

# GCSE History

## Living under Nazi Rule 1933 – 1945



### World Depth Study

Abbey College, Ramsey

## Hitler's Rise to Power in Germany 1919 – 1934

<p><b>National Socialist (NAZI) Party set up in 1919</b></p>	<p>Hitler, an <b>ex-soldier</b>, joined the small, newly formed <b>German Workers Party</b>, which later became the <b>National Socialist (Nazi) Party</b>.</p> <p>They were <b>angry at how Germany had been treated</b> at the end of the war and looked for <b>scapegoats to blame – Communists, Jews &amp; Germany's current government</b>. They promised to <b>help the Working and Middle Classes</b>, rather than the rich Upper Class, and <b>restore national pride</b> Germany needed to <b>re-gain land lost in World War One</b> to have <b>Lebensraum</b> ('Living Space'), especially in eastern Europe.</p> <p>Largely thanks to his <b>skill as a public speaker</b>, soon <b>Hitler became the leader of the party</b> and <b>adopted the Swastika</b> as their symbol. In 1920 the Nazis <b>set up the SA</b> ('Storm Section') to be the armed wing of the party.</p>	
<p><b>Munich Beer Hall Putsch (Nazi Uprising)</b></p>	<p>In <b>1923</b> the Nazis attempted to <b>seize power by force in Bavaria</b>. This was <b>foiled by the army &amp; police</b>.</p> <p>Hitler was <b>put in prison for 9 months</b>, where he wrote his autobiography, <b>Mein Kampf</b>, and realised he needed to <b>change his tactics</b> for gaining power – he would <b>persuade people to vote for him</b> rather than seizing power in a military takeover.</p>	
<p><b>Nazis become largest party in the Reichstag</b></p>	<p><b>1932</b></p>	<p>Many Germans turned to <b>extreme parties</b> such as the Nazis out of desperation during the <b>economic depression</b>. <b>Hitler &amp; Goebbels' propaganda campaigns</b> and <b>SA violence</b> give them more support than any other party in the Reichstag.</p>
<p><b>Hitler becomes Chancellor</b></p>	<p><b>Jan. 1933</b></p>	<p><b>President Hindenburg appoints Hitler, believing he can control him and because there seems no one else left to choose:</b> his 2 friends that he had previously chosen to be Chancellor in 1932 had failed to solve Germany's problems.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>'Establishing the dictatorship', January 1933 to July 1933</b>  <i>Gleichschaltung</i> = 'co-ordination', 'drawing together' of Germans and Germany under Hitler's rule.</p>		
<p><b>The Reichstag Fire</b></p>	<p><b>27th Feb. 1933</b></p>	<p>The Nazis <b>blame the burning of the Parliament building on the Communists</b>. Hitler is given power to arrest their leaders to fight the threat of a Communist revolution.</p>
<p><b>March Election</b></p>	<p><b>5th March 1933</b></p>	<p>The Nazis get their <b>best election result so far</b> (43.9%), but it is not enough to give them the power to rule alone.</p>
<p><b>The Enabling Act</b></p>	<p><b>23rd March 1933</b></p>	<p>The <b>Reichstag gave Hitler the power to make laws without them for 4 years</b>. The law is passed thanks to SA intimidation and Centre Party cooperation.</p>
<p><b>SA Boycott of Jewish businesses</b></p>	<p><b>April 1933</b></p>	<p><b>SA stop people using Jewish shops and businesses</b> to show they are <b>not part of the German community</b> – called off after one day by Goebbels – unpopular.</p>
<p><b>Gestapo set up</b></p>	<p><b>April 1933</b></p>	<p><b>Secret police</b> set up – later put under SS control – had power to <b>send people to SS concentration camps</b> (1<sup>st</sup> one set up in March 1933).</p>
<p><b>SA book burnings</b></p>	<p><b>May 1933</b></p>	<p><b>SA make bonfires of books</b> in town centres from public libraries whose authors were seen as <b>anti-Nazi</b>, including <b>Communists, Socialists &amp; Jews</b>.</p>
<p><b>All political parties banned</b></p>	<p><b>July 1933</b></p>	<p>With <b>no need for the Reichstag</b>, Hitler could now turn Germany into a <b>Single Party State</b>.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>'Achieving total power', July 1933 to August 1934</b></p>		
<p><b>State Governments abolished</b></p>	<p><b>Jan. 1934</b></p>	<p>Local Lander <b>State Governments</b> were replaced by <b>Reich Governors</b> who were under Hitler's direct control</p>
<p><b>The Night of the Long Knives</b></p>	<p><b>30th June 1934</b></p>	<p><b>About 90 of Hitler's political enemies, including Ernst Röhm (leader of the SA) were murdered by the SS</b>. This won Hitler the support of the army.</p>
<p><b>President Hindenburg dies</b></p>	<p><b>Aug. 1934</b></p>	<p><b>Hitler immediately declared himself Führer (leader) – President &amp; Chancellor</b>. The army promises to be loyal to him.</p>

