



NO - INEFFECTIVE



The Police state did not stop all opposition and may have even encouraged more! Many were angry at the loss of freedoms and human rights.

Swing types were one such group while Edelweiss pirates also rebelled against Nazi rule. Opposition was to be found across Germany

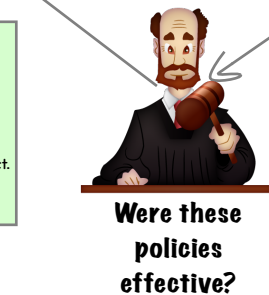
YES - EFFECTIVE



However, the police state was in many ways very successful. Any opposition there was was divided and often driven into hiding by the SS.

Germany followed Hitler until the very end in Berlin showing the depth of authority.

Many Germans privately grumbled about the Nazis but this had little impact. If they were caught grumbling they could in fact be executed.



PEOPLES COURTS were set up. These were Nazi courts and could convict for POLITICAL CRIMES such as writing or saying anti Nazi views. They handed down some awful punishments such as hanging by piano wire.

CONCENTRATION CAMPS were set up across Germany. These were brutal camps but not death camps until the Second World War

Conditions were very cruel with regular beatings and torture as well as poor clothing, food and access to water.

Prisoners were promised that work would set them free.. This was often a lie.

The first concentration camp was at DACHAU

The women's camp was at MORINGEN and RAVENSBRUCK.

Hitler quickly moved to stamp his authority on Germany in 1933 when he became Chancellor. He wanted to control Germany using PROPAGANDA AND TERROR

Hitler immediately began to construct 'a POLICE STATE' this is simply a country that is highly controlled by things like harsh laws, secret police and courts set up to prevent opposition.

Background



THE NAZI POLICE STATE

DECREE FOR PROTECTION OF PEOPLE AND STATE 1933



SS were led by one of Hitler's most loyal supporters the brutal Heinrich HIMMLER

The SS began as Hitler's personal bodyguard and soon became the ELITE within the Nazi party and Hitler's private army.

Membership was restricted to those with 'pure German ancestry' This had to be proved by family trees stretching back 3 generations They were aryan and were not allowed to even have a filling in their teeth! They were highly brutal and often were completely indoctrinated in Nazi ideology.



The DEATHS HEAD UNIT were the SS Unit chosen to run the concentration camps. They were regarded as being so indoctrinated and brutal that they could carry out the harsh treatment to prisoners.



GESTAPO

The Gestapo were a branch of the SS and were the SECRET POLICE

This was set up in Germany in early 1933

It was the most feared and hated organisation in Germany as it had the power to do what it liked.

It arrested without trial holding people indefinitely in 'protective custody'

It interrogated victims and used torture. Often it would force them to sign D11 forms admitting their guilt. Some people just disappeared

Their headquarters was at PRINZ ALBRECHT STRASSE in Berlin and was a feared address.

They tapped telephones of people

They read letters

They used a network of informers .. people would even be encouraged to spy on their friends. Even young children were encouraged to inform on their teachers and parents!

GAULEITERS or BLOCKLEITERS were local Nazi officials who kept watch on local activities. Shop keepers even watched for anyone buying extra food as this could mean they were hiding a Jew.

People had to always carry IDENTITY PAPERS.

TAKING PHOTOS could be dangerous as it seemed like spying on some areas.

Even telling anti Nazi jokes could carry the death sentence in the war.



HEYDRICH
The Gestapo was led by Reinhard HEYDRICH

This was introduced following the REICHSTAG FIRE but was one of the Nazis first steps of control.

Political opponents such as the Communists were rounded up and sent to concentration camps for 'reeducation'

They were kept in PROTECTIVE CUSTODY meaning their right to trial was removed

The first concentration camp was set up near MUNICH at DACHAU

It allowed Hitler to suspend civil liberties. (Some human rights)