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Deadly Medicine and World War II: Cautionary Insight into Ethical Guidelines Left Unchecked

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Deadly Medicine and World War II: Cautionary Insight into Ethical Guidelines Left Unchecked
Chair: Dr. Annette Finley-Croswhite
Department of History

Language and Mass Murder during the Holocaust
By JESSICA MADRIL
This paper explores how German doctors and scientists used terms like "racial hygiene" and "eugenics" to legitimate mass murder. It explores the evolution of ideas that eventually led to ethical violations in medicine before World War II even began.

Scientific Research and Ethical Crimes in Germany in the 1930s and 1940
By JAMES HENNESSEY
This paper highlights the tremendous disconnect that existed in Nazi Germany between medical practice and ethical ideals. It explores the human experimentation, mutilation and extermination that took place during the World War II as doctors committed horrific crimes to enhance the Nazi state's scientific understanding. It offers a cautionary tale about ethical violations and medicine.

‘Perverse Logic’: The Transformation of German Medicine into Nazi Medicine
By SARAH KECK
This paper discusses the Eugenics movement in Germany and the United States. It shows how eugenics led to sterilization and euthanasia projects in Germany under the title “Action T-4” in the 1930s. The German T-4 physicians eventually ended up in Nazi death camps by 1942 overseeing medical experiments tied to the “Final Solution.” They were perpetrators in crimes against humanity.

Nazi Medicine and Josef Mengele
By LINDSEY NORTHRUP
Dr. Josef Mengele, commonly known as the "Angel of Death" was an SS physician who worked at the infamous Auschwitz death camp in Poland. This paper explores his background and legacy with regard to Nazi medicine. Mengele committed some of the worst ethical violations in medical history.

The Creation of the Nuremberg Code and its Impact on Medical Ethics
By ELISA HENDRIX
This paper explores the Nuremberg Code, a set of ten ethical ideals adopted by the Allied countries after World War II during the trial known as the Doctor's Trial held at Nuremberg. This legal forum considered the fate of twenty-three doctors and health administrators who were found responsible in the post-war period for conducting unethical medical experimentation on human subjects and participating in mass murder during the Holocaust. The judges were shocked by what they heard in the witness testimonies in accounts of what became known as crimes against humanity. The resulting Nuremberg Code was devised to prevent such ethical violations in the future.