

Tuesday, 15 December 2020



Rastrick  
High School

# How did the Nazis change the lives of women?

## Learning Outcomes

You will:

- **Summarise** the attitudes of the Nazis towards women.
- **Examine** the impact of the Nazi's policies on women.
- **Evaluate** how successful the policies were towards women and family.



**Year 9 History**

## Task: Create a spider diagram of the rights of women in 1920's Germany.

In the 1920s, before the Nazis took over Germany, women had many rights and freedoms that women in other countries did not have. For example:

- They had the right to vote
- If they worked for the government, their pay was equal to men's.
- Many women were able to attend University
- They could become lawyers and doctors.

However, because of the increasing number of career driven women, Germany's birth-rate had dropped by over one million by 1933. This was something the Nazis were very worried about.



## Summarise the attitudes of the Nazis towards women.

Source A is a famous portrait of the 'ideal' family painted by German artist Wolfgang Willrich in 1934.

- 1) Using source A. How would you describe the perfect German family according to the Nazis?

Source B is a Nazi leaflet issues to young German women.

1. What does this reveal about the Nazis ideas about what role women should fulfil in German society?
2. How does this reflect the image of the perfect Nazi family shown in Source A?
3. How has this changed from the view of women in the 1920s.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



## Examine the impact of the Nazis' policies on women.

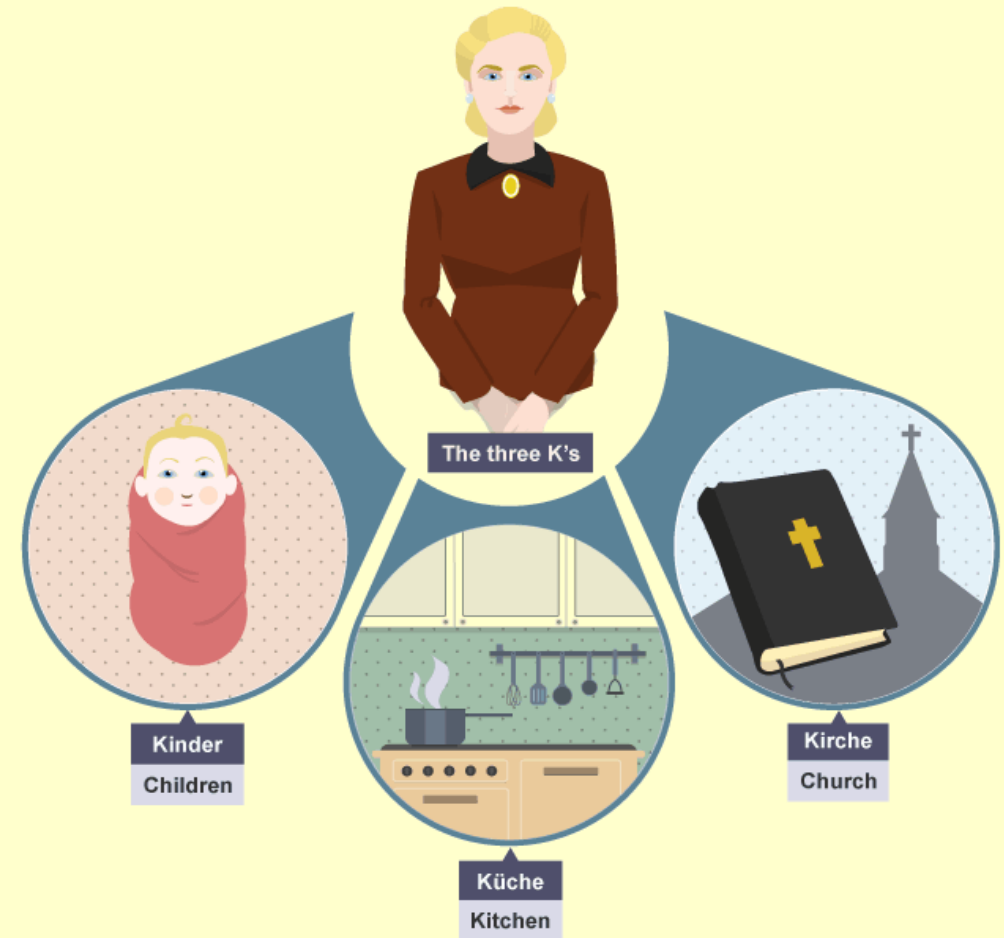
The Nazis idea of women can be best summed by Hitler's idea about what women should stick to – the three Ks.