## Reasons for the Rise of the Nazis & Developments in Nazi Germany

	<b>Hitler becomes Chancellor (Jan. 1933)</b>	<b>Hitler becomes <i>Führer</i> (Aug. 1934)</b>	<b>Hitler &amp; Nazis' control of Germany (1933 – 1945)</b>	<b>The Holocaust (1941 – 1945)</b>
<b>BASIC REASON</b>	<b>Economic Depression after 1929</b> – following the Wall Street Crash, with Stresemann dead (Oct. 1929), people increasingly turned to extremist parties out of desperation (1932 – over 6 million unemployed; Nazi's largest party).	<b>Reichstag Fire</b> (Feb. 1933) blamed on Communists, justifying Hitler's demands for dictatorial powers (concentration camps & the <i>Gestapo</i> set up in 1933). <b>(Part of <i>Gleichschaltung</i>)</b>	<b>Hitler's dictatorial powers</b> – made opposition illegal. Resistance against regime difficult to organise: only national organisations, apart from the Nazi Party, which were legal were the army & the church	<b>World War Two</b> (1939 – 1945) placed the regime under pressure (especially after 1942 when the tide turned against Germany) and brought up to 9 million Jews under Nazi control by 1941
<b>ADDITIONAL REASON</b>	<b>Fear of Communism by 1932</b> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> largest party by 1932 (stronger than in 1919 when as <i>Spartacists</i> , they had attempted an armed takeover), supported by a military wing ( <i>Red Front</i> ), which was increasingly engaged in street fighting with the SA, which the government could not control.	<b>Enabling Act</b> (March 1933), followed by banning of all political parties (July 1933). Hitler was a dictator, but he could still be removed by President Hindenburg, whose authority was backed up by the army. <b>(Part of <i>Gleichschaltung</i>)</b>	<b>Propaganda</b> – Goebbels' 'propaganda machine' constantly convinced most people of the greatness of Nazi rule was (e.g. 1936 Berlin Olympics) and that the Nazis' enemies (Jews & Communists (scapegoats)) were the cause of Germany's problems.	<b>SS made responsible for the Jews</b> (1939) – ruthless organisation which set up <i>Einsatzgruppen</i> (mobile killing squads) & ran ghettos (1939 onwards) and concentration camps (1933 onwards; 6 of them in Poland turned into killing centres (1942 – 1945).
<b>ADDITIONAL REASON</b>	<b>Hitler's effective leadership of the Nazis in 1920s and 1930s</b> , including propaganda campaigns managed by Goebbels (head of Nazi propaganda from 1926).	<b>Night of the Long Knives</b> (June 1934) – SS kills SA leaders (including Ernst Rohm) & wins Hitler the support of the army, which had feared an SA takeover.	<b>Economic Recovery</b> – the Nazis did enough for the economy (no unemployment by 1939) to convince many Germans they should remain loyal to Hitler.	<b>Ghettos</b> (used for slave labour) <b>became unmanageable</b> (1940 onwards) with overcrowding: another policy towards the Jews failing, SS had to find a 'final solution'
<b>TRIGGER REASON</b>	<b>President Hindenburg</b> – attempts to end depression and destroy Communist threat up to 1932 had failed: chose his ineffectual friends, von Papen & von Schleicher, and then followed von Papen's advice to appoint Hitler as a controllable, last resort.	<b>Death of President Hindenburg</b> (Aug. 1934) – Hitler illegally declares himself <i>Führer</i> , but is backed by the army, who immediately swear an oath of loyalty to him.	<b>Terror</b> – the SS, the SA, the expanded army, the <i>Gestapo</i> , <i>Gauleiters</i> (local Nazi leaders) & the concentration camps, supported by vast networks of ordinary Germans acting as informants, deterred or punished the minority who considered opposition.	<b>Ambitious and ruthless Nazis</b> (Hitler; Himmler; Heydrich) prepared to pursue brutal policies of mass exploitation (slave labour) & extermination (genocide) towards the Jews to address 'the Jewish Question'.

## ESSENTIAL CONTENT FOR LIVING UNDER NAZI RULE 1933 – 1945

### TERROR

- **1933** – **1st Concentration Camp (Dachau)** set up – run by **SS**; **Gestapo** (the secret police) set up – along with the **SD** (the intelligence section of the **SS**) spied on the population - relied on **informants** (inc. young people (**HJ**)). (**Part of Gleichschaltung**)
- **1934** – **Night of the Long Knives** – **SS becomes main Nazi security organisation** (leader - **Himmler**) – SA leaders murdered – showed what Hitler was prepared to do.
- **1938** – **Night of Broken Glass** – SA and SS attack on Jews & their property – showed what happened to enemies of Nazis (minority group – easy target!)
- **Up to 1939** – **average sentence - 1 year** in Conc. Camp – terrible conditions cold in winter; hot in summer; regular torture & public executions.
- **1943 - 45** – **Terror intensified during WWII** mass arrests & executions by SS following acts of resistance, e.g. **5000 arrested** after **July Bomb Plot (1944)**
- **CONCLUSION:** Terror system could keep most Germans in line when tempted to oppose/resist Hitler. Less important than **propaganda** & not always effective (there was **resistance**). **SS, SD, Gestapo** & camps under Himmler's leadership still vital to Nazi rule of Germany.



