AS History Revision – Life in Nazi Germany 1933-45
Revision sheets

The Nazi Consolidation of Power, 1933-1934

The coming to power of Hitler and the Nazis in January 1933

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communist Party (KPD)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Democratic Party (SDP)</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Centre Party (BVP)</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nationalist Party (DNVP)</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nazi Party (NSDAP)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Parties</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Long term Factors
- Propaganda
- Attacks on opponents
- Hitler’s Personal Qualities
- Long term Bitterness
- Weimar Constitution
- Money

In detail;

Long term Bitterness -
The ‘stab in the back’ and the Treaty of Versailles; the treaty of Versailles stated Germany were to blame for WW1, they had to pay reparations (the government paid them by printing more money, causing inflation) and they lost some of their territory.

Ineffective constitution, Many Germans wanted to a return to Dictatorship! -
The Weimar Government had plenty of problems;
- Article 48 of the constitution gave the President sole power in ‘times of emergency’ – something he took often.
- The system of proportional voting led to 28 parties. This made it virtually impossible to establish a majority in the Reichstag, and led to frequent changes in the government.
- The German states had too much power and often ignored the government.
- The Army was not fully under the government’s control.
Many government officials – especially judges – were right-wing and wanted to destroy the government.

Money -
The Nazi party became very wealthy due to investments of businessmen who were scared of communism; the money was used to fund Hitler’s propaganda programmes and election campaigns
Example of German investors;
- Hjalmar Schacht, Head of the Reichsbank, organised fund-raising parties for Hitler.
Example of international investors
- Henry Ford of Ford Motors

Short term factors: Key events from 1929

The Wall Street crash 1929 – America called back its loans to Germany resulting in the collapse of the German economy and a subsequent growth in unemployment
November 1932 elections – The Nazis failed to get a majority, their share of the vote fell from 230 to 196 – Hitler contemplated suicide

Hitler became Chancellor 1933 – Franz von Papen, the chancellor needed support in the Reichstag (Hindenburg and Papen were ruling by emergency decree under Article 48). Thinking they would be able to control Hitler; in the cabinet only 3 posts out of 12 were held by the Nazis, Hindenburg and Papen appointed Hitler as Chancellor

Reichstag Fire 27 Feb 1933 – The Reichstag (German Parliament) burnt down. A Dutch communist; Van Der Lubbe was caught and blamed, Hitler used this as an excuse to arrest many of his communist opponents and as a major platform in his election campaign of March 1933.

28th Feb 1933 – Decree for the Protection of the people and the State; allowed Hitler to take any appropriate measure to stop dangers to public safety; The decree consisted of six articles. Article 1 suspended most of the civil liberties set forth in the Weimar Constitution, including freedom of the person, freedom of expression, freedom of the press, the secrecy of the post and telephone, and the protection of property and the home. Articles 2 and 3 allowed the Reich government to assume powers normally reserved for the federal states. Articles 4 and 5 established draconian penalties for certain offenses, including the death penalty for arson to public buildings. Article 6 simply stated that the decree took effect on the day of its proclamation.

General elections March 1933 – only 44% of the people voted for the Nazi party, which did not give Hitler a majority in the Reichstag – Hitler arrested 81 communist deputies which did give him a majority.

Enabling Act 23 March 1933 – the Reichstag voted to give Hitler unrestricted power to make his own laws – Hitler was now Dictator of Germany – Legally!

26th April 1933 – Nazis took over local government and police, replace anti-Nazi teachers and University professors. The Gestapo was set up and tens of thousands of ‘undesirables’ (Jews, communists) were sent to concentration camps

Trade Unions banned May 1933 – their money confiscated and leaders put in prison, The German Labour Front took the place of all trade unions, and took away the right to strike.

Law against the formation of New Parties 14th July 1933 – The Nazis were now the only political party in Germany, all other parties were banned and their leaders were put in prison.

Jan 1934 Law for the reconstruction of the Reich – elected state assemblies abolished and states to be run by appointed Reich governors.

Night of the Long Knives – Hitler had now managed to get rid of any external opposition, but he was left with internal opposition. The SA were becoming an embarrassment; Rohm was talking about a socialist revolution and taking over the army – on 30th June 1934 Hitler ordered the SS to kill many SA leaders including Rohm.

19th August 1934 Hindenburg has died – Hitler becomes president and the army swear an oath of allegiance to Hitler. Hitler = Fuhrer.

Nazi ideology in 1933: the promotion of positive and negative stereotypes

Nazi ideology was put forward in their 25 point programme in 1920, then reinforced through Hitler’s Mein Kampf. Ideas were not new; instead a collection of nationalistic, anti Semitic and anti capitalist profits
Revision: Life in Nazi Germany 1933-45

Ideology:
- Power of the Will – force for change, power, strength, discipline, unity and coordination
- Struggle violence war – conflict between races was inevitable – war was used to reconstruct German society – new German Reich
- Social Darwinism and the master race – hierarchy of races with Aryans at the top – important for Aryans to maintain social purity
- Peoples community/Volksgemeinschaft – only Aryans to be citizens of the state – no social classes – equal chances – importance of blood and soil
- National socialism – Hitler had many anti-capitalist policies, but would often change them dependent on whom he was talking to, especially when he realised the importance of the financial backing from industrialists – Hitler used socialism loosely to gain the support of the working class
- Anti democracy and belief in dictatorship
- Aggressive Nationalism – Hitler wanted to expand Germany beyond its borders of 1914! – Lebensraum

Positive and Negative stereotypes
Division based on; Ideological (if they threatened the ideology), Biological, Social (behaviour conflicted with Nazi social norms)

Positive stereotypes
- Racially pure Aryans – a master race that submitted to authority/leadership, part of Volksgemeinschaft, women = child bearers, men = warriors and providers
- German Farers – traditional, and racially pure, were suffering economic hardship, were a large focus point for Nazi propaganda as largely overlooked by other parties
- German Workers – tried to appeal to them to get the necessary votes
- Women – home makers and childbearers, discouraged from having careers

Negative Stereotypes
- Jews and communists – responsible for all of Germany’s problems; blamed for capitalism and growth of communism
- Gypsies – a threat to racial purity
- Intellectuals and Pacifists – valued action over thought
- Homosexuals – deemed deeply offensive, threatened Nazi ideology
- Vagrants, prostitutes and workshy – unworthy!
- The physically and mentally unfit – passing of hereditary disease was seen as a crime against race
- Feminists – emancipation was seen as unnatural and harmful to the state, Nazis rejected the freedom given to women in the Weimar republic

The use of terror, compromise, legal power, propaganda and policies to consolidate power to August 1934

Terror
The SA = Sturm-Abteilung/Stormtroopers/Brownshirts -They were formed in 1921 to protect the Nazi party - Ernst Roehm was their leader.
- Terror was vital in Hitler’s rise to power and his consolidation of power;
- by 1934 the SA had 3,000,000 members
- The SA and Stahlhelm were merged (Stahlhem were a parliamentary organisation of ex soldiers who was dedicated to the restoration of Germany as a military power)
- Regular police were forbidden from interfering with SA business
AS History Revision – Life in Nazi Germany 1933-45

Revision sheets

- SA used terror against their socialist and communist opponents; thousands were rounded up and imprisoned in make shift concentration camps
- Intimidating thugs – forced other parties ‘underground’

Involvement in...

