

The Nazis Gain Political Control

1933

30th January 1933 - Hitler is appointed as Chancellor of Germany

17th February 1933 - Hermann Goering is appointed as Chief of Police

22nd February 1933 - 50,000 SA members appointed as auxiliary officers; given same rights and jobs as official police force

27th February 1933 - Reichstag Fire; started by communist Marinus van der Lubbe

28th February 1933 - 'Law for the protection of the people and the state' passed; gave police emergency rights to search houses, confiscate property and detain people without trial.

5th March 1933 - Reichstag elections. Nazis win 44% of the vote (288) and do not have enough to run government yet.

24th March 1933 - Hitler wanted to pass an enabling law which would allow for Nazi dictatorship; Reichstag succumbs to Nazi pressure and intimidation and essentially votes itself out of existence.

7th April 1933 - 'Law for the restoration of professional civil service' Jews are banned from becoming professors, judges or teachers.

2nd May 1933 - Trade unions are banned.

14th July 1933 - Law against formation of new political parties. Opponents flee abroad or are arrested and sent to concentration camps.

20th July 1933 - Concordat (agreement) between Nazis and church, religious freedom promised if church stays out of political affairs. Hitler does not uphold this deal.

1934

30th January 1934 - 'Law for reconstruction of the state' passed; states reduced to provinces and power is passed to central government

29th-30th June 1934 - 'Night of the Long Knives' Rohm and nearly 400 other SA members executed.

1st August 1934 - 'Law concerning the head of state of the German reich' passed; roles of president and chancellor are merged into 'Fuhrer'

2nd August 1934 - President Hindenburg dies. The German army swears an oath of loyalty to Hitler as their Fuhrer.

The Nazi's Police State

The SS (Schutzstaffel)

The Schutzstaffel was set up in 1925. After the SA had been virtually destroyed, the SS grew into a huge group that had been led by Heinrich Himmler from 1929.

The Nazi's Police State (cont)

SS men were highly trained to show total obedience to the Fuhrer and were expected to be fine examples of a good German. They were expected to have a strong German background and heritage and were expected to marry 'radically pure' wives.

The SS had many responsibilities including destroying enemies of the Nazi Party and later, carrying out the anti-Jewish policies. The SS also had to maintain concentration camps.

By 1934 there were 50,000 members of the SS.

The Gestapo

The Gestapo was the secret Nazi Police, operated by Reinhard Heydrich and feared by ordinary Germans. It was set up in 1933 by Hermann Goering.

The Gestapo could arrest Germans under suspicion of them having committed a crime against the Nazi Party and could send them to prison or concentration camps without trial or explanation.

By 1938 the Nazi Party had 5 million members and 500,000 party officials - many whom were part of the Gestapo.

There were 400,000 'Black Leaders'. There was one of these on every street and in every block of flats in every town and city across Germany. They snooped on neighbours and reported suspicious behaviour.

By 1939 there was an estimated 160,000 under arrest for 'political crimes'.

The German Police and Courts

Top jobs in police forces were given to Nazis. As a result, police added snooping to their normal law and order role. They were under strict instructions to ignore crimes committed by Nazis.

Similarly, the Nazi party controlled judges and courts which meant enemies of the Nazis rarely received a fair trial.

In 1934 the People's Court was set up to try people accused of crimes against the Nazis or Germany. Here the judges were loyal Nazis and knew to act as Nazis expected them to.

The Minister of Justice, Roland Freisler, would frequently check in to see if judges had been too lenient and even Hitler would sometimes alter sentences that were 'too soft.'

The People's Court quickly filled up with prosecutions. Between 1934 and 1939, 534 people were sentenced to death and executed for acts of opposition against the Nazis. In 1939 alone there were over 160,000 under arrest for political offences.

The Nazi's Police State (cont)

Even lawyers were put under control. In October 1933 the Nazis established the German Lawyers' Front and by the end of the year there were over 10,000 members.

Concentration Camps

Camps were usually built in isolated rural areas and were run by the SS.

Often places were not found on maps and did not exist to most Germans. Inside the camps, prisoners were forced to do hard physical labour, food was limited and harsh discipline was in order.

