

Atherton High School

Humanities Department



AQA GCSE History Study Booklet

Name -

Teacher -



Germany 1890 - 1945 Democracy and Dictatorship

Booklet Three Part Two - The Experiences of Germans under the Nazis

The exam board expect you to have knowledge and understanding of the following: -

- control of churches and religion
- Aryan ideas, racial policy and persecution; the Final Solution
- Control: Goebbels, the use of propaganda and censorship; Nazi culture; repression and the police state and the roles of Himmler, the SS and Gestapo
 - opposition and resistance, including White Rose group, Swing Youth, Edelweiss Pirates and July 1944 bomb plot.

Religion

- **Hitler was brought up as a Catholic**, but in private said it was impossible to be both a Christian and a Nazi.
- In 1933 the Catholics signed an agreement called the **concordat** with the Nazi party. The Catholic church agreed to stay out of politics, as long as the Nazis let it continue to run itself.
- The Protestant church was made into a single **Reich Church**, run by the Nazis. Christian ministers who spoke out against this, such as **Martin Niemoller and Dietrich Bonhoeffer** were arrested and sent to concentration camps. The Reich church failed. The Nazis tried to get support for the new **German Faith Movement**, which made Hitler into a kind of God, and started new ceremonies to replace the Christian ones. This was never popular. **Church membership did not fall in the 1930s**, and it increased during the war.



1. How did the Nazis control the-

*Catholic Church _____

* Protestant Church _____

2. What evidence is there that not all Christians accepted Nazi control? _____

What was the Nazis Aryan ideology?

The Nazis believed in the Aryan 'master race'. They persecuted 'undesirables' This group included gypsies, black people, the disabled, political opponents, the sick and the old. They persecuted any group that they thought challenged Nazi ideas. Homosexuals were a threat to Nazi ideas about family life; people who were disabled and those with learning difficulties were a threat to Nazi ideas about Germans being a perfect master race; gypsies were thought to be inferior people. It also included religious groups, such as Jehovah's Witnesses.

The Nazi persecution of these minority groups varied:

- about 375,000 people were sterilized because of problems such as alcoholism or hereditary diseases.
- 5000 severely mentally handicapped babies were killed between 1939 and 1945 either by injection or by starvation.
- so called 'asocials' - homosexuals, alcoholics, the homeless, prostitutes, criminals and beggars were sent to concentration camps.
- Five out of six gypsies living in Germany in 1939 were killed by the Nazis.
- Between 1939 - 41 the Nazi's took Aryan disabled people (72,000) into 'care homes' where they were killed. This was stopped due to public outcry - this outcry did not happen for the other victims of the Nazis.

Explain the Nazi Aryan ideology in your own words in no more than 3 sentences.

Therefore the Nazis believed that the Aryan race were the superior race. Through their twelve years in power they persecuted members of other races, and many minority groups such as gypsies, homosexuals and disabled people.

A) The Jewish people

Even though Hitler persecuted many different groups, it was **Jewish people who suffered most** under the Nazis.

Hitler had hated Jewish people since he was a young man. Why?

- He blamed them for the defeat of Germany in the First World War
- Germany and Austria had a history of anti-semitism. (Hatred of Jewish people)
- The Nazis wanted to fill Germany with 'Aryans'- they said these were people with pure German blood. The perfect Aryan was tall and strong with blonde hair and blue eyes. Jews along with black people and people from other races were not Aryan. The Nazis felt that they should be driven out of Germany.
- Jewish people made up less than 1% of the German population. But many of them were professional people- bankers, lawyers, doctors and teachers. Hitler said that they took jobs from other people.

Draw a spider diagram below to show the reasons why Hitler hated the Jews.

Reasons why Hitler
hated the Jews.

Once the Nazis were in power they began to persecute the Jewish people:

- **In 1933**, the boycott of Jewish businesses were ordered
- **In 1934**, Jewish shops were marked with a yellow star, the Star of David, so Germans knew that they should not shop there.
- Jewish people who had important government jobs were sacked.
- Jewish people could not sit in the same seats as Germans on public transport or in parks.
- **In 1935**, Hitler passed the **Nuremberg Laws**. Jewish people could not be German citizens. So they could not take any job in government (teaching, the civil service, even cleaning the parks) and were not protected by the law. Jews could not marry non-Jews, or even have sex with them without marrying.

