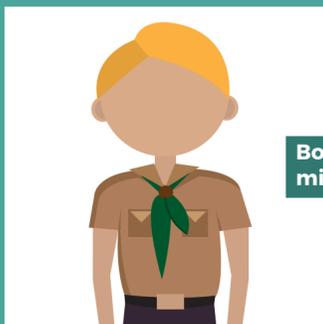


LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY 1933 – 39

Nazi aims and policies towards the young

Hitler spoke of his Third Reich lasting for a thousand years and to achieve this he would have to ensure German children were thoroughly indoctrinated into Nazi ideology, through controlling education and youth movements.



Boys wore military-style uniforms



Girls wore a uniform of blue skirt and white blouse



Physical education was focused on military training, sport, hiking & camping, as well as political indoctrination.



THE HITLER YOUTH

THE LEAGUE OF GERMAN MAIDENS

Girls undertook physical exercise, but activities mainly centered on developing domestic skills. They were taught how to make beds, sewing and cooking.



The aim was to prepare German boys for the military



The aim was to prepare German girls for future motherhood

NAZI CONTROL OF THE YOUNG THROUGH EDUCATION

The curriculum changed to put across Nazi ideology. Text books were re-written to fit the Nazi view of history and racial purity. All teachers had to join the Nazi Teachers' Association, which vetted them for political and racial suitability.

- History - this was re-written to glorify Germany's past and the rise of the Nazi party.
- Biology - lessons were used to teach Nazi racial theories of evolution in eugenics.
- Race studies - this became a new subject, teaching in particular the superiority of the Aryan race and anti-Semitism.
- Physical Education - German schoolchildren had five one-hour sports lessons every week, to ensure girls were fit to be mothers and boys prepared for military service.
- Geography - children were taught about lands which were once part of Germany and the need for more living space for Germans.
- Chemistry and Mathematics - these were downgraded in importance.

The aim was to brainwash children so that they would grow up accepting Nazi ideas without question.

NAZI CONTROL OF THE YOUNG THROUGH LEISURE TIME

From the age of 10 boys and girls were encouraged to join the Nazis' youth organisations;

- German Young People for boys aged 10-13
- Young Girls League for girls aged 10-14
- The Hitler Youth for boys aged 14-18
- The League of German Maidens for girls aged 14-18

Membership from age 10 was made compulsory in 1936, although many did not join, but by 1939 90 per cent of German boys aged 14 and over were members.

After the end of WWII, the Hitler Youth was disbanded. Today, the group is considered one of the most chilling facets of the Nazi regime – proof that a totalitarian state can use children to feed its armies and further its hateful ideologies.