The enabling act – SA men lined the Reichstag, stopped opposition deputies going in and beat up anyone who dared speak against it

Trade unions – SA men would raid trade union offices and brake up their meetings

Much of the violence of the SA was unplanned – made its usefulness limited.

Compromise

The army, leaders of big business enterprise and the professional civil service, shared his anti-democratic views, but were not in full agreement with Nazi ideology

The army –

- The army if they wanted to could have removed Hitler from office – by appealing to Hindenburg or force
- (despite pressure from SA)Hitler stated he would not undermine the army’s role as the most important institution to the state
- The army avoided Gleichschaltung

Big Business –

- Hitler needed the big businesses for financial support; for the Nazi election campaign he secured 3 million marks from businesses
- The anti capitalist SA, and radical Nazi leaders scared the big businesses
- Hitler stopped the Nazi attacks on large capitalist enterprises
- Appointed Dr Kurt Schmitt, managing director of Germany’s largest insurance company as economic minister
- BUT – Industry did not completely avoid Gleichschaltung

Civil service –

- Not really seen as a threat – a traditional aristocratic set up – initially supported the Nazis – but were unhappy when the Nazis took over the local state governments.
- Avoided Gleichschaltung
- Re-establishment of the professional civil service 1933 – led to the purge of Jews, communists and socialists from the civil service – they were NOT replaced by Nazis
- Civil servants were encouraged to join the Nazi party – better for their career
- The independence of the Civil service accounted for Less and Less as the Nazis progressed; Nazis built alternative government structures.

Legal power

The legal basis of the Nazi dictatorship was based on two key instruments:

The decree for the protection of the People and the state Feb 1933
Signed by Hinenburg after the Reichstag Fire – the decree suspended important civil and political right which had been granted under the Weimar constitution. Police were given extra powers. In practise the decree was used to arrest communists and socialists, to ban their leaflets and newspapers and disrupt their organisations.

The Law for Removing the Distress of the People and the Reich (Enabling Act) march 1933
Passed by Reichstag – gave Hitler the power to issue decrees and treaties without the approval of the Reichstag. He needed 2/3rds of the Reichstag to approve – Communists weren’t allowed to take their seats! After 1933 the Reichstag rarely met
Propaganda
March 1933 Hitler established a new Reich Ministry of Popular Enlightenment and propaganda with Gobbels in charge.
Radio – allowed Hitler the opportunity to talk directly to the German people; in 1933 Hitler made 50 broadcasts.
- The number of people who owned radios increased; Gobbels had struck a deal for the production of cheap radios, the ‘people’s receiver’, by 1939 70% of the country owned a radio
- And by April 1934 all radio stations were brought under the umbrella of the Reich Radio Company – controlled by propaganda ministry.
- In plays and talks shows the themes had to be blood, race and the volksgemeinshaft, but Gobbels was aware too much would cause listeners to switch off; only Hitler, out of the Nazi leaders, was allowed to speak on the radio.
- Gobbels encouraged the spread of communal radio listening in factories, cafes, offices etc, owners of workplaces were instructed to install loudspeakers, German towns followed, when Hitler's speeches were broadcast a siren would go off to halt work.
The Press – more difficult to gain control of as there were 5000 privately owned newspapers, the Nazi leading papers only amounted to 2.5% of papers sold.

Step by step strategy
1. Socialist and communist newspapers were closed using the powers of the decree for the protection of the people and state
2. Nazis began to buy up more newspapers
3. The Reich press chamber was established all those involved with publishing newspapers had to join, applications were vetted for ‘racial and political reliability’
4. News agencies, which supplied the press with info, were all merged into state control coordination, therefore info was heavily censored before reaching the press

The DNB = the state controlled news agency – issued what the newspapers could print, often whole articles – half the content by late 1930s
5. Gobbels introduced daily briefings for journalists instructing them on what they could/couldn’t print.
6. Editors Law 1933 – gave total responsibility to what was printed in the newspaper to its editor.

Resulted in a decline of the circulation figures of newspapers

Policies
The law for the protection of the Retail trade, May 1933
The law banned any further extension of large department stores, the policy was then extended to ban the department stores from offering ranges of service e.g. banking and hairdressing – to protect small shopkeepers from large competition.

The Law to reduce unemployment, June 1933
- Public works to provide work for unemployed - autobahns
- Subsidies for private construction projects
- Tax rebates and loads to companies to increase production
- All projects to be carried out by manual labour
- Persuaded women to leave their jobs once married

Unemployment had already began to fall prior to Nazis coming to power, so there is argument to whether this policy had any effect. Unemployment did decrease rapidly once rearmament had began.

The Reich Entailed Farm Law September 1933
- All farms between 7.5 and 125 hectares were declared hereditary estates which were entailed, therefore could not be sold or closed due to indebtedness on the part of the farmer
AS History Revision – Life in Nazi Germany 1933-45
Revision sheets

- Only Aryan German citizens could own farms
- Designed to protect small peasant farmers BUT it deprived the farmers from being able to sell or mortgage their properties. It was difficult for them to get loans to improve their farms
- Reduced tariffs and a Nazi established Reich Food estate; to help reduce imports/control the distribution of agriculture produce did not please consumers or farmers
- Agricultural policies were not popular.

Nazi Propaganda and Mass indoctrination
The use of parades and public spectacle; newspapers and radio; popular culture, especially music and the cinema; the manipulation of education; censorship (include ‘how difficult is it to assess the effectiveness of propaganda in a totalitarian state)"

Propaganda is the use of the media to promote aggressively one point of view

Gobbels = president of a Reich chamber of culture minister of Public enlightenment and propaganda - covered all forms of the media BUT he never had complete control, ministers in other departments fought to control their relevant aspects of propaganda.

Methods

The use of parades and public spectacles

- ‘good discipline is the best propaganda’ – parades and public spectacles were used to show this
- Military style marches and parades were used by the Nazi party before and during power.
- Used to raise profile, intimidate opponents and give impression of a large, disciplined, well supported organisation.
- Emphasised by military uniforms, medals, singing of party songs (Horst Wessel Song), and torches.
- e.g. large night time procession January 1933 marked the start of their national revolution.
- Spectators of rallies were expected to salute and hang out swastika flags, especially on national holidays. Failure to do so would be noted by Nazi party ‘Block leaders’ and reported to authorities, resulting in being known as ‘politically unreliable’
- Nuremberg Rallies – The annual rallies at Nuremberg were stage managed to receive maximum effect – vast numbers participation (100,000) and were often turned into films to reach a wider audience.
• The Nazis had 12 national holiday dates that celebrated key dates in Party history and ideology. They were occasions for parades and rallies to be held all over Germany e.g. Hitler’s Birthday.

Popular culture –
Nazis believed modern culture/art represented the Weimar Germany and its weakness post-world war, to Hitler only Aryans were capable of producing art, art should promote the healthy and strong and heroes from Germany's past.

