

World History  
Week 21: World War II and Holocaust

At the end of this document are the publisher's recommended readings for this week. These recommendations are based on the State History-Social Science Content Standards. These readings should be covered by next week. Please remember and that these recommended pages represent the bare minimum of effort. You should read *all* of Chapter 16, and pay particular attention to sections 3 and 5. You should use encyclopedias or other reference materials, reputable web sites, appropriate periodicals, films, and your local libraries.

Given this week's topic, parents may want to use the following films: *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, *Holocaust* (a made for TV miniseries, 1978), *Escape from Sobibor*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Genocide* (1981) or even *Schindler's List*. However, parents need to be aware that the subject matter for this week is very powerful and emotionally charged and parents may wish to view any films before showing them to the students. Proceed with caution.

There is no shortage of good books about World War Two. Publishers such as Time-Life, American Heritage, DK, and Scholastic have produced excellent one-volume books on the war that are rich in photography and accessible to the young reader. Time-Life also produced a richly illustrated, multi-volume series detailing the history of this conflict. In addition to these suggestions, students and parents may wish to refer to the volumes listed below. The first three titles have appeared in previous weekly assignment sheets, but they are excellent references and merit an additional mention. The last five are new to the list and should prove useful in exploring State Standard 10.8.5.

Carnes, Mark ed. Past Imperfect: History According to the Movies. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1995.

Holmes, Richard ed. Oxford Companion to Military History. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Holmes, Richard ed. The World Atlas of Warfare: Military Innovations That Changed the World. New York: Viking Studio Books, 1988.

ten Boom, Corrie. The Hiding Place. Grand Rapids, MI: Chosen Books, 1984.

Frank, Anne. Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl. New York: Doubleday, 1995.

Spiegelman, Art. Maus I : A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History. New York : Pantheon Books, 1986.

Spiegelman, Art. Maus II : A Survivor's Tale: And Here My Troubles Began. New York: Pantheon Books, 1991.

Yolen, Jane. The Devil's Arithmetic. New York: Puffin Books, 1988.

Two excellent museums that specialize in the history of the holocaust are the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles ([www.museumoftolerance.com](http://www.museumoftolerance.com)) and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. ([www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org)) Their websites are excellent sources of information.

Parents are expected to grade the essays before the students submit them. Please refer to the syllabus for guidelines on writing style, and for the grading rubric. This information is also on the course web site. Write on only *one* topic. Parents are welcome to suggest alternate essay topics. **The take-home essay is due on February 2, 2016.**

Essay topics for this unit are:

- What new technologies were used in the war and what was their impact? or
- Did the defendants in the Nuremberg trials have a reasonable defense? or
- How did World War II change the world? or
- If you were alive during World War II, would you have served in the military? If so, how would you have liked to serve? If not, why not? or

**Write on only one topic. Remember that whatever topic you choose, this is a history paper, and you must present factual, historical evidence to support your point of view.**

California History Standard 10.8:  
Students analyze the causes and consequences of World War II.

<b>Standard 10.8.5</b>  Analyze the Nazi policy of pursuing racial purity, especially against the European Jews; its transformation into the Final Solution; and the Holocaust that resulted in the murder of six million Jewish civilians.	Pages: 43, 444, 449-450, 451-454, 467.
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