

1. What are the peculiar features of Nazi thinking?

- Ans.
- (i) Nazi ideology believed there was no equality between people but only a racial hierarchy. In this hierarchy the German Aryans were at the top and the Jews at the lowest rung.
 - (ii) These racist beliefs were borrowed from thinkers like Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer. These thinkers expounded the concept of evolution and natural selection and also the idea of survival of the fittest.
 - (iii) Their ideas were taken by the Nazis to justify imperial rule over the conquered people.
 - (iv) They also believed in the geo-political concept of *Lebensraum* or living space. They believed that new territories should be acquired for Germans to settle which could make Germany a powerful nation to reckon with.

2. Explain four ways in which Nazi state seek to establish total control over its people.

- Ans.
- (i) The Nazis sought to establish a strong Nazi society by controlling the German child both inside and outside the school. All schools were 'cleansed' and 'purified'. This meant that teachers who were Jews or seen as 'politically unreliable' were dismissed.
 - (ii) Children were first segregated and subsequently the 'undesirable children' - Jews, Gypsies and the physically handicapped were thrown out of schools.
 - (iii) The German children were subjected to a prolonged period of ideological training. School textbooks were rewritten. Children were taught to be loyal and submissive, hate Jews and worship Hitler. Even sports was to nurture a spirit of violence and aggression among children.
 - (iv) Youth organizations were made responsible for educating the German youth. At 14, all boys had to join the Nazi Youth Organisation - 'Hitler Youth'. After rigorous ideological and physical training, they joined the Labour service at the age of 18.
 - (v) In 1926 the organisation 'Hitler Youth' came into being. All other organisations were dissolved and finally banned.
 - (vi) Hitler dismantled democracy and established total control over the people, media, army and education system.

3. Explain why Nazi propaganda was effective in creating a hatred for Jews.

Ans. Propaganda is a specific type of message directly aimed at influencing the opinion of people through the use of posters, films, speeches etc. 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 the Jews.

- (i) Once in power, the Nazis quickly began to implement their dream of creating an exclusive racial community of pure Germans by physically eliminating all those who were seen as “undesirable”.
- (ii) Jews remained the worst sufferers in Nazi Germany. They were stereotyped as ‘killers of Christ and usurers’. Until medieval times, Jews were barred from owning land.
- (iii) They survived mainly through trade and moneylending/ They lived in separately marked areas called ‘ghettos’. They were often persecuted through periodic organised violence and expulsion from land.
- (iv) All this had a precursor in the traditional Christian hostility towards Jews for being the killers of Christ. However, Hitler’s hatred of the Jews was based on pseudo-scientific theories of race, which held that conversion was no solution to ‘the Jewish problem’. It could be solved only through their total elimination.

4. Describe the problems faced by the Weimar Republic.

- Ans.**
- (i) The republic was not received well by its own people largely because of the terms it was forced to accept after Germany’s defeat at the end of the First World War. Many Germans held the new Weimar Republic responsible for not only the defeat in the war but the disgrace at Versailles.
 - (ii) The birth of the Weimar Republic coincided with the uprising of the Spartacus League on the pattern of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. The Democrats, Socialists and Catholics opposed it. Just led to political radicalism in Germany.
 - (iii) This republic was finally crippled by being forced to pay compensation. Soon after the economic crisis hit Germany in 1923, the value of German mark fell considerably. The Weimar Republic had to face hyperinflation. Then came the Wall Street exchange crash in 1929.
 - (iv) There were defects in Weimar Constitution. Article 48 of the constitution allowed the president to impose emergency. Proportional representation did not allowed one party to come to power.

5. Discuss why Nazism became popular in Germany by 1930.

- Ans.**
- (i) The Weimar Republic was not welcomed by the German people as they signed the humiliating treaty of Versailles. This treaty of humiliating for every German and Hitler capitalized on the sentiments of the people.
 - (ii) After the demand of Soviet type government by spartacistly the socialiest party split and after that they could never unite against the Nazi.
 - (iii) Hitler was a great orator. His words used to arouse peoples. He started new style of politics in which he organized huge rallies. He understood the significance of rituals and spectacle in mass mobilisation. He was projected as messiah who can rescue Germany.
 - (iv) The great economic depression of 1929 affected the German economy the worst. Hitler capitalized on the economic misery of the people and Nazi propaganda generated hopes of a better future. In 1928, the Nazi Party got no more than 2.6% votes. By 1932 , it had become the largest party with 37% vote.

6. Explain what role women played in Nazi society.

- Ans.**
- (i) Women in Nazi Germany were meant to be good mothers and pure-blooded Aryan children. A girl's duty was to maintain the purity of the race, maintain distance from Jews and teach their children Nazi values. They were to be the bearers of the Aryan culture and race.
 - (ii) All women were not treated equally. Women who bore racially undesirable children were punished while those who produced racially desirable children were awarded.
 - (iii) Such women were given favoured treatment in hospitals and were also entitled to concessions in shops and on theatre tickets and railway fares.
 - (iv) To encourage women to produce many children. Honour crosses were awarded. A bronze cross was given for four children, silver for six and gold for eight or more.
 - (v) All 'Aryan' women who deviated from the prescribed code of conduct were publicly condemned and severely punished.
 - (vi) Those who maintained contact with Jews, Poles and Russians were paraded through the town with shaved heads and blackened faces. Many received jail sentences and lost civic honour as well as their husbands and families.