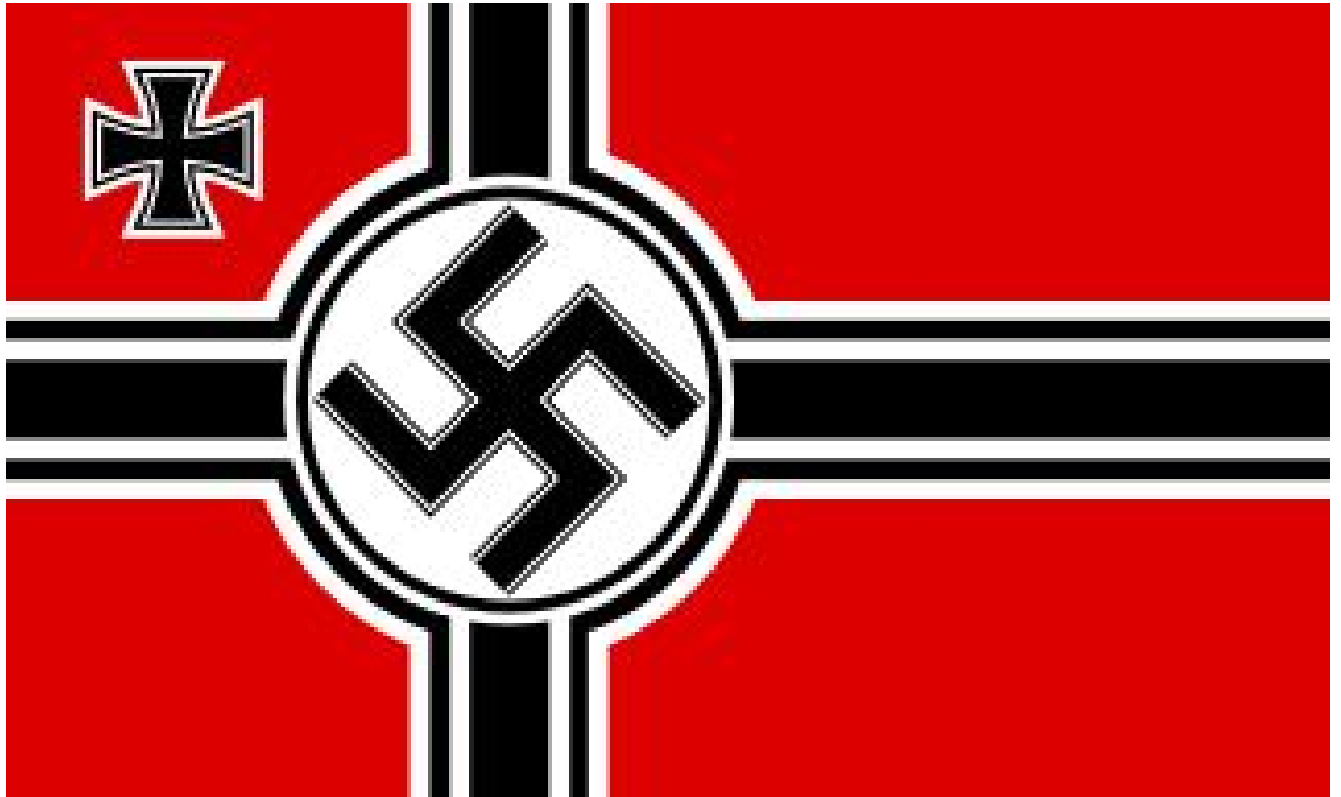


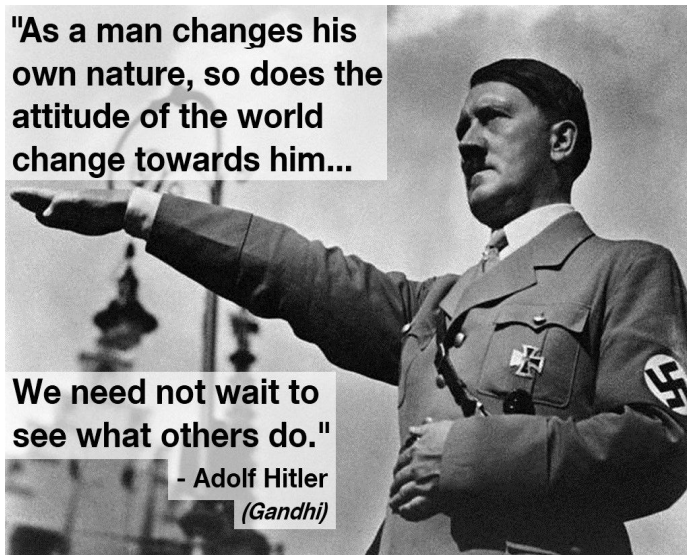
CHAPTER 3 : HITLER'S GERMANY



"As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him..."

We need not wait to see what others do."

- Adolf Hitler
(Gandhi)



***)BACKGROUND INFORMATION!**

- Treaty of Versailles (TOV) was signed in 1919 and TOV was an unfair treaty towards Germany. - German representatives were forced under ultimatum to sign the unfair treaty.

***)Terms of The Treaty Of Versailles**

WAR GUILT CLAUSE	Territorial Reduction	Demilitarisation	Reparations	Formation of LON	Self-determination
<p>Germany to accept Complete War Blame for starting World War I</p>	<p>Germany lost all overseas colonies in Africa and Asia Pacific.</p> <p>Germany Lost Alsace-Lorraine And profits from Saar Coal Region to France</p> <p>Germany giving up territory between Germany and East Prussia to form the Polish Corridor to give Poland independent access to sea</p> <p>Germany not allowed to unite with Austria</p>	<p>Germany Armed forces restrictes to :</p> <p>-Size of Army : 100,000 men</p> <p>-Size of Navy : 15,000 men</p> <p>Not allowed to have :</p> <p>1.) Air-force</p> <p>2.) Tanks</p> <p>3.) Submarines</p>	<p>Pay full compensation For WWI</p> <p>269 million gold Reichmarks</p>	<p>League of Nations Set up to maintain world peace</p>	<p>People previously belonged to Austria-Hungary in Central Europe with a common identity were given the right to govern themselves.</p>



