

Chart. 67 | The Social Realities of the German “People’s community”

The National Socialists tried to form a “People’s community” according to their ideas. For a realistic evaluation of the social development it is necessary to distinguish exactly between the symbolic and the real level; concretely: for example, between propaganda and social reality. Generally, the question on the relation between daily life practice and the “beautiful façade” (Peter Reichel) arises. In this context various perspectives and questions open up, some of which will be posed here.

The diminishment or elimination of unemployment was a central point of the National Socialist programme. Did the “Miracle of the Labour Battle” work or was unemployment eliminated primarily through workplaces in the armament industry? How did the work conditions develop? Did the claimed “right to work” lead to forms of forced labour? The operational conditions have a special impact in this context. The restructuring of the world of labour – employers became “Betriebsführer”, employees became the “following” – according to the National Socialist view served the aim to “overcome the class struggle”. Did propaganda phrases such as “royalty of work” or “dignity of the worker” reflect in real day to day life? Equally central questions are those that aim at concrete working conditions such as the development of wages, intensity of labour working hours or possibilities of work stoppage and strikes after the dismantling of the trade unions.

The supply with goods and the living situation shaped individual realities in a very specific way. How did catering and consumption develop in the Third Reich? How did the “People’s comrade” live, what did quantity and quality of living space mean?

One must not forget that the German “People’s Community” defined itself essentially by the exclusion of certain groups: In which way were racially, socially, politically or stigmatised citizen excluded, persecuted and killed?



1. Terror against those who think differently. The internment of Social Democrats into the concentration camp Sachsenhausen, August 1933.

(f.l.t.r.) Ernst Heilmann, Friedrich Ebert jun., Alfred Braun, Heinrich Giesecke, Hans Flesch, Kurt Magnus

German Historical Museum

Chart. 68 | Unemployment and Provision of Work

The abolishment of unemployment is considered today as a positive achievement of National Socialism. During the elections in the 1920's and early 30's, the NSDAP profited from the stated goal that they will abolish unemployment. The successful realisation of this was of crucial importance for the stabilisation of the regime during the following years. Of great advantage was the current economic situation: the phase of economic growth and improvement after the Great Depression had already begun. The Regime would carry on with the already existing provision of work, up until 1933. During the same year the regime would use an investment in billions in order to ensure state intervention.

The Development Plan from 1933 served the maintenance of Administrations and Residential Buildings. Furthermore, investment for the expansion of infrastructure, housing development and agriculture also increased. Special programs for the State Railway, Postal Office and the Autobahn supported these efforts. Superficially, these projects were meant to serve the civilian population, however, in reality they supported the armament. An influence on the labour market were tax relief for businesses, and the payment of marital loans that were meant to keep women away from the job market. These programs would be financed via increasing National debt. Tricks would also be used in order to manipulate the statistics regarding the level of unemployment: irregular employment, agriculture assistants, participants for "Work Duty Camps" or communal public relief work would not be categorized as unemployed. The break up of Unions alleviated the States taxing of the Labour Market. Wage and working conditions would be dictated by the "Trustees of Work".

By the end of January 1933, 6 million people were officially registered as unemployed. Out of this group, only one sixth of those registered would receive unemployment insurance. The number of unemployed people in 1933 would lie by 4,8 million and this number would sink to under 1 million.

There was already by 1935 a shortcoming of skilled workers and, as of 1937 a deficiency of workers in general. The costs of the provision of work programs would run between 1933 to 1939 to the height of 6 billion Reich Mark. The armament expenditure would, in comparison, rise to 60 billion Reich Mark. The work program was closely link with the armament of the military, which would lead to a war with catastrophic consequences.



1 . Unemployed workers in Leipzig, February 1933.

Picture Archive Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

2 . Propaganda for Agricultural Work

Arbeitertum, 1933

3. The struggle against unemployment was labeled as „The Battle for Work“. Reinhold Scharnke, German Labour, 1934.

Federal Archive Berlin

4 . Economic Review of the Ergonomic Institute of the DAF, January 1937.

Federal Archive Berlin

5. NSDAP Provision of Work Lottery, 24th of April 1934.

Regional Archive Berlin

6 . Cutback of Unemployment

Norbert Frei, The Führer's State, 1987

r1 Investment and Repression of women from the job market. Law for reducing Unemployment, 1st of June 1933.

Reich's Law Gazette, Part 1, 1933

z1 Threats against Workers

Report from the SPD from August/September 1934

The kind of a sad situation to we find each other in can be emphasized by a newsletter from the welfare Center from the city... (the city cannot be named, for security reasons). It states that:

“Including the monthly support of 16 Marks for rent and another 7 Marks in cash, you are given the opportunity to work for 6 days of the week, in which you can earn another 5 Marks. You will receive a daily warm meal and one coupon for a snack. The minimum needs for survival are therefore covered. If you feel that this is insufficient, then we can offer you accommodation in a workhouse”.

Germany Reports, Social Democratic Party Germany (SoPaDe) 1934-1940, 1980

z2 Armament as a Means of Fighting Mass Unemployment

Report from the SPD, from April/May 1934

The reports confirm the fact that the decrease in unemployment, which in itself is not being criticized, is not due to an increase in productive Labour, but due to the following situations:

1. Assignment of Armament Contracts
2. Expansion of short term work via pressure on the Entrepreneur. Laying workers off is forbidden and hiring new workers without necessity is encouraged.
3. Decrease in wage

4. Emergency Services which are meant to fulfill a rather suspect economic 'purpose' such as cultivating moors, digging up rural ditches, etc.
5. Expansion of the Labour duty.
6. Deployment of unemployed youths as assistant farmers and helpers.
7. Relentless filtering of Benefits Recipients

Germany Reports, The Social Democratic Party of Germany (SoPaDe) 1934- 1940, 1980.

z3 Harsh Conditions for the Emergency Workers

Report Regarding the Situation in Germany, by the group New Beginning July 1935

Cultivation Labour: About 200 men are occupied with the cultivation of the Bog Soil. They consist of unemployed Labour from Berlin and the Mark region, sent there by the Employment Bureau. The journey there was free, and the workers will receive private accommodation by farmers. This and lunch from the field kitchen means that a weekly 3.50MK will be retained. The quarters consist of a shed in a barn with the animals. There upon many workers complained at the Employment Office in Torgau. One official came to inspect the quarters. He said, "you people have obviously never been inside a foxhole, you should be happy to even have a roof over your head."

Bernd Stöver, Reports about the Situation in Germany, 1996

Chart. 69 | From The Right to Work to Forced Labour

In 1932, during the height of the Great Depression, Germany had about 6.1 Million unemployed. By 1944/45 about 7 Million foreigners worked in the German Reich. When compared to 1932, about 13 Million people were occupied within the field of armament and Military service. Work played for the National Socialist a central role: they promised to eradicate unemployment and introduce a right to work. The first duty of every citizen was that they physically or mentally focus on work. Failure to fulfill these duties would lead to discrimination, exclusion and one would be forced to work.

In 1934 the Economy would change: based on the increasing in armament and the general improvement of the economy, the number of unemployment would begin to decrease. By the middle of the 1930's it became apparent that there was a lack of skilled workers within certain areas of industry; the government reacted by adopting measures of state intervention and planning. With the introduction of the 'Labour Book' in February 1935 it became possible to control and detect all Labour forces. By June 1935 the Work Duty of all male youths would become legally fixed. In 1939, the occasion of the 'West Wall Baues' lead the NS Regime to enforce compulsory military service. Unemployment was officially declared nullified by 1936. Political edicts would be implemented that would increase difficulty in changing work places. The 'Victory in the Battle for Work' was principally used as a propaganda tool to justify the legitimacy of the NS Regime.

