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## NAZISM AND THE RISE OF HITLER

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Points have to be explained if necessary)

1. How did Nazism become a mass movement ? Explain. **(2018)**

**Ans.** Nazim became a mass movement during the Great Depression.

- a) After 1929, banks collapsed and businesses shut down, workers lost their jobs and the middle classes were threatened with destitution.
- b) In such situation Nazi propaganda stirred hopes of a better future.
- c) In 1928, the Nazi Party got no more than 2.6% votes in Reichstag. By 1932 it. became the largest party with 37% votes.

2. Explain the circumstances under which Nazism became popular in Germany. **(2016)**

**Ans.** - Mass movement during the Great Depression.

- Hitler was a great orator.
- Promised to build strong nation.
- Restore dignity of the Germans.
- Weed out all foreign influence.
- Nazis held massive rallies, Public meeting as to show on Strength and confidence for Hitler.
- Red banners, applause and Nazi salute were part of spectacle of power.
- Hitler projected as Messiah or Savior.

3. Describe briefly the crimes against humanity carried out by the Nazis. **(2016)**

**Ans.** a) Nazis devised an unprecedented means of killing people who did not belong to the so called superior-race and they classified communities as 'undesirable'.

b) Jews were the worst suffers and they lived in separately marked area called 'ghettos'.

c) Waged a genocidal war.

d) A large number of people were killed by exclusion, Ghettoisation, annihilation, etc.

4. State three reasons of opposition to Weimar Republic by its own people ? **(2016)**

- Ans.**
- a) It was held responsible for the disgrace at Versailles.
  - b) It had to pay the war compensation which financially crippled the country.
  - c) Germany lost its overseas colonies, 75% of its iron and 26% coal to other countries.

5. Hitler's foreign policy aimed at gaining power and prestige for Germany. State this features of his foreign policy. **(2016)**

- Ans.**
- Hitler pulled out of League of Nations in 1933 and reoccupied Rhineland.
  - His concept of pan German unity meant Germany, Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia and few other eastern territories in eastern Europe to be consolidated under the slogan-One people, One empire and One Leader.
  - Signed Tripartite Pact with Italy and Japan to establish Hitler's claim to international power.
  - In 1938 Hitler's troops occupied Sudetenland and later rest of Czechoslovakia.
  - Set up Puppet regimes in large part of Europe that were supportive of Nazi Germany.

6. Highlight three main features of the Nazi's World view ? **(2016)**

- Ans.**
- No Equality amongst people.
  - Racial hierarchy with the Nordic German Aryan at the top.
  - Racial idea based on the survival of the fittest. Strongest race would survive and the weak would perish.
  - New territories to be acquired for settlement under lebensraum ideology.

7. Hitler said - "In my state mother is the most important citizen". Explain the statement. **(2016)**

- Ans.**
- a) All mothers were not treated equally.
  - b) Women who bore racially undesirable children were punished.
  - c) Those who produced racially desirable children were awarded and favoured treatment in hospitals, concessions in shops, etc.
  - d) Those who deviated from the prescribed court of conduct punished.

8. Explain any five features of political policy adopted by Hitler after coming to power in 1933. **(2016)**

**Ans.** Five features of political policy adopted by Hitler :

- \* Suspended Civil Rights.

- \* Communists were sent to concentration camps.
- \* All political parties and trade unions except the Nazi party banned in Germany.
- \* Introduced the Enabling Act.
- \* State made control over economy, media, army and judiciary.
- \* Creation of special surveillance and security.

9. Explain briefly the theory of Herbert Spencer used by Hitler. **(2016)**

- Ans.**
- a. Herbert Spencer propounded the idea of survival of the fittest.
  - b. Herbert stated that only those species survived on earth that could adapt themselves to the changing climate conditions.
  - c. It was used by the racist thinkers and politicians to justify imperial rule over conquered people. According to Nazi argument, the strongest race would survive and the weaker ones would perish. They claimed the Nordic Aryans to be the strongest and Jews as the weakest.