**Kinder, Kirche** and **Kuche**. What do you think these mean?

**Children, Church** and **Cooking**! He did not view women as equal to men.

Summarise the changes in policy for the 3 areas below using the information sheet attached:

- Changes to employment
- Their appearance
- Marriage and Children



**Challenge:** Which change to the role of women in Nazi Germany would women: be most in favour of/be against? (Consider the different women in society too)



Evaluate how successful the policies were towards women and family.

**TASK:** Create a table with success on the left and failure on the right.

Add these into the respective column:

- The birth rate did increase by half a million in 6 years.
- Women ended up working in large numbers because more men were joining the army.
- The number of marriages went up.
- The number of divorces went up.
- About 320,000 men and women were sterilised.
- The birth rate was still lower in 1939 than it was in 1920s.
- Most women complied with the rules.

**Challenge:** How successful was Germany's policy towards women. Use the evidence from the lesson and the table to justify your answer?

Success	Failure



# Plenary

- 1) Describe 2 policies the Nazis used to change the lives of women.
- 2) How do you think this would influence the experience of children living in Nazi Germany?



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How did the Nazis improve the  
economy?



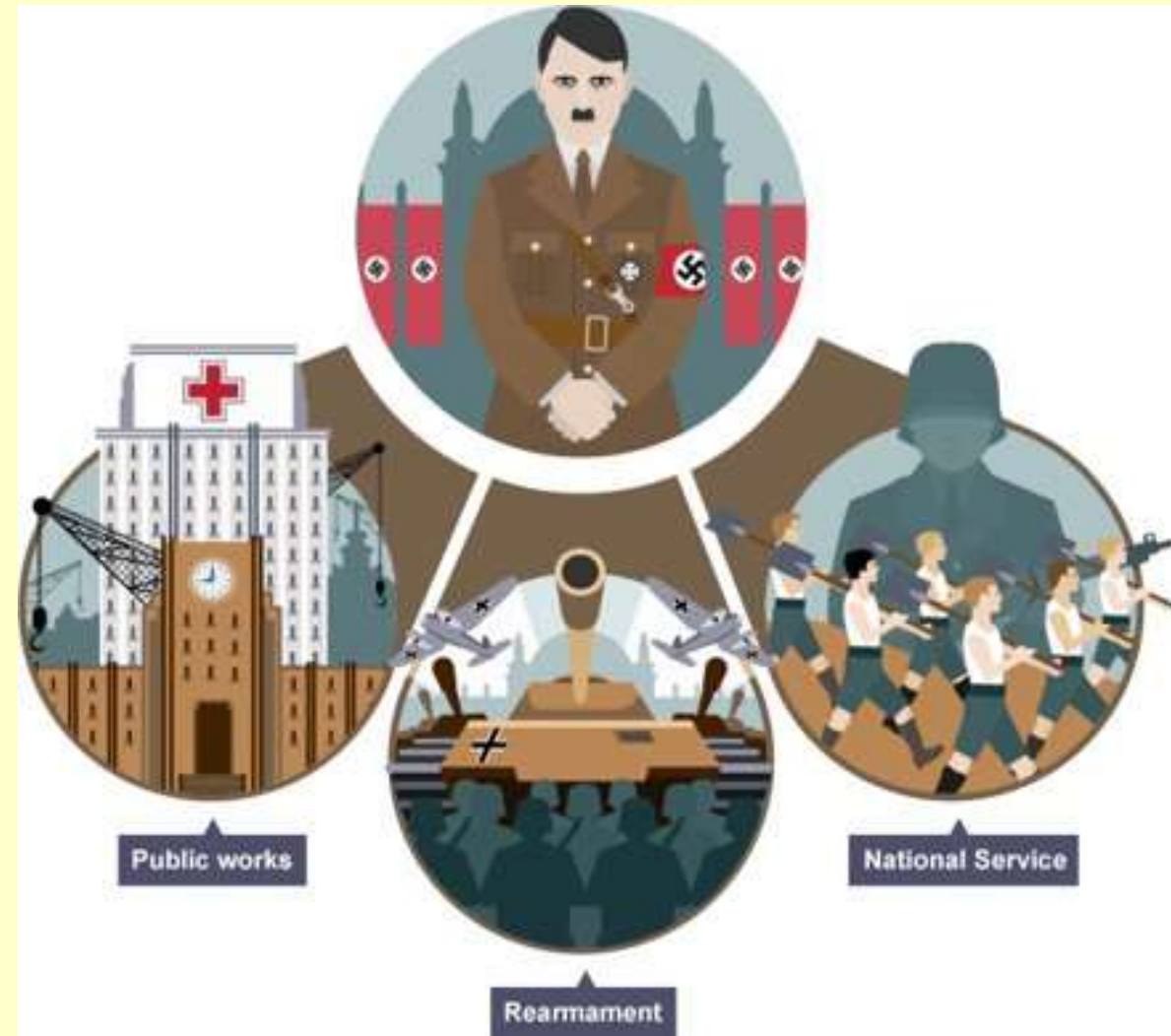
Copy and complete the table using the information on the next slide.

