



The content of this Mind map could feature as all or part of all the different types of GCSE questions.

The Nazis had a very clear idea about the role of women in their 'Third Reich'

The role of women was regarded as very important BUT it was certainly a subservient (lesser) role than men.

Women had enjoyed a lot more freedoms in Germany throughout the 1920's. Contraception allowed them to plan families and they were getting much more involved in university life and especially in employment. This provided women with income and a degree of freedom.

The Nazis fundamentally DISAGREED with this role.

THEY WANTED WOMEN TO FOLLOW THE 3 K's

THE 3 K's

KINDER
(Children)

The birth rate had been declining in Germany for years. Hitler wanted a GREATER GERMANY- filled with aryan children. He encouraged women to have many more children

He also encouraged them to leave employment! He fired those in government posts as early as 1933. They also weren't counted in official unemployment figures

Women were reduced to only 10% of university places - capped by the government

KIRCHE
(Church)

The Nazis had little interest in Christianity and in reality they secretly wanted to replace it. However, they aimed to appeal to the conservative nature of the German people. They also agreed with some of the churches values such as anti abortion as it fitted their own views.

KUCHE
(Kitchen)

The Nazis wanted women to have a very traditional role at home. They were to support their aryan husband and keep a good home. They were to be good at cooking and expert on preventing waste.- eg ready for war.

WHY?

The Nazis wanted a growing population. They believed that a larger population was the key to any great power.

They wanted future soldiers
Future mothers
Future aryans
Future Nazis

NO - INEFFECTIVE

The Nazis contradicted their own policies!
They had conscription which got rid of many eligible men for over two years and war didn't help.

The sterilisation programme really helped to reduce the birth rate.
German population growth did rise but then plateaued and declined.

Many women didn't like the restrictions on their lives.
Few women were in any position in the Nazis.
LEBENSBOERN created a social crisis for some children without fathers.

Marriage loans reduced until they were phased out in 1938

Status of women reduced in Germany.

YES - EFFECTIVE

Strangely, support for the Nazis from women actually increased once Hitler was in power.

Many welcomed the increased support from loans, welfare organisations etc

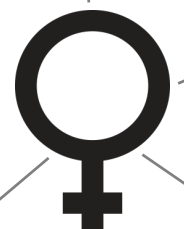
The church liked the stance on abortion and contraception

Motherhood crosses were popular for the respect shown.



Were these policies effective?

Background



How were the lives of WOMEN changed in Nazi Germany 1933-39?

Encouragement of Children

NAZI METHODS TO INCREASE BIRTH RATE



1) EMPLOYMENT
Women were fired from government jobs and university places were capped at only 10%. Women weren't included on unemployment figures any more.
Employers were told to discriminate against women!

2) CONTRACEPTION
Contraception and abortion were banned

3) MARRIAGE LOANS
On getting married women were provided with a 1000 mark loan (half a years wage!)
For every child they had they only had to pay back a quarter less. So after 4 children you have no repayment to make. Many couples took advantage of this loan
Family tax credits were also given to families.
Maternity benefits increased.



4) MOTHERHOOD CROSSES
Hitler had motherhood crosses for those with children.
For 4 children a bronze cross
For 6 children a silver cross
For 8 s children a gold cross

Hitler presented the Gold cross personally on his mothers birthday which he made Mother's Day.

These crosses were respected and allowed women to move up the queues or even be saluted in the street by Hitler Youth.



5) STATE HELP
Women's organisations were set up to help make life easier
The Nazi Welfare Association gave help to new mothers.. they provided a chance to get a break and recover.. just in time to get pregnant again!



6) LEBENSBOERN
These large homes (there were 10 in total) were made available to the SS and potential mothers. The goal being to produce aryan, pure Germans.
Over 10,000 were born this way... with many unable to trace their fathers.

6) RENT CONTROL
Rent control and employment were also factors in increasing population
The control of rents meant the stress of having to meet increasing prices was over.
Employment was much stronger and wages were rising in 1930's

7) DIVORCE
Divorce was actually encouraged among childless couples.

ORGANISATIONS

YOUTH GROUPS
Females were given a different role to fulfill
They were taught the 3 K's kitchen, church and children
They were taught first aid
They were taught how to use scraps from meals to prevent waste (aimed at war)
They were taught childcare and the importance of having children.

NATIONAL WOMENS ORGANISATIONS
The full range of organisations was moved into one

APPEARANCE
Nazi beliefs discouraged the following:
- There was a Ten Commandments for a wife!
= They couldn't wear trousers
They couldn't use contraception.
They were encouraged to not use make up or perm hair but to look like a German peasant with braids in hair, no make up and traditional or plain clothing.
- They were discouraged from smoking.



STERILISATION
The Nazis set about sterilising some women through their genetic courts. They looked for 'defects' such as depression or disabilities and they forcibly sterilised up to 300,000 women