The government was officially anti-Jewish. Many Jewish people decided to leave Germany. For those who stayed, life became more difficult. German shopkeepers would not serve them. They lost their jobs and could not find other work. Jewish doctors, dentists and lawyers could not work for Germans. Between 1935 and 1938 more and more Jews left Germany. But it became harder for these people to find a country that would let them in.

Violent Persecution of the Jewish people

In Paris in November 1938, a young Jewish man shot a Nazi official. This gave Hitler a good excuse to turn to violence.

He ordered the SS to act against the Jewish people on Kristallnacht (The Night of the Broken Glass) on November 9-10 1938. In pogroms (a night of violence) across Germany, the SS:

- encouraged Germans to loot and destroy Jewish shops, homes and synagogues
- arrested thousands of Jewish people, killing about 100

- announced a billion mark fine on all Jewish people (an excuse to take money)
- forced Jewish people to do humiliating things, such as scrubbing the streets
- sent about 30,000 Jewish people to concentration camps.

Once the Second World War broke out in 1939, the Nazis were even harder on the Jewish people. They began openly killing them in greater numbers. In a conference in 1942, Himmler, head of the SS and Gestapo, was put in charge of the systematic killing of all Jewish people within Germany and German-occupied territory. Slave labour and death camps were built in Auschwitz, Treblinka, Chelmo and many other places. The old, the sick and young people were killed immediately. The able-bodied were first used as slave labour and some had medical experiments carried out on them.

The Nazis experimented to find the quickest, cheapest way to kill large numbers of people at a time. Their 'Final Solution', openly adopted in 1943, was to send all Jewish people to death camps to be killed. We do not know exactly how many Jewish people were killed in this Holocaust but it was believed to be about 6 million.

Match the event to the statement:

The Nuremberg Laws	was to send all Jewish people to death camps to be killed.
Kristallnacht	a law ensuring Jewish people could not be German citizens
Final Solution	a night of violence (against Jewish people) across Germany

Make a timeline to show how the Nazis persecuted Jew people

1933



How did Goebbels use culture, propaganda and censorship to control the German people?

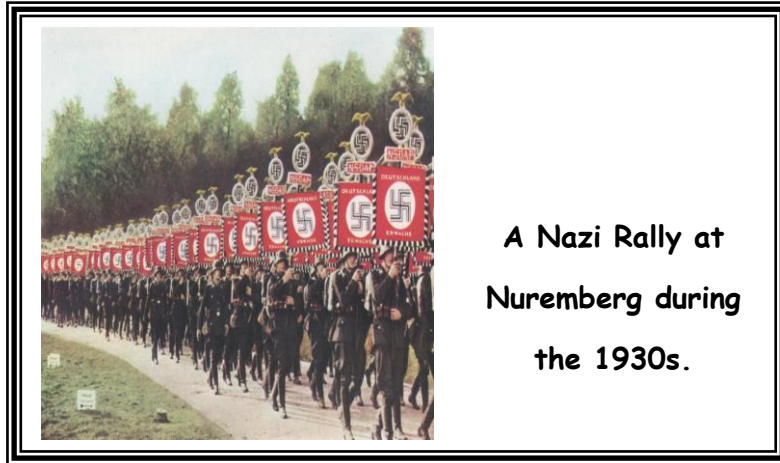
One reason why opposition to Hitler was so limited was the work of Dr Joseph Goebbels, Minister of Enlightenment and Propaganda (from 1933). Goebbels was a loyal follower of Hitler and believed he was the saviour of Germany. His job was to convince the whole German population to think the same way as he did.

. Propaganda was used to advertise all Nazi ideas and policies, while those whom the Nazis hated, e.g. the Jews, were made to look evil.

Delete as appropriate

Joseph Goebbels / Heinrich Himmler / Ernst Röhm was in charge of **propaganda** in Nazi Germany.

