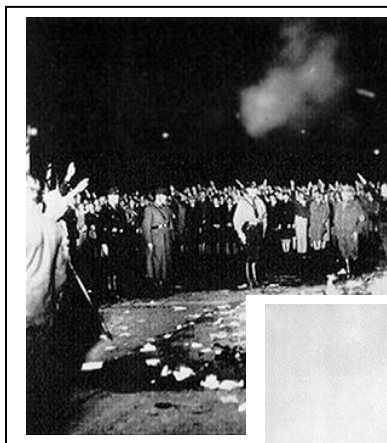




ADDRESS UNKNOWN STUDY GUIDE



Written, Compiled and Edited
by David Berkson

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

By Kressmann Taylor
Adapted by Frank Dunlop
Directed by Mary McDonald-Lewis

Cast

Max Eisenstein	Michael Mendelson*
Martin Schulse	Tobias Andersen*

Time & Place

The story takes place in the office of San Francisco art gallery owner Max Eisenstein, and in the country mansion of Martin Schulse near Munich, Germany.

It begins in November 1932, and ends in March 1934.

There will be no intermission.

Production Staff

Stage Manager	Matthew Martin
Set Design	Sean O'Skea
Costume Design	Mooch Martin
Lighting Design	Kimberly J. Scott
Sound Design	Bob Martin
Education Director	David Berkson
Producers	Wendy Wilcox Michael Mendelson
Producing Partner	The Oregon Holocaust Resource Center

** Appears with the permission of Actors' Equity Association.*

Address Unknown is performed with the permission of its Agent: Macnaughton Lord 2000 Ltd, 19 Margravine Gardens, London W6 8RL, Great Britain.

Address Unknown is a project of Mt. Hood Repertory Theatre Company.

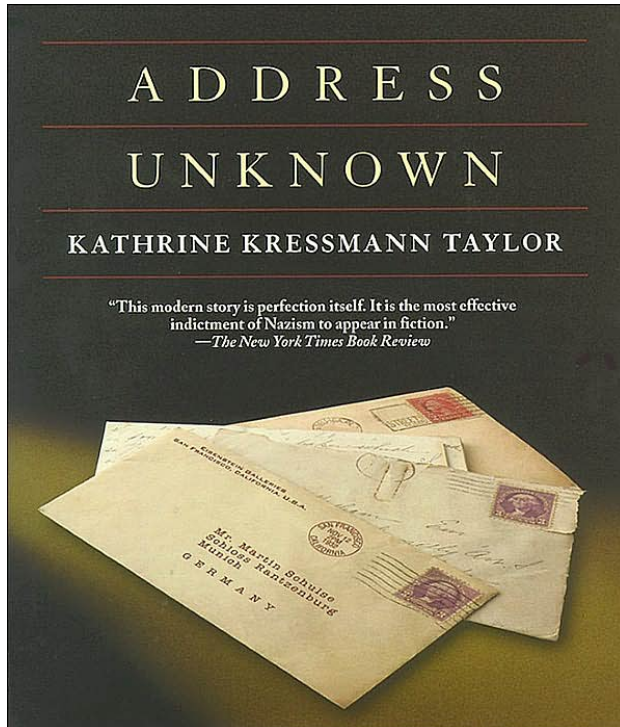
<p>Student Matinees for <i>Address Unknown</i> are Made Possible by a Generous Donation From Debi Coleman</p>
--

Student Matinees at 11:00 AM April 24, 25 and 27
Winningstad Theatre, Portland Center for Performing Arts

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

What Is *Address Unknown*?

Address Unknown is a landmark of literature and history. It began as a novel published in 1938. Three years ago it was adapted into the play you are about to watch. Set between 1932 and 1934 in San Francisco and Germany, *Address Unknown* chronicles the Nazi rise to power through the letters of two German friends: Martin, a gentile, and Max, a Jew. It is a riveting, powerful and wrenching story about the destructive forces of anti-Semitism and fascism.



But *Address Unknown* is much more complicated and thought provoking than a plot synopsis suggests. Written by Portland author Kathrine Kressmann Taylor, the book was published a year before the Nazis began the Second World War by invading Poland, and three years before the United States entered into the conflict. *Address Unknown* was a warning cry against Hitler at a time when many Americans did not care what was happening in Germany. Almost 70 years later, when Frank Dunlop adapted the novel for the stage, question and answer sessions following the performances provoked heated debates and caused many audience members to walk out.

How could anything surrounding the Holocaust be so complicated? World War II was simple, right? The Nazis were the bad guys, and Americans were the good guys. Horrible, even unspeakable acts were committed on a massive and unprecedented scale. But justice prevailed. Good triumphed over evil. When it comes to the Holocaust, what is there left to debate? Haven't we learned all there is to know?



Photograph from CHHRE at Florida Atlantic University

No. History can be a powerful teacher, but only if we pay close attention and ask lots of questions. World War II may seem simple to us, but not to the people who lived through it. Thinking and talking about the Holocaust *shouldn't* be simple – in fact it *ought* to be uncomfortable and even painful. And sometimes live theatre, when it's doing its job,

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

provokes extremely difficult questions not just about our past, but our present and what role we play in history as it unfolds.

