

DAP:

Hitler was hired to inform (via an espionage network) on the DAP (right-wing party under Drexler), but favoured their policies so joined in Jan 1919

Hitler was appointed Chief of propaganda, he was synonymous for his rhetoric & passionate speeches, by 1920, 1900 new members joined

25 point program: Feb 1920

Established Hitler's goals of attaining a 'pure-blooded' German (ARYAN) race & showcased his detest of Jews who he blamed for economic hardship, his nationalist anti TOV & Armistice values, reiterating his resentment of November criminals & the Diktat, plus his desire for lebensraum (expansion into communist Eastern Europe.) He wanted to essentially make Germany great again after their WW1 defeat

Tactics to generate initial support by Hitler:

Renamed DAP to NSDAP to appeal to all classes & to convey 25 points programme message

Swastika & salute to differentiate the party

Jan 1920: permanent Munich office for meetings with extra funding

1921: inner Nazi leadership contest (Hitler vs Drexler), Hitler won = leader of NSDAP

1921: Hitler founded own militia, the SA (brown shirts/storm troopers) to intimidate political opponents, they used violence to illustrate strength (this 'law & order' contrasted Weimar's instability)

1922 party conference: Hitler convinced members to give up electoral rights, giving him COMPLETE CONTROL

Munich Putsch:

1922: Mussolini (facist) overthrew democratic Italian government in his 'march on Rome', inspiring Hitler to follow suit

Weimar crisis prompted for extremist support to 'solve' socioeconomic issues, arising from Treaty of Versailles (which only exacerbated the effects of 1923 hyperinflation)

= gateway for support

SO...

Nov 1923: 600 SA occupied Bavarian beer hall in Munich, Hitler delivered speeches to recruit supporters but army dispersed the revolution

NSDAP banned & Hitler sentenced to 5 years imprisonment + 18 SA deaths

Hitler wrote 'Mein kampf', generating publicity & spreading his political ideals (reinforced superiority of Aryan race)

Hitler only served 9 months, NSDAP ban released in Feb 1925 (May 1924: Nazis had 32 seats)

Lean years of Nazi Party:

Nazi agenda laid out:

Aryan race superiority, Jewish conspiracy formulated (accused of taking over industry via intermarriage & generally scapegoated for the Weimar economic crisis)

Nationalism: abolition of Treaty of Versailles, lebensraum (more 'living space' for Germans aka invasion of communist Eastern Europe)

Socialism: industry wealth for the people, no class system

Totalitarianism: Hitler had complete control

German values: instilling Christian morals, work ethic & gender roles (traditionalism reinforced)

Student league & women's society created to instil Nazi values

Barberg conference 1926: Hitler (via a 5 hour speech) made it clear that following HIS agenda (not that of socialists) was paramount

Golden years (1923-28) under Weimar government meant Nazis only gained 1% of Reichstag seats BUT 1929 Great Depression resulted in peripeteia (HUGE discontent of Weimar gov, thus a reversal of strong leadership under Stresemann after his death)

Impacts of 1929 Wall Street crash:

6 mil unemployed by 1933

Industrial output decreased

No revenue from exports

Business closure & homelessness (paved forward by Brüning's tax hikes & welfare cuts enforced via >100 decrees)

Support reduced for moderates & was gained for Extremists (whose idyllic policies promised to stop economic turmoil)

Groups targeted by Nazis:

Businessmen: feared collectivisation under communism

Workers: 'work & bread'

Middle class: wanted economic prosperity post Great Depression which rinsed their savings

Farmers: Jewish-owned land confiscated & dislike of KPD

Youth: liked the ambiance of rallies & new policies

Women: utilised care-giver & nurturer female role to target families, insisting Nazi Christian values & economic reforms proved best for children

Unity: no class recognition

KPD growth:

1932: largest communist party in WESTERN Europe, gained 1 mil extra voters

But Nazi opposition (backed by Upperclass who feared communism) prevailed

Reichstag changes:

1930: Nazis won 107 seats (not the majority)

Hitler's journey to chancellor: (down to the temporary triangle aka Papen, Hindenburg & Hitler)

Schleicher & Papen joined Nazi coalition

Bruining resigns as chancellor

Papen = new chancellor : May 1932

NSDAP grew with 230 seats due to SA violence against KPD opposition (7k deaths in Berlin)

Schleicher made chancellor : Dec 1932

Schleicher lacked support so staged military coup

Papen convinced Hindenburg to appoint him vice & Hitler chancellor (who he described as a 'mouse' who could be puppeteered') : Jan 30th 1933

30/1/1933= Hitler made CHANCELLOR

Hitler's dictatorship:

Limits to Hitler's power: constitution, Hindenburg retained presidential power, NSDAP only had 1/3 of Reichstag

Reichstag fire:

27th Feb 1933: painted KPD as enemies of the state (Lubbe: a communist apologist accused of arson & beheaded Jan 1924)

Communist opposition sent to 1st labour camp: Dachau, Poland

'Terrorist threat' established, prompted for the passing of the Enabling Act (Hindenburg reluctantly did so via decree): 23rd March 1933

Gleichschaltung = state's control over all aspects of German life

Trade unions banned

Law against formation of parties passed

Dachau (1st concentration camp) created March 1933

Censorship & removal of democratic freedoms (speech & assembly)= wire tapping used

Acted as the 'foundational stone of the 3rd Reich'

Concordat:

Hitler & Pope established atheism associated with communism as prime threat = agreement to leave Catholic Church alone after seizing power over Germany

Oath of loyalty to Hitler was sworn by army after night of Long Knives

Night of the Long Knives: June 1934

Hitler made suspicious of Rohm (leader of SA) by Himmler so SS murdered him & 400 SA for treason to retain Hitler's full control

Hindenburg's death: 2nd Aug 1934

Hitler merged Chancellor & President = FURHER (had no legal/constitutional limits to his power)

Trade Unions:

May 1933: SS captured trade union officers, taking them to labour camps

5th March 1933: Nazi & German people's party formed COALITION = held 52% MAJORITY in Reichstag

Hitler's police state:

Hitler's rule was totalitarian, he used secret police to instil censorship & infiltrate the lives of Germans

Himmler ran the SS, proclaiming the Nazis represented 'the best of humanity' & Heydrich was in charge of the 'final solution' (extermination of the Jewish race)

Means of control:

The Gestapo under Goering (acted as the unidentifiable (by lack of uniform) secret police) had an espionage network, they wire tapped calls & relied on informants to imprison Nazi opposition (satirical attackers of Nazi regime & those who listened to foreign, western radio.)

Those who underwent prison trials were found irrevocably guilty, 1943: 46 received the death penalty, 1939: 160k arrests & KPD sent to labour camps (Dachau 1933: 1st camp.)

SS: under Himmler, had 240k men by 1939 who were identifiably Aryan. Infamous for home invasions & arrests without probable cause.

Labour camps: Dachau imprisoned KPD in 1933, featured 'arbeit macht frei' (work will set you free) slogans. 1944: 13 main camps, 1933-45: 1.6 mil in labour camps (held opponents of the 3rd Reich e.g. trade unionists & communists)

State censorship:

Gobbles: minister of propaganda & people's enlightenment; he pushed an anti-Semitic narrative & the Nazi's far right agenda

Propaganda:

1925: Mein Kampf aimed to resonate Hitler's hardships whilst being imprisoned post Munich putsch, with different sects of society

Volksgemeinschaft: aimed to create Aryan community, loyal to the Führer for the 'unification of Germans'

Posters: conveyed Aryan ideals through family & children who were recognisably Aryan. For men, military duties were heroic, for women caring for children, whilst upholding Christian values was most commendable.