By 1941/42 the NS Regime would employ, mostly by force, foreign civilians and prisoners of war to work; this number would increase to 7.6 Million people by August 1944. After the defeat at the Battle of Stalingrad a political change was implemented: Foreign workers would be labeled as having 'common interests' in the fight against Bolshevism and gradually the working conditions, in comparison to the previous year, would improve seeing as they were desperately needed as a work force.

Principally though, the administration of foreign workers would still be based on Nationality and Race: 'Eastern Workers' and Soviet POW's would be kept and treated like slaves and would often by worked to death. As of 1942, the number of Concentration Camp Prisoners that would be used within the Industrial sector, amongst others, increased rapidly. Under the morbid motto "Arbeit Macht Frei" ('Work Will Set You Free') which also hung over the entrance to Auschwitz, the NS Regime would find its most bitter fulfillment.



- 2 . Volunteer were still recruited – A agency in Lyon
- 3 . Contemporary Propaganda poster used during the phase of „Eastern Workers“ within the German industry.
- 4 . Friedrich Didier, „Europe working in Germany“, 1943
- 5. „Total Work commitment “. Letter from Robert Ley to Hermann Göring, 5th of March 1942.

Federal Archive Berlin

- 6 . The new time book, introduced in 1935.

Federal Archive Koblenz

- 7 . Hard physical Labour for the East European female workers, assembling a motor inside a Volks Wagen Factory, 1943.

Volkswagen AG

- 8 . Propaganda pictures showing the accomodation of the East European Female Workers- the reality of the situation was different.

Friedrich Didier, Europe Working in Germany, 1943

- 9 . The anti Bolshevik European ideology was supposed to address the foreign workers. Europa-Ideologie sollte die ausländischen Arbeiter ansprechen. A rally for German and foreign workers inside a Berlin Armament Factory. A speech by Ley, 3rd of May 1943.

Federal Archive Koblenz

- 10 . Stigmatized with an „East“ badge. Eastern female workers at Siemens.

German Historical Museum

z1 Complete Compilation of the Labour Time Book

Status report of the situation in Germany regarding the group New Beginning, from January/February of 1936

From the 1st of March onwards, 16 decisive industry groups are forced to fulfill a Labour Time Book policy. One also hopes to shortly implement a mandatory Labour time book for the remaining industry groups.

Via this, the registration of potential German workers has reached a magnitude that is without parallel throughout the world.

We have in front of us a circular newsletter:

Advise for filling out the application for receiving a Labour Time Book

II/6- 5900- 50

After the usual Personal data is given, for which the work manager must guarantee their authenticity, the following data is requested:

- 1) Precise Occupational Description; i.e. plumber
- 2) Description of the form of apprenticeship; i.e. blacksmith
- 3) Precise description of further education; i.e. technical school and courses, skills, specialized education, exams, etc.

- 4) Precise description regarding work in agriculture and what functions one had to carry out.
- 5) Licenses for automobile, aircraft and explosive devices
- 6) Precise description for expertise outside the occupational area; aircraft construction, languages
- 7) Complete information of employment record, regarding the last 10 years!

Finally, two requests follow to reveal all information regarding a “precise” and “detailed” description of special knowledge within the area of work.

Already the use of examples such as license for aircraft and explosives, aircraft construction, foreign languages, etc. reveal that the purpose of this registration is to make use of the possible deployment of a whole nation within the organisation of “Total War”.

Bernd Stöver, Reports Regarding the Situation in Germany, 1996

r1 . It was forbidden to change the workplace.

Reich's Law Gazette, Part I, 1939

r2 . Introduction of the „Time Book“ as a means of control.

Reich's Law Gazette, Part I, 1935

Chart. 70 | “Honor” and “Dignity” – Ideological Upgrading of Labour and the Workers

Work was a central pillar for the “People’s Community”: one was no longer allowed to categorize work as “bad” or “unworthy”. “Honorary Duty” and “Work Ennobles” were slogans that were meant to give work a positive image. If work was meant to be upgraded by using propaganda, then the same was to be applied to the workers, whose “honor” and “dignity” needed to be protected. A German was no longer supposed to see himself as a citizen or class conscious worker. Instead Work was seen as a duty to himself and the community. The State would lay claim over the Labour of the individual – it became mandatory to work for the State. The propagated “Blood and Folk Community” based itself on the principles of compulsion to work, the militarisation of work, the destruction of Unions and the prohibition of strikes. The interest of the workers would also be atomized, individualized and would be under the consequence of sanction if they were to articulate themselves.

The “Honoring of Labour” was publicly staged on the 1st of May but would also, in a less spectacular manner, be used to bolster the public image of the DAF (German Labour Front) especially in connection with factory inspections by Ley.

The workers who were sought after by the NS Regime were meant to be given “fair loans” in order to keep them quiet. The benefits were orientated to ensure the family’s livelihood and so that the businesses and the entrepreneurs could profit from a quiet “Loan Front”.

The definition of a “fair wage” was based on the question of achievement, and would result in further differentiating of the wage via minimum wage and “achievement” wage. This in turn would lead to an increase in result orientated work pressure. “Work Honor” would mean strict obedience and submission, which would often be defined using war metaphors such as that of the “Soldier of Work”, who would diligently and duty bound throw himself into the “Labour Battle”.

To cover up this submission a “Social Honor Court” would be implemented. In every economic sector a “Social Honor Court” would be set up that served as a disciplinary instrument that would punish the employer if he were to abuse his power. The “Grievance of Honor” towards the workers was on of the most frequent ‘crimes’, however, with time the Honor Courts would loose in meaning.



1 . National Socialist „Art“ in service of Propaganda.

Joy and Work, 1937

2 . Organized „Holiday of National Labour“. Program for the 1st May 1935.

Federal Archive Berlin

3. Programmatic Motto. Contemporary Song book.

Private Property

4 . Slogan typical of the time – one of the frequently used rallies: „We remain civil!“ A camp of the Reich’s Labour Service in Osthofen.

Federal Archive Koblenz

5 . The 1st of May, a „Holiday of National Labour“.

Arbeitertum, 1933

6. Ideological Attunement. Training Room at the Schmidt Söhne, Cacao and chocolate Factory „Bodeta“ in Oschersleben, 1937/38.

Heinrich Hoffmann, Picture Archive of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

7 A statement that supposedly „claims“ there are no more „Businessmen“ and „Employees“.

Arbeitertum, 1934

z1 "A Change in the Perception of how the Workers are Assessed."

A Report from the Security Service, in connection with the Domestic Political Situation, 6th of December 1939

The current situation, has lead to a change in perception of how the workers are assessed. Ideological motivations at the workspace have now been replaced with a more materialistic approach, seeing as the individual is now seen as a „work force“ and not a „People’s Comrade“. This is evident when observing the decrease in motivation and work moral and, in some cases, even a complete refusal to work. The workers justify this stance by stating that the introduction of a mandatory job rotation has led to a decrease in work conditions that even a „separation grant“ cannot equate. Short comings in provisions, work clothing and accomodations as well as mistakes concernig job placement, are a regular occurence.

Federal Archive Berlin

z2 The Aristocracy of Labour

Adolf Hitler principally did not acknowledge anyone’s nobility due to their title. What was important for him is in which way this person could prove their nobility based on their actions and their personal views.

The New Nobility, respected for their achievements, their actions and their work was born within the Adolf Hitler movement.

What the National Socialist movement has begun, the National Socialist movement will bring to a conclusion. We shall remember the first glorious German May, in which the proud words were heralded: “In the future, there shall exist only one Aristocrat, the Aristocrat of Labour!” Labour, which millions of Germans have viewed as a bane and a curse, has been raised under the victory of National Socialism to the highest moral Duty. It has been transformed into the highest possible Honor for every German citizen.