Music

➤ Hardest of all the arts to control, Nazis had no clear policy
➤ A Reich music chamber was established to control music production and promote Nazi music. Experimental music and jazz (jazz particularly as it had black American decent) were banned from being performed, along with Jewish composers.
➤ Nazi commissioned composers to produce patriotic and nationalist 'Volkish operas'

The cinema

➤ Control – there were 4 main film companies in 1933, Nazis increased control by buying shares in the companies and sponsors of films. Direct ownership wasn’t until 1942 when the industry was nationalised
➤ A Reich film chamber was establish in 1933 to regulate the content of films (including foreign films – most American films were banned) and employment of the industry.
➤ Gobbels disapproved of obvious political films. But all films to some degree contained a political message i.e. leadership, blood and soil and anti Semitism.
➤ Newsreels were more obviously political – especially staged for the camera
➤ Triumph of the will – documentary, propagandist film on the 1934 Nuremberg rally – set out to show the world the power, strength and determination of the German people under Hitler’s leadership.

The manipulation of education

➤ Education was used to indoctrinate the nation’s youth – promoting Nazi ideology
➤ All textbooks were vetted for ideological correctness and new textbooks produced
➤ National Socialist teachers league founded in 1927 – increase in membership after 1933 – 97% members by 1936 (and it was not yet compulsory)
➤ National socialist teacher’s league was responsible for the indoctrination of teachers through political education courses
➤ Teachers were under pressure to reform to the regime, they were otherwise reported to the Gestapo
➤ Also affected by the re-establishment of the professional civil service (Jews lost their jobs)

Changes to the curriculum

Importance of sport, history, biology and German were upgraded
*Sport = military orientated
*History = to politically indoctrinate Germans about their past
*Biology = stressed race and heredity
*Mathematics = problems on a shell’s trajectory or calculations of the cost of treating the mentally ill
And...
*Girls were obliged to study needlework and home craft
*Sex education was banned – individuals had a duty to make as many children as possible
Censorship
Nazis did not approve of free expression as it was seen as a threat of unity to the volksgemeinshaft. They also aimed to impose ‘cultural autarky’ – German people would be sheltered from outside influences – only Nazi versions of reality would be heard
How censorship was achieved:
- Bans placed on communist and socialist parties from publishing
- Purge of communists, socialist and Jews from their employment in the media and the arts
- Gobbels propaganda industry issued what could be reported (newspaper and radio)
- Newspaper editors were given responsibility of what was published (threat of legal penalties)
- Propaganda ministry drew up a list of damaging and undesirable literature
- Film censorship – scripts were censored

Overlapping organisations regarding censorship included:
- Criminal police, SD intelligence and Gestapo – search bookshops and libraries seizing banned books
- Local authorities
- The SA and Hitler youth – destroyed publications they disapproved of
- The supreme censorship authority for dirty and trashy literature

Even with overlapping organisations censorship = success; those who opposed Nazis were dismissed from employment, in prison, or under surveillance. Many artists who were not approved of fled Resulted in a dull German culture

Goebbels and the Hitler Myth
How the German people saw their leader = The Hitler Myth
Gobbels needed the German people to like Hitler; the Hitler myth = Gobbels finest creation
A carefully cultivated image that suggested:
- Hitler personified the nation and stood above selfish or private interests.
- Hardworking, dynamic, energetic – a political genius
- Utterly devoted to the good of the German nation
- Understood and represented the German people
- The People’s Chancellor and a ‘man of the people’
- Gave Germany back its pride and defended it against its enemies
- Architect of the German economic miracle

How was it developed?
Key events such as the Day of Postam (followed their election victory, staged the opening of the new Reichstag-setting was deliberately chosen to represent ‘old germany’) and the ‘triumph of the will’, use of posters, radios and newsreals
Why was it a success?
- offered what people wanted; Fuhrerprinzip: exploited the German people’s desire for strong leadership
- Capitalised on disillusionment with Weimar, and blame on subordinates (Jews)
- Promoted volksgemeinshaft

Reality
- Lazy, Got bored with detail – ignored official papers and was indecisive
- Reliant on officials around him
- Had a long term relationship with his mistress Eva Braun

Downfall – the myth led to Hitler’s downfall; he believed he was infallible and Third Reich- power struggles made the regime unstable
The content of propaganda; ideology and successes of the regime, including the Nazi ‘economic miracle’ and the apparent elimination of unemployment; the Olympic games of 1936

The Nazi economic miracle

Aims of Nazi economic policy – when they came to power the Nazis did not have a policy – just aims;

1. Solve unemployment
2. Drag Germany out of world recession
3. ‘Economic autarky’
4. Get rid of Jewish industrialists and give their business to ‘Aryans’
5. Transform the economy to focus on rearmament and war

Hjalmar Schacht – believed in steady growth and stable economy - president of the Reichstag bank and economic minister (1933/34 – 1936) – stimulated economic recovery by;

- Pumping money into the economy to build homes and autobahns
- Stimulating consumer demand by giving tax concessions and grants to particular groups
- Giving subsidies to private firms to encourage them to take on more workers
- Putting controls on wages and prices to control inflation
- Promoted trade agreements with developing countries; trading manufactured goods for cheap raw materials

**Introducing the New plan in 1934** to control Germany’s foreign trade and improve ‘balance of payments’ (ratio of exports to imports) – why – as the economy began to revive foreign trade increased this lead to imports growing faster than exports leading to a shortage of foreign currency SO Schacht placed controls on imports and on access to foreign currency + trade agreements with foreign countries where Germany was supplied with materials paid for in German Reichmarks = the supply countries could then only use this money to buy German goods.

- Taking the first steps towards rearmament

**Germany’s economy did improve and unemployment decreased**

Problems with Schacht’s plans = * balance of payments problems * shortage of foreign currency * food shortages * rising prices * poor living conditions * approach to rearmament was too slow!

1936 Goring was put in charge – ‘Four year plan’; to war

Achieved by;

- Creating a managed economy with controls on labour supply, prices, raw materials and foreign exchange
- Setting producing targets for private companies to meet
- Establishing new state-owned industrial plants such as the Hermann Goring steel works
- Increasing production of key commodities such as iron and steel and chemicals
AS History Revision – Life in Nazi Germany 1933-45

Revision sheets

- Encouraging research and investment into the production of substitute produces such as artificial rubber and extracting oil from coal, thereby reducing Germany’s dependence on imports

**Nazi economic miracle – myth and reality?**

Gobbels used his all his propaganda methods to project an image of economic policy success;

- Radio broadcasts/speeches by Hitler declared the battle for work had been won by 1936 – no longer a problem.
- Advertising campaigns for products such as the people’s receiver and the people’s car and cruise holidays showed standards of living were improving.
- Military parades showing the latest German equipment were used to persuade people to buy German made goods.

The economic miracle held some truth – but propaganda – largely hid – exaggerated – and covered up the failures of the policy.

**The reduction of unemployment**

1933 - 6 million unemployed

Unemployment improved by 1934 – and continued to do so

‘The battle for work’ claimed this success was down to the Nazis ... true?

