



Resources

Holocaust Unit

Choices - Resource D.2

Main Arguments of the Prosecution

Prosecution Opening Statement

'In this place, where I stand before you, Judges of Israel to serve as the prosecutor of Adolf Eichmann, I do not stand alone. With me, here, at this very moment, stand six million prosecutors. But they cannot stand up, point an accusing finger to the glass cell and cry out: 'I accuse!' Their ashes were heaped in Auschwitz and Treblinka, washed away by the rivers of Poland, and their graves are scattered throughout Europe. Their blood cries out but their voice is not heard. Therefore I shall speak for them and say in their name the terrible indictment.'

The basic strategy of the prosecution was to:

1. Argue that under the doctrine advanced by the defense, Hitler alone would be solely responsible for these crimes, and Hitler would be immune as a head of state.
2. Give a human side to the horror by having survivor testimony.
3. Use Eichmann's own words to belie the fact that he was a disinterested bureaucrat only carrying out orders, but rather was passionate in his obsession with killing Jews.
4. Use incriminating testimony from his colleagues at the Nuremberg Trials, the contents of thousands of documents, many of which were signed by Eichmann, and the Sassen interviews.

Source: <http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org>