**Resource Sheet #03 - Document Analysis**

**Source A: FDR statement on Kristallnacht, Nov 15, 1938**

“I myself could scarcely believe that such things could occur in a twentieth century civilization.”

*Handwritten addition by FDR to his statement to the Press after Krystallnacht (Nov 15, 1938): http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/archives/pdfs/holocaust.pdf (Accessed on 10/01/2014)*

**Source B:**

In a December 13, 1942 radio broadcast listened to by millions, popular newsman Edward R. Murrow described the situation faced by Jews in Germany as: “a horror beyond what imagination can grasp . . . there are no longer ‘concentration camps’—we must speak now only of ‘extermination camps.’”

*http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/archives/pdfs/holocaust.pdf (Accessed on 10/01/2014)*

**Source C:**

From a report by the OSS regarding a further escalation of Nazi violence against Jews, received in the White House Map Room on March 17, 1943:

“The new Nazi policy is to kill Jews on the spot rather than to deport them to Poland for extermination there.”

*FDR Library, “FDR and the Holocaust,” Doc #6, Map Room Papers; MR 203(12); Sec. 1; OSS Numbered Bulletins, March-May 1943, Box 72. http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/archives/pdfs/holocaust.pdf (Accessed on 10/01/2014)*

**Source D:**

From a statement by the President, March 24, 1944: “…in most of Europe and in parts of Asia, the systematic murder and torture of innocent civilians - men, women and children – by the Nazis and the Japanese continues unabated. … And one of the blackest crimes in all history – begun by the Nazis in the days of peace, and multiplied by them a hundred fold in time of war – the wholesale systematic murder of the Jews of Europe – goes on unabated every hour. … Hitler is committing these crimes in the name of the German people. I ask every German and every man everywhere under Nazi domination to show the world by his actions that in his heart he does not share these insane criminal designs. Let him hide these pursued victims, help them to get over the border, and do what he can to save them from the Nazi hangman. … In the meantime, and until the victory that is now assured is won, the United States will persevere in its efforts to rescue the victims of brutality of the Nazis and the Japs. In so far as the necessities of military operations permit, this Government will use all the means at its command to aid the escape of all the intended victims of the Nazi and Japanese executioner.”

*FDR Library, “FDR and the Holocaust,” Document #8: Statement by the President Regarding Atrocities of War, March 24, 1944. President’s Personal File 1-F: Press Releases-Drafts, 1944, Box 18. http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/archives/pdfs/holocaust.pdf (Accessed on 10/01/2014)*

**Resource Sheet #04 - Close Analysis Documents**

**Source E:**

While Roosevelt heard frequent complaints about restrictive American immigration policy and the State Department’s intransigent application of the rules to Jewish applicants, he accepted the State Department’s concerns about a more open-door policy.

At a press conference on June 5, 1940, Roosevelt stated: “Now, of course, the refugee has got to be checked because, unfortunately, among the refugees there are some spies, as has been found in other countries. And not all of them are voluntary spies—it is rather a horrible story but in some of the other countries that refugees out of Germany have gone to, especially Jewish refugees, they found a number of definitely proven spies.”

*US Holocaust Memorial Museum, “Franklin Delano Roosevelt,” Holocaust Encyclopedia http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007411 (Accessed on 10/01/2014)*

The U.S. War Department declined repeated requests made by John W. Pehle, Director, U.S. War Refugee Board, that it bomb the extermination camps and access railway lines. Documents J-L below are excerpts from successive replies by John J. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War:

**Source F:**

July 4, 1944 “Dear Mr. Pehle, … The War Department of the opinion that the suggested air operation is impracticable. It could be executed only by the diversion of considerable air support essential to the success of our forces now engaged in decisive operations and would in any case be of such doubtful efficacy that it would not amount to a practical project.”

*John J. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War to John W. Pehle, July 4, 1944. FDR Library, “FDR and the Holocaust,” Document #9 in FDR Library, “FDR and the Holocaust,” at http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/archives/pdfs/holocaust.pdf (War Refugee Board Records; Projects and Documents File; Measures Directed Toward Halting Persecutions; Hungary No. 5, Box 42). (Accessed on 10/01/2014)*

**Source G: August 14, 1944**

“Dear Mr. Pehle, … such an operation could be executed only by the diversion of considerable air support…now engaged in decisive operations elsewhere and would in any case be of such doubtful efficacy that it would not warrant the use of our resources.”

*John McCloy to John Pehle, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, “Franklin Delano Roosevelt,” Holocaust Encyclopedia http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10008041 (Accessed on 10/01/2014)*

**Source H: November 18, 1944**

“Dear Mr. Pehle: … You forwarded the report of two eyewitnesses on the notorious German concentration and extermination camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau in Upper Silesia. The Operation Staff of the War Department has given careful consideration to your suggestion that the bombing of these camps be undertaken. In consideration of this proposal the following points were brought out: Educational materials developed through the Howard County History Labs Program, a partnership between the Howard County Public School System and the UMBC Center for History Education. ... At the present critical stage of the war in Europe, our strategic air forces are engaged in the destruction of industrial target systems vital to the dwindling war potential of the enemy, from which they should not be diverted. … Based on the above… the War Department has felt that it should not, at least for the present, undertake these operations.”

*McCloy to Pehle. 18 Nov. 1944. PBS. The American Experience. http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/holocaust/filmmore/reference/primary/bombjohn.html (Accessed on 10/01/2014)*

**Document Review Organizer**

**Questions for Discussion**

What do the documents show was known in the US about the treatment of Jews in Germany and occupied Europe?

Based on Docs A – D, what may we expect from these statements to have been the American response to the Holocaust?

What can we tell from Doc. K about Roosevelt’s attitude to Jewish refugees from Germany in the 1930s?

What reasons were given by the War Department for rejecting John Pehle’s requests?

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| **REACTIONS [Document Analysis]** | **ACTIONS [Close Analysis]** |
|  |  |
| **Source A:**  **Author: Date:**  **Summary:** | Source E.  **Author: Date:**  **Summary:** |
| **Source B.**  **Author: Date:**  **Summary:** | **Source F.**  **Author: Date:**  **Summary:** |
| **Source C.**  **Author: Date:**  **Summary:** | **Source G.**  **Author: Date:**  **Summary:** |
| **Source D.**  **Author: Date:**  **Summary:** | **Source H.**  **Author: Date:**  **Summary:** |