

Dear reader,

This is a historical newspaper made by pupils of the 10th grade. It's in English because of the so called "bilingual lessons" which means that we have got some subjects in English.

The following articles deal with the main topic "What was life in National Socialism like?" While reading you will see there are many articles on different topics made by different groups. In the index you may choose an article and turn to the page you like to. Please enjoy!

Yours, 10bil (may 2008)

Life in Nazi Germany – alarming facts of the past

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Women and Family in Nazi Germany

Amelie

In Nazi Germany women had to fulfil a specific role as mothers and wives. Instead of working they should stay at home, cook and take care of their children. Many high-skilled women like teachers, lawyers and doctors were dismissed. After 1939 only few women were left in professional jobs.

A common rhyme for women was:

**"Take hold of kettle, broom and pan,
Then you'll surely get a man!
Shop and office leave alone, Your true life work lies at home."**

To encourage married couples to get many children Hitler introduced the "Law for the Encouragement of Marriage". This law said that all newly married couples would get a government loan of 1000 marks (which was about 9 months average income). The more children they got the less money they had to pay back. If they got four children they could keep the whole amount.

Unmarried women who were Aryan could go to special homes, called "Lebensborn" where they could live and give birth to illegitimate children. In this homes they were also introduced to "racial pure" SS-men with the aim to get "racial pure" children. The children were then given to the SS organisation which took charge of their "education" and adoption.



Each year on 12th August, the Motherhood Cross was awarded to women who had given birth to the largest number of children: for women with four children the bronze cross, for women with six children the silver cross and for women with eight or more children the golden Motherhood Cross.

This way the birthday of Hitler's mother was celebrated and all women were encouraged to get more children.



The Nazis had different organisation some also especially for girls and women. In one of these groups, called BDM ("League of German Girls") the girls were trained to be good mothers and wives for the future German soldiers.

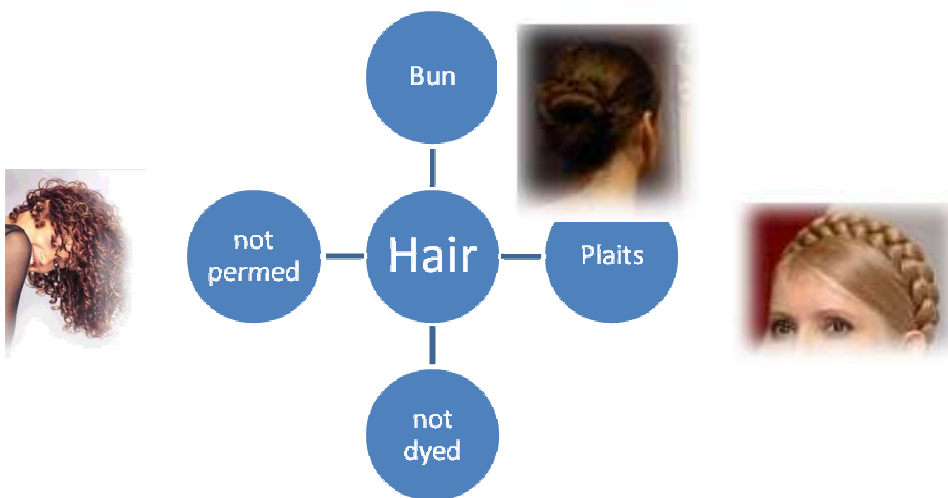
Goebbels said: 'The mission of women is to be beautiful and to bring children into the world.'



When you read something about Nazi Germany you mostly read about the NSDAP, the war or Hitler. But here you'll find some information about women and the family in Nazi Germany, a topic which isn't very famous but played a big role in Germany.

Prohibitions for women:

Hitler had a perfect idea of how women had to be. There were some strict prohibitions like: women had to stop following fashions or make-up and wearing trousers was frowned upon. But there were also certain hair styles:



Hitlers women:

Most of Hitler's women were famous girls, but on the side of Hitler they didn't play a big role.

ANGELIKA MARIA RAUBAL ("GELI"): She was the daughter of a half sister of Hitler and at 15-years Hitler was her guardian. The young girl lived with Hitler for two years, until she was 19. Some contemporary witnesses said that Hitler really loved her. After a big conflict with him she shot herself dead in 1931.



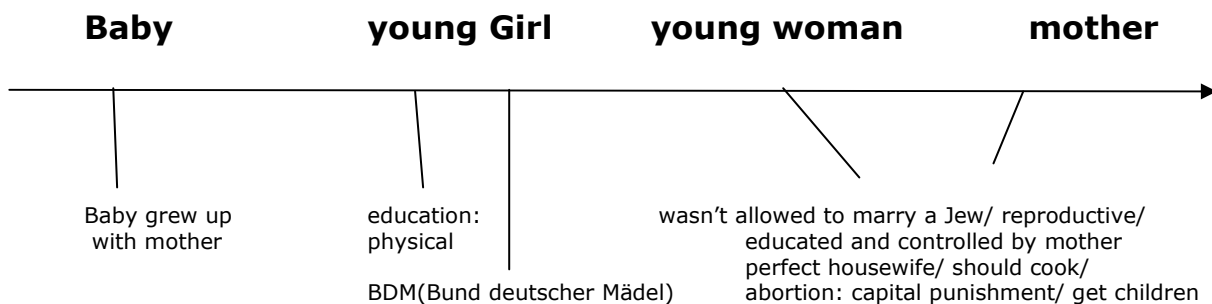
MARIA REITER ("Mizzi"/ "Mimi"): She was Hitler's fiancée at 16 years, when he was over 30. She wanted to kill herself too, because she didn't see Hitler months. She was also the only one of Hitler's women who survived the war.



EVA BRAUN: The 19-year-old girl was the last wife of Hitler. She attempted two suicides before Hitler let her live with him on Berghof. But her life there was also just a "Scheinidylle". After of GELI RAUBAL's suicide she got more and more contact with Adolf Hitler(1932). She staged a suicide attempt to call Hitler's protective instinct.



WINIFRED WAGNER: She had four children before she met Hitler. She had more than a friendship with him and she was called by him: "high woman". Sure, she had a big influence on the *Reichskanzlei*, and she needed it to protect some Jews, people who were homosexual or politic refugees. Hitler knew that but he accepted it silently.



Young People in Germany at the time of National Socialism Linda & Marike



In the years between 1932 and 1945 whole Germany was precisely organised by the National Socialists, the Nazis. Adolf Hitler, the Fuehrer appointed himself as the most important man in Germany. All German people should see him as a father figure and join organisations formed by the NSDAP. He put emphasis on the youngsters because they were the future of Germany.