1) What problems were caused fragmentation of the Weimar Government?

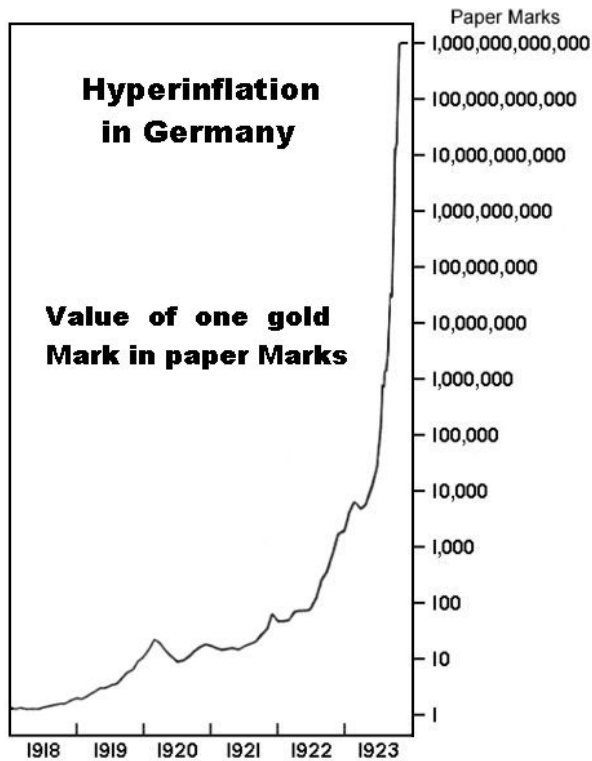
3 Structural weaknesses of Constitution and Proportional Representation.

Proportional Representation	Coalition Governments	Article 48 of Weimar Constitution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -People voted for a party instead of Specific Candidates - Parties gained seats based on number of votes won - Democratic and fair system but resulted in high degree of fragmentation in parliament 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All parties came together to form a government - A number of parties had extreme ideas and were not willing to compromise -Coalition keep breaking up leading to frequent changes in governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allowed the president to dissolve both houses of parliament and rule by decree for six months in 'Time of Emergency' -Civil Liberties could be suspended - What constituted as emergency was not defined

- Too many small parties competing without a party gaining majority

- Difficult to pass laws as there were 20 different coalition government from 1919-1933

- Hitler exploited the emergency power legally and to remain in power



2) Why was it difficult for strong government to exist during the era of the Weimar government?

