

How did Hitler use Propaganda?

- Goebbels, his Ministry of Public Propaganda and Enlightenment and the Reich Chamber of Culture used censorship and propaganda to control thoughts and beliefs, and the media, education system, sporting and political events, holidays, rallies and other displays of power bombarded people Nazism.
- Opposition papers and mags were closed down, 1,600 by 1935. The Reich Press law (Oct.1933), fired all left wing and Jewish journalists. The Propaganda Ministry approved all articles first and foreign news could only be printed if it was given to the newspapers by the Nazi German press Agency.
- Goebbels took control of all the radio stations in Germany in 1933. By 1939, about 70% of the people in Germany owned a radio because the Nazis sold cheap mass-produced radios on credit. Sets could be found in cafes, factories, schools and offices and 6,000 loudspeakers were placed in streets and they lacked shortwave reception so most Germans couldn't listen to foreign radio.
- Posters, mostly important before 1933, helped with the Hitler myth. They were seen everywhere and aimed at the young with simple, direct messages.
- Books and, plays and poems were carefully censored and sold Nazi ideology. In Berlin students burnt 20,000 books written by Jews, Communists and anti-Nazi intellectuals in 1933. Many writers had to write pro-Hitler books, plays and poems. Goebbels wrote his own, called *Michael*. However 2,500 writers left Germany before 1939 rather than surrender like Mann and Brecht.
- The Nazis produced about 1,300 films during Hitler's time in power. Most of them were love stories or tragedies with subtle pro-Nazi messages but 200 actual propaganda movies were made. For example the movie *Hitlerjunge Quez* was about a young Hitler Youth boy killed by Communists. Also every movie had a 45 minute newsreel about the success of Hitler and the Nazis. Movies were widely watched with audience exceeding 250m million in 1933.
- Hitler hated progressive theatre and Jazz ('black' music and thus banned). Traditional German folk music together with the classical music of Brahms, Beethoven and Wagner was encouraged. Theatre only focused on German history and political drama. Cheap tickets were made available.
- Hitler hated modern art which he thought was backward, Communist and Jewish. He banned that and encouraged traditional German art that celebrated German greatness, strength and healthy muscled Aryan heroes. They also portrayed workers and peasants as glorious. He also depicted Nazi strength through buildings that followed the 'monumental style,' inspired by the creations of the ancient Greek and Roman Empires ('Pre-Jew'). The chief architect was Albert Speer. He designed the Zeppelinfeld Stadium.
- Goebbels organised mass rallies and marches that projected an image of power and terror. Every year a rally was held at Nuremberg and on Hitler's birthday (20 April). The Nuremberg rallies would last for several days and attracted almost 1 million people each year. There were also local rallies organised by the Hitler Youth and the SS. The 1936 Berlin Olympics was used as a rally for the world in a new 110,000 seater stadium and filmed by Leni Riefenstahl. . The Aryans won lots of medals, although so did the black Jesse Owens!

How did Women's lives change?.

- Hitler wanted to reverse the developments of the 20s and women to return to their traditional roles as homemakers and child bearers, their 'rightful important place' in society. He wanted them to produce a genetically pure race of future Nazi warriors. Therefore the slogan was created, the three K's 'Kinder, Küche, Kirche.' This meant 'Children, Cooking and Church.'
- Women were not to wear make-up, smoke, drink, work or have an interest in politics. But had to be athletic and blonde and wear flat shoes and a full skirt and not work. Women doctors, civil servants, teachers and judges were forced to leave their jobs after 1936.
- Their school curriculum was reduced to home economics and they were discouraged from following higher education. University places were reduced to 10% of the total student population. Generous security benefits were also offered to those who chose to stay at home.
- To increase birth rates - 1933 Law for the Encouragement of Marriage, where young couples were given Marriage loans. For every child they had they didn't have to pay back a quarter of the loan as long as they didn't work. Women were given medals on Hitler's mother's Birthday, gold for 8+ kids, silver for 6 and bronze for 5. Childless marriages could be terminated easily and the lebensborn programme allowed selected women to be impregnated by the SS.
- The 1933 sterilisation law and 1935 Marriage Health Law also ensured that women with 'mental deficiencies' couldn't give birth (320,000 were sterilised) or those racially unpure. Jewish women were allowed to abort their babies whereas racially pure women were not.
- The marriage rate and the birth rate increasing by nearly 50% between 1933 and 1939.
- However, most women kept to 2 kids and all women had to do a 'duty year' which meant working on a farm or in a family home for board, lodging and no pay after 1937 to prepare for war. So women in work went up from 11.6 million in 1933 to 14.6 million in 1939. Marriage loans ended in 1937 to do this. The German Women's Enterprise Organisation also had 6 million members and organised mother schools and training programmes for women.
- However control all 230 women's groups were brought under the control of the Women's Front (Frauenfront) and Gertrude Scholtz-Klink. Jews could not be members. Also the first Concentration Camp for women in Moringen was opened in 1933.

Life in Nazi Germany 1933-39

Hitler Youth

- The Ministry for Science, Education and National Culture, with Bernhard Rust at its head, controlled education and the free-time of the youth. Balder Von Shirach was the Youth leader of The Jungvolk (10-14) and Hitler Jugend (14-18) was created for the boys to train them for competition, physical fitness and the military. The female version of the Hitler Youth were The Jung Madel (10-14) and Bund Deutscher Madel (14-18). They looked after camp and did food prep. The Hitler Youth Law of 1936 made it mostly impossible for the young not to join. By 1939 it was compulsory and they had to swear an oath of allegiance. Membership increased from 5.4 million in 1936 to 8 million in 1939. Winter Help provided food and fuel to the poor for winter and many enjoyed the activities. However, 3 million had not joined by 1938.
- The curriculum was entirely Nazi after 1935, with race studies, Nazi history and the Geography of the future German Reich. 15% was PE and everyone had to pass physical exams. Teachers were part of the Nazi Party and Teacher's Association and trained in indoctrination. Education was compulsory to 14 in Leadership schools (SS), Hitler schools or Order castles.