

## **Class: IX**

### **Subject: Social Science (087) - History**

### **Chapter: 3 Nazism and the Rise of Hitler**

#### **Notes**

- In May 1945, Germany surrendered to the Allies (UK and France – later joined by USSR and USA). Hitler, his propaganda minister Goebbels and his entire family committed suicide collectively in his Berlin bunker in April.
- At the end of the war, International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg was set up to prosecute Nazi war criminals for Crimes against Peace, for War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (moral and ethical questions)

**Genocidal War** – under shadow of World War II – mass murder - 6 million Jews, 200,000 Gypsies, 1 million Polish civilians, 70,000 Germans who were considered mentally and physically disabled – by gassing them in killing centers like Auschwitz.

#### **Birth of Weimar Republic**

- World War I – Germany & Austria versus England, France and Russia.
- Germany made initial gain over France and Russia. Later USA entered in 1917.
- Germany and Central Powers defeated in 1918.
- National assembly met at Weimar – established democratic constitution with federal structure.
- Deputies elected to German Parliament or Reichstag – based on equal vote by all adults including women.
- Germany lost overseas colonies, 1/10<sup>th</sup> population, 13 % territories, 75 % iron, 26 % coal to France, Poland, Denmark and Lithuania.
- Demilitarized to weaken power.
- Pay compensation of 6 billion pounds Allies occupied Rhineland by 1920's.
- Socialists, Catholics and Democrats ( 'November criminals' ).

#### **Political Radicalism and Economic Crisis**

- Weimar republic coincided with birth of the Spartacist League on the pattern of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia.
- Weimar Republic crushed uprising with the help of a war veteran organization called Free Corps.
- Anguished Spartacists later founded the Communist Party of Germany Political radicalization as heightened by economic crisis of 1923.
- Germany fought war in loans and paid reparations in gold which depleted the gold reserves.
- Germany refused to pay and French occupied Ruhr area.
- Germany started printing paper notes – value of currency Mark declined & price of goods soared - hyperinflation (April – 1US \$ = 24,000 marks & in December – 2 trillion)

#### **Dawes Plan**

- Released financial burden on Germans.
- America intervened

### Years of Depression

- 1924 - 28 – years of stability.
- 1929 – Wall Street Exchange collapsed (fall in prices) – in 1 day around 13 million shares were sold – start of economic depression.
- 1929 - 32 – national income of USA halved.
- Factories shutdown, farmers were hit, export fell and speculators took money off the market.
- 1932 – Industrial production of Germany reduced to 40 % of 1929 – lost jobs, paid reduced wages, unemployment at 6 million.
  - Criminal activities increased.
- Fear of proletarianisation (impoverished to level of working class), an anxiety of being reduced to ranks of the working class, or worse still & unemployed.

### Defects under Weimar Republic

- Proportional representation - made achieving a majority by any one-party a near impossible task, leading to a rule by coalitions.
- Article 48 - President the powers to impose emergency, suspend civil rights and rule by decree.
- Within its short life, the Weimar Republic saw twenty different cabinets lasting on an average 239 days, and a liberal use of Article 48.

### Hitler's Rise to Power

- Born in 1889 – Austria Youth in poverty Powerful speaker Build strong nation
- Undo injustice of Treaty of Versailles Restore dignity of German people
- Weed out foreign influence & resist foreign conspiracies Significance of rituals and mass mobilization
- Massive rallies and demonstrations Red banners with Swastika, Nazi salute
- Enrolled for army, became a corporal and earned medal for bravery 1919: Joined German
  - Worker's Party
- ○ Renamed it as National Socialist German Worker's Party (Nazi Party) – converted Germany to totalitarian state 1923: Planned to seize Bavaria, march to Berlin and capture power – failed, arrested and tried for treason couldn't mobilize support till 1930's
- ○ During Great Depression – Nazism became a mass movement
- ○ After 1929 – banks collapsed, workers lost job, middle class threatened 1928 – got 2.6 % vote in Reichstag – German Parliament
- ○ By 1932 – became largest party with 37 % votes.

