Honorable Mention
Nonfiction Writing, Division II
By Bella Dean, Grade 9
Coventry High School
Carrie Jacobs, Instructor
Abhor Becomes Cruelty
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In the 1940s, a tragedy took place called The Holocaust. It was a brutal period of genocide and dehumanization that went on for six years. This devastation will forever have impacted the face of humanity in many ways. Millions of Jews were massacred by the Nazi German regime between the years of 1933-1945. Jewish culture was maltreated and persecuted, while many in Europe were horrified and caused people to lose family members. Despite the atrocities committed by Hitler and his men towards Jews, these horrible actions will never be forgotten as a moment in history, and even so, it would let those awful people win the Jews over what happened all those years ago.

Before the Holocaust had happened, Hitler was a soldier who served in World War I. It was not until after this war that he began to adopt the "anti-semitic" ideology. As a child in 1898, Hitler grew up with his mother and father in Linz, Austria then moving to Vienna years later. He lived in a Jewish community from 1907 to 1913. He fought with his father who wanted him to enter the civil service, and when he passed, he begged his mother to allow him to pursue his dream to become an artist. When his submission got rejected, he tried again later after his mother passed from breast cancer. His dreams to become an artist had failed and he decided to finally join the civil service, as his father wished. The war gave his life a direction and something he could truly be committed to. Hitler's years in Vienna and on the battlefield were important steps for the development of his ideology. He had bought into the myth that Jews and communists had betrayed Germany during World War I. He then named the Jews the "race-tuberculosis of the peoples"; he identified his initial goal of the German government. He believed that expelling the Jews was the solution to the problems in Germany.

This political message and promise to make Germany strong again won him the election in 1932. Adolf Hitler was appointed chancellor in 1933, ending the reign of German democracy. Soon after coming to power, Hitler then began to force organizations, political parties and state governments into line with the Nazi plans and goals for the future. Many individuals lost the right to privacy, press, speech, and assembly. He relied on terror to achieve his goals, thus creating the SS Police State. These black-shirted SS members served as auxiliary policemen, while later serving as concentration camp guards. They then later became the private army of the Nazi Party. During the months following, SA and Gestapo representatives went door to door to look for Hitler's enemies. Communists, socialists, and anyone against Nazi rule was arrested, and even killed. Starting in 1934, it was illegal to criticize the Nazi government, even jokes were an act of treachery. Jews all over Europe were stripped of their rights of citizenship and humanity. They prevented people with disabilities and black people from having children. During World War II, Germany overran much of Europe using the Blitzkrieg, which is a mass of artillery, planes and tanks. German forces had attacked the Soviet Union in 1941 where the United States and Britain later joined the war against Germany. The Allies continued to attack into Germany, later advancing into the heart of Germany. Nazi Germany surrendered in May 1945.

From a very young age, Hitler had always been stubborn and courageous. Everything changed his perspective when he had enlisted as a soldier in World War I. He was injured and his whole life changed when Germany had lost the war. He was determined to make Germany powerful again and get revenge on those who wronged him and his country. When he began to believe the myth that Jews were responsible for the loss of the war, he hated Jews which then later turned into mass genocide of the Jewish people. Regardless, he was introduced to the idea

of anti-semitism at a young age. He learned how it, along with social reforms, could be successful. World War I had played a very decisive role in Hitler's life. It made him realize how uncertain the future of his country really was. He became spiteful, violent and incensed. He had wished he could wipe the face of the Jewish population off of Europe forever.

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