

Name:

Living under Nazi Rule

1933-1945



GCSE History Knowledge Organiser

Sections	Learners should study the following content:
Dictatorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hitler and the Nazi Party in January 1933 • Establishing the dictatorship, January 1933 to July 1933 • Achieving total power, July 1933 to August 1934
Control and Opposition, 1933–1939	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The machinery of terror including the SS, the law courts, concentration camps and the Gestapo • The range and effectiveness of Nazi propaganda • Opposition to Nazi rule including the Left, church leaders and youth groups
Changing Lives, 1933–1939	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work and home: the impact of Nazi policies on men and women • The lives of young people in Nazi Germany including education and youth movements • Nazi racial policy: the growing persecution of Jews
Germany in War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The move to a war economy and its impact on the German people, 1939–1942 • Growing opposition from the German people including from elements within the army • The impact of total war on the German people, 1943–1945
Occupation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contrasting nature of Nazi rule in eastern and western Europe • The Holocaust, including the <i>Einsatzgruppen</i>, ghettos and the death camps • Responses to Nazi rule: collaboration, accommodation and resistance

GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule

1 Timeline



1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945

Establishing
dictatorship

The Third Reich

The Second World War

GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule: Dictatorship

2 How did Hitler establish a dictatorship in Germany?



3 Hitler and the Nazi Party in 1933

In January 1933, Adolf Hitler had gained enough support to be appointed Chancellor

The ideology of the Nazi Party

- Hitler's political party – the **Nazi Party** – were right-wing **nationalists** and **fascists**
- In *Mein Kampf*, Hitler explained Nazi **ideology**:
 - To turn Germany into a **one party state** by dismantling democracy
 - To **purify** Germany by removing Jewish influences
 - To strengthen the army and the economy in preparation for war
 - To gain living space (**Lebensraum**) for the German people in eastern Europe
 - To create a **Third Reich** that would last for a thousand years

By 1933, the Nazis had become the largest political party in Germany

- A combination of factors led to an increase in support for the Nazis:
 1. High unemployment (6 million) during the **Great Depression** encouraged people to support extremist parties like the **Nazis** and the **communists**
 2. Hitler's private army - the **SA** – **intimidated** the supporters of other parties
 3. Nazi **propaganda** promised to end the Depression and remove the communist threat
- As the leader of the largest party in the **Reichstag**, Hitler was appointed **Chancellor** in January 1933

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4 Obstacles to Dictatorship

However, in 1933 Germany was still a democracy and there were several obstacles to Hitler establishing a Nazi dictatorship

Dictatorship a country ruled by a dictator – one individual with complete power

Obstacle 1 President Hindenburg



As **President**, Hindenburg had the power to appoint the Chancellor. He was a **nationalist** but did not trust Hitler.

Obstacle 2 The Reichstag



The **Reichstag** was the German parliament. The **Nazis** did not have a **majority** (50%+) so had to work with other parties.

Obstacle 3 The German people



Although the Nazis were the largest party, less than 40% of the population had voted for them.

Obstacle 4 The communists



The Depression also led to an increase in support for the communists – the Nazi's **ideological** enemies

Obstacle 5 Nazi rivals



Some ambitious **Nazis** like Rohm and Goebbels secretly believed they should lead the party, not Hitler

5 The Reichstag Fire – February 1933

The Nazis used a fire at the Reichstag as an excuse to remove the threat from the communists

The Reichstag Fire

- In February 1933, the **Reichstag** building was set on fire
- **Marinus Van der Lubbe**, a Dutch communist, was arrested and found guilty of setting the fire

The Reichstag Fire Decree

- Although **Van der Lubbe** had worked alone, Hitler and the Nazis claimed that the **Reichstag Fire** was part of a larger communist revolution
- Hitler **manipulated** Hindenburg into passing the **Reichstag Fire Decree**
- The **Reichstag Fire Decree** claimed to protect Germany from revolution by ending the **freedom of the press** and removing **civil liberties** (rights) such as the freedom from arrest

The Nazis used the new powers in the Reichstag Fire Decree to remove the communist threat

- More than 4000 **communists** were arrested, including 100 **Reichstag deputies** (MPs)
- Communist newspapers and meetings were banned, even though there was an election coming up in March



The Reichstag Fire removed the obstacle of the communists by banning communist meetings and putting their leaders in prison

GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule: Dictatorship

6 The Enabling Act – March 1933

Success in the March 1933 elections allowed Hitler to pass the Enabling Act: the cornerstone of Nazi dictatorship

The Nazis only just secured a majority in the March 1933 elections

- Across Germany, the SA intimidated **communists** and social democrats
- Communist deputies were still in prison after the Reichstag Fire
- Despite this, the Nazis only managed a **majority** by forming a **coalition** (alliance) with the **Nationalist Party**

The Enabling Act was the cornerstone of Nazi dictatorship

- This Enabling Act would give the Chancellor (Hitler) the power to pass laws without needing the **consent** of the **Reichstag**
- On 24th March 1933, the **Reichstag** passed the **Enabling Act** by 444 votes to 94
- The **Enabling Act** ended German **democracy** – there were no more elections until 1945
- Hitler used his new powers to ban trade unions, strikes and other political parties

The Nazis were able to pass the Enabling Act for three reasons:

- After the March 1933 elections, the Nazis had a **majority** in the Reichstag
- The communist **deputies**, who would have voted against the Nazis, were still in prison
- The **SA** surrounded the debating chamber and **intimidated** deputies from other parties



