

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

Use the table of contents below to read through the Historical Information on Black Newspapers and the primary sources you are assigned.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Historical Information on Black Newspapers	2
Assignment 1	3
Assignment 2 (two sources in this one)	7
Assignment 3	16
Assignment 4	20
Assignment 5	25
Assignment 6	30
Assignment 7	35

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

Historical Information on Black Newspapers

The following descriptions provide background information for the primary sources found in this packet. Continue reading the packet to find images and text for each primary source. As of 2020, all of the following newspapers were still in existence.

The Journal and Guide

The Journal and Guide is a Black press newspaper located in Norfolk, Virginia. Founded in 1922, it was a weekly newspaper with a circulation of over 80,000 by the mid 1940s.

The New York Amsterdam News

The New York Amsterdam News, founded in 1909, is based in New York City. It was a weekly newspaper in the 1930s. In the 1940s, it changed its name to the *New York Amsterdam Star-News* and by 1945 had a circulation of over 65,000.

The Chicago Defender

The Chicago Defender, founded in 1905, is based in Chicago, Illinois. Along with *The Pittsburgh Courier*, it became one of the most prominent and influential newspapers of the Black press, with a national readership. Ida B. Wells, Langston Hughes, and Martin Luther King wrote columns printed in the paper. It was a weekly newspaper in the 1930s and 1940s.

The Pittsburgh Courier

The Pittsburgh Courier, founded in 1907, is a prominent newspaper published in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It competed with *The Chicago Defender* as the most prominent Black weekly newspaper in the 1930s and 1940s, and it had the highest circulation at the time.

The Atlanta Daily World

The Atlanta Daily World, founded in 1928 in Atlanta, Georgia, was the only daily Black newspaper in the 1930s and 1940s.

The Philadelphia Tribune

The Philadelphia Tribune was founded in 1884 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It printed weekly at the time.

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

Primary Source Assignment 1: *The Journal and Guide*

Historical Background for Primary Source

In March 1933, the SA (Storm Troopers) in Nazi Germany attacked Jewish-owned department stores in German cities in an attempt to segregate Jews from the rest of society. International Jewish organizations and the press, which urged a boycott of German goods, publicized these attacks. In response, the Nazi organized the April 1, 1933 nationwide boycott of Jewish businesses in Germany, blaming Jews for the anti-German tone of the international press.

In 1933 in the United States, public facilities, churches, and schools were racially segregated. 24 Black Americans were lynched during this year. The United States continued to limit immigration, especially by people of “undesirable” national origin, including eastern European Jews.

Additional Background on Historical Event

[Nazis Boycott Jewish Businesses](#)

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

Journal and Guide, (Norfolk, Virginia) April 8, 1933, page A6.



LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

Primary Sources Assignment 2: *The New York Amsterdam News* and *Chicago Defender*

Historical background for Primary Sources:

In 1931, the International Olympic Committee awarded the 1936 Summer Olympics to Berlin. After Hitler took power in 1933, some in the United States called for a boycott of the Olympics, pointing out that Germany had broken Olympic rules forbidding discrimination based on race and religion. The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) voted to send a US team to the Olympics after a close vote in December 1935 and the boycott movement failed. Still, some people continued to oppose US participation in the Games.

During the boycott debate, Black American and Jewish athletes faced pressure from within their respective communities to take a moral stand against Nazism. Some resented being asked to protest the discrimination against Jewish athletes in Germany while America had its own pervasive and segregationist Jim Crow laws. Eighteen Black American athletes participated in the Games and dominated the track and field events. Their victories abroad, however, did little to diminish racial discrimination and segregation at home.

Additional Background on Historical Event

[Amateur Athletic Union Says “Yes” to Berlin Olympics](#)

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

New York Amsterdam News (New York, New York), September 21, 1935, page 1.

Mississippi Man Lynched While Jury Weighs

BROOKLYN
LONG ISLAND
WESTCHESTER
NEW JERSEY

NEW YORK
Amsterdam News

METROPOLITAN
10 CENTS
★ EDITORIAL ★

Published every Saturday by The Amsterdam News Company, Inc.
Printed at Second Avenue, 10th Floor, New York, N. Y.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1935

WILL ASK STATE TO REVOK PLAYLAD CHARTER FOR B

MAN LYNCHED WHILE JURORS DEBATE FATE

in Mississippi
Victim From
County Jail

COVINGDON, Miss., Sept. 20.—The Negro man who was lynched in Mississippi yesterday while a jury debated his fate was a victim from County Jail.

The victim was a Negro man named Charles Brown, who was arrested on a charge of being a vagrant. He was held in the County Jail for several days before being lynched.

The lynching took place in the town of Covington, Mississippi. A large crowd gathered in front of the jail, and the victim was taken out and hanged from a tree.

The jury, which was composed of white men, was unable to reach a verdict on the charge of murder. They were debating the fate of the victim for several hours.

The lynching was a shocking event for the community. Many people were horrified by the brutality of the act. The state has promised to investigate the case.

The state has promised to investigate the case. The jury's decision is expected to be announced soon. The lynching was a shocking event for the community.

The state has promised to investigate the case. The jury's decision is expected to be announced soon. The lynching was a shocking event for the community.

The state has promised to investigate the case. The jury's decision is expected to be announced soon. The lynching was a shocking event for the community.

Presents Evidence

in Mississippi
Victim From
County Jail

COVINGDON, Miss., Sept. 20.—The Negro man who was lynched in Mississippi yesterday while a jury debated his fate was a victim from County Jail.

