

Week Five

Outline Lecture Thirteen—Crossing the Threshold of Humanity: Atrocities in W.W.II

I) Japan and the Nanking Massacre

- a) Japanese Invasion in 1937
 - i) Atrocities in Chinese wartime capital in Nanking
 - (1) Iris Chang's *The Rape of Nanking*
 - (2) "baptism by blood"
- b) Purpose for atrocities?
 - i) Cult of cruelty as self-perpetuating phenomenon

II) Holocaust in Europe

- a) The Policy of *Lebensraum*
 - i) Relocation of all Slavs
 - ii) Other target groups of Nazi atrocities: Gypsies, Poles, communists
 - iii) A Europe "Free of Jews" *Judenfrei*
 - (1) January, 1942 Conference at Wannsee
 - (a) Plans for deportation
 - (b) Sterilization for the *Mischlinge*
- b) The "Final Solution"
 - i) Elie Wiesel's *Night*
 - (1) Illusion of normalcy
 - (2) The Rude Awakening at Auschwitz
 - (3) Humanity at the Brink
- c) What makes the Holocaust unprecedented? What makes it unique?