Information Service, 1933

Chart. 71 | “Work Manager” and “Entourage” – The National Socialist “Structuring of Work”

One of the first official statements by the NS Regime focused on the socio- political goal of “Overcoming the Class Struggle”. The “classless society” was to be the basis for generating an all encompassing “People’s Community”; businesses and companies were to be meant to orientate the “Business Community” towards this goal. The opposing relationship between employer and worker would be ideologically reinterpreted and would not be accepted unquestionably.

The Labour Constitution of the Third Reich would not rest on two laws: the “Law for the Trustee of Labour” from may 1933, and the “Law for Structuring the National Labour” (SNL) of January 1934. The content of regulations was to be summarized as following:

- The autonomy of tariffs would be abolished in favor for State control via the “Trustee of Labour” who on the other hand, were commissioned to maintain the “Work Peace”.
- The cancellation of all forms of self representation for the workers and the submission to the dictation of the work manager.
- The merging of State, Business and Staff Interests, if necessary by using force and violence.

The SNL appointed the role of entrepreneur to the Business Leader, and the workers the role of entourage. Both groups were meant to cooperate with each other in matters dealing with the progress of business and production, as well as work together to help benefit the People and the State.

The Work Manager possessed a wide range of freedom as far as decision making is concerned. His duties were based on a vague form of duty regarding the “welfare” of the “work fellowship”. Of the workers it was expected that they show a sense of belonging, loyalty and sincerity. The Work Council would be replaced by an uninfluential “Trust Council”. The “DAF” (German Worker’s Front) would, however, receive poor results during the “trust votes” in 1934 and 1935. In 1936 the elections were cancelled on short notice and would afterwards never be held again. It was illegal to quit one’s job and the option to instantly dismiss a worker was used as an instrument of regulation. The refusal to do the Hitler Salute, donate to the Winter Aid Organisation or refusing to become a member of the DAF, would lead to instant dismissal.



1 . The Cog Wheel of the DAF embraced all- at least that is how the Propaganda depicted it.

German Historical Museum

2. The „Workers Union“ celebrates the „Führer’s Birthday“. Program of the „Bright Hour“ of the Messerschmidt GmbH Regensburg, 20th of April 1943.

Federal Archive Berlin

3 . The ineffective „Trust Council“ holding a meeting. Leaflets from „Social Responsibility“, 1938.

Federal Archive Berlin

4. Mobilizing of the Unions- Roll call at the “Volkswagen” factory, May 1942.

Volkswagen AG

5 . Board game for introducing the „Law for Structuring National Labour“ and the new balance of power.

Willi Beutler, Regional Media Center Hamburg

6 . The swastika and the Führer were omnipresent. Annual Celebration at the Rhein Metall- Borsig AG, at the Borsig Factory in Berlin Tegel, 5th of May 1937.

Picture Archive Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

7 . Letter from the head of the “DAF’s Organisation Administration” to Dr. Erdmann head of the “Business Administration” of the DAF, 1st of April 1936. With attachment: Program for the “Day of Worker Union“, 2nd of May 1936.

Federal Archive Berlin

z1 Community Evening as a form of Mandatory Event

Status report of the situation in Germany regarding the group New Beginning, during the beginning of December 1934

“...By *Stock, Marienfelde* [Berlin], a community evening takes place amongst the work force, every 14 days. Every worker receives 4 beer tokens, 1 sausage and 2 buns. Generalized national discussions are held, in addition to this.

These events usually take place shortly before the end of the work day. The last time, a small group of workers would skive, seeing as the room was not locked up. Due to this the rooms in future would be locked shut. Anyone who would avoid going to these events would be threatened with dismissal.

Bernd Stöver, Reports regarding the situation in Germany, 1996

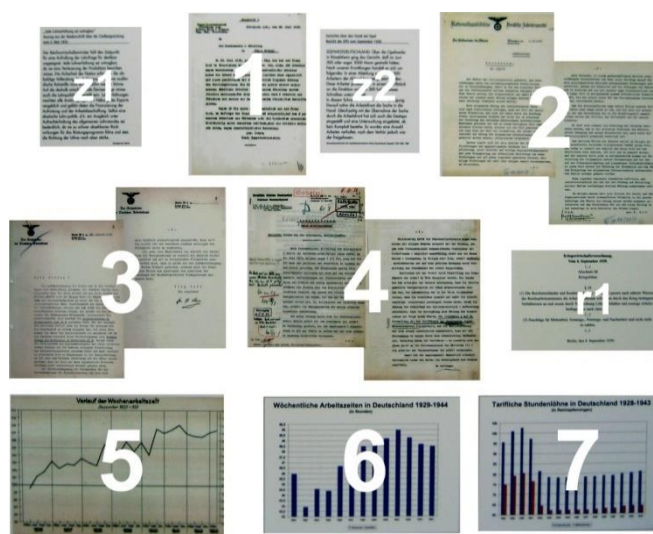
Chart. 72 | Development of Wages, Work Intensity and Strike

It was apparent right from the start that the fast and extensive militarization of the armament was the most important economic goal of the Hitler regime. The regime would keep wages within the armament production as low as possible seeing as this sector was financed by the state. In order to achieve this goal tariff commitment would be nullified and the wages would, as of May 1933, be determined by the "Trustees of Labour". The dissolution of the Unions meant that any form of worker representation would be obsolete and even the DAF had no freedom for intervention. In 1933, the regime would impose a wage freeze that was based on the global economic crisis at the time. Real Wages would stagnate till 1936 and even privileged groups such as skilled metal workers would only receive a small raise in hourly earnings. By 1937 the actual wages were considerably lower than in 1932/33 and in individual sectors, such as in the shipbuilding and metal goods industry, the wages dropped almost by 20 percent.

The average annual wage of a worker in 1935 would lie by 1.260 RM and in 1939 by 1.530 RM.

As of 1934/35 an increase in general living costs would arise, especially within the realms of food and clothing which would drive this trend. The economic boost after the Depression of 1932/33 which was particularly influenced by the increase in armament production, was registered positively by many businesses. However, the workers themselves would receive little of the profits made by this.

In 1933 the average working time would increase continually and with the beginning of the war, the work pace increased. The sick leave rose considerably at the start of the war: the increased work pace, extended work time, poor diet and the entry of war into day to day life, would all contributed to this. The tightened working conditions lead to more industrial accidents that also contributed to the sick leave: 1938 had a higher number of accidents and deaths than in 1933. Despite these working conditions, there would still be cases of strikes and refusal to work despite lack of formal representation. In 1936, 179 strikes were counted and in 1937 the number was 72. Increase in wages and improvement of working conditions were the most prominent concerns. The strikes were a cause of great concern for the responsible NS Departments and those striking would have to undergo hard sanctions.



1 . Strike by Opel. Transcript of a letter from the Police Station in Flörsheim to the Police Headquarter in Frankfurt-Höchst, 26th of June 1936.

Federal Archive Berlin

2 . No public demand for wage increase! Command from the representative of the Führer. Rudolph Heß, 1st of October 1937.

Federal Archive Berlin

3 . The increase in prices over shadowed the wages. A letter from the Reich's Leader of the DAF, Robert Ley, to Adolf Hitler, 15th of August 1935.

Federal Archive Berlin

4 . Strike at the car union. A letter from the Secret Police to the Prussian Economy Minister, 24th of July 1936. *Federal Archive Berlin*

5 . Constant increase in working hours. Graphics from the Reich's Administration of Statistics, 1944. *Federal Archive Berlin*

6 . Radical increase in working hours, even before the beginning of the war.