- Economic recovery had begun before the Nazi – Nazis copied polices
- Occasional employment and unpaid agriculture work = full employment
- Women were encouraged to leave their jobs – not counted in figures
- The law for the re-establishment of the professional civil service – unpolitically reliable and Jewish lost their jobs
- Conscription – 2 years in one of the armed forces
- Invisible unemployment as high as 3 million
- **The RAD** – The National labour service = all men between 18-25 had to spend 6 months in RAD – built schools, hospitals, autobahns, lived in camps rent free, free meals, pocket money

**But:** after 1936 and rearmament = rapid expansion in employment and even labour shortages by 1939

**Living standards**

- Despite controls on wages – incomes for many workers did increase (1933-39) as employers paid bonuses to attract the best workers and longer hours
- But – workers hit my compulsory contributions to the German labour front and welfare organisation
- Prices rose during 1930s and there were shortages – afford few luxuries
- Shows success of propaganda ‘battle for production’ as no real opposition
- Strength through joy gave workers benefits
- Beauty of labour improved working conditions

**Autarky** – aim of four year plan to achieve self sufficiency in food production and raw materials – a battle for the people community!

- Propaganda campaigns to only buy/eat/use German produce
- Failed! – campaign launched to take all scrap metal in Germany – rationing – Germany still imported 1/3rd of raw materials in 1939.
The Olympic games of 1936
- Opportunity to show positive image to the world;
- Fantastic facilities – Olympic flags teamed with swastika flags
- Anti-Semitic propaganda was pushed aside
- Sport very important to Nazi ideology = master race – a chance to show the success of racial policies – no Jewish athletes
- Germany came top of the table
- Jesse Owens (black American) won 4 Gold medals

The impact of the invasion of the USSR and ‘total war’ on Nazi propaganda
Early stages of war propaganda were to maintain public morale

Initially propaganda was not affected on the USSR invasion

Winter 1941 the German advance was halted – more realistic tone of propaganda

Defeat at Stalingrad = bad for propaganda – propaganda predicted victory in early stages

Propaganda then used to justify increasing sacrifices

Concentrated on themes

1. Anti Bolshevism (anti communism) – Germany was now in a struggle for survival with Communist Russia – a deep fear and hatred of the USSR encouraged

2. Anti Semitism – war turned into a war against ‘international Jewry’ – also identified with USSR. From 1942 ‘Final solution of the Jewish Problem’ began

3. Strengthen resolve despite British air raids

4. Retaliation and revenge – ideas of new secret weapons like the V1 propagandised to keep hopes alive

Propaganda was unable to sustain morale of German people in the last 2 years of war – did not prevent war weariness

The Hitler Myth declined;

His aura of man who could do no wrong was fatally damaged following Stalingrad and Hitler largely withdrew from public life being rarely seen. He did however maintain the dedicated loyalty and respect of his own party members.
Nazi Organisations and the co-ordination of German society

*Gleichschaltung – process through the Nazis attempted to control or ‘coordinate’ all aspects of German society*

**Youth: schools and universities, the Hitler Youth, and the league of German Maidens**

**Schools**

Bernhard Rust = Reich minister of education – responsible for the coordination of the education system – done through;

- The law for the re-establishment of the professional civil service 1933 – teachers dismissed for being politically unreliable or Jewish
- Teachers pressured into joining the National socialist Teachers league (NSLB)
- NSLB members went on a one month training course – indoctrinated with Nazi ideology
- Only catholic teachers retained their catholic teacher’s league – closed in 1937
- Teachers aware students could report them to Gestapo for speaking against the regime
- Vetting of text books
- Central directives issued by the Ministry of education – what could be taught
- Run on the fuhrerprinzip

*New Nazi education institutions were created alongside existing schools;*

- Napola schools – provided military style education - after 1936 controlled by SS
- Adolf Hitler schools – provided military style education but were selective – elite
- Ordensburgen (castles of order) – finishing boarding schools for ‘future leadership’ (25-30)

**Note - Teaching profession = the most politically reliable sections of the population – 97% had joined the NSLB by 1937**

**Universities**

- Nazis downgraded the importance of academic education – less people went to universities – places were restricted (especially for women and Jews)
- Coordination (very similar to schools);
- The law for the Re-establishment of a professional civil service – teachers dismissed for being politically unreliable or Jewish
- All university teachers were required to sign a declaration in support of ‘Hitler and the National socialist state’
- Teachers joined the Nazi lectures league – teachers attended training camps
- Students had to join the Germans students league (25% managed to avoid) and attend *political indoctrination and training sessions *4 month labour service *2 months in SA camps
- University curriculum was modified

Nazis were able to tap into pre-existing culture at Universities as they were already places of extreme nationalism.
Hitler Youth (HJ)

- Pimpfen (cubs) = 6-10
- German Youth (DJ) = 10-14
- Hitler Youth (HJ) = 14-18

Hitler Youth created in 1927 but was unsuccessful

- When the Nazis came to power (1933) all other youth groups were banned/taken over
- 1936 law for the incorporation of German youth gave Hitler Youth equal status to schools
- 1936 Catholic youth groups banned
- 1939 membership made compulsory
- Taught to sing Nazis songs, military drills, and read political pamphlets
  
  \[ HJ = \text{Political indoctrination} + \text{physical activity (military style)} \]

- Attractive – camping trips, sports – boys were shaped by the HJ
- Unattractive – late 30s = emphasis on military resulted absenteeism

The league of German Maidens (BDM)

- Young Girls 10-14
- League of German girls 14-18
- Faith and Beauty (18-21)

- Compulsory 1939
- Taught of duty to be healthy as their bodies belonged to the nation
- Hygiene, cleanliness, healthy eating, dancing, group gymnastics, sewing, cooking, political education and racial awareness
- Summer camps – highly structured – physical exercise, indoctrination, marching
- Faith and beauty groups were taught baby care and social skills, e.g. ball room dancing

- Attractive – Liberating! Escaped home – relatively classless - comradeship
- Unattractive – years unpaid work with Reich labour service on the land (agricultural roots) or domestic service before they could get paid employment – compulsory 1939

Workers: the German Labour front and Strength through Joy

Why were the workers important?

- Largest group in Germany society – key to the volksgemeinshaft
- Majority voted for SPD and a substantial minority for KPD
- Tied to trade unions which were powerful forces
- National Socialist Factory cell organisation – anti capitalist – to win support
- The majority of working class did not vote for Nazi party even in march 1933
- Nazis relied mainly on peasant farmers, shop keepers, small craftsmen

Coordination laws of 1933 banned all other trade unions (except Catholic albeit temporarily)

Trade unions were replaced with the DAF – The German Labour front

- Leader Robert Ley
- Aimed; to win workers over to volksgemeinschaft and to increase production
- Was NOT a trade union – did not bargain over wages or social/economic policies
- Striking was banned
Own propaganda department to spread ideology (of the importance of working long and hard for the volksgemeinschaft) through workers

What did the DAF do?
- Set wage levels at a low level and a pay freeze was introduced
- Issued work books which recorded the work record of everyone – had to have one!
- Two sub sections the KDF (strength through joy) and the SDA (Beauty of work)

Strength through Joy (KDF)
Set up to organise workers leisure time – occupy and divert them from any opposition
- No class – equality
- Encourage participation in sport – competition and ambition
- Organised cruises at bargain prices, train trips, skiing and walking holidays, foreign tours, sporting activities, cultural and musical activities (often in lunch breaks) and ‘the people car’

Reality very different
- Gestapo spied on the cruise ships
- Cruise ship tickets too expensive – class separation – people car scheme failed

Beauty of labour – improved the working conditions – tax incentives and competition were used as encouragement – workers had to do the work in their own time no pay!

