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NCERT History for Class 9th Chapter 3 Notes:

Nazism and the Rise of Hitler

Birth of the Weimar Republic

1. Germany in the First World War:

- Germany was a powerful empire in the early 20th century.
- It fought the First World War (1914 – 1918) alongside the Austrian Empire.
- Germany fought against the Allies – England, France, and Russia.
- All nations joined the war enthusiastically, expecting a quick victory.
- The war unexpectedly dragged on, draining Europe's resources.
- Germany initially made gains by occupying France and Belgium.
- The Allies were strengthened by the entry of the USA in 1917.
- In November 1918, the Allies defeated Germany and the Central Powers.

2. Formation of the Weimar Republic:

- The defeat of Imperial Germany led to the abdication of the emperor.
- Parliamentary parties got a chance to restructure the German polity.
- A National Assembly met at Weimar and established a democratic constitution.
- The constitution had a federal structure.
- Deputies were elected to the Reichstag (German Parliament).

- Elections were based on equal and universal adult suffrage, including women.

3. Treaty of Versailles & Its Impact:

- The Weimar Republic was unpopular among Germans.
- The main reason was the harsh terms of the Treaty of Versailles.
- Germany lost:
 - a.** All its overseas colonies.
 - b.** 10% of its population.
 - c.** 13% of its territories.
 - d.** 75% of its iron resources.
 - e.** 26% of its coal resources.
- The lost territories went to France, Poland, Denmark, and Lithuania.
- The Allies demilitarised Germany to weaken its power.
- War Guilt Clause held Germany responsible for the war.
- Germany had to pay £6 billion in compensation.
- The Allied armies occupied the resource-rich Rhineland in the 1920s.
- Many Germans blamed the Weimar Republic for:
 - a.** Defeat in the war.
 - b.** National humiliation at Versailles.

The Effects of the War

1. Post-War Economic Impact:

- After World War I, Europe changed from a continent of creditors to one of debtors.
- The Weimar Republic had to bear the burden of war guilt and national humiliation.
- Germany was financially crippled by the obligation to pay heavy compensation.

2. Political Consequences for Weimar Republic:

- The republic was blamed for the defeat and harsh peace terms.
- Supporters – Socialists, Catholics, and Democrats – became targets of conservative nationalists.
- They were mockingly called 'November criminals'.
- This hostility shaped political developments in the early 1930s.

3. Social & Cultural Impact of the First World War:

- War left a deep psychological imprint on society and politics.
- Soldiers were placed above civilians in status.
- Leaders and publicists promoted the image of aggressive, strong, masculine men.

4. Trench Warfare – Reality vs. Propaganda:

- Media glorified trench life, portraying it as heroic.
- In reality, soldiers faced miserable conditions – rats feeding on corpses, poisonous gas, and constant enemy shelling.
- Heavy casualties led to rapid decline in soldier numbers.

5. Rise of Authoritarian Politics:

- Aggressive war propaganda and national honour dominated the public sphere.
- Support grew for conservative dictatorships emerging in Europe.
- Democracy was young and fragile, unable to withstand interwar instability.

Political Radicalism and Economic Crises

1. Birth of the Weimar Republic & Spartacist Uprising:

- The Weimar Republic was formed during the Spartacist League's revolutionary uprising (inspired by the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia).
- Soviets of workers and sailors were formed in many German cities.
- Berlin's political climate was charged with demands for Soviet-style governance.

2. Opposition to the Spartacists:

- Socialists, Democrats, and Catholics opposed Soviet-style rule.
- They met in Weimar to frame a democratic republic.
- The Weimar government crushed the Spartacist uprising with help from Free Corps (war veterans' organisation).

3. Formation of the Communist Party of Germany:

- After defeat, the Spartacists formed the Communist Party of Germany.
- Communists and Socialists became irreconcilable enemies.
- Their division prevented a united front against Hitler later.

4. Political Radicalisation:

- Both revolutionaries and militant nationalists sought radical solutions.

5. Economic Crisis of 1923:

- Cause: Germany fought WWI on loans and had to pay reparations in gold, depleting reserves.
- In 1923, Germany refused payment – France occupied Ruhr, Germany's leading industrial region, to take coal.

- Germany responded with passive resistance and excessive printing of paper currency.

6. Hyperinflation in Germany:

- Oversupply of printed money – German mark's value collapsed.
- US dollar exchange rate:
 - a.** April 1923 – 1 USD = 24,000 marks
 - b.** July – 353,000 marks
 - c.** August – 4,621,000 marks
 - d.** December – 98,860,000 marks, later running into trillions.
- Prices soared; Germans needed cartloads of currency for basic items like bread.
- This situation became known as Hyperinflation (extreme price rise).
- Images of suffering Germans evoked worldwide sympathy.

7. Dawes Plan & Recovery:

- US intervention introduced the Dawes Plan.
- Reworked reparation terms – eased Germany's financial burden.

The Years of Depression

1. Economic Stability before Depression (1924 – 1928):

- Period between 1924 and 1928 saw temporary stability in Germany.
- Stability was dependent on short-term loans, mainly from the USA.

2. Wall Street Crash of 1929:

- 24 October 1929 – Wall Street Exchange crashed.
- 13 million shares sold in a single day.
- Triggered the Great Economic Depression.