The Enabling Act removed the obstacle of the Reichstag by allowing Hitler to make laws without the Reichstag's consent



The Enabling Act also removed the obstacle of the German people by ending German democracy and preventing elections

7 The Night of the Long Knives

In 1934, Hitler acted ruthlessly to remove political rivals

By 1934, Hitler faced two connected problems:

- **The SA:** the SA had two million men and its leader – **Ernst Rohm** – wanted to take over the army.
- **Hindenburg and the Army:** they viewed the SA as drunken thugs and did not want Rohm to take over the German army

Hitler solved these problems in Night of the Long Knives on 30th June 1934

- Hitler asked **Heinrich Himmler**, the leader of **the SS**, to make up evidence that Rohm was planning a rebellion
- Using this as an excuse, Hitler ordered the SS to move against the SA
- In total, 85 people were killed – including Rohm and other SA leaders

The Night of the Long Knives helped Hitler secure power:

1. It removed the threat from **Rohm** and the **SA**
2. It secured the loyalty of the **army**
3. It **deterred** other rivals, such as Goebbels and Himmler, from challenging Hitler



The Night of the Long Knives removed the obstacle of Nazi rivals to Hitler's power by killing Rohm and intimidating other Nazis

8 Becoming Fuhrer

The death of Hindenburg allowed Hitler to become Fuhrer

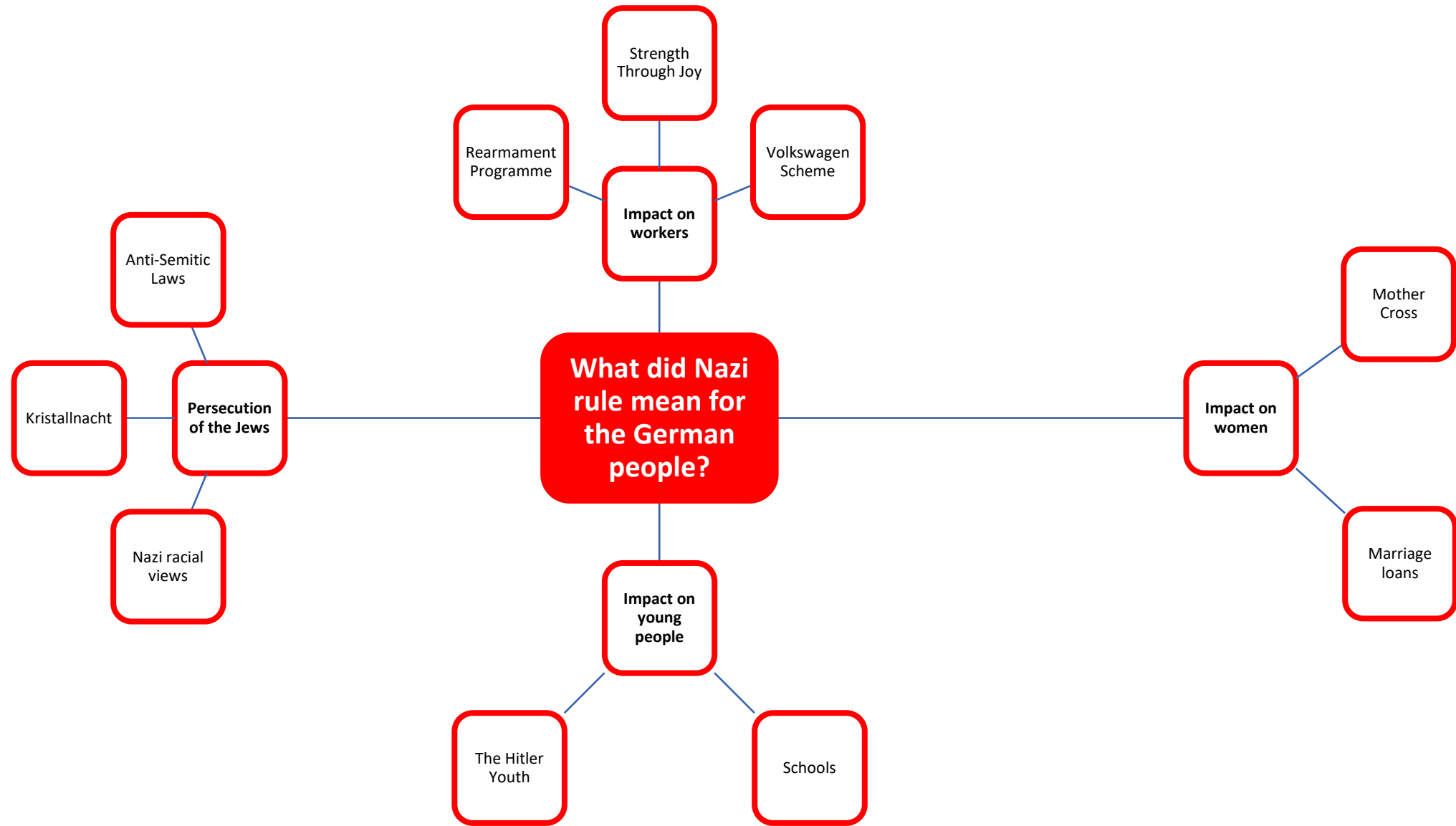
- President **Hindenburg** died in August 1934
- Immediately, the Nazis announced that Hitler would combine the roles of **Chancellor** and **President** under a new role: **the Fuhrer**
- The army swore an **oath of allegiance** to Hitler personally



The death of Hindenburg removed the obstacle of President Hindenburg because not only was he dead but Hitler took over the Presidency

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9 What did Nazi rule mean for the German people?



GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule: Changing Lives

10 Impact of Nazi rule on workers

The Nazis introduced policies that appeared to help workers, but these were often misleading

Unemployment

- The Nazis won elections by promising to end the **Depression** and reduce unemployment
- The Nazi policy of **rearmament** created thousands of industrial jobs and unemployment fell from **6 million** in **1933** to **35,000** in **1939**

The DAF

- After banning trade unions, the Nazis established the **DAF** (*Deutsche Arbeitsfront*) to look after workers **DAF** replaced **trade unions**
- The **DAF** introduced a variety of programmes to improve the lives of German workers:
 - **Strength Through Joy** rewarded workers with cheap holidays on cruise ships, theatre tickets, and gym classes
 - The **Volkswagen Scheme** helped workers save 5 marks per week towards a new Volkswagen **Beetle**



Problems

- Although unemployment decreased, wages did not increase to keep up with **inflation**
- No one ever received a car through the **Volkswagen Scheme** as the Second World War stopped production

11 Impact of Nazi rule on German women

The Nazis wanted women to play traditional roles

During the Weimar Republic, the lives of women improved rapidly

- More women were able to work outside the home
- More women went to university than ever before

Hitler and the Nazis had a very different idea of how women should live

- The Nazis wanted women to...
 - ...leave their jobs
 - ...have lots of children (to provide future soldiers for Hitler)
 - ...stay at home and look after their family

The Nazis introduced policies to encourage women to follow this lifestyle:

- Marriage loans
 - Newly married couples were offered loans if the woman agreed to give up her job
 - Repayments were reduced by 25% for every child
- Mother Cross
 - The Mother Cross was a medal awarded to mothers of large families
 - Mothers of eight or more children were awarded the gold medal

Nazi policies had a mixed impact

- The number of women at university fell drastically
- BUT The **birth rate** actually dropped between 1933 and 1939
- AND more women worked in factories as a result of rearmament

GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule: Changing Lives

12 Schools

The Nazis used schools to indoctrinate young people

The Nazis controlled schools by controlling teachers and the curriculum they taught

- The Nazis removed any teachers who opposed them
 - Teachers who were Jewish, communists or social democrats were fired
 - Teachers had to join the **Nazi Teachers' League** and those who didn't agree were forced to resign
 - Pupils reported teachers who taught anti-Nazi material to the **Gestapo**
- The school curriculum was **Nazified** (brought into line with Nazi ideas):
 - In **History**, pupils learnt about the greatness of Germany. The defeat in the First World War was blamed on Jews.
 - In **Biology**, students learnt the **pseudoscience** of **race** and how to identify **Aryans** and **non-Aryans**
 - **PE** took up a lot of lesson time because the Nazis wanted a fit and healthy population ready for war

13 The Hitler Youth

Outside school, the Nazis continued to indoctrinate young people through the Hitler Youth, although its impact was mixed

- German boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 18 were encouraged to join the Nazi **youth organisation**, the **Hitler Youth**
- In **boys groups**, activities such as rifle-shooting, map-shooting, Morse code, and lots of physical exercise
- In **girls groups**, activities such as cooking and nursing prepared young women for **domestic life**
- Young people attended the **Hitler Youth** because
 - they enjoyed the activities, the holiday camps, and wearing a uniform
 - the Nazis shut down all other **youth organisations**
 - being a member of the **Hitler Youth** was the only way to access sports facilities
 - membership was **compulsory** after 1936
- However, whilst young people were **indoctrinated** by the **Hitler Youth**, others were bored and some hated the physical activity

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14 Nazi views on race

The Nazis believed that humans were divided up into different races and that some were stronger than others

- Nazi racial thinking was based on **pseudoscience** that taught that different races could be identified by their facial features
- The Nazis believed that the people of northern and western Europe – the **Aryans** – were **Übermenschen** (superhumans)
- The Nazis believed that non-Aryans were **Untermenschen** (subhumans)
 - The Nazis believed that the following groups were **Untermenschen**
 - Jews,
 - Gypsies,
 - Black people,
 - Gay people
 - Slavs from Eastern Europe,
 - and people with physical and mental disabilities
- The Nazis were **anti-Semitic** and viewed Jews as a race rather than a religion
- The Nazis wanted the **Aryans** to triumph over the **Untermenschen** and set up programmes such as **Aktion T4** which murdered children with mental or physical disabilities

15 Persecution of the Jews

Nazi persecution of the Jews became increasingly more intense during the 1930s

1933-1935

Anti-Semitic Laws isolated German Jews from their non-Jewish neighbours

- Jews were banned from choirs and sports clubs or using parks and restaurants
- The SA encouraged Germans to **boycott** Jewish shops by standing outside and putting up **anti-Semitic** signs

1935-1938

New laws removed Jews' rights

- The **1935 Nuremberg Laws** removed all rights from German Jews and made it legal to discriminate against Jews
- In the following years, Jews were banned from going to the cinema, running businesses, or buying newspapers

1938

During *Kristallnacht*, anti-Semitic violence increased

- After a young Polish Jew **assassinated** a Nazi leader, Hitler and other Nazi leaders encouraged members of the **SS** and the **Hitler Youth** to seek revenge
- 9th November 1938 was known as **Kristallnacht** due to the broken glass that filled the streets
 - Over 1,000 Jews were killed and 30,000 were sent to **concentration camps**
 - Jewish homes, businesses and **synagogues** were smashed and burned to the ground
- After **Kristallnacht**, many Jews decided to emigrate to places such as the USA, Britain and Palestine

GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule: Control and Opposition

16 What made it so hard to oppose Nazi rule?

Historians debate whether opposition was limited because the German population was indoctrinated by propaganda OR the German population was deterred by terror

<u>deterred by terror</u>	<u>indoctrinated by propaganda</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The SS• The Gestapo• The People’s Court• Concentration camps• Heinrich Himmler	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Control of newspapers• Rallies• People’s Receivers• <i>Triumph of the Will</i>• Joseph Goebbels

17 The Police State: Himmler and the SS

The Nazis controlled the German people using a police state run by Himmler and the SS

The police state = the system of intimidation, courts, and punishments in Nazi Germany

The SS was an elite organisation that was very loyal to Hitler

- The leader of the SS was Heinrich Himmler
- Unlike the SA, the SS was a small elite unit that had started off as Hitler’s elite bodyguard
- Himmler only recruited pure Aryans into the SS and used lectures and speeches to indoctrinate members

The SS the controlled the police state

- After the Night of the Long Knives in 1934, the SA lost power and the SS became Hitler’s most trusted security force
- A special unit of the SS – the Death’s Heads - were responsible for the Nazi concentration camps
- During the 1930s, Himmler’s SS took over the powers of the police and Himmler became Chief of German Police



Heinrich Himmler

GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule: Control and Opposition

18 The Police State: the Gestapo

The Gestapo spied on the German people

The Gestapo were the Nazi secret police

- The **Gestapo** had the power to
 - arrest and imprison anyone they suspected of opposing the Nazis
 - to tap telephones or intercept letters
- They recruited **blockwardens**: volunteers who spied on their neighbours and could **denounce** them to the Gestapo
- They used **torture** - sleep deprivation, beatings, electrocution – to get people to confess



19 The Police State: the People's Court and concentration camps

It was impossible to get a fair trial in Nazi Germany

The People's Court was established in 1933 to provide quick and harsh decisions

- Judges had to swear an **oath of loyalty** to Hitler
- There was no **jury**
- The court handed out a high number of **death sentences** which were carried out by guillotine

Concentration camps were established as soon as Hitler became Chancellor

- The first **concentration camp** was at **Dachau**
- By the end of the 1933, there were 70 camps
- Most prisoners were **communists**

Concentration camps were run by Himmler and the SS

- A unit of the **SS** – the **Death's Head** unit – ran the camps
- The **SS** introduced harsh punishments: beatings, bread and water rations, and executions



GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule: Control and Opposition

20 Goebbels and Propaganda

As Minister of Propaganda, Joseph Goebbels indoctrinated the German people by spreading the Nazi message and censoring opposing views

1. Goebbels controlled what was written in German newspapers

- The Nazis took control of existing newspapers and published their own such as *The Stormer*
- **Goebbels** introduced the **Editor's Law** which meant that newspaper editors had to print what the Nazis wanted
- Any newspapers that opposed the Nazis, such as communist or social democrat newspapers, were shut down

2. The Nazis used radio broadcasts to indoctrinate the German people

- Goebbels controlled radio stations and encouraged producers to play Nazi speeches and traditional German music
- The Nazis produced cheap radio sets called **People's Receivers** which...
 - ...were cheap so that almost all Germans could afford one
 - ...had a limited range so they couldn't be used to listen to foreign radio stations
- The **Gestapo** arrested people for listening to foreign radio stations such as **the BBC**
- However, the constant propaganda became so boring that many people risked listening to the BBC