Nazi Propaganda and Censorship

Josef Goebbels was the 'Minister for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda'

Newspapers

Goebbels made sure that newspapers printed only stories which supported the Nazi Government. A press agency was set up to inform newspapers on what the news should be.

Editors of Berlin's newspapers had to meet with Goebbels every morning to be informed on what headlines should be and what should be printed.

In October 1933, the Editor's Law made newspaper editors responsible for the actions of journalists. Editors could be punished for things they published.

Nazi Festivals

30th January - The Day of the Seizing of Power

24th February - Nazi Party founding anniversary

20th April - Hitler's birthday

1st May - The 'National Day of Labour'

May (2nd Sunday) - Mother's Day

July (2nd Sunday) - The Day of German Culture

September - The Reich Party Day Rally

October - Thanks for Harvest

9th November - Remembrance of Munich Putsch.

December - Yuletide

Radios

Goebbels formed the 'Reich Radio Company' which controlled all radio stations in Germany.

Millions of cheap radios, 'The People's Receiver' were also made, costing 76 marks. Another radio 'The German Mini Receiver' cost 36 marks, or about one week's salary.

Nazi Propaganda and Censorship (cont)

The Nazis had these radios designed a particular way so that foreign programmes couldn't be heard, listening to BBC broadcasts was punishable by death.

By 1939, 70% of German homes had a radio. For those without a radio, 6,000 loudspeaker pillars were erected in public squares all over Germany.

People were ordered to listen to Nazi programs at certain times of day. In 1935 the estimated audience for Hitler's speeches reached 56 million.

Typical broadcasts included Hitler's speeches, German music and programs about German history.

Films

The cinema was very popular in Germany by the 1930s so Goebbels encouraged new films.

Admission to cinemas was only allowed at the beginning of the program so Germans would have to sit through Nazi propaganda messages beforehand.

Movies were well made to entertain audiences. 'The Triumph of the Will' and 'Olympiade' were directed by the famous female director, Leni Riefenstahl.

There was heavy censorship. eg. Tarzan not being shown due to partial nudity.

Meetings & Rallies

Every rally event was staged to perfection. Gave Germans a powerful feeling of wishing to belong.

Music

Jazz music banned as it was deemed 'black' music.

Music should be 'German' including folk songs, classical music and marching music.

Theatre

Cheap tickets offered.

**Literature

Nazi Control of Young People

School

Hitler was eager to begin an indoctrination programs in schools. It began with the Ministry of Education having to approve all textbooks from 1935 and all teachers being forced to give up their holidays to attend Nazi training camps and join the German Teachers' League, or otherwise face being sacked. 97% of teachers joined.

Nazi Control of Young People (cont)

Under the Nazis the importance of some school subjects changed.

Physical Education was given 15% extra time in school time tables as for the Nazis it was important to have fit, healthy, young people. Sports such as boxing became compulsory for boys. Pupils had to pass a sports examination with unsatisfactory performance leading to expulsion in some cases.

History was to concentrate on the rise of the Nazi party, the harshness of the treaty of Versailles, the evils of communism and the Jews and the failure that was the Weimar Republic. Students were shown how 'the Nazi party was saving Germany'

Biology was used to explain Nazi ideals on race and that Germans were the master Aryan race, with other races being inferior. Pupils were taught how to measure skulls and to classify different races.

German taught pupils to be aware of their national identity by reading stories about German heroes

Geography taught about the lands which were once part of Germany and had been taken away by the treaty and the need for more 'living space'

Religious Studies was considered by the Nazis to be much less important than other subjects and could be dropped completely by students from 1937.

Girl-Only Subjects Domestic Science and Child Care taught to girls. 'Eugenics' was also taught which taught girls how to produce the perfect children. Designed to prepare girls for roles of wife and mother.

Special Schools

NAPOLAs - National Political Institutes of Education. Were controlled by SS and educated boys from ages 10-18 to be future chiefs for government and army. 21 NAPOLAs set up by 1938.

