



Nuremberg Trials

Lesson Plan for Grades 9-12, US or World History

*Edited by Sarah Welsh for the New Mexico Holocaust and Intolerance
Museum*

Essential Questions

What are crimes against humanity?

How should nations deal with a country that is or has committed crimes against humanity?

Can corporations be found guilty of crimes?

Education Standards

1. 9-12.Civ.17. Evaluate multiple sources and cite evidence investigating the relationships between equality, equity, justice, freedom, human rights, and order in U.S. representative democracy.
2. 9-12.NMH.32. Demonstrate historical argumentation by using various resources and perspectives to show the impact of World War II on the people of New Mexico and the impact that the state's citizens and resident populations had on the war.
3. 9-12.US.3. Gather relevant information from multiple sources representing a wide range of views while using the origin, authority, structure, context, and corroborative value of the sources to guide the selection.
4. 9-12.US.96. Examine the ways in which gender roles changed and stayed the same between 1945 and 1975.
5. 9-12.US.97. Summarize U.S. diplomatic and military policies during the Cold War.
6. 9-12.US.99. Describe how particular historical events and developments shaped human processes and systems between 1945 and 1975
7. 9-12.US.105. Analyze the origin, goals, and outcomes of civil rights groups in the

1950s and the 1960s and their influence on contemporary civil rights movements.

Objectives

1. SWBAT explain how the Nuremberg Trials were created and describe the roles individuals played in delivering justice after World War II.

Materials needed

1. [The Nuremberg Trials | The National WWII Museum | New Orleans](#)
2. [1945 Charter of the International Military Tribunal \(Nuremberg\)](#)
3. [Adams Green Scrapbook](#) - below you will find a transcription of an important news article within the scrapbook
4. [Women at Nuremberg: Cecelia Goetz | USC Shoah Foundation](#)
5. [Edith Coliver Testimony](#)
6. Biographies on Rhee and Adams Greene (found below) along with “Nazi Trials May End Soon in U.S. Zone Despite Protests”

Assessment

Steps to check for student understanding

1. Assessment: The Nuremberg Trials & Justice After WWII- attached at the bottom of the lesson plan with rubric.
2. Student discussions based on testimonies and primary sources.

Activity

Describe activity that will reinforce the lesson

1. Introduction to the Nuremberg Trials via PowerPoint
2. Students will read the attached articles to gain deeper understanding of the trials
3. Students will explore the role of women through the testimony of Edith Coliver and the article on Cecelia Goetz
4. After reading the article on Cecelia Goetz students will answer the following questions. If done as a discussion, it is recommended to keep the written assessment piece. If done as a written activity, it could replace the assessment

piece.

- a. What were some of the obstacles she faced in her role as an attorney?
 - b. How did she contribute to imparting justice?
5. After watching the testimony of Edith Coliver students will answer the following questions. If done as a discussion, it is recommended to keep the written assessment piece. If done as a written activity, it could replace the assessment piece.
 - a. Her father directed Edith to “Go to do justice, be just.” What does this mean? Why is it necessary for those seeking justice to do so in a just manner?
 - b. How does Edith’s small contributions to the Nuremberg Trials as an interpreter impart justice on the Nazi perpetrators? What do her contributions teach you about justice?
6. Review the biographies of Dorothy Adams Greene and Lawrence Rhee. (attached below) If done as a discussion, it is recommended to keep the written assessment piece. If done as a written activity, it could replace the assessment piece.
 - a. How did the work of Dorothy Adams Greene and Lawrence Rhee contribute to imparting justice?

Additional Resources

[Handout: An Overview of the Nuremberg Trials](#)

[The First Trial at Nuremberg | Facing History & Ourselves](#)

[UNIT 10 A - JUSTICE, LIFE, AND MEMORY AFTER THE HOLOCAUST - Echoes & Reflections](#)

Assessment: The Nuremberg Trials & Justice After WWII

Directions:

Answer the questions below using complete sentences. You may use your notes if instructed by your teacher.

Part I: Historical Understanding

1. Why were the Nuremberg Trials created after World War II?

In your answer, explain the main goals of the trials.

