

Germany under the Nazi Leadership:

Key words: Third Reich, Reichstag Fire, Enabling Act, The Night of the Long Knives, Führerprinzip, Unemployment, Highways, Rearmament, Gestapo, Propaganda, Olympic Games, Women, Hitler Jugend, Opposition, Church

Nazi slogan: "Ein Volk, Ein Reich, Ein Führer" - "....."

Nazi Germany = Reich (in German Drittes Reich): 30.1.1933 – 8.5.1945

- State of Germany **from 30 January 1933 when Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany** to 8 May 1945 when Nazi Germany surrendered in the WWII.

Nazi Germany was a *totalitarian dictatorship/democracy* ruled by Party

Nazism (*Nationalsozialismus*, National Socialism):

Features:

- The ideology and practice of the Nazi Party and of Nazi Germany
- Racism:
- "unworthy of living" included: and so-called "Mischlinge" along with Anti-Semitism and anti-Slavism led to the Holocaust.
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Reichstag Fire:

See worksheet: The Nazi Party and its Rise

Enabling Act:

- This Act granted the Cabinet the authority to enact laws **without the participation of the Reichstag** for the next 4 years.

The Power grows:

- The Communists and other politics were put into camps run by the SA. By the end of July 1933, there were already over 25 000 prisoners in these camps.
- **The first concentration camp** was established in (16 km from Munich) **in 1933**.

- April 1933: Nazi officials took control of all of Germany's 18 Lander – provinces.
- May 1933: All trade unions were banned, their leaders arrested and their assets seized.

July 1933: all opposition parties were banned. Germany thus became a one-party state.

The Night of the Long Knives: 1934

- There was still some **opposition within the Nazi Party**. An important leader of this opposition was - head of the SA since 1930 - who wanted the **German army** to be merged with the SA **under his control**. By 1934, there were over men in the SA.
- In June 1934 Hitler ordered the SS to murder **Ernst Röhm** and other SA leaders. This is known as the *Night of the Long Knives*.
- In all, about 400 people were murdered including **Röhm. The SA was destroyed.**

Hitler becomes Führer:

See the Worksheet "Adolf Hitler. Dictator"

Propaganda, Censorship, Control:

- (name) (joined the Nazi Party in 1922) was in charge of Nazi propaganda from 1929. The Nazis established control over radio, cinema, newspapers and over the arts in general.
- **Newspapers:** were either closed down, or taken over by the Nazis' own publishing companies. By 1939, the Nazis owned almost % of the press. At the same time, all newspapers had to use the state press agency as the only source for news stories.
- Cheap **radios** were made so that anybody could afford to buy one. This way Nazis made sure that Loudspeakers were in the
- **Cinemas:** the mass Party rallies were filmed and shown in the cinemas.

Gestapo:

