

Nazi Germany: 1933 – 45

Revision Guide

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Read this...

Hitler's Rise to Power

- Hitler needed a majority to get things done. He called an election for March 1933
- The Communist vote was crushed through the Reichstag Fire and the following Emergency Decree
- The Nazis got 288 seats in the election, NOT a majority. They had to join with the DNVP/ Nationalists to get the majority
- Hitler then used this majority to quickly pass the Enabling Act which allowed him to make laws without consulting the Reichstag for the next 4 years.
- With the power of the Enabling Act, Hitler then:
 - Banned opposing parties and put leaders in concentration camps.
 - Banned Trade Unions.
 - Put Nazis in charge of all state governments.
 - Used fear and intimidation to make sure people didn't challenge the Nazis.
- The SA, under their leader Röhm, became a threat due to their numbers and military training and so Hitler had 400 leaders of the SA shot on the Night of the Long Knives.
- When Hindenburg died, Hitler made himself Chancellor and President combined and called his new role *Führer*. The army were forced to take an oath of personal loyalty to Hitler.
- No major group remained to challenge Hitler: he had TOTALITARIAN One Party State.



Then click here...

Hitler's Rise to Power




Answers...

1. When did Hitler call yet another election?
2. What was significant for the Nazis in the results of this election?
3. How did Hitler make the Communists unpopular?
4. What did Hitler quickly pass and what did this allow him to do?
5. Who quickly became a threat to Hitler?
6. How did he solve this problem?
7. What two roles did Hitler combine?
8. What name did he give to this new position?

Hitler's Rise to Power

1. March 1933
2. Didn't win a majority
3. Accused them of burning the Reichstag
4. The Enabling Act; make laws without the Reichstag
5. The SA under their leader Ernst Rohm
6. Had over 400 killed on the Night of the Long Knives
7. Chancellor & President
8. Der Fuhrer




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Read this...

Nazi Propaganda

- Hitler set up the cult of the Führer, presenting himself as the great saviour of Germany. His image was used very carefully – he was only ever shown serving Germany
- Goebbels made sure that people were bombarded with information to keep them loyal to the Nazis
- Posters, pictures, art exhibitions and films were all made to show how great the Nazis were
- Hitler's speeches were regularly broadcast on the radio to remind people of how much the Nazis were improving their lives. Cheap radios were sold to people and connected up to loudspeakers so that everyone could hear
- The newspapers were banned from printing anything that hadn't been checked by the Nazis first
- Great rallies were held, such as those at Nuremberg, to show people how organised and powerful the Party was
- In 1936, Hitler used the Olympic Games to show the world how efficient, modern and advanced the German nation was.



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Nazi Propaganda




Answers...

1. What was Hitler always shown to be doing?
2. How were Hitler's speeches broadcast to the nation?
3. How did they ensure this would happen?
4. What happened to newspaper publication?
5. Where was the most famous Nazi rally held?
6. When and where did the Nazis host the Olympic Games?
7. How did they ensure this was a propaganda success?

Nazi Propaganda

1. Serving Germany
2. Radio
3. Supply of cheap/free radios
4. Heavily censored
5. Nuremberg
6. Munich 1936
7. German athletes well trained/prepared;
removal of anti-Semitic materials



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Read this...

Nazi Intimidation

- Concentration camps were used to imprison anyone who went against the Nazi state. These were run by the SS
- People were expected to work to benefit Germany. They were often worked to death with very long hours and insufficient rations
- The Gestapo would go round checking that people were being loyal to the Nazis. People who weren't would often be taken off in the middle of the night for torture or to be taken to a camp
- Germany was subdivided into tiny blocks of about 30-40 houses. Each block would have a Nazi living there who would keep an eye on all the families and report to the police and the Gestapo if they noticed anti-Nazi behaviour
- Children in the Hitler Youth were expected to report their parents and neighbours



Then click here...

Nazi Intimidation



Answers

1. Who ran the concentration camps?
2. Who would check people were being loyal to the Nazis?
3. How many houses were in each “sub-block” of Germany?
4. What type of behaviour would be reported?
5. Who were children expected to report on?

Nazi Intimidation

1. SS
2. Gestapo
3. 30 – 40
4. Anti-Nazi/anti-German
5. Parents & neighbours



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Read this...

Hitler Youth Movements

- Hitler wanted to *indoctrinate* young people to become perfect Nazis. He did this in two ways: the Hitler Youth Movements and through Education.
- The Hitler Youth Movements:
 - 4 different groups, 2 for girls, 2 for boys.
 - Boys trained to be soldiers: marching, camping, weapons training, fitness training.
 - Girls trained to be good mothers: domestic training, fitness training.
 - Both groups trained in utter loyalty to Hitler: listening to *Mein Kampf*, saluting the swastika, singing Nazi songs, reporting on “anti-Nazi” activities in their families and neighbourhoods.
- Membership of the Hitler Youth became compulsory in 1939. About 7,500,000 children were members; about 1,000,000 refused.
- Some young people chose to join anti-Nazi groups like the Swing Movement and the Edelweiss Pirates.