The twins Erik and Marlies were born in 1925 in Berlin. They and their parents were Aryans. At the age of six they went to school. At ten both joined a Nazi-organized club in their free time. Erik went to the "Deutsche Jungvolk" and Marlies went to the "Jungmädelbund". Four years later Erik changed to the "Hitler Youth" and Marlies to the "Bund deutscher Mädel". A few years later, at the age of 17, Marlies went to the "BDM Werk Glaube und Schönheit" and Erik joined the SS. That was the everyday life of nearly everybody, of the German people under 21.

But how was their life organised and how did the clubs work?

School

School was affected by National Socialism.

Classes were made up to be a prestage of the military service. The boys were educated to be soldiers and the girls learned to be robust National Socialist mothers and wives.

In class the children learned about war, fighting and racist ideology. Especially in biology the differences between the races were explained more precisely. The pupils got special books which had been rewritten by the Nazis. The Nazis wanted to paint a good picture of themselves and the Aryan race. The aim of the teachers was to get the

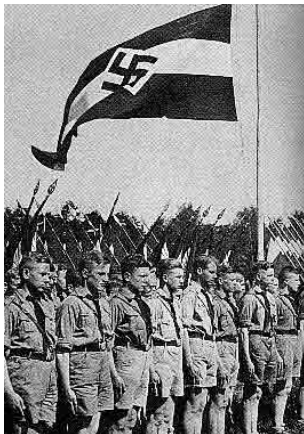


whole influence over the youth. It was an education of will power, discipline, obedience, discretion, responsibility and virtue. The teachers had to be in the German Teachers League, where they had to follow the rules of the NSDAP and had to go on compulsory training. They had to show the advantages of being Aryan and the disgrace of the Jews and the Communists.

School was forbidden for Jews and the non-resistents since 30 July 1942. Roma and Sinti were in special forms, called gipsyforms or gipsyschools. They were deported to concentration camps so there didn't have to be a ban for the Roma and Sinti.

Hitler Youth

In their free time the youth had to belong to organisations managed by the



Nazis. In these clubs, pupils had to do physical training and military skills. For every age there was a special organisation. The Hitler Youth consisted of all these organisations together. In the beginning the Hitler Youth was called "Jungsturm Adolf Hitler", that was in 1922. Then in 1926 it was renamed to "Hitler Youth" and became an integral part of the *Sturmabteilung*.

The pupils, divided into corps under adult leaders, made training camps where they learned to read maps, did sports and gymnastics. The boys had to march 12-50 miles marches without eating anything and did weapons training. After these hard marches many of the boys had to be brought to hospital because of injuries or colds. The children got special records which were called "performance books". They got marks for their skills in athletics, camping and fighting. The elite of these got the chance to go to high level schools. These schools claimed the very limit of their physical potential. Sometimes in night marches and war games the children were tortured to death.

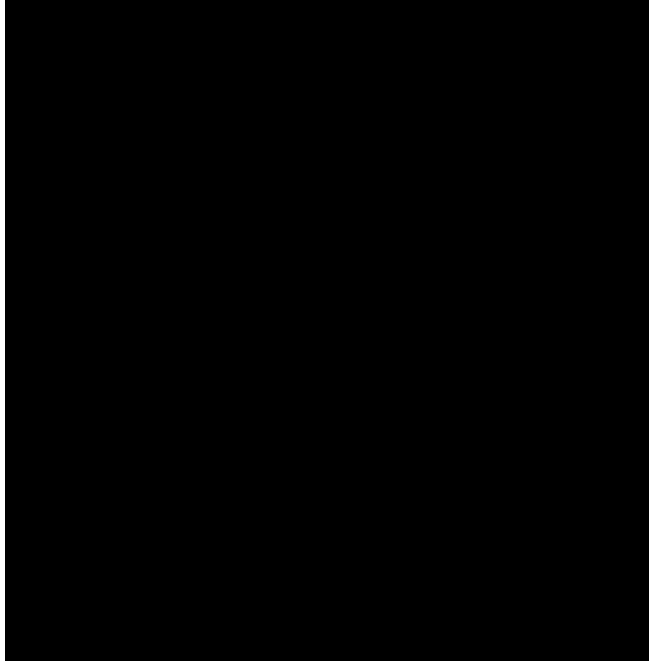
There was also a special education for people with special talents and interests. For example the "Flieger-HJ" (airforce), the "Marine-HJ" (navy) or the "BDM-Gesundheitsdienstmädel" (health service).

But why did the children also like the Hitler Youth?

The girls liked the clubs in which they could get off the typical female role model. They didn't have to think about later obligations like child-care and devotion to the family.

The boys had the chance to show their physical power and strength. Some boys enjoyed playing war games and they also liked fighting for their country. They wanted to prove their companionship and self-sacrifice.

In the time of the Hitler Youth the number of members joining in these Nazi organisations rose rapidly. In 1940 nearly every child (98%) was in a club, because since 1936 the membership of the HJ had been compulsory for all young German men.



What happened to cultural life in National Socialism?

Hannah & Leonie

It is common knowledge that life in the time of National Socialism wasn't easy for many people. Social and public life was totally changed on the basis of National Socialism. But only a few people know what happened to cultural life such as cinema, literature, arts, architecture, religion and music. All of these aspects were very important in the 'Roaring Twenties', but after 1933 they were misused and exploited for propaganda purposes by the Nazis. Many famous artists and stars left the country.

That is particularly true for literature. There wasn't another part of cultural life, except religion, that was that as misused as literature. Since 1933 the Nazis advanced a kind of literature which underlined their idea of central ideology and the preparation for the Second World War. The most popular genres were war and hero descriptions, historical tradition, war as a social adventure and the 'Blut-und Bodenideologie', especially in novels telling about history, Germany and farmers. Some novels were even adapted for the screen. The Nazis formed their own ministry for literature, called 'Reichsschrifttumskammer (RSK)'. Only members of this ministry were allowed to work as authors and could get published. Despite these changes the patronized authors were only a minority. Most of the people who had been writers before 1933, had to stop writing or even had to leave the country. Many famous writers such as Erich Kästner and Alfred Kerr were banned and their books were burned in large events all over Germany on 10th May 1933. A year later all 'Non Aryan' were expelled from the RSK without considering their national earnings. In other countries they often wrote propaganda documents against the Nazis, but in some cases the despair of their situation caused their suicide. Nevertheless, although a strict censorship controlled every book some books with hidden criticism against the system were published.

As well as any other kind of culture was misused music was not an exception. The composer Richard Wagner was called an early representative

of the Third Reich as well as Ludwig van Beethoven's opera 'Fidelio' was interpreted as a national upraise.

