

Nazism and the Rise of Hitler

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→ First World War :

- Germany was defeated in the First World War (1914 to 1918)
- After the War was over, the monarchy in Germany quits.

→ The Weimar Republic :

National Assembly met at Weimar to write a constitution.

→ Working :

- Deputies were now elected to the German parliament or Reichstag.

→ Structure :

- Democratic constitution with a federal structure. Universal Adult Franchise (all adults have right to vote including women).

→ Defects :

- Proportional representation: Made achieving a majority by one party a near impossible task, which led to a rule by coalitions.
- Article 48 : Gave the president the power to impose emergency, suspend civil

rights and rule by decree.

- The republic was not received well by its own people largely because of its had to accept the peace treaty of Versailles after Germany's defeat at the end of the World War.

→ Treaty of Versailles :

- Germany lost its overseas colonies.
 - A tenth of its population.
 - 13% of its territories.
 - 75% of its iron.
 - 26% of its coal
 - Allied power demilitarised Germany.
 - pay compensation of £6 billion lost resource - Rich Rhineland.
- to France, Poland, Denmark and Lithuania.

- Many Germans held the new Weimar Republic responsible for not only the defeat in the war but the disgrace at Versailles.

→ The Effect of the War :

- The war had a devastating impact on Europe both psychologically and financially.
- From a continent of creditor, Europe became a debtor.
- The supporters of the Weimar Republic were

criticised and become easy target of attack in the conservative nationalist circles.

- Soldiers came to be placed above civilians.
- Aggressive war propaganda and national honour became important.

→ Political Radicalism and Economic Crisis:

- The Spartacist League was established on the pattern of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia.
- The Spartacists founded the communist party of Germany.
- The Weimar Republic crushed the uprising with the help of a war veterans organizations called Free Corps.
- In 1923, Germany refused to pay the war compensations so France occupied its leading industrial area, Ruhr.
- To counter this, Germany started printing paper currency recklessly.
→ The value of the mark collapsed and the prices of goods rose. There was hyperinflation.

→ The years of Depression :

- Wall Street Exchange crashed in 1929
- Between 1929 and 1932 the national income of Country fall by half.
- The Effect of this recession in the USA Economy were felt worldwide. 4



→ Effects on Germany :

- Germany received short-term loan largely from the U.S.A.
- Industrial production reduced.
- Workers lost their jobs.
- Youth took to criminal activities.
- Small businessman and self-employed suffered as their businesses got ruined.
- People lost confidence in the democratic parliamentary system which seemed to offer no solution.

→ Hitler's Rise to power :

- Hitler was born in Austria in 1889.
- He acted as a messenger, corporal in the First World War.
- He joined the German Workers party and renamed it National Socialist German Worker party.
- This later came to be known as the Nazi party.

→ By 1932 it had become the largest party with 37 percent votes.

- Nazism became a mass movement only during the Great Depression

→ The Destruction of Democracy:

- On 30 January 1933, Hitler achieved the highest position in the cabinet of ministries.
- Hitler now set out to dismantle the structures of democratic rule.
- The Fire Decree of 28 February 1933 suspended civic rights like Freedom of speech, press and assembly.
- Communists were hurriedly packed off to newly established concentration camps.
- All political parties were banned.
- Special surveillance and security force were created to control the people with impunity.

→ Reconstruction :

- Hjalmar Schacht took over the responsibility of economic recovery.
- The State Funded project produced the famous German Super highways and the people's car, the Volkswagen.
- Hitler reoccupied the Rhineland in 1936 and integrated Austria and Germany in 1938.
- Acquired German-speaking Sudetenland.
- Hitler chose War to recover from economic crisis.

→ World War II :

- On September 1939, Germany invaded Poland.
- Started a war with France and England.
- In September 1940, a Tripartite pact was signed between Italy, Germany and Japan.
- In June 1941, Germany attacked Soviet Union.
- Germany exposed through both sides.
 - From the Western Front - to Britishers.
 - From the Eastern Front to Soviet Union.

- Soviet Army defeated Germany at Stalingrad
- Japan bombed the US base at Pearl Harbor and US entered the war.
- USA drops atom bomb on Nagasaki and Hiroshima in Japan.
- The war ended in May 1945 with Hitler's defeat.

→ The Nazi world view:

- According to Nazi ideology there was no equality between people but only racial hierarchy.
→ Nordic German Aryans were at the top, while Jews were at the lowest while all other races are between them.
- New Territories had to be acquired for settlement of Nordic German Aryan race.

→ The Racial Utopia:

- Hitler divided and occupied north-western Poland
- Poles were forced to leave their homes and educated Polish classes were murdered.

→ Youth in Nazi Germany ÷

- All Schools were cleansed and purified means Jews teachers were dismissed.
- Jews, the physically handicapped and Gypsies were thrown out of schools and later sent to the gas chambers.
- A prolonged period of ideological training for Good German Students.
- School textbooks were rewritten.
- Racial Science was introduced to justify Nazi ideas of race.
- children were taught to be loyal and submissive, hate Jews, and worship Hitler.
- Ten year-olds had to enter Jungvolk.
- At 14, all boys had to join the Nazi youth organization - Hitler Youth.
- They joined the Labour Service at 18.



→ The Nazi Cult of Motherhood ÷

- Boys were taught to be steel hearted, aggressive and masculine.
- Girls had to become good mothers and rear pure-blooded Aryan children.
- All mothers were not treated equally.
- Women who bore racially undesirable children were punished.
- Women who produced racially desirable children were awarded.
- Women who didn't follow prescribed code of conduct were publicly condemned and severely punished.

→ Crime Against Humanity ÷

- Many people were influenced by the idea of Nazi. They believed Nazim will bring prosperity and improve General Well being.
- Every German was not Nazi.
- Large majority of Germans were passive onlookers.

➔ The Art of propaganda :

- Mass killings were termed special treatment, Final Solution, euthanasia, selection and disinfection.
- Nazi ideas were spread through visual images, films, radio, posters, catchy slogans and leaflets.
- In posters enemies of Germans such as Jews were shown as evil.

➔ The Holocaust :

- Jews collected and preserved documents, wrote diaries, kept notebooks, and created archives which are called the Holocaust.
- Jews wanted the world to remember the atrocities and suffering they had endured during the Nazi killings operations.