2 Main causes that Caused Weimar to be weak other than Structural weakness mentioned above

Hyperinflation!

- Post-war Germany struggled with poverty, high unemployment and fragile economy. The reparation payments were therefore an unwelcome burden, highly unpopular with the German People. The government kept up by printing more money.

On December 1922, Germany failed to make payment. France and Belgium invaded the Ruhr. Through this, they seized mines, factories and railways, planning to take what was owned to them in kind.



The German hence adopted a non-cooperation policy . Workers went on strike so that there would be nothing for the French to take. The government responded by printing more and more money in order to pay striking Ruhr workers and to pay off some of its debt.

The more money was printed, the more of its value decreased. Prices spiralled out of control and hyperinflation resulted.

Hyperinflation : A rapid uncontrolled rise in prices that seriously damages a country's economy

In 1919, 6600 Marks were a small Fortune.

By 1923, 6600 Marks were NOT even enough for a postage stamp.

Pensioners could not even afford a cup of coffee with their monthly pension. The poor were hard-hit, but wealthier Germans and the middle class felt the most bitter. Hyperinflation caused their savings and pensions wiped out virtually overnight. Hyperinflation caused the weimar government to lose support of the middle and lower middle classes. Hyperinflation was then solved by Gustav Stresemann (Chancellor) when he replaced the currency with the new Rentenmark.

Great Depression

The Great Depression was a severe worldwide economic depression sparked by the stock market crash of 1929 in the New York Stock Exchange. The Depression affected almost every country in the world, but hit Germany particularly badly because Germany suffered an economic crisis , which in turn caused a social crisis. Factories closed down. Millions lost their jobs. The government also had to make cuts to social services. Poverty, homelessness and even starvation were commonplace. In 1932, Six million people or $\frac{1}{3}$ of the working population were unemployed .

The situation also resulted in political crisis. The coalition government in power at the time could not decide what course of action to take. From 1930 onwards, no government had enough support in the Reichstag to pass laws. The only way action could be taken was when President Hindenburg, the president used his emergency powers.

Paul von Hindenburg , the president, was a right-winged nationalist who did not really care for democracy. People were angry and wanted more decisive action. This caused a decline support for parties with moderate opinions and rise in support for more extreme parties like the Communist party and Nazi Party.

3) “Hitler’s rise to power was due to his leadership abilities”. How far would you agree with this statement?

Must Agree + Give 3

Hitler’s leadership Abilities
1.Nazi Ideology
Hitler has always against socialist ideas, particularly those that involved in racial or sexuality equality. Socialism was popular in Germany after WWI however, and Hitler rename his party by putting ‘National’ before ‘Socialist’ to express that he was only in favour of equality for those who had ‘German blood’. Jews and other ‘aliens’ would lose their rights to citizenship.

Hitler promises in his Nazi Ideology

Hitler gained popular support partly because of the promises and ideology he presented to the Germans. In February 1920 the NSDAP published its first programme , the 'Twenty-Five Point Programme'

The most important points were :

- 1.) Abolition of the Treaty of Versailles
- 2.) Union Of Germany With Austria
- 3.) Allowing 'True' Germans to live in Germany
- 4.) Nationalisation of Large businesses
- 5.) Increases in old age pensions
- 6.) Establishment of a strong central Government

Overtime, Nazi party became the only Right-wing Party that could compete with Left-wing parties like Communist Party. Hitler set out his main beliefs in Mein Kampf, which were modelled on Italian fascism. The key difference was the central role of Anti-Semitism played in Nazism.

Nazi believed in superiority of white Aryan or Germanic races. Mein kampf (My Struggle) became extremely popular in Germany.

