**RUSSIAN POGROMS Name**

*Pogroms*were large-scale, **targeted**, and repeated rioting against [Jewish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jews) people in Eastern Europe, mostly Russia, that first began in the 19th century. Pogroms began occurring after the Russian Empire, which before this time had very few Jews, gained territories with large Jewish populations during 1791–1835. These territories were called "the [Pale of Settlement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pale_of_Settlement)" by the Russian government. Jews were “permitted” to live there, and it was within this area that most of the pogroms took place. Most Jews were not allowed to move to other parts of Russia unless they **converted** to the [Russian Orthodox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Orthodox_Church) [state religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_religion).

Technically, the first pogrom was in Odessa in 1821. Fourteen Jews were killed in riots **initiated** by local Greeks after the execution of Gregory V in Constantinople. However, it was not until 1881 that the term *pogrom* became commonly used in English as a large-scale wave of anti-Jewish riots that swept through south-western Russia.

**1881-1885 Pogroms**

In 1881 Tsar Alexander II was assassinated. Some blamed the Jews, and sadly the Russian newspapers were responsible for spreading this rumor.  The assassination caused attacks on Jewish communities. During these pogroms thousands of Jewish homes were destroyed, many families were **reduced to poverty**, and large numbers of men, women, and children were injured in 166 towns in the southwest **provinces** of the Empire such as [Ukraine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukraine).

There also was a large pogrom on the nights of 15–16 April 1881 (the day of [Eastern Orthodox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox) Easter) in the city of [Yelizavetgrad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yelizavetgrad). On April 17 the Army units were sent out and were forced to use firearms to stop the riot. However, that only made the whole situation worse. On April 26, 1881, even bigger disorder filled the city of [Kiev](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiev). The Kiev pogrom of 1881 is considered the worst one that took place in 1881. The pogroms of 1881 did not stop then. They continued on through the summer, spreading across a big territory of modern-day Ukraine.

The new [Tsar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsar) [Alexander III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_III_of_Russia) **initially** blamed **revolutionaries** and the Jews themselves for the riots, and in May 1882, he issued the [*May Laws*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/May_Laws), a series of harsh restrictions on Jews. The pogroms continued for more than three years. At this time many Jews immigrated to the United States.

**1903–1906 Pogroms**

A much bloodier wave of pogroms broke out from 1903 to 1906, leaving an estimated 2,000 Jews dead and many more wounded, as the Jews **took to arms** to defend their families and property from the attackers. The 1905 pogrom against Jews in [Odessa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odessa) was the most serious pogrom of the period, with reports of up to 2,500 Jews killed. Many Jews, who returned to their homes when it was safe, found their house thoroughly **looted** or even destroyed.

The greatest numbers of pogroms were in the [Chernigov](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chernigov) [Gubernia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gubernia) in northern Ukraine. The pogroms there in October 1905 took 800 Jewish lives, the material damages estimated at 70,000,000 **rubles** ($1,223,242), 400 were killed in [Odessa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odessa), over 150 in [Rostov-on-Don](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rostov-on-Don), 67 in [Yekaterinoslav](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yekaterinoslav), 54 in [Minsk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minsk), 30 in [Simferopol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simferopol), and over 40 in [Orsha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orsha).

In 1906, the pogroms continued. The pogroms are generally thought to have been either organized or at least allowed by the authorities. Official prejudice toward and mistreatment of Jews influenced **numerous** anti-Jewish people to **presume** that their violence was okay because the government was not trying to stop pogroms, nor did they punish those responsible for them.

**Influence of the pogroms**

The pogroms of the 1880s caused a worldwide **outcry** , and along with harsh Russian laws, caused two million Jews to leave the [Russian Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Empire) between 1880 and 1914, with many going to the [United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom) and [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States). As with all hard times in history, poems and other literature were written to express the pain of the time. There is even an animated Disney movie, *An American Tale,* which is based on the Russian pogroms causing the family to move to America. In addition, a pogrom is one of the central events in the play [*Fiddler on the Roof*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiddler_on_the_Roof), which is adapted from Russian author [Sholem Aleichem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sholem_Aleichem)'s Tevye the Dairyman stories, and in 1903, Hebrew poet [Hayyim Nahman Bialik](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hayyim_Nahman_Bialik) wrote the poem” In the City of Slaughter” in response to the [Kishinev pogrom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kishinev_pogrom).