Peasants: the policies of Darre
‘back to land movement’; Hitler wanted an efficient agricultural industry to provide cheap food, free up foreign exchange for rearmament and nutritional freedom for autarky.

Why were peasants important?
Blut and boden (blood and soil)
Seen as racially pure – isolated from the cosmopolitan cities – patriotic; attached to land
Free from moral decline – central to the new pure volksgemeinschaft

Policies of Darre
Walther Darre = Minister for food and agriculture ... 3 Aims;
1) To halt the population drift from countryside to the towns
2) To protect the peasants from debt and takeover by larger farms or retail outlets
3) To establish volksgemeinshaft in the countryside

1. The Reich Entailed Law 1933 – passed to protect small farms from competition
- All farms between 7.5 and 135 hectares were classified as hereditary farms – could not be divided up on death of owner or closed due to indebtedness.
- Only Aryan Germans (who could prove purity back to 1800s) could own a farm

2. Emergency relief was offered in 1933 – protecting farmers with increased tariffs + reducing or deferring their debt

3. Agricultural workers were exempt from national and health insurance

4. The establishment of the Reich Food estate
Established to control agricultural production and retail; wholesalers of agricultural products would be linked together in a single chain eliminating the middle man
- Run on the Führerprinzip – very bureaucratic – employed officials
- Fixed agricultural prices and wages
- Set production quotas
- Dictated crop rotation
- Allocated resources
AS History Revision – Life in Nazi Germany 1933-45
Revision sheets

Agricultural policies; a success?
Yes
✓ Half a million farmers were protected by hereditary status
✓ Farmers income increased by 41%
NO
✗ Darre lost his influence; *DAF took over training of agricultural labourers *labour shortages were filled with members of the HJ and RAD
✗ Policy/ideology was abandoned; realities surfaced and rearmament accelerated industrialisation and urban growth
✗ Small and large farms were forced to merge for economic benefits
✗ Farm land was taken up by bases and training camps (rearmament)
✗ Reich entailed farm law meant farmers lost out – couldn’t sell or mortgage farms
✗ Price controls; agricultural wages remained lower than industrial
✗ Poor social/working conditions
✗ When agriculture could not keep up instead of investing – rationing was introduced
✗ Racial purity? – 3 million foreign workers employed in agriculture
✗ Nazi policy split the older and younger generation of farmers – no Volksgemeinschaft

The Churches: Protestant and Catholic
The Church = 2 problems for Volksgemeinschaft;
1. Germany was divided by faith; majority belonged to the Protestant faith (58% - Evangelical Church), a significant minority were Roman Catholic (32% Catholic Church was strong in the Nazi home state of Bavaria and an international organisation)
2. Religious loyalties were very strong – but – Hitler wanted to be the focus of loyalty
Hitler had to be careful not to upset religious views as he would lose support!

Protestants

Similarities to Nazi ideology – Protestant church was traditionally in cooperation with the state – it was anti-Semitic – it was anti-communist (communists wanted to get rid of Christianity)
Nazis saw the evangelical church as an opportunity to unite and create the National church

The German Christians
Described themselves as the SA of the Church; a pressure group of Nazi supporters in the evangelical church
• Wore SS or SA uniforms, hung swastika flags in their church
• Fused Nazi ideology into their religion; a militant and aggressive form of Christianity
• Hitler portrayed as a nationalist messiah

The coordination into the new Reich church
• Church elections 1933 were the starting point of coordination
• With the help of Gobbels’ propaganda and the SA the German Christians won
• Ludwig Miller was appointed as Reich bishop – all elected bodies within the church were abolished – run via Fuhrerprinzip
• All pastors who had not declared alliance to the regime dismissed
• Church was forced to adopt ‘Aryan paragraph’

The confessional church
• Led by Martin Neimoller and Deitrich Bonhoeffer – establish a Pastor’s Emergency league – followed by the confessional church
• Resisted state interference – theology purely based on the bible
Nazi response – to weaken the church
- New ministry for church affairs
- Abolishment of church schools
- Hitler youth – a wedge between the church and young people
- Persuade members to give up their church membership
- Pressure put upon those reliant on Nazi employment e.g. teachers

Catholics
A greater challenge – international church answerable to the Pope in Rome
Seen as against Germany’s unity
Similarities – both anti-communist and anti-Semitic

Cooperation and Compromise
- Catholic Church voluntarily disbanded their trade unions and their centre party
- July 1933 a Concordat was signed;
  1. The Vatican recognised the Nazi regime and promised that the church would not interfere in politics
  2. The regime promised that it would not interfere in the Catholic Church, the Church would keep control of its schools, youth organisations and lay groups

Broken terms;
- Nazis seized properties of Catholic Lay organisations – forced to close
- Catholic newspapers were forced to remove ‘catholic’ from their names
- Catholic Priests were put under surveillance
- In the Knight of the long knives a number of leading Catholics were murdered

Some Catholics began to speak out – Clemens Von Galen against euthanasia programme
Nazi’s responded by increasing repression

The Papal Encyclical 1937; = a letter from the pope to all bishops entitled ‘with burning Grief’; condemned the hatred put upon the church by the Nazis
Nazis again respond with increasing repression;
- Gestapo and SS placed in Catholic Churches
- Tightened restrictions on catholic press
- Youth groups, monasteries and charities closed down, Schools converted to community
- Propaganda publicised sex scandals involving priests.

The German Faith Movement
An attempt by the Nazi party (particularly Darre and Haure) to create an alternative religion based on pre-Christian paganism, seen to be more authentically German/Aryan
Failed – too radical; “did not tap into pre-existing views *Germany was the birth place of the protestant reformation *strong catholic community *German Faith movement = anti christian

Women in Nazi Germany
Women and work
- The NSDAP programme stated the disapproval of women working – Nazis argued women took men’s jobs – on coming to power they stated they would remove 800,000 women from work
- Nazis had a clear stereotype of women for their Volksgemeinschaft; housewives and child bearers
• ‘kinder, kuche, kirch’; meaning children kitchen church, were the three principles put across in Nazi propaganda for women to structure their lives around
• Women (especially married) doctors, teachers and civil servants were dismissed from work
• A Woman could not serve as a judge and all women were made ineligible for jury service ‘unable to think logically or reason objectively since they are only ruled by emotion’

Result
- Autarky and rearmament soon took priority over Nazi policy for women
- Germany reached a status of full unemployment and because of rearmament and later the conscription of men there was a labour shortage.
- The regime therefore had to encourage women to work
- Between 1933 to 39 the amount of women working in Germany actually increased, highest amount in Europe

Pro-natalism policies
- 1933 marriage loans – newlyweds given a loan to help ‘start out’; for each child the couple the loan reduced by 25% - the scheme was paid for via the bachelor tax (childless couples and single men paid more tax)
- Birth control was banned/made illegal in 1933
- Childless couples were encouraged to divorce and remarry to have kids
- Family allowances to help those on low incomes
- Parents could deduct 15% of their tax per child
- Lebensborn programme = encouraged women to bear the children of SS officers whether they were married to them or not
- Mothers cross issued to mothers who had given birth to lots of children

Result
- The propaganda and the incentives did not have the effect the Nazis had hoped
- Women still wanted to terminate their pregnancies
- Birth rate remained constant through the 1930s after an increase in 1934 (economic improvement)

Why? – *wanted women to have babies for the state not for personal reasons *lack of housing *men were away on conscription
& Divorce increased – Nazis actually made it easier for men to divorce their wives

The role of the SS SD and Gestapo in suppressing opposition
'The Nazis did not introduce a new constitution or legal system after 1933. Instead they introduced some new laws to deal with political offenses and forced the existing justice system – the police – the courts – the legal profession to adapt to their will. At the same time the Nazis introduces new courts and new police organisations to ensure political opponents were dealt with in accordance with the regime’s priorities.'

