

Class 9-Nazism

History Chapter 3

Q1 Describe the problems faced by Weimar Republic.

Ans. (1) After the defeat of Germany in the First World War, King Kaiser William II, the German emperor, abdicated and Weimar Republic was proclaimed by the National Assembly with a federal structure. This republic was never accepted whole-heartedly by the Germans who made this government responsible for accepting the humiliating treaty of Versailles, they made this government responsible for all their miseries. The republic became financially crippled by the war compensation imposed on Germany.

(i) The great economic depression worsened the German economy. The economic crisis created deep anxiety and fears in people. The middle classes, small businessmen, the self-employed and retailers suffered as their business got ruined.

(iii) The Weimar Republic was politically weak. The Weimar Constitution had some inherent defects which made it unstable and vulnerable to dictatorship, One was proportional representation which finally brought a rule by coalition. Another defect was Article 48 which gave the 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.

02 Discuss why Nazism became popular in Germany by 1930.

Ans. (1) The Great Economic Depression (1929-1932) badly hit the German economy. Banks collapsed and businesses shut down. Workers lost their jobs and the middle classes were threatened with destitution.

(ii) This crisis in economy prepared the background for the popularity of Nazism in Germany. Nazism became a mass movement during the economic depression.

(iii) Nazi propaganda stirred hopes of a better future. In 1928, the Nazi Party got no more than 2.6 per cent votes in the Reichstag-the German Parliament. By 1932, it had become the largest party with 37 per cent votes.

(iv) Hitler, the leader of the Nazi Party, influenced the people with his personality. He promised to build a strong nation, undo the injustice of the Versailles Treaty and restore the dignity of the German people. He promised employment for those looking for work and secure future for the youth.

(v) Nazis held massive rallies and public meetings to demonstrate the support for Hitler and instil a sense of unity among the people. Nazi propaganda skilfully projected Hitler as a messiah, a saviour, as someone who had arrived to deliver people from their distress. This image captured the imagination of the people whose sense of dignity and pride had been shattered after the German defeat in the First World War and who were living in a time of acute economic and political crisis.

Ques:-3 What are the peculiar features of Nazi thinking?

Ans. The peculiar features of Nazi thinking are given below:

(i) There was no equality between people, but only a racial hierarchy. In this view, blonde, blue-eyed, Nordic German Aryans were at the top while Jews were located at the lowest rung. All other coloured people were placed in between depending upon their external features.

(ii) The Aryan race was the finest. It had to retain its purity, become stronger and dominate the world.

(iii) Nazis glorified war. Their only aim was to unite all people of the Aryan race under one state, ie, Germany.

(iv) Hitler believed that new territories had to be acquired for settlement. This would enhance the area of the mother country, while enabling the settlers on new lands to retain an intimate link with

the place of their origin. It would also enhance the material resources and power of the German Nation.

(v) Nazis wanted only a society of pure and healthy Nordic Aryans. They alone were considered 'desirables'. Only they were seen as worthy of prospering and multiplying against all others who were classed as 'undesirables'. This meant that even those Germans who were seen as impure or abnormal had no right to exist.

(vi) Nazis hated Jews. They terrorised, pauperised and segregated them and compelled them to leave the country.

(vi) Children were taught to be loyal and submissive, hate Jews and worship Hitler.

(viii) While boys were taught to be aggressive, masculine and steel-hearted, girls were told that they had to become good mothers and rear pure-blooded Aryan children.

Q4. Explain why Nazi propaganda was effective in creating a hatred for Jews.

Ans. As Hitler had a deep hatred for Jews, he launched a vicious propaganda against them soon after becoming the dictator of Germany. The reasons for the success of the propaganda against Jews are the following:

(1) Nazi hatred of Jews had a precursor in the traditional Christian hostility towards Jews. They had been stereotyped as killers of Christ and usurers.

(ii) 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. Gas chambers where the Jews were deported, were labelled 'disinfection areas' and looked like bathrooms equipped with fake showerheads.