10. How was the Nazi party formed ? **(2016)**

- Ans.**
- a. Disintegration of the Weimar Republic led to the formation of Nazi Party after the First World War.
  - b. Hitler enrolled for the army when the First World War broke out. He also earned medals for bravery.
  - c. The German defeat horrified him and Versailles Treaty made him furious. Later he joined a small group called the German Worker's party.
  - d. Subsequently he took over the organization and renamed as Nationalist Socialist Germany Workers party. This party known to be Nazi party.

11. What was the impact of the Great Economic Crisis' on the economy of Germany. Explain. **(2016,2014,2012)**

- Ans.** Impact of Economic crisis on Germany :
- a) The economy of Germany was warmly hit.
  - b) Industrial production reduced to 40 per cent.
  - c) Workers lost their jobs and were paid reduced wages.
  - d) Unemployed youth played cards or lined up at local employment exchange.
  - e) Jobs disappeared and youth took to criminal activities.

12. How did the Jews remain the 'worst sufferers in the Nazi Germany'. Explain. **(2016)**

**Ans.** Jews were the worst sufferers as they were treated very badly.

- i) They were classified as undesirables.
- ii) They were considered as racial inferiors.
- iii) They were widely prosecuted.
- iv) They were stereotyped as killers of Christ.
- v) They were banned from owning land.
- vi) They lived in separately marked areas.

13. How did the common people react to Nazism ? **(2016,2012)**

**Ans.** Reaction of common people to Nazism :

- a) Many saw world through Nazi eyes and spoke their mind in Nazi language. They felt hatred when they saw someone who looked like a Jew.
- b) They marked houses of Jews and reported suspicious neighbours.
- c) They believed Nazism would bring prosperity and improve well being.
- d) Many organized active resistance to Nazism braving police repression and death.
- e) But most were passive on lookers, too scared to act.

14. Why were the Nazi Killing Operations called the Holocaust ? Explain. **(2016)**

- Ans.**
- 1. Nazi Killing operations were called Holocaust, because of atrocities, sufferings and the killings.
  - 2. After the war had ended the Jews wanted the world to remember the atrocities and sufferings they had endured.
  - 3. They wanted to tell the world what had happened in the Nazi Germany.
  - 4. They preserved documents, diaries, notebooks and created archives.

15. Explain any three reasons to show that the treaty of Versailles was harsh and humiliating for Germans. **(2016,2012)**

**Ans.** Treaty of Versailles was harsh and humiliating :

- \* Germany lost its overseas trade, a tenth of its population, 13 percent of its territories, 75 percent of iron and 26 percent of coal to France, Poland, etc.
- \* The War Guilt Clause held Germany responsible for the war and damage the allied countries suffered.

\* It was forced to pay compensation amounting to 6 billion.

\* The allied also occupied the resource rich Rhineland.

16. Explain the factors that forced the USA to enter the second World War ? **(2016)**

- Ans.**
1. Japan was expanding its power in the east.
  2. It had occupied French, Indo-China and was planning attacks on U.S naval bases in the pacific.
  3. When Japan extended its support to Hitler and bombed the U.S naval base at Pearl Harbor, the U.S entered the second world war.

17. Mention any three weaknesses of Weimer Republic ? **(2016)**

**Ans.** Politically the Weimar Republic was fragile.

The Weimar constitution had some inherent defects which made it unstable and vulnerable to dictatorship.

Due to proportional representation one party rule became a near impossible task, leading to a rule by coalitions.

Another defect was Article 48, which gave the President the powers to impose emergency, suspend civil rights by decree.

Within short period of time many a governments changed and this made people lose confidence in the democratic parliamentary system.

18. Explain any three ways through which Nazi state established total control over its people. **(2016,2013)**

- Ans.**
1. Special surveillance and security forces were created to control society
  2. Apart from regular police Gestapo, criminal police and security service were created.
  3. These forces enjoyed extra constitutional powers.
  4. People were detained in Gestapo torture chambers, sent to concentration camps, etc.