Hitler did not believe in the rule of law – For Hitler the right to rule came only from Fuhrerprinzip – His word was law

From the enabling act onwards Germany lost their legal rights – Hitler’s German people could be arrested, imprisoned and executed without charge or trial – the law was applied inconsistently
Nazi ideas on criminality
Defined by Nazi ideology (in reference to)
Those outside the people’s community were by definition criminals;
   1) Racially – non-‘Aryans’
   2) Ideologically – Marxists, socialists, liberals – placed into camps for re-education
   3) Morally – criminals, homosexuals, alcoholics, mentally ill – threat to racial purity

The institutions of the Nazi Police state
Weimar Republic – separate state authorities controlled the police forces – The Nazis did not abolish this – instead created a system of party-controlled, political police forces – answerable to Hitler – they gradually took control over the entire police system;

- The people’s court
   • Nazis ‘nazified’ the existing criminal courts and created the people’s court for political offenses
   • Led by Roland Freisler
   • No juries or defendants in the people’s court
   • Just; charges, abuse humiliation and sentencing
   • Between 1934-39 3400 communists were processed through the people’s court and executed by axe

- The SS
   • Established 1926 as Hitler’s personal body guard
   • Controlled by Himmler from 1929
   • SS rapidly grew from 1933
   • Became the main Nazi party organisation involved in the arrest of political prisoners
   • By 1936 Himmler hand been appointed chief of German police; the SS controlled the entire police system – this increased control and repression over Germany – increase in concentration camp inmates
   • SS acted in a systematic, organised, dispassionate way compared to SA
   • Ran the concentration camps

Other roles;
   • Ideological – SS men were role models. SS ran their own elite schools
   • Military – Waffen SS (armed SS) military organisation of an elite force designed to give more control over the army
   • Economic – owned several companies
   • Conquest – After 1939 the SS was given responsibility for administering conquered territories

- The concentration camps
   • Originally prison camps (slave labour) not extermination camps (these came after 1942)
   • Network of camps emerged 1933-36
   • Original purpose was for political prisoners to be re-educated
   • BUT – by 1936 political opposition had been crushed – camps used for ‘undesirables’ caused an increase in brutality
- The SD
  - Internal security service of the Nazi Party – an offshoot of the SS
  - Set up to investigate claims that the Nazi party had been infiltrated by enemies
  - Role was intelligence gathering – could not arrest suspects
  - It monitored public opinion including who voted no in plebiscites
  - Led by Heydrich
  - Worked independently of the Gestapo (A state organisation) – led to confusion of roles
  - SD was manned by committed Nazis who were volunteers/amateurs – 50,000 officers

- The Gestapo
  - Secret police; led by Muller – an anti-communist but not a member of the Nazis
  - German people were terrified of the Gestapo – they were believed to be everywhere – reality only 20,000
  - Majority were not Nazi members – professional police officers that served the state
  - Depended on info supplied by informers;
    - party members on neighbours
    - Hitler youth on parents and teachers
    - block leaders for each residential block
  - Resulted in too many offences for the Gestapo – more arbitrary arrests
  - The law on Malicious Gossip of 1933 – used to prosecute those who were reported for making any statement against the Nazi regime including jokes

Terror?
  - Important to acknowledge there was a strong base of support for the regime e.g. the Gestapo could not have installed the fear it did without the support of German citizens as informers
  - The Nazi SS system was presented as an instrument to protect the majority against corrupting influences
  - From mid 1935 police focus on purifying the race not crushing political opponents

The extent of conformity and resistance by 1939

Very difficult to assess the degree of conformity and resistance... two reasons

1) Problem of sources
  - Germany had become depoliticised; Nazi party were the only party in Germany
  - Nazis were the only party permitted to put up candidates for any elections; took place on a background of mass propaganda – 99% of the vote
  - Plebiscites (public approval over policies) were held in same conditions
  - No official outlets for complaints

2) Problem of definition

What was resistance –
  - varied from listening to jazz and no swastika flags = independence and nonconformist behaviour

OR
  - individuals that spoke out against the regime (usually from religious backgrounds)
AS History Revision – Life in Nazi Germany 1933-45
Revision sheets

Political Resistance
Left wing SPD and KPD were divided
Why? – Division goes back to the Spartacist revolt of 1919 – and SPD led government brutally suppressed the Spartacist (communist revolt) using the help of a far right parliamentary organisation called the Freikorps – from this point the KPD dismissed the SPD as social fascists.

SPD
- Naively the SPD organised for the election campaign in march 1933 – voting against the enabling act – caused violence upon them by SS and SA
- Totally unprepared to transform into an illegal underground party
- Thousands of members were murdered, placed in custody or fled into exile
- SPD were committed to working within the legal power of the state – no means of organising resistance
- Gradually they adapted – led by Ernst Schumacher – small secret cells were established in factories and city bases e.g. Berlin Red petrol
- Propaganda pamphlets were smuggled and ideas spread by word of mouth
- BUT – due to constant fear of Gestapo, SPD were restricted – main aim was to survive

KPD
- More prepared then SPD for surviving illegally ‘underground’
- But devastated by the wave of depression against communism; first party to be banned and leader arrested – 10% of members killed in 1933
- Successful in creating underground areas throughout Germany – industrial centres – revolutionary unions e.g. in Berlin – recruited members and sold newspapers
- All networks were broken up by Gestapo by 1935
- Not completely eradicated – restricted to work of mouth – priority again was to survive

Both SPD and KPD were hit by fear of Gestapo and lack of support from the working class.