Radio: 1933 People's receiver (mass produced, cheap radio), loudspeakers delivered Hitler's speeches during work hours, Gobbles ensured broadcasts fit Nazi agendas, proclaiming radio as a 'spiritual weapon of totalitarianism, which destroyed rebellion.'

Jazz music was banned due to its African-American roots, Beethoven's traditional compositions were favoured & all radio channels were state-regulated (no opposition/foreign commentary.) 1939: 70% of Germans had radios.

Architecture: rejection of modernism, built solid & tall structures, symbolic of permanence of Nazi rule

Art: Reich chamber of visual arts (42 members licensed by Nazis), 1936: 12 paintings e.g. Picasso & Gogh's removed

Film: 1300 Nazi-produced films, had to be approved by Goebbels & carry pro-aryan message (depicted as heroes) to generate an US vs THEM attitude (vs Jews)

Newspaper: circulation fell by 10% due to mundane nature of articles, Jewish editors & journalists made redundant

Literature: Mein Kampf = bestseller, books published only after supervision by Goebbels. 1933: burning of books by student groups across 34 universities (of leftist, liberal & Jewish works), symbolic of Nazi intolerance & censorship

Rallies: Nuremberg rallies depicted power of the state & unity. 200k present in 1934

The Church's place in Nazi Germany:

Religion depicted as a threat, for it consumed the minds of the faithful– giving no room for the indoctrination of the masses by Nazi dogmas

2/3 = Protestant

1/3 = Catholic

Cooperation between state & papacy:

July 1933: Concordat agreed freedom of worship if bishops swore oath of loyalty to Hitler
Nazis didn't interfere with youth groups, so long as politics wasn't in discussion

Nazi oppression of Catholicism:

Church & Nazi agenda juxtaposed massively

Loyalty to the Pope, not Hitler was condemned so the Concordat was dissolved: priests sent to labour camps, no crucifix in schools, youth groups banned

1937: Pope Pius XII– 'with burning anxiety' statement critiques Nazi regime

Protestants & Nazis:

Supporting churches combined = Reich church, swastikas displayed in churches & salutes featured in service
BUT opposition from Protestant groups:

Pastor's emergency league:

1933, pastors opposed: regional churches being combined into 1 Reich church & the prevention of Jewish to Christian conversions, supplemented by a ban of the Old Testament (permeated with parables of Jewish liberation from oppressors in Exodus), Jews = race not religion through Nazi's lens

Confessional church:

1934: 6000/8000 pastors joined, 800 actively condemned Nazi regime & were sent to labour camps

Limits of church opposition:

Passive detest of Nazis, not actively challenged eg via mass church gatherings in defiance of Nazis & Germans
applauded pastors who spoke out

Merely a failure to conform, few actively challenged Nazis (not brave or arguably foolish enough to)

Von Galen:

Conservative nationalist bishop (born into aristocracy) but held 3 sermons in 1941 after serving in disadvantaged Berlin opposing Nazi racial ideology & the Nazi's push for the disabled to be euthanised, 'unproductive humans = still worthy of life.' RAF dropped copies of the Sermon on enemy lines, 1941: Hitler 'stopped' euthanising disabled due to public outrage. 2005: Galen beatified, exemplified necessity of speaking out against evil.

Pastor Niemöller:

Nazi apologist, Jews = 'Christ killers' BUT after challenging Reich church, sent to labour camp & proclaimed 'guilt lies on Germans & Christendom.' Controversy in him volunteering for military service in Dachau camp after publicly scrutinising Hitler's dictatorship & all that it encompasses.