2.Charisma and Oratorical Skills
3 Things to Note for Hitler's Charisma and Oratorical Skills

1) Excellent Orator

- Hitler prepared and practised his speeches
- He was a master at gauging the mood of the audience
- Had incredible energy, making three to four speeches a day
- Appeared sincere to the people

2) Beer Hall speeches

- Made many speeches in beer halls where people were easily swayed
- Started his speeches calmly and logically
- Began to rant and rave when the audience got drunk

3) Addressed people's concerns

- Knew the concerns of the people
- Used 'November criminals', communists and the Jews as scapegoats for Germany's ills

3. Exploitation of the Fears of Communism

- In the 1928 elections, the communist party of Germany won four times the votes of the Nazi party. However, despite the support, the communist did not form the majority of the Reichstag. In fact, many groups of people feared that the communists would later take over the country. Farmers feared the communists because the communists believed the state should own all lands and assets. They had heard that in the Soviet Union, the government had taken farmers' lands and killed and imprisoned millions in the process. Owners of big industries also felt threatened by the communists. In the Soviet Union, businessmen suffered as big businesses had been taken over by the state. Businessmen also feared the increasing strength of trade unions. Hitler exploited the fears by giving the farmers and businessmen vague promises that he would help them if he got into power. Some industries like Alfred Hugenberg a newspaper and film studio owner, and August Thyssen, a steel manufacturer, contributed to the Nazis elections. Hugenberg also allowed the Nazis access to his film studios for the creation of propaganda films.
- In 1930s with economy shattered and millions unemployed, there was much unrest. The communist fought the police in the streets of Germany. Hitler used his personal armed forces to fight the communist and break their meetings. Many began to feel that Germany needed the Nazis to bring back into their communities. The Nazis made promises to help the unemployed and other groups which had suffered economic losses.

4. Skillfulness at making deals with politicians

- Hitler was a good political strategist, who was willing to wait for the right opportunity to take power gradually. He was skilful at making deals to advance his own position. In July 1932 elections, the Nazis won more votes than any other party in the Reichstag. Hitler wanted to be chancellor, but president Hindenburg allowed his fellow conservative, Franz von Papen, to carry as Chancellor. Hindenburg then used emergency powers to pass measures he hoped to solve the unemployment problem.
- Due to Von Papen having no support in the Reichstag, and another election was called for in November 1932. In the elections, the Nazis saw their votes drop by two million votes. They lost 34 seats in the Reichstag. Hitler realised he would have to make a deal with the conservatives. It seemed unlikely that he would now be able to gain power through elections. In December 1932, Hindenburg chose Kurt Von Schleicher to be Chancellor. Schleicher was very soon forced to resign, however, as he too lacked support in the Reichstag.

- In January 1933, after many negotiations, Von Papen and Hindenburg reluctantly invited Hitler to be Chancellor. They thought Hitler would be able to get them the support they needed to be in the Reichstag. The Cabinet was dominated by conservatives like Von Papen . Hindenburg and Von Papen mistakenly thought that by controlling the Cabinet, which had only 3 Nazis in it, they would be able to keep policy-making in their own hands. They wanted Hitler to provide support for their policies in Reichstag and keep the communist under control. For the first year of his tenure as Chancellor, Hitler Ruled in a coalition government as the result of a deal made by politicians who had underestimated his capabilities. When time was right, Hitler won enough support and acted decisively to take complete control over the government.

5. Reorganisation of the Nazi Party

- The Nazi Party started off with very limited support. In November 1923, Hitler attempted to overthrow the Weimar Government by staging a coup in Munich. The Munich Putsch failed and Hitler was Jailed. After his release from prison, the Nazis began to participate in elections. Before the Great depression, his party won only three percent of the votes. However, within ten years, Hitler was appointed the Chancellor of Germany, One of the main reason for this turn-around was the way Hitler reorganised the Nazi Party. He did these through three methods .

1) Increasing Party membership

- Establishing local Nazi Parties, thus increasing party membership
- Set up Youth organisations
- Created Hitler Youth in 1920s and had 100,000 members by 1933

2) Establishing the Stormtroopers (SA) and Defence Corps (SS)

- Set up SA in 1921 as Nazi Party's paramilitary organisation
- Broke up Communist Party meetings, which gained support of anti-communists
- Broke up strikes, which gained the support of the industrialists
- Set up SS as Hitler's elite personal bodyguard
- Portrayed SA and SS as militaristic

3) Using Nazi Propaganda

- Joseph Goebbels appointed to take charge of Nazi Propaganda
- Deliberately appealed to people's emotions rather than intellect
- Portrayed Nazis as a strong party united behind one leader

4) What steps did Hitler take to consolidate his power on the way to his position of Fuehrer of Germany?