Rüdiger Hachtmann, Industry Labour during the „Third Reich“, 1989

7. Stagnating hourly wages.

Dietmar Petzina / Werner Abelshäuser / Anselm Faus, Social History Labour Book, 1978

z1 "Every increase in Wage is not manageable".

Excerpt from the Manager meeting, 2nd of May 1935

The Reich's Economy Minister believes that an increase in wage is improper at the moment. Every wage increase is unmanageable, seeing as this will lead to an increase in product prices.

The security of the Nation demands the finalization of the armament seeing as this cannot be accomplished without foreign resources. The decisive question regarding foreign currency will also discontinue the wage policy. Wage increases made all effort to increase exports in vain and endangered the financing of the armament and employment. Even an elastic wage policy, meaning an equilibrium with regards to the maintenance of the general wage situation, is questionable. This is due to hard to predict consequences regarding the armament program which would in turn force wages to increase.

Federal Archive Berlin

z2 Rumors about a Strike at Opel

Report from the SPD, September 1936

SOUTHWEST GERMANY: There is a rumor that 300, if not even 3000, workers at the Opel plant in Rüsselheim have gone on strike during June. According to our investigation, the situation is as follows: the number of task work accumulated by 300 workers in one of the departments, has been lowered. The workers protested this by sending a letter with up to 300 signatures. In this letter, the workers threatened with quitting their jobs.

Upon hearing this the Labour Front decided to take matters into its own hands. At the same time, the Gestapo has begun an investigation to determine whether a conspiracy was hatched. A number of workers were arrested, however, after being interrogated, they were released.

Germany Reports, The Social Democratic Party Germany (SoPaDe) 1934-1940, 1980

Federal Archive Berlin

Chart. 73 | Consumption and Sustenance

Experiences from the First World War had a crucial impact on the National Socialists. One of the primary goals of the War and Economics Policy, was to ensure that the basic requirements for food and nourishments could be met without having to rely on Imports. The level of self sufficiency during the pre- war era would increase significantly within certain areas of production. Despite all efforts though, there still was a shortage of plant and animal oil and grease. Consumption was meant to accommodate itself towards the production requirements. The consumption of eggs, meat and grease would be restricted in favor for potatoes, bread, fish and vegetables. Due to the social phenomenon of continuous emigration to the cities, a lack of provisions was already a problem by the mid 1930's. Internal migration in 1934 meant that the harvest could not be fully brought in, leading to the so called "Bread Crisis" of 1935. The rationing of basic foods could only be avoided via increased imports. By 1937, the purchase of butter and grease would be customer registered which lead to the system of rationing. This already began to occur before the start of the war. Regulations regarding the rationing of consumer products began to be systematically implemented. Initially it was only meat, grease, butter, cheese, milk, marmalade and sugar that would be available with a "Food Card". Later bread and eggs would be added to the list. However, with the increase in military victories, occupied countries would be forced to supply nourishment. A brutal and ruthless occupation and exploitation policy ensured that the German Reich would be sufficiently supplied for long periods of time. It was only by the spring of 1942, that the situation become so critical that by April it became necessary for the first a rationing of bread, meat and grease since the beginning of the war. In June of the same year, potatoes would also be affected, leading to a change in moral and a negative stance of the population towards the war. The system of rationing and purchasing tickets would begin to include all forms of consumer goods as the war continued, excluding Christmas decoration and dog food. Rationing would principally not be consistently carried out and discontent was to be expected. The prices for goods would increase and the quality of products would decrease during the course of the war. The dietary habits of the Germans would also become more modest: the consumption of meat in 1938, would lie considerably lower than that of 1929.



1. Directed Consumption guidance- Advertisement for Potatoes, around 1936.

German Historical Museum

2. . Rationing of Basic Food Stuff.

Federal Archive Koblenz

3 . Safeguarding food supply by breeding small animals? Appeal by the DAF, Business Information, 1940.

Federal Archive Berlin

4 . Even Potatoes would become scarce. A letter from the Central Office of the Reich's Propaganda Ministry to the Reich's Propaganda Administration, 26th of June 1943.

Federal Archive Berlin

5 . Lines of waiting people eventually became a day to day sight. Chocolate store in the Königstrasse 55, Berlin Mitte, 29th of February 1940.

Regional Archive Berlin

6. Satire; claiming that there was only a lack of exotic fruits. Poster from the regional NSDAP press Munich, Upper Bavaria 1940.

Federal Archive Koblenz

r1 . Introduction of Ration Coupons.

Reich's Law Gazette, Part 1, 1939

z1 Rationing: Not all displayed products are available.

Diary entry from Victor Klemperer, 10th of September 1939 and the 12th of October 1939.

Yesterday flour was added to the list of provisions. Seeing as the fish market has less and less to offer and the variety of meat, especially brand names, has declined, one *must* begin to ask how much longer bread will be available for free.

Today Bread brands. Chocolate has been confiscated.

In the Weber Alley ('Grub' Alley), instead of seeing pictures of products, we see posters of the Führer with the flag and the color 'victory green'.

In a sweet shop, all products were displayed, however, a sign was shown stating; "We cannot guarantee, that all goods shown will be available". In Reka I asked for 5 hand brushes (7 pfennigs each). I received the stern reply; "I will give you 3". Shaving cream which can only be purchased by tokens, were not available anywhere. They are meant to arrive soon. Afterwards, each piece is meant to last for three months. In the fish market the same answer: "You need to come around 10 or 3. After that everything will be gone." In sweet shops people are being pushy and receive sweets for 7 to 12 pfennig. Chocolate has been confiscated.

Victor Klemperer, I wish to bear witness to the last..., 1995

z2 Storming the vegetable stands

Reports from the Reich Security Services, 16th of May 1941

The gathering of people in front of the vegetable stands and the stands at the market have increased considerably in size and lines of 120 to 150 people are part of the daily routine. In general, housewives will begin waiting for 1 to 2 hours before opening time – at times with folding stairs- whereas fights would already break out about who has what place in line. The women would literally throw themselves at the stands in order to grab vegetables, whereby a proper accounting for the cost is not possible. Fights are also something that break out

frequently and require the intervention of the police. (Weimar, likewise Neustadt a.d.W, Saarbrücken, Danzig and Stuttgart).

Heinz Boberach (Hg.), Reports from the Reich, 1984

z3 Health damage due to lack of Food

Newsletter from the Reich Minister of Interior Affairs to the Federal State Authority, 7th of May 1940

In some parts of the Reich District, concerns regarding the latest lack in diet requirements have increased. Especially the ignorance of the majority of the population towards how food can be prepared, stored and conserved is worrying. This can lead to problems in maintaining housekeeping, though this is due less to a lack of food available than the manner in which it is preserved.