That's what we hope will happen when you see *Address Unknown*. This study guide is designed to help you better understand the material and the world and people that helped create it. But it's also designed to look at the real events that inspired the novel and the play. The characters you are about to see on stage are fictional. But Adolph Hitler was not. Nor were the 6 million Jews who died during the Holocaust. Nor were the millions more in Germany and around the world who helped kill them, or turned their heads and allowed the atrocities to happen. History does not write us a blank check: it expects and demands that we participate as active members so that we aren't forced to relive its most horrifying chapters.

What is The Holocaust?

holocaust

Pronunciation: 'hO-l&-"kost, 'hä- also -"käst or 'ho-l&-kost

Function: noun

Etymology: Middle English, from Late Latin holocaustum, from Greek holokauston, from neuter of holokaustos burnt whole, from hol- + kaustos burnt, from kaiein to burn.

1 : a sacrifice consumed by fire

2 : a thorough destruction involving extensive loss of life especially through fire

3 a often capitalized : the mass slaughter of European civilians and especially Jews by the Nazis during World War II -- usually used with *the* **b** : a mass slaughter of people; *especially* : **GENOCIDE**, : the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group.

(Merriam-Webster Dictionary)



Prisoners at Buchenwald Concentration Camp

Between 1933 and 1945, 11 million European people were systematically slaughtered. Of that number, 6 million were Jewish (or two thirds of all European Jews). These deaths were not accidents or “collateral damage”. On the contrary: 11 million people were killed on

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

purpose, either because of their race, religion, color, sexual orientation or political beliefs. History is full of atrocities, but The Holocaust stands out because of its unrivalled scale, cruelty, efficiency and pre-meditation.

No historical event takes place in a vacuum. While there is no justification for the Holocaust, better understanding is possible (and necessary) through an investigation of the events that directly preceded it.

THE END OF WORD WAR I

In the fall of 1918, Germany lost 'the great war' to the Axis Powers: Russia, France, England, Italy and the United States. In 1919, the terms of peace were dictated by the Treaty of Versailles, a document that was negotiated without the participation of Germany. The conditions of the treaty included:

- A turning over of major tracts of land Germany had acquired during the war;
- German reparations of £6,600 (marks) million to Allied powers;
- A ban on the union of Germany and Austria;
- An acceptance of Germany's guilt in causing the war;
- A virtual disarming of the German military.

According to William Shirer, "From that point on, Germany became a house divided." To the vast majority of the German public, The Treaty of Versailles was an insult and humiliation. Almost immediately, the civilian government and military establishment sought to place blame at each other's feet for this national embarrassment.

To make matters worse, Germany's national economy was headed for disaster. The value of German currency began to drop dangerously. In 1919, it took less than 9 marks to purchase a U.S. Dollar. By 1922, it took over 400 marks to buy the same dollar. By November, 1923, the figure 4 trillion marks. German money was virtually worthless. It was actually cheaper to burn money in a fireplace than it was wood. The drop in currency made it virtually impossible for the average German to buy a loaf of bread. A further blow was delivered to the entire world when the American stock market crashed on October 29, 1929. This set off a chain of events that caused a world wide Great Depression.



German Woman Burns Currency in her Fire Place

Prior to the war, the German government had been a monarchy with a strong military culture and infrastructure. Now, under the newly founded Weimar republic, the nation was attempting to govern itself as a representative democracy. But Germany's economy was in

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

a shambles. Its national pride had been deeply wounded. Public opinion against the government was understandably negative. Conditions were ripe for the rise of an authoritarian, even fanatical ideology headed by a strong, charismatic leader.

THE RISE OF ADOLF HITLER



Hitler Salutes Hitlerjugend from his Car

Adolf Hitler was not born in Germany but in Austria on April 20, 1889. From a very early age, he wanted to be an artist, a desire that was not supported by his father, whom Hitler claimed beat him every day. He was a poor student, and dropped out of school at age 16. He twice applied to study at Vienna's Academy of Fine Arts and was rejected on both occasions. When Hitler's mother died in 1907, he quickly spent his inheritance and refused to find steady work. By all accounts, he lived a reclusive, bohemian life in Vienna where he tried to support himself as a painter. He moved to Munich in 1913. A year later, World War I began and Hitler enrolled in the Bavarian army.

One of the frustrating aspects of documenting Hitler's early life is how many questions his biography fails to answer.

How did a reclusive under achiever become one of the 20th century's most brilliant orators and political tacticians - a perpetrator and symbol of unspeakable evil? The clues of his early biography are few and puzzling. Whatever the answer, by the end of the war, Hitler had developed a passionate interest in politics; with a clear, coherent philosophy that he would clearly lay out seven years later in his memoir and manifesto *Mein Kampf*. Here are the basic tenets of Hitler's philosophy:

ANTI-SEMITISM

Adolf Hitler did not invent anti-Semitism. The Old Testament and the Torah record numerous instances of Jewish persecution. The Middle Ages were a horrific period for European Jews, who were demonized by Christians as killers of Jesus and agents of the devil. When the Black Death (or Bubonic Plague) first struck Europe in 1347, some blamed Jews as the perpetrators. In some countries, Jews were forced to live in ghettos, which were subject to violent pogroms. Martin Luther, founder of the Reformation movement, wrote in an anti-Semitic tract called *On the Jews and Their Lies*, "...be on your guard against the Jews, knowing that wherever they have their synagogues, nothing is found but a den of devils..." The early 20th century found anti-Semitism alive and thriving in both Europe and America. Hitler became a passionate convert and made it a staple of his philosophy.