The victim was a Negro man named Charles Brown, who was arrested on a charge of being a vagrant. He was held in the County Jail for several days before being lynched.

The lynching took place in the town of Covington, Mississippi. A large crowd gathered in front of the jail, and the victim was taken out and hanged from a tree.

The jury, which was composed of white men, was unable to reach a verdict on the charge of murder. They were debating the fate of the victim for several hours.

The lynching was a shocking event for the community. Many people were horrified by the brutality of the act. The state has promised to investigate the case.

The state has promised to investigate the case. The jury's decision is expected to be announced soon. The lynching was a shocking event for the community.

The state has promised to investigate the case. The jury's decision is expected to be announced soon. The lynching was a shocking event for the community.

The state has promised to investigate the case. The jury's decision is expected to be announced soon. The lynching was a shocking event for the community.

BUDGET SEEKS 1,200 BEDS IN HOSPITAL HERE

Other Facilities Asked
for Harlem — Pay Is
Sought for Internes

An additional 1,200 beds for the Harlem Hospital, which is located at 125th Street and Lexington Avenue, is being sought by the board of trustees.

The board of trustees is also seeking other facilities, including a new operating room and a new X-ray department. They are also seeking a higher salary for the hospital's internes.

The board of trustees is also seeking a higher salary for the hospital's internes. They are also seeking a higher salary for the hospital's internes.

The board of trustees is also seeking a higher salary for the hospital's internes. They are also seeking a higher salary for the hospital's internes.

The board of trustees is also seeking a higher salary for the hospital's internes. They are also seeking a higher salary for the hospital's internes.

The board of trustees is also seeking a higher salary for the hospital's internes. They are also seeking a higher salary for the hospital's internes.

The board of trustees is also seeking a higher salary for the hospital's internes. They are also seeking a higher salary for the hospital's internes.

The board of trustees is also seeking a higher salary for the hospital's internes. They are also seeking a higher salary for the hospital's internes.

Man Held for Threat To "Expose" Actress

Harlem Porter Pretended He Was Husband
of Helen Chandler—Wanted "Hush" Money

Harlem Porter, a Negro man, was held for a threat to "expose" the actress Helen Chandler. Porter pretended to be Chandler's husband and wanted "hush" money.

Porter was held by the police after he threatened to expose Chandler's alleged affair with a man. He wanted "hush" money to keep the affair quiet.

Porter was held by the police after he threatened to expose Chandler's alleged affair with a man. He wanted "hush" money to keep the affair quiet.

Porter was held by the police after he threatened to expose Chandler's alleged affair with a man. He wanted "hush" money to keep the affair quiet.

Porter was held by the police after he threatened to expose Chandler's alleged affair with a man. He wanted "hush" money to keep the affair quiet.

Porter was held by the police after he threatened to expose Chandler's alleged affair with a man. He wanted "hush" money to keep the affair quiet.

Porter was held by the police after he threatened to expose Chandler's alleged affair with a man. He wanted "hush" money to keep the affair quiet.

Porter was held by the police after he threatened to expose Chandler's alleged affair with a man. He wanted "hush" money to keep the affair quiet.

JOHNSON WILL MAKE RACE AS 'INDEPENDENT'

Alderman Made Great
Bid for Nomination
Through "Write-In"

The first showing for a local candidate in the upcoming election was made by Alderman Johnson, who made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

To Fight On

Seek Arrears
"Higher-In"
Public 1

The first showing for a local candidate in the upcoming election was made by Alderman Johnson, who made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

GROF FIGHT VER.

Seek Arrears
"Higher-In"
Public 1

The first showing for a local candidate in the upcoming election was made by Alderman Johnson, who made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

Johnson, who is a Negro man, made a great bid for nomination through a "write-in" campaign. He received a large number of votes.

UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM

New York Amsterdam News, (New York, New York) September 21, 1935, page 10.

Rebuffing Hitler

To the Editor of The Amsterdam News.

Dear Sir—I read your open letter to Owens, Peacock, Metcalfe, Johnson, Ward, and others, all potential participants in the 1936 Olympic games in Nazi Germany, urging that they refuse to participate in the forthcoming Olympiad.

I think the stand is a very intelligent and progressive one, and if adopted by Negro athletes it will be one of the most significant things ever to have happened in the world of Negro athletes.

Hitler's terror against the Jews and his race-baiting antics are exceeded only in these United States where a reign of Fascism—springing from economic forces similar to those in Germany—has historically existed against Negroes. A direct blow against Hitlerism will strike an indirect blow against Fascism in the states against Negroes. Certainly 204,000 Negroes in Harlem and 12,000,000 Negroes in America are interested in the striking of this blow. None are more qualified at the moment to strike this blow than Negro athletes.

ISHMAEL P. FLORY.

Berkeley, Calif.

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

Rebuffing Hitler

To the Editor of The Amsterdam News,

Dear Sir—I read your open letter to Owens, Peacock, Metcalfe, Johnson, Ward, and others, all potential participants in the 1936 Olympic games in Nazi Germany, urging that they refuse to participate in the forthcoming Olympiad.

I think the stand is a very intelligent and progressive one, and if adopted by Negro athletes it will be one of the most significant things ever to have happened in the world of Negro athletes.

Hitler's terror against the Jews and his race-baiting antics are exceeded only in these United States where a reign of Fascism—springing from economic forces similar to those in Germany—has historically existed against Negroes. A direct blow against Hitlerism will strike an indirect blow against Fascism in the states against Negroes. Certainly 204,000 Negroes in Harlem and 12,000,000 in America are interested in the striking of this blow. None are more qualified at the moment to strike this blow than Negro athletes.