Federal Archive Berlin

Chart. 74 | Housing Accommodation

Despite declaring to tackle the problem of housing shortage during their election campaigns, residential constructions did not belong to the central policy of the National Socialists. During 1933, 900,000 residences were lacking. According to the Labour Institutes of the German Labour Front, the number of housing deficiency in 138/39 was 3,400,000. It was never possible for the NS State to be able to reach the top record that the Weimar Republic held of building 315,700 accommodations in a year. Whereas the Weimar Republic would finance 80 percent of the accommodation partially through the public sector, by 1936 only 8 percent would be. Privately sponsored homes would be expensive and for people of low income near to impossible to purchase. The priority of armament lead to bureaucratic limitations for the building of accommodation: in 1938 building material would be subject to quota and building plans would require approval, an "authorization by the building industry". Seeing that the industrial goals of the armament industry had priority, promises of improvement in accommodation and other social issues would be relegated to shallow "future promises" and "statements of intent". The accommodation that the National Socialist would realize focused on small housing settlements. The building settlements would follow the myth of "blood and soil" and would correspond with the hostility the regime had towards bigger cities. The so called settlements would be distributed based on the criteria of party loyalty, race purity, inheritance health and reproductive potential. These criterias were meant to create a feeling of "returning to the soil", of self sufficiency through little back gardens in order to guarantee a stable nourishment situation even in times of war. With the beginning of the Four Year Plan in 1936, the settlement plans became increasingly more important for the armament production: many settlements would be built directly next to industrial complexes. The number of apartment building would also go up by 1937. They were called "Folk Homes" and were a maximum of 34 square meters large. The National Socialist accommodation plan could, however, not meet the demands and needs of the people. Although propaganda would depict the ideal of a healthy and children rich family, the reality of the situation was different: the working camps would become for migrant workers, forced labourers and hired workers the social/living norm.



1 . Advertisement Poster for the building of the KdF settlements.

Federal Archive Koblenz

2. Labour Camp on Rügen

German Historical Museum

3 . Building settlement of the DAF Housing Ministry 1935/36. The majority of the settlements reflect the Blood and Soil ideology. The homestead ministry only covered a fraction of the housing need.

Federal Archive Berlin

4 . Adolf Hitler and Albert Speer planning the reconstruction of Berlin.

Friedrich Heiss, „By Us in Germany“, 1938

5 . Memo regarding the building of settlements.

Federal Archive Berlin

6. Guidelines for the settlement building.

Federal Archive Berlin

7. Community settlement Mascherode.

Arbeitertum, 1939

8 . A city for the Armament Industry, Herbert Rimpl, Building Settlement for the Hermann Göring Works, Salzgitter.

Albert Speer (Hg.), New German Building Art, 1941

9.. Building Settlement Bochum

Jürgen Rostock / Franz Zadnicek, Paradiesruinen, 1992

10 . Wolfgang Binder, Apartment buildings in Berlin- Charlottenburg within the planning framework of the General Inspector of the Reich's Capitol.

Albert Speer (Hg.), Neue Deutsche Baukunst, 1941

z1 „Wild Pursuit“ for Apartments

State Police Bielefeld, Status Report, 3rd of October 1935

The housing shortage, which was mentioned in a previous report, has not changed during the reporting month. It is mentioned that, in the city of Bielefeld alone there is a shortage of 800 accommodations. Sought after are accommodations of a small or medium size within the price range of 30 to 40 Reichsmark. Various agencies were not able to fulfill this activity, seeing as small accommodations are nearly impossible to find. Recently a hauler stated that he often experiences situations, where married couples asked to be given a small apartment, seeing as they were homeless.

If free accommodation is mentioned in the daily newspapers, then a wild hunt for these apartments begins. There is already a long wait at shops prior to the daily news arriving, seeing that people want to apply immediately. Unfortunately, this housing shortage is something that is mercilessly exploited by some of our comrades and it is not uncommon for rent to increase from 20 to 30 Reichsmark within the time frame of one month.

Federal Archive Berlin

z2 The Housing Shortage is taken into Consideration

Quarterly Annual Report 1939 of the Reich's Security Agency

Within the sector of housing and accommodation, the number of critics regarding the housing shortage has increased. It is frequently indicated that for the remodeling of the cities, the construction of Hitler Youth Homes, statues and KdF Baths, etc. there always seems to be material available whereas for private accommodation and housing for farmers, nothing happens and no progress is made. The continuation of construction on the 'Fortress West', draws a significant number of work force away from the housing construction. Furthermore, the workers make use of almost all the material allowed within the quarterly annual plan, making it almost impossible to get the necessary resources for housing construction.

The settlers have pulled back their wishes until the 1.4.1939, with great sympathy. Due to the shortly revealed indefinite extension of the Construction Credit Ban beyond the 1st of March 1939, a strong sense of disappointment has set in.

The building industry also feels strongly affected by this scheme, so long as it is not working on an important building project. It is most likely that the DAF's plan to provide for housing, will not be realizable.

After a confidential discussion with the housing agents of the DAF, they were required to cease any further propaganda activities, seeing as the material requirements for future housing and accommodation has not even been yet.

Federal Archive Berlin

Chart. 75 | Sport and “National Health“

The members and protagonists of the NSDAP cultivated right from the start a sport friendly image.

The party focused attention towards sport and “National Health” as early on as 1920: “The State is responsible for the elevation of the national health...by improving the potential fitness via a stipulation for Gymnastic and Sports duty.” This duty referred only to those of ‘Aryan’ stock and who were healthy, members of the “People’s Community”. Even Hitler would address the protruding significance of sport in the upbringing of the Third Reich. He wrote in “Mein Kampf” that, “not a single day must pass, in which a young person does not dedicate at least one hour in the morning and evening, to physical training”. Sport would fulfill different functions within the NS: Sport was a tool for “Free Time Politics”, followed the goal of advancing issues of the health and physique of the Aryan Race and was considered a form of “defense”. Accordingly, all Gym and Sport Organisations were to be converted into Education Centers used for establishing a flawless system of physical education. An ideal basis for this program would be to include an understanding for ones body: the idea of “Cultivating The Perfect Body” began to have an intense influence in the field of sport and became a concern for “the survival of the German Folk”. Hans von Tschammer und Osten was appointed “Reich Sport Leader” in July 1933. Within this role, the entire sport and Gymnastics entity in Germany was subordinate to him. The dissolution of the “Workers Sports Movement” was contrived after the burning of the Reich Tag in February 1933. In July 1934, the German Association for Physical Exercise was established as the umbrella association. This occurred parallel to the dissolution of all leading sport associations and clubs.

The formation and structure was molded by the NSDAP and it would create its own sport teams: The SA assigned their own badges and organised so called “Martial Arts” competitions. Sports in connection with work and labour would be organised by the KdF: Functionaries of the Hitler Youth undertook responsibility for all areas of youth work within the association.

The Olympic Games of 1936 were meant to show the world viewers a civilized and peace loving Germany, nevertheless, the German athletes were given the assignment to demonstrate the “superiority” of the Aryan race.



1. Leading Officials „chatting up“ the new regime. A letter from the Board of German Reich Panel Members to Reich’s Chancellor Adolf Hitler, regarding physical exercise, 25th of March 1933.

Federal Archive Berlin

2. Mass exercise during the NS Competitive Games at the Nuremberg Zeppelin Fields, 8th of September 1938

German Historical Museum

3. Boxing receives a new level of popularity- Bebert versus Fischer in Fly Weight, at the district challenge between Nordmark against Württemberg, 26th of July 1938.

German Historical Museum

4. More Sport badges show „The Success of National Socialist Education“

Hans von Tschammer und Osten, „Sport and Gymnastics within the National Socialist State“, 1937.

5. Gymnastics was seen as the ultimate physical activity for women- BDM Sport Festival, 1938

German Historical Museum, photo: Gerhard Groenefeld

6. Working for a sport organisation is seen as an „important duty to the party“. A letter from Reich’s Sport Leader, Hans von Tschammer und Osten, to the Reich’s Organisational Leader, Robert Ley, 23rd of January 1937.

Federal Archive Berlin

7. Opening ceremony of the 11th Olympic Games in the Berlin Olympia Stadium, 1st of August 1936.

Picture Archive Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

8. A typical NS Sports Magazine, 30th of July 1939

Library of the Humboldt University in Berlin

9. The NS Ideal: vigorous young men. The 1st Brandenburg Sports and Gymnastics Festival in the Olympic Stadium Berlin, 1937.