- Between 1929 and 1932, USA's national income dropped by 50%.
- Consequences in the USA: factories closed, exports declined, farmers hit badly, speculators withdrew investments.
- The recession's impact was felt worldwide.

3. Impact on Germany's Economy:

- Worst-hit country by the crisis.
- By 1932, industrial production was down to 40% of 1929 levels.
- Unemployment reached 6 million.
- People displayed placards saying "Willing to do any work".
- Youths either idled at street corners or turned to criminal activities.

4. Social Impact of the Depression:

- Middle class (salaried employees, pensioners) lost savings due to currency devaluation.
- Small businessmen, self-employed, and retailers faced business ruin.
- Fear of proletarianisation – being reduced to the working class or unemployed.
- Organised workers retained jobs but with reduced bargaining power.
- Big businesses also suffered.
- Peasants faced falling agricultural prices.
- Women suffered deeply as they struggled to feed their children.

5. Political Weakness of the Weimar Republic:

- Weimar Constitution had inherent defects:
 - a.** Proportional representation – made majority formation almost impossible; led to unstable coalition governments.
 - b.** Article 48 – President could impose emergency, suspend civil rights, and rule by decree.

- Frequent cabinet changes – 20 cabinets in 14 years, averaging 239 days each.
- Overuse of Article 48 weakened democracy.
- People lost faith in the democratic parliamentary system.

New words:

1. **Deplete** – Reduce, empty out
Reparation – Make up for a wrong done
2. **Wall Street Exchange** – The name of the world's biggest stock exchange located in the USA.
3. **Proletarianisation** – To become impoverished to the level of working classes.

MCQs on NCERT History Class 9 Chapter 3 Topic – Birth of the Weimar Republic

Here are the top exam-oriented MCQ-type questions on “*Birth of the Weimar Republic*” that you should prepare for your CBSE or state board exams:

Question 1. When did the First World War take place?

- a) 1910–1914
- b) 1914–1918
- c) 1916–1920
- d) 1912–1916

Answer: b) 1914–1918

Question 2. Which countries fought alongside Germany during the First World War?

- a) England and France
- b) Austria and Italy
- c) Austrian Empire
- d) Russia and Austria

Answer: c) Austrian Empire

Question 3. Which countries were part of the Allies in World War I?

- a) England, France, Russia
- b) Germany, Austria, Italy
- c) USA, England, Germany
- d) France, Italy, Austria

Answer: a) England, France, Russia

Question 4. Which country's entry in 1917 strengthened the Allies?

- a) Italy
- b) USA
- c) Japan
- d) Spain

Answer: b) USA

Question 5. In which month and year were Germany and the Central Powers defeated?

- a) November 1918
- b) October 1917

- c) June 1919
- d) May 1920

Answer: a) November 1918

Question 6. What happened to the German Emperor after Germany's defeat in WWI?

- a) He was assassinated
- b) He abdicated
- c) He was exiled to the USA
- d) He became a dictator

Answer: b) He abdicated

Question 7. Where did the National Assembly meet to draft Germany's new constitution?

- a) Berlin
- b) Weimar
- c) Munich
- d) Frankfurt

Answer: b) Weimar

Question 8. The German democratic constitution provided a federal structure and elections to which parliament?

- a) Bundestag
- b) Reichstag
- c) Diet
- d) Reichrat

Answer: b) Reichstag

Question 9. In the Weimar Republic, who got the right to vote?

- a) Only men
- b) Only property owners
- c) All adults including women
- d) Only soldiers

Answer: c) All adults including women

Question 10. Why was the Weimar Republic unpopular among its own people?

- a) It banned all political parties
- b) It was linked to the humiliating Versailles Treaty
- c) It supported the monarchy
- d) It abolished elections

Answer: b) It was linked to the humiliating Versailles Treaty

Question 11. Under the Treaty of Versailles, what fraction of its population did Germany lose?

- a) One-fifth
- b) One-fourth
- c) One-tenth
- d) One-third

Answer: c) One-tenth

Question 12. How much of its iron reserves did Germany lose under the Treaty of Versailles?

- a) 50%
- b) 75%
- c) 25%
- d) 13%

Answer: b) 75%

Question 13. How much coal did Germany lose under the Treaty of Versailles?

- a) 50%
- b) 13%
- c) 26%
- d) 75%

Answer: c) 26%

Question 14. Which clause in the Treaty of Versailles held Germany responsible for WWI?

- a) War Indemnity Clause
- b) War Guilt Clause
- c) Peace Responsibility Clause
- d) National Loss Clause

Answer: b) War Guilt Clause

Question 15. How much compensation was Germany forced to pay after WWI?

- a) £2 billion
- b) £6 billion
- c) £10 billion
- d) £8 billion

Answer: b) £6 billion

Question 16. Which resource-rich area of Germany was occupied by the Allies in the 1920s?

- a) Saar
- b) Rhineland
- c) Ruhr Valley
- d) Alsace-Lorraine

Answer: b) Rhineland

Question 17. What happened to Europe's financial status after WWI?

- a) It became richer
- b) It turned from a creditor to a debtor continent
- c) It became self-sufficient
- d) It dominated world trade

Answer: b) It turned from a creditor to a debtor continent

Question 18. Who were mockingly called 'November criminals' in Germany?

- a) Monarchists
- b) Supporters of the Weimar Republic

- c) War veterans
- d) Soldiers in WWI

Answer: b) Supporters of the Weimar Republic

Question 19. Which groups mainly supported the Weimar Republic?