ISHMAEL P. FLORY.
Berkeley, Calif.

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

The Chicago Defender, (Chicago, Illinois), June 6, 1936, page 1.

HOW BLACK TROOPS WON WAR FOR ITALIANS EXPOSED BY COL. ROBINSON IN SPEECH HERE

Prexy Calls Coed Skunk



Miss Dr. J. B. Wilson, president of Arkansas State college and for 18 years an educator, called Miss Irene Blue Wilson, last, a member of the coed class and a member of the "Buffy Little Skunk" and a "skunk" by her name in a speech here.

24 PAGES
In This Issue
Ten Cents—Worth It

THE
Chicago Defender
WORLD'S GREATEST WEEKLY

NATIONAL
EDITION

VOL. XXXII, No. 6 CHICAGO, ILL., SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1936 THIS PAPER CIRCULATES 170,000 COPIES WEEKLY PRICE 10c

Prexy Insults Coed; Students Riot

FIGHT FOR G.O.P. SEATS

Kidnaped Klan Victim Talks

Relates How Another Was Flogged Into Insanity By Bullet Club

By MISS J. COFFMAN

DETROIT, Mich., June 5.—(AP)—A woman who was kidnaped by the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and who was flogged and beaten by the club, is now in a hospital here, where she is recovering from her injuries.

ARK. STATE STUDENTS IN OPEN REVOLT

Dr. Watson's Resignation Demanded; Called Coed "Skunk" and "Liar"

By ALBERT PERCY

ARKANSAS, June 5.—(AP)—Dr. J. B. Watson, president of Arkansas State college, is being called a "skunk" and a "liar" by the students here, who are in open revolt against his administration.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

The students here are demanding his resignation, and are calling for his removal from office.

Capt. Turpin, Left \$1 By Dad, Fights To Break Will

CHICAGOAN IN HECTIC BATTLE FOR BIG ESTATE

Petition Claims Testator Was Unbalanced

By H. C. FOSBER

ST. LOUIS, Mo., June 5.—(AP)—The estate of Captain Charles H. Turpin, who died in 1928, is being fought over by his son, Charles H. Turpin, Jr., and his father, Charles H. Turpin, Sr.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

The son is claiming that his father was unbalanced at the time he made his will, and is asking the court to set it aside.

DUCE'S MEN LAG BEHIND AS COWARDS

Force Blacks To Carry Attack In Battles Against Brothers

By ALBERT PERCY

CHICAGO, June 5.—(AP)—The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Duce's men are lagging behind in the attack on the black community, and are being forced to carry the attack in battles against their brothers.

The Chicago Defender, (Chicago, Illinois), June 6, 1936, page 7.

FOR OR AGAINST NAZISM

As a member of the Negro race, I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my deep regret and protest against the participation of some of our Negro brethren in the coming Olympic games to be held in Germany.

My reason for said protest is prompted by the knowledge of what a great Jew, by the name of Julius Rosenwald, has done for our race in the nature of his benevolent acts in the building of schools throughout the South for the education of our youth.

The Jews are being mercilessly persecuted in Germany, and for our boys to engage in the coming Olympics is an endorsement of Nazism.

In the hope, therefore, that this protest will not be made in vain, I hereby offer my prayer.—Charles W. Harris, 240 W. 112th street, New York City.

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

FOR OR AGAINST NAZISM

As a member of the Negro race, I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my deep regret and protest against the participation of some of our Negro brethren in the coming Olympic games to be held in Germany.

My reason for said protest is prompted by the knowledge of what a great Jew, by the name of Julius Rosenwald, has done for our race in the nature of his benevolent acts in the build of schools throughout the South for the education of our youth.

The Jews are being mercilessly persecuted in Germany, and for our boys to engage in the coming Olympics is an endorsement of Nazism.

In the hope, therefore, that this protest will not be made in vain, I hereby offer my prayer.

—Charles W. Harris, 240 W. 112th street, New York City

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

Primary Source Assignment 3: *The Pittsburgh Courier*

Historical background for Primary Source:

On March 12, 1938 German troops entered Austria, and Austria was incorporated into Germany the next day. Widespread antisemitic actions and political violence followed quickly on the heels of the *Anschluss* (“union” in German). Tens of thousands fled Nazi persecution, adding to the number of European refugees looking to immigrate to the United States.

In the United States, more than 100 Black Americans had been lynched since 1930. Most Americans wanted to keep refugees out of the United States. Two-thirds of Americans believed German Jews were either “entirely” or “partly” to blame for their own persecution. The Johnson-Reed Act of 1924, (sometimes known as the Immigration Restriction Act) set limits (or quotas) on the maximum number of immigrant visas that could be issued per year to people born in each country. These quotas were designed to limit the immigration of people considered “racially undesirable,” including southern and eastern European Jews.