3. Goebbels organised huge rallies to celebrate the power of the Nazis

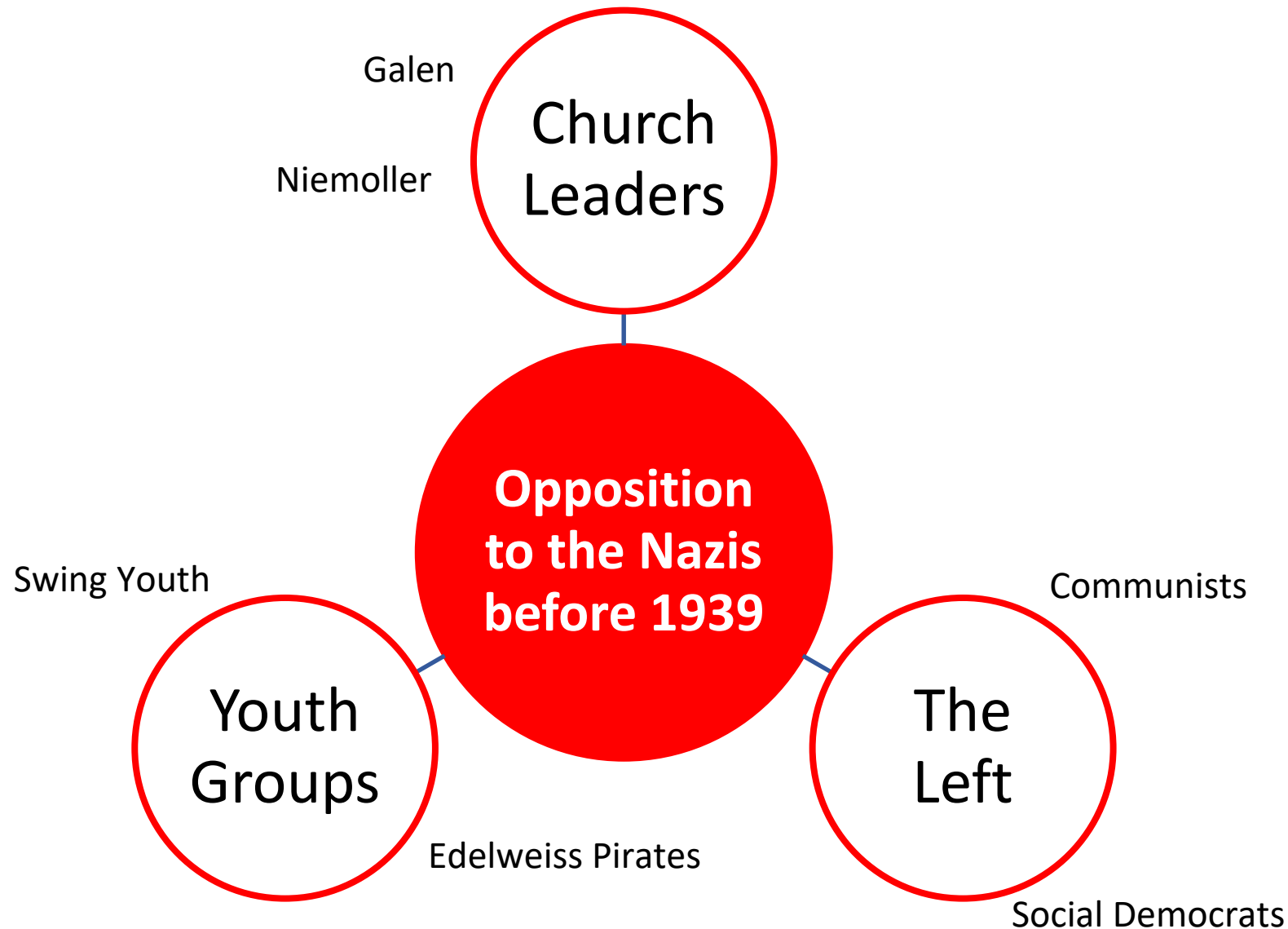
- The largest rally was the annual **Nuremburg Rally** which included speeches and parades and was attended by 500,000 people
- The film maker **Leni Riefenstahl** filmed the **1934 Nuremburg Rally** for her film *Triumph of the Will* which glorified Hitler



Joseph Goebbels

GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule: Control and Opposition

21 Opposition to the Nazis before 1939?



22 Opposition: the Left

The most active opposition to the Third Reich came from left-wing parties: the communists and Social Democrats

Communist opposition was active and open

- The communists were the **extreme left** party who were the ideological rivals of the Nazis
- Communists resisted the Nazis by:
 - attempting to sabotage rearmament
 - producing 10,000 copies of their newspaper – the **Red Flag** - each month
 - writing anti-Nazi slogans on walls
- This highly visible opposition meant that many **communists** were arrested by the **Gestapo** and resistance was more or less over by 1935

The Social Democrats were less effective

- The Social Democrats were a left-wing party but were more **moderate** than the communists
- Social Democrat deputies voted against the Enabling Act
- After the party was banned, Social Democrats held secret meetings and published anti-Nazi pamphlets
- However, most **Social Democrats** were arrested and the leadership was forced into exile
- The **Social Democrats** and **communists** were long-standing rivals and so didn't work together against the Nazis
- Social Democrat resistance was over by 1935

GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule: Control and Opposition

23 Opposition: Church leaders

Despite Nazi attempts to control the Church, some Protestants and Catholics opposed Hitler

In 1933, Germany was still a very religious country

- In the **South**, many Germans were **Catholics** who were more loyal to the Pope than Hitler
- In the **North**, many Germans were **Protestants** who believed that Nazi policies such as **Aktion T4** clashed with biblical ideas like the **sanctity of life**

Nazi measures to control the Church

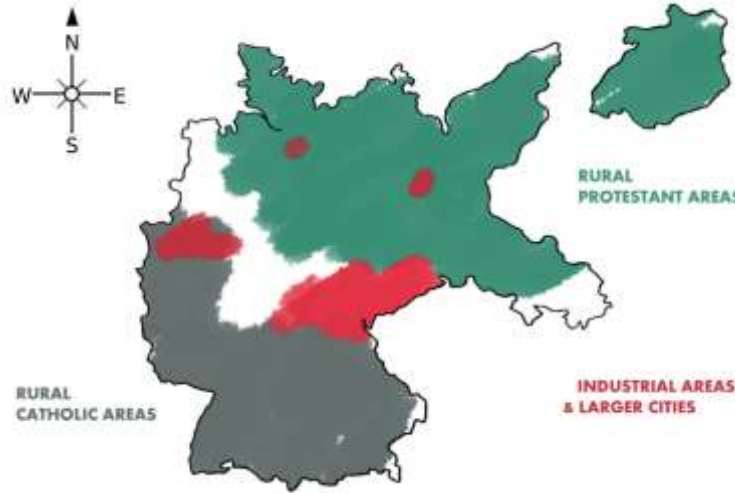
- In 1933, Hitler made an agreement with the **Pope** – the **Concordat** – in which he promised to leave German **Catholics** alone if they stopped opposing him
- For **Protestants**, the Nazis set up a new **Reich Church** in which priests had to swear loyalty to Hitler