ADDRESS UNKNOWN



1934 Nuremberg Rally Postcard

SUPERIORITY OF THE ARYAN RACE

Anti-Semites often referred to Jewish populations as a “disease”. For Hitler the cure was the absolute supremacy of the Aryan race. The word “aryan” is thousands of years old, and has its roots in Sanskrit and Iranian languages. By the 19th century, however, the term came to be shorthand for Caucasian gentiles, frequently pictured as having white skin, blond hair and blue eyes. Hitler saw the German people as the ultimate embodiment of the Aryan race, which he believed was destined to conquer the world.

“SOCIAL DARWINISM”

This term is not to be confused with the actual works of Charles Darwin, or the current debate over evolution and “intelligent design”. *Social Darwinism* was an ideology popular ideology in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Its mantra “Survival of the Fittest” implied that might made right. Life was a constant battle ground where the strong thrived and the weak floundered and even died. Hitler himself summed it up very effectively when he stated that the world was a place “where one creature feeds on the other and where the death of the weaker implies the life of the stronger.” Hitler was, as we have seen, obsessed with race. It is therefore no surprise that he believed it was the mission of Aryans to engage in violent struggle with Jews and members of other races that he believed to be inferior.



Cover for the Nazi Program for the Exhibition:
“The Eternal Jew”

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

FUEHRERPRINZIP

Hitler viewed representative government as “democratic nonsense”. Throughout political his career, he was able to successfully destroy or undermine democratic institutions to achieve his political ends. He would organize the Nazi party, then later all of Germany, upon the *Fuehrerprinzip*, or the leadership principal. Under this principal, the leader or dictator has absolute responsibility and authority for those under him, and answers to no one.



1938 Postcard Celebrating Austrian “Anschluss”

EXPANSION OF GERMANY’S BORDERS

Lebensraum is a concept that was coined in 1897 by Friedrich Ratzel. It means “living space.” Ultra conservatives believed that a strong unified German space needed to expand its borders to the east, assimilate German speaking people living in other countries and subjugate non-Germans. After Germany’s defeat and its subsequent loss of territory in the first World War, the pursuit of *lebensraum* seemed particularly appealing.

THE HOLOCAUST: A PROLOGUE

A Timeline: 1918-1932

1919

June 28th Germany signs Treaty of Versailles under threat of another Allied Invasion.

July 1st \$1 = £14 German (Mark)s.

September 12th Hitler Joins Right Wing Anti-Semitic German Worker’s Party.

1920

January 1st \$1 = £64.8

Hitler Renames Organization to Nationalist Socialist German Worker’s Party, or Nazi Party for Short.

Hitler Adopts the Swastika as Main Symbol for Nazi Party

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

A Timeline: 1918-1932

1920

July: German Mark Begins to Stabilize.

December: Hitler has built Nazi Party from a handful of people to 3,000 members.

1921



An Early Photograph of Hitler

February: Hitler Makes a Speech to a Crowd of Nearly 6,000 People in Munich.

July 29th Hitler Named Leader (or Führer) of Nazi Party

1922

January 1st Inflation Skyrockets: \$1 = £1919.8

June 24th German Foreign Minister Walter Rathenau is murdered by Right Wing Anti-Semitic Assassins. Rathenau, a Jew, had been a wealthy industrialist and progressive economist.

1923

January 11th French and Belgium Troops Occupy the Ruhr in an Attempt to Force Restorations and Reparations from Germany.

November – Inflation skyrockets. \$1 = 4.2 Trillion Marks. Hunger riots ensue. The Nazi Party boasts approximately 55,000 members.



Nazi Party Members in the Early '20s

November 8th Infamous Beer Hall Putsch. Hitler attempts to take over Bavarian government. The coup fails and Hitler is arrested.

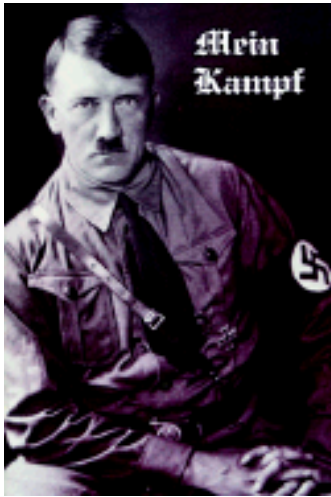
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A Timeline: 1918-1932

1924

February 26th Hitler is tried and convicted for treason.

April 1st Hitler is taken to Landsberg Prison where he is given a private cell. He has access to visitors and access to his private secretary Rudolph Hess.



He spends the next 9 months in prison. During that time, he dictates to Hess his memoir and political manifesto. Originally titled *Four and a Half Years of Struggle against Lies, Stupidity and Cowardice*, his publisher would later shorten the title to *Mein Kampf*, meaning “My Struggle” or “My Battle”.

