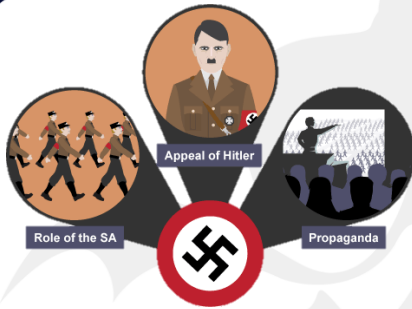


SUBJECT: History

UNIT: What was life like in Hitler's Germany?



Adolf Hitler- leader of Germany's Nazi Party from 1933.

How did Hitler rise to power? Depression: 1932 = 6 million people unemployed in Germany. Hitler promised "Bread and Work". To end the Depression and give people jobs. Hitler's personality: He was an excellent speaker who used propaganda to support his campaigns. His Brown shirts (SA) beat up any opponents. Weak Government: Many people hated their government called the Weimar Republic. They were blamed for losing WW1 and high unemployment.

How were people controlled?

One party state: 1933 - all other political parties, other than the Nazi Party, were banned. Gestapo and secret police: The SS (Schutzstaffel) – bodyguards for Hitler, very loyal and feared for their cruelty. The secret police-the Gestapo. Job was to 'protect public safety and order'. Methods included harsh interrogations and imprisonment without trial. Propaganda: People in Nazi Germany could not talk, write or even think freely. Censorship: Removing ideas the Nazis did not want people to see e.g. books were censored (1933-students in Berlin burnt 20,000 books written by Jews and Communists).

What was life like for young people?

Schools: Teachers had to swear a Nazi oath of loyalty or were sacked. History books re-written to suit Nazi ideas, eugenics (race studies) taught and gender specific lessons.

Hitler Youth: Children were forced to join the Hitler Youth of League of German Maidens ran by the Nazi Party. They were focused upon physical strength and indoctrinating children into the Nazi way of life-indoctrination.

How did the lives of women change?

Women were expected to stay at home and follow the 3Ks (meaning Church, Cooking, Children)

Women were encouraged to have as many children. Mother Cross as a reward.

Women with jobs in the government like doctors, teachers and secretaries were fired.

How did life get worse for Jews in Germany?

Jewish rights declined over time. Jan 1934 all Jewish shops had to be marked with the Star of David. 1935 Nuremberg Laws -Jews were no longer citizens of Germany .1938- Kristallnacht- Jewish shops and businesses burnt down and synagogues destroyed.

What is meant by the Holocaust? The murder of approximately six million Jewish and other non-Aryan men, women and children during WW2. **What was life like in a Ghetto?** Ghettos built, to separate Jewish and non-Jewish. Conditions were terrible: between eight and ten people living in every room and starvation common.. Between 1940 and 1942 est. 100,000 people died of starvation in the Warsaw ghetto (largest Ghetto in Poland-invaded by Germany in 1939). **What was the 'Final Solution'?** 1942-decision to murder every Jew in Europe, either by working them to death or by execution. To kill an estimated 11 million Jews living in Europe, the SS set up five 'extermination camps' in remote areas of Poland. The largest death camp being Auschwitz where approximately 1 million were killed. Liberation began in 1944-many were sent on death marches.

Did life improve for anyone?

'Strength through Joy' scheme provided workers with cheap holidays and leisure activities). The Nazis introduced the Volkswagen (the 'people's car') as a luxury so people could aspire to own it. From 1933 jobs were created as a result of the construction of autobahns (motorways). However, the cost of living rose and Trade unions were banned and workers had to join the Nazis' Labour Front instead. Enemies of the state- Jews, homosexuals, Roma gypsies, political opponents etc. persecuted.

