

## Key issue 6: The impact of war

### KEY WORDS

- **Autarky**- Being economically independent and self sufficient.
- **Reichswehr**- The German army
- **Total War**- when a state mobilises its entire population & materials to support the war effort.
- **Volksmeinschaft**- people's community
- **Rationing**- allow someone to have only a certain amount of food & clothing.
- **Propaganda**- information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.
- **Indoctrination**- process of teaching a person or group to accept a set of beliefs uncritically.
- **Pearl Harbour**- US naval base near Honolulu, Hawaii that was attacked by Japan
- **Hitler myth**- symbolized Hitler as a god like favour which was promoted with the use of propaganda.
- **D-day**- the day (6 June 1944) in the Second World War on which Allied forces invaded northern France by means of beach landings in Normandy.
- **Conscription**- compulsory enlistment for state service, typically into the armed forces.
- **Volksturm**- Home guard
- **Fuhrer** –leader of Germany
- **Patriotic**- having or expressing devotion to and vigorous support for one's country.
- **Armaments**- military weapons and equipment.
- **Stalingrad**- One of the most decisive battles on the Eastern Front in the Second World War where the Russian army defeated the German army.
- **POW**- Prisoners of war
- **Wansee Conference**- high-ranking Nazi Party and German government officials gathered to discuss and coordinate the implementation of the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question."
- **Death march**- when Jews were forced to march to their death
- **Nazi- Soviet Pact**- pact formed in 1939 between the USSR & Germany- it included a 10-year non-aggression pact between Germany and the Soviet Union. It also included provisions for economic cooperation and territorial expansion

### Essay Question

*'The German economy was adapted successfully to meet the demands of war before 1945.'*

*Assess the validity of this view.*

### KEY INDIVIDUALS AND KEY GROUPS

- **Edelweiss pirates**- groups of youths who opposed Nazi rule. The Edelweiss Pirates were primarily opposed to the way the Hitler Youth movement had taken over the lives of youths in Hitler's Germany.
- **Swing Youth**- teenagers who rebelled against the Nazis. They were typically from more wealthy families.
- **White Rose Group**- University students who opposed Nazi rule and actions particularly their treatment of Jews.
- **Bishop Von Galen**- Catholic Cardinal who spoke out against the Euthanasia programme.
- **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**- Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German pastor and theologian known for his opposition to National Socialism
- **Archbishop Frings of Cologne**- Spoke out against the killing of POWs & persecution of Jews.
- **Kreisau Circle**- Group of aristocrats lawyers, SPD politicians and churchmen who believed in personal freedom & individual rights.
- **Colonel Claus Von Stauffenberg**- army leader who attempted to kill Hitler.

### Source Question

**From the final leaflet of the White Rose movement, written after the surrender of the German Sixth Army at Stalingrad, 31 January 1943.**

Fellow Students!

Our people are deeply shaken by the fall of our men at Stalingrad. Three hundred and thirty thousand German men were senselessly and irresponsibly driven to their deaths by the brilliant strategy of our First World War corporal. Führer, we thank you! The German people are in ferment. The day of reckoning for German youth has come with the most abominable tyrant our people have ever been forced to endure. In the name of German youth, we demand Hitler's state restore our personal freedom, the most precious treasure that we have, out of which he has swindled us in the most wretched way.

The Hitler Youth and SS have tried to drug us and regiment us in the most promising years of our lives to become godless, arrogant and conscienceless exploiters and executioners.

The name of Germany will remain forever stained with shame if German youth do not finally arise, fight back and smash our tormentors. The German people look to us; the dead of Stalingrad beseech us!

**With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying resistance to the Nazis in the years 1941 to 1944.**

# Key Events Timeline

**KEY:**

Social

Political

Economical

Foreign

**1939**  
Invasion of Poland

**August 1939**  
Rationing introduced

**September- November 1939**  
Clothing rationing introduced

**1939**

**Jan 1941**- Wannsee conference held

**1941**  
Mass arrests of Swing Club members

**April 1941**  
German forces invade Yugoslavia & Greece & then pushed onto North Africa.

**June 1941**  
Invasion of the Soviet Union/end of blitzkrieg. Increased number of POWs used as slave labour

**1941**

**1943**- Age of conscription decreases to 17 from 19

**Jan 1943**  
German army defeated at Stalingrad which was a turning point for the war. Hitler myth starts to break down.

**February 1943**  
Total War is introduced by Goebbels.

**Jan 1942**- Britain forces stopped the German & Italian advances in North Africa

**April 1942**- Food rations reduced further

**1943**

**1944**  
Goebbels talks of a secret weapon to help boost morale.

**June 1944**  
D-Day landings- a second front is opened up in Western Europe.

**1945**  
Start of death marches

**1945**

**1940**

**1940**  
Bishop Galen speaks out against the Euthanasia programme.

**December 1941**  
Germany declares war on the USA after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

**1941**  
Mood in Germany dampens as the war is not going as well as they hoped & because German forces were halted outside of Moscow

**1942**

**November 1942**  
Britain defeat Germany at El Alamein

**March 1943**  
Assassination attempt on Hitler failed when a bomb was planted on his aeroplane

**1944**

**July 1944**  
Another failed assassination attempt on Hitler. A bomb was placed in the headquarters by Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg. Hitler survived and the conspirators were arrested, tortured & executed. The army was put under SS control.

**1945**  
Germany is defeated & Hitler myth destroyed

**Nov 1944**  
13 leaders of the Cologne Edelweiss pirates are publicly hanged.

**1941-1943**

Albert Speer's economic miracle- Production of German aircraft increased by 200%/tank production increased by 250%