(iii) Media was carefully used to win the support for the regime and popularise its worldview. Nazi ideas were spread through visual images, films, radio, posters, catchy slogans and leaflets. The images of Jews were stereotyped, mocked, abused and described as evil.

(iv) Propaganda films were made to create hatred for Jews.

(v) Orthodox Jews were shown with flowing beards wearing kaftans, whereas in reality it was difficult to distinguish German Jews by their outward appearance.

(vi) Jews were referred to as vermin, rats and pests. Their movements were compared to those of rodents.

(vii) Even children were taught to hate Jews. Nazism worked on the minds of the people, tapped their emotions and turned their hatred and anger at those marked as 'undesirables', ie. Jews.

Ques:5. In what ways did the Nazi state seek to establish total control over its people?

Ans. The Nazi state came into being under the leadership of Hitler on 30 January, 1933. Having acquired power, Hitler took a number of steps to establish total control over the people of Germany:

(1) First of all, the structure of democratic rule was dismantled.

(ii) Civic rights like freedom of speech, press and assembly that had been guaranteed by the Weimar Constitution were suspended for indefinite period.

(iii) Then started the repression of the Weimar Communists which was too severe.

(iv) On 30 March 1933, the famous Enabling Act was passed. This Act established Hitler's dictatorship in Germany. It gave Hitler all power to sideline Parliament and rule by decree.

(v) All political parties and trade unions were banned except the Nazi party and its affiliates.

(vi) The state established complete control over the economy, media, army and judiciary.

(vii) Special surveillance and security forces were created to control and order society in ways that the Nazis wanted.

(viii) Apart from the already existing regular police green uniform and the SA or the Storm Troopers, these included the Gestapo (Secret State Police), the SS (the protection squads), criminal police and the security service (SD). It was the extra-constitutional powers of these newly organised forces that made the Nazi state so dreadful. People could now be detained in Gestapo torture chambers, rounded up and sent to concentration camps.

EXTRA QUESTION ANSWERS

Ques:-1 Why was an International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg set-up at the end of the Second World War?

Ans.- The International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg set-up at the end of the Second World War by the following reasons:-

- (1) At the end of the Second World War, an International Tribunal at Nuremberg was set up to persecute Nazi war criminals for crimes against peace, for war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- (ii) Germany's conduct during the war, especially those actions which came to be called Crimes Against Humanity, raised serious moral and ethical questions and invited worldwide condemnation
- (iii) However, the Nuremberg Tribunal sentenced only eleven leading Nazis to death. Many others were imprisoned for life.

02. The peace treaty of Versailles with Allies was a harsh and humiliating peace". Explain this statement.

Ans. The peace treaty at Versailles with the Allies was considered as harsh and humiliating because of the following reasons:

- 1.As a result of this treaty Germany lost its overseas colonies, a tenth of its population, 13 per cent of its territories, 75 per cent of its iron and 26 per cent of its coal to France, Poland, Denmark and Lithuania.
- 2.The Allied Powers demilitarised Germany to weaken its power.
- 3.The War Guilt Clause held Germany responsible for the war and damages the allied countries suffered. Germany was forced to pay the compensation amounting to £6 billion.
- 4. The Allied armies also occupied the resource-rich Rhineland for much of the 1920s.

Q3. What is hyperinflation? Why did this situation occur in Germany in 1923? Or

What were the factors that led to hyperinflation in Germany?

Ans. Hyperinflation is a situation when prices rise phenomenally high. This situation occurred in Germany in 1923 due to several reasons:

- (1) Germany had fought the First World War largely on loans and had to pay the war compensation in gold. This depleted gold reserves at a time resources were scarce.
- (ii) When Germany refused to pay the war compensation, France occupied its leading industrial area, Ruhr, to claim their coal.
- (iii) Germany retaliated with passive resistance and printed paper currency recklessly. With too much printed money in circulation, the value of the German Mark fell. As a result, prices of goods soared. The image of Germans carrying cartloads of currency notes to buy a loaf of bread was widely publicised. This crisis came to be known as hyperinflation.

