

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EUROPEAN HISTORY SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Directions: Obtain a copy of Erik Larson's *In The Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and An American Family in Hitler's Berlin* (copyright 2011). This nonfiction work traces the story and experiences of William E. Dodd, the first American ambassador to Nazi Germany, and his family. Read the book and then answer all of the following questions. Each response should be typed and be about one paragraph (about six to seven sentences) in length. The quality of the assignment is the important element; lengthy responses do not automatically grant high scores! The assignment must be hard copy only; points will be deducted for electronic copies. The due date is no later than September 9, 2016; late assignments will be penalized. Please see rubric for grading details. Students should also be prepared for an additional assessment on the reading when classes commence. Email Mr. Dennison, department supervisor, at dennisonk@warrenhills.org with any questions.

1. Why do you think Larson selected the Dante quote to open his book? (How does the quote connect to the events of the book?)
2. William E. Dodd's life work was a book called the *The Rise and Fall of the Old South*. How does the ideology of Antebellum/Confederate South parallel Nazi ideology?
3. Briefly compare and contrast the anti-Semitism in America in the 1930s with the anti-Semitism in Nazi Germany. (Draw in specific examples and evidence from the book).
4. On their first night in Berlin, the Dodd family visits the Tiergarten, or the "garden of beasts". Why do you think the author selected this translation to be the title of the book?
5. Describe the process of "Coordination" and "Self-Coordination". Why do you think the majority of Germans were so willing to follow these processes?
6. At first Martha believed that "Germany was in the midst of historic rebirth" and any incidents of violence against Jews and communists was only "inadvertent expressions of the wild enthusiasm that gripped the country." Why was she so easily seduced by Germany? How does her opinion change and develop through the duration of her time in Germany?
7. How did the various Jewish groups in the United States react to Hitler's persecution of Jews in Germany?
8. A main point the book makes is that Dodd is not a typical ambassador. Do you think a more traditional ambassador or an ambassador with a more forceful personality would have been better able to handle the issues in Germany?

9. Anti-Semitism has been present throughout European history; however, prior to the twentieth century, Jews were classified as a separate religion, not a separate race. How did the Nazi ideology of Jews as a race change their position in Germany, the public's perception of them, and the treatment of them?
10. Despite repeated incidents of attacks on Americans, the U.S. government did not get involved. Why was the government so reluctant to condemn Germany, especially when the German government was so concerned with the opinion of the U.S. government?
11. The events Martha, Bill, and Reynolds witnessed in Nuremberg were quite disturbing. Why were there no repercussions for the incident? How did Martha explain away what she witnessed?
12. Hanfstaengl tried to play matchmaker. Who did he want to set up? What was his rationale behind his attempted match?
13. Larson mentions that "something fundamental has shifted in Germany" and that people would leave for several weeks, return to Berlin, and find a completely changed city. Explain his claim using evidence from the book. What was the "something fundamental" that changed?
14. How did the tense atmosphere and "emerging culture of surveillance" impact Martha during the winter of 1933-1934? How did it affect Jews?
15. The American Jewish Congress (with support from the American Federation of Labor and other organizations) conducted a mock trial of Hitler. What was the reaction of the German government to this event? What does the trial reveal about life in the United States versus life in Germany?
16. Who was Rudolf Diels? In what ways did his departure from the Gestapo impact the organization?
17. Describe the options available to writers under the Nazi regime. Defend or condemn the actions of Fallada (Ditzen).
18. Much of the German public seemed excited and encouraged by Papen's Marburg Speech. Why then, did the speech not provide "the spark that would bring Hitler's government to an end"?
19. In retrospect, why was "The Night of the Long Knives" such a significant event?
20. How should history judge William Dodd and his daughter, Martha Dodd? How would you judge their actions (and inactions) in Nazi Germany?

RUBRIC

5	4	3	2	1	0
-Answer is correct & demonstrates excellent comprehension. -Answer is complete, extensive, clear, includes many details & supporting evidence from the text.	-Answer is correct & demonstrates good comprehension. -Answer is complete, clear, includes several details, & supporting evidence from the text.	-Answer is mostly correct & demonstrates fair comprehension. -Answer is mostly complete, understandable, includes some details, & some evidence from text.	-Answer is somewhat correct & demonstrates some comprehension. -Answer is somewhat complete, understandable, includes few details, & little evidence from text.	-Answer is incorrect & demonstrates inaccurate comprehension. -Answer is incomplete, difficult to understand, includes little detail, and lacks required evidence from text.	-Question is left unanswered

20 (X) _____ = _____ / 100

*10 points will be deducted for assignments that are turned in an electronic format.

*5 points per day will be deducted for late assignments.