Adolf Hitler Schools - 10 created to provide free boarding education for 12-18 year olds. Children selected on Aryan appearance and leadership qualities. Nazi leaders did not send their own children here.

Leisure Time

Hitler wanted to create a 1000 year Reich. He believed this could best be done by gaining the support of young people.

Hitler Youth The Hitler Youth was formed in the mid 1920s. After the Nazis took over in 1933, young Germans were encouraged to join the Hitler Youth and most other youth organisations shut down. By 1936 it was made near impossible not to join, by 1939 there were near 8 million young Germans in the Hitler Youth movement.

Nazi Control of Young People (cont)

Within the Hitler Youth organisation there were 5 different branches for young people to join.

'Pimpfen' ('The Little Fellows') for boys aged 6-10.

'Jungvolk' ('The Young Folk') for boys aged 10-14.

'Jungmadel' ('Young Girls') for girls aged 10-14

'Hitlerjugend' ('The Hitler Youth' or 'HJ') for boys aged 14-18.

'Bund Deutsche Madchen' ('The League of German Maidens') for girls aged 14-18.

The Nazis believed the girls' youth organisations were less important than boys as girls were not prepared to enter military service.

Annual camps where they learnt to read maps, did gymnastics, did sports and were taught Nazi ideas.

Training at Hitler Youth camps was taken very seriously. All boys had to fire a gun at a target that was 10m away or they were not allowed to progress to the next organisation.

'Performance books' were kept. Those with the best marks were sent to special schools.

'Adolf Hitler' schools took boys from Jungvolk at the age of 12 and gave them 6 years of tough training until they were sent to the army or university.

The very best of these pupils were sent to 'Order Castles'. They were stretched to the limits of endurance here.

Activities at Order Castles included being woken up in the middle of the night to do open air exercises in the middle of winter, war games with live ammunition and washing in an icy stream kilometers away from living quarters.

Nazi Control of Women

The Nazis believed that the family was really important to Germany. They saw the family as a good way in which their ideas about men and women were best shown.

In Weimar Germany, women had gained much more freedom. From 1919 they were allowed to vote or get new jobs.

By 1933 there were 100,000 women teachers, 13,000 women musicians and 3000 women doctors. 1/10 of the Reichstag members were women.

The Nazis believed women and men had different roles in life. They believed men had the role of the worker or soldier, provider and defender. They also believed a woman's place was in the home having children and caring for the family.

Nazi Control of Women (cont)

'Kinder, Kirche, Küche' (meaning 'Children, Church, Cooking') was widely used by Nazis and summarised the life of a woman.

'Volkischer Beobachter' brandished the headline 'No true woman wears trousers' when German film star Marlene Dietrich appeared wearing trousers in public.

Gertrude Scholtz-Klink was considered the Nazis' ideal German woman. She had blonde hair and blue eyes, 4 children and was devoted to her family. She accepted the male leadership of the Nazi party without question. In 1934 she was made head of the Woman's Bureau but never held any real power.

The Nazis believed that Germany had been strongest when everyone knew their jobs in society and argued that if every Germany contributed in the ways that Nazis expected that the country would be great again.

Another reason was due to Germany's falling birth rate. In 1900, 2 million babies were born in Germany each year but this fell to 1 million babies in 1933. For the Nazis, if they every wanted Germany to be powerful again the population had to increase. They encouraged German women to have big families and be 'kinde-rsegen' ('blessed with children')

After 1933 the Nazis encouraged more pregnancies in various ways.

In 1933 the 'Law for the Encouragement of Marriage' was passed. The government would give all newly married couples a loan of 1000 marks (9 months wages). When their first child was born, they could keep a quarter of the money. This continued until the birth of their fourth child where they could keep all the money. A household was not considered a family unless there were 4 children.

Homes for unmarried women with children were set up. These were called 'Lebensborn' ('The Spring of Life') and could be recognised by a white flag and red dot in the middle. These homes also acted as brothels. Unmarried women could fall pregnant by SS men and could donate a baby to the Fuhrer. Between 1936 and the end of World War II in 1945, between 6,000 and 8,000 babies were born in Lebensborn clinics (though some sources estimated the number was a much higher 20,000).

