

Germany in Transition, 1919-39

Nazi economic, social and racial policy

Unemployment and workers policy

Task: Complete the gap fill below on the attempts to reduce unemployment and treatment of workers.

In 1933 Germany had experienced years of depression, with _____ at 6 million. Hitler appealed to people because he _____ jobs. He introduced the RAD which made it _____ for all men between 18-25 to do six months of _____ labour, wearing uniform and doing military drills. He also spent millions on job _____ schemes, such as building _____ (motorways). The Nazis also hid unemployment, with Jews, women and those held in _____ camps not counted in the figures. _____ also played a big role in reducing unemployment, and _____ increased the army to 1.4 million by 1939. _____ were also needed, which created even more jobs. By 1939 there were only 35,000 _____ listed as unemployed.

The Nazis wanted to control the workforce. They did this through banning all trade _____ and replacing them with the DAF. They decided wages, and banned _____. Membership was voluntary, but it was almost impossible to get a job without being member. It organised the _____ scheme, where 150,000 people paid 5 marks a week for a car expected in 1940. However, it was a swindle, and none of the workers ever _____ the car, and they weren't _____. The 'Strength through Joy' (KdF) movement tried to improve the leisure time of workers, offering cheap _____, concerts, theatre trips and sporting events. Swimming _____ and sports facilities were also introduced into workplaces.

creation

people

promised

unions

compulsory

refunded

manual

conscription

weapons

pools

Volkswagen

strikes

concentration

autobahns

unemployment

rearmament

received

holidays

Task: Using the information above, match up the terms below with their definitions.

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|-------------------------------------|
| National Labour Service Corps (RAD) |
| Autobahns |
| Conscription |
| German Labour Front (DAF) |
| Volkswagen Scheme |
| Strength through Joy |

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| Motorways – 7000km were built under the Nazis. |
| Forcing people to sign up to the army. |
| A 6 month national service. |
| A new trade union, controlled by the Nazis |
| Where German people were given cheap holidays. |
| A swindle Hitler promised Germans new cars. |

The role of women

In the 1920s there had been progress in women's rights. They were given the vote, worked as lawyers and doctors, and were allowed to drink, smoke, and wear they wanted. The Nazis had a different view of women. They believed an ideal women:

- Did not wear make-up
- Was blonde, heavy hipped and athletic
- Did not smoke
- Did not work
- Cooked, cleaned and looked after the children
- Was not interested in politics



The Nazis promoted this idea using posters, as seen here. They wanted to encourage women to have more children, as the birth rate had dropped massively. Along with propaganda, the Nazis introduced the following measures.

Task: Match the terms up with the correct description.

| | |
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| Law for the Encouragement of Marriage (1933) | On Hitler's mother's birthday medals were awarded to women with large families. |
| 12 th August Medals | A new national organisation organised classes and radio talks on household topics and motherhood. |
| Divorce Law (1939) | Loans were given to couples to marry, and they could keep it if they had children. |
| Lebensborn programme. | Unmarried women could donate a baby to the Hitler by becoming pregnant by SS men. |
| German Women's Enterprise | Divorces were granted if a couple could not have children – childless marriages were seen as worthless. |

The Nazis believed in the 'three Ks': Kinder, Küche, Kirche (children, kitchen, church).

Task: Explain what the 'three Ks' were, and how they fitted into Nazi beliefs.

From 1937 the Nazis had to reverse their policies, as the men were joining the army. Women were needed in work, so the Nazis introduced a 'duty year' for women, where they would have to do farm work for no pay. However, as a result of the Nazis policies towards women, by 1939 there were fewer women working than there had been under the Weimar Republic.

Controlling education

The Nazis saw the young as the future, and they needed to convert them to the Nazi beliefs. They did this through control of education.

Task: Categorise the information below into the following categories: Textbooks, Teachers, Lessons.

| | | |
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| All books used were re-written to fit the Nazi view. | Boys curriculum was focused on preparation for the military, whilst girls learnt how to be good mothers. | Teachers had to swear an oath of loyalty to Hitler. |
| Teachers who did not promote Nazi ideals were dismissed. | New subjects like race studies were introduced, in which the Nazis promoted the Aryan race. | All books had to be approved by the Ministry of Education. |
| All lessons began with 'Heil Hitler', and Nazi themes were present in all lessons. | Mein Kampf, Hitler's book, became a standard text in every school. | A Nazi Teachers' League was set up, and by 1937 97% of teachers had joined. |

The Nazis also wanted to control the spare time of the young. Hitler believed that if young people were indoctrinated in their leisure time as well as at school they would become loyal and committed followers. They therefore:

- Banned all other youth organisations.
- Made membership of the Hitler Youth compulsory from 1939.