Additional Background on Historical Event

[Germany Annexes Austria](#)

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

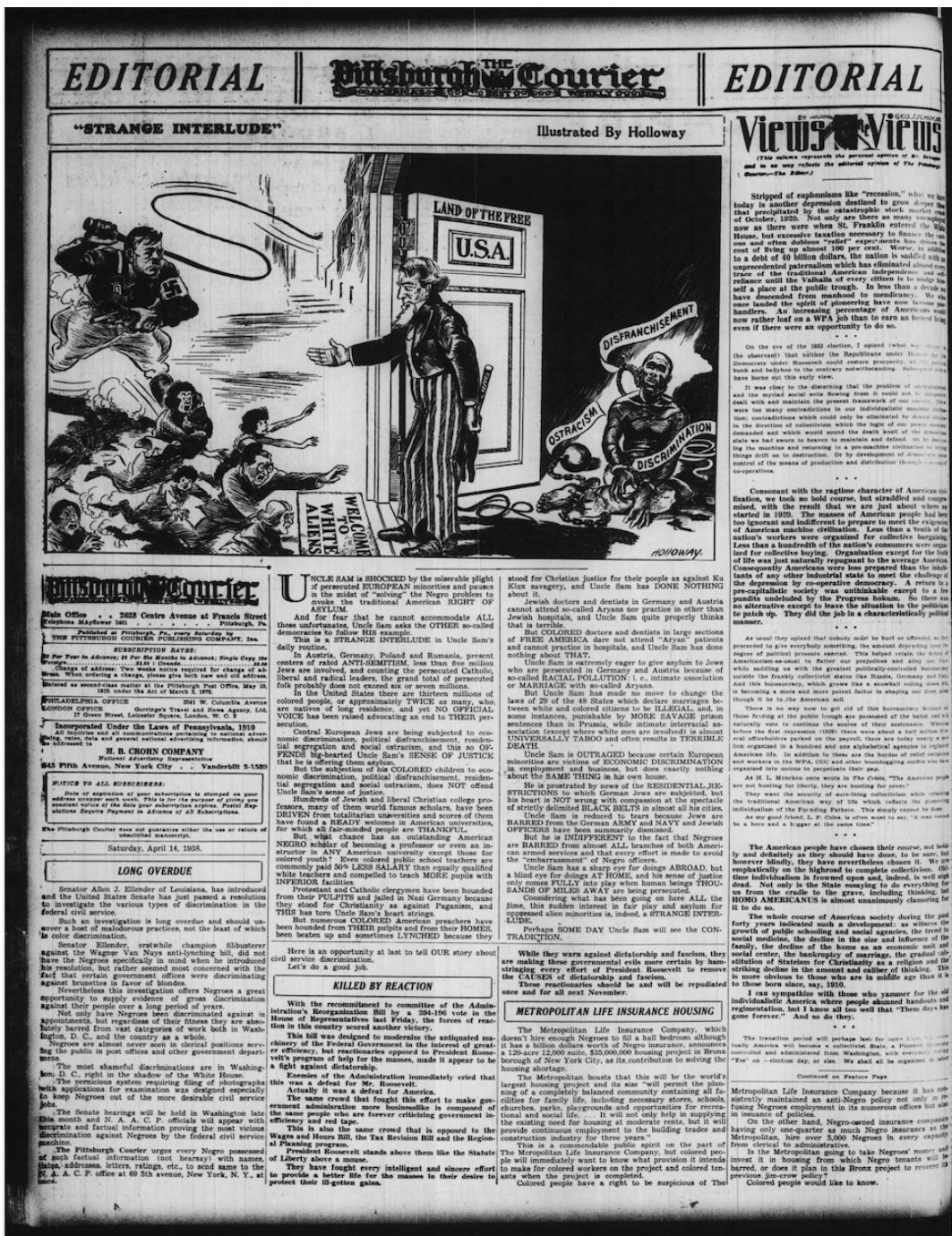
HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

The Pittsburgh Courier, (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) April 16, 1938, page 1.

[Front page not known to be preserved on microfilm]

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

The Pittsburgh Courier, (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) April 16, 1938, page 10.



LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

The Pittsburgh Courier, (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) April 16, 1938, page 10.

"STRANGE INTERLUDE"

Illustrated By Holloway



LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

Primary Source Assignment 4: *The Atlanta Daily World*

Historical background for Primary Source:

In the United States in 1938, more than 100 Black Americans had been lynched since 1930. Most Americans wanted to keep refugees out of the United States. Two-thirds of Americans believed German Jews were either “entirely” or “partly” to blame for their own persecution. The Johnson-Reed Act of 1924, (sometimes known as the Immigration Restriction Act) set limits (or quotas) on the maximum number of immigrant visas that could be issued per year to people born in each country. These quotas were designed to limit the immigration of people considered “racially undesirable,” including southern and eastern European Jews.

On November 9-10, 1938, violence against Jews broke out across the German Reich. It appeared to be unplanned, set off by Germans’ anger over the assassination of Ernest vom Rath, a German embassy official in Paris at the hands of Herschel Grynszpan, a Jewish teenager. In fact, the Nazis carefully organized the pogroms. Units of the Nazi Party’s SA militia and Hitler Youth destroyed hundreds of synagogues and thousands of Jewish-owned shops. Nearly 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and sent to concentration camps. This event became known as *Kristallnacht*, or the night of broken glass.

American newspapers covered the Nazi terror attack against Jews in banner headlines on their front pages, and articles about the events continued to appear for several weeks. Polls conducted several weeks after the Kristallnacht attacks found that Americans overwhelmingly disapproved of the Nazi treatment of Jews, but most did not want more Jewish refugees to immigrate to the United States.

Note: The author in the piece below expresses antisemitic stereotypes against Jews. Please see <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/antisemitism-in-history-the-era-of-nationalism-1800-1918> for more background on antisemitism and stereotypes against Jews during the period leading up to the Holocaust.

Additional Background on Historical Event

[Anti-Jewish Riots Convulse German Reich \(*Kristallnacht*\)](#)

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

Atlanta Daily World, (Atlanta, Georgia) November 20, 1938, page 1.