The Nazi government offered special loans to new brides who agreed not to take a job. 800,000 German women took this up.

To improve fertility, women were encouraged to stop smoking, stop slimming and do sport.

Newly married women could attend mothercraft and homecraft classes.

As a result, by 1936 there were 30% more births than 1933.

Nazi Control of Women (cont)

On Hitler's mother's birthday (12 August), medals were awarded to women with large families for their 'services to the Reich'

By 1938 the laws for divorce were changed, this became to easy to get if a husband or a wife were unable to have children.

Women were banned from jury service because the Nazis said they were unable to think without emotion.

Contraception and abortion made illegal.

'German Woman's Enterprise' established.

Women did not oppose this movement. 1000 letters of praise to Hitler per week.

Nazi Control of Churches

In 1933, nearly all of German's population of 60 million were Christians. 1/3 were Catholic and 2/3 were Protestant (Catholics found mostly in South and Protestants found mostly in North)

The Nazis could either destroy the churches as a potential threat or use the church for their own benefit.

The Nazis were mainly concerned as the Protestant church had more members than any other organisation in Germany which had a potential for trouble. As religious beliefs were strongly-held in Germany people who believed in God may be less likely to worship Hitler as a leader of Germany. Furthermore, the different German churches taught people very clear rules of behaviour and attitude. What if religious views conflicted with Nazi wants? The greatest fear Hitler held was that church meetings may be used for spreading anti-Nazi ideals.

Hitler was particularly concerned about the Catholic church as they owed their first allegiance to the Pope instead of Hitler. They had divided loyalties.

There were thousands of Catholic schools and youth organisations, whose message to the young was at odds with that of the Nazi party. Moreover, the Catholics consistently supported another political groups known as the Centre Party - meaning they were a potential political opponent.

By destroying the church, any opportunity for religious rebellion against the Nazi control of Germany was removed.

However, many protestants had voted for Hitler. Protestant pastors were among the most popular and successful Nazi election speakers. There was also common ground between the churches and several Nazi issues - such as the importance of family life.

Nazi Control of Churches (cont)

There was some co-operation between the Nazis and the Church after the Nazis took over in 1933 but it did not last long. Hitler had signed a concordat (an understanding) in 1933. As Hitler became more stronger and more secure as Germany's leader, he broke his part of the deal with the Catholic church and did what he wanted. Hitler and the Nazis made it clear who was in charge. Priests were harassed and arrested, Catholic schools interfered with and eventually abolished, Catholic youth movements were shut down and monasteries were closed.

The Catholic Church mostly did not fight back, fearful of what Hitler may do. However, the Pope released a famous statement 'Mit Brennender Sorge' '(With Burning Anxiety)' in 1937, in which he publicly attacked the Nazi system of rule. However, Hitler was in total control.

Hitler also attempted to gain control of all the Protestant churches in Germany. He attempted to bring all the different Protestant groups together in one 'Reich Church'. This was led by a Nazi Bishop called Ludwig Muller. People in this church became known as the 'German Christians' and adopted Nazi-style uniforms, salutes and marches.

Hitler and the Nazi Party even encouraged an alternative religion to the churches. This was called the 'German Faith Movement'. This involved pagan-style worship of nature, centred on the sun. As a result the vast majority of German people who were churchgoers either supported the Nazis or did little to oppose them.

However there was also some notable opposition. Such as Cardinal Galen, an important Catholic official. In 1941, he led lots of popular protests against the Nazi policies of euthanasia. These protests forced the Nazis to temporarily stop implementing this policy. Galen had such strong support among his followers that the Nazis decided it was too risky to try and silence him because they did not want trouble whilst Germany was at war.

Protestant ministers also resisted the Nazis. Pastor Martin Niemoller was one of the Nazi's biggest criticsers. Niemoller was a FWW hero and had one Germany's highest award for bravery (same as Hitler). To show his opposition to the Nazis he formed a group for religious people who opposed Hitler, 'The Pastors' Emergency League.' The next year he helped form an alternative Protestant Church to the Nazis' Reich Church, the 'Confessional Church'. Niemoller was placed in a concentration camp as a result. Although his death was ordered, Niemoller survived.