- a) Monarchists and Militarists
- b) Socialists, Catholics, and Democrats
- c) Communists and Fascists
- d) Army and Businessmen

Answer: b) Socialists, Catholics, and Democrats

Question 20. Which dictatorship type gained popularity in post-WWI Europe?

- a) Communist
- b) Conservative
- c) Theocratic
- d) Tribal

Answer: b) Conservative

Question 21. What was the reality of trench life in WWI?

- a) Comfortable and safe
- b) Filled with rats and corpses
- c) Luxurious living
- d) Modern housing

Answer: b) Filled with rats and corpses

Question 22. Which revolutionary uprising coincided with the birth of the Weimar Republic?

- a) Spartacist League Uprising
- b) Bolshevik Revolution
- c) French Revolution
- d) Industrial Revolution

Answer: a) Spartacist League Uprising

Question 23. Which war veterans' organisation helped crush the Spartacist uprising?

- a) Black Shirts
- b) Free Corps
- c) Red Army
- d) Brown Shirts

Answer: b) Free Corps

Question 24. Which political party was founded by the Spartacists?

- a) Socialist Party of Germany
- b) Communist Party of Germany
- c) Nazi Party
- d) Democratic Party of Germany

Answer: b) Communist Party of Germany

Question 25. Which year saw Germany's hyperinflation crisis?

- a) 1921
- b) 1923
- c) 1925
- d) 1929

Answer: b) 1923

Question 26. Which industrial region was occupied by France in 1923?

- a) Saar
- b) Ruhr
- c) Rhineland
- d) Alsace-Lorraine

Answer: b) Ruhr

Question 27. What caused hyperinflation in Germany in 1923?

- a) Overproduction
- b) Reckless printing of paper currency
- c) Increased exports
- d) Foreign investment

Answer: b) Reckless printing of paper currency

Question 28. Which plan was introduced by the USA to ease Germany's financial burden?

- a) Marshall Plan
- b) Dawes Plan
- c) Young Plan
- d) Truman Plan

Answer: b) Dawes Plan

Question 29. Which years saw temporary stability in Germany after WWI?

- a) 1920–1923
- b) 1924–1928
- c) 1929–1932
- d) 1918–1920

Answer: b) 1924–1928

Question 30. Which event in 1929 triggered the Great Depression?

- a) Treaty of Versailles
- b) Wall Street Exchange Crash
- c) Occupation of Ruhr
- d) Dawes Plan withdrawal

Answer: b) Wall Street Exchange Crash

Question 31. On which date were 13 million shares sold, marking the start of the Depression?

- a) 4 July 1929
- b) 24 October 1929
- c) 1 January 1930
- d) 14 November 1929

Answer: b) 24 October 1929

Question 32. By what percentage had German industrial production fallen by 1932 compared to 1929?

- a) 50%
- b) 60%
- c) 40%
- d) 70%

Answer: c) 40%

Question 33. What was the number of unemployed in Germany during the Great Depression?

- a) 3 million
- b) 4 million
- c) 6 million
- d) 8 million

Answer: c) 6 million

Question 34. What does the term “proletarianisation” mean in this context?

- a) Becoming wealthy
- b) Being reduced to the working class or unemployed
- c) Becoming soldiers
- d) Owning factories

Answer: b) Being reduced to the working class or unemployed

Question 35. Which group suffered the fear of proletarianisation the most during the Depression?

- a) Big industrialists
- b) Middle classes
- c) Peasants
- d) Army officers

Answer: b) Middle classes

Question 36. Which constitutional defect of Weimar Republic made it unstable by causing fragmented parliaments?

- a) Article 48
- b) Proportional representation
- c) Federal structure
- d) Universal suffrage

Answer: b) Proportional representation

Question 37. Which article of the Weimar Constitution allowed the President to rule by decree?

- a) Article 42
- b) Article 48
- c) Article 50
- d) Article 52

Answer: b) Article 48

Question 38. How many different cabinets did the Weimar Republic have in its short life?

- a) 10
- b) 15

- c) 20
- d) 25

Answer: c) 20

Hitler's Rise to Power

1. Background to Hitler's Rise:

- Economic, political, and social crisis created a fertile ground for Hitler's rise.
- Born: 1889, Austria.
- Early life: Spent youth in poverty.

2. Role in the First World War:

- Enrolled in the German army at the outbreak of WWI.
- Worked as a messenger at the front.
- Rose to the rank of corporal.
- Won medals for bravery.
- German defeat and the Versailles Treaty deeply angered him.

3. Formation of the Nazi Party:

- 1919: Joined the German Workers' Party.
- Took over and renamed it National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi Party).

4. Failed Attempt to Seize Power (1923):

- Planned to take over Bavaria and then march to Berlin.
- Failed, arrested, and tried for treason.
- Released later.

5. Nazi Party Growth During the Great Depression:

- Nazis had little support until the early 1930s.
- 1928: Only 2.6% votes in Reichstag.
- 1929: Great Depression – banks collapsed, businesses shut, unemployment rose, middle class faced destitution.
- Nazi propaganda gave people hope for a better future.
- 1932: Nazi Party became largest party with 37% votes.

