

Unit Title: **The Final Solution: The Transition to Mass Murder/Genocide****Common Misperceptions:**

Some students may believe that:

1. The Nazis explicitly planned the genocidal mass-murder of Jews from the beginning of their movement.
2. The term “Holocaust” refers only to the genocidal mass-murder of Jews between 1941 and 1945, but not to the discrimination and persecution in the earlier Nazi years that led up to these events.
3. The Final Solution killing program proceeded through the same steps, in the same order, all over German-occupied Europe.
4. The Nazi leadership forced certain Germans into functioning as killers through threats against them or their families.
5. The death camps were in Germany and the “*final solution*” killings took place there.
6. That all Holocaust victims died in death camps.
7. No one in the German-occupied eastern territories, or in areas allied with Germany, collaborated in the deportation and mass-murder of Jews.
8. No one in the German-occupied eastern territories tried to aid Jews.
9. Most people in the German-occupied eastern territories aided Jews or wanted to do so.
10. Jewish people in the German-occupied eastern territories understood the nature of the threat against them from the beginning.
11. Jewish individuals and communities all responded to the Nazi threat in the same way.
12. Jewish people did not try to maintain their lives, values, and communal connections in the Nazi-created ghettos.
13. Other nations, particularly the Allies, were unaware of the genocidal mass-killings until the end of the war.
14. Rescuing Jewish victims was one of the main Allied goals during the war.