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Global Studies II:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Selections from David P. Boder’s Interview of Yanusch Deutsch; August 27, 1946; Genève, Switzerland**

**Read the following selection and annotate the passage.**

* **Underline key ideas from each paragraph**
* **In the space provided to the right**
  + **summarize the key information from each paragraph**
  + **make connections to prior knowledge**
  + **create questions**
* **Circle or box new vocabulary**
* **Answer the questions at the end of the reading.**

*Yanusch Deutsch, who was seventeen at the time of the interview, was fifteen when Germany invaded his home country of Hungary in 1944. In the interview, he discusses his experiences under Nazi control, living in a Jewish Ghetto and eventually being moved to a camp, Bergen-Belsen. He and his family are eventually liberated near Switzerland towards the end of the war.*

**David Boder:** Geneva, August the 27th 1946. The interviewee is Yanusch Deutsch, now seventeen and a half . . . rather a tall, good-looking and neat-looking young man. And we shall interview him on his experiences during the war.

Tell me, where were you when the war started, and what happened to you during the war?

**Yanusch Deutsch:** When the war broke out I was in Hungary. I lived with my parents in a little to—, town not far from Budapest. Sixty kilometers from Budapest. And we heard the news from Germany and the occupied territories where the Germans were. What, what terrible things they did to the Jews. We never thought that the same could happen to us.

In '44, 20 March the Germans conquered Hungary. There was no resistance. The Germans, of course, immediately took measures against the Jews.

**David Boder:** So, for example, what did they do? Let's forget that we already know that. How was it announced that one was supposed to wear the Stars?

**Yanusch Deutsch:** Twelve days after the Germans . . . occupied Hungary . . . in the papers there appeared articles that the Jews have to wear Star of David. Ten centimeters large, made from yellow, yellow . . .cloth.

**David Boder:** And where did one get these? Were they sold, or what?

**Yanusch Deutsch:** We had to make them ourselves, and Jewish merchants, Jewish, I mean, salesmen sold it.

**David Boder:** How much did they take for it?

**Yanusch Deutsch:** Well, I don't know, twenty, thirty drachmas, well . . .Most often nothing, most often nothing at all, because they knew, after all, that they not have their businesses much longer, so why should they earn anything.

And then things proceeded quite rapidly. At first, the businessmen had to lock their businesses. And then they had to hand in cameras, radios, typewriters, everything. And then we immediately had to hand in all the gold and, jewelry. And money that we had in the bank, that we had saved, and absolutely nothing of it we could receive.

But it was not only this loss against us but the German SS soldiers came every day and they asked us . . . And they came every day and they asked us food . . . jewels, everything they liked.

And after two month and a half we had to go to the ghetto.

**David Boder:** Now how was that?

**Yanusch Deutsch:** First we had to leave . . . there were only some houses for the Jews and on the door of these houses there was—were a big gold star. And we were living in a flat with twenty-four persons. . . . twenty-four people . . . brought with them their furnitures and their things and the flat was crowded and we couldn't move and we had only one kitchen and there were five or six families. So we lived there for one week. We knew . . . we knew that they would deport us and we had to get some food and we wanted to eat it very quickly.

And one morning, suddenly, at four o'clock German soldiers came in our house and they ordered the men in the yard . . . on the yard. Only the men. And they told them that they would give us one hour. In one hour we must move out. We can take with us thirty kilos of baggages.

**David Boder:** How old were you then?

**Yanusch Deutsch:** I was then fifteen years old . . . and some months. Well, you can imagine we hadn't had much time. We had to clothe—to dress ourselves—and we take some food and some clothes and everything we knew—everything we knew it would be useful. Then they take us on the yard and they searched us. They took the good things away from us: the chocolate, the coffee, the sugar . . . the jam, and we remained with very little baggages.

And then we had to remain there from six o'clock in the morning until two o'clock in the night. And you know that in Hungary there was some people who fought in the war and who were Jews but they had to go to the ghetto. They were deported too.

And then they took . . . one morning they said that they will take us away from our town and must go to the station, the railway station.

We arrived in Bergen-Belsen. That is seventy kilometers from Hannover, is Celle, is a small city, and from there we had to walk six kilometers on foot. It is, eh, about eight hundred meters high above several beautiful forests, the environment is very beautiful.

And then we went into the camp. We got a barrack. The women got a barrack. And the men got half a barrack. And, in one barrack there lived one thousand people. And, a barrack was about a hundred

and fifty meters long. There were six so-called box. Six, six parts divided. And in each part there lived about a hundred and eighty, a hundred and fifty people. And beds in three stories. Were over-about [he probably means "on top of one another"]. At night, it was very cold. It was July, but it was very, very cold. It was North. And days it was very warm. We did not have to work. This was maybe even worse, because the food was much worse than those who were working. And we had nothing to do all day.

At ten, there was roll call. Every day the soldiers came to count us. If nobody had run away. And after that we had nothing to do until night. Between ten at night and seven in the morning nobody was allowed to leave the barracks. Anybody who went outside was shot. From the tower. All around were, every two hundred meters there were towers with soldiers and guns.

Once every week we had a bath, a shower, we had bath, eh, a warm bath. And the other part of this bathing facility was the crematory. Twice we saw them bring people into the crematory.

**David Boder:** Living?

**Yanusch Deutsch:** Living people were brought. They were screaming and crying and everything.

**David Boder:** So, will you tell me such an incident in great detail?

**Yanusch Deutsch:** Well, we went to, to the bathing house. Was two big rooms. In one room we had to take off our clothes. And go to, to, into the shower room. And we, we were inside, when two cars arrived with people, Jewish people, I don't know what nationality. So, they were wearing their stars. I believe they were Dutch. They were very bad condition, they could barely walk. Were older people there as well.

Older people, and, and children, too. Well, strong people I did not see at all. Were only weak and sick people. And then . . .Yes. And then the Germans threw the Jews down off the car. And beat them with truncheons. And they went into, into the other building.

Answer the following questions in complete sentences using details and evidence from the source.

1. How old was Yanusch when the war came to Hungary? When did the war affect his life?

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1. What was the first action taken against the Jews in Hungary? Connect this to the Pyramid of Hate.

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1. Explain the treatment of the Jews by the Germans. Be sure to provide specific examples from the reading.

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1. What were the barracks like? How does Yanusch describe them?

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1. What did Yanusch see happening when he was at the bath? Connect to the timeline of the Holocaust and Hitler’s plan.

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