The National Socialists separated strongly between real German music and music which was "entartet". While Alban Berg's and Ernst Krenek's music was banned Richard Strauss, the first leader of the Nazi ministry 'Reichsmusikkammer', and others were allowed to present their music. Some musicians even tried to come to terms with the new government and the new music style. The Nazi music style pointed out a strong line of entertainment music and hit-songs for dancing which were welcomed with popularity by the people. The programmes on the radio mostly presented these styles to make people turn away from their normal life which was marked by the war, and to prevent people from listening to hostile radio programs. There were some cases of 'Germanisierung', when the Nazis made the people believe that origin of Jazz and Swing was Germany, not America, by putting German lyrics instead of English ones and with all the other songs on the radio.

The Nazis also manipulated the program of the cinemas. Step by step they exchanged "normal films" with films whose content fitted their ideology. They used so called propaganda films to influence the German citizens and destroy the reputation of the Jews and Hitler's enemies. These films always showed people like the ones just mentioned as bad or even evil, mean and dishonest and Hitler's supporters as brave and good. An example is the film "Hitlerjunge Quex". It tells about a boy being murdered by the Communists (Hitler's enemies) because he wanted to be a member of the Hitlerjugend. Another good example is the documentary film "Der Ewige Jude" (The eternal Jew), showing scenes of a Polish ghetto, interviews and speeches of Hitler, all declaring the Jews as inferior and even comparing them with rats. The people in Germany didn't have other sources of information but the ones provided by the Nazis and so they believed what they saw.

In National Socialism the architecture had no particular style, although people are talking about the Nazi architecture today. The Nazis' aim was to create great and impressing buildings, people should feel small and unimportant in comparison with these pompous buildings and the Nazi



system. Like many other rulers Hitler wanted to express his own importance and immortality with architecture. His main idea was to form a strong line of architecture and to build new German cities, especially a new capital in Berlin, called 'Germania', which should be characterized by huge axes of coordinates and the highest hall in the world.

Hitler had some favourite architects. Albert Speer and Hermann Giesler were in favour of Hitler. Together they created most of the German NS-buildings. Motorways, embankment dams and places of public assemblies were built, which were a great help for the HJ to create a national identity and awareness of Germany.

All works of art that were believed to be "dangerous", "ugly", "too modern" or the ones that just didn't fit the national socialistic ideology were proclaimed as "Entartete Kunst" by the NSDAP. Hitler himself 1937 opened an exhibition in Munich and other German cities called "Entartete Kunst" in which the people could judge for themselves why these pieces of art were "entartet". Of course all works of Jewish artists were banned and also the ones of insane or gay people and of everyone else who could be judged with racist reasons. Many artists who are well-known and respected nowadays were banned then and their works were displayed in the exhibition. For example: Paul Klee, Emil Nolde and Wassily Kandinsky.

All the pictures and sculptures showing Hitler were of course respected and so were pictures of young, strong, working men and boys and pictures of Aryan girls with fair hair. War scenes where you could see German soldiers fight bravely for their country were also very popular.

The National Socialist misused cultural life in the concentration camp Theresienstadt. Many artists and musicians were admitted in this camp. Despite their own bad situation, they kept on writing, singing and dancing, lots of famous theatre plays were put on stage. When the international organisation Red Cross wanted to see for themselves that the people were treated well in these camps, the Nazis used this camp as a peaceful

demonstration. However, after this visit all the prisoners were transported to Auschwitz.

Nowadays we've got many monuments, museums and memorials of all kind to remind us of all these terrible happenings. Hopefully we will never forget what had happened to the people and their life under the National Socialist dictatorship.



Propaganda

Sophie



Propaganda was one of the most important methods of Hitler and the NSDAP to get people on their side and they used the whole media to spread the NSDAP's principles everywhere. In 1933 they established a Ministry for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda only for that aim.

The highest person of the ministry was Joseph Goebbels. With his knowledge about propaganda he helped Hitler into power and also after Hitler came into power he helped him to become more popular.

On March 13th 1933 the Ministry for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda was established and it was, as the name says, responsible for the whole propaganda of the NSDAP. This propaganda was mainly about racism, anti-Semitism, martial heroism and community in society and the family but most of the propaganda was against Jews.

To spread it all over the country, the ministry used media as books, periodicals, movies and the radio but also public meetings and ceremonial



deployments. Youth organisations like the *Hitlerjugend* and *Bund der deutschen Mädel* were part of the propaganda, too.

Everything was "infected" by the influence of the Ministry for Popular Enlightenment and

Propaganda but it was so well organised that nobody really



noticed it. Every book which was not compatible with the ideas of the Nazis was forbidden, after the "Gleichschaltung" there was no freedom of the press anymore, the Nazis used the press for their propaganda, to make their ideas popular and remove the people's doubts and the "documentations" (as the Ministry for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda called them) which



were shown before a film, were about racism and anti-Semitism. The radio was also affected. Every day the propaganda was matched to the current opinion of the people. For example, after the 'Reichsprogromnacht' people became more distant towards violence so the government lowered racism and violent propaganda.

A strategy of the NSDAP to weaken their enemies (especially the Jews but also other enemies) was to use very aggressive words against them and compare them with animals so the people didn't have mercy with them but saw them as lower "things".

The most important person for propaganda was Joseph Goebbels.

He was born on 29th September 1897 in Rheydt. He studied History, Ancient Philology and German studies at different universities in Germany where he had also Jewish teachers. Between 1921 and 1924 he tried to get a job as a journalist but he was always rejected



also by many well-known Jewish publishing houses. He had his first contacts with the National-Socialist Party in 1924 when he founded a "Tarngruppe" of the NSDAP. The party was officially forbidden because of the "Hitlerputsch". He was the editor of a weekly paper at that time, too and in his articles he often attacked famous Jewish editors. In 1926 Hitler appointed Goebbels as 'Gauleiter' whereon Goebbels broke off his relationship with the daughter of a Jewish woman.



Goebbels founded the propaganda-paper "Der Angriff". At the beginning the newspaper mainly acted against the Jewish vice-president of the police in Berlin. The first issue appeared on 4th July 1927 and was published twice a week. 1930 "Der Angriff" appeared every day. In 1930 Hitler also appointed Goebbels as *Reichspropagandaleiter*. His main job then was the election campaign.

Goebbels had six children with his wife Magda Quandt. The couple was considered as a perfect example of the Nazis. They exactly matched the idea of a family in Nazi Germany.



1933 Goebbels became the leader of the Ministry for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda and had much power over the cultural life and the media because of the *Gleichschaltung*. In the following years he made a lot of propaganda against Jews and gave the starting shot for the 'Reichsprogromnacht' with the help of that propaganda.

At the beginning of the war he strengthened the Nazi propaganda a lot. In 1940 he founded another daily paper in which he wrote many articles on himself.



On May 1st in 1945 Joseph Goebbels and his wife killed their children with cyanhydric acid. After that they committed suicide.