Hitler used Political Impacts to Consolidate his power to his position of Fuehrer

- There were 3 Impacts Hitler brought
 - Political Impact
 - Economic Impact
 - Social Impact

Political impacts (5 Ways)
<p>1.Reichstag Fire, 27 February 1933</p> <p>-On 27 February 1933 The Reichstag fire played a significant event in Hitler's consolidation of power. Marinus van der Lubbe, a Dutchman, was arrested near the building that day. The Nazis accused him of being part of a communist conspiracy, and arrested him along with several leaders of the Communist Party. They were then charged with arson and attempting to overthrow the government. Hitler saw this as an opportunity to deal with his strongest rivals, the Communist. Hitler convinced President Hindenburg to use the Article 48 of the constitution , The 'Emergency Power'. He also convinced Hindenburg to sign the Reichstag Fire Decree.</p> <p>The Reichstag Fire Decree suspended civil liberties such as freedom of the press and freedom to assemble in public. Hitler's SA arrested communists, broke up their meetings and shut down their newspapers. Those who spoke against Hitler were also beaten up. This greatly affected the election Campaigns of the other political parties in Preparation for the March 1933 Elections.</p>
<p>2.Enabling Act, March 1933</p> <p>-Hitler's position of authority was further strengthened by the enforcement of the Enabling Act. With the Communist Party out of the way, the Nazi Party won 44 per cent of the vote in March 1933 elections. With the support of another small right-wing party, the Nazis had a majority in the Reichstag. Hitler now planned to pass the Enabling Act , he would be able to pass laws without President's approval. On March 23rd, Enabling Act was voted on, SA and SS men surrounded the building where the vote was to take place. Only Nazis and their supporters were allowed into the building. The bill for the Enabling Act was therefore passed. In addition, The Communist Party and Social Democrat party were banned from taking part in any future elections. The Enabling Act Hence greatly increased political authority of Hitler and Nazis in Germany</p>
<p>3. One Party Rule , 14July 1933</p> <p>-On 14 July 1933, Hitler passed a law making the Nazi Party the only legal political party in Germany. Within months of coming into power, Hitler was in charge of a one-party state. There was now nothing that anyone, even president Hindenburg could do. Hitler was a legal dictator. Soon after this, Nazi Officials took charge of local governments in the individual states of the German federation. Trade Unions were dissolved and their leaders were imprisoned. The SA and SS also dealt brutally with anyone who stepped out of line. By the</p>

time Nazis came to power, most of their opponents had either been sent to Concentration Camps or fled Germany

4. Night Of The Long Knives , June 1934

-As Hitler consolidated his power, it had been the SA which helped him disrupt the meetings of other political parties and break up strikes. They had also enforced Hitler's will after he became Chancellor. There was nothing to suggest that Ernst Roehm, the SA leader, was anything but loyal to Hitler. However, others in the Nazi Party, such as Heinrich Himmler, Hermann Goering and Goebbels , felt that Roehm had become too powerful. At the same time, the army leaders viewed SA as a threat. Roehm had talked rashly about taking over the army. As such, they conspired and managed to convince Hitler that Roehm was indeed a threat to him. Hitler made a pact with the army, that if he removed Roehm and other SA leaders, the army would swear an oath of allegiance to him.

5. Creation Of The Fuehrer Position, August 1934

-Hitler sought to consolidate his power further upon President Hindenburg's Death in 1934. There were still some important conservatives like Von Papen, who disliked the Nazi's and wanted to return to constitutional monarchy. Hitler , however had different ideas. The Weimar Constitution stated that the President must be elected. Hitler thus,merged the powers of the president with those of the Chancellor and proclaimed himself Fuehrer, Or supreme leader of the German people. The merging of the offices of Chancellor and President meant that Hitler now had the authority to invoke Article 48 , which he could not when he was merely the Chancellor. With the Enabling Act also leaving the powers of President intact, Hitler was now above the law . Immediately following the announcement of the new Fuehrer law, the German army was made to swear a personal oath of allegiance to Hitler instead of the German constitution. After Hindenburg's funeral, the Nazi held a plebiscite to see whether the German people approved of Hitler's new powers. As expected, they voted a resounding 'yes'. Hitler Thus achieved what few thought he could - The total control of Germany.