- A) **Broadcasting and the press were brought under Nazi control.** Over 1500 newspapers were closed down. There were frequent political broadcasts in public places. Radios were sold cheaply, so that all families could listen to Nazi broadcasts at home. 70% of homes had a radio by 1939, compared with 25% in 1933. The radios could not pick up foreign radio stations.
- B) **Cinema** was used to reach mass audiences. Most of the feature films were not directly political, but were love stories and comedies to make audiences feel good.
- C) **Mass rallies** were a popular form of propaganda, especially the Nuremberg rally held for a week every August. There were army parades, aeroplane displays, gymnastics, bands, choirs and fireworks.



D) The **Berlin Olympics of 1936** was the biggest chance for the Nazis to impress, but the winning of 4 gold medals by black American athlete **Jesse Owens** proved that black people could be stronger and fitter than white Aryan people.

E) All art, music, literature, theatre and film was controlled by the Nazis, through Goebbels' **Reich Chamber of Culture**.

- In 1933 at "**the burning of the books**" thousands of books were publicly burned as "undesirable". These included works by Einstein and other Jewish people as well as books about communism and so on.

- **2,500 writers and intellectuals left Germany** from 1933 - 1945. To be successful, they had to belong to the Nazi party. Many could not accept this.

List 5 areas that were brought under Nazi control:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

In what ways do you think German culture suffered because of Nazi control?

What were the roles of Himmler, the SS and the Gestapo in creating a police state?

Hitler was extremely effective in dealing with political opponents both inside and outside of the party including the SA and the army.

Hitler used force to make sure people did as he expected. After the Night of the Long Knives, Germany was controlled by the SS (Schutzstaffel), which had several groups within it:

A) The SS was set up as a small private bodyguard for Hitler. It was enlarged to wipe out the SA, which it then replaced. By 1934, there were 50,000 SS members, led by Heinrich Himmler, who was totally loyal to Hitler.

1. What was the SS? _____

2. Why was it enlarged? _____

3. Delete as appropriate

Joseph Goebbels / Heinrich Himmler / Ernst Röhm was the leader of the SS

B) The concentration camps were prisons for various groups the Nazis saw as 'undesirable'- **political opponents, homosexuals, disabled people, gypsies and Jewish people.** Conditions in these camps were harsh and many prisoners died. The first ones were set up in 1933.

By 1939, there were many concentration camps in Germany and on land that Germany had taken over. The prisoners were used as slave labour and many were starved to death. During the Second World War some of these camps became death camps just for killing people.

<p>1. Which of the following would be considered undesirables: political opponents / people from Austria / homosexuals / Aryans / disabled people / Christians / gypsies / Jewish people.</p> <p>2. Where were undesirables sent to? _____</p> <p>_____</p>
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C) The Court- There were no fair trials. The SS did not run the courts, but all judges had to take an oath of loyalty to Hitler, so the courts were on Hitler's side too. There was no longer any hope of a fair trial. If the Nazis wanted you to go to prison, a judge would send you there, whether there was evidence against you or not.

<p>Could the law protect you from the Nazis? Explain your answer _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

D) The Gestapo were the state secret police, formed from the SS. They could spy on and arrest whoever they wanted. They encouraged members of the Nazi Party to report any anti-Nazi behaviour in friends, people they worked with, even their family. They had a tight hold over the ordinary police.

Which statement is correct? Put a ring around it please.

1. The Gestapo were Hitler's private bodyguards.
2. The Gestapo were the state secret police.
3. The Gestapo was another name for Communists in Nazi Germany.

2. What sort of things did the Gestapo do? _____

How much opposition and resistance was there to the Nazi regime?

In Nazi Germany, the **opposition** were those who had different views to the Nazi government and in many cases acted against them.

There was supposed to be no opposition of any kind in Germany. The aim was to create a **totalitarian state**. In a **totalitarian state** there can be no rival parties, no political debate. Ordinary citizens must give their whole energy to serving the state and to doing what the leader wants.