Two individual priests led the Christian opposition to the Nazis



The Protestant: Martin Niemöller

- **Niemöller** was a **Protestant** priest who refused to join the **Reich Church**
- Instead, **Niemöller** set up a non-Nazi Protestant church called the **Confessing Church**
- **Confessing Church** priests gave sermons criticising the Nazis
- **Niemöller** and 800 other priests were sent to **concentration camps**



The Catholic: Bishop Galen

- **Galen**, a **Catholic** bishop, used his **sermons** to criticise Nazi policies
- The **Concordat** protected **Galen** from arrest



24 Opposition: Youth groups

Young people opposed the Nazis because

- they didn't want to join the Hitler Youth
- they wanted to mix with the opposite sex
- they didn't like the constant indoctrination in Nazified schools
- they wanted to carry on doing things that the Nazis had banned, like listening to swing

The Edelweiss Pirates

- Members of the **Edelweiss Pirates** wore a white **Edelweiss** flower on their clothes
- They organised camps and sang anti-Nazi songs
- Some members picked fights with **Hitler Youth** members

The Swing Youth

- The **Swing Youth** met to listen to swing music, dance, and meet members of the opposite sex
- **Swing** music was banned by the **Nazis** because it was associated with Black Americans
- The **Swing Youth** rejected the uniforms worn by the **Hitler Youth**, instead dressing in American fashions and wearing their hair long

GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule: Germany in War

25 How did the Second World War change life in Nazi Germany?



GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule: Germany in War

26 Albert Speer and the War Economy

The Second World War began in 1939

At first, the Nazis achieved great military success

- In 1939 and 1940, **Germany** invaded **Poland**, **the Netherlands**, and **France**
- In 1941, Hitler launched a surprise attack on the **Soviet Union** and advanced as far as **Moscow**
- However, by 1942, **Germany** faced three powerful **allies** – the **USA**, **Britain**, and the **Soviet Union** – and needed more weapons

In February 1942, Hitler ordered Albert Speer to direct the war economy

war economy = an economy in which most workers and factories are producing armaments

- **Speer's** plan to increase **armaments production** included
 1. changing the marriage loans policy to encourage more women to work in factories
 2. using **concentration camp** prisoners as workers
 3. rounding up men from occupied countries and taking them back to Germany to work as **forced labourers**
 4. exempting skilled workers from military service so they could work in factories
- **Speer's** changes were highly successful, for example:
 - the number of **tanks** produced in 1944 was **10 times** higher than in 1940
 - the number of **aircraft** produced in 1944 was **4 times** higher than in 1940

27 Impact of the war on German civilians

In the early years of the war, Nazi policies protected German civilians from the worst effects of the war

1. Shortages and rationing

- Hitler worried that food shortages would lead to disloyalty and increased opposition
- The **Nazis** introduced a system of **rationing** that aimed to prevent shortages and share out what food there was fairly
 - Every month, each individual received a **ration card** allowing them to buy a certain amount of food
 - Armaments workers and pregnant women received extra rations
 - A propaganda campaign discouraged people from **hoarding**
- The Nazis plundered food and natural resources from occupied countries which caused famines in places like Poland and the Netherlands but prevented shortages in Germany

2. Changing roles of women

- **Albert Speer** wanted women to work in factories and removed the restriction on **marriage loans** so women could come back to work without repaying
- However, Hitler would not agree to this because he wanted women to stay at home and have more children
- As a result, women were never **conscripted** into factory work like in Britain and the United States

GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule: Germany in War

28 Wartime opposition

Germans found a variety of ways to oppose the Nazis during the war, especially once it started to turn against the Nazis

The White Rose

- **The White Rose** was a group of students at **Munich University** led by **Hans and Sophie Scholl** and inspired by the **sermons** of **Cardinal Galen**
- **The Scholls** and the **White Rose** distributed leaflets criticising Hitler and the war effort and encouraging other Germans to resist the Nazis
- In 1943, a caretaker at the university saw the **Scholls** distributing the leaflets and told the **Gestapo**
- **The Scholls** and the other leaders of the **White Rose** went on trial in the **People's Court** and were executed



Sophie and Hans Scholl

The July 1944 Bomb Plot

- In July 1944, a German army officer – **Colonel von Stauffenberg** – attempted to **assassinate** Hitler
- He and the other plotters were motivated by several factors:
 - disagreement with Nazi policies towards Jews
 - belief that Hitler's leadership would lead to defeat in the war
 - unhappiness with the Nazi **persecution** of **Catholic** priests
- However, **von Stauffenberg's** bomb only injured Hitler
- The **SS** arrested and executed **von Stauffenberg**
- The Nazis used the failed plot to re-establish control over the army by executing 5000 officers
- **Hitler's** popularity increased



Colonel von Stauffenberg

GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule: How did the Second World War change life in Nazi Germany?

