

## American Experience: America and the Holocaust

Watch the program carefully and listen for the words or phrases that will complete the statements below. Write your answers in the blanks.

1. It was the time my parents' home was invaded by former classmates of mine who vandalized the place, smashed everything, terrorized my parents and imprisoned my father. It was \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I had done what the Nazis wanted me to do, namely, \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The news of the past few days from Germany has deeply shocked public opinion in the United States. I myself could scarcely believe such things could occur in a \_\_\_\_\_ civilization.
4. "At present, the American consulate in Stuttgart is being besieged to such an extent that the waiting number for Mother and me indicates there are 22,344 cases ahead of us." That meant that possibly \_\_\_\_\_ would elapse before it would be my parents' turn.
5. U.S. immigration laws reflected blatant bias and prejudice. From 1924 on, yearly quotas allowed \_\_\_\_\_ as many people from Britain and Ireland as from all of eastern and southern Europe.
6. In 1939, a bill proposed special sanctuary for \_\_\_\_\_ children outside the quota. The Wagner-Rogers Bill would become a litmus test for how Americans really felt about \_\_\_\_\_.
7. A cousin of the President, Laura Delano, commented, "Twenty thousand charming children would all too soon grow into 20,000 \_\_\_\_\_." German-American Bund never totaled more than 25,000 people, but it added fuel to the anti-Semitism smoldering in American society. These years would see \_\_\_\_\_ reach its peak in American history.
8. But during the 1920's and '30s, anti-Semitism was a way of life in much of America. Many places open to \_\_\_\_\_ were closed to Jews. The State Department was an old-line agency. Staffed with career diplomats, it reflected a conservative bias forged before World War I. These crafters of U.S. foreign policy believed in the superiority of \_\_\_\_\_ stock.
9. Finally, the ship was forced back to Europe, sailing first for days along the Florida coast. America would make \_\_\_\_\_ to its rigid immigration laws. In the spring of 1940, the fate of European Jews now fell into the hands of a new Roosevelt appointee, assistant Secretary of State \_\_\_\_\_.
10. "We can delay and effectively stop, for a temporary period of indefinite length, the number of immigrants into the United States. We could do this by simply advising our consuls to put every obstacle in the way which would \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the granting of the visas."  
By the end of 1940, Long's "postpone and postpone" directive was having its full impact. During the year that followed his order, immigration was cut in \_\_\_\_\_.

Wise and his followers were ardent Roosevelt supporters, but in the anti-Semitic atmosphere of the times, many Jews were \_\_\_\_\_ to press the administration too hard.

During the presidential campaign of 1940, Roosevelt never promised help for refugees. Still, he received \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jewish vote.

11. Early in Roosevelt's third term in 1941, the refugees in Europe still held hopes of coming to the United States. They had the illusion that they might perhaps find safety here. But at the same time, Long and the State Department once again were devising even higher barriers: more regulations, more documentation, more \_\_\_\_\_ that meant the difference between life and death.
12. Summer 1941 - the Nazis invaded Russia. In newly-conquered areas, a secret policy was put into action. Political enemies, undesirables and all Jews were rounded up by special forces, \_\_\_\_\_.
13. By spring 1942, rumors moved through western Europe: entire villages, cities being emptied of Jews, massive deportations somewhere to the \_\_\_\_\_.
14. November 24, 1942 - Stephen Wise, after three months, was released from his pledge of silence. At a press conference, Wise revealed the Nazi plan to exterminate all the Jews of Europe. The news was carried by major newspapers, but not prominently. Over \_\_\_\_\_ were already dead.
15. Near the end of 1942, with four million Jews still alive in Europe, Stephen Wise and other Jewish leaders presented a document to \_\_\_\_\_ detailing the Nazi plan for extermination. He acknowledged he was well aware of what was happening to the Jews. The State Department was actively blocking information about the \_\_\_\_\_ Roosevelt refused to focus on the issue. The American churches were largely silent, a fact that particularly pains me as a Christian, and the press had little to say and \_\_\_\_\_ that little on the inner pages.
16. The Bermuda conference was a failure because the real result was that they decided, the two powers, that first the \_\_\_\_\_ and then Jews could be taken care of. I must tell you it discouraged the American Jewish community. It broke the hearts of the leaders who had been involved in trying to make it happen.
17. The State Department stalled the license for 11 weeks, but when the request finally reached the Treasury Department, it was approved within \_\_\_\_\_.
18. Finally it was out in the open, the real reason the British and the State Department were obstructing rescue: the fear that large numbers of Jews might \_\_\_\_\_.
19. We were advised by our friends in the State Department that the State Department not only was \_\_\_\_\_ in the refugee problem, but that they were actively suppressing information about the extent of the Holocaust by sending instructions to their legation in Switzerland not to permit private Jewish agencies to transmit any such stories. Suppress information? The government then becomes an accomplice to what the Nazis were doing by \_\_\_\_\_ from the American public.
20. Six days later, FDR officially reversed the government's policy of obstruction. He signed Executive Order 9417, creating the \_\_\_\_\_, which was instructed to take all measures to rescue victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death.
21. The real reason Roosevelt established the board was not because of a sudden moral awakening.

After all, he'd been \_\_\_\_\_ all along. It was a political decision.

22. Some 2,800 bombers targeted the oil refineries during the months when 150,000 Jews were being gassed. On two occasions, fleets of heavy bombers actually flew past the gas chambers, aiming for the I.G. Farben fuel factory less than \_\_\_\_\_ away. In the end, the War Refugee Board played a vital role in saving the lives of \_\_\_\_\_ Jews, a very valuable contribution, to be sure, but the number is terribly small, compared to the total of six million killed.
23. Following the war, Kurt Klein received a message in answer to inquiries about his parents. "In reply to your letter, we regret to inform you that Ludwig and Alice Klein were deported on August 19, 1942, in the direction of \_\_\_\_\_ and, to date, do not appear among our files of repatriates."