

Comparing Nuremberg Laws and Jim Crow Laws

Read the sections below. Use a highlighter to highlight similarities between the two laws, then complete the section on the back.

The Nuremberg Laws – Nazi Germany

In 1935, life under the Nazi policy of persecuting Jews became even harder. That year, the Nuremberg Laws were passed. These two laws made it official government policy: Jews were not wanted in Germany.

The first law, the Law of the Reich Citizen, declared that Jews were no longer German citizens. According to this law, only people with German ancestors, or "German blood," could be citizens.

The second law, the Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor, placed legal restrictions on the lives of Jewish people. It declared that a Jew could not marry a German. Jews could not hire Germans to work in their houses, and Jews could not even raise the German flag.

These laws were the beginning of a landslide of restrictions that were eventually placed on Jews. Since they were not citizens, they could no longer vote or hold public office. They found it more and more difficult to go out anywhere in public.

Often, Jews could not even find medical help when they needed it. Jewish merchants found their shops boycotted or painted with a yellow star warning people not to shop there. Many public facilities such as restaurants no longer served Jews. Many people lost their jobs. "Jews forbidden" signs appeared everywhere.

Jim Crows Laws – United States

After the Civil War, many whites intended to retain their hold on blacks through the use of laws that became known as Black Codes. These were special rules that blacks were held to. White people didn't have to follow these same rules. Eventually, these Black Codes became known as Jim Crow laws.

There were several types of Jim Crow laws enforced until the 1960s. Several states made marriage or even dating between races a crime. Black Americans had to use different facilities from white Americans. They had different bathrooms. They couldn't sit in the same areas in restaurants. Children couldn't attend the same schools. Black Americans were even forced to ride in different sections on buses or on separate railroad cars.

After black males won the right to vote, white politicians came up with a variety of Jim Crow laws to keep blacks from taking over local governments. In some places a poll tax was charged. Knowing that blacks had very little money to spare, they required voters to pay a special tax for voting when they reached the polls.

Literacy tests were routinely given to black voters. If they could not read and/or explain certain complicated written passages, they could not vote. Former slaves who were denied education had no chance to pass these literacy tests.

Grandfather clauses were put into voting rules. If a person's grandfather had not voted, then that person was not allowed to vote. Since blacks had just been given the right to vote, none of their grandfathers had ever voted.

1. List three similarities between the Nuremberg Laws and the Jim Crow Laws.
