

Introduction:

A-Level European History consists of two components: Component 3 (Interpretation Questions) and Component 4, a Depth Study on “Europe of the Dictators, 1919 – 1941” We will cover three of the European Dictators: Mussolini, Stalin and Hitler, starting in late September or early October.

Component 3 is a study of the Holocaust; the focus is on how historians treat the subject in their writings. This is a Historiographical look at the Holocaust. Component 3 (or Paper 3) asks students to read and analyze an extract to determine the Historian’s interpretation and approach to the subject. Successful analysis for Paper 3 requires both Holocaust content knowledge and practice analyzing Extracts by different Holocaust authors. The summer assignment introduces you to some of the authors we will encounter studying the Holocaust.

Interpretation: Causes of the Holocaust

One focus of the Holocaust study is “Causes of the Holocaust” and specifically the role of Hitler and other people, in ordering it. There are three (3) theories you should look for when reading:

Intentionalism – interpretations that assume Hitler and the Nazi’s planned to exterminate the Jews from the start.

Structuralism – interpretations that argue it was the nature of the Nazi state that produced genocide. There was no coherent plan; instead, the chaotic competition for Hitler’s approval between different Nazi leaders produced a situation that resulted in the Holocaust (genocide).

Functionalism – closely related to structuralism. Interpretation that sees the Holocaust as an unplanned, ad hoc response to wartime developments in Eastern Europe (1941 invasion of USSR), when Germany conquered areas with large Jewish populations.

Synthesis – Interpretations that show characteristics of more than one of the above.

A variety of Extracts are used for Paper 3, with many different topics and interpretations. The “Causes of the Holocaust” is only one of many possible topics; I’m providing these terms now so you will be familiar with them as you complete the assigned readings.

Directions:

Look at the list of five (5) Holocaust authors on the following page. Go to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and enter the name of the author and the title of the book. Click on the book and look for a feature called “Look Inside” (it’s usually located on the ‘top’ of the picture of the book). Click on this feature; locate the section you should read (see List on next page). This handy Amazon tab means you can read portions of each book without buying it. 😊

Read the suggested section – it’s usually the introduction or foreword. You are looking for the main topic of the book, how the author treats the subject and any relevant historic information. After reading the passage, answer the questions (see #1-4 – below).

Questions:

1. What is the main purpose of the book?
2. What does the author say about causes of the Holocaust?
3. According to the author, what was the role of Hitler in the Holocaust?
4. What are your personal observations concerning this book and the author?
(Would you want to read more about this books and/or authors?)

Finally, don’t worry if some pages (in the “Look Inside” feature) are missing. You will be able to read enough to answer the questions.

The Assignment:

Type up your findings, by Author/Book, answering all four questions for each author. Bring your typed answers to class when school starts in August. Tentative plans are to cover this sometime during the first two weeks of school, however a specific date will be provided later.

<u>Authors</u>	<u>Books</u>
Browning, Christopher	<u>The Origins of the Final Solution</u> (Preface/Background; also notes are interesting...)
Dawidowicz, Lucy	<u>The War against the Jews</u> (Introduction to the 10 th Anniversary Edition)
Friedlander, Saul	<u>Nazi Germany and the Jews (Abridged Edition)</u> (read the Foreword)
Goldhagen, Daniel	<u>Hitler’s Willing Executioners</u> (“Reconceiving Central Aspects of the Holocaust”)
Kershaw, Ian	<u>Hitler, the Germans and the Final Solution</u> (Introduction)

(see next page for extra credit opportunity 😊)

Want to know More?

If you want to learn more about the Holocaust, here are three (3) additional authors you can look up at Amazon.com. Read as many as you like -- it can be a fascinating subject. Tip: sometimes the 'notes' are very interesting!

Extra Credit is available to students who answer the four questions for any of these additional sources. (note -- type it up with the other Summer Assignment information)

Additional Authors and Books on the Holocaust:

Cesarani, David	<u>The Final Solution and the Fate of the Jews, 1933 - 1949</u>
Friedlander, Henry	<u>The Origins of Nazi Genocide: from Euthanasia to the Final Solution</u>
Laqueur, Walter	<u>The Terrible Secret: Suppression of the Truth about Hitler's Final Solution.</u>