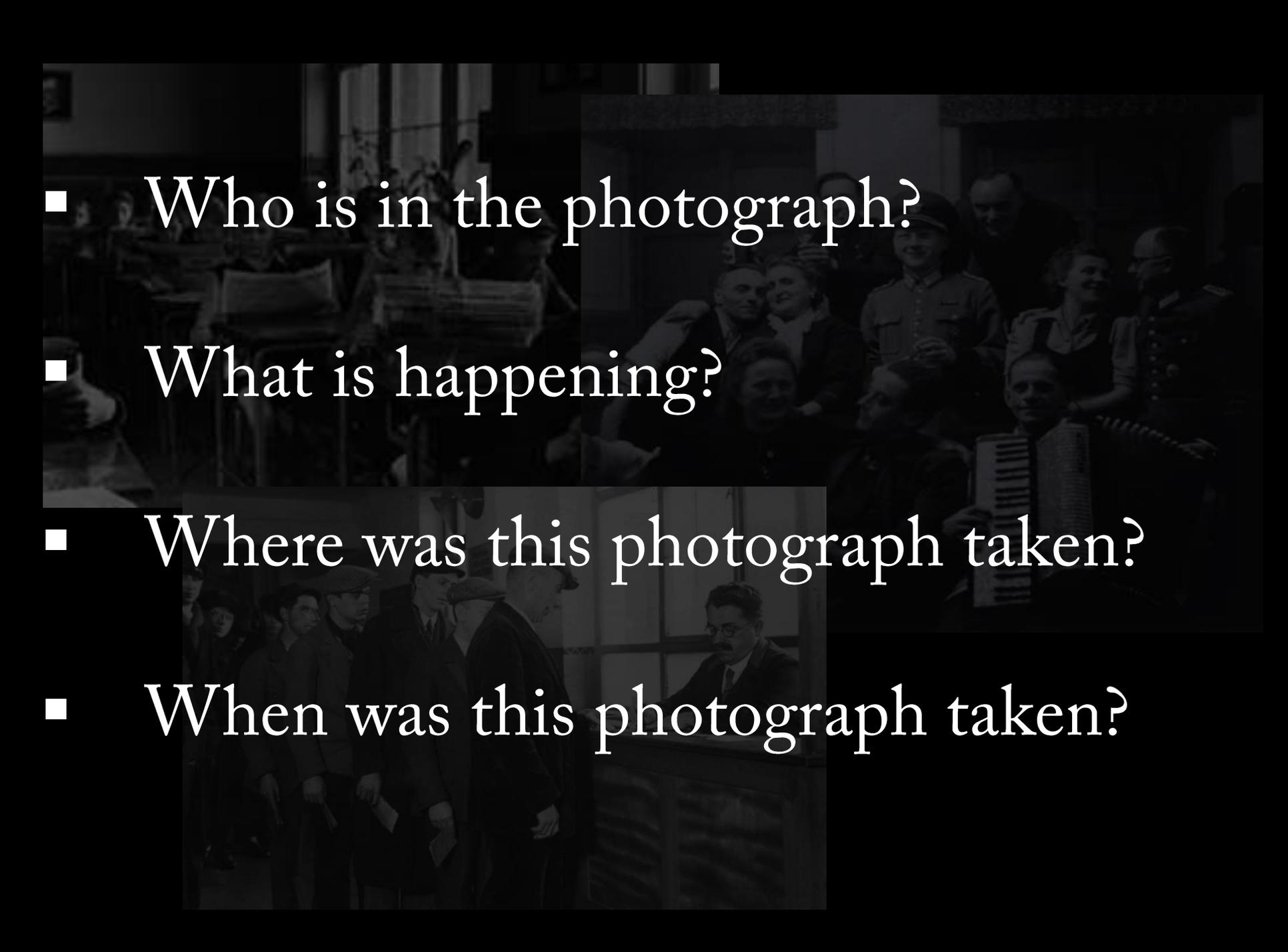




holocaust.georgia.gov/volunteer-resources





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- Who is in the photograph?
 - What is happening?
 - Where was this photograph taken?
 - When was this photograph taken?



Hate and discrimination are taught.

They are not inborn traits, beliefs, behaviors.



Caption: German students read the *Völkischer Beobachter*, a National Socialist paper started in the 1920s, in part to incite anti-Czech sentiment.

Background

The *Völkischer Beobachter* was the newspaper of the National Socialist German Workers' Party. It first appeared weekly, then daily from 8 February 1923. For twenty-five years it formed part of the official public face of the Nazi party. The circulation rose along with the success of the Nazi movement, reaching more than 120,000 in 1931 and 1.7 million by 1944.

During the rise to power, it reported general news but also party activities, presenting them as almost constant success. Guidelines for propagandists urged that all posters, insofar as the police allowed, contain propaganda for it, and all meetings should be announced in it, although reports should be sent to the Propaganda Department, which would then forward corrected versions to the paper. Posters did indeed urge reading it.

When Hitler was banned from public speaking, it was the main vehicle to propagate his views. Joseph Goebbels published articles in it to attack America for criticizing anti-Jewish measures, and to describe Russia.

The final issues from April and May 1945 were not distributed.



They were ordinary people.

Hitler and the Nazis did not act alone. They were not solely responsible for the Holocaust. Ordinary people made choices to act or not act and became complicit, collaborators, rescuers, or resistance.



Caption: Germans lining up at a site for the unemployed stamp. Berlin, 1932.

Background

Before the crash, 1.25 million people were unemployed in Germany. By the end of 1930 the figure had reached nearly 4 million, 15.3 per cent of the population.

Even those in work suffered as many were only working part-time. With the drop in demand for labor, wages also fell and those with full-time work had to survive on lower incomes.

Hitler, who was considered a fool in 1928 when he predicted economic disaster, was now seen in a different light. People began to say that if he was clever enough to predict the depression maybe he also knew how to solve it.

By 1932 over 30 per cent of the German workforce was unemployed. In the 1933 Election campaign, Adolf Hitler promised that if he gained power he would abolish unemployment.



They made choices.

Explore behaviors, not categories of people. Actions are fluid and thus a person's choices should be the emphasis of study, not their categorization such as "bystander" or "perpetrator", etc.



Caption: Group portrait of T-4 Euthanasia program personnel at a social gathering. Thursday, August 1, 1940 to Friday, May 1, 1942. Germany.

Background

The euthanasia program was the Nazi regime's first campaign of industrialized mass murder against specific populations whom it deemed inferior and threatening to the health of the Aryan race. Code-named "Operation T4" for the Berlin street address (Tiergarten 4) of its headquarters, the euthanasia program targeted mentally and physically disabled patients, a population that the Nazis considered "life unworthy of living".

The euthanasia killings began in August 1939 with the murder of disabled infants and toddlers. The children's euthanasia program involved the selection and transfer of children identified as disabled by physicians, nurses and midwives, to special children's wards established at more than 20 hospitals. In these medical wards health care workers killed at least 5,000 children by administering lethal doses of medication or through starvation. This program was later expanded to include older children.

The next phase of the euthanasia program involved the killing of disabled adults residing in institutional settings in the Reich. To accommodate this much larger population, T4 technicians created killing centers where the disabled were murdered in gas chambers and their bodies burned in crematoria. Six killing facilities were established in 1940.

In all, "Operation T4" claimed at least 200,000 lives.