19. Explain any three effects of Nazism over schools in Germany. **(2016)**

- Ans.**
- \* Jew teachers were dismissed.
  - \* German and Jew children were segregated. They could not sit or play together.
  - \* 'Good German' children were subjected to a process of Nazi schooling.
  - \* Racial science was introduced.
  - \* School textbooks were rewritten.

20. Describe any three points of Hitler`s ideology related to the geopolitical concept of Lebensraum or living space. **(2016,2014,2012)**

- Ans.**
- a. He believed in acquiring new territories for settlement.
  - b. He would enhance the area of his mother country.
  - c. Would also enhance the material resources.

21. Explain any three effects of Enabling Act passed by Hitler. Name any two special surveillance and security forces created by Hitler. **(2016,2014)**

- Ans.**
- i) Enabling Act - Established dictatorship in Germany.
  - ii) It gave all powers to Hitler.
  - iii) All political parties and trade unions were banned.

**SECURITY FORCES :**

- i) Criminal Police.
- ii) Security Service .
- iii) Storm Troopers .
- iv) Gestapo.

22. Describe any three means used for a new style of politics devised by Hitler. **(2015)**

**Ans.** Means used :

- Held massive rallies and public meetings.
- Red banner with swastika propagated.
- Nazi salute and ritualized round of applause after his speeches.

23. Describe the events that happened in 1945, when Germany surrendered to Allies. **(2015,2012)**

- Ans.**
- In May 1945 Germany was surrendered.
  - Hitler, his minister Goebbels & his entire family committed suicide.
  - An International Military Tribunal was set up to prosecute Nazi war criminals for crimes against humanity.

24. List the communities which were classified as undesirable in Nazi Germany ? **(2015)**

- Ans.**
- a. Gypsies and Blacks living in Nazi Germany.
  - b. Russians and Poles were considered subhuman.
  - c. Jews too were inferior, threatening biological purity of the superior Aryan race.

25. State any three effects of the First World War over Europe. **(2015,2014)**

**Ans.** Effects of the First World War :

- 1) Devastating psychological and financial impact on the entire continent.
- 2) From a continent of creditors it turned into debtors.
- 3) Left deep imprint on society.
- 4) Soldiers came to be placed above civilians.
- 5) Aggressive war propaganda occupied centre stage in public.

26. How did Hitler become the popular leader of masses in Germany ? Explain any three reasons. **(2015)**

- Ans.**
1. Hitler was a powerful speaker. His passion and words moved people.
  2. He promised to build a strong nation.
  3. He promised to undo the injustice of the treaty of Versailles.
  4. He held massive rallies and public meetings.

27. Explain any three steps taken by Hitler to establish dictatorship over Germany after coming into power ? **(2015,2013)**

**Ans.** Hitler set out to dismantle the structures of democratic rule :

1. Rights like freedom of speech, press and assembly were suspended.
2. Communists and his enemies were severely punished.
3. Dictatorship was established through the famous Enabling Act.
4. This Act gave all powers to Hitler to sideline parliament.
5. All political parties and trade unions were banned.

28. Explain any three methods adopted by Hitler for educating German youth in the spirit of National Socialism. **(2015,2012)**

- Ans.**
- \* Youth subjected to intense Nazi ideology.
  - \* 10 yr olds had to join Jungvolk and 14 yr olds Hitler youth.
  - \* 18 yr old had to join compulsory military service.

29. What is Nazism ? How did it become popular in Germany ? Explain. **(2015)**

- Ans.**
- \* Nazism was a political system started by Hitler in Germany. It propagated hatred for the Jews.

**Reasons for popularity**

- \* Unstable political condition after World War I.
- \* Unjust Treaty of Versailles.
- \* Hitler's charismatic personality.

30. How were the females treated under Nazism in Germany ? Explain with any three points. **(2015)**

**Ans.** Treatment to females :

- a) Women with undesirable children were punished.
- b) Honor crosses were awarded for producing more racially desirable children.
- c) No provision of education for Women.