Himmler (Head of SS)



## PROPAGANDA

- **Propaganda was very important to the Nazis** – they could not rely just on terror to control Germany - needed people to believe in them.
- **One man was in charge of it – GOEBBELS (Minister for Propaganda (1933)) – a propaganda mastermind**, e.g. wrote newspaper articles himself; had his house designed so it could be used as a film studio; it was his idea to use 1936 Olympics as propaganda; strictly **censored** all publications (public book burning in May 1933 (**Part of Gleichschaltung**)), radio broadcasts and films; made best use of **Hitler's greatest talent – public speaking** – annual **Nazi rallies at Nuremberg** – filmed and broadcast on radio.
- **Good at targeting specific groups** in Germany to win them over, e.g. **Hitler Youth**.
- **Good at combining different kinds of propaganda for maximum effect**, e.g. **BERLIN OLYMPICS (1936)** – spectacular event - Germany won! (33 gold medals); 150 buildings (including 100,000 seat stadium; speeches by Hitler (crowd went wild whenever he entered the stadium); flags; Hitler Youth performed in opening ceremony; radio (1st Olympics broadcast worldwide); film made about it - *Olympia* (1938); newspapers reported & advertised it; 1st use of TV at a major sporting event (experimented with latest technology); had all anti-Jewish propaganda removed.
- **So much propaganda it was almost impossible not to be convinced by some of it, especially 1933 – 1939 when Germany's economy was recovering.**
- **CONCLUSION:** Propaganda was vital to keeping the Nazis in power. Even when the regime was under pressure during WWII, Goebbels' tireless efforts to portray the Nazis, and especially Hitler, in the best light and their opponents as a menace to all Germans prevented criticism developing into widespread opposition.



Goebbels



## RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHURCHES

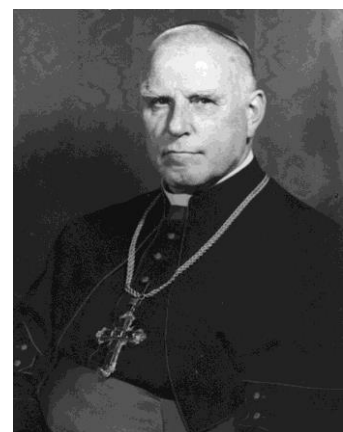
- **1933** – Hitler negotiated the **Concordat** (agreement) **with the Catholic Church** – he promised he would protect the rights of all German Catholics (a religious minority). In return the **Centre Party** would be dissolved. (**Part of Gleichschaltung**)
- **1934** – Nazis set up the **Reich Church** (leader – **Bishop Müller**) to be a **pro-Nazi Protestant. German Faith Movement** also set up at same time as a **pagan alternative to Christianity. BUT** the **Confessional Church** (Protestant) set up by **Niemöller and Bonhoeffer** to **openly oppose Nazi ideas and rule.**
- **1937** – **Niemöller arrested, but treated relatively well in prison (too popular); Pope wrote** open letter **“With Burning Anxiety”** expressing **concern over Nazi policies, but nothing more.** Nazis tried to have **crucifixes removed from schools** – often compromised when local priests made a fuss.
- **1939** – All **Catholic Schools closed** down.
- **1941** – **Cardinal Galen openly criticised ‘Euthanasia Programme’** (secret killing of the disabled in asylums since 1939) – **Nazis stopped** and **didn’t arrest him** – again Church leaders too respected & popular to be challenged!
- **1943** – **Bonhoeffer arrested – executed by SS in 1945** after July Bomb Plot.
- **CONCLUSION:** Nazis tried to work with the Christian churches - vast majority of Germans were Christians. Mass opposition led by church leaders would have been difficult to deal with. As time went on the relationship with the churches became increasingly strained, but opposition figures like Niemöller and Galen remained in the minority among church leaders. Nazis only resorted to open conflict with the church when their attempts at compromise failed & they were desperate to keep control.