6. Hitler's Charisma and Promises:

- Known as a powerful and passionate speaker.
- Promises included:
 - a.** Build a strong nation.
 - b.** Undo Versailles Treaty.
 - c.** Restore German dignity.
 - d.** Provide jobs and a secure future for youth.
 - e.** Remove foreign influences and resist foreign conspiracies.

7. New Style of Nazi Politics:

- Emphasis on rituals and spectacle to mobilise masses.
- Features:
 - a.** Massive rallies and public meetings.
 - b.** Red banners with Swastika.
 - c.** Nazi salute.
 - d.** Ritualised applause after speeches.
 - e.** Created unity and discipline among supporters.

8. Hitler as a 'Messiah':

- Nazi propaganda portrayed Hitler as a saviour.
- Seen as the one who would rescue Germans from distress.

- Appeal was strongest among those whose pride and dignity had been shattered during economic and political crises.

The Destruction of Democracy

1. Hitler Becomes Chancellor:

- 30 January 1933: President Hindenburg offered the Chancellorship (highest cabinet post) to Hitler.
- Nazis had rallied conservatives to their cause.

2. Dismantling Democracy:

- Hitler began dismantling democratic structures after gaining power.
- February 1933: A mysterious fire broke out in the German Parliament (Reichstag).
- Fire Decree (28 February 1933):
 - a.** Indefinitely suspended civic rights such as:
 - i.** Freedom of speech
 - ii.** Freedom of press
 - iii.** Freedom of assembly
 - b.** Rights were earlier guaranteed by [the Weimar Constitution](#).

3. Repression of Communists:

- Communists were targeted as Hitler's main enemies.
- Many were sent to newly established concentration camps.
- Example: In Düsseldorf (population 5 lakh), out of 6,808 arrest files, 1,440 were Communists.
- Communists were only 1 out of 52 types of victims persecuted by Nazis.

4. The Enabling Act (3 March 1933):

- Legal foundation for dictatorship in Germany.
- Gave Hitler power to:
 - a.** Sideline Parliament.
 - b.** Rule by decree.
- Political changes:
 - a.** All political parties banned except Nazi Party and its affiliates.
 - b.** All trade unions banned.
- State took complete control over:
 - a.** Economy
 - b.** Media
 - c.** Army
 - d.** Judiciary

5. Creation of Special Forces:

- Aimed to control and order society according to Nazi ideology.
- Existing forces:
 - a.** Regular police (green uniform)
 - b.** SA (Storm Troopers)
- New forces:
 - a.** Gestapo – secret state police.
 - b.** SS (Protection Squads).
 - c.** Criminal Police.
 - d.** Security Service (SD).

6. Nazi State as a 'Dreaded Criminal State':

- Extra-constitutional powers allowed extreme repression.
- Powers of these forces:
 - a.** Detain in Gestapo torture chambers.

- b.** Send to concentration camps.
 - c.** Deport or arrest without legal procedures.
- Police forces ruled with impunity (without fear of punishment).

Reconstruction

1. Economic Recovery under Hitler:

- Responsibility given to Hjalmar Schacht (economist).
- Aim: Full production and full employment through a state-funded work-creation programme.
- Achievements:
 - a.** Construction of German superhighways (Autobahns).
 - b.** Production of the Volkswagen (People's Car).

2. Quick Foreign Policy Successes:

- 1933 – Germany withdrew from the League of Nations.
- 1936 – Reoccupied the Rhineland.
- 1938 – Annexed Austria into Germany (Anschluss) under slogan: One People, One Empire, One Leader.
- Took Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia, then occupied the whole country.
- England's unspoken support – thought Versailles Treaty was too harsh.
- These moves restored national pride and reversed Germany's earlier humiliation.

3. Shift to Rearmament and War Preparation:

- Schacht warned against huge rearmament due to deficit financing.
- Schacht removed – cautious people had no place in Nazi Germany.

- Hitler saw war as a solution to economic crisis.
- Goal: Expand territory to secure resources.

4. Start of Second World War:

- September 1939 – Germany invaded Poland – war with France & England began.
- September 1940 – Tripartite Pact between Germany, Italy, Japan – strengthened Hitler's international position.
- Puppet regimes installed across much of Europe.
- End of 1940 – Hitler at peak of power.

5. Invasion of the Soviet Union (Historic Blunder):

- June 1941 – Hitler attacked the Soviet Union to secure food supplies and living space (Lebensraum).
- Consequences:
 - a.** Exposed western front to British bombing.
 - b.** Exposed eastern front to Soviet armies.
- Battle of Stalingrad – Crushing Soviet victory.
- Soviet Red Army pushed Germans back to Berlin – Soviet control over Eastern Europe for 50 years.

6. US Entry into the War:

- USA initially avoided involvement due to economic fears (like after WWI).
- Japan's expansion:
 - a.** Occupied French Indo-China.
 - b.** Planned attacks on US Pacific bases.
- Japan joined Hitler's side and bombed Pearl Harbor – USA entered war.

7. End of the Second World War:

- May 1945 – Germany defeated; Hitler’s downfall.
- August 1945 – US dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima (Japan).

New words:

1. Propaganda – Specific type of message directly aimed at influencing the opinion of people (through the use of posters, films, speeches, etc.)
2. Concentration camp – A camp where people were isolated and detained without due process of law. Typically, it was surrounded by electrified barbed wire fences.

MCQs on NCERT History Class 9 Chapter 3 Topic – Hitler’s Rise to Power

Here are the top exam-oriented MCQ-type questions on “*Hitler’s Rise to Power*” that you should prepare for your CBSE or state board exams:

Question 1. In which year was Adolf Hitler born?