German Historical Museum

Z1 Centralisation of Sport- Hitler’s Decree from the 21st of December 1938

NS Reich Association for Physical Exercise

On the 21st of December 1938, the Führer and the Reich’s Chancellery has decreed the following

Article I.

The National Socialist Reich Association for Physical Exercise, behoves the physical education of the German folk in so far that this isn’t carried out by the State, the party and its various os and members.

Article II.

The NSRL is an organisation of the NSDAP. The Reich Sport Leader is in charge of this.

Article III.

German communities that are educated towards administrating the physical exercises and competitions belong to the NSRL.

Article IV.

The implementation of the international sport commerce is strictly under supervision of the NSRL.

Article V.

The following decree does not include military exercise, motorsport, aviation sport and horse riding.

Article VI.

The Reich's Sport Leader allows with this the decree, the following article.

Berlin, 21st of December 1938

The Führer and the Reich Chancellor

Adolf Hitler

The Representative of the Führer

Rudolf Heß

Reich Minister of the Interior

Frick

Organisation Book of the NSDAP 1940, 1940

z2 Boxing as a Reference Point

From the Note book of Victor Klemperer

"The most frequent, memorable and rawest pictures are taken from the sport of Boxing. All pondering and questioning as to how and what the relationship is between the boxing language in connection to what happened in Stalingrad, is all in vain. One is speechless considering the cold and inhumane lack of any feelings that has revealed itself. After the catastrophe of Stalingrad, which consumed so many human lives, Goebbels is incapable of finding a better expression for what happened than the following sentence; "We are going to wipe the blood out of our eyes, so that we can see clearly again, and then we will go into the next round, standing firmly on our feet". And a couple of days later: "A folk that has so far been boxing only with its left hand and is preparing to bandage its right hand in order to mercilessly use for the next round has no incentive to be complaisant."

Victor Klemperer, LTI Lingua Tertii Imperii, 1946

z3 Sport for Improving Combat Strength

Our Belief in Victory: NS Sport, 1943

During war time, physical exercise is to serve only one purpose and that is to improve and increase the determination for victory within the nation. The stronger the demand for war, the more dedicated must be our will to enforce a decisive decision for Germany.

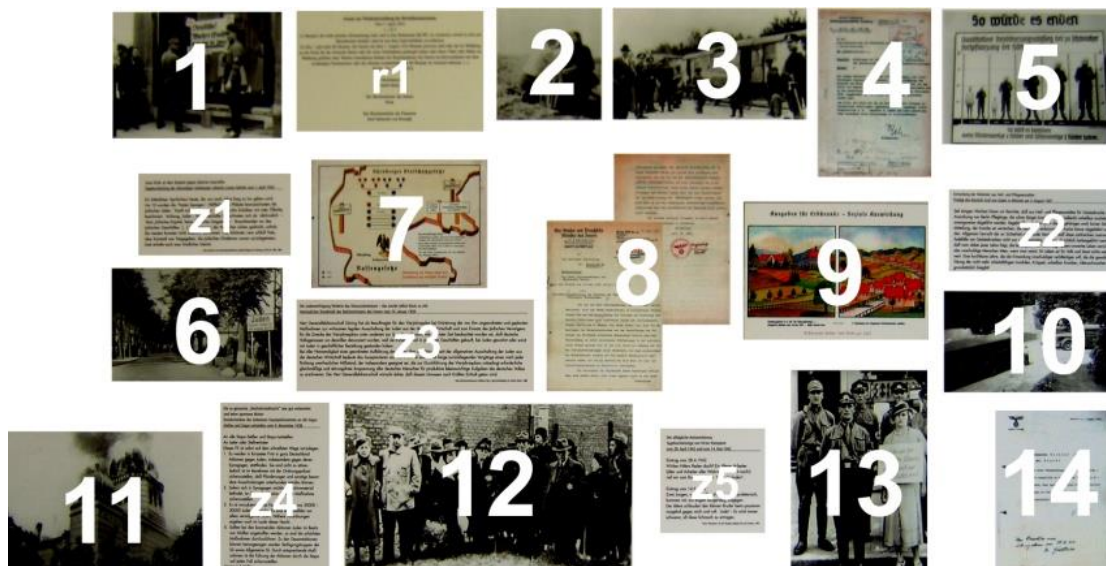
Hajo Bernett, Guido von Mengden, 1976

Chart. 76 | Outsiders: Racial Persecution and “Worthless Life”

The ideological construction of a high class “Aryan Race” and the concept of “low class races” was directly converted into politics and practice. The “People’s Community” defined itself racially by stigmatizing those who were considered “non Aryan”. Jews, Roma and Sinti were ostracized, persecuted and murdered. The sick and handicapped, so called “unworthy life”, suffered the same fate. This also included what the National Socialist viewed as undesirables such as homosexuals, prostitutes and the homeless.

The NSDAP called for a nationwide boycott against Jewish freelancers and Jewish shops in April of 1933. During the same month Jews would lose their employment within the Social Sector, due to the “Law for Reestablishing the Civil Service”. Jews would be driven away from the social and cultural life. Many Institutions would begin including a “Aryan Paragraph”; Jewish Businesses would be forcefully “Aryanised”. The Nürnberg Laws from 1935 would establish a new form of systematic persecution. The 9th of November 1938 marked the turning point from discrimination towards open violence: SA men and other participants burned down Synagogues and abused and murdered Jews, destroying their property. Thousands would be sent to concentration camps. The deportation of German Jews to Eastern Ghettos and Concentration Camps began in October 1941; for the majority of the Jews this meant certain death.

Based on the “Law for the Prevention of Hereditary Disease”, the sterilization of the “genetically ill” was carried out. “Genetic Disorders” would include; inherited madness, blindness and physical retardation. The NS regime began to use “Child Euthanasia” in the beginning of 1939. In the Fall of that year, the practice would eventually extend “Genetically Damaged Adults” in Mental Asylums. Due to public concerns that arose in 1941, the “Euthanasia Program” would officially come to a halt, however, secretly it would still be carried out. In 1935 Roma and Sinti would be gathered and herded into Ghettos and Forced Labour Camps. As of January 1943, they would be sent to the KZ Auschwitz and murdered.



1. Publicly ostracized: the boycott of Jewish stores. Appeals to boycott Jewish stores were supported, Berlin 1st of April, 1933.

Federal Archive Koblenz

2. Racial analysis prior to extermination. Eva Justin, employee at the Racial Hygiene department performing racial measurements on Sinti and Romas in the Pfalz, 1938.

Picture Archive Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

3. The Deportation of the Sinti and Roma from Simmering near Vienna, Autumn 1938.

Picture Archive, Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

4. Letter from the Police Headquarter Hamburg to the Social Administration of the Hanseatic City Hamburg, 12th of July 1943

State Archive Hamburg

5. Propaganda for „Contraception Against Diseased Offspring“. Race Political Propaganda chart at the exhibition „Wonder of Life“, at the Kaiserdamm in Berlin, March 1935.

Picture Archive Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

6. Anti- Semitic Poster in Braunschweig, Spring 1935.

Picture Archive Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

7. „Keeping Blood Pure“: External Separation and Internal Persecution. Charts and graphics explaining the “Nuremberg Blood Law“.

German Historical Museum

8. „Origination of rather unpopular discussions in the foreign press“. A letter from the Reich and Prussian Minister of the Interior, during the German Community Day, 27th of June 1936

Federal Archive Berlin

9. Propaganda for „Euthanasia“ via mobilizing social envy.

Center for Anti- Semitic Research Berlin

10. Transported to the Extermination Institute. Busses from a non- profit ambulance service GmbH, which picked up the patients and brought them to the extermination institute in Hadamar.

