

Lesson Plan

Class: 9F	Room: 144	Date: 27-3-04
Lesson: 1	Start time 8.25	Finish time: 9.15

STUDY UNIT: A World Study after 1900

TOPIC: Nazi Germany

No of lessons for topic: 6

Lesson 6 of 6

ENQUIRY QUESTION: Were the Nazis really that popular in Germany?

Lesson sub-question: Why wasn't there more opposition?

Learning objectives/outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils will analyse the reasons for ordinary Germans' refusal to oppose Hitler/the Nazis (NC 2c)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils will consider the diversity of attitudes and opinions towards the Nazis in Germany (NC 2a, 2b)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils will select and organise historical information to begin to evaluate Nazi popularity (NC 5b)
Vocabulary and concepts
Differentiation
By outcome By amount of teacher assistance
Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In lesson: by questioning• After lesson: by marking essays
Resources:
Whiteboard pen, spare pens and paper, worksheets

Lesson Outline

Lesson question: *why wasn't there more open opposition to the Nazis?*

Task/duration	Teacher Activity	Pupil Activity
5	Recap last lesson and explain - today – 2 nd part helping with hwk	Listening
5	Hand out ex books and sheets. Read through sheets with pupils.	Listening and reading
15	Teacher circulating and helping. Teacher draws conclusion.	Pupils rank reasons and explain why they made decision in their books.
5	Explain hwk task and purpose of rest of lesson	Listening
10	On board, brainstorm popular and unpopular	Pupils suggest reasons and examples
5	Structure – essay Intro Argu 1 Argu 2 Concl Paragraphing - PEDEX	Pupils organise ideas into essay plan
5	Conclusions. Due date.	Listening, packing away

Homework

To use the plan constructed in class to write an essay to answer the question ‘Were the Nazis really that popular in Germany?’ Due in 17.4.04

Notes

Popular:

- Strength
- Voted in
- Jobs
- Pride
- Money
- Power
- Propaganda
- Revenge – Versailles
- Youth indoctrination
- Belonging

Unpopular:

- Shortages
- Poor working conditions
- Lack of freedom/privacy

- Use of terror
- Euthanasia
- Racial policy
- Attacks on Jews
- Low status of women

Were the Nazis really that popular in Germany?

This writing frame is designed to help you to organise your ideas. However, if you are already confident at writing this kind of essay you do not have to use it.

Introduction

This essay will examine just how popular the Nazi party were in Germany. I will explore the factors that made the Nazis popular and factors that made them unpopular before reaching a conclusion. I will also consider the reasons why it is difficult to determine just how popular the Nazis really were.

Paragraph 1

The Nazis came to power in Germany in They gained support amongst the German people because...*(outline Hitler's ideas and Nazi policies and explain why they appealed to the German People).*

Paragraph 2

The Nazis also increased their popularity by.....*(discuss the policies towards women and children in Nazi Germany and why they may have made the Nazis popular).*

Paragraph 3

Nazi policies were not always popular with everyone. People in Germany did not like *(discuss the aspects of Nazi policy that were not very popular and explain why).*

Paragraph 4

The unpopularity of the Nazis was reflected in the amount of opposition they faced from the German people. People could resist the Nazis in a number of ways for example, *(explain the different forms of resistance and give examples of each).*

*but gen. oppⁿ limited
because.....*

Conclusion

Here you need to reach a decision about how popular the Nazis really were in Germany and give reasons for your decision.

Key Words/Phrases to help you

On one hand... , On the other hand... , Consequently, As a result, Therefore, However, Yet, Whereas,

Why didn't private grumbling become open opposition?

Germans were afraid

The SS and the Gestapo could destroy people's lives if they did not toe the line. The Nazis wanted people's hearts and minds, but as long as people did not rock the boat, and kept their groans and grumbles to themselves, they were tolerated. However, if those grumbles became open opposition then the apparatus of the police state was there to deal with it.



People did not know what was going on

Censorship and propaganda stopped people receiving reliable information. Some of the extremes of Nazi policy were kept secret. Those who did suspect had learned not to ask questions for fear of their own lives.