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Hitler Youth Movements




Answers

1. What was Hitler's aim for all young German people?
2. How many Nazi youth groups were there?
3. What did boys train to do?
4. What did girls train to do?
5. When did membership of a youth group become compulsory?
6. How many children were members of a Nazi youth group?
7. How many refused?
8. What type of groups did these children join?

Hitler Youth Movements

1. To indoctrinate them to become good Nazis
2. 4 – two for boys, two for girls
3. To become soldiers: marching, camping, weapons training, fitness training
4. To be good mothers: domestic training, fitness training
5. 1939
6. 7,500,000
7. 1,000,000
8. Anti-Nazi groups: Swing Movement, Edelweiss Pirataes



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Read this...

Education

- New curriculum:
 - Maths questions promoted messages of war and getting rid of minorities
 - History focused on the Nazi Party
 - Geography focused on the “Greater Germany”
 - Biology focused on recognising the Aryan race
- New resources
 - History books were rewritten without German defeats
 - Story books were written warning children of the dangers of the Jews.
- Boys were educated to be soldiers, girls educated to be mothers. They had separate timetables.
- Lots of PE lessons for everyone to keep everyone fit and healthy for their new roles.
- Teachers had to join the Nazi Teachers’ Association or lose their jobs.
- Jewish pupils were persecuted in lessons. They were expelled from German schools in 1938.



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Education




Answers...

1. What did Mathematics, History, Geography and Biology lessons focus on?
2. What was taken out of history books?
3. What was put into story books?
4. Why was everyone put into PE lessons?
5. What did teachers have to do?
6. What happened to Jews in schools?

Education

1. Questions about Jews, history of the Nazi Party, “Greater Germany” and spotting Aryans
2. German defeats
3. Stories about “bad” Jews
4. To make them fighting fit for Germany
5. Join the Nazi Teacher’s Association
6. Persecuted and then banned in 1933




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Read this...

Women

- Women were expected to be mothers. Many women were forced to leave their jobs
- Medals were awarded for women who had large numbers of children
- People were encouraged to get married and have children by being offered marriage loans which were reduced each time a child was born
- Women were discouraged from wearing make-up, smoking and dieting



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Women




Answers...

1. What were many women forced to do?
2. What did women get medals for?
3. What were German couples encouraged to do?
4. How did the Nazis encourage this?
5. What were women discouraged from?

Women

1. Give up work
2. Having lots of children
3. Marry and have children
4. Cheap loans that got cheaper the more children you had
5. Smoking, dieting and wearing make up



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Read this...

Workers 1

- Hitler set up two 4-year plans to get the economy back on track
- Unemployment was tackled by creating massive public works programmes such as the building of the autobahns. Millions of men were given jobs through this, although they were paid poorly
- Men aged 18-25 were made to join the RAD (Reich Labour Service) for 6 months. They did hard manual labour such as tree felling and ditch digging
- All workers joined the DAF (German Labour Front) which controlled the workers and settled disputes between them and their employers. It persuaded employers to improve working conditions in factories
- The KDF (Strength through Joy) organisation was set up to organise the leisure time of the workers, providing them with cheap theatre tickets, cruises, skiing holidays and saving up for VW Beetles



Then click here...

Workers 1



Answers...

1. What plans did Hitler set up?
2. What was the most significant achievement of Nazi construction?
3. How many men did this employ?
4. What were young men forced to join?
5. What were all men forced to join?
6. How did this affect their working lives?
7. What organisation was set up to benefit workers?
8. What benefits could they receive?

Workers 1

1. 4-year plans
2. The autobahns
3. Millions
4. Reich Labour Service (RAD), for 6 months
5. Germans Workers Front (DAF) – a trade union
6. Sought to improve working conditions
7. Strength through Joy (KDF)
8. Cheap theatre tickets, cruises, skiing holidays and saving up for VW Beetles



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Read this...

Workers 2

- The government took control of prices, wages, profits and imports which stopped big businesses from running their affairs in their own way
- Jewish small businesses were closed down allowing other German small businesses to flourish
- Farmers were given help in paying off loans but were given quotas for production to meet which limited their freedom
- In the run up to WW2, German men began to be conscripted into the army and more and more factories were set up for arms production
- Germany tried to achieve autarky (self-sufficiency) so that they could keep fighting when other countries stopped trading with them



Then click here...

Workers 2




Answers...

1. What aspects of the economy did the government take control of?
2. What businesses did the Nazis close down?
3. How were farmers helped?
4. And how were they hindered?
5. What happened to German men in the run up to WW2?
6. What were the Nazis trying to achieve before the war?

Workers 2

1. Prices, wages, profits & imports
2. Jewish businesses
3. Given help paying off loans
4. Given high, restrictive quotas
5. Conscripted into German army
6. Autarky (self-sufficiency)



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Read this...