Hessen Main State Archive Wiesbaden

11. From discrimination to open violence. A burning synagogue in Eberswalde, November 1938.

Abraham Pisarek, Picture Archive of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

12. Deportation to a concentration camp. Gathering together Jewish citizens in Brandenburg/Havel, 12th of April 1942.

Abraham Pisarek, Picture Archive of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

13. Contact with Jews was seen as a „racial shame“. In 1935, a woman from Hamburg was put into a pillory by men from the SA and the SA Marine.

Federal Archive Koblenz

14. Commission for Euthanasia. Letter from Adolf Hitler to Philipp Bouhler and Karl Brandt, 1st of September 1939.

Federal Archive Berlin

z1 Silent Critique against the Boycott of Jewish Shops.

Diary entrance of the former Hamburg teacher, Louise Solnitz, 1st of April 1933

“A bitter April Fools trick was played on us today and we will feel the consequences of this for years to come. Around 10 o'clock today, the posts were manned. Red placards were posted at Jewish shops. Some windows were smeared with red oil paint: „Warning, Jews“. Many stores describe themselves as “old Christian”- “No Jewish Capital, no Jewish Employees”. Brownshirts in front of Jewish shops...(…)… The atmosphere of the people is depressed, unhappy: most did not agree internally with what was happening.

The ‘Cherry on top of the Cake’: they closed down Tietz, but Karstadt was allowed to remain open due to the Jewish directors stepping back. May God Save Your Childlike Soul.

Uwe Lohalm, The National Socialist Persecution of Jews in Hamburg between 1933 to 1945, 1999

z2 Murder of Patients from the Mental Hospital

Preach by the Earl Bishop von Galen on the 3rd of August 1941 in Münster

In the last couple of weeks, we have been hearing that the mentally sick who are considered incurable, are being led away and taken out of the asylums. The family members then receive notice that the patient has passed away, the body has been cremated and the ashes can be sent. At the moment there is a suspicion that numerous deaths are not caused mental illness, but are actually purposefully carried out. This leads to the conclusion that life which is considered unworthy within the eyes of the State and the Folk, is allowed to be liquidated. This is a terrible doctrine, which justifies the murder of innocent people such as Invalids, cripples, the incurable sick and the elderly.

Were the Murdered Guilty?, 1945

z3 The persecution of Jews demanded their ‘Denunciation’- this was too much even for the Nazis.

Confidential circular decree of the Reich’s Minister of the Interior from the 10th of January, 1939 (pg. 442):

General Field Marshall Göring was, as a representative of the Four Year Plan for the legal and systematic suppression of the Jews, pointed out the fact that lately, Germans who were known to have bought, lived and worked with Jews, are forced to denunciate.

Despite the importance of educating the people of the necessity of suppressing the Jews from of the economy, the espionage and denunciation of such far reaching relations only lead to unfortunate grievances. This only impedes the ability of the German Folk, to be able to withstand the pressures and goals of the Four Year Plan. The General Field Marshall wishes that changes are implemented regarding this predicament.

Hans Mommsen/Susanne Willems (Hg.), Daily Routine of Domination, 1988

z4 Persecution of the Jews in Europe 1933- 1945, Frankfurt a.M 1982 (initially Hamburg 1960), Pg. 21

Berlin Nr. 234404 9.11.2355

To all Stapo stations and headquarters

To all Leaders and Representatives

1. Soon, throughout Germany, actions against Jews will be carried out, especially against their synagogues. They are not to be destroyed. Nevertheless, plundering and riots are to be interrupted by the police.
2. If valuable Archive information is contained in the Synagogues, then they are to be confiscated.
3. The arrest of up to 20,000 to 30,000 Jews within the Reich needs to be prepared. In general, wealthy Jews are to be targeted. More assignments will be enacted throughout the night.
4. If during the following actions any Jews are in the possession of weapons, then one is to react with extreme prejudice. Throughout the actions, the assistance of auxiliary and general SS Troops can be called. Via the necessary means, the measures can definitely be carried out by the Stapo.

Gerhard Schoenberner, Der Gelbe Stern, 1960

z5 Daily Anti- Semitism

Diary of Viktor Klemperer from the 28th of April 1942 to the 14th of May 1942

Diary Entrance from the 28th of April 1942,

“Do Hitler’s Speeches still have impact? One of the older Workers (*older* and *worker* being the best definition) screamed at me from his bicycle: “You Jew whore!”

Diary Entrance from the 14th of May 1942,

“Two young boys, one six the other twelve, are walking towards me on the sidewalk. The elder of the two, pushed the little one against me screaming; “Jew!” It is becoming more and more difficult to be able to bear this ridicule.

Victor Klemperer, “I Wish to Bear Witness till the End”, 1995

r1. Only Aryan officials were still allowed.

Reich’s Law Gazette, Part 1, 1933.

Chart. 77 | Outsiders and the Politically Persecuted

Various world views such as Humanism, Liberalism, Pacifism, Marxism and Democracy, did not fit into Hitler's ideology of National Socialism. Christianity was also consequently criticized.

The leaders or followers of unions, political parties (such as Communism), intellectuals and critical artists would be excluded from the "Volksgemeinschaft". Christians and Jehovah's Witnesses were also shunned. All these groups would be persecuted and or exterminated during the reign of the Third Reich.

Within the first week of February 1933, a wave of terror against the KDP was initiated. Housing, offices and shops would be attacked. After the burning of the Reichstag on February 27th 1933, about 10,000 communist functionaries would be arrested and deported to "wild" Concentration Camps. Until the middle of 1934, 100,000 politically active people would be interrogated, tortured and arrested.

On May 2nd 1933, units of the NSDAP would storm the Union headquarters. Prior to this, there were attacks on buildings and union individuals. The SPD was beginning to dissolve around this time. A number of party members would flee overseas during March. The party executive would relocate to Prague. In June 1933, the SPD would be officially banned and labelled as a enemy of the "Volk and State". Many KDP and SPD members would form a resistance for which many would lose their lives.

The public burning of books on the 10th of May 1933 would embody one of the high marks of persecuting opposing intellectuals and artists. Many free thinking artists would either be deported or leave due to lack of alternatives, perspectives and life threatening situation in Germany. The same fate befell many professors who would be deported from their universities and forced to emigrate.

Both churches in Germany would initially embrace Hitler's seizing of power. However, the evangelical church soon had to defend itself against the infiltration of the NS movement "German Christians". The "Minister Alliance" was soon after founded, which would later become the Opposition Church.

The Catholic Church initially believed that the "Reich's Concordat" which was signed between the Vatican and the German Reich on the 20th July 1933 would protect them from repression, however, this was carried out regardless. A number of individuals would join the resistance and many of them would be murdered.



1. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Evangelical and Theological Resistance Fighter

Bonhoeffer (second from right), with members of a confessing church in Fäno, Denmark, August 1934.

Rotraud Forberg, Picture Archive of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation.

2. Anti- Church Propaganda: The Devil is coaxing a catholic priest with anti- national socialist ideas. Caricature by Fips (Philipp Rupprecht), taken out of the "Stürmer", May 1938.

Picture Archive Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

3. One of the early Concentration Camps (Konzentrationslager), morning appeal in the KZ Oranienburg, 1933.

German Historical Museum

4. The political opposition would be terrorized by SA thugs. Abuse of SA opponents, March 1933.

Picture Archive Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

5. Concentration Camp detention for a Nobel Peace Prize winner. The pacifist and publisher Carl von Ossietzky in CC Esterwegen.