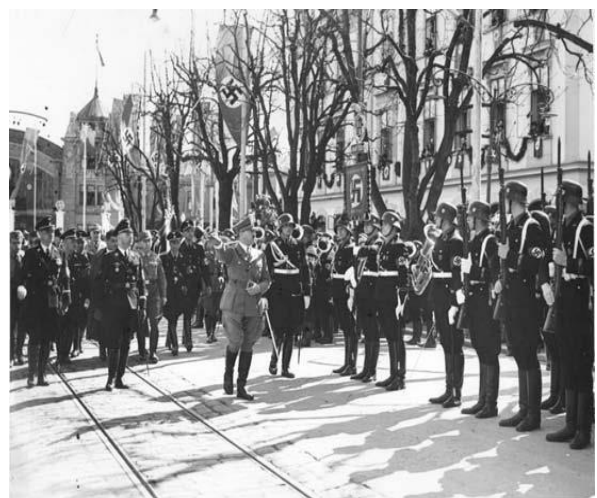
Even though the Nazis were very powerful and had a tight grip on Germany, some opposition still remained.

A) In the early stages of the Nazi government, Hitler was worried about rivals within the Nazi party. You have already studied the Night of the Long Knives.

In one sentence explain the Night of the Long Knives:

The biggest threat was Ernst RÖhm, who controlled the SA (Sturm Abteilung) which was made up of over 400,000 men. Even though he had created this army for his own purposes, Hitler now considered them dangerous for 4 reasons:

- The SA was undisciplined, and its members often acted like thugs.
- The SA wanted more power in return for its help in forcing the Enabling Law through the Reichstag.
- Its leader, **RÖhm**, had different ideas to Hitler. He wanted the government to control industry. This would have lost the support of leading industrialists, who were important Nazi followers.
- **RÖhm** wanted the SA to take control of the German army, which could make **RÖhm** even more powerful than Hitler.



Bundesarchiv, Bild 103-10430
Foto: s. Ang. / April 1938

The Night of the Long Knives took place on 30th June 1933. It was Hitler's move to get rid of the SA. He claimed they were plotting to take power, and ordered them to be arrested by the SS - who will be looked at later in this booklet. Hundreds were arrested. **Many, including Röhm, were shot. Other opponents were also killed**, for example von Schleicher, the former Chancellor. **Hitler now felt he had got rid of all opposition inside the party.**

Write down one reason why Hitler considered the SA dangerous? _____

2. Who was the leader of the SA? _____

3. What happened on the Night of the Long Knives? Describe in detail here _____

4. How did Hitler feel after the Night of the Long Knives?

B) The death of Hindenburg

Hitler was still only Chancellor. Hindenburg was President, although Hitler had managed to take away most of his political power. **On 2nd August 1934, Hindenburg died.** Hitler joined together the post of Chancellor and President and renamed himself **Fuhrer** (this means leader). **On the same day everyone in the army, the only group that could have removed Hitler, swore an oath of loyalty to him** as this new role made Hitler Commander in chief of the army.

What happened to Hindenburg on the 2nd August 1934? _____

2. What did Hitler do when this happened? _____

3. What new name did Hitler give himself and what did it mean? _____

4. Why was the death of Hindenburg such an important event? _____

C) One group which opposed (went against) the Nazis were the **Communist Party of Germany (KPD)**.

- It is hard to be sure how many people were involved in **Communist resistance**, but one estimate is that 36,000 KPD members were active within the underground resistance.
- The most important activity of the Communist underground (secret) resistance was the **distribution of anti-Nazi literature**. Communist leaflets and newspapers were circulated in **beer halls and workplaces in working class areas**.
- A great deal of this literature focused on **the brutal acts of terror** undertaken by the Nazi authorities on working class people.
- Known communists were jailed and sent to concentration camps. Many communists were also executed.

1. How many people are estimated to have been involved in the Communist underground resistance? _____

2. What anti-Nazi activities did they participate in?

D) The relationship between the **Churches and the Nazis** was complicated; **Hitler was brought up as a Catholic**, but in private said it was **impossible to be both a Christian and a Nazi**. Many church goers either supported the Nazis or did little to oppose them. However, there were some important exceptions:

- In 1933 the Catholics signed an agreement called the **concordat** with the Nazi party. The Catholic Church agreed to stay out of politics, as long as the Nazis let it continue to run itself.
- The Catholic Bishop Galen criticized the Nazi's throughout the 1930s. In 1941 he led a popular protest against the Nazi policy of killing mentally ill and physically disabled people forcing the Nazis to temporarily stop. Galen had lots of support and it was thought too risky to silence him whilst Germany was at war.
- The Protestant church was made into a single **Reich Church**, run by the Nazis. Christian ministers who spoke out against this, such as **Martin Niemoller and Dietrich Bonhoeffer** were arrested and sent to concentration camps. The Reich church failed.

