

Edexcel GCSE History (1-9) Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1919-39

Key Topic 4: Life in Nazi Germany, 1933-39

1. Nazi views on women and the Family

Nazi Ideals: The Nazis had a very traditional view of the role of women which was very different from women's position in society in the 1920's.

The Nazis' ideal woman:

- Did not wear make-up
- Was blonde, able to have children and athletic
- Wore flat shoes and a full skirt
- Did not smoke
- Did not go out to work
- Did all the household duties, especially cooking and bringing up the children
- Took no interest in politics

What were the three Ks?

Kinder – Children

Kuche – Kitchen

Kirche - Church

Marriage and the Family

- The Nazi's were very worried about the lack of babies being born. Propaganda was used to promote motherhood and large families
- **Marriage Loans (1933)** to newly married couples if she stopped working.
- If they had four children they did not have to pay back their loan. (1/4 of the loan = 1 child)
- In 1938 the Nazis changed the **Law on Divorce** = A divorce was possible if a husband or wife could not have children.
- The Nazis also set up the '**Life Springs' Programme** = specially chosen unmarried women could 'donate a baby' to the Fuhrer by becoming pregnant by racially pure SS men.
- **1937** the Nazis stopped these policies as **Germany was rearming. Men were joining the army = women were needed to go out to work**

- To be loyal supporters of the Nazis
- Boys to be strong and healthy to work for Germany and army
- Girls to be strong and healthy to

Boys

- Shooting
- Military drills
- Military style camps

Girls

- Cookery
- Housework
- Childcare

Both

- Sports
- Singing
- Rallies

3. How did Nazi control the youth through education, curriculum and teachers?

- Textbooks and subjects were changed to make the Nazis look good.
- History was changed to celebrate great **German victories** and all disasters were blamed on the Communists and the Jews.
- **Every subject concentrated on putting across Nazi ideas.** E.g. Biology focused on the differences between races, to show the greatness of the Aryan race.
- Teachers had to belong to the **German Teachers League** and were made to put across Nazi ideas in their lessons.
- Teachers had to go on compulsory training during school holidays.

4. Policies to reduce unemployment

- **The National Labour Service Corps (RAD):** Gave manual labour jobs to young aged 18-35. They had to serve in the RAD for six months on very low pay living in camps
- **Job Creation Scheme:** The Nazi's gave millions to businesses to build roads, schools and hospitals.
- **Rearmament:** Conscription took thousands of young men into the army. Industry expanded to make weapons and equipment. Billions was spent making tanks, aircraft and ships.
- **Invisible unemployment:** (1) **Jews** were dismissed from their jobs. (2) **Unmarried men** under 25 joined National Labour Schemes. (3) **Women** lost their jobs or gave up work to get married. (4) **Opponents** of the Nazi regime were sent to concentration camps.

Conscription - men had to join the army

| <u>Better off</u> | <u>Worse off</u> |
|---|---|
| More jobs with most men in work | 'invisible unemployment' meant many were still unemployed |
| Average wages rose by 20% | The cost of food rose by the same as wages so this cancelled out the wage rises |
| KdF provided leisure activities and holidays and the SdA improved working conditions. | The banning of trade unions meant workers had less rights and worked longer hours |
| Car ownership tripled | Only high earners could afford a car |

German Labour Front - DAF

This replaced the Trade Unions and had complete control over the discipline of the workers, you had to be a member.

KdF - Strength Through Joy,

controlled the leisure time of workers. The KdF provided low-cost or free activities. These included concerts, theatre visits

Beauty of Labour (SdA) was a department of the Kdf that tried to improve working conditions. It organised the building of canteens, swimming pools and sports facilities.

6. Nazi racial beliefs and policies

Aryans were considered the 'Master Race' they were 'pure' Germans who had blonde hair, blue eyes, tall and athletic

Sub-humans or undesirables. These were Slavs, gypsies, black people and Jews. Other undesirables were Homosexuals, Mentally handicapped and homeless people.

7. Jewish Persecution

The Nuremburg Laws

- Only those of German blood can be citizens
- Jews can not vote or have a German passport
- Jews must wear a yellow star-shaped patch sewn on clothes to be easily seen

Kristallnacht (the Night of the Broken Glass), 1938

7 November - A 17 year old Polish Jew entered the German Embassy in Paris and shot a German

8 November - Goebbels used the event to blame all Jews by attacking homes and Synagogues (Jewish place of worship)

100 Jews were killed

814 shops were destroyed

171 homes were destroyed

191 synagogues were destroyed

Goebbels blamed the Jews for starting the trouble and ordered them to pay 1 billion marks in fines.

9-10 November - gangs all over Germany attacked Jewish communities destroying homes, shops, businesses and Synagogues