Quibbles were minor

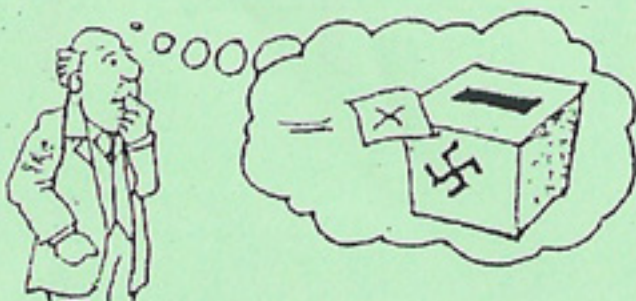
Even those who were dissatisfied with the Nazis often had very minor criticisms. For example, in Norheim the decision to merge the four sports clubs into one raised much more opposition than the victimisation of the Jews.

NORHEIM SPORTS CLUB



'We did vote for them, after all!'

Because the Nazis had achieved electoral success, most Germans (and most people in other countries) saw the Nazis as having the legal authority to do what they wanted.



The opposition was divided

Left-wing groups such as the Communists and the Social Democrats were the natural enemies of Nazism. They were both banned in 1933.

However, these groups did not trust each other and so did not co-operate to resist the Nazis. Each decided to resist in different ways. The Social Democrats did little more than meet in small groups, talk, start whispering campaigns against the Nazis. For a long time the Communists simply assumed that the Nazis would fall – as had previous governments. Later they decided on a more active campaign of spreading discontent amongst factory workers.



People were pleased with the Nazis

Many German people were genuinely pleased with what the Nazis were doing. They were particularly pleased with the successes of Nazi foreign policy. Even if they did not agree with something the Nazis did they would tolerate it for the sake of the stability and prosperity they believed the Nazis were creating.



The Nazis did drop unpopular policies

The Nazis did sometimes moderate their policies if they seemed to be alienating ordinary Germans. In 1938 the Nazi assault on the Jews – Kristallnacht (pages 107–109) – produced such widespread condemnation among ordinary Germans that from then on all measures against the Jews were kept secret. In 1940 their programme of euthanasia was halted after a popular outcry against it led by Church leaders.



There was no organised opposition

Since the Nazis had dismantled or taken over virtually all other organisations, there were no groups which people could join to resist them. The main exceptions to this were the Christian churches, and it is no surprise therefore that they formed some of the most public opposition to the Nazis in the early years. You will look at the churches in detail on pages 94–99.

How much opposition was there to the Nazis?

Attempted overthrow of the Nazi government

Hardly anyone actually attempted this until the latter years of the war when the impact of the war effort was starting to cause the government to collapse.

Underground resistance and open opposition

Not a huge amount, but more than most people realise!

Working-class groups produced anti-Nazi leaflets. Churchmen and others helped the Jews. Factories were sabotaged. Some Germans acted as spies for neighbouring countries. The German Church leaders openly criticised the Nazi rule; their comments created such an outcry that the Nazis abandoned their policy of euthanasia.

Speaking out could lead to arrest, torture and even execution, so most people preferred to get involved in underground resistance.

Passive resistance

This was quite common amongst the German people.

People refused to join the party or give the Heil Hitler salute. Some resisted by not contributing to Nazi funds and others continued to attend secret meetings of banned political parties.

Private grumbling

Evidence suggests that this was very widespread amongst ordinary Germans.

Many aspects of life under the Nazis were resented, for example intimidation by the SA and the never-ending stream of propaganda. People co-operated with the local Nazi block warden for an easy life. The German people quickly became tired of the constant parades and meetings, only attending because their jobs depended on it. However, grumbling only ever took place in private – it was just too dangerous to resist the Nazi party in public.

If grumbling about the Nazis was so widespread, why didn't it become open opposition?

Examine the cartoons opposite, they give several reasons for the failure of the opposition to the Nazis.

Your task is to put these reasons into rank order – the most important = 1 and the least important = 3. You must then explain why you made your decision.