5) Why did the German people accept Hitler as their leader?

- Note : German people would accept Hitler as their new leader because :
 - Hitler rule brought benefits to them.
 - Recall : Germans were suffering from unemployment in **Germany**

-----> Which tells us that **Economic Impact** would cause German people accept Hitler.

Economic Impacts (5 Ways)

1. Re-employment

- The German economy was facing major problems at the time when Hitler came to power. There were over five million unemployed people and a major crisis in the farming sector. Dr. Hjalmar Schacht, president of the Reichsbank and Minister of Economics, helped re-organise Germany's finances so that new jobs could be provided. Schacht encouraged Hitler to initiate public works programmes such as the building of roads, motorways (Autobahnen) and public buildings. The Nazi involved the Reich Labour Service, an agency to reduce unemployment.

This was one important way of reducing unemployment. This was one important way of reducing unemployment while at the same time providing infrastructure and facilities for the public.

2. Rise of Big Industrialists

- Big business developed a close relationship with the Nazi government as a result of the Nazi's government's attempts to make Germany self-sufficient. Under the New Plan of 1934, industries important to Germany were subsidised and imports were barred. Production of important products such as oil, steel, coal, explosives increased. Companies that produced these were given valuable government contracts to make these items. In return, they supported the government. A ban on trade unions also helped the big business. Employers no longer had to worry about conflict with workers. Workers were under strict control of government.

- Goering's Four Year Plan (1936) also had a huge impact on big businesses. Its purpose was to prepare Germany for war in four years. The massive amounts the state spent on rearmament boosted the incomes of companies involved in the production of war materials. These big companies, in return made compulsory donations directly to the Nazi Party. Thus, these big industrialists thrived and their production of important products contributed to the boost in the economy. At the same time, the Nazis did not have to be concerned about the Party's finances while strengthening their power and influence.

3. Control of Trade Unions

- Abolishing trade unions was one of the first things Hitler did when he became Fuehrer. Workers were forced instead to join a workers' organisation controlled by the Nazis called the DAF (Deutsche Arbeitsfront) or German Work Front which united employers and employees in a single body.

- Workers were strictly controlled by the DAF. Although they could not be sacked on the spot, they were no longer allowed to strike or bargain for pay raises or better conditions. All workers were given 'work books' in which employers made comments about them. They needed the government's permission to leave their jobs. In some industries, they were not allowed to change jobs at all. With these restrictions in place, prices were stabilised, more people had work improving at the expense of workers' wages and benefits.

4. Organising Workers' leisure time

- The Nazis realised that the workers' support was vital and offered them some benefits to placate them. Nazi Propaganda praised workers for playing an important role in Germany's drive to become a great nation. The DAF set up schemes such as 'Strength Through Joy' which provided cheap theatre and cinema tickets, organised courses and cultural and sports events. The main objective was to control people's leisure time, but these activities and holidays had a lot of appeal. The state scheme by which workers could save 5 marks a week towards a cheap car was also very popular.

- Another DAF scheme was the 'Beauty of Labour', which was set up to improve working conditions for workers. Conditions in factories were improved under this scheme. Washing facilities and low-cost canteens were set up. However, workers often had to indirectly pay for them, making it seem like they were designed to keep people at their workplaces.

5. Militarisation

- In 1935, the Nazis introduced conscription for the army, which reduced unemployment drastically. By 1939, there were 1.4 million men in the army. This created many jobs as men were needed to make war materials, such as weapons, equipment and uniforms. Hitler also decided that Germany needed a modern air force --- the Luftwaffe. The achievement of this decision help boost the economy and also provided employment.

6) “Hitler’s rule brought more economic gain than social welfare to the German people between 1933 and 1939.” How far would you agree with this statement?