- a) 1885 – Born in Austria
- b) 1889 – Born in Austria
- c) 1892 – Born in Germany
- d) 1895 – Born in Austria

Answer: b) 1889 – Born in Austria

Question 2. What role did Hitler serve in during the First World War?

- a) Nurse in the army
- b) Corporal and messenger in the front
- c) Military strategist in Berlin
- d) Pilot in the air force

Answer: b) Corporal and messenger in the front

Question 3. Which treaty's terms deeply angered Hitler after Germany's defeat in WWI?

- a) Treaty of Trianon
- b) Treaty of Versailles
- c) Treaty of Sevres
- d) Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

Answer: b) Treaty of Versailles

Question 4. What was the original name of the Nazi Party?

- a) German National Party
- b) German Workers' Party
- c) Socialist German Party
- d) People's German Workers' Party

Answer: b) German Workers' Party

Question 5. When did Hitler attempt to seize control of Bavaria and march to Berlin?

- a) 1919
- b) 1920
- c) 1923
- d) 1928

Answer: c) 1923

Question 6. What percentage of votes did the Nazi Party secure in the Reichstag in 1928?

- a) 2.6%
- b) 15%
- c) 25%
- d) 37%

Answer: a) 2.6%

Question 7. By 1932, what percentage of votes did the Nazi Party gain in the Reichstag?

- a) 15%
- b) 25%
- c) 32%
- d) 37%

Answer: d) 37%

Question 8. What was the highest position in the German cabinet offered to Hitler in January 1933?

- a) President
- b) Chancellor
- c) Prime Minister
- d) Defence Minister

Answer: b) Chancellor

Question 9. Which event in February 1933 allowed Hitler to suspend civic rights?

- a) Enabling Act
- b) Fire in the German Parliament
- c) Versailles Treaty
- d) Storm Troopers' March

Answer: b) Fire in the German Parliament

Question 10. What did the Fire Decree of 28 February 1933 suspend?

- a) Voting rights only
- b) Freedom of speech, press, and assembly
- c) Military rights only
- d) Land ownership rights

Answer: b) Freedom of speech, press, and assembly

Question 11. Which Act established dictatorship in Germany in March 1933?

- a) Reichstag Decree
- b) Enabling Act
- c) Nazi Consolidation Act
- d) Berlin Emergency Act

Answer: b) Enabling Act

Question 12. Who was appointed by Hitler to handle economic recovery?

- a) Joseph Goebbels
- b) Hjalmar Schacht
- c) Hermann Göring
- d) Heinrich Himmler

Answer: b) Hjalmar Schacht

Question 13. Which famous German car was produced during Nazi economic recovery programmes?

- a) Mercedes Benz
- b) Volkswagen
- c) Porsche
- d) BMW

Answer: b) Volkswagen

Question 14. In which year did Germany reoccupy the Rhineland?

- a) 1933
- b) 1936
- c) 1938
- d) 1939

Answer: b) 1936

Question 15. What slogan was used for the unification of Austria and Germany?

- a) One nation, one people, one destiny
- b) One people, one empire, one leader

- c) One state, one power, one destiny
- d) One land, one race, one flag

Answer: b) One people, one empire, one leader

Question 16. Which country's invasion by Germany in 1939 started WWII?

- a) Austria
- b) Poland
- c) France
- d) Belgium

Answer: b) Poland

Question 17. Which pact was signed in September 1940 between Germany, Italy, and Japan?

- a) Anti-Comintern Pact
- b) Tripartite Pact
- c) Axis Alliance Pact
- d) Berlin Agreement

Answer: b) Tripartite Pact

Question 18. In which year did Germany attack the Soviet Union?

- a) 1939
- b) 1940
- c) 1941
- d) 1942

Answer: c) 1941

Question 19. Which battle marked a crushing defeat for Germany by the Soviet Red Army?

- a) Battle of Berlin
- b) Battle of Moscow
- c) Battle of Stalingrad
- d) Battle of Leningrad

Answer: c) Battle of Stalingrad

Question 20. Which event brought the USA into WWII?

- a) German invasion of Poland
- b) Attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan
- c) Bombing of London
- d) Invasion of France

Answer: b) Attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan

Question 21. In which month and year did WWII end in Europe with Hitler's defeat?

- a) April 1945
- b) May 1945
- c) June 1945
- d) August 1945

Answer: b) May 1945

The Nazi Worldview

1. Basis of Nazi Crimes:

- Nazi crimes were rooted in a system of belief and set of practices.
- Nazi ideology = Hitler's worldview.

2. Racial Hierarchy in Nazi Ideology:

- No equality among people → strict racial hierarchy.
- Top: Blond, blue-eyed Nordic German Aryans.
- Lowest: Jews (seen as "anti-race" and arch-enemies of Aryans).
- Others: Coloured people placed in between based on physical features.

3. Influence of Scientific Racism:

- Hitler's racism drew from:
 - a.** Charles Darwin – Theory of evolution & natural selection (plants/animals).
 - b.** Herbert Spencer – Idea of survival of the fittest.
- Darwin's ideas were misused by racist thinkers & politicians to justify imperial rule.
- Nazi belief:
 - a.** Strongest race survives, weak races perish.
 - b.** Aryan race = pure, superior, destined to dominate the world.

