

Who helped recover the German economy?

- Dr Hjalmar Schacht (the New Plan 1933-37). He wanted to reduce u/e and make Germany self-sufficient if they were blockaded again (called autarky). He reduced u/e, increased production and the German trade surplus but resigned in 1937.
- Hermann Goering (the four year plan 1936-40) - He wanted to rally the economy behind rearment and preparing for war and to make Germany self-sufficient in war materials. It reduced u/e but it lead to food shortages and rationing continued.

The Winners from the economic recovery

- u/e reduced from 6 million in 1933 to 1.8m in 1937 and 300,000 in 1939.
- The Reich Labour Service provided young men with manual jobs, a uniform and drill. By 1935 all men aged 18-25 to serve in the corps for 6 months.
- The Nazis spent billions subsidizing private firms to build autobahns. More than 3,000 km of road was built by 1938 employing 125,000 people.
- The introduction of conscription in 1935 took thousands of young men into military service. By 1939 1.4m were in the army as opposed to 100,000 in 1933.
- The Coal and Chemical industries doubled in size and the iron, oil and steel industries trebled. 3.5 billion marks was put into building tanks aircraft and ships.
- The German Labour front created Kraft Durch Freude (KDF) or 'Strength Through Joy' organisation to give workers cultural trips and holidays to concerts, theatres, sporting events and cruises. All trips were low cost and by 1938 10 million had taken KDF holidays. KDF also tried to improve working conditions by building canteens and swimming pools, better lighting, cleanliness and noise insulation.
- In 1938 the Labour Front organised the Volkswagen (People's car) scheme, where workers could pay in 5 marks a week to a scheme to save up for a car.

Average wages went up 86 marks in 1932 to 109 by 1938. And big business saw huge rises in profits and managers saw their wages increase by 70% .

- People were healthier, as 'Eintopf' meals of meat and vegetables in one pot were advertised as the 'meal of sacrifice for the nation.' to create the volksgemeinschaft.

The losers from the economic recovery

- u/e figures ignored invisible u/e like Jews forced out of their jobs, unmarried men under 25 on the Reich Labour scheme, those in concentration camps or women who left their jobs to get married looking for jobs – all of whom remained technically unemployed.
- Those on Reich Service earned very low pay and worked in very harsh conditions.
- Very few KDF holidaymakers could really afford the better trips like cruises to Madeira and workers were forced to make KDF improvements at work for no extra pay.
- The Volkswagen scheme was a scam. By 1939 nobody had a car.
- The cost of living also went up with inflation. All basic groceries, except fish increased in price,. Therefore in terms of real wages people were less well off.
- However, rationing of butter continued and there were food shortages in the late 30s. German workers lost their right to strike. All Trade Unions were banned and workers had to join the German Labour Front or lose their jobs. The average working week also increased from 42 hours in 1933 to 47 hours in 1939.

What was Nazi racial Theory?

- There were only two primary races the 'master race' and the subhumans.
- Hitler wanted to create a volksgemeinschaft, a people's community, made up solely of the Herrenvolk – or master race. The ideal Aryan would be tall, lean and athletic, blonde-haired and blue-eyed. Hitler wanted to cleanse the Herrenvolk through selective breeding and destroying the Jews and all other 'non-German' minorities.
- Selective breeding meant preventing anyone who did not conform to the Aryan type from breeding where possible. Mixed marriages were forbidden and the Lebensborn programme was set up to pair pure SS men with Aryan women.
- Jews and slavs were considered to be the untermenschen, part of a conspiracy to end civilisation by contaminating societies. The slavs were to be enslaved in lebensraum.
- Hitler argued that the Jews killed Jesus, the blood libel and long held anti-Semitism prevalent in Europe for centuries. Hitler's vendetta, arguably, started on the streets of Vienna. He argued Dolchstoss, they caused the Stock Market Crash and the TofV and sought the removal / death of all 500,000 in Germany.

Winners and Losers 1933-39

Persecution

- He started with slow indoctrination at schools, Jewish teachers were fired and banned from giving private tuition in 1936. In Nov. 1938 Jewish children were expelled.
- April 1933 Hitler told Germans to boycott Jewish shops and businesses. It failed.
- On 15th September 1935, the Nazis passed two new Nazi laws, the Reich Citizenship Law and the Law to Protect German Blood and Honour (the Nuremberg Laws).
- Jews lost their right to vote, hold government office or marry or have sexual relations with German citizens. Those married were told to divorce but few did.
- After the Anschluss with Austria in March 1938 there was a violent burst of anti-Semitism in Germany and many Polish Jews were deported. One of them, Herschel Grynszpan, walked into the German Embassy in Paris and shot the first official he met.
- Goebbels jumped on this and organised anti-Jewish protests which included attacking Jewish properties, shops, businesses and synagogues – it was called Kristallnacht. 100 Jews were killed and 20,000 sent to Concentration Camps. 7,500 Jewish businesses were destroyed along with 191 synagogues. The Jews were blamed and fined one 1bn RM for the damage, banned from going to schools and banned from owning businesses.
- In January 1939 the Reich Office for Jewish Immigration was established under Reinhard Heydrich. Starting forced emigration. They surrendered precious jewellery and on 30th April 1939 they were evicted from their homes and forced into ghettos. In Sept. Jews were forced to hand in their radios and 250,000 fled.
- Unhealthy, beggars, tramps, gypsies, the disabled and the mentally disabled were called 'asocials' homosexuals, alcoholics and Juvenile delinquents were called 'undesirables'. The Sterilisation Law in 1933 sought to sterilise people with 'simple-mindedness,' and the above people. Between 1934 and 1945 350,000 were sterilised. In 1939 6,000 disabled kids were euthanised. In 1938 Gypsies, beggars and vagrants were sent to camps.
- Homosexuals were attacked and black people were subject to the Nuremberg laws.
- In 1935 the Nazis banned marriages between Germans and 30,000 Gypsies. In 1938 they issued the 'struggle against the gypsy plague' leading to their move to the camps.