31. Whom did Hitler assign the responsibility of Economic recovery ? What did he aim at, to meet this task ? **(2014,2012)**

- Ans.**
- Hjalmar Schacht.
  - He aimed at :
    - a. Full production.
    - b. Full employment through state funded programme.

32. How was media used to win the support for Nazism ? Explain any three ways. **(2014)**

**Ans.** Role of media :

- 1) Ideas were spread through visual images, films, radio, posters, etc.
- 2) Enemies of Germans were stereotyped, mocked, abused and described as evil.
- 3) Socialists and liberals were represented as weak and degenerate.
- 4) Propaganda films were made to create hatred for Jews.
- 5) Jews were referred as vermin, rats and pests.

33. Explain any three promises made by Hitler to the Germans when he came to the power. **(2014,2012)**

**Ans.** Promises made by Hitler.

- a) To build a strong nation.
- b) Restore the dignity of German People.
- c) Employment to secure future for the youth.
- d) Weed out all foreign influences and resist all foreign conspiracies against Germany.



34. Explain the new education policy introduced by Hitler in Germany. **(2014)**

**Ans.** New educational policy introduced by Hitler :

- All schools were cleansed and purified.
- Teachers who were Jews were dismissed.
- Children were segregated i. e Germans and Jews could not sit or play together.
- Undesirable children- Jews, handicapped were thrown out of schools.
- School textbooks were rewritten and social science was introduced.
- Children were taught to be loyal and submissive, hate Jews and worship Hitler.

35. Which Youth Organizations were made responsible for educating the German Youth in the spirit of "National Socialism"? Explain. **(2014,2013)**

**Ans.** Jung Volk

- Ten year olds had to enter Jungvolk.
- At 14, all boys had to join the Nazi Youth Organization.  
Hitler Youth - Where they learnt to worship war, glorify aggression and violence, condemn democracy and hate Jews, communists, etc.
- After a period of rigorous ideological and physical training they joined the labour service, usually at the age of 18.
- Then they had to serve in the armed forces and enter one of the Nazi Programmes.

36. Explain the three fold plan of Hitler to consolidate the Nazi Power, after becoming the Chancellor of Germany. **(2014)**

**Ans.** a) Crushing the country's political opposition and eliminating rivals.

b) In March 1933, the German Reichstag passed 'Enabling Laws' which transferred all powers to the government headed by Hitler.

c) By July 1933 Nazi party was the only legitimate party in Germany.

37. Nazis used chilling words as an art of propaganda. Justify. **(2014)**

**Ans.** a) The State is above all. All powers should be vested in the State. People exist for the state, not the state for the people. End all types of parliamentary institutions and glorify the leader. Crush all types of parties and opposition.

b) Favour of rooting out liberalism, Socialism and communism, the Nazi party considered superior to

all other nations. They glorified war.

- c) Preached hatred for the Jews who were responsible for the economic misery of the Germans and denounced the Treaty of Versailles. They aimed at increasing the German Empire and acquire all the snatched colonies.

38. Describe any three problems faced by the Weimer Republic. **(2014)**

- Ans.**
- a) The Weimer Republic had to sign the Treaty of Versailles and was forced to cede away many territories and had to agree for the war indemnity, so this republic was defamed from the very beginning.
  - b) Knowing the weak position of Weimer, the Royalist were still faithful to the German ruler, captured Berlin in March 1920 and brought an end to the republic. The Young Weimer Republic was crippled financially when being defeated by the treaty of Versailles.
  - c) As a result of the defeat, there was devastation, starvation, unemployment and humiliation, inflation everywhere. There was an economic crisis in the country and it failed to solve the problem of the people.

39. Explain any three points to prove that Nazi rule was barbarous. **(2014)**

- Ans.**
- Mass murder of selected groups of innocent civilian people.
  - Gassing the people in various killing centers.
  - Torture of communists in the concentration camps.
  - Extra constitutional powers to the forces.

