# GCSE History – Democracy and Dictatorship: Germany 1890-1945

## **KEY WORDS**

Work and Bread: Hitler promised work and bread to the German people during the Economic depression when they were struggling to

National Labour Service (RAD -Reichsarbeitsdienst): Men aged between 18-25 had to spend 6 months in RAD building Autobahns, schools, hospitals. They wore uniform, barely got paid and lived in camps. Unemployment dropped.

Autobahns: High speed motorways built by Nazi Germany in the 1930's to create jobs.

Rearmament: Building weapons and forces. It was used as a means to fight unemployment in the 1930's.

**Conscription:** A system were people are forced to join the army or navy.

Economics: The state of a country or region in terms of the production and consumption of goods and services and the supply of money.

Four Year Plan: An attempt by the Nazis to increase agriculture and industrial production, regulate imports and exports, and achieve

Autarky: In English means self-sufficient. A country wants to produce things for itself without importing it from elsewhere.

Beauty of Labour (SDA – Schonheit der Arbeit): Improved working conditions, canteens were cheaper and there were better washing

Strength Through Joy (KDF- Kraft Durch Freud): Gave cheap theatre and cinema tickets to workers, organized courses, trips and events.

Volkswagen (VW): In English, 'The Peoples car'. Thousands of workers saved 5 marks a week in a state scheme to buy a VW Beetle. It was a symbol of prosperous new Germany. No workers received their car as production was halted for WW2.

Rationed: When certain foods, goods and fuel that are in short supply are spread more equally among people, by giving people a fixed

Total War: Full-scale war where any weapons can be used and where usual rules of war are ignored.

Refugee: A person who has moved from their home usually as it is unsafe and is travelling to, or has arrived, at another place.

Kinder, Kirche and Kuche: Translates in English to, 'Children, Church and Cooking'. Nazi policy towards women.

**Armament:** Making or equipping the military with weapons and equipment.

Napolas (National Political Institutes of Education): Children identified as future Nazi leaders were sent to these schools.

Adolf Hitler Schools: Schools set up by the Hitler Youth Organisation. They trained children to be 'ideal Nazis', clever, tough and fiercely

Little Fellows: A Nazi club for boys aged 6-10.

Young Folk: A Nazi club for boys aged 10-14.

Hitler Youth: A Nazi club for boys aged 14-18, all clubs would prepare boys for their futures as Nazi soldiers after 18 years of age.

Young Girls: A Nazi club for girls aged 10-14.

League of German Girls: A Nazi club for girls aged 14-17, all clubs would prepare girls to be the perfect Nazi housewife.

Undesirables: People that didn't fit in the stereotype of an Aryan. Strong and healthy a 'pure' German. Not wanted by Hitler and the

**Assassinate:** To murder or kill an important person for political or religious reasons.

**Pacifists:** People who refuse on principle to take part in war or violence.

Censorship: The limiting of access to information, ideas or books in order to prevent knowledge or the freedom of thought.

Kristallnacht: Translates in English to, 'Night of the Broken Glass'. First violent mass demonstration against Jewish people.

Aryan: A person of German or Scandinavian origin, usually fair-haired and blue-eyed; the Nazis believed that Aryans were the superior

Master Race: An elite race of people, to which Hitler believed the Germans belonged.

Grumbling: The lowest form of opposition to the Nazis was moaning or 'grumbling'.

Concordat: Is an agreement between a state leader and a Pope that states the relationship between Catholic church and a country/

Euthanasia: Deliberately killing a person.

Death Camps: Extermination camps where prisoners, mainly Jews, were put to death.

Ghettos: Areas were members of a particular racial group are forced (or in some cases choose) to live.

**Lebensborn:** 'Fountain of Life', a Nazi movement that tried to stop the decline in Germany's population. It encourages girls and women

Nuremberg Laws: A series of laws aimed at excluding German Jews from Reich citizenship and stopping them marrying or having sexual

# Life in Nazi Germany



### **KEY INDIVIDUALS AND KEY GROUPS**

**Hjalmar Schacht:** He was a German economist, banker, centre-right politician, and co-founder in 1918 of the German and was the Minister of Economics from 1934-1937.

