

## Worksheet 1: Counterfactuals: “What If?”

### Part A

Counterfactuals are questions that challenge the common perception that historical outcomes are inevitable, or “just meant to happen” by asking the question: “What if?”

Responses to such questions should be **plausible**, or reasonably likely, and based on **evidence**: Nazi beliefs and actions that can be documented.

Instructions: Select one of the perspectives below to respond to the counterfactual question:

*“What if Nazi Germany had won the war? What actions would they have taken in Canada?”*

Political: laws, government structure, rights & freedoms, impact on courts, execution of powers

Social: everyday life, safety and security, treatment of minority groups & opposition

Cultural: promotion of ideology, tolerance of existing cultural expressions, control of public events

Economic: control of production & distribution of goods/service, regulation, privilege, work force

Response (plausible action by Nazis in Canada)
What I know that supports this claim:
Evidence that would strengthen this claim

## Part B

### Determining the Plausibility of an Outcome Based on Evidence

*“What if Nazi Germany had won the war? What actions would they have taken in Canada?”*

*A common response to this counterfactual is that the Nazis intended to implement the final solution - the systematic murder of all Jews - in North America.*

The book, *Statistics, Press and Organizations of Jewry in the United States and Canada* was acquired by Library and Archives Canada in January 2019. Analyze this source below to determine for yourself the extent to which it is compelling evidence that this action was plausible.

Instructions: Read the background information from the following websites and respond to the question below.

[CBC News: Hitler book maps ‘Final Solution in Canada’ Library and Archives Canada curator says](#)

[Government of Canada: Library and Archives Canada acquires rare book once belonging to Adolf Hitler](#)

**Source:** *Statistics, Press and Organizations of Jewry in the United States and Canada*

What type of source is this? Who created it? When and where was it produced?

**Context:**

What other events or developments were happening at the time it was created? How might they have influenced this source?

**Corroboration:**

Is the information in the source reliable? Why or why not? What other sources could be considered to determine the reliability of its information?

**Description:**

What is important about this source?

**Inferences about the perspective of author:**

Why do you think the author made this source?

How might the background of the author and the audience have influenced the source?

Who do you think is the intended audience? What would they want to know?

How could the information in this source be used by its audience?

**Inferences to answer the counterfactual:**

What can you learn from examining this source?

Does this source confirm, extend or contradict what you know?

What does it not tell you?

What further questions do you have after analyzing this source?