40. Explain the status of women in the German Society under Nazism. **(2014,2013)**

**Ans.** Status of women in Germany :

- 1) Children in Nazi Germany were told that women were radically different from men.
- 2) While boys were taught to be aggressive, masculine and steal hearted, girls were told to be good mothers and rare pure blooded Aryan children.
- 3) They have to teach Nazi values to their children.
- 4) Women bearing undesirable children were punished and those desirable were awarded.
- 5) To encourage women to produce more children, a bronze cross was given for four, silver for six and gold for eight or more children.
- 6) Those who maintained contacts with the Jews, Poles or Russians were severely punished.

41. Explain the Nazi cult of motherhood. **(2013)**

- Ans.** \* Girls had to maintain the purity of the race and distance themselves from Jews.
- \* Women who bore racially undesirable children were punished.
- \* Women who deviated from the prescribed code of conduct were publicly condemned.
- \* Girls were told that they had to become good mothers.

42. Examine any three features of racial superiority that was promoted by Hitler in Germany under his Nazi ideology. **(2013)**

**Ans.** Racial hierarchy :

- a) According to this, there was no equality between people, but only a racial hierarchy.
- b) In this view blond, blue-eyed, Nordic German Aryans were at the top, while Jews were located at the lowest rung.
- c) They came to be regarded as an anti-race, the arch-enemies of the Aryans. All other coloured people were placed in between depending upon their external features.
- d) Hitler's racism borrowed from thinkers like Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer.
- e) However, their ideas were used by racist thinkers and politicians to justify imperial rule over conquered people.
- f) The Nazi argument was simple : the strongest race would survive and the weak ones would perish.
- g) According to him the Aryan race was the finest. It had to retain its purity, become stronger and dominate the world.

43. "Not every German was a Nazi". Explain it by giving three reasons. **(2013)**

**Ans.** Not every German was Nazi :

- a. Many Germans organized active resistance to Nazism.
- b. They braved police repression and death.
- c. But majority of Germans who were against Nazism were passive onlookers and apathetic witnesses.
- d. They were too scared to act, to differ and to protest.

44. How did Hitler reconstruct Germany ? Explain. **(2013)**

- Ans.**
1. Hitler assigned the responsibility of economic recovery to the economist Hjalmar Schaet to reconstruct German economy
  2. In foreign policy, Hitler also got quick successes. Germany again became great power.

3. Hitler chose war as the way out of the approaching economic crisis.

4. He adopted the policy of expansion.

45. Explain any five features of Hitler's Policy towards the Polish under his rule.

**(2013)**

**Ans.** Hitler's policy towards Polish :

- Poles were forced to leave their homes and properties.
- They were then herded like cattle in the other part.
- They were treated as 'undesirables' of the empire.
- Members of the Polish intelligent were murdered in large numbers.
- Polish Children who looked like Aryans were forcibly snatched from their mothers and examined by 'race experts'.

46. Why was Nazi propaganda effective in creating hatred for the Jews ? Explain.

**(2013)**

- Ans.**
- a) Hitler got rid of the Weimer Republic and the German people felt relief and they held Hitler in high esteem and began to hold him as their savior. The personality cult created by Hitler did all the wonder and the Nazi propaganda against the Jews proved successful.
  - b) The traditional Christian hatred for the Jews, because they were accused to have killed the Christ was fully exploited by the Nazis so the Germans were against the Jews.
  - c) The racial theory by Nazis that Jews belonged to the lower race and they were undesirable had a deep effect on the German people and kept quiet when the Jews were killed in the gas chambers.
  - d) The Nazis deepened the hatred theory against the Jew from the beginning of the child's schooling so that when they grew up they would themselves preach this theory. Even films were created to hate Jews. The Nazi propaganda was quite effective in creating hatred for the Jews.

47. State any five efforts that were made by Hitler to dismantle the democratic structure in Germany ?

**(2012)**

**Ans.** Efforts made :

- Fire Decree.
- Clamped down communists to concentration camp.
- Passing of Enabling Act in March, 1933.
- Creation of Special surveillance and Security forces.
- Use of extra - constitutional powers.