4. Concept of Lebensraum (Living Space):

- New territories needed for settlement.
- Goals:
 - a.** Increase area of mother country.
 - b.** Keep settlers connected to homeland.
 - c.** Enhance material resources and national power.

5. Geopolitical Expansion Plans:

- Extend German boundaries eastwards.
- Concentrate all Germans in one geographic area.
- Poland used as the testing ground for Lebensraum policy.

Source A – Hitler's View on Territorial Conquest (Secret Book)

- Hitler believed land was not gifted but earned through courage, strength, and hard work.
- Providence (divine will) granted land to those brave enough to conquer it.
- The primary right in the world was the right to life, but only for those strong enough to claim it.
- A vigorous nation would expand territory to match its population needs.

Source B – Hitler's View on World Power (Mein Kampf)

- Hitler argued that global power could not be achieved by a nation with limited territory.
- Criticised the idea of Germany being a great power while having only 500 km² of territory.
- Believed large land area was essential to match other world powers controlling vast continents.

Establishment of the Racial State

1. Nazi Goal: Exclusive Racial Community:

- Nazis aimed to create a racially pure German society of only “pure and healthy Nordic Aryans”.
- Aryans were considered the only “desirable” people in the Nazi empire.
- Even Germans who were seen as impure or abnormal had no right to exist.

2. Euthanasia Programme:

- Policy to eliminate mentally or physically unfit Germans.
- Example: Helmuth’s father, along with Nazi officials, condemned many to death under this programme.

3. Other ‘Undesirable’ Communities:

- Not only Jews – Nazis targeted others as well:
 - a.** Gypsies and blacks → considered racial ‘inferiors’.
 - b.** Russians and Poles → considered subhuman, undeserving of humanity.
- In occupied Poland and Russia:
 - a.** Civilians forced into slave labour.
 - b.** Many died due to hard work and starvation.

4. Nazi Hatred of Jews:

- Rooted partly in traditional Christian hostility:
 - a.** Stereotyped as killers of Christ and usurers.
 - b.** Barred from owning land in medieval times → survived through trade and moneylending.
 - c.** Lived in ghettos (separately marked areas).
 - d.** Faced persecution, violence, and expulsions.

- Hitler's hatred based on pseudoscientific racial theories:
 - a. Belief: Conversion was not a solution to the "Jewish problem".
 - b. Solution: Total elimination of Jews.

5. Phases of Persecution of Jews:

- 1933–1938:
 - a. Jews terrorised, pauperised, segregated.
 - b. Forced to leave Germany.
- 1939–1945:
 - a. Jews concentrated in specific areas.
 - b. Eventually killed in gas chambers in Poland.

The Racial Utopia

1. Nazi Racial Utopia under War:

- During World War II, Nazis worked to realise their racial ideal.
- Genocide and war were treated as two sides of the same coin.

2. Division of Occupied Poland:

- North-western Poland: Annexed to Germany.
- Remaining area: Named the General Government, destination for all 'undesirables'.
- Poles were forced to leave homes and property → these were taken over by ethnic Germans brought from other occupied territories.

3. Treatment of Poles:

- Polish intelligentsia (educated and influential people) were murdered in large numbers to keep the population intellectually and spiritually weak.

4. Nazi 'Race Testing' of Children:

- Polish children with Aryan-like features were:
 - a.** Forcibly taken from their mothers.
 - b.** Examined by race experts.
 - c.** If passed → raised in German families.
 - d.** If failed → sent to orphanages, where most died.

5. General Government as a Killing Field:

- Contained some of the largest ghettos and gas chambers.
- Became a major site of Jewish extermination.

STEPS TO DEATH

1. Stage 1 – Exclusion (1933–1939):

Slogan: "You have no right to live among us as citizens"

- Nuremberg Laws of 1935:
 - a.** Only people of German or related blood could be German citizens.
 - b.** Jews excluded from citizenship and imperial protection.
 - c.** Marriages between Jews and Germans forbidden.
 - d.** Extramarital relations between Jews and Germans criminalised.
 - e.** Jews forbidden to fly the national flag.
- Other legal measures:
 - a.** Boycott of Jewish businesses.
 - b.** Expulsion from government jobs.
 - c.** Forced sale and confiscation of Jewish property.
- Violence and Pogrom (November 1938):
 - a.** Known as Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass).
 - b.** Jewish properties vandalised and looted.

- c. Homes attacked, synagogues burnt.
- d. Jewish men arrested.

2. Stage 2 – Ghettoisation (1940–1944):

Slogan: “You have no right to live among us”

- From September 1941:
 - a. All Jews had to wear a yellow Star of David on their chest.
 - b. Identity mark stamped on passports, legal papers, and homes.
- Jews confined to Jewish houses in Germany and ghettos (Lodz, Warsaw in the east).
- Ghettos marked by extreme poverty and misery.
- All wealth confiscated before entering ghettos.
- Ghettos became overcrowded with hunger, starvation, disease, and poor hygiene.

3. Stage 3 – Annihilation (1941 onwards):

Slogan: “You have no right to live”

- Jews from ghettos, concentration camps, and Jewish houses transported by goods trains to death factories.
- Major killing centres in Poland: Belzek, Auschwitz, Sobibor, Treblinka, Chelmno, Majdanek.
- Victims killed in gas chambers within minutes.
- Mass killings executed with scientific precision.