Worker Resistance
Prior to Nazi regime Germany had the most unionised working class in Europe
Soon crumbled due to the DAF
Workers had many causes for complaint but no outlet
Examples of resistance (which were all only passive);
- Strikes ;
  - Among autobahn workers in 1935
  - Gestapo records show there 25,000 strikes in 1935 – 4,000 imprisoned
  - 1936 = 100 strikes 1937 = 25 strikes
- Absenteeism – Big problem so much so Nazis created new labour regulations – laid down punishments for slacking
- Destroying Machinery
Resistance had no organisation and was due to low wages, long hours and poor working conditions – and resilience to coordination
Resistance by the Churches
The churches were the only organisation which retained an independence from the regime (alternative ideology)
Similarities – communism and anti-Semitism
Dissimilarities – The Nazi effort to coordinate the church

Protestant Resistance
The Pastors emergency league in 1933 – developed – the confessional church = Resistance!
Aimed;
- To protect the independence of the protestant church
- To resist the implementation of the Aryan paragraph
- To keep their Bible – German Christians wanted to remove the ‘Jewish’ Old Testament.
The Co-founders of the emergency league and the confessional church, both outspoken opponents of the Aryan paragraph and Nazi attempt to coordinate the church;
**Martin Neimoller** – arrested (Hitler’s personal prisoner)
**Detrich Bonhoeffer** – he retained his freedom until 1943- then murdered by Gestapo 1945

The church refused to put up swastika flags on festival days – when pastors were arrested there were mass demonstrations – Nazis increased repression
BUT – The Nazis could not suppress the confessional church
BUT – only individuals ever spoke out against the regime – never the whole church – main battle was against the Reichstag

Catholic church
Stronger position than Evangelical church
Initially Catholic church came to terms with the Regime via the concordat
BUT when the Nazis began to abuse the agreement catholic resistance began;
(opposition was intended to protect the church from Nazi influence rather than the inhumanity of the regime)
- **Clemens Von Galen** – bishop of Munster spoke out against the atheistic views of leading Nazi ideologist Rosenberg through a pamphlet and Easter message – in return thousands of Catholics marched in support
- The 1937 papal encyclical ‘With burning concern’ written by the pope and smuggled into Germany = The only time the catholic church as a whole placed itself in conflict with the regime

Successes
Although The Nazis responded with repression
Catholic protests in Oldenburg – education minister ordered the removal of religious symbols from all schools – Catholic response = bells rung, petitions, crosses on buildings illuminated
– Catholics resigned from Nazi party – Education minister withdrew the decree

The Jehovah’s Witnesses
Only obeyed god – did not swear an oath to Hitler – did not salute, go to parades and refused conscription – more resistant under Nazis pressure. By 1945 10,000 imprisoned – BUT – Nazis failed to stop them
Youth Opposition
Disillusionment with the youth movements by young people by mid 1930s
-Why?
  - Made compulsory
  - Growing regimentation of activities
  - Demands on free time
  - Activities were not popular
-Resistance
  - Opt Out – by not paying fees
  - Absenteeism – including not attending parades
  - Humming banned tunes
= No more than a teenage rebellion – but – independence was seen as a threat

Conspirators against Hitler 1938
  - Many senior figures in the Army and Civil service opposed the regime
  - Significant as the only way to rid Hitler would be by a military coup
  - But the army and civil service traditionally served the state
  - Plus they were happy without Democracy
  - Only a minority opposed him
Opposition came from Hitler preparing a war that Germany was not yet ready to fight
Hitler planned to invade Czechoslovakia
A plot to rid Hitler was planned by a number of senior figures if war was to go ahead
Turns out – Hitler meets with Britain and France to agree a peaceful take over

Why so little opposition?
  - no mass organisation
  - most opposition was not against the regime – more so working conditions
  - propaganda, indoctrination and repression had created an atmosphere of support
  - Even if people did oppose Hitler Nazis had restored Tradition, order and national pride.

The impact of war on the German people 1939-45
Changes in attitudes and daily lives, 1939-1941
  - When war started there was no cheering crowds; the mood of the German people was one of reluctant loyalty
  - The SD were given the tasks of reports of public opinion
  - The German people wanted a quick end to the war
  - Propaganda and speeches became less effective due to harsh winters and realities of war conditions
  - Rationing – Introduced even before the war to help keep morale up, as shortages was the man cause of war-weariness during WW1
  - There were shortages of coal, shoes, soap and washing powder

Workers: early war
  - The start of war saw = rapid increase in conscription to the armed forces, non essential workers were released for military service
AS History Revision – Life in Nazi Germany 1933-45
Revision sheets

- At the same time a need for the increased production of armaments - *workers who remained in the economy were worked harder/more efficiently* - the regime began to use ‘foreign labour’ from conquered territories e.g. Poland
- Sept 1939 ‘Decree on the conversion of the German Economy to a war footing’; wage reductions, banned overtime payments, introduced work on a Sunday and compulsory night shifts.
- workers reacted through absenteeism – wage levels were restored so overtime payments/bonuses reintroduced

Youth: early war
- Membership to HJ compulsory 1939
- Activities did not change greatly on war; larger emphasis on training boys to be soldiers and helping with harvests/winter aid programme
- The evacuation of children did begin in 1940

Women: early war
- Women had to cope with rationing, queuing, bringing up children alone, and later labour conscription;
- Policy to get women out of work and having babies during 1933-39 did not work due to labour shortages 1936-37 = the number of women in work increased
- With war there was a greater demand for work; when Hitler was advised in 1940 that the industry needed more women workers he refused
- Conscription of workers to essential war work was used sparingly to women – only 250,000 women – and they had only been transferred from the production of consumer goods to war work
- Women didn’t want to work – families of conscripted soldiers received benefits, and working hours increased women with children were under pressure to leave work – women workers declined 1939-41
- NSF – organised classes to help women cope in war time also prepare parcels for soldiers
Public mood in response to the progress of Germany's armed forces in the conflict

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events in the War</th>
<th>Public mood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1939-1940</td>
<td>Rapid defeat of Poland, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium</td>
<td>Public morale is High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hostility to Britain as main cause of war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>British bombing of cities (something the Germans said couldn’t happen)</td>
<td>Moral worsens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1941</td>
<td>Hitler decides to invade USSR and fight a war on two fronts</td>
<td>Public euphoria – victory within sight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>War against Russia initially goes well</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter 1941/2</td>
<td>Tide turns against Germans</td>
<td>Morale declines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the Red army push the Germans back</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>rising casualties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>severe strain on supply routes and munitions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1941</td>
<td>Japanese attack pearl harbour brings the USA into war</td>
<td>More band news</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Defeat at Stalingrad – whole German 6th army is surrounded and forced to surrender largely because Hitler refused to allow them to retreat</td>
<td>Population at home starts to turn against the Hitler Myth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1943</td>
<td>Gobbel’s ‘Total war’ speech talks of real imminent danger to Germany and calls for a renewed effort by everyone</td>
<td>Slight upturn in morale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943-45</td>
<td>Continued military setbacks, sustained allied bombing, Allies landing in Normandy</td>
<td>Depressed morale and an increase in opposition (only minority) majority quiet, resigned and acceptance of fate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The impact on the regime and the people of the invasion of the USSR and the start of ‘Total War’

**Total war** – declared in a speech by Gobbel calling for the nation to engage in total war
Workers: Total war
- As Hitler opposed the use of women for industry there was a large increase in foreign workers to increase the production of vital war materials; 4 million foreign workers – Russian prisoners of war used for slave labour
- Defeat at Stalingrad/Total war increased pressure; 1943 decree for the comprehensive Deployment of Men and Women for Reich defence tasks – established a small committee to oversee; all men aged 16-65 and women 17-45 register for work with their local labour office. Also declared – small businesses which were not essential she be closed and employees transferred to war work.
- Men were increasingly found for military service

Youth: Total war
- Age of conscription reduced from 19-18 in 1941, then to 17 in 1943.
- HJ activity more clearly focussed on actual military training with military camps for HJ set up (120 of them) supervised by the Waffen SS
- From June 1943 16 and 17 year old boys directly conscripted into navy and air force as auxiliaries.
- By 1945 school children were fighting in the regular army to protect Berlin from the advancing Russians