“The art of leadership. . . consists in consolidating the attention of the people against a single adversary...”
“The personification of the devil as the symbol of all evil assumes the living shape of the Jew... I believe that I am acting in accordance with the will of the Almighty Creator: by defending myself against the Jew, I am fighting for the work of the Lord.” *Mein Kampf* by Adolf Hitler

1925-1929

Hitler is released from prison and reorganizes Nazi party and builds a financial base among Germany’s wealthy donors.

1929

October 29th American stock market crashes. World Wide Great Depression Ensues.



Scenes from American Great Depression

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

A Timeline: 1918-1932

1930

September 14th National Elections are Held. Nazi Party Gains 107 seats in the Reichstag and becomes the second largest political party in Germany.

1932

November 12th Max Eisenstein writes his first letter to Martin Schulse*

March 13th Hitler Runs for President of Germany and is defeated by incumbent Paul von Hindenburg. Hitler receives 30% of the votes, Hindenburg 49%. Hitler also loses the runoff election.

1933

January 30th Hitler is named Chancellor of Germany.

STUDY QUESTIONS WHAT'S BEHIND THE HOLOCAUST?

1. Do you think that Germany's defeat and subsequent Depression helped Hitler gain power? What is the relationship between extreme social upheaval and fanatical hatred?
2. Imagine that the United States is defeated in a war and forced to dismantle its military, as well as accept responsibility for causing the war. Write a short essay or story on how America would respond. What ideals does our culture value most highly, and do we respond when we feel those values threatened?
3. What is the role of a political leader? Is the need for a strong leader compatible with democracy? Identify a contemporary political leader who is strong and charismatic. Does that person represent the interests of his or her supporters? Explain your answer to the last question.
4. We've seen that racism was a huge part of Hitler's ideology. Where is racism present in America today? Is it promulgated on television? In movies? How can racism be fought, and why is it important to do so?

*All of the letters written in the novel play *Address Unknown* are dated. To provide you with a context, we have included some of those letters in the timelines. The play and letters are works of fiction, and will appear in a light grey box whenever they are referenced. All other events referenced in this study guide are facts and part of a documented historical record.

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

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Katherine Kressmann Taylor, America and Hitler's Rise



“A short time before the war, some cultivated, intellectual, warmhearted German friends of mine returned to Germany after living in the United States. In a very short time they turned into sworn Nazis. They refused to listen to the slightest criticism of Hitler. During a return visit to California, they met an old, dear friend of theirs on the street who had been very close to them and was a Jew. They did not speak to him. They turned their backs on him when he held his hands out to embrace them. How can such a thing happen? I wondered....I wanted to write about what the Nazis were doing and to show the American public what happens to real, living people swept up in a warped ideology.”

Katherine Kressmann Taylor, Author of *Address Unknown*

Katherine Kressman Taylor was born in 1903 in Portland, Oregon. The author of the book that the New York Times would call “the most effective indictment of Nazism to appear in fiction,” began her career as an advertising copywriter. The mother of three children, she also taught at Gettysburg College for 20 years.

But it was her keen observation of events in Germany and their implications worldwide that inspired her to write a work of fiction that would leave a lasting impact long after her death in 1996. In November of 1938, just one year before Germany invaded Poland and began the Second World War, Taylor published *Address Unknown* in *Story Magazine*. A year later, it was published as a novella under the masculine sounding name ‘Kressman Taylor’ and sold over 50,000 copies. Yet despite its initial success, it would become virtually impossible to find a copy until 1995, when it was republished to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the World War Two armistice. It also became a surprise bestseller--and a stage play—in France in 1999 (sadly, by this time Kressmann had been dead for three years). It was again republished by Washington Square Press in 2001, has been translated into 17 languages, and became a best-seller in Italy, Germany, and Israel. *Address Unknown* has been performed on stage in seven countries to date, from Europe to South America.

So what happens in *Address Unknown*, and what is behind its enduring and powerful legacy?

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

The Story of *Address Unknown**



Tobias Andersen and Michael Mendelson in *Address Unknown*

In November of 1932, Max Eisenstein sits down to write one of many letters to his friend Martin Schulse. The two men are owners of a profitable art gallery in San Francisco, and Martin has just returned to Germany with his wife and children. The play documents the letters between the two men, which at first reveal a warm, even brotherly friendship. Max's sister, Griselle, was for a time romantically involved with Martin, perhaps while he was still married. Griselle is now living in Germany and building a career as a stage actress.

News of Hitler's rise to power reaches the United States. Max, who is Jewish, asks his friend Martin's opinion of the unfolding events. To his shock, Martin expresses enthusiasm for Hitler – at first with caution and reluctance, then with unbridled enthusiasm as he reveals that he himself has become a member of the Nazi Party. “(Hitler) is like an electric shock,” he writes, “strong as only a great orator and a zealot can be.” The letters between the two friends become harsh and acrimonious. Martin writes to Max: “The Jewish race is a sore spot to any nation that harbors it. I have never hated the individual Jew—youself I have cherished as a friend, but you will know that I speak in all honesty when I say that I have loved you, not because of your race, but in spite of it.” Max, heartbroken, begins to feel desperate: his sister Griselle is gaining notoriety as a stage actress in Germany. But she is particularly vulnerable because she is recognizably Jewish. Max begs his friend (and Griselle's former lover) Martin to protect Griselle. The ensuing betrayal and revenge culminate in a tragic end for both men.