04. What were the inherent defects of the Weimar Constitution which made it unstable?

Ans. The Weimar Constitution had two inherent defects which made it unstable:

- (i) The system of proportional representation finally led to a rule by coalitions because no single party managed to form the government. This affected the stability of the Weimar Constitution.
- (ii) Another defect was Article 48. It gave the 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.

Q5. How did the Nazi party come into existence? What status did it enjoy by 1932?

Ans. (1) The German defeat in the First World War horrified Hitler and the provisions of Versailles Treaty made him furious. In 1919, he joined a small group called the German Worker's Party.

2. He subsequently took over the organisation and renamed it the National Socialist German Worker's party. This party came to be known as the Nazi party.

3. The Nazi party could not get success till the early 1930s. In 1928, it got not more than 2.6 per cent votes in the Reichstag the German - Parliament. By 1932, it had become the largest party with 37 per cent votes. The party now began to project Hitler as a messiah, a saviour, as someone who had arrived to deliver people from their distress.

Q6. What promises did Hitler make to the German people? How did he mobilise them?

Ans. Promise made by Hitler to the German people:-

- (1) Hitler promised to build a strong nation, undo the injustice of the Versailles Treaty and restore the dignity of the German people.
- (2) He promised employment for those looking for work, and a secure future for the youth.
- (3) He promised to weed out all foreign influences and resist all foreign 'conspiracies' against Germany.

In order to mobilise German people, Hitler held massive rallies and public meetings. The Red banners with the Swastika, the Nazi salute and the ritualised rounds of applause after the speeches left deep influence on the minds of German people,

Q7. What were the provisions of the famous Enabling Act?

Ans. The famous Enabling Act was passed on 3 March 1933. The provisions of this Act are given below:

1. The Act established Hitler's dictatorship in Germany.
 2. It gave Hitler all powers to sideline Parliament and rule by decree.
 3. All political parties and trade unions were banned except for the Nazi party and its affiliates.
- The state established complete control over the economy, media, army and judiciary. Special surveillance and security forces were created to control and order society in ways that the Nazis wanted.

Q8. Why did the USA show unwillingness to get involved in the Second World War initially? Why did it change its attitude afterwards?

Ans. In the beginning, the USA had resisted involvement in the war. It was unwilling once again to face all the economic problems that the First World War had caused. But it could not stay out of the war for long. Japan was expanding its power in the east. It had occupied French Indo-China and was planning attacks on US naval bases in the Pacific. When Japan extended its support to Hitler and bombed the US base at Pearl Harbor, the US entered the Second World War. The war ended in May 1945 with Hitler's defeat and the US dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan.

Ques:-9 What happened in schools under Nazism?

Ans. Jews teachers were dismissed. Children were first segregated. German and Jews could not sit together or play together. Subsequently, undesirable children', i.e. Jews, the physically handicapped and Gypsies were thrown out of schools.

German children were subjected to a process of Nazi schooling, a prolonged period of ideological training. School textbooks were re-written. Racial science was introduced to justify Nazi ideas of race. Stereotypes about Jews were popularised even through math classes. Children were taught to be loyal and submissive, hate Jews and worship Hitler. Even the function of sports was to nurture a spirit of violence and aggression among children.

Q10. What was the status of mothers under Nazism?

Ans:- Under Nazism all mothers were not treated equally. Women who bore racially undesirable children were punished and those who produced racially desirable children were awarded. They were given favoured treatment in hospitals and were also entitled to concessions in shops and on theatre tickets and railways fares. To encourage women to produce many children, Honour Crosses were awarded. A bronze cross was given for four children, silver for six and gold for eight or more.

Q11. How did the common people of Germany react to Nazi ideology?

Ans. A bulk of the German common mass had deep faith in Nazi ideology. They showed deep hatred for Jews. Whenever they saw someone who looked like a Jew anger surged inside them. They marked the houses of Jews and reported suspicious neighbours. They genuinely believed that Nazism would bring prosperity and improve general well-being.

But there were other Germans who were not at all influenced by the Nazis. They organised active resistance to Nazism, braving police repression and death. However, the large majority of Germans were passive onlookers and apathetic witnesses. They were too scared to act, to differ, to protest.

Q12. How did the world come to know about the holocaust?