Nazi treatment of women:

Policies made on the basis of:

A woman's world = family & the home, not the state (politics & labour) -> upholds traditional gender roles

Duty = to procreate & nurture children for Hitler's 1000 year Reich as 'mothers of the nation' creating 'little helpers' for the Fuhrer

'Kinder, Kurch & Kirche' = 'children, kitchen, church'

Goebbels on a woman's mission in 1929 : 'bring children into the world, it's not as unmodern as it sounds' using a bird analogy to express its intrinsic normality

Conservatively dressed, no interest in political/economic affairs, heavy-hipped yet athletic for child bearing = very restrictive, demanded conformance

1934: Kilnk was appointed Reich women's leader to oversee women's policy

Policies:

Lebensborn: women are the 'fountain of life', encourages high birth rate of 'racially pure' (Aryan) babies as in 30 years saw an annual drop of 1 million births = problem to be tackled as needed Aryan babies to indoctrinate for 1000 year Reich

1933 law for encouragement of marriage: couples given 1000 marks loan, every baby = 250 marks deducted from repayment but conditional on woman keeping out of labour market

Mother's cross: Gold medal awarded to mothers for producing 8 babies (highly celebratory occasion), Hitler youth saluted the mother, 10 children = could name Hitler the godfather of the kids, normal to receive more loans for children than income from father's job

League of German Maidens:

Girls taught house work

Taught the superiority of Aryan master race (racial hygiene was promoted & no intermarriage)

No military training

Effectiveness of Nazi women's policy:

Success:

Birth rate increased from 10 to 20 births per 1000 in 6 years

Fewer women went to university, unemployment rate for men decreased

= conformity under police state

Failure:

Some opposition after wave of liberalism (included political & societal liberties) under Weimar gov

Domestic status was demeaning & some opposed patriarchal constraints

WW2 u-turn: needed women to create weaponry (be active in industrial sector) & run German society so Nazi policy short lived

1937: women with marriage loans were allowed to work & employment for women rose by 2 million (more women worked under the Nazis than under Weimar gov ironically, contradicting the purpose of policies)

Nazi youth policies:

Impressionable youth had to be indoctrinated to satisfy Hitler's 1000 year Reich goal

Bernhard Rust: education minister, him & Goebbels manipulated the school curriculum to push Nazi ideals

'German heroes' & 'Evil of the Jews' lessons

'Find the sum of Jews inhabiting Mars in 1933': textbook maths problem (alienated Jews, they were sub-human)

Teachers dismissed if their political track record stipulated them as being disloyal to Nazis

Nazi Teachers league: Hitler salute taught to kids & posters displayed in classrooms reinforced totalitarianism of Nazi regime

Mein Kampf = compulsory reading

Racial studies taught Aryan superiority

1933: 3 Napolas: a public school, children of the elite (future politicians) would board

Nazi Youth:

1939: compulsory to join & minorities were omitted = exclusively for Aryan children

Boys:

Had to swear an oath of allegiance to the Fuhrer/state: encouraged to inform on parents condemning the Nazi regime

Went on wilderness retreats e.g. hikes promoting physical (+ 'masculine') strength

Military training: by 1938, 450k (naval), 74k (aircraft) & 60k (motor) men were deployed (despite German demilitarisation outlined in Versailles treaty)

Character building: comradeship & ruthlessness drilled into boys by the SA who instilled discipline by subjecting boys to harsh sanctions e.g. ice baths in winter

Girls:

Swore allegiance to Hitler

Taught racial hygiene & no intermarriage to create Aryan race paramount for the 1000 year Reich

Trained to be housewives so no military/labour experience = not equipped for German life post de-nazification/ during WW2

Parental reservations toward youth societies as they taught loyalty should lie in the state, not family

'Weakness must be hammered away' to create the 'New order' - Hitler on the Hitler youth

Youth opposition:

Edelweiss pirates:

Alternative opposition group who favoured liberty

Emerged from working class districts, namely Berlin = national Nazi discontent

Consumed western media & fashion

Went on wilderness expeditions

Attacked & insulted Hitler youth

Freed (very few) people from labour camps

1944: Killed head of Gestapo in Cologne, offenders later executed for treason

Swing youth:

Middle-class teenagers from Berlin, Kiel & Hamburg

Organised illegal dances with jazz music (banned by Nazis as of Afro-American origin so not Aryan), with 6000+ attendees

Embraced Western culture (music & fashion from USA)

White Rose movement:

An intellectual resistance movement

1941: Scholl + Hans (siblings) handed out anti-Nazi leaflets on campus at

Munich uni, were informed on by janitor to SS & were executed

Powerful as were once enrolled in Nazi youth cult, liked the policies propagated by Hitler (like many of their contemporaries) but their father critiqued Nazism

Hans fought on the Western front during WW1 against the Poles & aimed to publicise Nazi atrocities

'Don't say it's for the fatherland' - Scholl on the persecution of Jews

'The responsibility is ours... just as the power of the spirit broke Napoleonic terror in it will too break the terror of the National Socialists in 1943' -

Sophie Scholl

Little impact:

Himmler (SS leader): opposition youth should be: 'beaten, given the severest exercise & put to hard labour'

Posed a cultural challenge, not a political one

8 mil Nazi Youth members vs 2000 Edelweiss pirates in 1939

Employment under the Nazis:

1933: 6 million unemployed (after Weimar hyperinflation & Great Depression)

Hitler & Schacht's (Nazi economist) goal: AUTARKY = German economic self-sufficiency (Wall Street crash highlighted dangers of economic dependency on the west, namely USA)

1933: 25% of labour force = unemployed (due to Weimar economic crises of 1923 & 1929); politically dangerous to Hitler (improvised workers supported the KPD) & the unemployed were a burden on resources & society so need as many people to work as possible for the state

Unemployment policies:

1933 RAD:

National labour service), encompassed: repairing infrastructure & draining marshes = benefits workers & society

1935: compulsory to serve 6 months in the RAD (400k+ members)

Workers were subjected to hard labour, long hours & poor pay

Similar structure to labour camps: military drills & uniform so seen as military service for the Nazis, not 'normal' employment

1935 Autobahn program:

7k mile motorway planned (dual-carriage way connecting Germany)

125k workers employed in building infrastructure (better transport for commuters = enhances economy)

Public expenditure grew by 20b marks by 1938 after Weimar austerity

1935 Rearmament program:

TOV limited German army to 100k men, Hitler opposed this diktat so introduced:

Conscription so 1.4 mil joined the army

22.5b marks spending increase on arms by 1939

72k aircraft engineers by 1935

= soldiers & arms manufacturers were employed

BUT the employment figures were SCEWED:

Jews & women were excluded (+minorities in labour camps for Hitler's 'final solution')

Unemployed men sent to the RAD

Part-time workers were counted as full-time

Yes, employment increased statistically but poverty was still rife (living standards didn't actually improve as wages were low & hours were long)

Standards of living:

Employment increase:

'An economic miracle, Germans have a purpose in life, employment has drastically increased' - Hitler

BUT

Pay was LOW, hours were LONG & working conditions were HORRENDOUS

The cost of living also rose (hitting the poorest the hardest: solidifying Hitler's condemnation of a socialist economic structure, which reinforces the principles laid out by his 1926 Bamberg speech)

Wages rose by 14% but the price of goods rose by 30%

Policies to 'protect' workers rights:

DAF:

Replaced trade unions (after 1933 Enabling act banned them)

Features:

6 hours were added to the work week

No negotiations of salaries

Workers were punished for disrupting manufacture

Aim: to maximise productivity/efficiency (increasing industrial output) for the state

KdF:

'Strength through joy' = work is a gateway to happiness & a source of fulfilment, had 35mil members

Rewarded workers with leisure: museums (2.5mil+ attendees) & theatres (11mil+ attendees)

Porsche was commissioned to create Volkswagen: the 'people's car': workers saved 5 marks/week for a car, but factories switched from vehicle production (autobahn program) to arms production (rearmament program) = the majority didn't receive their car

sdA:

'The beauty of labour': better facilities for workers

Employers received tax breaks to decorate work spaces, employees were FORCED to work overtime (with no pay) to implement this

1938: 34k + businesses had improved their facilities

Nazi persecution of Jews:

The 'final solution' (extermination of Jews) was based on:

Social Darwinism: 'natural selection' = the survival of the fittest, the 'fittest' were Aryans (pure-blooded Germans) = encouraged Aryan people to marry

Eugenics: racial purity taught in schools, those with hereditary conditions were sterilised, no intermarriage (faith & race) = strict Aryan gene pool

For Hitler's Aryan 1000 year Reich fantasy

Anti Jew origins:

1871: unification of the Federal republic & Deutschland = Germany was established, so ever since there has been intolerance to Jews who are scapegoated as enemies of the state

WW1 defeat: Jews are scapegoated for the TOV, 1923 hyperinflation & 1929 depression economic crises

Hitler: openly anti Semitic, moderates in the Reichstag adopted his radical views

Curriculum: painted Jews as the state's enemy, 'killing executioners' = legal & commendable

Nazi policy: reflected the notion that the untermenschen (Jews, Slavs & gypsies = sub-human) were subordinate to the herrenvolk (aryans)

Policies made to remove Jews from German society:

Social:

1933: Curriculum reflected anti-semitism, kids were indoctrinated, us vs them attitude (Germans vs Jews) was propagated through Mein Kampf

1933: Jewish politicians, soldiers & teachers banned

1934: Jews banned from pools & parks (leisure)

Economic:

March 1933: official boycott of Jewish enterprises, medical & law practises

Nuremberg laws of 1935:

Reich law for the protection of German blood & Honour state:

Outlined identification of Jews (had 3/4 Jewish grandparents & could be non-practising) & implications of this: only those of kindred blood had full political rights

No intermarriage (Jews & Aryans) based on eugenics

Reich law on citizenship:

Saw the enacting of more exclusionary decrees

1938: major fees charged to Jews to leave Germany

Kristallnacht: the night of broken glass 1938

A 'spontaneous outburst of public sentiment' in response to the killing of German diplomat: Von Rath in Paris by Grynszpan (a Jewish pole) in Paris

Rioters destroyed 7.5k Jewish businesses & many Synagogues

Nazis revoked German citizenship of Polish Jews & were fined 1bil Reichmarks for 'damages' caused by looters

Speculated that SS orchestrated violence against Jews, not the public; acting as a precursor for the Holocaust

Nazi persecution of the disabled:

Disabled = unproductive & wasted Germany's resources so were a 'drain on society'

Set up euthanasia program (involuntary via lethal injection) to 'purify' the German race

Operation T4: entailed the gassing of disabled children but retracted after scrutiny from the Catholic Church in the Pope's 1937 'with burning anxiety' encyclical

Nazi persecution of political opposition:

The 1933 Enabling act banned the KPD (communists) & they were sent to labour camps in Dachau

SPD & preachers were sent to camps

Nazis persecution of homosexuals:

Nazis wanted to purify Germany of homosexuality (seen as hereditary)

Homosexuals were made to wear pink triangles & were sent to camps

Nazi persecution of Gypsies:

1/2 of the Sinti & Romani gypsy population (1 million) were killed, for they were deemed: sub-human

Nazi persecution of Slavs:

Hitler deemed Slavs as inferior, for they threatened his ideal of lebensraum (living space for Germans aka expansion eastwards into the USSR)

Over 2.8 million Soviet prisoners were killed

Hunger plan: seizing all food produced on Soviet soil for the German army, resulting in the deaths of 4 million+ (namely Ukrainians, Belarusians & Russians) from starvation

Mein Kampf: openly anti-Slavic due to Bolshevik revolution ('Jewish masters' ruled over Slavs)

Modern Russia (which 'exemplified' the 'state-forming efficacy of the German element in an inferior race') = a product of Germanic not Slavic efforts which were undone during the October Revolution