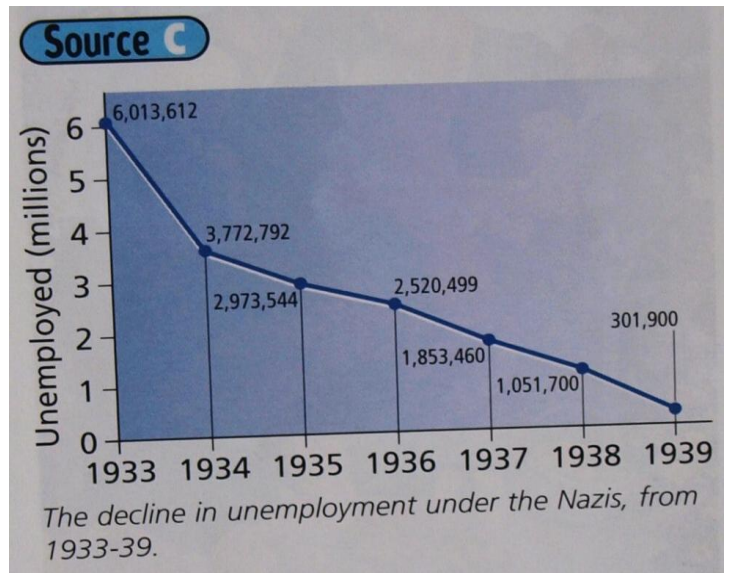
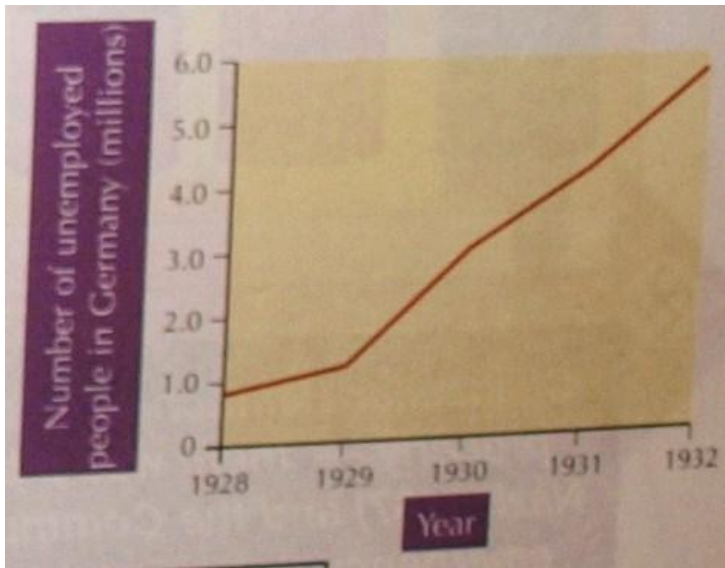
- **The Gestapo (Geheime Staatspolizei):** was a secret state police set up by in 1933.
- Its job was to find all opponents of the Nazi regime, and it was allowed to use any means necessary, including
- Gestapo encouraged all "loyal" Germans to

The Economy:

- Hitler started a huge program of public works, which gave jobs to thousands of people.
- From 1933, **huge** – **autobahns** – were started (over km were built by 1938 and today approximately 11.000 km cover Germany), and the Nazis had big plans for many public buildings, including the **stadium** which would hold the
- no strikes were allowed
- Unemployment was reduced. **BUT:** the were put into concentration camps and not counted as unemployed.

Against Capitalism and Communism:

- The Nazis argued that capitalism damages **NATIONS** due to **international** finance, the economic dominance of big business, and **Jewish** influences within it. Adolf Hitler accused modern capitalism of holding nations ransom in the interests of a
- **To Hitler, the economy must be subordinated to the interests of the**



Volkswagen:

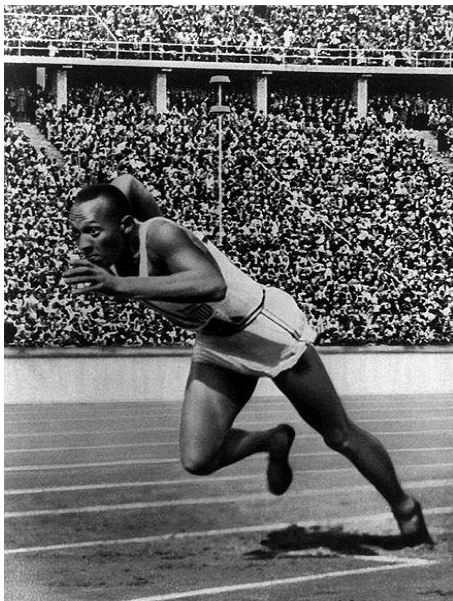
- **Volkswagen Beetle** (produced from 1938 until 2003): In 1933, Adolf Hitler gave the order to Ferdinand Porsche to develop a *Volkswagen* (literally, ".....").
- Hitler required a basic vehicle capable of transporting at km/h

Rearmament:

- Another way of **creating work** was to **build up the armed forces**. The Nazis did it secretly at first, because the had banned it, but from 1935 openly.

Hitler in 1936: "German and Italian re-armament is proceeding much more rapidly than re-armament can in England. In three years Germany will be ready."

- Rearmament resulted in the building of **thousands of tanks, aircraft and warships**
- Conscription introduced: army went from 100 000 to million.