Federal Archive Koblenz

6. Arrest because of a forbidden song. A letter from the State Police in Braunschweig to the Secret State Police, paragraph II A 4, 7th of September 1938.

Federal Archive Berlin

7. Razzia in a working class part of town. "Punitive Expedition" of the SS in the working class quarter Bilk in Düsseldorf, 1933.

Picture Archive Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

8. Communists inside a torture chamber of the SA. Detention of communists by the SA in Berlin, 6th of March 1933, Day of the Reichstag Elections.

Federal Archive Koblenz

9. Political intimidation 1933: „Only a donkey will be sent to a concentration camp“. Donkey behind a barbwire fence at the Kassel Opera Square, 1933.

Carl Eberth, Picture Archive of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

Chart. 78 | Women in the “People’s Community”

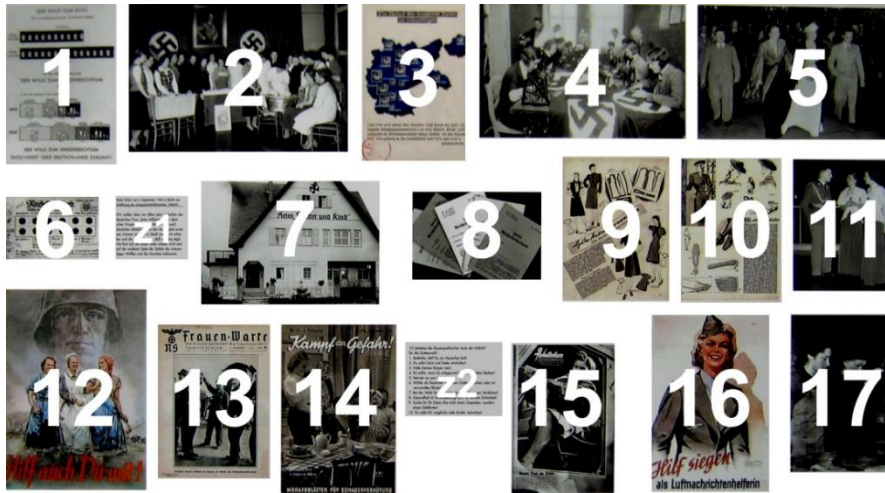
National Socialist Germany was a male dominated society. All leading positions within the state and party were occupied by men. Hitler would already present his view towards gender in his book “Mein Kampf” and go into great detail regarding each of their individual roles. According to Hitler, the people’s state believes that, “the human ideal... is defined in its embodiment of male power and the woman’s role is giving birth to men.” The upbringing of young boys should be militarily orientated from as young an age as possible. Girls were meant to be prepared for the future role as mothers. The idealisation of “Aryan” motherhood, which was also seen as a duty towards the “People’s Community”, was openly celebrated in 1934 in the form of a NS Holiday that annually celebrate Mother’s Day. As of 1938, the “Honour Cross of German Mothers” would be awarded. After the NS takeover, the regime would implement various measures within the context of racial policy. The law for “Contraception Against Hereditary Diseases” which allowed the forced sterilization of “racial minorities” was enforced in July 1933. Drastic restrictions against “healthy Aryan women” who wish to have an abortion would be implemented.

The concept of marriage was encouraged. Marriages would be financially supported via a “Marriage Loan”. This occurred in the form of a Marriage Coupon that would range up to 1000RM. Per child the marriage loan would be reduced by 25%. After four children the loan would be annulled. The “Marriage Loan” was an instrument of the economy. It was expected that a woman would forsake her job in order to focus on her family. However, already by 1937 the law would be altered so that women would still receive their loans, despite having to work. This was due to the lack of labour, especially within the weapon industry. In 1939 the tax law would be changed so that married couples who did not have children within a five-year period, would be degraded to a lower tax class. The NS ideal of the woman who was capable of bearing children would become obsolete with the beginning of the war and by 1939, could no longer be sustained. She would have to neglect family duties because of much needed support within the weapon and armament industry. By 1939 women would be forced to work and eventually it became mandatory.

Any sense of individuality amongst women was hardly present. The “Ideal Picture” of the German woman who did not wear makeup, did not smoke and always wore her traditional dress was not compatible with the reality of the times. The fashion style and presentation would orientate itself towards the international standard.

The war lead to a lack of material. Old clothe would be refashioned; proposals for modification would be propagated in the women’s magazine, “Women’s Watch”. Leftovers would be reworked and even shoes would eventually have to be made at home.

Principally it must be noted that the “social equalisation” of private and public life, as was propagated by the regime, did not find foothold within fashion. The “simple woman and her household” would be drastically different when compared the presentation of a “Social Lady”.



1. Propaganda Poster. „Increase“ of the birth rate in the first six years of the „Third Reich“, 1939.

Federal Archive Berlin

2. Preparation course for Mother to be, organised by the Reich Maternal Services, 1935.

German Historical Museum

3. Campaign against the infant mortality in Germany.

Ernst Hilgenfeldt, Accomplishments of the National Socialist Welfare, 1937.

4. Women’s group working for the Propaganda of the Regime.

Educational Film Hire Service Landesbildstelle Berlin

5. Goebbels with his wife Magda and the actress Birgitte Horney during a reception for “Representatives of Handicraft” at the Charlottenburg Palace in Berlin, 31st of May 1938.

German Historical Museum

6. Reich’s Children’s Ticket, 1939.

Federal Archive Koblenz

7. Recovery Home of the NSV Aid Organisation “Mother and Child”, 1944.

Federal Archive Koblenz

8. The Reich’s clothes card which was introduced in 1939. It was a reference ticket for the purchasing of textiles and would last for one year. Jews did not receive clothes cards.

Federal Archive Koblenz

9. Suggestions for how to fix clothe.

The Woman’s Watch, 1940

10. A manual for the production of summer shoes.

The Woman’s Watch, 1943

11. The New Festival Dress for the Labour service Leader, 12th of February 1938.

German Historical Museum

12. Propaganda poster; a request towards women to replace men at work who are fighting at the front, 1944.

German Historical Museum Berlin

13. During the last years of the war women were not only used in the armament industry but also within military assignments, 1944.

Federal Archive Berlin

14. Title page for the newspaper „Fight the Danger“. A tranquil family life.

Federal Archive Berlin

15. As the war progressed, more women would be forced to carry out the heavy labour of the men who were fighting at the front.

Arbeitertum, 1943

16. Propaganda poster which the regime wanted to use in order to recruit women for the Air Force.

Federal Archive Koblenz

17. Young girls from the Youth Support Group of the NS Women's League, would replaced the female workers during their holidays. Picture documents taken from, „War Deployment of our Women and Mothers“, 1941.

Federal Archive Berlin

z1 A Speech by Hitler held on the 4th of September 1940 in Berlin, during the opening of the Winter Relief 1940/41

We now wish to honor the German woman, the millions of a German women and girls, who must now replace their men and work in the cities and country side. They must ensure that on one hand, bread and butter is available to feed us and on the other hand, that the soldier has weapons and ammunition.

“The Great German Struggle for Freedom”, Speech by Adolf Hitler, von Philipp Bouhler, 1943

z2 10 Principles for the Racial Politics of the NSDAP regarding the choice of spouse:

1. Remember, that you are German!
2. You must keep Body and Soul pure!
3. Keep your body healthy!
4. If you are healthy, then you should not remain outside of wedlock!
5. Only marry out of Love!
6. As a German, you should only choose a spouse with similar or the same blood!
7. When choosing your spouse, ask about his ancestors!
8. Health is a requirement for external beauty!
9. For your marriage, you must search not for a playmate, but a companion!
10. You should wish for many children!

Hans Peter Bleuel, Das saubere Reich (The Clean Reich), 1972