Goebbels lived for propaganda. He knew a lot about it and was an important and big weapon or rather help for Hitler because he manipulated the people with his knowledge about mass psychology and got the people on Hitler's side.

Workers and work

Basile

Workers had a very important role in the Nazi-Germany because without them Hitler had no chance to come to power. Without their cooperation nothing could have happened.

The struggle against unemployment

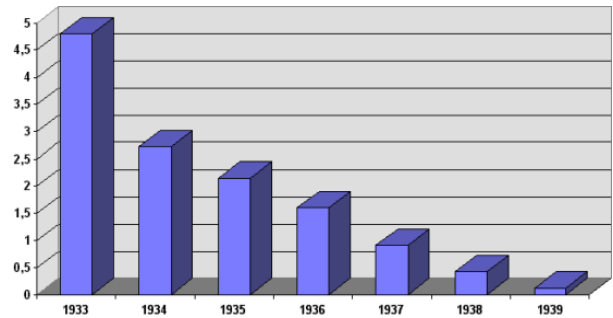
Hitler regave work to the people by rearmament and enlarging the army from 100,000 in 1933 to 1.400.000 men in 1939. This meant 1.300.000 new jobs and less unemployed.

Thousands of new jobs were as well

created by opening new industries. Many unemployed got work in producing weapons and equipment for the army.

Hitler wanted an independent Germany, so he developed all sorts of substitutes: petrol was made out of coal, wool and cotton from pulped wood, coffee from acorns, make-up from flour and so forth.

By increasing the national self-sufficiency, Hitler prepared the country for a great war and also made the people more proud of Germany.



The third important way of Hitler to create new jobs was the National Labour Service (*Reichsarbeitsdienst, RAD*). It was an organisation that gave men public work like digging on farms, planting new forests, or building schools and hospitals.

But the most important aim of the RAD was to build new motorways. The workers had to wear military uniforms, live in camps, and only got pocket money as wages. But often it was better than having no job, as they got free meals and it made people proud to work on rebuilding Germany.

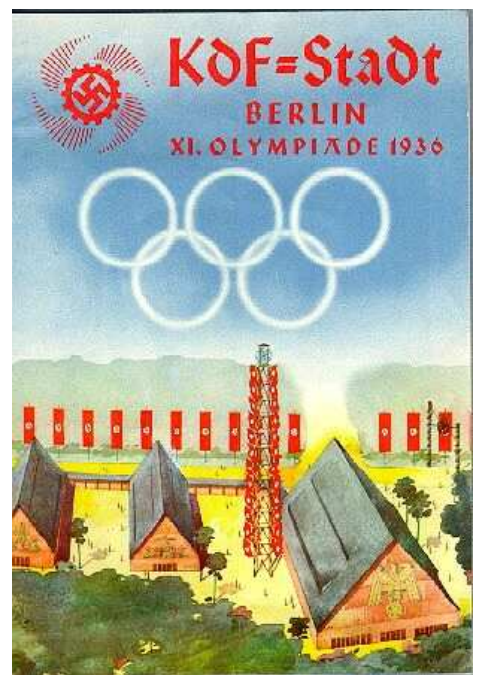
Working conditions

Trade unions were abolished, leading representatives of trade unions were deported into Concentration Camps or imprisoned. Hitler wanted the state controlled German Labour Front to replace the trade unions. The leader of the German Labour Front said that his organisation was not only committed to preserve the existing rights of workers but to improve their livelihood and to guarantee a better protection of workers. But I can imagine that many workers didn't feel well protected. The bosses couldn't fire workers on the spot anymore, but on the other hand they couldn't leave their job without the government's permission and in this case it was really difficult to find a new job.

It was even worse that it was forbidden for workers to bargain for higher wages and strikes were made illegal. There was also no restriction on maximal working hours any more. This had the effect that some workers had to work 60 – 72 hours a week.

Kraft durch Freude (KdF)

Hitler made a great proposal of activities that interested the German folk, for example the "Kraft durch Freude"-movement intrigued many workers. The "Kraft durch Freude"-movement offered many free time-activities like theatre plays, concerts and art exhibitions. Moreover, they also wanted to better the relaxation by beautification and improvement of the workplaces by building canteens and planting new public parks. They also said that Berlin should become the "Kdf-Stadt" and that every real "deutscher Volksgenosse" could take part in the Olympic



Games in Berlin 1936. Houses were built near the Olympia Stadium in Berlin to make cheap accommodation so that everybody could afford to participate in the Games.

The "KdF" also sold many trips, mostly day trips, to make travelling affordable to the working class.

Economy in Nazi Germany

Josephin

Germany's economy was in a mess when Hitler was elected Chancellor in 1933. He wanted to build up a totally new economy, so he began to change a lot. Hjalmar Schacht was Minister of Economy at this time and he developed a plan.

This so called "New Plan" included to reduce imports (so that the production of indigenous raw materials was reinforced) and unemployment, to make new trade agreements with other nations (for example France, England and the USA) and to channel government spending into a wide range of industries.

Later on, the countries he had trade agreements with were his enemies in World War II.

Germany should become self-sufficient in all industries.

About 6 million people were unemployed, so many new jobs had to be created.

Unemployment in Germany	Total
January 1933	6 million
January 1934	3.3 million
January 1935	2.9 million
January 1936	2.5 million
January 1937	1.8 million
January 1938	1.0 million
January 1939	302,000

This table shows the development of unemployment from January 1933 till January 1939.

A few days after Adolf Hitler had come to power, it was made clear that not only job creation programmes should help to overcome the economic crisis. Especially the arms industry and the already existing economy would be expanded to secretly prepare the war.

Raw materials were needed to build all the ships, planes and weapons which where necessary.



Weapons and butter should be produced at the same time.

Also, agriculture was important for Hitler's aims, so it was also invested in it. In agriculture, under the leadership of the *Reichsminister* for Food and Agriculture Richard Walther Darré in September 1933 all farms, cooperatives and chambers of agriculture were forced to form an association.

But how could it all be financed?

The huge expenditure was no longer financed out of the tax revenue and from the budget for job creation.

Big companies like Krupp or I.G. Farben gave money to support Hitler.

Terror in Nazi Germany

Paul

As you probably all know Nazi Germany was brutal in many different aspects. At first I'm going to tell you about "The night of the long knives" and about the "Kristallnacht". After that you will hear something about the "SA" and the "SS"

The night of the long knives got its name from a popular Nazi song. On 29th June 1934 Hitler and the SS went to Wiesse where Hitler personally arrested Ernst Roehm. Ernst Roehm was one of the first supporters of Hitler and Hitler liked him, but Roehm had been paid 12 million marks by the French to overthrow Hitler. During the way 200 other senior SA leaders were arrested. Most of them were shot but Hitler wanted Pardon for Roehm, because without his help the Nazis would probably not have been established, but Goering and Himmler forced Hitler to kill him, because they and other industrialists didn't like his socialistic views on the economy. Roehm was replaced by Victor Lutze as head of the SA. Lutze was a weak man and the SA gradually lost its power in Hitler's Germany. The Schutzstaffel (SS) under the leadership of Himmler grew rapidly during the next few years, replacing the SA as the dominant force in Germany. The purge of the SA was kept secret until it was announced by Adolf Hitler on 13th July. It was in this speech that Hitler gave the purge its name. Through this Hitler wanted to show that he is the only leader and that no one could stop him.