**We've purposely left out any plot 'spoilers' so that you can experience the play's surprises for the first time.*

DRACULA and ADDRESS UNKNOWN

What Do They Have In Common?

The novel *Address Unknown* is written entirely as a series of letters between Max and Martin. One of the most popular examples of the epistolary novel is Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, in which all of the horrors are described as letters written by the story's characters. The epistolary form can be challenging: if there is more than one narrator, who is telling the truth? Might the truth lie outside of the perspective of the correspondents? The epistolary novel forces the reader to consider multiple view points, and identify with characters that he or she might otherwise find repulsive. The Frank Dunlop adaptation of *Address Unknown* that you are about to see preserves the form of the novel: all the action is presented as each character reads the letter that he is in the process of writing.

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

STUDY QUESTIONS AND CLASSROOM EXERCISES WORLD EVENTS AND THE WRITTEN AND SPOKEN WORD

1. Name one book that you have read that affected the way that you look at the world. Describe how you saw the world prior to reading the book and how that world view changed while reading it.
2. Write a fiction or non fiction response to a current event. Identify and support your own moral convictions while attempting to recognize other points of view. Reflect upon your own willingness to look at the world from the point of view of another person. Is it difficult for you to do? Explain why?
3. Write a letter to somebody with whom you are engaged in conflict. Then write a response from the point of view of the other person. Make every effort to “become” that person when you write for him or her. Take on that person’s mannerisms and verbal idiosyncrasies as you write so that we can read his or her “voice”. Write a several letters back and forth and see how the conflict materializes.
4. Make three copies of the above exercise. Choose one person to play yourself, the other person to play your adversary, and have them read the “letters” to the class. What’s it like to see and hear somebody play yourself. What did you find out about your own material by having other people perform it?

AMERICAN AND GERMAN CULTURE AND ADDRESS UNKNOWN

At the beginning of *Address Unknown*, Max writes of Martin’s return to Germany. “How I envy you!” he writes. “The spell...is still strong upon me – the breadth of intellectual freedom, the discussions, the music, the light-hearted comradeship. You go to a democratic Germany, a land with a deep culture and the beginnings of a fine political freedom. It will be a good life.” He is writing in November of 1932, a mere two months before Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany. For her part, Katherine Kressman Taylor wrote *Address Unknown* not only in response to the events in Germany, but to America’s indifference. What cultural currents on this side of the Atlantic shaped American apathy. What kind of Germany had Max known in the ‘20’s that made him so excited for Martin’s return?

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

ANTI-SEMITISM IN AMERICA DURING HITLER'S RISE



One of Henry Ford's Many Anti-Semitic Tracts

More than 100 anti-Semitic organizations blanketed the US with propaganda blaming Jews for all America's ills. Businesses discriminated against Jews, refusing them jobs. Aviation hero Charles Lindberg and automotive giant Henry Ford were just two prominent Americans who expressed hatred towards Jews and admiration for Hitler. Ford, arguably one of the most powerful men in the country, published the anti-Semitic tract *The International Jew* in his newspaper, and received the Iron Cross (a German military decoration) from Hitler himself in 1938. In a public opinion poll taken in 1942 (just a few years after Taylor wrote her story) in answer to the question, "Which groups menace the country most," Jews were listed third, just behind the Germans and the Japanese.

GERMAN CULTURE DURING THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC

One of history's ironies is that great art is often born out of political, social and economic upheaval. This is the story of Germany's Weimar Republic. During the 1920's Berlin, the nation's capital, was a thriving center of intellectual discourse, artistic experimentation, café culture and bohemian nightlife. According to Bruce Thompson, Humanities Lecturer at UC Santa Cruz: "The war and the subsequent inflation had discredited the Victorian values of the older generation, and youth were ready to participate in what Americans were calling the jazz age. No point in saving for marriage in an age of rapid inflation; better to spend and enjoy. Women cut their hair, used makeup, smoked, discarded corsets, and adopted the new rayon stockings. Wild parties and bohemian manners were no longer confined to the fringes." Here is a contemporary account of Berlin's nightlife as described by Harold Nicolson, a British diplomat:

"There is no city in the world so restless as Berlin. Everything moves. The traffic lights change restlessly from red to gold and then to green. The lighted advertisements flash with the pathetic iteration of coastal lighthouses. The trams swing and jingle....In the Tiergarten the little lamps flicker among the little trees, and the grass is starred with the fireflies of a thousand cigarettes. Trains dash through the entrails of the city and thread their way among the tiaras with which it is crowned. The jaguar at the zoo, who had thought it was really time to go to bed, rises again and paces in its cell. For in the night air....there is a throbbing sense of expectancy. Everybody knows that every night Berlin wakes to a new adventure. Everyone knows that next morning, whatever happens, they will feel reborn....."

ADDRESS UNKNOWN



Nicolson's description splendidly evokes the era that would later inspire the celebrated Bob Fosse film musical *Cabaret*. German Expressionism flourished during this time period through the works of painters such as Otto Dix and Max Beckman. The budding Nazi party had a curious and duplicitous relationship with this culture. Hitler considered himself an artist to his dying day and loathed Expressionism (his own paintings were mediocre at best, and were for the most part, realistic). He and his Nazi cronies publicly decried Weimar culture as decadent and perverted.