Nazi Control of Churches (cont)

Other religious groups complained about the Nazis too. Germany's 30,000 Jehovah's Witnesses believed they should live according to their religious beliefs and not by the government. Most ended up in concentration camps and 1/3 died.

Nazi Attitude to Undesirables

The Nazis strongly supported the idea of 'volkgemeinschaft' - when every German was working for the good for everyone else. Anyone who did not fit into this idea was considered an 'outsider'

For the Nazis, the ideal Germans were 'socially useful'. Anyone else was seen as a burden on the community.

This included the work-shy, the unhealthy, severely disabled, mentally handicapped, tramps and beggars. Nazis believed they should not be tolerated in society.

Nazis especially disliked 'gypsies'. Not only were they physically unlike Germans but they were also seen as homeless and work-shy. There were only about 30,000 'gypsies' in Germany but the Nazis were determined to prevent them from mixing with Germans. In 1935 marriage between gypsies and Germans was banned. They were also made to give up travelling and settle in homes. In 1938 a law for the 'Struggle against the Gypsy Plague' was issued. All gypsies were registered by Nazis and watched.

Groups such as alcoholics, prostitutes, homosexuals, criminals, eccentrics and juvenile delinquents were also seen as 'anti-social' by Nazis.

The Nazis attempted to stop these people from having children. In July 1933 Nazis passed a sterilisation law which made it legal for them to do as they wished. In September 1933, a massive round up of 'tramps' and 'beggars' began and thousands were sterilised. Between 1934 and 1945 around 350,000 were sterilised.

From 1939, Nazis simply began to kill these people instead. Around 200,000 people, including 5,000 children, were murdered in specially-built 'nursing homes'.

Another way to deal with outsiders was to send them to concentration camps. A special camp for youths was set up in 1937. In 1938, another round up of 'outsiders' netted another 11,000 to concentration camps. Most Germans turned a blind eye to this.

By 1939 the Nazi campaign began to kill those with mental illnesses or fatal illnesses. Across Germany, 6000 handicapped babies, children and teenagers were killed by starvation or lethal injections.

Nazi Attitude to Undesirables (cont)

CASE STUDY - Hartheim Castle Hartheim Castle, near Linz in Austria. In 1898 the castle was donated to charity and became a home for physically and mentally handicapped children. 42 years later, the Nazis were using most of the ground floor of the castle as a huge gas chamber to murder thousands of men, women and children. In September 1939, Hitler gave permission to eradicate physically or mentally handicapped people. Now, they could be taken from their families legally. There are 20 'hospitals' like Hartheim.

As deaths increased, Nazi officials calculated how much money and food had been saved by these killings and how to make 'better' use of the hospital beds and buildings that had been freed up. Around 72,000 people had been murdered before Cardinal Galen's 1941 public protests.

Nazi Attitude to Jews

Jewish History

When the Nazis took over in 1933 there were around 600,000 Jews (1% of the population) living in Germany. Jews consisted of 17% of Germany's bankers, 16% of lawyers, 10% of doctors and dentists and 5% of the country's writers, journalists, lecturers and department store owners.

Hitler hated the Jews. One reason of this was due to his background as he was exposed to much anti-semitism whilst on Vienna's streets. Another reason was due to Hitler's image of the 'perfect German'. He believed Aryans to be the pure, blue eyed and blonde haired superior race. Hitler said there were less important races such as Slavs and Negroes but the lowest race to Hitler was the Jews.

Hitler had a strong belief in 'Survival of the Fittest' and 'Natural Selection'. He believed Aryans to be the master race.

In early February 1933, the Nazis announced a boycott of all Jewish businesses, shops and cafes. This meant no one was supposed to go near these places. SA men stood outside urging Germans not to go in. 'Jude' (Jew) was painted on windows and some who tried to enter were beaten up.

In April 1933, Jews were banned from all government jobs - thousands of lawyers, teachers and civil servants lost their jobs. Restrictions were placed on who Jewish doctors and dentists could treat.