2. Who created the Nuremberg Trials?

Identify the countries involved and explain why cooperation between them mattered.

3. What types of crimes were individuals charged with during the Nuremberg Trials?

List at least two types of crimes and briefly explain one of them.

Part II: Roles & Responsibility

4. Describe the role of one group or individual involved in the Nuremberg Trials.

Choose **one** of the following and explain how they contributed to delivering justice:

- Judges
- Prosecutors
- Defendants
- Witnesses
- Translators

Part III: Critical Thinking

5. How did the Nuremberg Trials change the way the world thinks about justice and accountability?

In one well-organized paragraph, explain how the trials showed that

individuals—not just governments—could be held responsible for war crimes.

Teacher-Facing Scoring Guide (Quick Rubric)

Total: 20 points

Part I (9 points)

- Q1: Purpose clearly explained (3 pts)
- Q2: Allied powers identified; cooperation explained (3 pts)
- Q3: At least two crime types named with explanation (3 pts)

Part II (5 points)

- Accurate description of role chosen (3 pts)
- Clear connection to justice/accountability (2 pts)

Part III (6 points)

- Explains individual responsibility (3 pts)
- Uses historical reasoning or example (2 pts)
- Clear organization and complete sentences (1 pt)

Biographies of Dorothy Adams Green and Lawrence Rhee

Dorothy Adams Greene

Born Dorothy Kathryn Adams in Little Falls, Minnesota in 1913, “Dot” Adams Greene was a clerk secretary for prosecuting attorneys at the subsequent Nuremberg Trials. In her role as part of the Office of Chief Counsel of War Crimes, she participated in the sixth case, the trial of the directors of German chemical giant I.G. Farben. She worked closely with American prosecutors recording not only the events of the trial, but also interviews with former prisoners of war who were incarcerated in camps administered by I.G. Farben.

She traveled widely, both as part of her work documenting atrocities and as a tourist, chronicling her observations of a post-war Europe and beyond. After the trial, she remained in Germany another year as Secretary to the Director of Training at the EUCOM Intelligence School in Oberammergau.

Adams Greene returned to the United States, where she continued to work in civil service, including three years in Alaska, where she met her husband, Roger J. Greene. Upon Roger's retirement from the Air Force in 1957, they moved with their children, Nancy and Janet, to Albuquerque. Adams Greene continued to work as a secretary on Sandia Base for many years, receiving numerous awards for outstanding service. She died at the age of 75 and is buried with her husband in the Santa Fe National Cemetery in New Mexico.

In 2022, her daughter Nancy donated a large collection of Adams Greene's original writings, personal effects, and photographs to the New Mexico Holocaust & Intolerance Museum.

Lawrence Rhee

Lawrence “Larry” Rhee was born in Recklinghausen, Germany on July 13, 1917 to Moritz Rhee and Else Seligmann Rhee. The family was Jewish and, in 1936, fled Nazi Germany to settle in Bernalillo, NM. The Rhees were related to the New Mexico Seligman family who owned and operated the Bernalillo Mercantile Company since the late 19th century.

In 1942, Rhee enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in Military Combat Intelligence in the European Theatre, interrogating German POWs. After the war, he served in the first Nuremberg War Crime Trials, first as a translator, then in the Photographic Evidence Division.

After the trials, he returned to the US and worked in the lumber industry. He moved to Mexico where he taught lumber grading. While in Mexico, he met and married his wife Alicia B. Moreno. He returned to Albuquerque with his family in 1959 and worked for Duke City Lumber Company until his retirement in 1982.

Since all of his school records were lost in Germany, he started night school in 1962 and graduated from Albuquerque High School in 1964. After retirement, he often spoke at New Mexico schools and civic organizations about the Holocaust and his experience at Nuremberg. He died in 2005. Larry and the Rhee family generously donated photographs and documents related to the trials to the New Mexico Holocaust & Intolerance Museum.