^ Answer with Economic Impacts as mentioned above ^

+ Social Impacts

Social Impacts

1. Increased Nazi support and German nationalistic sentiment through propaganda and censorship

- When Hitler came to power, the Nazi party was the largest political party in Germany. However, the majority still did not support the Nazi party. To secure their power the Nazis tries to convince the people through propaganda and censorships

Propaganda : Nuremberg Rallies

- Joseph Goebbels propaganda effort was the public displays of German power that he organised. These took the form of huge rallies, marches, torch-lit processions and public meetings. They were designed to showcase Germany’s might and give Germans a sense of belonging. Goebbels’ relationship with Alfred Hugenberg, who owned UFA, Germany’s largest film company , was extremely useful. Films were closely controlled and had to carry a pro-Nazi message. Goebbels also commissioned posters which glorified Nazi achievements and attacked opponents. These posters were put up all over Germany.

Censorship

- Goebbels was also expected to make sure that any information hostile to the Nazi Party was kept away from the German people. He set up the Reich Chamber of Commerce in 1933. This organisation dealt with literature, art, music, radio, film and newspapers. To produce anything these categories, the person has to be a member of the Reich Chamber. This policy meant that the Nazis censored everything Germans could read, watch or listen to. Censorship was more important than propaganda. Soon, Goebbels organised a public book-burning event.

Nazis ransacked libraries and burnt the books that are unacceptable. Information on the newspaper are closely monitored and Anti-Nazi newspapers were put out of business. The

Nazi also controlled all radio stations and all the people could listen to is the broadcast of Hitler's speech if any of them missed out . As a result there was a lack of freedom and speech.

2. Persecution of Jewish people and other minority groups

The Night of the Broken Glass, 1938

-In November 1938, a Nazi diplomat was shot dead by a young Jewish boy in Paris. Hitler used it as an excuse to order a campaign of terror , unleashed on Jews, called Night of the Broken Glass. Nazis looted and destroyed thousands of Jewish shops. Homes and synagogues were burned. Jews were beaten and killed. More than 20 thousand Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps.

-In september 1939, After Germany Invades Poland, 3 million Jews were forced into ghettos. The ghettos were overcrowded and lack of basic necessities. People soon died of illnesses and starvation. Mass murder was also conducted. By the end of 1942, they had probably murdered more than 1.3 million Jews.

Halocaust during WWII

- On 20 January 1942 Nazi leaders met and discuss the plans with the Jews. They came up with a 'Final Soutlion' ----- Kill all the Jews. It began with Heinrich Himmmler. Nazis built 6 death camps in poland to expedite the mass killings of Jews. The Nazis forced Jews to wear the Star of David to label and identify them. Cruel medical experiments were performed , hard labour work were also conducted working them to death. As Germany faced defeat, they still forced the Jews on a death march to German-controlled territory. About a quarter of a million of Jews died on the marches. By WWII ended, 1/3 of the world's Jew population was dead.

Role of Women in Nazi Germany

- The Nazis believed that the roles of women is to be mother and spouse. Hitler believed that German women could best server their nation by being good wives and mothers, as well as bearing children. They were also excluded from politics and academics. For example after 1933 elections, Germany went from having 37 female members of Reichstag to none.

- Nazis also made young German girls undergo vigorous training in domestic tasks through activities such as farming and sports.

Hitler Youth

- The Nazis viewed the youth as essential to the future and well-being of Nazi Germany. The Hitler Youth compromised of German Youths between 14 to 18 year old, and aimed to groom these youths to be future leaders in Nazi organisations such as SS and the Army. The Hitler Youth had 1000 members when it first formed in 1923 but increased to 2.3 million members due to part of forced merger of other youth organisations with the Hitler Youth. By December 1936 Membership for Hitler Youth was compulsory for all Aryan German Youths. Physical and military training was emphasised instead of academic study. A sub-division was also created for boys aged 10-14, while girls joined the League of German Girls. This ensured complete loyalty and provided manpower when WWII broke out.

7) Which groups of people were persecuted and suffered under the Nazis' rule from 1932-1945?

Anti-Semitism - Believes that Aryan Race (People with pure German blood) is superior than other race.

People who were persecuted and suffered under the Nazi's rule were :

- 1.) Communist**
- 2.) Jews**
- 3.) Gypsies**
- 4.) Homosexuals**
- 5.) Disabled**
- 6.) Anyone who is against the Nazi rule.**