“Kristallnacht” oder Crystal Night. 9th/10th November, 1938



During this night 7500 Jewish shops were destroyed and about 400 synagogues were burnt down.

Once in power Adolf Hitler started to express anti-Semitic ideas all over Germany. From then on it was forbidden for Jews to eat in restaurants or to buy in German shops. Most shops had placates saying “Jews enter this place at own risk” or “Jews not admitted”. Germans were also encouraged not to use Jewish doctors and lawyers. Jewish civil servants, teachers and those employed by the mass media were sacked. Members of the SA put pressure on people not to buy goods produced by Jewish companies. For example, the Ullstein Press, the largest publisher of newspapers, books and magazines in Germany, was forced to sell the company to the NSDAP in 1934 after the actions of the SA had made it impossible for them to make a profit.

In this night 91 Jews were killed and about 20,000 were sent to concentration camps. The only people who were punished for the crimes committed on Crystal Night were members of the *Sturm Abteilung* (SA) who had raped Jewish women (they had broken the Nuremberg Laws on sexual intercourse between Aryans and Jews). After Crystal Night the numbers of Jews wishing to leave Germany increased dramatically. It has been

calculated that between 1933 and 1939, approximately half the Jewish population of Germany (250,000) left the country.

In 1921 Adolf Hitler formed his own private army called *Sturm Abteilung* (Storm Section). The SA (also known as stormtroopers or brownshirts) were instructed to disrupt the meetings of political opponents and to protect Hitler from revenge attacks. When Ernst Roehm left Germany to work in Bolivia in 1925, Himmler took over the leadership of the SA. However, in 1931 Hitler recalled Roehm to Germany and asked him to head the SA. In just over a year Roehm expanded it from 70,000 to 170,000 members. By 1934 the SA had grown to 4,500,000 men. But when Roehm was replaced by Lutze the SA lost almost all of its power and was replaced by the SS.



SA Leader Ernst Röhm.

"SS"

In 1925 Adolf Hitler formed his own personal bodyguard called the *Schutzstaffel* (SS). Four years later Hitler appointed Heinrich Himmler as the leader of the SS. By the time of Himmler's appointment the SS had only 280 members. They wore the same uniform as the SA except for a black cap with a silver death's head badge and a black tie. By the time the Nazi Party gained power in 1933 Himmler's SS had grown to a number of 52,000. He was also made head of all German political police outside Prussia, where

Hermann Goering was the minister of the interior. By June 1944 the SS had over 800,000 members: Hitler's Body Guard (200,000) Waffen (594,000) and Death Head Units (24,000).

At the Nuremberg War Crimes Trial the *Schutzstaffel* (SS) was declared a criminal organization and a large number of its leaders were executed.



Opposition / Resistance

Greta & Stefanie Sa.

A long time ago, nearly 75 years, National Socialism began to get more and more popular. The party NSDAP got many more votes than before. The people were fascinated for which also Hitler was a reason because he promised less unemployment, a stronger company, so all in all a better Germany.

Of course there were also some people who were against Hitler. These opponents tried to convince the voters of Hitler and the NSDAP not to trust in Hitler. But it was forbidden to show resistance against the new *Reichspräsident* and *Reichskanzler*. Thus groups came into being which met secretly in small rooms in the cellar. These people who offered resistance for example were Stauffenberg, Bonhoeffer, Georg Elser, the Rote Kapelle group and the White Rose group.

One of our main points is to take a closer look at the White Rose group, that is popular because of such an extremely dangerous resistance.

The group was founded in Munich, in June 1942 and existed till February 1943.

The members were Hans and Sophie Scholl and their friends from university Christoph Probst, Willi Graf, Alexander Schmorell and their professor Kurt Huber. Furthermore some people like Josef Söhngen, in whose cellar they made the leaflets and the architect Manfred Eickemeyer because they met in his studio, took part in the White Rose group.

They participated because they were Christians, and they were against the deportation of Jews. Some of the members even saw the mass murder in Poland which is another reason for their resistance.

All together the White Rose group handed out six different kinds of leaflets, which were against war and dictatorship under Hitler's control.

The aim of those leaflets was to convince the people that Hitler's violence was wrong.

The danger in which they got when they handed out the leaflets was only a question of time until they were caught. And the day came on 18th February

1943, on which the siblings Hans and Sophie Scholl were caught while they were handing out leaflets in the University of Munich and were delivered to the Gestapo by the concierge. That was also the day on which propaganda Minister Josef Goebbels declared total war.

On 22nd February Hans and Sophie were sentenced to death by guillotine. Later, most of the other members were condemned to death, too.

Today, there are some schools that are called like the siblings Scholl, e.g. the *Geschwister Scholl School* in Göttingen and they also made a film about the siblings Scholl and The White Rose.

Another important member of the resistance was Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg, who was a high-level commanding officer in the 2nd World War. First he supported Hitler but then, after the *Reichskristallnacht* (9th/10th November 1918), he began to distrust Adolf Hitler. In 1941 he was totally against Hitler because he did not accept the deportation of the Jews and the brute force of Hitler. Because of that Stauffenberg's aim was to overthrow the government and rescue Germany from Hitler. He wanted to assassinate Hitler with a bomb but Hitler and 19 other attendees survived. But on the very same day, Hitler arrested Stauffenberg and his accomplices to shoot them.

And of course we cannot forget Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945), the Lutheran theologian, who tried to bring the Christian churches to move against the current war plans. He made journeys to England and the USA to convince the people that Hitler's campaigns weren't good. In August 1940 Bonhoeffer he got a ban on speaking because he was "decomposing the nation". One year later the ban of writing followed.

On 22nd September 1944 some secret files about an assassination on Hitler were found. Because of that Bonhoeffer was captured on 8th October 1944 by the Gestapo. He was arrested till 9th April 1945, when he was hanged.



cenotaph for The White Rose
and the siblings Scholl



The siblings Scholl on a memorial stamp



Dietrich Bonhoeffer on a memorial stamp

"Since the conquest of Poland three hundred thousand Jews have been murdered in this country in the most bestial way ... The German people slumber on in their dull, stupid sleep and encourage these fascist criminals ... Each man wants to be exonerated from a guilt this kind, each one continues on his way with the most placid, the calmest conscience. But he cannot be exonerated; he is guilty, guilty, guilty!

