



# History Knowledge Organiser

## Germany 1890 - 1945 Life in Nazi Germany

### Workers

Hitler had promised 'Arbeit und Brot' work and bread. The National Labour Service was set up for 18-25 year olds. Public Work Scheme built the autobahns, schools and hospitals. Rearmament also provided jobs and conscription for 18-25 year olds was introduced in 1935. Jews were sacked and women did not count in the figures. Hjalmar Schacht was given the job of getting Germany ready for war with the Four Year Plan. This created jobs in steel, textiles and shipbuilding. Farmers were seen as vital and were supported. The DAF replaced trade unions and ran the Beauty of Labour (SDA) to improve working conditions and the Strength through Joy (KDF) with rewards (including saving for a VW beetle) to control workers.

### Young people

Schools were controlled by the Nazis. All teachers had to be Nazis and other were sacked. Textbooks and history were rewritten. They were indoctrinated (brainwashed) to think a certain way which included hatred of the Jews. Eugenics (race studies) was taught and there was a real emphasis on PE. Outside school were youth groups that were compulsory to join. For boys the 'Little Fellows' 6-10, 'Young folk' 10-14 and then the Hitler Youth. This included how to march, fight and keep fit. Girls - 'Young girls 10-14 and League of German Girls 14-17 keeping fit, preparing for motherhood. 7,287,470 members. Some youth groups resisted including the White Rose, Swing Youth and Edelweiss Pirates.

### Women

'The world of women is a smaller one. For her world is her husband, her family, her children and her house.' The Nazis had a clear idea of the role of women - Kinder, Kirche, Küche (children, church, cooking). They wanted to increase the population. and go back to traditional values e.g. wearing heels or trousers was 'unladylike'. Professional women were sacked but marriage loans were given to married couples of 1000 marks. For each child they kept 250 and this was linked to the Mutterkreuz (Mothercross). Bronze - 4 children silver - 6 and gold - 8. Lebensborn were also set up for women to give a child to the Reich - 8000 births came from here. Gertrud Scholtz-Klink was the figurehead of the Women's League which gave advice. The birth rate rose from 970,000 in 1933 to 1,413,000 in 1939 however during the war the women were needed to help with the war effort.

### Christians

There were 20 million Catholics and 40 million Protestants. Some Nazi ideas matched Christian ideas e.g. marriage, family, moral values and fear of Communism. In 1933 Hitler signed the Concordat with the Pope but Hitler soon broke this and the Catholics were harassed. Archbishop Galen criticised Hitler and euthanasia, he was put under house arrest. Some Protestants supported Nazi ideas and Hitler appointed Ludwig Müller as Reich Bishop. Other Protestants formed the Confessional Church led by Pastor Martin Niemöller who criticised the Nazis. 800 pastors were arrested and he was sent to a camp.

### Jews and undesirables

Hitler believed in a pure Aryan master race of strong tall, blond haired, blue eyed Germans. Jews, gypsies, homosexuals, disabled were classed as undesirable. As soon as Hitler came to power they began passing laws to drive out Jews including sacking lawyers and teachers. The Nuremberg Laws 1935 took away more rights and dissolved marriages. November 1938 - Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass) saw synagogues burned, shop windows smashed, Jews beaten, arrested and 100 killed. 20,000 were sent to concentration camps. Many Jews left but were in countries occupied by the Germans in WW2 including Holland. Once the war started the Nazis used ghettos, execution squads (Einsatzgruppen) and camps. At the Wannsee Conference a Final Solution was planned including 6 extermination camps including Auschwitz where 1.1 million died. There was an uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto and Treblinka in 1943 but both put down. Around 6 million Jews were killed.

### WW2 1939 - 1945

The start of the war was positive with many victories and luxury goods from the conquered countries. This changed after they invaded the USSR in 1941 including battles like Stalingrad and by 1944 Germany was facing a defeat. By November 1939 there was food and clothing rationing e.g. one egg per week. There were many ersatz (substitute) products. Hot water was rationed to two days per week. 1942 - Total War, everything was focussed on making weapons and growing food for soldiers. Factories were open longer, women were brought in and 7 million foreign workers as slave labour. British bombing had a real impact from 1942 disrupting water, electric, transport and there were many unexploded bombs.

## KEY VOCABULARY/ TERMS - Tier 3

Anti-Semitism (discrimination against Jews), rearmament, conscription, Four Year Plan, self-sufficient, DAF, SDA, KDF, Volkswagen, rationed, Total War, refugee, indoctrinate, eugenics, Swing Youth, Edelweiss Pirates, Kinder, Kirche, Küche, Lebensborn, Mutterkreuz, euthanasia, pacifist, persecute, Aryan, master race, death camp, ghetto, Nuremberg Laws, Kristallnacht, Final Solution, Einsatzgruppen, Holocaust.



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## Germany 1890 - 1945 The Weimar Republic

### Key people

Hjalmar Schacht - Minister of Economics, Albert Speer - Armaments Minister, Gertrud Scholtz-Klink, Archbishop Galen, The Pope, Pastor Martin Niemöller, Hitler

### 4. Describe... 4 marks

- Describe two ways in which Hitler reduced unemployment in Germany.
- Describe two main features of the education of children in Nazi Germany.
- Describe how the Nazi gained control over German Christians.
- Describe two examples of armed resistance by Jews to the Nazis.

### 5. In what ways were... 8 marks

- In what ways were the lives of women in Germany affected by Nazi social policies? Explain your answer.

### 6. Bullet point question 12 marks

- Which of the following groups were more affected by Nazi policies?
  - farmers and agricultural workers
  - industrial and factory workers

Explain your answer with reference to both reasons.

### KEY VOCABULARY/ TERMS - Tier 2. Try to use these when answering exam questions.

benefit, consist, create, environment, establish, evident, finance, labour, method, period, policy, significant, similar, achieve, affect, complex, construct, feature, focus, impact, potential, previous, primary, restrict, considerable, contribute, ensure, imply, outcome, attitude, contrast, impose, job, overall, resolve, subsequent, stress, conflict, generate, objective, welfare, discriminate, gender, ignorance, incentive, motive, recover, eliminate, ideology, infer, media, prohibit, conform, contradict, exploit, manual, sphere.