Olympic Games 1936 and Jesse Owens:

- Nazi propaganda promoted concepts of "Aryan racial superiority" and depicted ethnic Africans as inferior at the Olympics
- Hitler allowed only members of the ... Aryan race to compete for Germany.
- **Jesse Owens (black American)**: took 4 gold medals: one each in the 100 meters, the 200 meters, the long jump, and as part of the 4x100 meter relay team. He was **the most successful athlete** at the Olympics.

Young people:

- Schools were under central government control
- All teachers had to join the *Nazi Teachers' League* and all Jewish or politically unreliable teachers were sacked.
- Textbooks attacked all the enemies of Germany and included subjects like, and the Nazi version of history.
- **Biology** centered on the Nazis' "....." which tried to indoctrinate pupils into thinking that the "Aryans" were superior race, while Jewish, Slavic and black people were inferior.
- The amount of PE was tripled. *Why?*

.....**Those with any physical handicap were not allowed to receive any secondary education.**

Aryan:

According to Hitler, the “Aryans” were the north European “races who, with their eyes and hair, were superior to the dark-haired and dark-eyed Mediterranean “races”, and especially “inferior races” such as He wanted to create a “pure Aryan race of Germans who would dominate Europe and the world as the “.....Race”.

Hitler Jugend (from 1922 to 1945):

- Was an organization that indoctrinated **male youth** from **14 to 18** of age with the **Nazi ideology**.
- In 1939, membership was made compulsory.

Women:

- role of women in the Third Reich: 3x K: **Kinder, Kucher, Kirche** (.....)

Kinder, Kucher, Kirche

While men were born to work, engage in politics and fight in wars, **women were**

.....
..... If they did work outside the home, they should stick to jobs related to their “natural” function, e.g. nursing or social work.

- The Nazis made sure no woman held any important leadership post in the Party.
- **Women were encouraged to marry and have large families**, by a system of marriage loans, improved maternity benefits, grants for each fourth child above, and bronze, silver and gold medals for having children.
- **Abortion: was made**
- **Contraceptive advice and family planning clinics were**
- **Forced sterilization:** was carried out to prevent the birth of any children who might not be “fit” Aryans. By 1939, over **women were sterilized**.
- Make-up and hair-dyeing were discouraged, and women seen smoking in public were criticized.

Nazi Popularity and Opposition:

- There was **no real opposition** to the Nazis. Reasons: 1-6
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Some signs of the opposition:

- The Communists and Social Democrats set up underground organizations and published newsletters, posters,... to weaken the Nazis.
- Young people: rebelled to join the Hitler Jung, listened to “degenerate” music like jazz, swing,...
 - members of the Church
- High Command of the German Army – bomb attack on Hitler in 1944. Hitler survived the attack.



Church and the Nazis:

- The poster was printed for the Reichstag election in November 1933.
- The poster is titled “Why is a Catholic obliged to vote for the parliamentary list of Adolf Hitler?” It answers this question by enumerating the benefits to the Church of the concordat negotiated by Pius XII, and signed just months before.

Translation of the poster: Why is a Catholic obliged to vote for the parliamentary list of Adolf Hitler? Because in the National Socialist state intrinsically and through the Reichskonkordat: 1- 8:

1. the Faith is protected,
2. peace with the Church is assured,
3. Public morality is preserved,
4. Sunday is hallowed,
5. Catholic schools are maintained,
6. the Catholic conscience is no longer burdened,
7. a Catholic has equal rights before the law and in the life of the nation,
8. Catholic organisations and associations, insofar as they exclusively serve religious, charitable and cultural purposes, can operate freely. Therefore a Catholic is obliged on 12 November [1933] to vote thus: Referendum: yes Parliamentary election: Adolf Hitler.

Reichskonkordat: July 20, 1933:

The secret part of the concordat indicates that already in 1933 the Pope expected Germany to go to war against Russia. And a recently discovered letter shows that ten years later, when this indeed happened, Pius hoped for a German victory.

Concordat was a marriage of convenience: Pius got a favourable concordat, whilst Hitler got the “Catholic vote” to help bring him to power.