Women: Total war
- Decree that all female workers who received Family allowance and had given up paid employment yet hadn’t yet produced children – forced to work – or would lose allowance
- 1943 decree – women 17-45 had to work – BUT – many women were still exempt; pregnant women, mothers with 2 or more children and farmer wives
- 500,000 extra women

The effects of mass bombing and military defeats from 1943

Mass Bombing
- The allied Mass bombing campaign; the RAF attacked cities by night and USA air force attacked cities by day
- Aim was to destroy the peoples support for the regime and war
- All of Germany’s main industrial port cities were attacked
- A fire storm in Hamburg killed 35-40,000 people

Problems
Evacuation-Stepped up in 1942
- Classed tensions increased as there was unequal treatment
- Men had to remain – any women who returned to cities would have their ration books taken – resulting in demonstrations and men in the mines refusing to work

Repression stepped up
- ‘Malicious denigration’ gave the death penalty and Penalties for listening to foreign radio

NSV
- Welfare organisation provided food, drink and shelter to survivors of raids.
- Also a system of compensation

Housing shortages – a problem even before the raids!
Workers: end of war
- Total ban on holidays
- Working week increased to 60 hours and extra payments for overtime were abolished
- Rewarded by extra food rations but if workers didn’t comply they could be conscripted into the army

Youth: end of war
- Increasingly militarised
- Conscription age fell to 16 in 1945
- Conscription to the home guard 16-60 – not fit for active service – boys as young as 12
- Special HJ division set up – saw action in the battle of Normandy

Women: end of war
- Age for work raised to 50, Hitler initially disapproves the idea in 1943 but has no choice to approve in ’44 as conditions worsened 1945 women = 60% of work force
- Women increasingly assigned to auxiliary roles with armed forces – servicing air craft guns, operate searchlights, secretarial work; telephone and radio.
- Final stage of the war women were trained for combat roles

Resistance – during the war
Communists
- Communist resistance had been weakened by the Gestapo during the 1930s, but KPD survived
- The USSR invasion stimulated the KPD once more; 89 underground cells operating
- Recruiting through leaflets attacking the regime
- Gestapo destroyed 22 of the cells – Communism was seen as a main enemy KPD no prospect of attracting widespread support

The Churches
- Bishop Galen in 1940 spoke out condemning the euthanasia programme, resulting in the temporary halting of the scheme
- The Confessional church of Prussia spoke out publically of the treatment of the Jews however Bonheoffer had been banned from speaking in public restricting the effectiveness of their calls.

The Edelweiss Pirates
- Groups of working class youths aged 14-18
- Their badge was an Edelweiss flower
- Many different groups with titles like ‘swings,’ ‘packs,’ ‘cliques,’ or ‘pirates’. Together, the members of these groups are thought to have totaled more than 5,000, about 3,000 in Cologne alone, and although each group maintained a separate identity due to its location, all considered themselves Edelweiss Pirates.
- Mainly active in the Rhineland and Ruhr areas
- Uniform consisted of; short trousers, white socks a check shirt, a white pullover and card and a windcheater. In addition they have very long hair.
- Not overly political – just against the Nazis
- Resisted conscription to the Hitler youth
• Participated in similar activities to Hitler youth i.e. hikes and camping trip but as it was outside of Nazi volksgemeinshaft it was considered illegal.

As the war continued the seriousness of their activities grew;

• offered shelter to German army deserters, escaped prisoners from concentration camps and escapees from forced labor camps
• armed raids on military depots and deliberately sabotaging war production
• threw bricks through munitions factories and poured sugar water into the petrol tanks of Nazis’ cars.
• vandalized city walls, spray painting them with lines such as “Down with Hitler” or “Down with Nazi Brutality.”
• Some stole, looting food and supplies from stores or freight trains, or derailed train cars full of ammunition
• supplied adult resistance groups with explosives.
• Pirates from different towns would meet in the countryside, to swap information gained from illegally listening to the BBC World Service
• plan leaflet drops in each other’s towns so the local police would not recognize them; Leaflets contained allied propaganda or encouraged German soldiers to quit their fighting and return to their families.

Nazi response;

• The Gestapo and Hitler youth were used to suppress the youth movement;
• Shaving heads, banishment of concentration camps
• Came to a height when leaders of the Cologne Edelweiss pirates were publically hanged in November 1944

The Swing Youth
• Youth rebellion among the middle class
• Motivated by the desire to have a good time’ (Ministry of justice report)
• A conscious rejection to the Nazi regime;
  - listened to American and British swing music
  - wore English style clothes
• Clubs sprung up across Germany
• They were not political or attempting to overthrow the regime, but because of their behaviour they were seen as opposition
• Himmler wanted to send the leaders to concentration camps

The White Rose group
• Based in Munich University
• Underground only know the leading figures
• Political movement (more so compared to other youth groups)
• Led by Hans and Sophie Scholl, and supported by Professor Kurt Huber
• Influenced by religion especially catholic theologians such as Bishop Galen and emphasised the importance of individual freedom
• Medical students – members were sent to the front line
• Friends witnessed massed murders
• Led to the group going against the Nazi regime and their treatment of the Jews and Slavs people
• Between June 1942 and February 1943, they prepared and distributed six different leaflets, in which they called for the active opposition of the German people to Nazi oppression and tyranny.
AS History Revision – Life in Nazi Germany 1933-45

Revision sheets

- Leaflets were sent to members and ‘randoms’ – to prevent being caught or ‘suspected’ the materials needed were bought in small quantities at many shops

Their arrest

After the defeat at the Battle of Stalingrad the group’s activities became more obvious;

- on three nights in Feb 1943, three of the men members including Hans used tar and paint to write slogans on various buildings which included "Down With Hitler", "Hitler Mass Murderer", "freedom", and drew crossed-out swastikas... this while policemen and other officials patrolled the streets of Munich. It was, by far, the most public, blatant and dangerous of their activities.
- Hans and Sophie began to distribute leaflets personally, leaving bundles outside lecture hall doors. Sophie then ran to the atrium and climbed the staircase to the top floor, and flung the last remaining leaflets into the air. This spontaneous action was observed by the custodian Jakob Schmid. The police were called and Hans and Sophie were taken into Gestapo custody
- Sophie and Hans were questioned for four days in Munich. Within days all three (including Christoph who was also arrested) were brought before the People’s Court in Berlin. On February 22, 1943. The trial was run by Roland Freisler, head judge of the court, and lasted only a few hours, they were convicted of treason and sentenced to death.

The Elites

Why did they oppose?
- Hitler/Nazi regime was evil
- Patriotism – Hitler was leading Germany to a disaster
- Some democrats
- Some aristocratic conservatives who wanted a non-Nazi style of government

What did they do?

Persuade the arm

Made contact with the British government hoping for a commitment to negotiated peace if Hitler was removed

Assassinate Hitler – first when a bomb was placed on Hitler’s plane – Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg succeeded in planting a bomb at Hitler’s headquarters; the bomb went off but Hitler escaped unarmed the coup did not materialise because of confusion amongst conspirators who failed to seize control of radio stations – a broadcast by Hitler confirmed the plot had failed – Himmler was placed in charge of rounding up the conspirators – Army placed under SS control

The state of Germany in 1945