**Martin Niemöller**



**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**



**Cardinal Galen**

## WOMEN

- Nazi Policy towards women can be summed up with the ‘**3 Ks**’ slogan: “**Kinder, Kirche, Küche**” (Children, Church, Kitchen)
- Women were **encouraged to stay at home** to be **housewives** and **mothers**, providing a **moral example to their families** – Nazis promoted a **traditional role** for women – they had a **different role to men** but it was **still seen as important**. (e.g. had a ‘*Women’s Leader*’ – Gertrude Scholz-Klink)
- **Birth rate went up slightly**, partly thanks to economic recovery – Nazis provided hostels for unmarried mothers (**Lebensborn** (‘Springs of Life’), run by the **SS**); mothers were honoured with medals for having 4 or more children.
- **Loans were given to encourage marriage and keep women at home** – this kept unemployment figures low; many women continued to work & others resented being pushed out of their jobs.
- **After WWII started (1939)**, Nazis **still favoured the ‘3 Ks’** but effectively gave it up because **women were needed in the factories** to help with war production (Nazi Germany still gave women less opportunities to help in the war than their enemies UK and USSR).
- **CONCLUSION:** Nazi Women’s Policy was inconsistent and only partially successful. WWII forced them to drop policies which had never been wholly practical.



## YOUNG PEOPLE: THE HITLER YOUTH

- **1926 - Hitler Youth set up.** Its leader for most of the Nazi regime was **von Schirach** (1931 – 40) – a devoted Nazi. It had **boys' (HJ** (10 – 18)) and **girls' (BDM** (10 – 18)) sections.
- **1936 - Hitler Youth organisation made responsible for the political education of all young people.**
- **1939 - membership of Hitler Youth is made compulsory. Over 7,000,000 young people** are members. **Part of Germany's war effort from the start** of the conflict, e.g. worked for **postal and fire services**; took on more military role as war went on – **manning anti-aircraft guns.**
- **1944 - Hitler Youth units form part of Volkssturm** (People's Storm) home defence force to resist Allied invasion of Germany.
- **1945 - Hitler Youth units fight in the Battle of Berlin** alongside other *Volkssturm* units and the SS in the final defence of Hitler and the Third Reich. The last film of Hitler shows him inspecting some of these Hitler Youth fighters.
- **CONCLUSION:** Nazi Youth Policy clearly met with considerable success in winning the loyalty of young people; indoctrinating them with Nazi racist ideas and in preparing them for war. The Nazis focused a great deal of propaganda on young people who were especially susceptible to it. However, not all young people wanted to be in the HJ and a small number actively resisted Nazi rule, especially as the tide of the war turned against Germany in 1942 when it appeared to some that the lives of young Germans were being sacrificed for nothing.

## HITLER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- Sporting activities.
- Most evenings spent out of the house.
- Fundraising for charities.
- Sailing and flying lessons.
- Told to correct teachers on Nazi policy.
- Singing patriotic songs.
- Camping trips most weekends.
- Encouraged to report on friends & family.
- Rifle practice.
- Smart & comfortable uniform.
- Lectures on Nazi ideas about race.
- Opportunity to be a leader of other young people.
- Marches and parades.
- Take part in the annual Nuremburg Rallies
- Take part in organised team fights.



## YOUNG PEOPLE: EDUCATION

- Schools were used to **INDOCTRINATE** young people.
- All teachers were expected to join the **Nazi Teachers Association** which required them to attend a training camp for ideological and physical re-education.
- **Textbooks and lessons were changed to focus on Nazi ideas.**
- **Race Studies and Ideology** lessons were introduced.
- **More time** was set aside for **P.E.** lessons, while **Religious Education was discouraged.**
- **12 'Adolf Hitler Schools'** and **43 'National Political Institutes' (*Napolas*)** were set up to educate future leaders of the Nazi Party.

**Academic standards fell through the 1930s – clearly the Nazis were successful in encouraging young people not to ask too many questions.**



## ECONOMIC POLICY

By 1939:

- The Nazis had **dealt with one of the worst problems** of the depression – under Hitler's rule there was **NO UNEMPLOYMENT!**
- **Germany was criss-crossed by MOTORWAYS**, had a large army (**conscription (1935)**) and the weapons it needed to wage war.
- **BUT** the depression was not over – Germany was in **DEBT** again (**40 billion Reichmarks**), **WAGES stayed LOW** (**German Labour Front (DAF)** supposed to protect workers' rights and pay **instead of banned trade unions**, but it didn't) and consumer goods were still in short supply compared to weapons.
- **Many Germans could feel they were BETTER OFF UNDER THE NAZIS** (e.g. ***Strength through Joy (KdF)*** – organised holidays & entertainment for workers; ***Beauty of Work (SdA)*** – provided better facilities for workers, e.g. canteens; ***Volkswagen Scheme*** – factory set up to produce cheap cars; KdF ran a weekly payment plan, **BUT** factory was turned over to military production at the start of World War Two - no cars delivered), Nazi economic plans increasingly relied on **slave labour** run by **SS** (e.g. **1938 – 30,000 Jews** sent to conc. camps as slave labour and their finances confiscated by the Nazis after the **Night of Broken Glass.**)
- **Going to WAR** with smaller neighbouring countries (**Czechoslovakia & Poland (1939)**) gave the Nazis the **economic resources** to improve the economy further and strengthen people's pride in Germany – the **Lebensraum** ('Living Space') Hitler had promised.

## WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR NAZI ECONOMIC POLICY?

- **1933 - 36: President of the Reichsbank**, Hjalmar **SCHACHT** launched a '**New Plan**' for the economy – the **government borrowed** a huge amount of money, which it used **to help businesses recover from the depression** and pay for work schemes, conscription (1935) and rearmament.
- **1936 - 40: Hitler's right-hand man**, Hermann **GOERING** took over the running of the economy as '**Economic Dictator**' and launched his '**Four Year Plan**' – this focused on making Germany **self-sufficient** (Germany making everything it needed as a country) and concentrated more on **rearmament**. Hitler had to prepare for a '**TOTAL WAR**' when all the resources of the country would be needed in order to win.

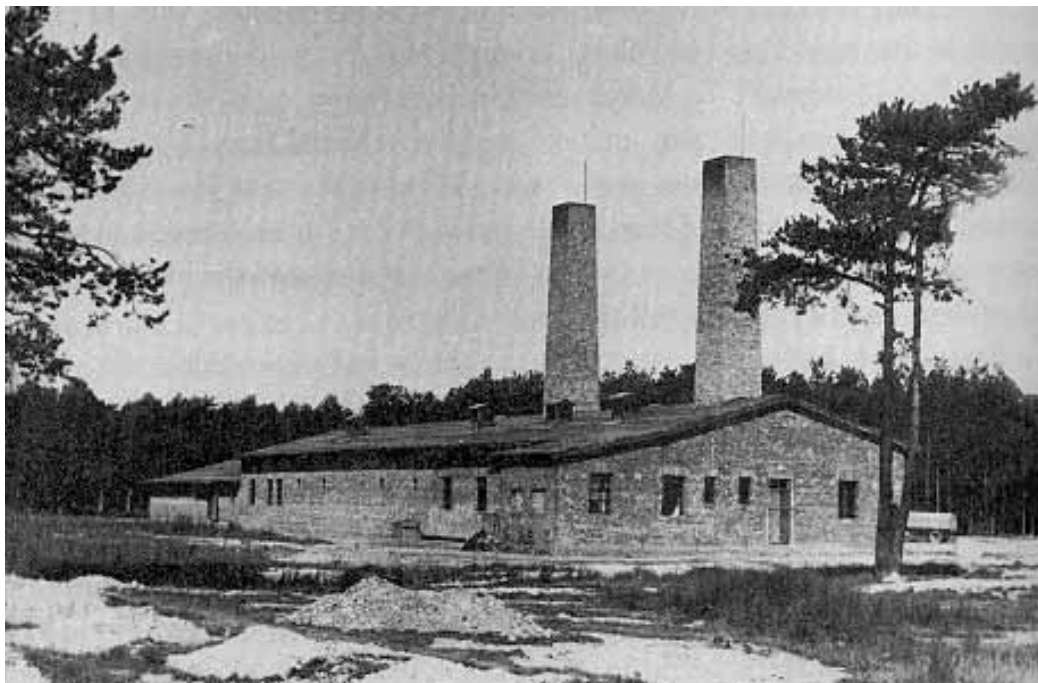


Goering



## NAZI JEWISH POLICY

- **1933** – **Boycott of Jewish businesses by SA** – called off after 1 day – Nazis did not dare to follow aggressive, unpopular policy at first. (**Part of Gleichschaltung**)
- **1935** – **Nuremberg Laws** – Jews legally defined as not German citizens & banned from marrying non-Jews. (Anti-Jewish propaganda stopped during 1936 Berlin Olympics.)
- **1938** – **Night of Broken Glass** – A speech by **Goebbels** launches SA and SS attacks on Jews & 7500 of their homes and businesses in revenge for murder of German diplomat; 30,000 Jews sent to conc. camps as slave labour and their finances confiscated by the Nazis.
- **1939** – SS made responsible for dealing with the Jews. **Ghettos** set up in eastern Europe following the invasion of Poland – **rapidly became overcrowded & disease-ridden**; public executions for acts of resistance, including smuggling in contraband.
- **1941** – **Genocide** begins with **SS mobile killing squads (*einsatzgruppen*)** in USSR. Replaced by **gas chambers in 6 camps** in Poland (**1942**), including **Auschwitz** (largest conc. camp (100,000 prisoners) – those fit for work used for **slave labour** to help Nazis with war production – up to 6 million had been murdered by **1945**).
- **CONCLUSION**: Nazi policy towards the Jews developed in a haphazard manner in reaction to wider changes to Nazi Germany (propaganda; war; economy; rise of SS within the regime). Genocide (**extermination**) was not planned from the start by Hitler and never completely replaced slave labour (**exploitation**) as a way of dealing with the Jews.