29 Total War

As the allies began to inflict heavy defeats on Germany, the Nazis introduced a plan for 'total war' that attempted to involve the entire population in the war effort

total war = a war in which the entire population, including all civilians, is involved

THREE major developments in 1943-1944 turned the course of the war against the Nazis

- In **February 1943**, the Russian army - the **Red Army** – halted the German advance into Russia at the **Battle of Stalingrad** and began their own advance towards Germany
- In **1943**, the British air force – the increased their **air raids** on German cities
- On **D-Day in June 1944**, British, Canadian and American forces landed in France and began to advance towards Germany

THE IDEA: Goebbels was appointed Minister for Total War, putting him in charge of getting every part of society working towards the war effort. This included:

- using 7 million **prisoners of war** as **forced labour** in factories
- activities that didn't help the **war effort** – such as going to the theatre, getting your hair dyed, or buying a magazine – were banned
- using **propaganda** to exaggerate Soviet atrocities to discourage Germans from surrendering
- conscripting all men aged 16 to 60 into the **Volkssturm**, although they were untrained and had few weapons

THE REALITY: However, despite Goebbels' speech, Germans experienced an "end with horror" which included:

- nightly bombing **raids** by the **RAF** on major cities included Dresden, Dortmund and Berlin
- atrocities committed by **Red Army** soldiers eager for revenge
- **German refugees** fleeing the advancing Red Army leading to overcrowding in major cities



GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule: Occupation

30 What did Nazi rule mean in occupied Europe?



GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule: Occupation

31 Map of occupied Europe

The areas in **BLACK** on the map are all the countries **occupied** by **Nazi Germany** in **October 1942**, the high point of the **Third Reich**

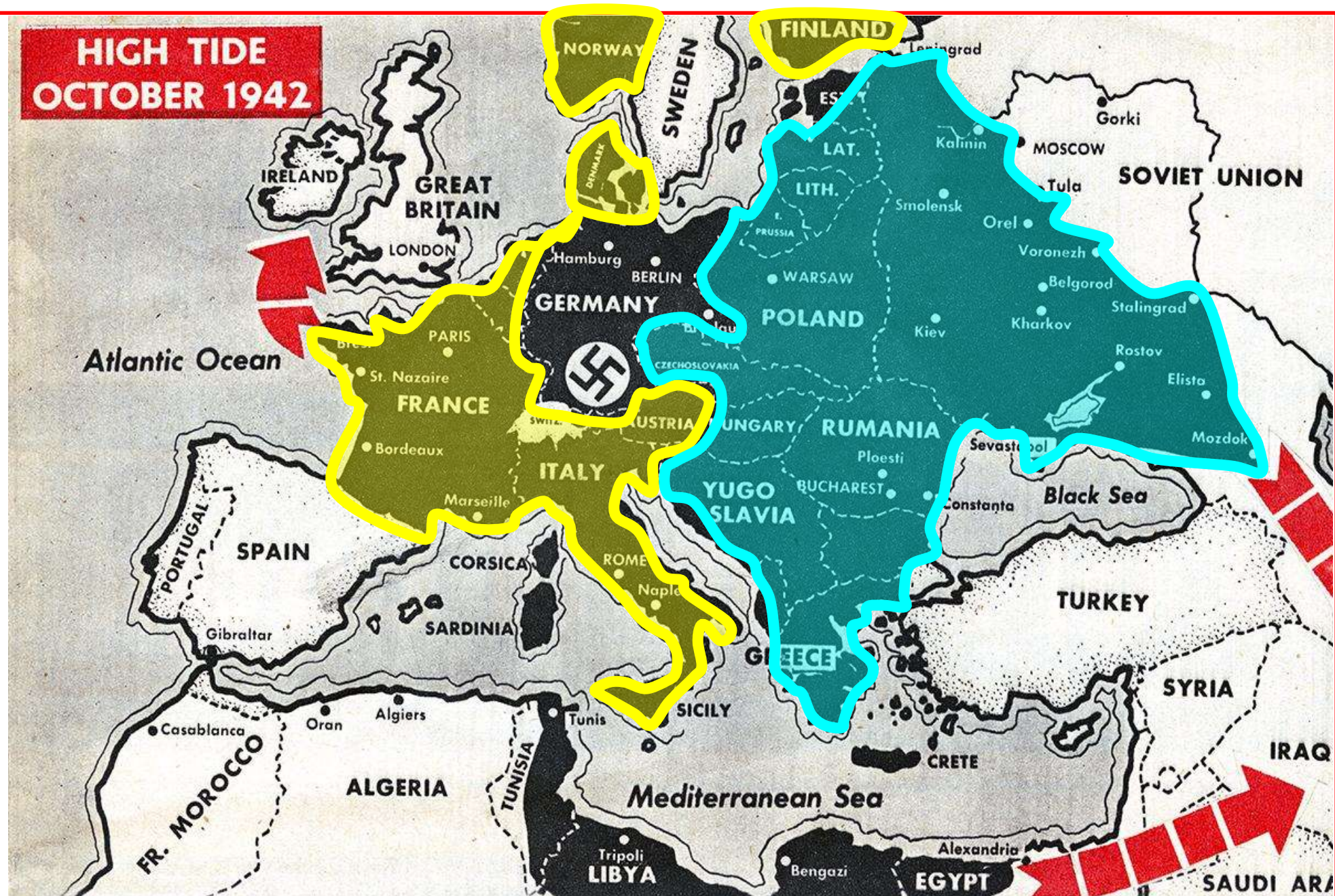
Historians divide **occupied** Europe into:

Western Europe (in yellow)

including **France**, **Italy**, **Denmark**, **Norway**, **Denmark**, the **Netherlands**, and **Belgium**

and

Eastern Europe (in blue) including **Poland**, **Hungary**, **Yugoslavia**, **Romania**, and a large area of the western **Soviet Union** (Russia)



GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule: What did Nazi rule mean in occupied Europe?