Morehouse - - - 8
Ala. State - - - 0

Florida - - - 20
Knoxville - - - 0

Lincoln - - - 7
Tenn. State - - - 0

Va. Union - - - 13
J.C. Smith - - - 12

Miss Maroon And White



Halts Church Service To Make An Arrest
CHATTANOOGA, 12.—(AP)—A church service here today was halted for 15 minutes to make an arrest of a man who had been arrested for a crime.

Temperature May Fall To 38 Today, Says Weatherman
A light frost is expected today, says the weatherman. The temperature may fall to 38 degrees today.



Modern Youth Shuns Farm Life, Say College Heads
CHATTANOOGA, 12.—(AP)—College heads here today said that modern youth shuns farm life.

Farm Offers Little Hope
Says Dr. Davis

NOT SURE ENOUGH
Farmers here today are not sure enough about the future of their industry.

President Davis thought the future of the Negro youth today is not bright.

Atlanta Daily World
The Nation's Only Colored Daily Newspaper

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 187
ATLANTA, GA., SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1938
PRICE FIVE CENTS

BEGIN FIGHT FOR BALLOT
Race Groups Hit Treatment Of Jews
Wires Are Sent To President
Steps Be Taken To Halt Nazis
"MY LOVE IS NEW"
A Thrilling New Serial STARTS THURSDAY IN THE ATLANTA DAILY WORLD
Mexican Government Disclaims Negro Ban
Editor Dunjee Is Visitor In City

'Dega's Lovely Queen'


Even The Indians Can Vote
Carolinians May Take Case To Supreme Court

Seven Killed As Army Bomber Falls In Georgia


LAGARANGE, GA.—(AP)—A U. S. Army bomber crashed Sunday night near here, killing seven.

UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM

Primary Sources | 21 of 39

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

Atlanta Daily World, (Atlanta, Georgia) November 20, 1938, page 4.

Seeing and Saying • By William A. Fowlkes

What Then, Black Americans?

These German pogroms against the Jews set me to thinking each time I read of them.

For years Black American leaders have been teaching and preaching that if their followers achieve economic security they will be "safe" on the American scene. "The dollar will make you free," they have said. I, like hundreds of other of youth studying the situation that we call our liberal and free



FOWLKES

America, have subscribed to the theory. Even interracial meetings have assured me of the fact more. Sheer assurances, however, have failed to prove the truth, which really sets one "free." Germans in Europe, and majorities, in other lands, have taught me something else.

Ever since the Jews wandered around in the wilderness on their way from the land of enslavement to the promised land their leaders have taught them to beat the Gentiles to the economic draw. They have invaded country after country building up their units in trade and money circles until they have been recognized as financial leaders, more or less, mostly more. Time and again, they have been thinned out by racial groups in power who respected their money but feared its power, and later, getting the chance, used the hatred against them. The Middle Ages featured the greatest purges, but the Twentieth century sees more, despite the thought by the student of history that those days of barbarization should be far gone. Money has not proved security for the Jews, though it has given them temporary power, prestige and strength; Would it prove security for darker Americans should another real day of insecurity come for the masses of all the nation's citizens? Leaders, you might suggest a change in

tactics, for your followers need it.

GEORGIA PUNISHES MOBSTERS

In Cobb County, Georgia, last week, a reactionary Grand Jury indicted some two dozen young white men for participating in riots aimed against colored citizens and their property in a small community. One of the alleged mobsters confessed chasing a colored man down the street with something in his hand resembling a butcher knife and was sentenced to the public works camp for one year. Convictions loom for the others.

This is a new day of interracial thought in the South, when mobsters are made to pay for their sins. There is no doubt that fear of passage of the federal anti-lynching bill had something to do with the clamping down of the law on those who flagrantly broke its statutes. Destruction of white people's property also had its influence. Walter White's and the NAACP's efforts in Congressional lobby halls have not proved in vain. Indictment and conviction of those who incite and participate in anti-Negro riots, mobbings and lynchings will spread to those inland, more uncivilized and uncouth communities. The new world indeed will offer new hope to suffering groups. The process is exceedingly slow, however, and men want to live freely NOW.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN '39?

With the coming of World Baptists to Atlanta in 1939, one begins to hear from many quarters the query, "Will the South show its true self during this meeting?" There have been assurances from some quarters that prejudices will be thrown out of the window and that there will be a bit of free movement and business transaction with regards to all racial groups at the conference. We naturally won't believe it until we see it. We're sure the delegates from foreign countries will be surprised at some of the discriminations and practices here. There may be many embarrassments. Out of such a meeting, good must come, however. Surprises and embarrassments have awakened and changed many institutions.

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

Seeing and Saying By William A. Fowlkes

What Then, Black Americans?

These German pogroms against the Jews set me to thinking each time I read them.

For years Black American leaders have been teaching and preaching that if their followers achieve economic security they will be “safe” on the American scene. “The dollar will make you free,” they have said. I, like hundreds of other of youth studying the situation that we call our liberal and freer America, have subscribed to the theory. Even interracial meetings have assured me of the fact more. Sheer assurances, however, have failed to prove the truth, which really sets one “free.” Germans in Europe, and majorities, in other lands, have taught me something else.

Ever since the Jews wandered around in the wilderness on their way from the land of enslavement to the promised land their leaders have taught them to beat the Gentiles to the economic draw. They have invaded country after country building up their units in trade and money circles until they have been recognized as financial leaders, more or less, mostly more. Time and again, they have been thinned out by racial groups in power who respected their money but feared its power, and later, getting the chance, used the hatred against them. The Middle Ages featured the greatest purges, but the Twentieth century sees more, despite the thought by the student of history that those days of barbarization should be far gone. Money has not proved security for the Jews, though it has given them temporary power, prestige and strength: Would it prove security for darker Americans should another real day of insecurity come for the masses of all the nation’s citizens? Leaders, you might suggest a change in tactics, for your followers need it.