## OPPOSITION AND RESISTANCE

- **1933** – **Concentration Camps** set up as prisons for **political enemies** of the Nazis (mainly **COMMUNISTS & SOCIALISTS**) (**Part of *Gleichschaltung***). When all political parties and trade unions were banned in the same year, **opposition to Nazi rule essentially became illegal** and therefore **dangerous & difficult to organise**.
- The **only powerful organisations which could provide a focus for resistance** against the Nazis were the **ARMY** and the **CHURCH** – generally they didn't!
- **1934** – **Confessional Church** set up by **Niemöller and Bonhoeffer** – only a minority of Protestant churchmen joined. The **Army** swore an **oath of loyalty** to Hitler when he made himself **Führer** (after the **Night of the Long Knives**), so they had **no intention of opposing him** at that point.
- **Up to 1939** – there was **VERY LITTLE OPPOSITION TO THE NAZIS** due to **effective propaganda** (e.g. Olympics); **economic recovery**; **lack of leadership** (e.g. most Church leaders were reluctant to challenge the regime; Left-wing leadership was weak – **SOPADE (Socialist Party in exile)**; **trade unions banned** and **fear of the terror system** (i.e. *Gestapo*, SS & the camps).

During the war '**RED ORCHESTRA**' (a secret group of **Left-wing government officials**) tried to pass information to the Allies to help them defeat the Nazis – they were arrested and **executed in 1942**.

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- The **experience of young people** is a good example of the **problems facing those who opposed the Nazis** and how **resistance increased during WWII**, but nonetheless **remained small-scale** and usually **disorganised**:
- '**Swing Youth**' (**Middle Class young people**) – wanted to avoid HJ discipline & activities & instead go to clubs & bars, smoke, drink & listen to Jazz music. Being roughed up or humiliated by the police or SS (i.e. a couple of weeks in a conc. Camp) was usually enough to curb their behaviour.
- '**Edelweiss Pirates**' (**Working Class young people**) – wanted to avoid HJ discipline & activities & instead go round each others' houses, go on their own camping trips & get into fights with HJ members. In 1944 Edelweiss Pirates in Cologne went so far as to murder the local head of the *Gestapo* for which they were publicly hanged.
- **1942 - 43** – '**The White Rose**' (**Students, mainly in Munich**) – wanted the government to end the war which was a futile slaughter of young people & stop the mass murder of the Jews and other being carried out in eastern Europe. They **distributed anti-Nazi leaflets** & were all arrested and executed. Their leaders, **Hans & Sophie Scholl**, were beheaded.



- **1944 – JULY BOMB PLOT (Operation Valkyrie)** – planned by a relatively small **group of army officers**, including **Colonel von Stauffenberg & General Olbricht** – **single most serious act of resistance against the Nazis** (tried to kill Hitler & take over the government). **Goebbels** and **Himmler (SS)** acted quickly in the confusion after the bomb exploded at the 'Wolf's Lair' to prevent the plotters taking control of Berlin – shows the power of **Nazi propaganda** and **security forces** right to the bitter end of WWII.
- **CONCLUSION:** **Less than 1% of Germans actively resisted Nazi rule** between 1933 and 1945. Resistance against such a powerful regime required great courage and a clear sense of purpose. For much of the time that Hitler was in power, most people were either broadly content with his rule or too frightened to openly oppose him. It was only from **1942, when the tide of the war turned against Germany**, that many groups found the will to challenge Nazi rule.



**Von Stauffenberg**

## The Effect of World War Two (a 'Total War') on Nazi Germany 1939 – 1945:

### BEFORE THE WAR (1933 – 1939):

- **WOMEN** – FOCUS ON THE **3Ks** – WOMEN ENCOURAGED TO STAY AT HOME
- **ECONOMIC RECOVERY – NO UNEMPLOYMENT**; BENEFITS FOR WORKERS; BERLIN OLYMPICS (1936) SHOWED OFF PROSPERITY UNDER THE NAZIS
- **HITLER YOUTH** – BECAME A MASSIVE ORGANISATION – APPEALING ACTIVITIES
- **JEWS** – EXCLUSION (1933-38) & EXPLOITATION (1938-39) – TREATED BADLY FROM THE START & IT GOT WORSE (e.g. **Night of Broken Glass** (1938) – led to their use as **slave labour** on a large scale for the first time.)
- **OPPOSITION** – ALMOST NONE! (e.g. Confessional Church (1934); SOPADE agents)