**Vocabulary: Choose the better synonym for each word or phrase as used in the context of the text of this essay.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. targeted | affected | aimed |
| 1. converted | switched | investigated |
| 1. initiated | started | finished |
| 1. “reduced to poverty” | moved away | became very poor |
| 1. provinces | The Tsar’s decree | areas/states |
| 1. initially | firstly | finally |
| 1. revolutionaries | rebels | heroes |
| 1. “took to arms” | worked out and got strong | took up weapons/guns |
| 1. looted | robbed | gave them money |
| 1. rubles | Russian bread | Russian dollars |
| 1. numerous | many | math |
| 1. presume | suppose | know |
| 1. outcry | protest | cacophony |

1. **What two words in this list are related? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Complete the following sentences using words from the word bank:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [*May Laws*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/May_Laws) | Tsar Alexander II | permitted | two million | 19th |
| Jewish | Russian newspapers | Russia | defend | Kiev |

1. Pogroms were aimed at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people.
2. The pogroms were mostly in the country of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. They began in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Century.
4. Jews were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to live in "the [Pale of Settlement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pale_of_Settlement).”
5. Some people blamed the Jews for the assassination of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. Rumors spread by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ didn’t help the Jews.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pogrom of 1881 is considered the worst one that took place in 1881.
8. In May 1882 issued the *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*, a series of harsh restrictions on Jews
9. A much bloodier pogrom broke out from 1903 to 1906, as the Jews took to arms to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_their families and property from the attackers.
10. The pogroms of the 1880s along with harsh Russian laws, caused \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jews to leave the [Russian Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Empire)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ARISE and go now to the city of slaughter;  Into its courtyard wind thy way;  There with thine own hand touch, and with the eyes of   thine head,  Behold on tree, on stone, on fence, on mural clay,  The spattered blood and dried brains of the dead.  Proceed thence to the ruins, the split walls reach,  Where wider grows the hollow, and greater grows the   breach;  Pass over the shattered hearth, attain the broken wall  Whose burnt and barren brick, whose charred stones reveal  The open mouths of such wounds, that no mending  Shall ever mend, nor healing ever heal.  There will thy feet in feathers sink, and stumble  On wreckage doubly wrecked, scroll heaped on manuscript,  Fragments again fragmented—  Pause not upon this havoc; go thy way.  The perfumes will be wafted from the acacia bud  And half its blossoms will be feathers,  Whose smell is the smell of blood!  And, spiting thee, strange incense they will bring— | Banish thy loathing—all the beauty of the spring,    The thousand golden arrows of the sun,  Will flash upon thy malison;  The sevenfold rays of broken glass  Over thy sorrow joyously will pass,  For God called up the slaughter and the spring together,—  The slayer slew, the blossom burst, and it was sunny   weather!  Then wilt thou flee to a yard, observe its mound.  Upon the mound lie two, and both are headless—  A Jew and his hound.  The self-same axe struck both, and both were flung  Unto the self-same heap where swine seek dung;  Tomorrow the rain will wash their mingled blood  Into the runners, and it will be lost  In rubbish heap, in stagnant pool, in mud.  Its cry will not be heard.  It will descend into the deep, or water the cockle-burr.  And all things will be as they ever were. |

**Answer these questions based on the poem.**

1. This poem excerpt is written in
   1. stanzas and lines
   2. paragraphs and sentences
2. The lines “they will bring” and “of the spring” is an example of
   1. Rhythm
   2. Simile
   3. Idiom
   4. Rhyme
3. The tone of this poem is
   1. Hopeful
   2. Cheerful
   3. Severe
   4. Simple

**28-30 Give three examples of dark descriptions given by the author.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_