

ATOMIC ENERGY EDUCATION SOCIETY.

SUBJECT- HISTORY /CLASS IX

CHAPTER- 3 NAZISM AND THE RISE OF HITLER

(HANDOUT of MODULE 2/2)

NAZISM AND THE RISE OF HITLER

CONCEPTS:

THE NAZI WORLD VIEW

According to Nazi ideology there was no equality between people, but only racial hierarchy. The Nazis quickly began to implement their dream of creating an exclusive racial community of pure Germans by physically eliminating all those who were considered undesirable. They wanted a society of pure and healthy Nordic Aryans. Jews, Gypsies, blacks, Russian, Poles, even certain Germans and abnormal were considered undesirable.

The other aspect of Hitler's ideology related to the geopolitical concept of Lebensraum, or living space.

Jews were the worst sufferers in Nazi Germany. Hitler believed in pseudo scientific theories of race which said that conversion was no solution to the Jewish problem. It had to be solved through their total elimination.

From **1933–1938** — the Nazis terrorized, pauperised and segregated the Jews, compelling them to leave the country.

The next phase, **1939–1945**, aimed at concentrating them in certain areas and then killing them in gas chambers in Poland.

The Racial Utopia

Genocide and war became two sides of the same coin. Occupied Poland was divided. Poles were forced to leave their homes and properties behind to be occupied by ethnic Germans brought in from occupied Europe.

YOUTH IN NAZI GERMANY

Hitler felt that a strong Nazi society could be established by teaching Nazi ideology to children. All schools were given German teachers. Children were divided into two groups — desirable and undesirable. Textbooks were

rewritten, functions of sports in schools was to nurture the spirit of violence and aggression. Ten-year-olds had to enter Jungvolk. At 14, all boys joined 'Hitler Youth', they joined the Labour Service at 18.

The Nazi Cult of Motherhood — Women were told to be good mothers and rear pure blooded Aryan children. They were encouraged to produce many children. They had to be the bearers of the Aryan culture and race.

The Art of Propaganda — The Nazi regime used language and media with care and often to great effect. They used films, pictures, radio, posters, etc. to spread hatred for Jews. Nazism worked on the minds of the people, tapped their emotions, and turned their hatred and anger at those marked as 'undesirable'.

Crimes against Humanity — People saw the world through Nazi eyes and spoke the Nazi language. At times even the Jews began to believe in the Nazi stereotypes about them.

Knowledge about the Holocaust —It was only after the war ended that people came to know about what had happened. The Jews wanted the world to know about the atrocities and sufferings they had endured during the Nazi killing operations. They just wanted to live, even if it was for a few hours, to tell the world about the Holocaust.