

## Y10 History

Week beginning **01/06/20**

### **Nazi Economic Policies**

**Please spend ONE HOUR on each lesson this week.**

#### Lesson Three:

##### What was the impact of Nazi policies on the Economy?

1. Read about the Reich Labour Service before answering the questions.
2. Research and report on a Nazi building project.
3. Read about Nazi rearmament and then answer the questions.
4. Read about the men in charge of different works programs and economic policy. Then complete a profile for each Nazi.
5. Did the Nazis create an 'Economic Miracle'?

#### Task 1

Hitler had promised the people of Germany 'work and bread' in his election campaigns in 1932-33. Once he became Chancellor, the Nazis had to try and find a solution to the mass unemployment that was affecting Germany as a result of the Great Depression.

Hitler passed the **Unemployment Relief Act** in June 1933. This helped establish an important organisation, the National Labour Service (Reichsarbeitsdienst or RAD) which aimed to reduce unemployment. However, it also attempted to brainwash (indoctrinate) the workforce by pushing Nazi ideas. The RAD was voluntary at first, but compulsory from 1935.

In August, 1934, Hitler appointed **Hjalmar Schacht** as his minister of economics. Deeply influenced by the economic ideas of (American President) Roosevelt's New Deal, Schacht encouraged Hitler to introduce a programme of public works, including the building of the Autobahn (Germany's motorway network). Schacht believed that, by creating work and putting money into people's pockets, it would help encourage the economy to recover. It also allowed the Nazis to prove that they were addressing the unemployment problem in Germany. Schacht also introduced the New Plan which rigorously controlled everything that was imported into Germany. This was designed to encourage people to buy German products before foreign goods.

In the summer of 1935 Adolf Hitler made it compulsory to join the RAD. Under this measure all men aged between the ages of 18 and 25 had work for the government for six months. Later women were also included in the scheme and they did work such as teaching and domestic service. One of the consequences of RAD was a reduction in the number of people in Germany who were officially classed as unemployed.

The RAD's work required:

- Compulsory 6 months training at the RAD;
- wearing military uniform;
- living in camps;
- receiving pocket money only (no wages);
- doing military/physical exercise every day;
- planting forests; and
- digging ditches on farms.

1. Which law created the Reich Labour Service (RAD)? And when?
2. Who was the minister of economics in Nazi Germany?
3. Who was the Reich Labour Service initially compulsory for?
4. Why do you think that the Reich Labour Service only did manual labour?

## **Task 2**

The Nazis pursued major building projects in order to create work for Germans. Upon election in 1932, they set about constructing a national system of motorways, or the autobahn. By 1939, over 3000km had been laid by over 100,000 workers. The Autobahn served as a temporary work project, a permanent monument to Nazi power and a tool for military mobilisation. The Nazis also hosted the 1936 Olympics and built grand stadiums for the event in Berlin. Hitler had a new 100,000-seat track and field stadium built, as well as six gymnasiums and many other smaller arenas. The games were the first to be televised, and radio broadcasts reached 41 countries. Nazi filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl was commissioned to film the Games. Total ticket revenues were 7.5 million Reichsmark, generating a profit of over one million Reichsmark. The official budget did not include outlays by the city of Berlin or outlays of the German national government (which did not make its costs public, but is estimated to have spent US\$30 million).

Choose either **the Autobahn** or the **1936 Berlin Olympics** to research online and in your textbook. For your chosen building project, report on how much the project

*cost, how much work it created, who benefitted and who suffered, and why you think the Nazis hosted/built the Olympics or Autobahn. If you are unable to complete the research, write an explanation about why the Nazis would try and create vast projects that would impress their own population and any visitors from abroad.*

*List your findings here:*

### **Task 3**

Military **Rearmament** was responsible for the bulk of economic growth between 1933 and 1938. Rearmament started almost as soon as Hitler came to power but was **announced publicly in 1935**.

In 1933, 3.5 billion marks was spent on producing tanks, aircraft and ships, and **by 1939 the figure was 26 billion marks**. This created millions of jobs for German workers. The use of oil, iron and steel all tripled, creating a variety of different jobs.