1, Hitler thought it was possible to be a Nazi and a Christian **True / False**

2, Many church goers supported the Nazis **True / False**

3, In 1933 the Catholics signed an agreement called the concordat with the Nazi party **True / False**

4, How did some members of the Church oppose the Nazis?

E) Most **young people** were loyal members of the **Nazi youth**, however it is unfair to say that the Nazis were able to gain the support of all the young people living in Germany as **23%** of them did not join the organisation. There were also several youth organisations who actively opposed the Nazis:

- The **Edelweiss Pirates** were groups of rebellious young people who were **difficult** to control. They didn't like being told what to do and used the slogan '**Everlasting war on Hitler Youth**'.
- Some **Edelweiss Pirates** even sided with the **Allies** (Britain's side) during the war and **several were executed**.
- Other groups, like the **Swing Kids** who liked **banned jazz music**, were more a **nuisance** than a serious threat.
- Both groups did not have strong political views. They just resented and resisted Nazi control of their lives.
- In Munich in **1943**, a group of students called the **White Rose** were arrested for using **passive resistance** methods like distributing anti-Nazi leaflets. Several of their leaders including **Sophie and Hans Scholl**, were executed.

1. Two examples of how some German youths opposed Nazi were

_____ and _____.

2. Which youth movement do you think presented the biggest challenge to the Nazis and why? _____

F) Resistance to the Nazis in the **Army** grew during the war

- As the war started to go badly, some believed Hitler was **leading Germany to defeat**.
- There had been **plots against Hitler** from army officers before the war, but these became **more serious** after the German defeats at **El Alamein** and **Stalingrad** in **1942**.
- One of the most famous was a plot by **Claus von Stauffenberg** in **1944**(and other German officers) to murder Hitler. On **20 July** he left a bomb in Hitler's conference room. The plan was to kill Hitler, close down the radio stations, round up the other leading Nazis and **take over Germany**. It **failed** on all counts, for the revolt was poorly planned and organised. Hitler survived, and took revenge by killing 5,000 people. This is known as the Stauffenberg plot.

How effectively did the Nazis control Germany, 1933-45? - Conclusion

Even though there was resistance against Nazi rule, on the whole the Nazis were able to limit and control it effectively through a mixture of persecution and propaganda. The Nazis made it increasingly difficult for people to make a public stand against them by stamping out all resistance quickly and effectively. This led to many opponents of the regime becoming too scared to publicly criticize the Nazis.

Finally, it is important to note that despite bravery of those who opposed the Nazis, it was losing the war which toppled the Nazis - not German resistance.

How effectively did the Nazis control Germany, 1933-45? Points Test

How much can you remember? Try to answer the following questions about

How effectively did the Nazis control Germany, 1933-45? How many points can you get?

1. What was the SS? (1 point) _____

2. Who was the leader of the SS? (1 point) _____

3. What were concentration camps? (1 point) _____

4. Who were the undesirables? Give 3 examples. (3 points) _____

5. Could you get a fair trial in Germany after 1933 and why? (1 point) _____

6. Who were the Gestapo? (1 point) _____

7. Give an example of what the Gestapo encouraged people to do? (1 point) _____

8. Give one reason why Hitler hated Jewish people? (1 point) _____

9. Write down 3 things that Hitler did to persecute the Jewish people. (3 points)_____

10. Give one example of how young people opposed the Nazis? (1 point)_____

11. Give one example of how communists opposed (went against) the Nazis? (1 point)_____

12. Give one example of how the church opposed the Nazis? (1 point)_____

13. Give one example of how some members of the army opposed the Nazis? (1 point)_____

14. Give three examples of how the Nazis used culture, propaganda and the mass media to control people? (3 points)

Total number of points=20

I got a total of _____ points