In 1933-34 Jews were also banned from jobs in broadcasting and newspapers. Large companies like Krupp Steel also sacked all their Jewish workers in 1934.

Jews were banned from joining the German Army after 1935.

Nazi Attitude to Jews (cont)

In October 1936, Jewish teachers were forbidden to give private tuition to German students.

By 1938, Jewish doctors, dentists and lawyers were forbidden to treat any 'German' people.

From November 1938, Jews were prevented from trading or owning shops and businesses. Meanwhile professional activities of groups such as Jewish vets, accountants, surveyors and nurses were limited.

All remaining Jewish-owned businesses were closed down in December 1938.

Jews still with jobs in 1939 were no longer allowed to work with Germans.

Jews were banned from owning farms or inheriting land after September 1933.

In 1935, the Nazis passed all kinds of racist laws called the 'Nuremberg Laws' under these Jews were no longer considered to be German citizens but 'subjects'. They weren't now allowed to possess German flags. Jews lost all political rights - they could no longer vote or stand in elections. It became illegal for Jews to marry Germans. It became illegal for Jews and Germans to have sex.

From April 1933, all Jews denied membership of any sports club.

Nazi newspapers also ran weekly hate campaigns against the Jews, particularly in 'Der Sturmer'

Goebbels' propaganda experts bombarded families and children with Anti-Jewish messages, including candy wrappers warning children not to talk to Jewish strangers.

In schools, Jewish children were humiliated and segregated, their homeworks were not mark and both teachers and children would make fun of them.

From 1934, local councils banned Jews from public spaces such as parks, playing fields and swimming pools.

From 1938, Jews had to carry identity cards and have passports stamped.

By late 1938, Jews were prohibited from owning precious metals or jewellery. These had to be handed over to Nazis or there would be imprisonment.

After 1939, Jews were forced to use new German names. 'Sarah' for women and 'Israel' for males.

Nazi Attitude to Jews (cont)

In April 1939, it became legal for Jews to be evicted from their homes for no reason. In September 1939 Jews were no longer permitted to be outside their homes between 8pm and 6am.

In November 1938 a Jew killed a German diplomat in Paris. The Nazis used this as an excuse to launch a violent revenge on the Jews. Kristallnacht (meaning 'Night of Broken Glass') occurred on the nights of 9-10 November 1938. SS men were given pickaxes and the addresses of Jewish businesses and homes.

7500 Jewish shops and homes were smashed. 91 Jews were murdered. Jews were expected to pay for the damages of synagogues were burnt whilst 20,000 Jews were taken away to concentration camps. Jews were expected to pay for damage, fine of 1 billion marks.

Nazis began to move Jews into a number of Ghettos. Inside the Warsaw ghetto conditions were terrible. There was an average of 7 to a room and flats were almost always unheated, Jews in the ghetto were given 300 calories a day, amounting to 1.8kg of bread per person per month. Able-bodied Jews were used for slave labour and the unfit left to die.

After June 1941, groups of SS soldiers (the 'Einsatzgruppen') were sent to murder Jews. By the end of 1941, 500,000 Jews had been shot.

By then the Nazis had decided on the 'final solution' of exterminating the Jews. Jews were forced to wear yellow stars and were banned from using public transport. In January 1942, Nazis met at Wannsee to organise details. Death camps were built in Poland far from Germany.

Many Jewish adults and children were used for medical experiments, with some of the most infamous being conducted by Heissmeyer.

Whilst there was some Jewish resistance outside of camps (mostly blowing up railway lines and attacking German soldiers) Nazis would retaliate by murdering innocent Jews.

In Treblinka there was notable resistance in 1943, leading to the deaths of 15 guards, 550 prisoners and the escape of 150.

The Nazi Economy & Workers

Economic Aims

Aim 1 - Tackle unemployment

Aim 2 - Rearm Germany

Aim 3 - Make Germany self-sufficient (Autarky)

**Tackling Unemployment

The Nazi Economy & Workers (cont)

In the end, Hitler would be successful in lowering unemployment in Germany - Nazis would spend billions on job creation schemes, 18.4 billion marks in 1933 and up to 37.1 billion by 1938. In just 4 years the Nazis created 4 million new jobs.