Ans. the world came to know about the holocaust by the following ways:-

(i) Information about the Nazi practices came out of Germany during the last years of the regime. But, it was only after the war ended and Germany was defeated that the world came to realise the horrors of what had happened.

ii) The Jews wanted the world to remember the killings and sufferings they had endured during the Nazi killing operations also called the Holocaust.

(iii) The documents left behind by ghetto and camp inhabitants, who wrote diaries, kept notebooks and created archives became the source of knowledge about the Holocaust.

Q13. How did the Great Depression help Nazism become a mass movement?

Ans. The Great Depression help Nazism became a mass movement because:-

(1) The Nazis could not get popularity till the early 1930s. It was during the Great Depression that Nazism became a mass movement.

(ii) After 1929, banks collapsed and businesses shutdown, workers lost their jobs and the middle classes were threatened with destitution. In such a situation, Nazi propaganda stirred hopes of a better future.

(iii) In 1928, the Nazi got no more than 2-6 per cent votes in the Reichstag the German Parliament. By 1932, it had become the largest party with 37 percent votes.

Q14, Explain the three steps taken by Hitler to annihilate the Jews in Germany.

Ans. The three steps taken by Hitler to annihilate the Jews in Germany were:--

- (1) Jews were the worst sufferers in Nazi Germany, They survived mainly through trade and money-lending. They lived in separately marked areas called ghettos. They were often persecuted through periodic organised violence, and expulsion from the land.
- (2) From 1933 to 1938 the Nazis terrorised, pauperised and segregated the Jews, compelling them to leave the country.
- (3) From 1939-1945 the Nazis aimed to concentrating them in certain areas and eventually killing them in gas chambers in Poland.

Q15. Why did Hitler create surveillance forces in Germany besides the regular police?

Ans. Hitler created surveillance forces in Germany besides the regular police because:-

- 1.Special surveillance and security forces were created to control and order society in ways that the Nazis wanted.
- 2.Apart from the already existing regular police in green uniform and the SA or the Storm Troopers, these included the Gestapo (secret state police), the SS (the protection squads), criminal police and the Security Service (SD).
- 3.It was the extra constitutional powers of these newly organised forces that gave the Nazi state its reputation as the most dreaded criminal state.
- 4.People could now be detained in Gestapo torture chambers, rounded up and sent to concentration camps, deported at will or arrested without any legal procedures.

Q16. State the two factors that prompted Hitler to attack the Soviet Union in June 1941. What fate did he meet at Stalingrad?

Ans. Two factors that prompted Hitler to attack the Soviet Union:--

- (1) Hitler wanted to achieve his long term aim of conquering Eastern Europe.
- (2) He wanted to ensure food supplies and living space for Germans. His attack on Soviet Union proved to be a historic blunder. Hitler exposed the German western front to British aerial bombing and the eastern front to the powerful Soviet armies. The Soviet Red Army inflicted a crushing and humiliating defeat on Germany at Stalingrad. After this, the Soviet Red Army hounded out the retreating German soldiers until they reached the heart of Berlin, establishing Soviet hegemony over the entire Eastern Europe for half a century thereafter.

Extra Long Questions Answers

Q1. Explain how the Great Economic Depression affected the German.

Ans. The Great Economic Depression economy (1929-1932) hit the German economy very badly. By 1932, industrial production was reduced to 40 per cent of the 1929 level. Workers lost their jobs or were paid reduced wages. The number of unemployed touched an unprecedented 6 million.

Unemployed youths played cards or simply sat at street corners, or desperately queued up at the local employment exchange. In dearth of jobs, the youth took to criminal activities.

There were deep anxieties and fears in people. The middle classes, especially salaried employees and pensioners, saw their savings diminish when the currency lost its value. Small businessmen, the self-employed and retailers suffered as their businesses got ruined. These sections of society were filled with the fear of being reduced to the ranks of the working class or worse still, the unemployed.

The large mass of peasantry was badly affected by a sharp fall in agriculture prices and mother, unable to fill their children's stomachs, were filled with a sense of deep despair.