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

Primary Source Assignment 5: *The Philadelphia Tribune*

Historical background for Primary Source:

On September 1, 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland. Great Britain and France declared war two days later. President Roosevelt reassured Americans that the United States would remain neutral in World War II. In the 1930s, celebrated aviator Charles Lindbergh was one of America's best known heroes, famous for his daring solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927. However, by 1940, at a time when many Americans feared being drawn into another world war, Lindbergh was also known as a spokesman for the America First Committee, an organization prominent in the isolationist movement.

On September 11, 1941, Lindbergh delivered a speech in Des Moines, Iowa, in which he identified groups that he believed were conspiring to force the U.S. into war against Germany: "The three most important groups who have been pressing this country toward war are the British, the Jewish [sic] and the Roosevelt Administration." The speech was criticized in newspapers across the country, and politicians across the political spectrum denounced it.

Additional Background on Historical Event

[Charles Lindberg Makes 'Un-American' Speech](#)

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

The Philadelphia Tribune, (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) October 18, 1941, page A1.

[Note: the phrase "holocaust" at the top of the front page of this issue of *The Philadelphia Tribune* refers to a weather-induced fire. It was only after World War II that the term "Holocaust" came to be commonly understood as the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six millions Jews by the Nazi regime and its allies and collaborators.]

HOLOCAUST RAZES TOWN; 125 HOMELESS

FOR 57 YEARS PHILADELPHIA'S HOME NEWSPAPER

The Philadelphia Tribune

"The Constructive Newspaper"

VOLUME 27 - NUMBER 40 PHILADELPHIA, PA. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1941

Citizens Entitled To Courts "Free From Politics"

Colored Lawyers Treated Fairly By Local Judges

By E. WASHINGTON RHODES

Judges surely the highest place in American life. In their hands rest the lives, freedom and property rights of all citizens. Judges have great power. Judges should not be in politics. Lower the dignity of our courts and it will waste little time before we suffer from the results.

Free "Sitting Judges"

I am for the sitting judges principle. A judge should be sworn of his office if he is a conscientious judge who gives impartial justice to all parties without regard to political party, religious beliefs, or skin color.

It is a duty to me as a citizen to support the sitting judge principle. It is a duty to me as a citizen to support the sitting judge principle. It is a duty to me as a citizen to support the sitting judge principle.

Police Find Girl In Hosp.

Harriet Susan Tuckman To Philadelphia By Cops Who Aided Her

W. J. Tuckman, 10, was found in a hospital in Philadelphia. She was found by police who were looking for her. She was found in a hospital in Philadelphia. She was found by police who were looking for her.

29 Salem Homes Destroyed As High Wind Fans Flames Into Terror-Filled Nightmare

Attitude Of Press Rapped

Shakespeare Hinted In Colored Units As General Makes Tour

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Oct. 17.—(AP)—The attitude of the press in Philadelphia during the recent fire was rapped by a group of colored men. They said the press had been too sensational in its reports of the fire.

Reject Survey Plan At Mercy Hospital

Ex-Fort Bragg Commander Demoted

Allen W. Moton Sentenced To Serve One Hour In Jail

Union President Talks At Bright Hope Church

White House Meeting To Be Covered By Tribune

MAKE 'TOUCHDOWN PASS' WITH A TRIBUNE 'CLASSIFIED' AD

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

The Philadelphia Tribune, (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) October 18, 1941, page B1.

'Now We Think-----'

Mr. and Mrs. Public
Report To The Tribune's
Inquiring Photographer

By GASTON DeVIGNE

Question of the Week: What Do Think of Lindbergh's Attitude on This Country and Hitler?

Where Asked: Vicinity of 41st and Powelton avenue.

CLOTEL WEAVER, 425 North 41st



St.: "A man who speaks against his country is no good! If he thinks more of the policies of some other country than those of the United States then he should be sent to the nation which he admires so much. He doesn't seem to be a

real American and at this time what the country needs are men who are ready to do what is best for it and its people.

THOMAS J. POTTER, 4010 Baring



street: Personally as a man I do not like Lindbergh. But as to his policies I am with him one hundred per cent. It seems to me that Lindbergh is not being given the understanding and recognition which he should have, chiefly because most of the country is at odds with the way he thinks. Nevertheless the things he says are very important and more people should take the time to consider them and be guided by them.

ESTELLE WOMACK, 3307 North 21st street: "I don't think much of Colonel Lindbergh nor his policies. A man to have been so high in the esteem of his country and to now talk the way he does is displeasing. So many people held him up as their hero and the very folks who worshipped him are the people whom he is talking against when he asserts his admiration for the "Wave of the Future."



SHERMON STONE, 4055 Powelton

avenue: "There is not a thing Lindbergh can do for me. I don't like his policies; I don't like him personally and I don't rate him very highly. He favors the Germans so much that sometime I think he wants to be one of them. I wish he would go over and join them. Perhaps he feels that by furthering American thought he might help to bring about the "disciplined democracy" he thinks so much of."



ELSIE CAIN, 1222 Melon street:



While I don't care much for Lindbergh personally I do think some of his statements are very true and should not be taken too lightly. He has been abroad and should know something about conditions there and regardless of

how his statements sound I think he is still pro-American. At times like these it is easy to call some one "traitor" if he doesn't agree with your way of thinking."