Above, Marlene Dietrich, in the 1930 film *Der Blaue Engel*; Below, a Triptych by German Expressionist Otto Dix
Both works evoke Weimar's Nightlife Cabaret Scene

Yet members of his own party including Ernst Röhm, the head of the SA brownshirts, notoriously, if semi-secretly, participated in the German night life. This hypocrisy would continue throughout the Holocaust. In 1935, it would become against the law for Jews to intermarry with gentiles. Yet Jewish women were frequently victimized by sexual assaults by their Nazi oppressors, particularly in concentration camps.

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

THE HOLOCAUST A TIMELINE: 1932-1939

1933

January 21st Max Eisenstein writes to Martin “Who is this Adolf Hitler who seems rising toward power in Germany? I do not like what I read of him”.*



Hitler and Göring Wave to Crowds

January 30th Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany. Paul von Hindenburg is re-elected President

February 27th The Reichstag Fire. The building that houses the German legislative branch is burned by unknown arsonists.

February 28th The Nazis claim that the fire is a Communist plot. An emergency decree is signed declaring martial law. 51 anti-Nazis are murdered.

“I don't have to worry about justice; my mission is only to destroy and exterminate, nothing more!”

Hermann Göring, Hitler's Second in Command

March 5 Last free German parliamentary elections are held. The Nazi Party receives only 44% of the popular vote.

March 12th First Concentration Camp opened at Oranienburg outside Berlin.

March 23rd Enabling Act gives Hitler power to bypass the German legislative branch and legislate by decree. Hitler is now dictator of Germany.

March 25th Martin writes to Max:
“I think in many ways, Hitler is good for Germany...we... have found our destiny...”



A Photograph of Oranienburg, the First Concentration Camp

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FIRST WAVE OF ANTI-JEWISH LEGISLATION



**"I am sure things can not be as bad as they are pictured"
Max's Letter to Martin on May 18th, 1933**

1933

On April 1 Hitler orders a boycott of Jewish shops, banks, offices and department stores. But the boycott is mostly ignored by German shoppers and is called off after three days.

On April 7, "The Law of the Restoration of the Civil Service" is introduced which makes 'Aryanism' a necessary requirement in order to hold a civil service position.

On April 22, Jews are prohibited from serving as patent lawyers and from serving as doctors in state-run insurance institutions.

On April 25, a law against the overcrowding of German schools places severe limits on the number of young Jews allowed to enroll in public schools.

On June 2, a law prohibits Jewish dentists and dental technicians from working with state-run insurance institutions.

On May 6, the Civil Service law is amended to close loopholes in order to keep out honorary university professors, lecturers and notaries.

On September 28, all non-Aryans and their spouses are prohibited from government employment.

On September 29, Jews are banned from all cultural and entertainment activities including literature, art, film and theater.

In early October, Jews are prohibited from being journalists and all newspapers were placed under Nazi control.

Source: www.historyplace.com

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

A TIMELINE: 1932-1939

May 10th Book Burning. University gather in Berlin and other German cities and burn books by Freud, Einstein, Thomas Mann and other authors espousing “un-German” ideas.



"...The era of extreme Jewish intellectualism is now at an end....The future German man will not just be a man of books, but a man of character. It is to this end that we want to educate you. As a young person, to already have the courage to face the pitiless glare, to overcome the fear of death, and to regain respect for death - this is the task of this young generation. And thus you do well in this midnight hour to commit to the flames the evil spirit of the past. This is a strong, great and symbolic deed ...

Joseph Goebbels, Nazi Minister of Propaganda, in a Speech to Students in Berlin

Below are photographs of Hitler Youth, or Hitlerjugend, in a variety of activities, including book burning (second photograph from the left). The far right photograph shows Hitlerjugend members who became prisoners of war.



ADDRESS UNKNOWN

A TIMELINE: 1932-1939

1933

June Nazis open Dachau concentration camp. Heinrich Himmler describes it as “the first concentration camp for political prisoners.” The photograph below shows prisoners at forced labor during an SS inspection.

July 9th “We must for the present discontinue writing each other...it is impossible for me to be in correspondence with a Jew..”
Martin to Max



July 14th Nazi party declared only party in Germany.

October 14th Germany quits the League of Nations.

September-November

Max writes Martin three panicked letters regarding the whereabouts of his sister Griselle.

1934

June 30th The "Night of Long Knives." The regular army finds itself outnumbered by the Nazi's SA paramilitary "brownshirts". Hitler has his friend and head of the SA Ernst Röhm, arrested and shot along with other *Sturmabteilung* leaders in an effort to appease the older military establishment.

July 25th Nazis murder Austrian Chancellor Dollfuss.

August 2nd German President Hindenburg dies.

August 19th Adolf Hitler combines the offices of president and chancellor and becomes *Führer* of Germany. Below he is seen saluting storm troopers from his car.



ADDRESS UNKNOWN

A TIMELINE: 1932-1939

1935

March 16th Hitler violates Treaty of Versailles by introducing military conscription (the draft).

September 15th German Jews are stripped of virtually every legal right by Nuremberg Race Laws. Below is the text of those laws.

Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor, September 15, 1935

Entirely convinced that the purity of German blood is essential to the further existence of the German people, and inspired by the uncompromising determination to safeguard the future of the German nation, the Reichstag has unanimously adopted the following law, which is promulgated herewith:

I. 1. Marriages between Jews and citizens of German or kindred blood are forbidden. Marriages concluded in defiance of this law are void, even if, for the purpose of evading this law, they were concluded abroad.

2. Proceedings for annulment may be initiated only by the Public Prosecutor.

II. Sexual relations outside marriage between Jews and nationals of German or kindred blood are forbidden.

III. Jews will not be permitted to employ female citizens of German or kindred blood under 45 years of age as domestic servants.

IV. 1. Jews are forbidden to display the Reich and national flag or the national colors. 2. On the other hand they are permitted to display the Jewish colors. The exercise of this right is protected by the State.

V. 1. A person who acts contrary to the prohibition of Section I will be punished with hard labor.

2. A person who acts contrary to the prohibition of Section II will be punished with imprisonment or with hard labor.

3. A person who acts contrary to the provisions of Sections III or IV will be punished with imprisonment up to a year and with a fine, or with one of these penalties.

VI. The Reich Minister of the Interior in agreement with the Deputy Führer and the Reich Minister of Justice will issue the legal and administrative regulations required for the enforcement and supplementing of this law.

VII. The law will become effective on the day after its promulgation; Section III, however, not until January 1, 1936.

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

A TIMELINE: 1932-1939

1936

February 10th The German Gestapo is placed above the Law.

March 7th German troops occupy the Rhineland.

May 9th Benito Mussolini's Italian forces take Ethiopia.

July 18th Civil War starts in Spain.

August 1st Olympic games begin in Berlin. A record 3.77 million spectators arrive to support a record 4,066 athletes from a record 49 countries, including the United States.



The 1936 Olympic Games Commence



German Spectators Salute Hitler

October 1st Franco declared head of Spanish State.

1937

June 11th Soviet leader Stalin begins a purge of Red Army Generals.

November 5th Hitler secretly reveals his war plans during Hossbach Conference. The primary objective is to create *lebensraum* (living space) for Germans by seizing Czechoslovakia and Austria.

1938

March 12/13th Germany announces "Anschluss" (Union) with Austria.

August 12th German military mobilizes.

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

A TIMELINE: 1932-1939



Hitler and Chamberlain Greet at Munich

September 30th Munich. British Prime Minister Chamberlain appeases Hitler at Munich. 3 million ethnic Germans live in Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland, which Hitler plans to occupy by force. Chamberlain, committed to avoiding war at all costs, meet personally with Hitler, with whom he says: "I got the impression that here was a man who could be relied upon when he had given his word." At the Munich conference, Hitler, Chamberlain, Mussolini, and French Prime Minister, Edouard Daladier give the Sudetenland to Germany without the participation of the Czech government. Afterwards, Hitler gloats: "Our enemies are little worms. I saw them at Munich." On October 15th, troops occupy the Sudetenland; Czech Government resigns.

Kristallnacht: The Night of Broken Glass

November 9/10, 1938



A Synagogue in Saigen Burns

The Nazis order a massive, state sponsored pogrom against the Jews in a night of violence, rioting and looting. Nearly 1,000 synagogues are set on fire and 76 are destroyed.

Continued on next page

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

A TIMELINE: 1932-1939

Kristallnacht: The Night of Broken Glass

November 9/10, 1938



Children Watch as Kuppenheim Synagogue Burns



Remains of a Synagogue in Aachen

More than 7,000 Jewish businesses and homes are looted, about one hundred Jews are killed and as many as 30,000 Jews are arrested and sent to concentration camps. Within the following days, Jews are forced to transfer their businesses to Aryan hands. All Jewish are expelled from public schools. The Nazis force Jews to pay reparations for damages.

1939

January 30th Hitler threatens Jews during Reichstag speech.

March 15/16th Nazis take Czechoslovakia.

March 28th Spanish Civil War ends.

May 22nd Nazis sign "Pact of Steel" with Italy.

August 23rd Nazis and Soviets sign Non-Aggression Pact.

August 25th Britain and Poland sign a mutual Assistance Treaty.

August 31st British Fleet mobilizes; Civilian evacuations begin from London.

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

A TIMELINE: 1932-1939

1939

September 1st Nazis invade Poland. World War II Begins.



German Army Marches Through Warsaw

September 3rd Britain, France, Austria and New Zealand declare War on Germany.

September 4th British Royal Air Force attacks the German Navy.

September 5th United States proclaims neutrality; German troops cross the Vistula River in Poland.

September 10th Canada declares War on Germany; Battle of the Atlantic begins.

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

A TIMELINE: 1932-1939

1939



Jews are Deported from Western Poland

September 17th Soviets invade Poland.

September 27th Warsaw surrenders to Nazis; Reinhard Heydrich becomes leader of the new Reich Main Security office (RSHA).

September 29th Nazis and Soviets divide up Poland.

October Nazis begin euthanasia on sick and disabled in Germany.

November 8th Assassination attempt on Hitler fails.

November 30th Soviets attack Finland.

December 14th Soviet Union expelled from the League of Nations.