48. "The economic crisis in Germany after the Great Depression in 1932 created deep anxieties and fear in people." Support the given statement with five examples. **(2012)**

**Ans.** Great Depression in 1932 :

- a) The middle classes, especially salaried employees and pensioners, saw their savings diminish when the currency lost its value.
- b) Small businessmen, the self-employed and retailers suffered as their businesses got ruined.
- c) These sections of society were filled with the fear of proletarianisation, an anxiety of being reduced to the ranks of the working class.
- d) Only organized workers could manage to keep their heads above water, but unemployment weakened their bargaining power.
- e) The large mass of peasantry was affected by a sharp fall in agricultural prices and women were unable to fill their children's stomachs, were filled with a sense of deep despair.

49. When was the Enabling Act passed in Germany ? How did this Act establish dictatorship of Hitler in Germany ? Describe any four points. **(2012)**

- Ans.**
- a) The Enabling Act was passed on 3 March 1933. It established dictatorship of Hitler in Germany.
  - b) It established the dictatorship of Hitler in following ways :
  - c) It gave Hitler all powers to sideline Parliament and rule by decree.
  - d) All political parties and trade unions were banned except for the Nazi Party and its affiliates.
  - e) The state established complete control over the economy, media, army and Judiciary.

50. Describe the events which led to the Great Economic Depression of 1929. **(2012)**

- Ans.**
- \* The Wall Street Exchange in USA crashed in 1929. Fearing fall of prices, people made frantic efforts to sell their shares.
  - \* On one single day, 24 October, 13 million shares were sold. This was the start of Great Economic Depression.
  - \* Over the next three years, the national income of USA fell half.
  - \* Factories shut down, exports fell, farmers were badly hit and speculators withdrew their money from the market.

51. What event in history is known as the Holocaust ? How did the world come to know about the Holocaust ? Explain. **(2012)**

- Ans.**
- \* The Persecution and mass murder of Jews by German Nazi's between 1933 - 1945 is known as the

Holocaust.

**Sources :**

- \* Information and full horror of the holocaust revealed after Hitler's death.
- \* From diaries, notebooks left behind by many ghetto inhabitants.
- \* Jews survived to tell the stories.
- \* Memoirs, fiction, documentaries, poetry in many parts of the world.

52. How did destruction of democracy take place, phase by phase under Hitler in Nazi Germany ? **(2012)**

**Ans.** On 30<sup>th</sup> January 1933, President Hindenburg offered the Chancellorship, the highest position in the cabinet to Hitler. Having acquired power, Hitler set out to dismantle the structure of Democratic rule. The Fire Decree of 20<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1933, indefinitely suspended civic rights like freedom of speech, press and assemble. On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1933, the Enabling Act was passed. This Act established dictatorship in Germany and Gave Hitler all power to sideline Parliament and Rule by Decree. Special Surveillance and Security Forces were created to control and order society in ways that the Nazis wanted.

**PRACTICE CORNER**

1. State three features of political radicalism in Germany. **(2016)**
2. USA initially resisted involvement in the Second World War but was unable to stay out of the war for long Why ? State three reasons. **(2016)**
3. Why did Nazism become popular in Germany in 1930 ? Describe its reasons. **(2016)**
4. Explain Hitler's ideology regarding women and his policy towards them. **(2016)**
5. How the Weimer Republic was formed ? What were its two main drawbacks ? **(2016)**
6. Explain the impact on Germany because of her refusal to pay war compensation in 1923. **(2016)**
7. Describe any three consequences of Hitler's dictatorship in Germany. **(2016)**
8. How were the Jews treated by the Nazis ? Explain. **(2016)**
9. 'Hitler's Germany is reputed as the most dreaded criminal state.' Justify the statement with five facts. **(2016)**
10. Highlight any five steps taken by Hitler to destroy democracy in Germany. **(2016)**
11. Explain the role of youth in Nazi Germany. **(2016)**

12. How were the ideas of Darwin and Herbert Spencer's adopted by Hitler or Nazis ? Explain. **(2016)**
13. Explain how was the media used to propagate Nazism. **(2016)**

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