New words:

- Nordic German Aryans – One branch of those classified as Aryans. They lived in north European countries and had German or related origin.

- Gypsy – The groups that were classified as ‘gypsy’ had their own community identity. Sinti and Roma were two such communities. Many of them traced their origin to India.
- Pauperised – Reduce to absolute poverty.
- Persecution – Systematic, organised punishment of those belonging to a group or religion.
- Usurers – Moneylenders charging excessive interest; often used as a term of abuse.
- Synagogues – Place of worship for people of Jewish faith.

MCQs on NCERT History Class 9 Chapter 3 Topic – The Nazi Worldview

Here are the top exam-oriented MCQ-type questions on “*The Nazi Worldview*” that you should prepare for your CBSE or state board exams:

Question 1. Which race did Nazi ideology place at the top of the racial hierarchy?

- a) Nordic German Aryans – blond, blue-eyed
- b) Jews – considered anti-race
- c) Gypsies – considered racial inferiors
- d) Russians – considered subhuman

Answer: a) Nordic German Aryans – blond, blue-eyed

Question 2. According to Nazi ideology, who were considered the “arch-enemies” of the Aryans?

- a) Russians
- b) Jews

- c) Poles
- d) Gypsies

Answer: b) Jews

Question 3. Which thinkers influenced Hitler's racial ideas?

- a) Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
- b) Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer
- c) Voltaire and Rousseau
- d) Sigmund Freud and Albert Einstein

Answer: b) Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer

Question 4. What concept did Herbert Spencer add to Darwin's theory?

- a) Natural law
- b) Social equality
- c) Survival of the fittest
- d) Class struggle

Answer: c) Survival of the fittest

Question 5. What was the Nazi argument based on racist interpretation of Darwin's ideas?

- a) The strongest race would survive and weak ones perish
- b) All races were equal in nature
- c) Survival depended only on cooperation
- d) Equality would ensure survival of all

Answer: a) The strongest race would survive and weak ones perish

Question 6. What was the geopolitical concept central to Hitler's ideology?

- a) Anschluss
- b) Lebensraum – living space
- c) Blitzkrieg – lightning war
- d) Gestapo – secret police

Answer: b) Lebensraum – living space

Question 7. Which country became the “laboratory” for Hitler's Lebensraum experiment?

- a) Austria
- b) Poland
- c) France
- d) Czechoslovakia

Answer: b) Poland

Question 8. What was the main aim of the Nazi Euthanasia Programme?

- a) Deporting Jews to other countries
- b) Killing Germans considered mentally or physically unfit
- c) Providing healthcare to soldiers
- d) Purifying air and water resources

Answer: b) Killing Germans considered mentally or physically unfit

Question 9. Which communities, apart from Jews, were considered “undesirable” by the Nazis?

- a) Russians, Poles, Gypsies, and blacks
- b) Italians, Japanese, and Austrians
- c) British and French
- d) Americans and Canadians

Answer: a) Russians, Poles, Gypsies, and blacks

Question 10. What historical prejudice contributed to Hitler's hatred of Jews?

- a) Jews were seen as killers of Christ and usurers
- b) Jews were considered political enemies
- c) Jews opposed World War I
- d) Jews supported communism

Answer: a) Jews were seen as killers of Christ and usurers

Question 11. What were Jewish living areas called in medieval times?

- a) Camps
- b) Ghettos
- c) Colonies
- d) Barracks

Answer: b) Ghettos

Question 12. What was the first phase (1933–1939) of Nazi persecution of Jews called?

- a) Annihilation
- b) Ghettoisation

- c) Exclusion
- d) Deportation

Answer: c) Exclusion

Question 13. Which laws of September 1935 stripped Jews of German citizenship?

- a) Weimar Constitution
- b) Nuremberg Laws
- c) Berlin Decrees
- d) Munich Agreement

Answer: b) Nuremberg Laws

Question 14. What was the pogrom of November 1938 called?

- a) The Long Night
- b) The Great Purge
- c) The Night of Broken Glass – Kristallnacht
- d) The Black Friday

Answer: c) The Night of Broken Glass – Kristallnacht

Question 15. What identity mark did Jews have to wear from September 1941?

- a) Red Cross symbol
- b) Yellow Star of David
- c) Green triangle
- d) White armband

Answer: b) Yellow Star of David

Question 16. What was the second stage (1940–1944) of Nazi persecution of Jews called?

- a) Ghettoisation
- b) Deportation
- c) Assimilation
- d) Purification

Answer: a) Ghettoisation

Question 17. What was the third stage (1941 onwards) of Nazi persecution called?

- a) Resettlement
- b) Annihilation
- c) Deportation
- d) Isolation

Answer: b) Annihilation

Question 18. In which ghettos were Jews confined in extreme misery?

- a) Lodz and Warsaw
- b) Berlin and Hamburg
- c) Munich and Frankfurt
- d) Vienna and Prague

Answer: a) Lodz and Warsaw

Question 19. Which method was primarily used for mass killing of Jews in death factories?

- a) Shooting
- b) Hanging
- c) Gas chambers
- d) Burning alive

Answer: c) Gas chambers

Question 20. Which were some major Nazi death camps in Poland?