32 Nazi rule in Western Europe

*The Nazi occupation in **Western European** countries such as the Netherlands was less brutal, at least at first*

Features of the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands

- The **Netherlands** was invaded by the German army in 1940
- The Nazis believed the **Dutch** were their “**fellow Aryans**”. Therefore:
 - the Nazis did not interfere with Dutch schools or local political leaders
 - the Nazis tried to recruit Dutch men into the **SS**
- However, later in the war the Nazis also sent Dutch men to Germany as **forced labourers**

Persecution of Dutch Jews

- At first, Dutch Jews
 - were banned from parks and restaurants
 - had to attend separate schools
 - had to wear yellow Stars of David
- In 1942, the Nazis began arresting Jews and deporting them to death camps in the East

Dutch responses to Nazi Rule

Resistance: the Dutch resistance hid Jewish children and the communists organised a strike in protest at the deportation of Jewish families

Collaboration: some Dutch policemen helped the Nazis hunt Jewish families

Accommodation: many companies continued to sell goods to Germany during the war

33 Nazi rule in Eastern Europe

*The Nazi occupation in **Eastern European** countries such as Poland was murderous for the majority of the population*

Features of the Nazi occupation of Poland

- **Poland** was invaded by the German army in 1939
- The Nazis added part of Poland to Germany as **Lebensraum** for **Aryan** Germans
- The remainder of **Poland** was renamed the **General Government**
- The Nazis **evicted** thousands of Poles and “resettled” them in the **General Government**
- In the **General Government**, the Nazis shut down schools and universities and arrested or murdered Polish political leaders

Polish experience of Nazi Rule

- The Nazis believed Polish Slavs and Jews were **Untermenschen**
- In the General Government, Poles were made to grow crops to be exported to Germany
- Many Poles were sent to Germany to work as **forced labourers**

Polish responses to Nazi Rule

Resistance: the Polish Home Army sabotaged Nazi rail transport and led an armed rebellion called the Warsaw Uprising in 1944 which lasted 63 days

Collaboration: the Polish police – the **Blue Police** – helped prevent resistance and arrest Jews

Accommodation: Some Poles tried to prove they had German ancestry so that the Nazis would leave them alone

GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule: What did Nazi rule mean in occupied Europe?

34 The Holocaust

By the end of the Second World War, the Nazis had murdered 11 million people including 6 million Jews

1939-1941

Ghettos

- When the German army invaded Poland in 1939, millions of Jews came under Nazi control – too many to force to **emigrate**
- The Nazis wanted to find a place to **deport** Jews to, but in the meantime they want to concentrate Jews in areas called **ghettos**
- The largest **ghetto** was the **Warsaw Ghetto**
 - The **ghetto** was **overcrowded**: a third of the population lived in 3% of city with 15 people living in each small apartment
 - This led to the increased prevalence of **cholera**, **dysentery**, and **tuberculosis**

1941-1945

The Final Solution

- The German invasion of Russia in 1941 brought more Jews under Nazi rule
- The **Einsatzgruppen** were four mobile killing units that followed the German army as they advanced East
 - In each village and town, the **Einsatzgruppen** rounded up Jewish men, women and children and took them to secluded areas where they were murdered
 - The **Einsatzgruppen** murdered one million Jews in 1941
- **Death Camps**
 - From 1942, the Nazi government in **Poland** began constructing **death camps**: camps where large numbers of people could be murdered in **gas chambers**
 - Jews from **ghettos** across occupied Europe were **deported** to the death camps by train
 - The largest **death camp** was **Auschwitz**
 - A quarter of Jews who arrived at the camp were forced to do **slave labour**, including clearing dead bodies from gas chambers
 - Three quarters of Jews who arrived at the camp were murdered: 12,000 people were murdered everyday, 1.1 million people in total

GCSE History: Living Under Nazi Rule: Key Vocabulary

35 Keywords

dictatorship	a country ruled by a dictator – one individual with complete power
Third Reich	Hitler's dictatorship
Reichstag	The German parliament
the Fuhrer	Hitler's title as dictator of Germany – literally, the leader
ideology	A set of ideas
Fascist	Political belief in a strong government with no opposition
rationing	government restrictions of how much food you can buy
propaganda	posters etc design to persuade people to support a government
collaboration	working together with the Nazis
resistance	opposing the Nazis
accommodation	doing what the Nazis said but getting on with your life
persecution	harsh treatment
cornerstone	most important piece
Aryans	Nazi superhumans

36 Powerful verbs

to establish	to set up	<i>The Enabling Act helped Hitler establish a dictatorship.</i>
to purify	to get rid of unwanted bits	<i>The Nazis wanted to purify Germany by persecuting the Jews.</i>
to intimidate	to threaten someone with violence	<i>The SA intimidated the supporters of other parties.</i>
to indoctrinate	to brainwash	<i>The SA intimidated the supporters of other parties.</i>
to persecute	to treat badly	<i>The SA intimidated the supporters of other parties.</i>
to conscript	to force people to join the army / work in factories	<i>Older men were conscripted into the Volkssturm.</i>
to emigrate	to move out of a country permanently	<i>Many Jews emigrated after 1938.</i>
to deter	to put someone off using threats	<i>The Night of the Long Knives deterred Nazi rivals.</i>
to occupy	to invade and take over	<i>The Nazis occupied Poland.</i>
to collaborate	to work together with	<i>Some Dutch police collaborated with the Nazis.</i>
to resist	to fight back against	<i>Some French people resisted Nazi rule.</i>
to accommodate	to fit in someone's views	<i>Most people accommodated the Nazis</i>
to censor	to block ideas	<i>Goebbels censored newspapers.</i>