Ques :-2 What did Hitler do to overcome the economic crisis that badly hit the German economy?

Give an account of Hitler's policy of economic reconstruction of Germany.

Ans. After establishing his dictatorship in Germany, Hitler turned his attention towards the economic reconstruction of the country. He assigned responsibility of economic recovery to the economist Hjalmar Schacht who aimed at full production and full employment through a state funded work-creation programme. This project produced the famous German superhighways and the people's car, the Volkswagen.

Hitler's foreign policy also got quick success. He pulled out of the League of Nations in 1933, reoccupied the Rhineland in 1936 and integrated Austria and Germany in 1938 under the slogan, **One people, One empire and One leader**. He then went on to rest German speaking Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia and took over the entire country.

Hitler didn't know to stop. He chose war as the way out of the approaching economic crisis. Resources were to be accumulated through expansion of territory. In September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. This started a war with France and England. In September 1940, a Tripartite Pact was signed between Germany, Italy and Japan strengthening Hitler's claim to international power. Hitler now turned towards conquering Eastern Europe. He wanted to ensure food supplies and living space for Germans. He attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941. But he could not get success. This step of Hitler proved to be a historic blunder. Give a brief description of Nazi racial state.

Ques:-3 What measures did Hitler take to create an exclusive racial community of pure Germans?

Ans. Hitler's most cherished dream was to create an exclusive racial community of pure Germans. So the moment he came into power, he began to implement his dream. He wanted to physically eliminate all those who were seen as 'undesirables' in extended empire. Nazis wanted only a society of 'pure and healthy Nordic Aryans'. They alone were considered 'desirables'. Only they were seen as worthy of prospering and multiplying against all others who were classed as 'undesirables'. This meant that even those Germans who were seen as impure or abnormal had no right to exist. Along with Jews, Gypsies and Blacks were also living in Nazi Germany. They all were classified as 'undesirables'. They were viewed as racial inferiors who threatened the biological purity of the 'Superior Aryan' race. Hence, they were widely persecuted. Even Russians and Poles were considered sub-human. When Germany occupied Poland and parts of Russia, captured civilians were forced to work as slave labour.

However, Jews remained the worst target of Hitler. They lived in separately marked areas called Ghettos. They were often persecuted through periodic organised violence, and expulsion from the land. Hitler was not satisfied with this only. He wanted total elimination of the Jews. From 1933 to 1938, the Nazis terrorised, pauperised and segregated the Jews, compelling them to leave the country. The next phase, 1939-1945, aimed at concentrating them in certain areas and eventually killing them in gas chambers in Poland.

Polish children who looked like Aryans were forcibly snatched from their mothers and examined by race experts. If they passed the race tests, they were raised in German families and if not, they were deposited in orphanages where most perished.

Ques 4. How were youth organisation made responsible for education German youth in the spirit of National socialism?

Ans:- The youth organisations were made responsible for educating German youth in the following ways.

- (a) Ten-year-olds had to enter Jungvolk.
- (b) At 14 all boys had to join the Nazi youth organisation Hitler Youth. There they learnt to glorify war and aggression, and condemn the Jews, Gypsies, communists and all those who came under the undesirable category.
- (c) At the age of 18, they joined the Labour Service. They had to serve in the armed forces and join one of the Nazi organisation.
- (d) The Youth League was founded in 1922. It was renamed Hitler Youth.
- (e) All other youth organisations were dissolved.

Ques 5 What was the foreign policy of Hitler?

Ans:- As soon as Hitler came to power, he took the following action as part of his foreign policy.

- (a) Germany left the League of Nations in 1933.
 - (b) Hitler reoccupied the Rhineland in 1936.
 - (c) He annexed Austria in 1938 under the slogan one people, one empire and one leader.
 - (d) He annexed Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia and then the whole country.
 - (e) Hitler chose war as the way to solve economic crisis. Territories had to be expanded for collection of resources. In September 1939, Poland was invaded and it started the Second World War. In 1940, Tripartite Pact was signed between Germany, Italy and Japan.
- Puppet governments, who supported Nazi Germany, were installed in large parts of Europe.