RAD - 'National Labour Service' Gave Germans jobs paid by government. After 1935 all 18-25 year old men had to spend 6 months in National Labour Service. Men in the RAD had to wear uniforms and live in camps but were given free meals. Not paid wages but given an allowance.

Public Work Schemes - Creation of motorways, 'autobahns' one of biggest public work schemes. Up to 1939, 4000km of motorways were constructed, 20 years before the first motorways in Britain.

In Addition - 'Outsiders' not counted on unemployment lists. Women encouraged out of workforce not counted. Tens of thousands of communists and socialists sent to concentration camps. Thousands of Germans became prison guards or were recruited into SS or Gestapo. By 1939, 1 in 4 Germans worked for Nazis.

Rearmament

As Hitler had ordered the production of tons of new aircraft, tanks, battleships and submarines they needed people to use them. Therefore the German Army got much bigger under the Nazis. In March 1935 Hitler started compulsory military service for young men - the army grew from 100,000 men in 1933 to 1,400,000 in 1939. All males between 18 to 25 forced to join for at least 2 years. 1,300,000 thus taken off unemployment lists. And to equip this new army 46 billion marks spent by Nazis on weapons and equipment. Nazis gave money to private firms as way of increasing unemployment and increasing rearmament rate. Transformed German economy. Upsurge in demand for raw materials. eg. more demand for coal; coal production doubled in years between 1933-39.

Rearmament important in explaining massive fall in numbers of unemployed. Luftwaffe had been restarted under Nazis (after ban) by 1939 it had 8000 aircraft.

Making Germany Self-Sufficient

Hitler ordered scientists to find artificial substances, 'ersatz' goods, for food and raw materials normally imported from other countries. Wool and cotton made from pulped wood, coffee from acorns, petrol from coal and make up from flour.



The Nazi Economy & Workers (cont)

Agriculture and farming also improved by Nazis to try and feed all Germans without need for food imports. Farmers got government help to increase production, created new jobs and made farms richer. However Farmers lost independence by doing so, now part of Reich Food Estate. From now on, Nazis decided everything that happened on farm. eg. how much workers paid, what was grown, sell prices, even that chickens had to lay 65 eggs per year.

One consequence of this was food prices increased during the 1930s. All basic groceries, except fish, cost more in 1939 than in 1933.

Life during WW2

Air Raids & Bombing

Britain initially targeted their bombing raids on industrial and military targets, but in 1942 the RAF switched to a policy of 'area bombing' i.e targeting large cities with incendiary bombs and not distinguishing between military and civilian targets. The purpose of which was to destroy German spirits. 50% of bombs that fell were on residential areas and only 12% on factories. On 30th May 1942, the first British 'thousand bomber raid' was launched against Cologne. Over the next few years 61 cities were attacked. In Dresden alone, 70% of homes were destroyed and 150,000 people were killed.

results 3.6 million homes were destroyed, 7.5 million people were made homeless and 300,000-400,000 civilians were killed. 800,000 were wounded. Many fled to countryside and Berlin children evacuation attempts were unsuccessful. As a result there was severe overcrowding in remaining buildings. Although there was a limited impact on German morale, Nazi propaganda downplayed destruction and death numbers. Raids strengthened determination.

Total War and Rationing

Declared in 1943 by Joseph Goebbels as a result of turning tide in war (loss of Battle of Stalingrad). The idea of total war was that of focusing all economic activity on the war effort. Albert Speer (Hitler's architect) was responsible for this and ensured the production of civilian goods ceased and all factories were to solely focus on the war effort. As a result, working hours increased and more women joined the workforce. Munitions output grew by 60% per worker between 1939 and 1944.