RICHARD C. ROSS, 5432 West



Girard avenue: "I have not thought much about Colonel Lindbergh because I don't like his policies. However, while I am not in agreement with those statements I do not think that we should ignore what he says entirely. In these

times it is necessary for all citizens to be leveled-headed and keep an open mind about these things. After all Lindbergh has as much right to his opinion as we have to disagree with him.

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

Question of the Week: What Do [sic] Think of Lindbergh's Attitudes on This Country and Hitler?
Where Asked: Vicinity of 1st and Powelton avenue.

CLOTEL WEAVER, 425 North 41st St: "A man who speaks against his country is no good! If he thinks more of the policies of some other country than those of the United States then he should be sent to the nation which he admires so much. He doesn't seem to be a real American and at this time what the country needs are men who are ready to do what is best for it and its people.

THOMAS J. POTTER, 4011 Baring street: Personally as a man I do not like Lindbergh. But as to his policies I am with him one hundred per cent. It seems to me that Lindbergh is not being given the understanding and recognition which he should have, chiefly because most of the country is at odds with the way he thinks. Nevertheless the things he says are very important and more people should take the time to consider them and be guided by them.

ESTELLE WOMANCK, 3307 North 21st street: I don't think much of Colonel Lindbergh nor his policies. A man to have been so high in the esteem of his country and to now talk the way he does is despicable. So many people held him up as their hero and the very folks who worshipped him are the people whom he is talking against when he asserts his admiration for the "Wave of the Future".

SHERMON STONE, 4044 Powelton avenue: "There is not a thing Lindbergh can do for me. I don't like his policies; I don't like him personally and I don't rate him very highly. He favors the Germans so much that sometime I think he wants to be one of them. I wish he would go over and join them. Perhaps he feels that by furthering American thought he might help to bring about the "disciplined democracy" he thinks so much of.

ELSIE CAIN, 1222 Melon street: While I don't care much for Lindbergh personally I do think some of his statements are very true and should not be taken too lightly. He has been abroad and should know something about conditions there and regardless of how his statements sound I think he is still pro-American. At times like these it is easy to call some one "traitor" if he doesn't agree with your way of thinking."

RICHARD C. ROSS, 5432 West Girard avenue:

"I have not thought much about Colonel Lindbergh because I don't like his policies. However, while I am not in agreement with those statements I do not think that we should ignore what he says entirely. In these times it is necessary for all citizens to be leveled-headed and keep an open mind about these things. After all Lindbergh has as much right to his opinion as we have to disagree with him.

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

Primary Source Assignment 6: *The Pittsburgh Courier*

Historical background for Primary Source:

On December 7, 1941, Japan launched a surprise aerial assault on the US Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The United States declared war on Japan and shortly after Germany declared war on the United States. In 1942, nearly half of Americans believed that Jews had “too much power and influence” in the United States. The US military quickly grew to nearly four million troops. The US Army, however, was racially segregated.

The two-fingered "V for Victory" sign first flashed by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill became a symbol of hope and unity for Allied leaders and their peoples throughout World War II. On January 31, 1942, James G. Thompson of Wichita, Kansas, a reader of the prominent Black American newspaper, *The Pittsburgh Courier*, addressed a letter to the editors in which he offered his thoughts on this gesture and the questions it raised for him.

The letter inspired the editors of the *Courier* to take action. The paper soon announced that it had "introduced its war slogan—'double V' for a double victory to colored America." The campaign's logo—two Vs surmounted by an eagle—stood for victory abroad over fascism and victory at home over racism.

Additional Background on Historical Event

[“Should I Sacrifice to Live ‘Half-American?’”](#)

The Pittsburgh Courier, (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) January 31, 1942, page 3

[illegible]

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

The Pittsburgh Courier, (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) January 31, 1942, page 3

Should I Sacrifice To Live 'Half-American?'

**Suggest Double VV for Double Victory Against
Axis Forces and Ugly Prejudices on
the Home Front.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: A young man, confused and befuddled by all of this double talk about democracy and the defense of our way of life, is asking, like other young Negroes, some very pertinent questions. We reprint this letter in full because it is symbolic.)

DEAR EDITOR:

Like all true Americans, my greatest desire at this time, this crucial point of our history, is a desire for a complete victory over the forces of evil, which threaten our existence today. Behind that desire is also a desire to serve, this, my country, in the most advantageous way.

Most of our leaders are suggesting that we sacrifice every other ambition to the paramount one, victory. With this I agree; but I also wonder if another victory could not be achieved at the same time. After all the things that beset the world now are basically the same things which upset the equilibrium of nations internally, states, counties, cities, homes and even the individual.

Being an American of dark complexion and some 26 years, these questions flash through my mind: "Should I sacrifice my life to live half American?" "Will things be better for the next generation in the peace to follow?" "Would it be demanding too much to demand full citizenship rights in exchange for the sacrificing of my life? Is the kind of America I know worth defending? Will America be a true and pure democracy after this war? Will Colored Americans suffer still the indignities that have been heaped upon them in the past? These and other questions need answering; I want to know, and I believe every colored American, who is thinking, wants to know.



Jas. G. Thompson

This may be the wrong time to broach such subjects, but haven't all good things obtained by men been secured through sacrifices during just such times of strife.

I suggest that while we keep defense and victory in the forefront that we don't lose sight of our fight for true democracy at home.