Scheme	Actions	Impact on the economy	Effectiveness 1-3
Public Works Scheme			
Rearmament			
Conscription (National Service)			





- He began a huge programme of public works, which included building hospitals, schools, and public buildings such as the 1936 Olympic Stadium. The construction of the **autobahns** (motorways) created work for 80,000 men.
- **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. This created millions of jobs for German workers.
- The introduction of the National Labour Service (NLS) meant all young men spent six months in the NLS and were then **conscripted** into the army.



# Unemployment crisis

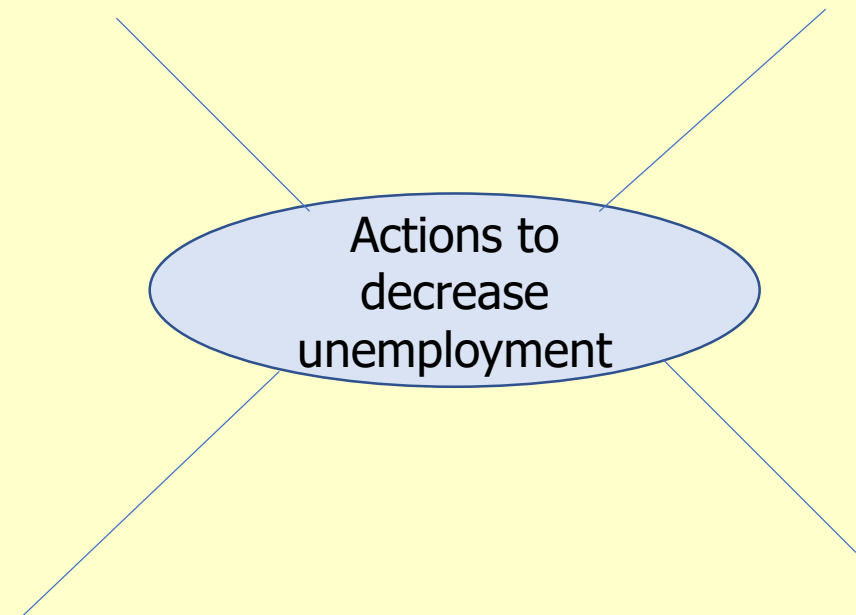
With the Great Depression in 1929, Germany was thrust into an economic crisis which resulted in widespread poverty due to the closure of businesses. The closure of businesses meant many people were forced to lay off workers leaving them unemployed. The German people had suffered terribly during both the First World War and the **Depression** and a huge part of the Nazis' appeal was that they promised to make Germany's economy strong again. Hitler aimed for full employment and by 1939 there was virtually no official unemployment in Germany. He also wanted to make Germany self-sufficient (a concept known as **autarky**), but the attempt to do so was ultimately unsuccessful. The next slides will show how the Nazis achieved 0% unemployment.



# How did Hitler decrease unemployment? Create a spider diagram using the information below.

Before 1933 the Nazis had lacked support amongst the workers, who tended to vote for the communists. The needs of German rearmament made it important that workers were productive and controlled. So the Nazis set up three organisations that would manage German workers and make the party attractive given the unemployment crisis:

- **The Labour Front.** This was a Nazi organisation that replaced Trades Unions, which were banned. It set wages and nearly always followed the wishes of employers, rather than employees.
- **Strength Through Joy.** This scheme gave workers rewards for their work - evening classes, theatre trips, picnics, and even very cheap or free holidays.
- **Beauty of Labour.** The job of this organisation was to help Germans see that work was good, and that everyone who could work should. It also encouraged factory owners to improve conditions for workers.



Using the information below.

1) Describe what invisible unemployment is in 20 words or less.

2) Then add to your spider diagram.

**Challenge: Why would the Nazis not want to include everyone in the statistics?**

Invisible employment

Although Germany claimed to have full employment by 1939, many groups of people were not included in the statistics, including:

- The 1.4 million men in the army at this time.
- Jews who were sacked and their jobs given to non-Jews.
- Women who were encouraged to give up their jobs to men.



# Plenary: What does the source show about how the Nazis tried to improve the economy?

The policy of Autarky was known to be a failure. In 1937, Hermann Göring was made Economics Minister with the job of making Germany self-sufficient in four years. However, 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 per cent of its food and 33 per cent of its raw materials. The key debate of the time was 'Guns or Butter?' with Nazi Germany choosing to invest in military goods over civilian goods, preparing Germany for war.