(From the second leaflet of the White Rose")

Messerschmitt

Willy Emil Messerschmitt was born in 1898 and in 1917 he was ordered to move into German military-service. As the war ended he started to study engineering and he built up his own company, the "Messerschmitt Flugzeugbau GmbH". He needed money to build the planes he wanted to, and so he looked for someone who sponsored his projects. The brother of Carl Croneiß, a pilot of the Messerschmitt company, Theo Croneiß gave a 4000 Reichsmark-cheque to Mr. Messerschmitt because Theo Croneiß noticed the potential of Messerschmitt's ideas. He became better and better from year to year and the sales volume was so incredibly high that he could publish whatever he wanted to. 1937 he was assigned to become the Engineer of the German air force.



This is the Me 209, Me standing for Messerschmitt, the fastest pursuit plane at this time. 1938 he won the "Deutscher Nationalpreis für Kunst und Wissenschaft". He got 50.000 Reichsmark from this award and he divided this money up between him and Ernst Heinkel. Ernst Heinkel, leader of the "Ernst Heinkel Werke", was popular because of the bombers he invented. The most important Heinkel bomber was the He 111 V1. This plane was upgraded to the He 111 V2 which was mainly used to bomb London. In 1936 when Germany fought against the Spanish republic they noticed that no pursuit plane could follow the He 111 V2, so Germany abstained from defending-equipment because they did not need it which was a huge mistake in the air battle over London.

There was a rude awakening because then they saw how bad a pursuit plane (at this time the Spitfire Mk 1, which was used by the Allied-forces) could damage the Heinkel bombers.



This is a Heinkel bomber damaged by British AA (Anti Aircraft). As you can see the bullets went straight through the walls.

Abwehr

In 1940 the first attacks of the Royal Air Force on German cities began, the first city which was attacked was Mönchengladbach. British air forces started to bomb Mönchengladbach at night with their B-12 bombers and 65% of the City was destroyed. The answer of Germany was quite simple: Send more bombers to London, the "total aerial warfare" began.



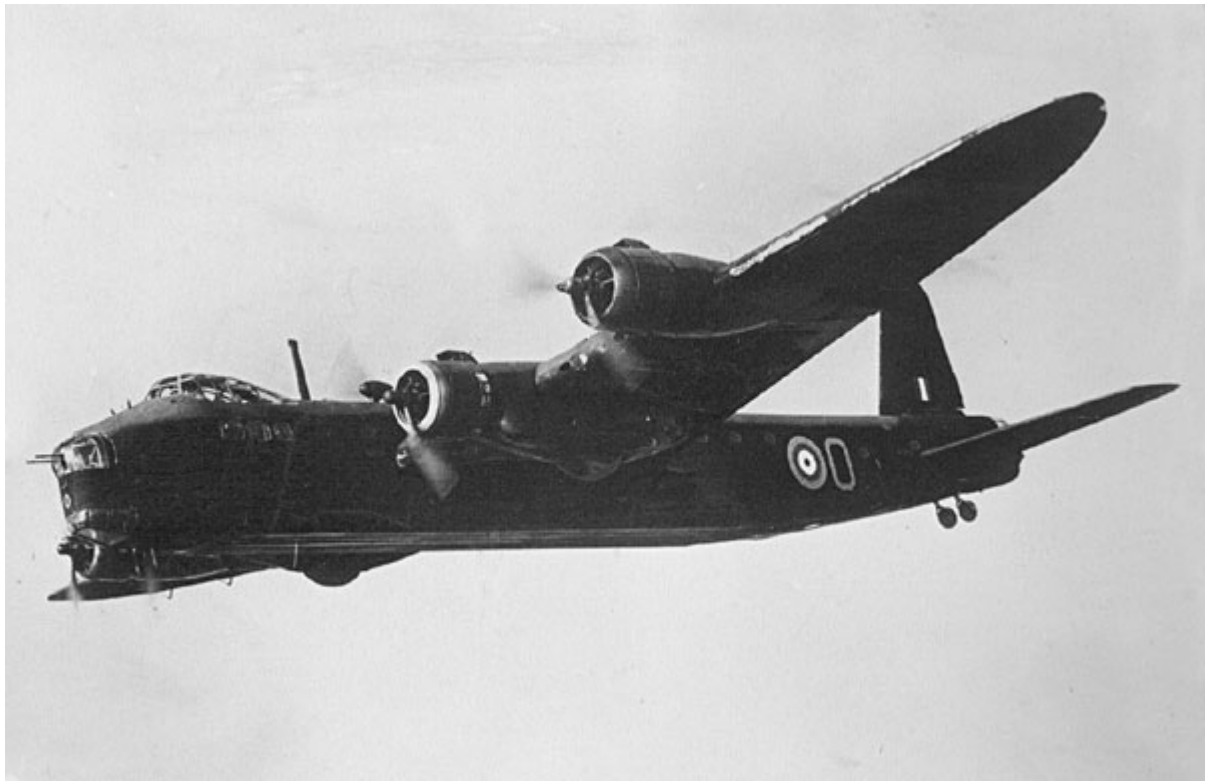
This is the sign of the Royal Air Force (RAF).

Later Germany didn't have enough planes to bomb London anymore, so they decided to focus more on defending. There were several Anti-Aircraft towers, until 1945 Germany built eight of them, standing in Berlin, Hamburg and Wien. They were up to 75 metres high and had an aperture of 57 metres.



On the roof of these towers there were 12,8-cm-Flak 40, guns which were used to attack enemy bombers. One of these cartridges had a weight of 26 kg. They were also used to protect civil people because these towers were almost indestructible (*Hochbunker*).

There were only two chances to attack these towers: Capture it by Allied Airborne, this was very difficult because it was almost like suicide to attack one of these bunkers from the air, or wait until all the food was used up.



This is the famous B-12 bomber, as you can see it had four engines and six men could fly in it. At the front there were several machine guns to fight enemy pursuit planes.

Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (NSDAP) (National Socialist German Workers' Party) Marie

The National Socialist German Workers' Party was the only political party allowed between 1933 and 1945 in Germany. It supported Adolf Hitler, the party's leader and chancellor of Germany. At the end of the Second World War in 1945 it had 7.5 million members. The party was forbidden and their fortune was confiscated.

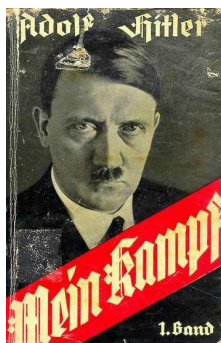


Hakenkreuz
Symbol of the NSDAP

On 5th January 1919 Anton Drexler established the German Workers' Party (*Deutsche Arbeiterpartei* / DAP). One year later Adolf Hitler joined the party and on 24th February 1920 the party's name was changed into National Socialist German Workers' Party. On this day the party published a 25-point programme or

25-point plan in which they stipulated the abolition of the Treaty of Versailles, the revocation of German citizenship of Jews and the strengthening of people's community.