### DURING THE WAR (1939 – 1945): (Nazis were winning up to 1942.)

- **WOMEN IN WAR WORK** (FACTORIES & FARMS)
- **ECONOMIC COLLAPSE:**
  - **NAZI EMPIRE EXPANDED 1939-42** – ABLE TO USE SLAVE LABOUR & RESOURCES FROM CONQUERED COUNTRIES – Germany gained **LEBENSRAUM** ('LIVING SPACE').
  - ...THEN IT WAS DESTROYED 1942-45: '**FIRESTORM**' **BOMBING** OF GERMAN CITIES FROM 1942 (e.g. Cologne, 1942; Hamburg, 1943, Berlin 1945) **CAUSED DEVASTATION** – over ½ million civilians killed; **SHORTAGES** – rationing of food and other resources was necessary from 1939, e.g. *ersatzkaffee* – coffee made from acorns and barley; clothes; soap; hot water available twice a week to save fuel.
- **YOUTH OPPOSITION:** SWING YOUTH; EDELWEISS PIRATES; WHITE ROSE (1942); **HITLER YOUTH MADE COMPULSORY (1939)** – FOCUSED ON WINNING THE WAR (e.g. 1944-45: HJ fought in the war).
- **JEWS** – EXPLOITATION (1939-45) & EXTERMINATION (1941-45) – GHETTOS & 'DEATH CAMPS' BUILT IN OCCUPIED POLAND – NAZIS RESORTED TO MASS MURDER ('The Final Solution') TO DEAL WITH JEWS UNDER THEIR CONTROL FROM 1941 ONWARDS.
- **OPPOSITION – JULY BOMB PLOT (1944)** – MOST SERIOUS ACT OF OPPOSITION AGAINST THE NAZIS – HAPPENED WHEN IT HAD BECOME **CLEAR TO MANY THAT HITLER COULD NOT WIN THE WAR** (e.g. D-DAY LANDINGS in June 1944)



Cologne after a bombing raid in 1942

# The Nazi Occupation of Europe: Poland (EAST), Norway, Denmark and France (WEST)

(COL) –  
**collaboration**  
with the Nazis

(ACC)  
**accommodation**  
with the Nazis

(RES) –  
**resistance**  
against the Nazis



Was it the same under Nazi rule in eastern Europe (Poland) as it was in western Europe (Denmark, Norway and France)?

## THE OCCUPATION OF POLAND 1939 - 1945

### concentration camps & ghettos (RES)

The Nazis set up ghettos in 1939 to imprison the Jews and use them as **slave labour** – conditions in them were dreadful. In 1942 the Nazis began to build the 6 'Death Camps' in Poland which were also used for slave labour and would house the notorious **gas chambers**.

### Warsaw Uprising (1944) (RES)

Full scale military uprising by AK against Nazi rule. **Polish capital fell after 63 days of heroic resistance** – the AK did not receive military support from the Allies, especially the USSR. Warsaw was devastated.

### Zegota (RES)

Secret organisation to help Jews escape from the Nazis. One of its agents, **Irena Sendler**, helped **2500 Jewish children escape** from the Warsaw Ghetto.

## POLAND

### Witold Pilecki (RES)

AK soldier who got himself arrested so that he could **organise resistance inside Auschwitz**, escaped and later fought in the Warsaw Uprising.

### "A.K." Polish Home Army (RES)

Secret army set up after Poland was conquered by the Nazis in 1939 to lead **armed resistance** – largest organisation of its kind in occupied Europe. Its '**Anchor**' symbol was painted everywhere to show Polish defiance of Nazi rule.