Herman Goering: Schutzsaffel (SS): He was a leading member of the Nazi Party , was a WW1 veteran and the original leader of the Gestapo before Himmler. He was made the Economics Minister in 1937 and was a part of Germanys 4 year

#### German Labour Force (DAF - Deutsche Arbeitsfront):

Albert Speer: He served as the Minister of Armaments and War Production in Nazi Germany during most of World War II. Hitler Youth: It was officially set up in 1933 by Adolf Hitler, however, it originated in 1922 for educating and training male youth age 14-18 in Nazi principles.

Nationalist Socialist Teachers League (German Teachers League): It determined whether teachers were politically and racially suitable to educate German children under the Nazi regime.

Albert Einstein: Was a Jewish German born Physicists who escaped Germany when the Nazis were in power and went to America. He contributed to the Atomic Bomb which was used during WW2.

Swing Youth: Opposed Hitler and the Nazi's rules by listening and playing Jazz and Swing music. Nazi's opposed Jazz and

Edelweiss Pirates: A youth group that refused to join the Nazi Youth. They were Anti-Nazi, so much so that they beat up Nazi officials and supported helped army deserters.

Jews: Jewish people who follow the religion of Judaism. Their were around 500,000 Jews in Germany when the Nazis came to power.

Nationalist Socialist Women's Organisation: Was the women's' division of the Nazi Party.

Gertrud Scholtz Klink: Was a Nazi Party member and leader of the Nazi Women's' organisation.

Pope: The supreme leader of the Catholic Church, and sovereign of the Vatican City State. He signed and then went against the Concordat that Hitler and himself signed.

Archbishop Galen: A Catholic Archbishop who openly criticised the Nazi's for their use of terror tactics, euthanasia and did put him in house arrest until the end of the war.

Ludwig Muller: Was the leader of the German Christians, the church under Nazi control, he became the first Reich Bishop in September 1933.

**Einsatzgruppen:** SS mobile death squads responsible for the murder of those thought to be racial or political enemies.

Stormtroopers (SA): Hitler's brown shirted supporters who were employed to beat up opponents and guard meetings.

Regular Police and Law Courts: Where all under the control of the Nazis and could punish however they felt fit.

White Rose Group: An anti-Nazi youth group, made up mainly of university students.

Hans and Sophie Scholl: Leaders of the White Rose Group who were brother and sister, who were Munich University students. They were caught and beheaded for their crimes in 1943.

Claus von Stauffenberg: A German army officer from WW2 who agreed to detonate the bomb in the July Bomb Plot. Beck- Goerdeler group: It was led by Ludwig Beck and Carl Goerdeler, two former Nazi army generals tried to get the

British to remove Hitler and also tried to assassinate Hitler 3 times, this included the July Bomb plot.

Kreisau Circle: Consisted of army officers, university professors and aristocrats who were against Hitler and discussed assassinating him.

**German Christians:** A Protestant Group, largely under Nazi control.

# **Key Events Timeline**

KEY:

Social

**Political** 

**Economical** 

#### Birth Rates (1900 -1933)

Birth rates decreased from over 2 million per year to under 1 million a year. The Nazis felt that the low birth rate didn't fit with their plans to expand Germany's territory and settle Germans in other areas of Germany.

### Law for the Prevention of diseased Offspring (1933)

The Nazis sterilised undesirable women.

Reich Food Estate set up (September 1933)

(1933)

Hitler banned

all trade unions

(2<sup>nd</sup> May 1933)

Bauhaus movement closed down (1933)

(September 1933) 15% of university lecturers and professors were replaced, 1/3 for racial reasons, 1/2 for political reasons. Over 3000 were

Ludwig Muller

Reich Bishop.

became the first

dismissed. (1933-1934) 1934

Conscription (1935 - 1940)

18-25 year old men forced to join the armed forces for at least 2 years. Within 5 years the army grew from 100,000 to 1,400,000.