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

STUDY QUESTIONS AND CLASSROOM EXERCISES 1933-1938

1. Review pages 15-24 of the study guide, and list three important things the Nazis did to destroy or undermine democracy in Germany.
2. Read the newspaper or watch the news for three days in a row, and list any ways in which you see democracy being undermined in the United States.
3. Josef Stalin once said: "Ideas are far more powerful than guns. We don't let our people have guns. Why should we let them have ideas?" Consider this quote in regards to the massive Nazi book burnings of May, 1933. Why are ideas dangerous to people in power? Are there ideas that you find dangerous? Would you be willing to pass a law banning the expression of those ideas?
4. Without looking it up, write down a definition of The First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Rights you believe it protects. Then Google "First Amendment" and read the text. Compare it with your definition.
5. Why do you think freedom of speech and religion are linked together so frequently?
6. How did persecuting Jews help Hitler achieve his political ends? What could ordinary Germans who disagreed with Hitler have done to combat his racism?
7. Keep a notebook with you for 72 hours. Write down any instances of racism that you encounter in the media (books you read, television shows you watch, music you listen to, etc.). This includes uses of racial epithets and stereotypes. Share what you found with your class. Is racism pervasive in our society? If so, is it something you ignore?

AFTER ADDRESS UNKNOWN Further Research and Reading

Address Unknown ends when Max writes his last letter to Martin on March 3, 1934. Tragically, The Holocaust would continue for another 11 years until the concentration camps were liberated in April of 1945. This study guide covers events up to the beginning of the war, roughly the time that *Address Unknown* was published as a book. Readers Theatre Repertory has prepared a timeline covering the events between 1939-1945, including the establishment, genocide and liberation of the death camps. Please call 503-777-7923, or e-mail artseducation@hotmail.com if you would like a copy of this timeline, or a detailed list for further Holocaust readings. Resources for further reading and research can be found in the bibliography at the end of this study guide.

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

To Debi Coleman,

Our Friend and Champion
Of the Students of the Pacific Northwest
Thank You for Helping us Remember
Thank You for Helping us to Never Forget



READERS THEATRE REPERTORY

(www.readerstheatrerep.org) is an Equity-waiver theatre company in Portland, Oregon, founded in 2001. Now entering its sixth season, RTR is dedicated to staging "small stories with big ideas at their heart": tales that alternately amuse, confront, assuage and inspire. In its six seasons, it has staged over 100 plays and worked with well over 100 of the area's finest actors. Its co-artistic directors are David Berkson, Bob Martin, Matthew Martin, Mooch Martin, Mary McDonald-Lewis and Wendy Wilcox.

ADDRESS UNKNOWN



Oregon Holocaust Resource Center

to remember, to record, to understand...

Producing Partner, *Address Unknown*

The Oregon Holocaust Resource Center (OHRC) has led the effort to increase awareness in Oregon and southwest Washington about the causes and consequences of racism, anti-Semitism, and indifference during the Holocaust and today. By showing the link between the Holocaust and contemporary issues, the Center strives to end indifference, oppression, and the recurrence of genocide and hate crimes.

As a not-for-profit and nonsectarian organization, the OHRC is dedicated to communicating these lessons to teachers, students, and the general public. The Center endeavors to explain and enlighten future generations in fulfillment of the legacy left by victims to the survivors – to remember, to record, to understand.

Among the resources and programs offered by the OHRC are teaching materials, including a Memorial Teacher's Guide to accompany field trips; the Speakers' Bureau, whose members speak to more than 30,000 students in Oregon and southwest Washington areas each year; and the Sala Kryszek Writing & Art Competition, which attracts nearly 500 entries each year and sends the winning students and teachers to Washington D.C., to tour the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The OHRC is also the proud steward of the Oregon Holocaust Memorial, located in Portland's Washington Park. Since the Memorial's dedication in 2004, the Center has trained docents, who have given scheduled tours to approximately 10,000 students and adults.



ADDRESS UNKNOWN

The OHRC continues to enhance its community outreach thanks to two recent grants. Funded by the first Equity Foundation Portland 100 Fund, the OHRC is creating educational trunks that will be sent to schools in the farthest corners of Oregon and southwest Washington. Additionally, a gift from Platt Electric is helping to preserve and document the stories of local survivors and liberators for future generations.

More information on the OHRC can be found at www.ohrc.pacificu.edu.

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<http://www.coe.fau.edu/main/holocaust/>

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Randall Bytwerk, CAS Department, Calvin College
<http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/>

Hitler Timeline
RevisionNotes.Co.Uk
<http://www.revision-notes.co.uk/revision/280.html>

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<http://www.historynewsnetwork.com/>

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Lessons Learned From Gentle Heroism: Women's Holocaust Narratives
By Myra Goldenberg
<http://www3.sympatico.ca/mighty1/essays/lessons2.htm>

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The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich
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The Rise of Hitler
The History Place™
<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/riseofhitler/party.htm>

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<http://www.ushmm.org/>

Weimar Culture/Kafka's Prague
Fred Thompson, Lecturer UC Santa Cruz History Dept
<http://media.ucsc.edu/classes/thompson/weimar.html>

The Weimar Republic and the Third Reich
David W. Morgan, Professor of History Emeritus
Wesleyan University
<http://dmorgan.web.wesleyan.edu/materials/weimar.htm>