The Nazi intention was to increase the army from 100,000 to 300,000, to increase the navy and the number of submarines and to construct two battleships, and also to increase the air force. The Treaty of Versailles had prohibited all this, but from 1935 onwards Germany was openly rearming and every man aged between 18 and 25 had to spend two years in the armed forces. The effect of this was such that in 1933 there were 100,000 members in the armed forces, but by 1939 there were 1,400,000 members.

1. When did Hitler begin rearming?
2. Why would rearming Germany help to fix the country's economic problems?
3. How much did the Nazis spend on tanks, planes and ships before WWII?
4. Hitler initially wanted to expand the army by 200,000, by how much had he expanded it by 1939?

#### **Task 4**

In 1936, Hermann Göring was appointed leader of the **Four Year Plan** (1936-40). His powers and the plan itself conflicted with Schacht's, the current economic minister, and Schacht resigned in 1937.

The Four Year Plan aimed to speed up rearmament and make Germany self-sufficient to ensure it was ready for war. The measures he introduced, such as tighter controls on imports and subsidies for farmers to produce more food, were not successful. By the outbreak of World War Two Germany was still importing 20 % of its food and 33 % of its raw materials.

The workers had to be kept happy, and the **Strength through Joy Movement**, or the **KdF**, was established to provide workers with leisure opportunities. It was a popular movement which developed into a business company.

Through the KdF the state was able to control the individual, got everyone to conform and managed their leisure time. It was a way of removing social barriers. In the past, only the rich could afford a holiday.

The purpose of the KdF was also to keep everyone happy after abolishing the trade unions. **Dr Robert Ley** was in charge of the KdF, and one of its popular schemes was the Volkswagen - the people's car.

#### **The KdF's activities:**

- Cheap cruise holidays
- Building health clubs
- Trips to the theatre/cinema
- Skiing/sailing

**Beauty of Work** - the Nazis set up the SdA (Beauty of Work) to help Germans see that work was good, and that everyone who could work should. In fact - because the Nazis had abolished the trade unions, banned strikes, and given more power to the industrialists - real wages fell and hours were longer under Hitler.

*Complete a profile for each of the three men below:*

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Hermann Goring</i>
<i>Organisation:</i>	
<i>Responsibilities:</i>	

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Hjalmar Schacht</i>
<i>Organisation:</i>	
<i>Responsibilities:</i>	

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Dr Robert Ley</i>
<i>Organisation:</i>	
<i>Responsibilities:</i>	

### **Task 5**

#### **Did the Nazis create an 'Economic Miracle'?**

A number of policies were introduced which caused the unemployment figures to drop.

Women were no longer included in the statistics so any women who remained out of work under the Nazi's rule did not exist as far as the statistics were concerned.

The unemployed were given a very simple choice: do whatever work is given to you by the government or be classed as "work-shy" and put in a concentration camp.

Jews lost their citizenship in 1935 and as a result were not included in unemployment figures even though many lost their employment at the start of Hitler's time in power.

Many young men were taken off of the unemployment figure when conscription was brought in (1935) and men had to do their time in the army etc. By 1939, the army was 1.4 million strong. To equip these men with weapons etc., factories were built and this took even more off of the unemployment figure.

With these measures in place the unemployment figure had to fall drastically and many saw the Nazi figures as nothing more than a book-keeping trick. However, many would have been too scared to speak out against the Nazis or pass negative comments on the published figures – such was the fear of the Gestapo.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, farmers in Britain and America suffered heavy economic losses. In Germany, some farmers benefitted. By 1937, agricultural prices had increased by 20%. **The Hereditary Farm Law of 1933** prevented German farms in debt from being repossessed by banks. **The Reich Entailed Farm Law of 1933** protected thousands of small farms from competition. Any farm over 30 acres was classified as an 'hereditary farm'. An hereditary farm could not be divided up on the death of its owner – it had to be passed onto the eldest son intact.

However, many farmers still had to leave their land due to poverty (in spite of subsidies, guaranteed prices and tax cuts). There was a serious shortage of agricultural workers because of the drift of poverty-stricken peasants to the towns. The drive to increase grain production failed and modernisation of farming techniques was limited. **Autarky** (German self-sufficiency) was not successful.

1. *Explain how the Nazis played with statistics and in order to make unemployment figures look good.*
2. *How did the Nazis try and help farmers?*
3. *Why did the Nazis want to help farmers?*
4. *Did the Nazis succeed in helping farmers?*
5. *Overall, do you think that the Nazis created an 'economic miracle'?*