970,000 babies were born in Germany in 1933 by 1939 it had risen to 1,413,000. (1933-1939)

The Pope issued a statement where he said "with burning anxiety" that the Nazis were "hostile to Christ and his church." (1937)

The persecutions of the Jews increased during WW2 And started killing undesirables. (1939)

In WW2 women had to work in factories whilst men fought. (1939-1945)

The Warsaw Ghetto uprising lasted 43 days. (1943)

Plans were created for 'a final solution to the Jewish Question'. (1941)

> Archbishop Galen, openly criticised Nazis for their terror tactics, Euthanasia and concentration camps. (August 1941)

# **Describe Question (4 marks)**

1) Describe two ways the Nazis spread their messages.

# In what ways question (8 marks)

1) In what ways would the behaviour of ordinary Germans be affected by the police state? Explain your answer.

### **Bullet Point Question (12 marks)**

Which of the following was the more important reason why resistance and opposition to Hitler was not effective:

- the strength of the Nazi police state
- the weaknesses of the protesters?

Explain your answer with reference to both reasons

Time given for PE in schools trebled (the 1930's)

1930

The creation of a new network of autobahns

gave 100,000 people work (June 1933)

Hitler and the Pope

signed the Concordat

**Hjalmar Schacht** appointed the

Hitler delivered

the ideal

look like. (1935)

Nuremberg Laws for Jews in Germany

Around 3800km of highway had been built (1938) 1938

(by March 1939)

1.7 million mothers had attended at

least 1 of the motherhood courses.

WW2 started (1939)

Hitler and the Nazis had attacked and defeated 6 European countries. (by 1940)

Hitler Youth was made

1940

Hitler's armies

USSR (Russia).

attacked the

1942

Treblinka

Albert Speer was made Armaments Minister and told to prepare for total war. (1942)

1946

The Farmers were unhappy and suffering when others were doing well. (Late 1920's)

Hitler set up the Hitler Youth Organisation (1922)

1932

Minister of **Economics** (1933)

Hitler banned all youth groups such as;

cub scots and church youth groups,

except the Hitler Youth (1933)

a speech outlining what teenager should 1936

Berlin Olympics (1936)

(1935-

1941)

Goering made the Minister of Economics (1936)

> Severe food shortages in Germany. Food and clothing had to be rationed (November 1939 onward)

A law for the 'Incorporation of German Youth', gave the Hitler Youth equal status at home and school. (1936)

(1941)

Britain and America started pounding Germany with bombs. (1942)

1944 It was beginning to look like Germany was doomed to be defeated. (1944) Uprising (1943)

> Around 7 million foreign workers had been brought in from countries that Germany had conquered to work as slave labour in factories. (1944)

The medal of motherhood (The cross of honour) was awarded, on Hitler's mothers birthday, to mothers who had given birth to a significant

compulsory (1939) amount of children. (12th August 1939 - 1945)

Kristallnacht (9th

November 1938)

# **3 PART: Interpretation Question**

#### Part 1 (4 marks)

How does Interpretation B differ from interpretation A about the Hitler Youth clubs?

### Part 2 (4 marks)

Why might the authors of Interpretation A and B have a

## Part 3 (8 marks)

Which interpretation do you find more convincing about the Hitler Youth clubs?

"I remember with more pleasure the weekend outings, the hikes, sports, campfires and youth hosteling. Occasionally there would be field exercise with neighboring groups. I began to play truant from school as work for the Hitler Youth took up more and more of my time and energy. I would often leave the house at 5:00 am and only arrive at school for the second or third lesson."

**Interpretation A:** From Account Rendered by Melita Maschmann (1964). Maschmann joined the League of German Girls in March 1933. She was arrested after the war as a Nazi Party member, and was sent to prison.

**Interpretation B:** Adapted from an account by a young German, Arno Klonne, whose parents were teachers and had and had access to banned books. In his account he remembers his time in the Hitler Youth during 1940.

"When I was older, I became a Hitler Youth leader. I found the need for absolute obedience unpleasant. The Nazis preferred people not to have a mind of their own. In our troop the activities consisted almost entirely of endless military drill. Even if sport or shooting practice or a singsong was planned, we always had to drill first."

The July Bomb Plot (AKA Operation Valkyrie (1942)

The Wannasee

Conference (1942) set

up the Final Solution.