Nazi Trials May End Soon in U.S. Zone Despite Protests

(newspaper article from Adams Greene Scrapbook) By Peter Edson

Washington (REA)

Trial of 210 high Nazis accused of war crimes will probably be wound up in the U.S. zone in Germany this summer, despite protests to the Army against “whitewashing” of German industrialists and petitions to Congress for an investigation of the way the trials have been conducted.

Much of the agitation has been stirred up by H. W. Ambruster of Westfield, N.J. He is a former manufacturer who was put out of business by the German dye trust. He has been leading a crusade against I.G. Farben, Krupp, and other German monopolies through his book, “Treason’s Peace.” And in a series of lectures he goes so far as to charge that U.S. trials officials were handpicked by U.S. capitalists to insure that the German industrialists were let off easy.

Many of the complaints made against conduct of the war crimes trials in Germany are based on the mistaken impression that these trials were expected to break up the German cartels. Such criticism fails to distinguish between civil and criminal cases, says Cecil F. Hubbert, deputy chief of the Army War Crimes branch.

Breaking up the German monopolies—the so-called decartelization of German industry—involves civil, not criminal, law. Incidentally, in the U.S.-British zone in Germany, the antitrust law now in force is even more severe than the U.S. Sherman Act on which it was based. No business is allowed to have more than 10,000 employees in Germany. That law in America would break up many big businesses.

Trials of the German war criminals have been going on since November, 1945, with 185 Germans indicted in the U.S. zone alone. No record has ever been compiled of trials by the allied powers.

In brief, this is their record to date. Case 1- 23 doctors and scientists accused of experimenting on human beings as guinea pigs. Seven sentenced to die, five to life, four to 10-20 years, seven acquitted.

Case 2-Air Force General Erhard Milch, Goering’s second, accused of employing slave

labor and other crimes against humanity. Sentenced to life imprisonment.

Case 3 – 16 Nazi judges are accused of frustrating criminal justice by carrying out Hitler's decrees. Four sentenced to life, six, 5-10 years, four acquitted, one died, one excused for illness.

Case 4 – 18 SS commanders of concentration camps. Four sentenced to death, three life, eight 10-35 years, three acquitted.

Case 5 – Six industrialists accused of employing slave labor and exploiting occupied territory. Three give 2-7 years. Three acquitted.

Case 6 – 24 I.G. Farben industrialists accused of plunder, spoliation, slavery and mass murder. Trial still in progress.

Case 7 – Twelve generals accused of mass murder, plunder, illegal executions, and employing slave labor. Two given life, six 7-20 years, two acquitted, one suicide, one excused for illness.

Case 8- Fourteen SS officers accused of kidnaping and resettlement. One given life, five released as having already served sufficient time awaiting trial.

Case 9 - Twenty-four SS officials accused of eliminating racial "undesirables." Fourteen given death, two life, five 10-20 years, one acquitted, one suicide, one excused for illness.

Case 10 – Twelve Krupp industrialists accused of slave labor, plunder, and crimes against the peace. Trial still in progress.

Case 11 – Twenty-one high Nazi officials. Trial still in progress. Case 12 – Fourteen German generals. Trial still in progress.

Total criminal box score including Nuremberg case – 37 sentenced to die, 21 given life, 43 lesser imprisonment, four suicides, five excused, only 28 acquitted or released and 71 still on trial.

*[*Note for clarity and historic background:*

I.G. Farben was a chemical and pharmaceutical conglomerate based in Frankfurt, Germany. The six companies that made up I.G. Farben manufactured goods ranging from photographic chemicals to aspirin. The company had employed many Jewish chemists and businessmen, but by 1938, they had all been ousted.

Farben's subsidiaries had been involved in developing chemical weapons and military aid. Under the Nazi regime, Farben manufactured a form of cyanide gas, Zyklon B, which was used in mass murder in the gas chambers of the concentration camps. I.G. Farben also used slave labor in its production work, taking

prisoners from camps, such as Auschwitz and its sub-camp Monowitz. Over 100,000 prisoners were used as slave labor, helping add to the profits I.G. Farben made.

Thirteen directors were found guilty at trial, but none served out a full sentence. Many returned to jobs at the company. Some I.G. Farben companies are still doing business today. Bayer, which makes Bayer aspirin, is one.]