### Destruction of Power

- 1933 - President Hindenburg offered Chancellorship, the highest position in the cabinet of ministers, to Hitler. Hitler tried to dismantle democratic rule.
- Fire broke in German parliament in February - Fire Decree of 28 February 1933 indefinitely suspended civic rights like freedom of speech, press and assembly.
- **Concentration camp** – A camp where people were isolated and detained without due process of law. Typically, it was surrounded by electrified barbed wire fences – for communists.
- On 3 March 1933 - Enabling Act was passed, it established dictatorship in Germany. It gave Hitler all powers to sideline Parliament and rule by decree. All political parties and trade unions were banned except Nazis.

- Regular police in green uniform.
- SA or the Storm Troopers included the Gestapo (secret state police) , SS (protection squads) , criminal police and Security Service (SD).

### **Reconstruction**

- Hitler gave economic recovery to economist Hjalmar Schacht who aimed at full production and full employment through a state- funded work-creation program – produced superhighways and cars Volkswagen.
- Pulled out of the League of Nations in 1933 Reoccupied the Rhineland in 1936
- Integrated Austria and Germany in 1938 under the slogan, One people, One empire, and One leader. Took over Czechoslovakia
- In September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. This started a war with France and England.
- In September 1940, Tripartite Pact was signed between Germany, Italy and Japan, strengthening Hitler’s claim to international power.
- Attacked Soviet Union in 1941 – Soviet army defeated Germany at Stalingrad. Soviet Red Army reached till heart of Berlin
- Japan extended support to Hitler & bombed Pearl Harbor, USA – entering in WW-II (ended in 1945 with defeat of Hitler and nuclear bomb on Hiroshima)

### **Nazi Views**

- No equality only racial hierarchy.
- Nordic German Aryans were at top and Jews at lowest rank (idea borrowed from Charles Darwin – evolution and natural selection; Herbert Spencer – survival of fittest)
- Strongest race would survive and weakest would perish.
- Aryans – finest race, pure, strong and would dominate the world.
- Lebensraum or living space – new territories to be acquired for settlement.

### **Racial State Established**

- Euthanasia Program – German physically or mentally unfit were condemned to death Inferior clans – Jews (killer of Christ and usurers).
- From 1933 to 1938 the Nazis terrorized, pauperized and segregated the Jews, compelling them to leave the country Nuremberg Laws of citizenship of September 1935:
- From 1939 - 1945 they aimed at concentrating them in certain areas and eventually killing them in gas chambers in Poland Ghettoization (hunger, starvation and deprivation) – All Jews to wear yellow Star of David.
- After 1941 – Annihilation – Jews brought to death factories by goods trains.
- Polish children similar to Aryans were examined by race experts – if passed would live with German families else would go to orphanage.

### **Youth in Nazi Germany**

- Schools cleansed and purified under Nazis, Jew teachers were dismissed.
- Good German got Nazi schooling – textbooks were written and racial science was common, stereotypes against Jews were given, sports aimed to nurture violence and aggression.
- 10 years old – enter Jungvolk (Nazi youth Group)
- 14 years old – boys joined Hitler Youth (worship war, glorify aggression and violence, condemn democracy, and hate Jews, communists, Gypsies).
- 18 years – join Labour Service, serve Armed forces & enter Nazi organization 1922- Youth League was formed (after 4 years called Hitler Youth).
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### **Nazi Cult of Motherhood**

- **Hitler said: 'In my state the mother is the most important citizen'.**
- **Girls were told to become good mothers and rear pure-blooded Aryan children.**
- **All mothers were not treated equally; women who bore racially undesirable children were punished while those who produced racially desirable children were awarded and given concessions.**
- **To encourage women to produce many children, Honor Crosses were awarded. A bronze cross was given for four children, silver for six and gold for eight or more.**
- **Women who maintained contact with Jews, Poles and Russians were paraded through the town with shaved heads, blackened faces and placards hanging around their necks announcing 'I have sullied the honour of the nation'.**

### **Propaganda**

- **Nazis never used the words 'kill' or 'murder' in their official communications.**
- **Mass killings were termed special treatment, final solution (for the Jews), euthanasia (for the disabled) , selection and disinfections.**
- **'Evacuation' meant deporting people to gas chambers**
- **Gas chambers were known as 'disinfection-areas', and looked like bathrooms equipped with fake showerheads.**
- **Charlotte Beradt book "Third Reich of Dreams" - describes how Jews themselves began believing as hooked noses, black hair and eyes, Jewish looks and body movements.**
- **Nazi killing operations called as Holocaust - when the war seemed lost.**
- **Nazi leadership distributed petrol to its functionaries to destroy all incriminating evidence available in offices.**