Churches

- In 1933, Hitler signed the Concordat with the Pope. The Nazis and the Catholic Church agreed to keep out of each others' affairs.
- The Protestant Church was reorganised into the Reich Church and given new Nazi bishops. Protestant pastors who opposed the Nazis were arrested and taken to concentration camps.
- The Faith Movement was set up as an alternative to Christianity. It was based on pagan rituals.
- Christmas carols and religious studies were phased out of schools. Church schools were closed.



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here...

Churches



Answers...

1. What did Hitler sign with the Pope?
2. What did this mean?
3. What happened to the Protestant Church?
4. Who from the Protestant Church ended up in Concentration Camps?
5. What was set up as an alternative to Christianity?
6. What was phased out of schools?
7. What happened to church schools?

Churches

1. The Concordat
2. The Catholic Church and the Nazis agreed to keep out of each others business
3. Reorganised into the Reich Church
4. Pastors who opposed the Nazis
5. The Faith Movement, based on Pagan rituals
6. Carols and Religious Studies
7. Shut down




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Read this...

Minorities

- The Nazis believed in Aryan superiority. Anyone who didn't fit in with their idea of a top class human being had to be removed from society
- Vagrants and the homeless were taken to camps to be re-educated and taught how to work so that they could become useful German citizens
- Homosexuals were sent to concentration camps.
- Blacks and the mentally ill were sterilised so that they couldn't reproduce or killed
- Gypsies were sent to concentration camps and later (during WWII) exterminated with the Jews. – These groups were known as Untermenschen
- *Jews suffered badly in Nazi Germany: boycotts were placed on their shops, they were forbidden from using public services, they had to be identified by wearing a yellow Star of David and so on. Key moments of persecution were*
 - 1935: the Nuremberg Laws. This took away their German citizenship and banned them from marrying or having sex with Germans
 - 1938: Kristallnacht. This was a physical attack on Jewish businesses and synagogues, causing colossal damage. Many Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps. The survivors were given a 1 billion mark fine to clear up the mess



Then click here...

Minorities



Answers...

1. Why were vagrants and the homeless sent to camps?
2. What happened to blacks and the mentally ill?
3. What happened to the gypsies?
4. What did the Jews and the gypsies become known as?
5. When were the Nuremberg Laws passed?
6. What did these mean?
7. What happened in November 1938?
8. What was the greatest irony of this event?

Minorities

1. To teach them how to be good Germans
2. Surgically sterilised
3. Sent to concentration camps
4. Untermenschen
5. 1935
6. Took away Jews' German citizenship; banned them from marrying or having sex with Germans
7. Kristallnacht
8. The Jews were forced to pay 1 billion in compensation payments




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Read this...

Life during WW2

- Rationing was introduced early on. People got used to a monotonous diet, a lack of clothes, little hot water and soap
- Propaganda increased, especially when Germany needed greater support for the war such as during the Russian campaign of 1941-45. Propaganda films were particularly important
- From 1942, Germans began to experience bombing raids on their major cities from British and American bombers. Hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed
- In 1944, all workers had to go into armaments production. Women were back into work; their children were in day care. People had to work longer and longer hours
- Jews, gypsies and other minorities began to be deported to Death Camps where they were exterminated



Then click
here...

Life during WW2




Answers...

1. What did people have to get used to during WW2?
2. What increased dramatically during the war?
3. What happened to major cities during the war?
4. What happened in 1944?
5. How did treatment of minorities change?

Life during WW2

1. Monotonous diet, a lack of clothes, little hot water and soap
2. Propaganda
3. Bombed heavily, hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed
4. War economy took over; all workers towards the war effort
5. Concentration camps turned to death camps



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Read this
first...

Opposition

- Young people opposed the Nazis:
 - The Edelweiss Pirates. Working class movement who beat up the Hitler Youth and helped concentration camp escapees
 - The Swing Youth. Middle class movement who listened to jazz music and went clubbing
 - The White Rose movement. University students who spread anti-Nazi leaflets and urged Germans not to support WW2
- The churches opposed the Nazis:
 - Protestants set up the Confessional Church which was anti-Nazi
 - Protestant pastors such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Martin Niemoller spoke out against the Nazis. Bonhoeffer was also involved in sabotage work
- The army opposed the Nazis:
 - In July 1944, Count von Stauffenberg attempted to assassinate Hitler with a bomb in a suitcase
 - Army officers became more and more critical of Hitler in 1943 as the war went very badly



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here...

Opposition




Answers...

1. What did the Edelweiss Pirates do?
2. How did the Swing Movement oppose the Nazis?
3. Which movement published and distributed leaflets?
4. Which church opposed the Nazis?
5. Which two Protestant pastors actively opposed the Nazis?
6. What did Count von Stauffenberg do?
7. What did Hitler get criticised for?

Opposition

1. Beat up the Hitler Youth and help escapees from concentration camps
2. Listened to jazz and went to jazz clubs
3. White Rose
4. Confessional Church
5. Martin Niemoller; Dietrich Bonhoeffer
6. Attempt to assassinate Hitler in July 1944
7. Poor leadership of the army



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