

Year 9 HT 5 – The Nazi's and the Holocaust

The Nazi Party came to power in Germany in 1933, led by Adolf Hitler. Over the next few years, the Nazis embarked on a campaign of persecution against Jews and other minority groups, culminating in the genocide of six million Jews during the Holocaust, which lasted from 1939 to 1945. The Nazis were a political party led by Adolf Hitler in Germany during the 1930s and 1940s. They promoted an ideology based on extreme nationalism, racial superiority, and anti-Semitism. Hitler and the Nazis came to power in 1933 and implemented oppressive policies that targeted minority groups, particularly Jews. The Holocaust, which occurred during World War II, was a systematic and state-sponsored genocide carried out by the Nazis. Millions of innocent people, including six million Jews, were persecuted, imprisoned, and killed in concentration camps and extermination camps. The Nazis implemented policies of racial segregation, forced labor, and mass murder, aiming to eradicate entire populations they deemed undesirable. The Holocaust is a dark chapter in human history, a horrific reminder of the consequences of hatred, prejudice, and the abuse of power. It serves as a solemn reminder of the importance of promoting tolerance, understanding, and respect for all individuals and their rights.

Concurrent Historical Events in the UK:

During the period of the Nazis and the Holocaust, the UK was contending with its own set of historic events:

1. The Blitz- an extensive air campaign conducted by the Germans against the UK. It lasted from September 7, 1940, until May 11, 1941, and caused widespread damage and destruction to both property and human life.
2. The Battle of Britain- a crucial air campaign fought between the German Luftwaffe and the Royal Air Force to gain air superiority over the UK. It occurred between July and October 1940 and was crucial in halting the German advance in the UK.
3. The D-Day Landings- a military operation carried out on June 6, 1944, by Allied forces, where they landed on five beaches in Normandy, France in a bid to liberate France from German control.

Concurrent Historical Events Around the World:

In addition to these events, there were numerous other significant historical events occurring globally, such as:

1. The Great Depression- an economic crisis that occurred in the 1930s, originating in the United States and had worldwide effects.
2. World War II- a global conflict that lasted from 1939 to 1945 and involved many countries, including the UK, Germany, Japan and the Soviet Union.
3. The Cold War- an ideological conflict between the USA and the Soviet Union, which lasted from the end of World War II until 1991.

Further reading:

Fiction:

"Once" by Morris Gleitzman - This is a story of a young Jewish boy named Felix who is forced to leave his home and go on a dangerous journey as he tries to survive during the Holocaust.

Non fiction:

"Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl" by Anne Frank - This is a must-read book that gives insights into the life of a young girl trapped in a secret annex in Amsterdam during the Nazi occupation.