Task: For the following statements, decide if they refer to the Hitler Youth (for boys), or the League of German Maidens (for girls), or both.

- Took part in athletics, hiking and camping.
- There was a focus on domestic skills.
- Marching, map reading and camping were introduced as they became older.
- The idea was preparation for marriage.
- Members enjoyed the comradeship.
- The Nazi message would be clear.

Whilst other youth organisations were banned, they did exist. One example is the Edelweiss Pirates.

The treatment of the Jews

Task: Colour code the reasons for persecution of Jews into: Hitler's experience, historical anti-Semitism, and the situation Germany found itself in.

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|---|--|---|
| Many Christians blamed the Jewish people for the death of Jesus Christ. | Hitler spent several years in Vienna where there was a long tradition of anti-Semitism. During this time, he was taunted by the wealthy Jews while he himself was a failed artist. | Hitler's mother was in the care of a Jewish doctor while she was suffering from cancer. After she passed away, Hitler held a grudge against the doctor she was under the care of. |
| Germany blamed many of their economic issues on the Jewish populace due to the incorrect stereotype that Jews were commonly known as money lenders. | Many Jewish people were targeted and blamed for starting/spreading the Black Death and poisoning wells around the villages. | Germany looked for a scapegoat for losing WWI, and many of this blame was focused on the Jewish minority at the time. |

The Nazis plan was to create a pure German state. This meant treating non-German groups, especially the Jews, as second-class citizens. Hitler believed in a 'master race' of Aryans. He planned to achieve this through selective breeding and driving out/destroying the Jews.

Hitler needed to gain support of the German people for his policies. He did this through indoctrination and propaganda, particularly in schools. Textbooks and lessons would put across anti-Semitic views, and laws were put in place to restrict Jewish people's involvement in education. Those Jews who were in school would be humiliated in front of the class. In November 1939 Jewish children were expelled from German schools.

Task: Look at the timeline of laws below. Colour-code them into political, social, and economic consequences for Jews.

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| April 1933 | SA organised a boycott of Jewish shops and businesses. Thousands of Jewish civil servants, lawyers and teachers were sacked. |
| May 1933 | A new law excluded Jews from Government Jobs. |
| Sept 1933 | Jews were banned from inheriting land. |
| 1934 | Jews were banned from parks, playing fields and swimming pools. |
| May 1935 | Jews were no longer recruited for the army. |
| June 1935 | Jews were not allowed in restaurants. |
| Sept 1935 | The Nuremburg Laws took away Jews citizenship and banned marriage or sexual relations between Jews and Germans. |
| April 1936 | Jews were banned from being vets, dentists, nurses, accountants and teachers. |
| Sept 1937 | More Jewish businesses were taken over by the Nazis. |
| July 1938 | Jews had to carry identity cards. |
| August 1938 | Jewish men had to add the name 'Israel' to their first names, and Jewish women had to add 'Sarah', in order to humiliate them. |
| October 1938 | Jews had the red letter 'J' stamped on their passport. |
| Nov 1938 | Kristallnacht occurred. |

Task: Complete the gap fill on Kristallnacht.

In November 1938 a Polish Jew shot a _____ embassy official in Paris, as a protest against the treatment of his parents, who had been _____ by the Germany. The Nazis used this as an excuse to organise anti-Jewish demonstrations, _____ Jewish property, shops, homes and synagogues across Germany. It became known as Kristallnacht, or the 'Night of _____ Glass'. 100 Jews were killed, 20,000 sent to _____ camps, and 7500 Jewish businesses were _____. The owners of the property were not allowed to make any _____ claims, and were not allowed to re-open under Jewish management. Many Germans were _____ at the events, so Hitler pretended the Nazis had nothing to do with it, and that it was _____.

deported

Broken

German

destroyed

attacking

spontaneous

concentration

insurance

disgusted

Hitler blamed the Jews, and they were fined 1 billion Reichsmarks to repair the damage. The persecution continued into 1939, with the SS forcibly removing Jews. Jewish people were required to surrender precious metals and jewellery, they were evicted from their homes and forced into ghettos, and they had to hand in their radios so they could not listen to foreign news.