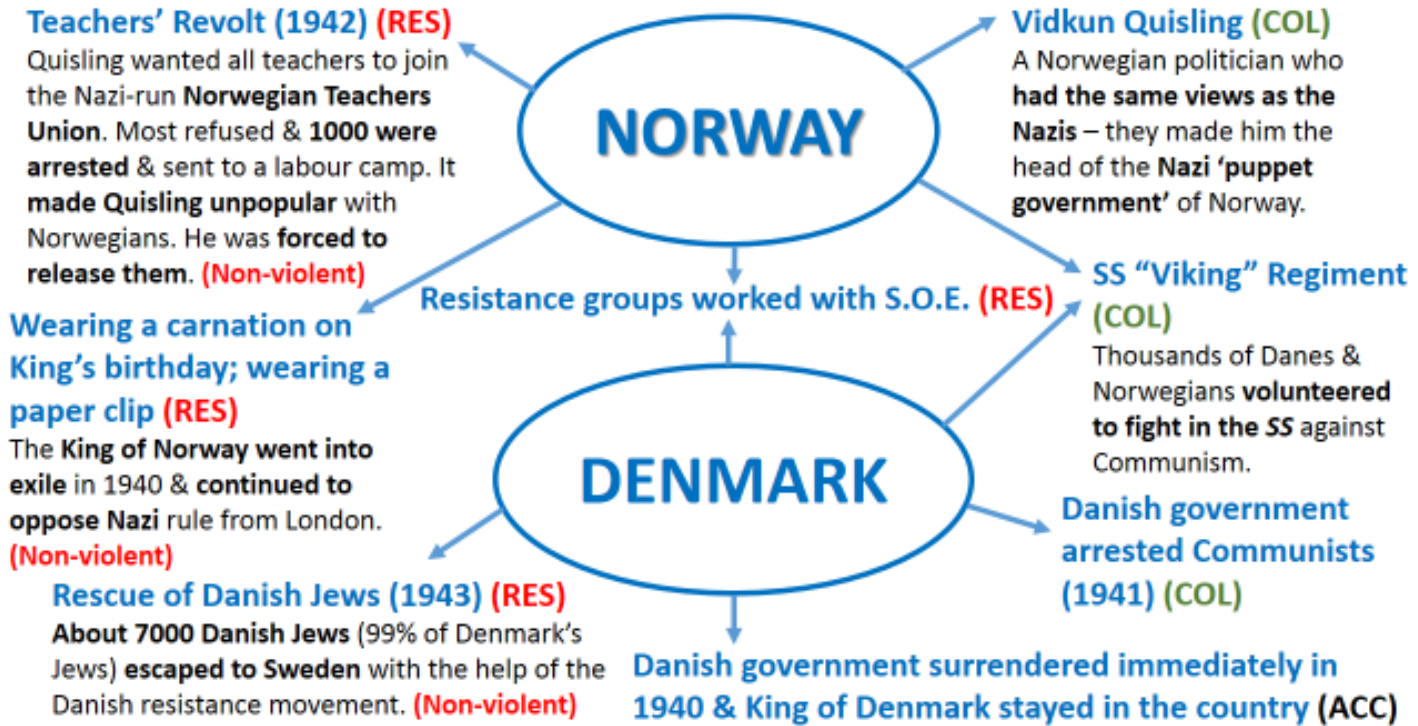


Witold Pilecki

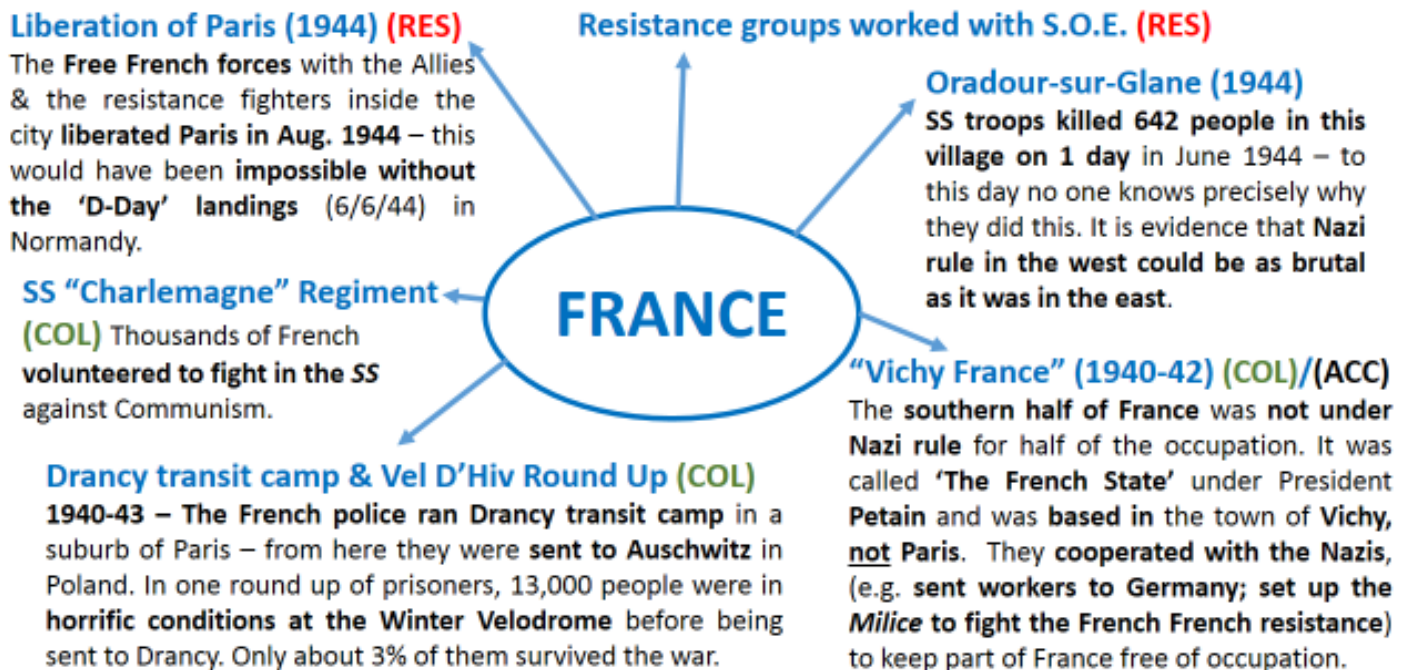


Warsaw after the uprising in 1944

## THE OCCUPATION OF DENMARK & NORWAY 1940 - 1945



## THE OCCUPATION OF FRANCE 1940 - 1944



Encouraging Danes to join the SS



Vidkun Quisling



"Vichy France"