The V for victory sign is being displayed prominently in all so-called democratic countries which are fighting for victory over aggression, slavery and tyranny. If this V sign means that to those now engaged in this great conflict then let us colored Americans adopt the double VV for a double victory. The first V for victory over our enemies from without, the second V for victory over our enemies from within. For surely those who perpetrate these ugly prejudices here are seeking to destroy our democratic form of government just as surely as the Axis forces.

This should not and would not lessen our efforts to bring this conflict to a successful conclusion; but should and would make us stronger to resist these evil forces which threaten us. America could become united as never before and become truly the home of democracy.

In way of an answer to the foregoing questions in a preceding paragraph I might say that there is no doubt that this country is worth defending; things will be different for the next generation; colored Americans will come into their own, and America will eventually become the true democracy it was designed to be. These things will become a reality in time; but not through any relaxation of the efforts to secure them.

In conclusion let me say that though these questions often permeate my mind, I love America and am willing to die for the America I know will someday become a reality.

JAMES G. THOMPSON

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

Dear Editor:

Like all Americans my greatest desire at this time, this crucial point of our history, is a desire for complete victory over the forces of evil which threaten our existence today. Behind the desire is also a desire to serve this, my country, in the most advantageous way.

Most of our leaders are suggesting that we sacrifice every other ambition to this paramount one, victory. With this I agree; but I also wonder if another victory could not be achieved at the same time. After all the things that beset the world now are basically the same things which upset the equilibrium of national internally, states, countries, cities, homes and even the individual.

Being an American of dark complexion and some 26 years, these questions flash through my mind: "Should I sacrifice my life to live half American?" "Will things be better in the next generation for the peace to follow?" "Would it be demanding too much to demand full citizenship rights in exchange for the sacrificing of my life?" "Is the kind of America I know worth defending?" "Will America be a true and pure democracy after this war?" "Will Colored Americans suffer still the indignities that have been so heaped upon them in the past?" These and other questions need answering: I want to know and I believe every colored American who is thinking, wants to know.

This may be the wrong time to broach such subjects, but haven't all good things attained by men been secured through sacrifice during past such times of strife?

I suggest that while we keep defense and victory in the forefront that we don't lose sight of our fight for true democracy at home.

The V for victory signs is being displayed prominently in all so-called democratic countries which are fighting for victory over aggression, slavery and tyranny. If this V sign means that to those now engaged in this great conflict then let we colored Americans adopt the double VV for a double victory. The first V for victory over our enemies from without, the second V for victory over our enemies from within. For surely those who perpetuate these ugly prejudices here are seeking to destroy our democratic form of government just as surely as the Axis forces.

This should not and would not lessen our efforts to bring this conflict to a successful conclusion: but should and would make us stronger to resist these evil forces which threaten us. America could become unified as never before and become truly the home of democracy.

In way of an answer to the foregoing question in a preceding paragraph I might say that there is no doubt that this country is worth defending: things will be different for the next generation: colored America will come into their own, and Americans will eventually become the true democracy it was designed to be. These things will become a reality in time; but not through any relaxation of the efforts to secure them.

In conclusion let me say that though these questions often permeate my mind, I love America and am willing to die for the America I know will someday become a reality.

James G. Thompson

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

Primary Source Assignment 7: *Chicago Defender*

Historical background for Primary Source:

On December 7, 1941, Japan launched a surprise aerial assault on the US Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The United States declared war on Japan and shortly after Germany declared war on the United States. The US military quickly grew to nearly four million troops. The United States spent most of 1942 fighting Japan in the Pacific and preparing to battle Nazi Germany. The US Army was racially segregated, and Black Americans launched a “Double-V” campaign to fight for victory against fascism abroad and against racism at home. Nearly half of Americans believed that Jews had “too much power and influence” in the United States.

In November 1942, Americans learned about the Nazi plan to murder all the Jews of Europe. On December 17, 1942, the United States, Britain, and ten other Allied governments issued a Joint Declaration by Members of the United Nations denouncing Nazi Germany’s plan to exterminate the Jews of Europe. The declaration warned that “those responsible for these crimes shall not escape retribution”.

Additional Background on Historical Event

[Allies Denounce Nazi Plan to “Exterminate” the Jews](#)

The Chicago Defender, (Chicago, Illinois) December 26, 1942, page 14

NAZI BUTCHERS

All of Negro America is revolted at the monstrous atrocities Hitler is heaping upon the Jewish people. Every section of the Negro people calls for vengeance against the bloodthirsty Nazi butchers.

We, who are Negroes know that if Hitler wins we, too, will be the victims of slaughter of even greater magnitude. If Hitler wins, the poll-taxers of the south who now use lynching as a weapon of terror will use it as a weapon of extermination.

Negro America calls for an end to Hitler and to Hitlerism. Let the sympathy of black men for the stricken Jewish people strengthen the arm of every Negro soldier. The cause of world Jewry is the cause of the Negro people. Fascism must be rooted out from top to bottom.

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

HANDOUT: Primary Source Packet

NAZI BUTCHERS

All of Negro America is revolted at the monstrous atrocities Hitler is heaping upon the Jewish people. Every section of the Negro people calls for vengeance against the bloodthirsty Nazi butchers.

We, who are Negroes know that if Hitler wins we, too, will be the victims of slaughter of even greater magnitude. If Hitler wins, the poll-taxers of the south who now use lynching as a weapon of terror will use it as a weapon of extermination.

Negro America calls for an end to Hitler and to Hitlerism. Let the sympathy of black men for the stricken Jewish people strengthen the arm of every Negro soldier. The cause of world Jewry is the cause of the Negro people. Fascism must be rooted out from top to bottom.