On November 9th 1923 Hitler and General Erich Ludendorff launched the Beer hall putsch. They wanted to get governmental power. But the Putsch failed and on the 23rd November the NSDAP, KPD (communists) and the German Völkisch Freedom Party (right-wing) were forbidden and Hitler was arrested.



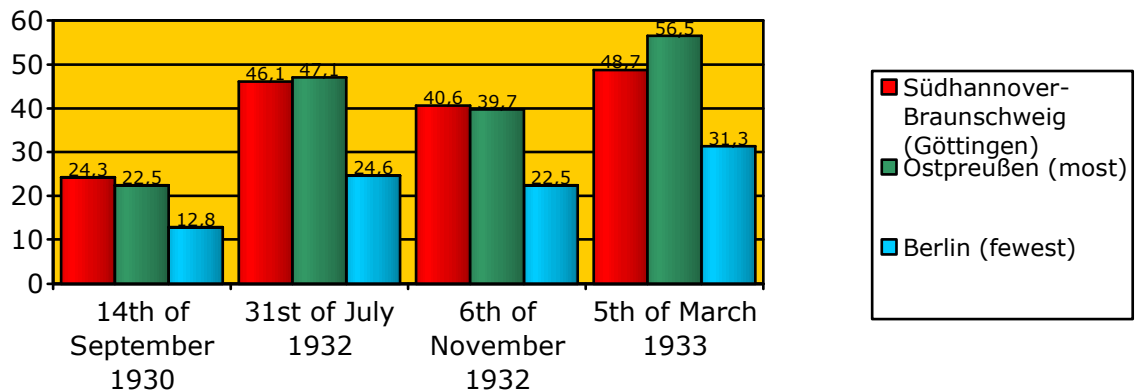
During his time in prison he wrote his semi-autobiographical book "*Mein Kampf*" ("My Struggle"). It's about his racist ideas.

After Hitler was set free in December 1924 he reorganised the Nazi-Party.

The NSDAP used the Great Depression, the bad condition of the people, the unemployment and the hate against the international finance Jewry to get more party members.

In July 1932 a *Reichspräsident* was elected. Hindenburg was narrowly re-elected, Hitler only came second place. Because of that the party had a big crisis which affected the election in November 1932. But they recovered and then had about 850.000 members.

Votes for the NSDAP from 1930 to 1933:



Reichskanzler Brüning and his successor von Papen had misjudged the dangerousness of the NSDAP. Franz von Papen thought he could “tame” Hitler.

He convinced *Reichspräsident* von Hindenburg to accept a coalition between the NSDAP and the German National People’s Party (national conservative) with Hitler as chancellor. On 30th January 1933 this led to the “*Machtergreifung*” (seizure of power) of the National Socialists.

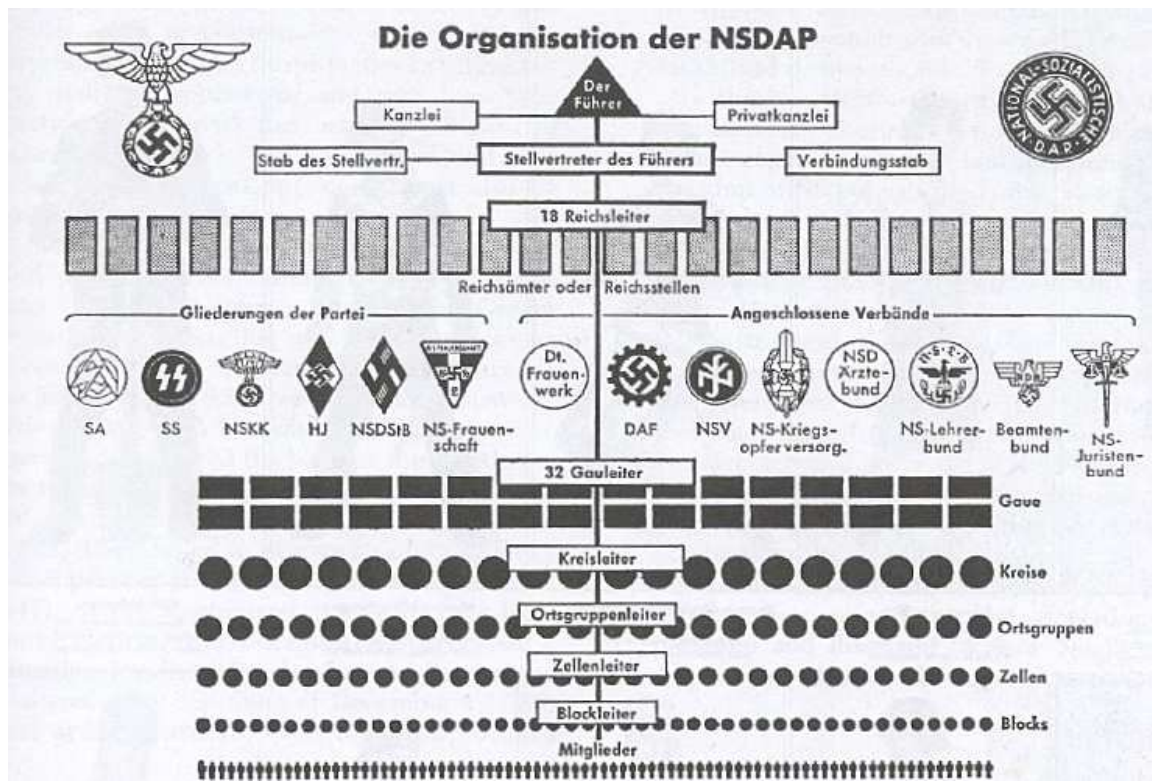
The National Socialists didn’t have the absolute majority in the last election in March 1933, but they ensured it with the votes from all other parties, except of the SPD (social democrats) and the KPD, to get the two-thirds majority. On 24th March 1933 they passed the Enabling Act which gave Hitler all the power and forbid all Parties, except the NSDAP.

A one-party state was built which got legal on 1st December 1933 through the law “*Gesetz zur Sicherung der Einheit von Partei und Staat*”.

The NSDAP had a pyramid shaped structure. At the top there was Hitler, the Fuehrer, he had the power over everything and everybody. Under the Fuehrer there was the *Reichsleiter*, one of the highest party official of the NSDAP.

With all these organisations the NSDAP could control and influence the people both in their jobs and in their free time.

All in all there were ca. 95 organisations of the NSDAP.



