

Sign in:

Recorder*** _____ Person wearing most blue.
Reporter** _____ Person wearing least amount of blue
Moderator* _____ That leaves you.

Group Work

You are assigned to identify incidents from **1236-1328** in European history which show evidence that Jews suffered from two categories of antisemitic violence: restrictions and force. Here are Fritz Voll's explanations of these two categories.

Restrictions on Jewish religious practice, social interaction, trade and professions, civil and political rights, residence (ghettoization), ownership...

Force used to make Jews pay higher taxes, take away their children (to raise them as Christians), lootings, vandalism, expulsions...

Underline or highlight incidents that you find showing this type of violence against Jews.

- 1236 Jewish communities in Anjou, Poitou, Bordeaux and Angouleme were attacked by Crusaders. 500 Jews chose conversion and over 3,000 were massacred. Pope Gregory IX, who originally had called the Crusade, was outraged about this brutality and criticized the clergy for not preventing it.
- 1239 - 1242 By order of Pope Gregory IX all copies of the Talmud were to be turned over to the orders of the Franciscans and Dominicans for examination. It seems that the papal decree was carried out only in France. Jewish books and the Talmud were also seized in England and book burnings took place. In Paris 24 cartloads of Talmud copies were burned. Pope Innocent IV stopped the confiscations and ordered the Talmud copies to be returned, though not without first expunging the passages that seemed objectionable to the church.
- 1244 Jews in London were accused of ritual murder and assessed a high amount of money as punishment.
- 1247 When the ritual murder charge became more widespread and caused many atrocities, Pope Innocent IV ordered an investigation of the charge that proved it to be an anti-Jewish invention.
- 1255 The dead body of Little St. Hugh of Lincoln was discovered in a cesspool near the house of a Jew. Under torture he confessed that Hugh had been murdered for a ritual. King Henry III ordered his hanging after he was dragged alive through the streets tied to a horse. 100 Jews were brought to London for trial. 18 were hanged without trial. 79 others were convicted and hanged, 2 were pardoned and one was acquitted.
- 1261 - 1264 Canterbury students, priests and monks attacked the Jewish quarter. Mobs sacked the Jewish section of London in 1262 and 1264.
- 1263 A disputation was held at Barcelona, Spain, before King James I, nobility, bishops and leading monks. Rabbi Moses ben Naleman had to defend the Talmud against a converted Jew, Pablo Christiani, who tried to prove Christianity's efficacy from the Talmud. King James ordered the Jews to erase passages from the Talmud that were objectionable to Christians.
- 1267 The Synod of Vienna decreed that Christians were forbidden to attend Jewish ceremonies. Learned Jews were forbidden to dispute with simple Christians. Jews had to wear horned hats, called pileum cornutum. People actually believed that Jews had horns which they were hiding under these hats and that they were children of the devil. Thomas Aquinas (1226-1274) said that Jews could not be treated as neighbours but should live in perpetual servitude.
- 1270 Jews were massacred in Germany: Weissenberg, Magdeburg, Sinzig, Erfurt and other cities. In Sinzig the community was locked in the synagogue on the Sabbath and burned alive.

- 1272 The main synagogue in London was closed. The reason given was that the chanting disturbed the devotion of the monks in the neighborhood. Jews had to gather in private homes but even that was restricted by order of the Bishop of London.
- 1275 The Statutum Judeismo was passed in England under King Edward I. The law forbade Jews to charge interest, restricted the areas where they could live, ordered all Jews from the age of seven to wear the badge and required those above the age of twelve to pay an annual poll tax at Easter. But the law also allowed Jews, for the first time, to lease land for farming and become merchants and artisans.
- 1278 Edward I charged Jews with coin clipping. House-to-house searches took place throughout England and 680 Jews were thrown into the Tower of London. Many were hanged and their property seized by the crown.
- 1280 In Poland civic authorities attempted to attract Jews by establishing Jewish life on a rational basis. But the church insisted that Jews be isolated from the rest of the population. The Synod of Buda introduced the Jewish badge. In Spain Jews were forced to listen to conversion sermons of the monks in their own synagogues. Fanatical mobs attacked Jews against the orders of civic authorities.
- 1281 Most Spanish Jews were arrested in their synagogues on a Sabbath in January, but released again on promise to pay a huge amount of ransom money.
- 1282 The Archbishop of Canterbury closed all synagogues in his diocese.
- 1283 - 1285 Ten Jews were murdered by a mob in Mainz after they had been charged with ritual murder. 26 Jews were killed as a result of a ritual murder charge in Bacharach. 40 Jews were murdered after a ritual murder charge in Oberwellel. In Munich 180 Jews were burned alive in the synagogue after a ritual murder charge.
- 1290 On July 18 King Edward I in Council ordered all Jews in England under pain of death to leave the country by the first of November.
- 1298 Severe persecutions took place in Franconia, Bavaria and Austria. A German nobleman by the name of Rindfleisch (he was called the Judenschlächter) gathered a small army and began to slaughter Jews from city to city. In about six months he burned and massacred an estimated 100,000 Jews in 140 communities including Wurzburg, Ratisbon, Nuremberg, Augsburg, Heilbronn and Rottingen.
- 1306 Under Philip IV (le Bel) all Jews of his realm, approximately 100,000, were imprisoned on July 22. They were told to leave the country within one month. They could only take the clothes on their backs and provisions for one day. Their property left behind was used by Philip to replenish the royal treasury, which had been exhausted through his feud with the Pope and his war against the Flemish.
- 1308 The Bishop of Strasbourg, John of Dirpheim, demanded the Jews of Sulzmatt and Rufach on the charge of host desecration. They were burned alive.
- 1315 King Louis X called back the Jews who had been expelled from France. They in turn set conditions which were met. But again they had to wear badges.
- 1320 Pope John XII ordered the Inquisition in Toulouse. There and in Perpignon the Talmud was burned. During the Crusade of the Shepherds 40,000 shepherds and peasants marched from Agen to Toulouse and killed any Jew who was not willing to be baptized. In Verdun 500 Jews had fled to a tower. When they were besieged they committed suicide. 120 Jewish communities in southern France and northern Spain were wiped out.
- 1328 Thousands of Jews were murdered by mobs around Estella when a monk preached inflaming anti-Jewish sermons.

Sources: Voll, Fritz. "A Short Review of a Troubled History." *Jewish-Christian Relations* November 11, 2006
<http://www.jcrelations.net/en/?id=836>. Used with permission of author.

*** Recorders listen as well as contribute to group discussions and complete any writing tasks assigned to the group

** Reporters listen as well as contribute to group discussions and are prepared to report the groups work to the class.

* Moderators listen as well as contribute to group discussion, encouraging the group to stay on topic. Moderators also make sure this sheet is turned in at the end of class.

Prepared by Jan-Ruth Mills