Life during WW2 (cont)

Rationing became introduced at the beginning of the war, due to early victories food shortages were initially not a problem. In 1939 a person was entitled to 700g of meat per week, this reduced to 250g by 1945. New recipes developed to make use of unusual ingredients such as eggplants and there were additional rations for those working in heavy industries, pregnant women and blood donors. Shortages were felt the most by non-Aryans who received a lesser ration. Food consumption fell by 25% in 1941. Clothing, rationed from November 1939, was in such short supply that Nazis raided houses if they thought there were surplus items. There was a shortage of coal, most serious during the winter of 1939-1940. People were only allowed warm water twice per week. Rationing led to a black market; shops displayed goods for 'decoration only' (eg. milk bottles full of salt). There was little opposition to rationing however in the last year of the war ration cards were no longer honoured.

Labour Shortages and Women's Role

With men being conscripted there were an excess of 6 million women at work, particularly in industry. By January 1943, the lack of men meant the government had no choice but to conscript women into the workforce. Women between the ages of 17 and 45 were required to engage in work outside the home. By 1944, more than 40% of women were working, making up more than half the workforce. By the end of 1944 it is estimated that there was an excess of 8 million foreign workers employed in Germany.

Opposition & Resistance

Growing Opposition

Youth Groups

Swing Youth - Mostly middle and upper class membership and largely urban based. Not a political movement but enjoyed listening to jazz and attending bars/clubs. Nazis responded by closing down frequented club locations.

Edelweiss Pirates - Names derived from emblem flower. Generally boys from working class background. Collective name for group but some had their individual names. Refused to join Hitler youth, spent time mocking and beating up members. Distributed propaganda that had been dropped by allies.

Opposition & Resistance (cont)

The White Rose - Non violent movement set up in 1942 (Munich University) by Hans and Sophie Scholl. Group distributed anti-Nazi leaflets and appealed to Germans not to support war effort. Executed by Gestapo following betrayal by a university caretaker.

Churches

Confessional Church - Lutheran Pastors Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Martin Niemoller publicly opposed to Nazis setting up Reich Church, confessional church established. Bonhoeffer went on to pass secrets to allies. Bonhoeffer arrested and executed in 1945.

Catholic Church - Clemens von Galen spoke outwardly of Nazis' use of euthanasia. Was put under house arrest.

Jewish Reactions

Armed Resistance - April/May 1943; Jews in Warsaw Ghetto revolted. Fighting lasted a month. 300 Germans, 13,000 Jews killed. Many Jews fought in 'partisan' resistance groups. Bielski brothers led Jewish resistance group in eastern Polish forests, helped more than 1200 Jews escape.

Emigration and Hiding - More than half of Jews in Germany managed to emigrate or flee (84% under 24). 15,000 German children sent out unaccompanied. Many Jews went to Palestine where they worked to establish the state of Israel. Many Jews hid, like Anne Frank, others in plain sight pretending to be Christians.

Non-Violent Resistance - Smuggled food, underground newspapers developed, forged papers and destroyed files in Ghettos. The Minsk Ghetto organised a hospital, welfare centre and school.

Cooperation - Rezsó Kasztner (Hungarian lawyer) organised Kasztner train, diverting 1684 Jews from Auschwitz to Switzerland. 'Jewish Councils' set up to help run Ghettos. In Holland, Jewish council organised deportations to death camps but arranged 15,000 exemptions and made sure there were endless delays.

Military Resistance

Opposition & Resistance (cont)

Operation Valkyrie - In 1944, a group of military opponents agreed a plan to assassinate Hitler. Group led by General Ludwig Beck and Dr Carl Goerdeler, a politician. Claus von Stauffenberg, Chief of Staff for General Fromm, responsible for carrying out attempt in July 1944. Plan entailed von Stauffenberg attending meeting with Hitler and leaving bomb in suitcase, plan went ahead July 20th. Once he left, someone moved bomb further away from Hitler so when it exploded four of those present were killed but Hitler survived. Beck attempted suicide but was then shot. Von Stauffenberg was arrested and executed. 5746 individuals were executed and many more committed suicide.

Effectiveness up to 1945

No German based group or citizen was able to stop or defeat Hitler. Fear and police state ensured wholesale conformity. Destruction of party system and weakening of trade unions rendered Germans of a means to oppose regime.