These are the most important organisations:

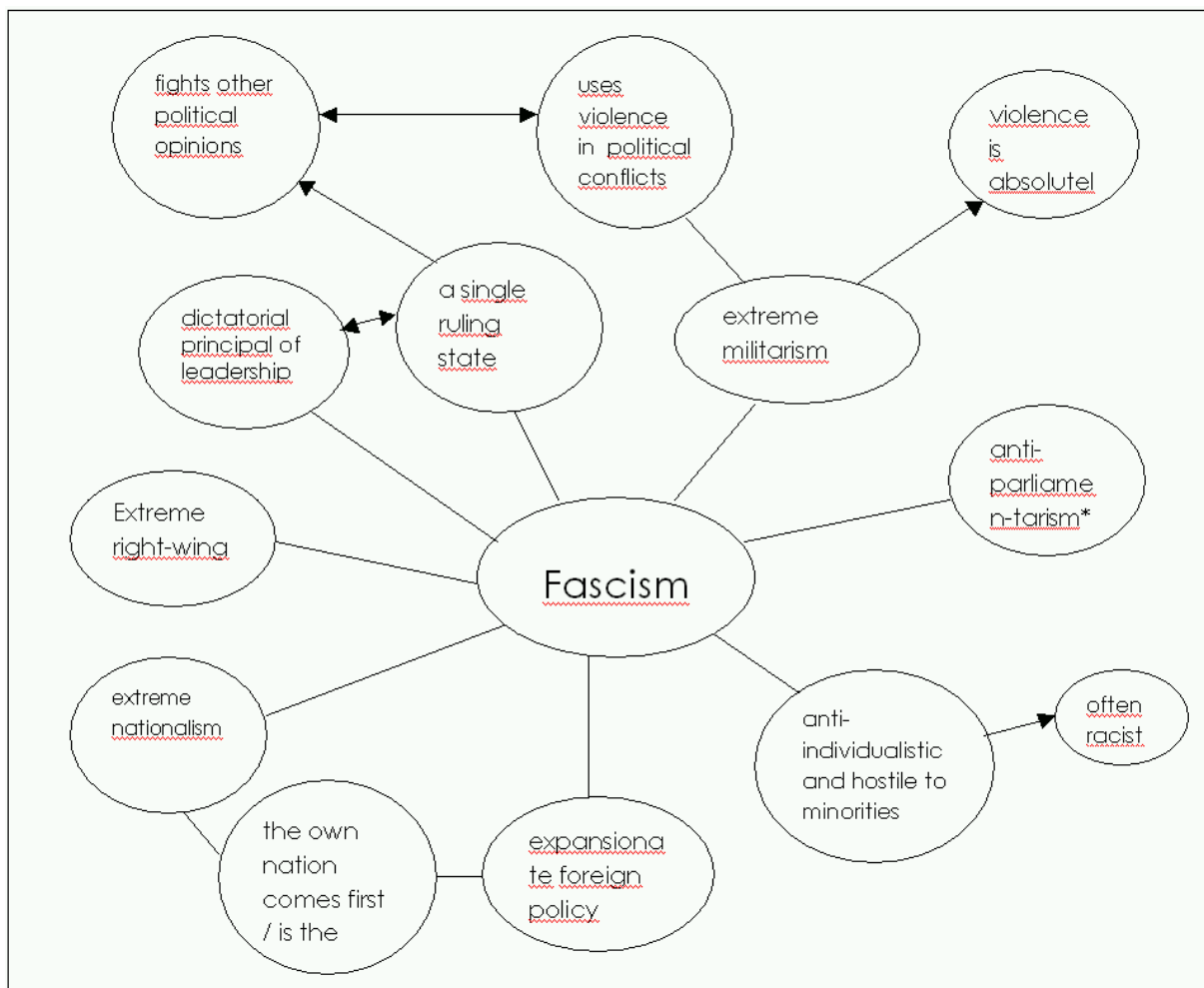
- Sturmabteilung (SA) (stormtroop(er)s)
- Schutzstaffel (SS) ("Hitlers bodyguards")
- NS-Kraftfahrerkorps (truckers)
- Hitler Jugend (youth)
- NS-Deutscher Studentenbund (students)
- NS-Frauenbund (women)

The Party wasn't the centre of power, only a part of Hitler's leadership beside the ministerial bureaucracy, Göring's (*Reichsmarschall*) and Himmler's (*Reichsführer* of the SS) power and other special representatives.

The first thought when hearing the word fascism is – and probably will always be – German National Socialism. A second after that, one thinks of Mussolini and Italy. But what exactly *is* fascism? When did it start? Where are the differences between German National Socialism and Italian fascism? In the following, I will try to give a few answers.

First of all, the word fascism comes from the Latin word 'fasces', meaning 'a bundle of rods', which was a symbol of jurisdiction. Later, the Italian word 'fascio' was used for all kind of associations –and Benito Mussolini started to use this term in 1919 when he founded the first fascist battle league to describe his form of thinking.

To explain what this *form of thinking* was and which ideologies fascism includes, I designed the following mind-map.



German fascism followed those ideas particularly fanatically.

The Nazis' government wasn't only absolutely dictatorial, but also very anti-individualistic and strongly racist, especially concerning the Jews.

They rejected every kind of other thoughts and persecuted members of other parties, like the Communists or the Social Democrats, brutally and without mercy. Violence like theirs is beyond example in the history of humanity. They also believed in themselves being "the best nation" and invaded their neighbour countries.

Practically all fascist movements have in common basic fundamental convictions and only differ in a few aspects, one being the fact that solely two fascist parties have ever been in power – the Nazis and the *Partito Nazionale Fascista* (PNF), which was the party of Mussolini.

In comparing those two, one quickly finds some major differences: the Italian fascism seized power about ten years earlier, but then became dependent on the Nazis in the middle of the Second World War.

Also, the anti-Semitism propagated by Hitler in Germany never reached comparable proportions in Italy. This is linked to the fact that the Italian fascism didn't pursue the same fanatic racism as Hitler did. It also differs in the perfection how the killings were organized in Nazi Germany.

Another difference is that although Italy became some kind of a personal dictatorship of Mussolini in the early twenties, the old powers like the king and the church still played a role in Italy.

Both governments failed in 1945, when Nazi Germany lost the war.

As a conclusion one could say that fascism is a political system that follows an extreme violent, not-democratic, nationalist ideology which today is ostracized by most societies. Furthermore, it is also forbidden by German law to use symbols of earlier extreme right-wing organizations, as fascism definitely is. (Strafgesetzbuch, § 86 a)

*Anti-parliamentarism: against democracy and all of its fundamental ideas (rule of law, human- and civil rights, tolerance, opposition, parliament, parties, elections, etc.)

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