product. (You MAY need to give the students an extra-day for work depending on how much they get finished)

Day 4- Production: Students will work together to compile their work into one succinct, clear, and well edited final product.

Conclusions:

Day 5- Assessment: Students will briefly share their newsletters. Enough copies of each newsletter should be printed off so that all students can read them. After these brief presentations, students should answer these two questions, using the newsletters to help them.

Assessment Questions-

1. How did the events of 1938 lead to implementation of the Final Solution of the Jewish people starting in 1941? Answers should cite at least two of your classmates' newsletters

2. Do you think your newsletter would have been allowed/legal? Why or why not?

50 Word Bio:

Adam Steinmetz is a middle school English teacher in Fremont, Ohio, USA. He has taught for the last twelve years in the middle school environment as well as with high school students in Poland. Mr. Steinmetz also teaches 'Methodology' courses for pre-service teachers at Bowling Green State University.

(Student Handout)

EUROPEAN WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT

Task: In your group, you will create a one-page newsletter which covers the events from one month on the Projekt 1938 website. Your newsletter must include the following:

1 Long Form Report: a 250-400 word report about one of the items on the Projekt 1938 website. The report must include the 5Ws and 1H (what, who, when, where, why, and how) as well as your own personal analysis of that event.

1 Short-Form Report: a 100-200 word report about one of the items on the Projekt 1938 website. The report must include the 5Ws and 1H (what, who, when, where, why, and how) as well as brief analysis.

1 Op-Ed: a 150-250 word opinion about one of the items on the Projekt 1938 website. This Op-Ed needs to frame the author's opinion about one of the items.

1 Political Cartoon: a hand-drawn graphic that creatively reflects the actions of one of the items in the Projekt 1938 website, as well as, where possible, the artist's opinion.

Also... the group should find and include one photograph that goes with the information from their month's newsletter.

*Keep in mind that all four items MUST come from the *same month* from the Projekt 1938 website

MARCH 1938

THE EUROPA NEWS

Offices in London, Paris, Antwerp, Krakow, Berlin, Salzburg, Rome, Barcelona, Sarajevo, and Bucharest.

Weill in NYC, Why?

By Olivia Troiano

On March 2nd, Kurt Weill celebrated his 38th birthday in NYC.

Why?

Many of Germany's leading cultural figures are finding it impossible to live in the Nazi regime.

Should we just sit here and watch our poets, musicians, actors, artists, and athletes leave? These heroes are sources of inspiration for us during dismal times. They act as role models for our children, and each day we see more and more of our biggest and brightest minds leave for "greener pastures"

The Nazis are undermining their own propaganda by creating conditions for the departure of so many great Germans, Jewish or not.

Our choice is simple: Resist.

We must resist the political decisions of the Nazi party. We must resist the erosion of decency. We must resist the ignorance of the Nazis. We must resist the policies that make our country weaker.

And what will this resistance accomplish you ask? It will fulfill the promises of our potential. A great Germany. A Germany reliant on our diversity as our strength.

And a Germany where Kurt Weill will celebrate his 39th birthday in Berlin.

JEWES ARRESTED IN AUSTRIA: 150 PROMINENT JEWS CAPTURED BY NAZIS

Writer, Addie Suarez

March 13— A group of over 150 well-known Jews have been arrested in Austria by Nazi authorities as part of their attempts to decrease the population of Austria's Jews to well below the current number of 200,000.

A number of important Jewish organizations were raided by the Nazis on March 13, including the Austrian Zionist Federation, the Palestinian Office, the Palestinian Federation Fund, and the Jewish National Fund.

The Nazis also raided and arrested editors and journalists with the the Jewish newspaper *Die Stimme*.

Increasingly alarming for Austria's Jews are the shouts of "Heil Hitler!," "Perish Judea," and "Down with the Jews," heard throughout the streets of Vienna and smaller towns.



Nazis marching past enthusiastic crowds in Austria

The Nazis have begun their attempt to eliminate Jews from all aspect of Austrian life. The Austrian Athletic Front has kicked out all Jewish athletes, and last week, the Austrian National Theater fired their Jewish director Herman Roedeling and replaced him with a known anti-semitic, Mirko Yelusitch.

The Nazis have announced that all other Jewish heads of

theaters will be replaced soon by Aryan directors.

In further announcements, the Nazis have noted that passports of "certain people"— most certainly the Jewish populations— will have their passports voided.

It should be noted that only 206,000 Jews live in Austria and make up less than 3% of the total population

LEAGUE OF JEWISH WOMEN TO HELP WITH EMIGRATIONS

Writer, Jordan Kortlarz

March 22— The League of Jewish Women organized a meeting, on March 22, about the options for Jewish women hoping to emigrate from Germany in the face of Nazi oppression.

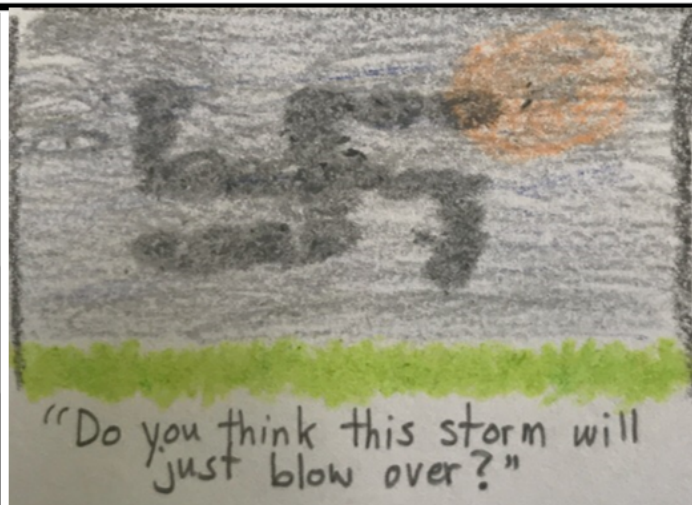
Since 1904, the League of Jewish Women have worked to improve the lives of Jewish women through a series of actions and by providing information.

The meeting, led by Kathe Mende was instru-

-mental in providing Jewish women with the realities of emigration and employment opportunities.

Jews are finding it increasingly opportunistic to leave Germany for countries with less restrictive laws.

Professor Cora Berliner who lost her job when the Nazis took power, moderated the discussion which covered the economic conditions and opportunities outside of Germany.



Political Cartoonist: Max Malloy - March 11, 1938