- a) Belzek, Auschwitz, Sobibor, Treblinka, Chelmno, Majdanek
- b) Dachau, Buchenwald, Bergen-Belsen
- c) Ravensbrück, Mauthausen, Flossenbürg
- d) Sachsenhausen, Neuengamme, Natzweiler

Answer: a) Belzek, Auschwitz, Sobibor, Treblinka, Chelmno, Majdanek

Youth in Nazi Germany

1. Hitler's Aim Regarding Youth:

- Hitler believed a strong Nazi society could only be built by teaching children Nazi ideology.
- Control over children was exercised both inside and outside school.

2. Changes in Schools Under Nazism:

- All schools were 'cleansed' and 'purified':
 - a.** Jewish teachers and those deemed politically unreliable were dismissed.
- Segregation of children:
 - a.** Germans and Jews could not sit together or play together.

- Expulsion of 'undesirable' children:
 - a.** Jews, physically handicapped, and Gypsies were removed from schools.
 - b.** In the 1940s, many were sent to gas chambers.

3. Nazi Schooling for 'Good German' Children:

- Long ideological training was part of education.
- School textbooks were rewritten to promote Nazi ideas.
- Racial science introduced to justify Nazi racial beliefs.
- Anti-Jewish stereotypes taught even in mathematics.
- Children were taught to:
 - a.** Be loyal and submissive.
 - b.** Hate Jews.
 - c.** Worship Hitler.
- Sports aimed at promoting violence, aggression, and masculinity.
 - a.** Hitler believed boxing made children strong, iron-hearted, and masculine.

4. Nazi Youth Organisations:

- Youth organisations trained German youth in National Socialist ideology.
- Jungvolk: Entry for boys at age 10.
- At 14 years: Boys joined Hitler Youth.
 - a.** Training focused on worship of war, glorification of aggression, condemnation of democracy, and hatred towards Jews, communists, Gypsies, and others deemed undesirable.
- At 18 years: After rigorous ideological and physical training, boys joined Labour Service.
 - a.** This was followed by service in the armed forces or other Nazi organisations.

- History of Nazi youth movement:
 - a. Youth League of the Nazis founded in 1922.
 - b. Renamed Hitler Youth in 1926.
 - c. All other youth organisations were systematically dissolved and banned to ensure complete Nazi control.

Source: C – Preliminary Nazi Training for Boys (Ages 6–10)

- Boys between 6 and 10 years old received basic training in Nazi ideology.
- At the end of training, boys took an oath of loyalty to Hitler:
 - a. Swore to devote all energies and strength to Adolf Hitler, referred to as the saviour of Germany.
 - b. Declared readiness to give up their life for Hitler.
 - c. Oath taken in the presence of the “blood banner” symbolising the Führer.

Source: D – Robert Ley’s Statement on Lifelong Nazi Control

- Robert Ley, Head of the German Labour Front, described a lifelong control process:
 - a. Starts at age 3: Children given a flag to wave to instil early loyalty.
 - b. Schooling followed by Hitler Youth membership.
 - c. Mandatory military service after youth organisation training.
 - d. Post-military: The German Labour Front took control of individuals.
- This control continued until death, with no freedom to leave – whether a person liked it or not.

The Nazi Cult of Motherhood

1. Nazi Beliefs about Gender Roles:

- In Nazi Germany, children were taught that women were fundamentally different from men.
- The fight for equal rights between men and women (common in democratic movements) was considered wrong and harmful to society.
- Boys were taught to be aggressive, masculine, and steel-hearted.
- Girls were trained to become good mothers and raise pure-blooded Aryan children.
- Girls' duties included:
 - a.** Maintaining racial purity by avoiding Jews.
 - b.** Managing the home.
 - c.** Teaching children Nazi values.
 - d.** Acting as bearers of Aryan culture and race.

2. Nazi Policy towards Mothers:

- In 1933, Hitler declared: "In my state the mother is the most important citizen."
- Not all mothers were treated equally:
 - a.** Mothers of racially undesirable children → punished.
 - b.** Mothers of racially desirable children → rewarded.

3. Rewards for Aryan Mothers:

- Favoured treatment in hospitals.
- Concessions in shops, theatre tickets, and railway fares.
- Honour Cross awards for producing many children:
 - a.** Bronze Cross → 4 children.
 - b.** Silver Cross → 6 children.
 - c.** Gold Cross → 8 or more children.

4. Punishment for Deviation from Nazi Code:

- Aryan women who broke Nazi rules were publicly condemned and punished.
- Contact with Jews, Poles, or Russians was treated as a “criminal offence”.
- Punishments included:
 - a.** Public humiliation → shaved heads, blackened faces, placards reading “I have sullied the honour of the nation”.
 - b.** Jail sentences.
 - c.** Loss of civic honour, husbands, and families.

The Art of Propaganda

1. Nazi Use of Language in Propaganda:

- Nazis carefully chose deceptive and chilling terms to hide the reality of their crimes.
- Avoided words like “kill” or “murder” in official communication.
- Key euphemisms:
 - a.** Special treatment → mass killings.
 - b.** Final solution → genocide of Jews.
 - c.** Euthanasia → killing of the disabled.
 - d.** Selection & disinfections → extermination processes.
 - e.** Evacuation → deportation to gas chambers.
- Gas chambers were labelled “disinfection areas”, designed like bathrooms with fake showerheads.

2. Media and Communication in Nazi Propaganda:

- Media used strategically to gain support and spread Nazi ideology.

- Nazi ideas promoted through:
 - a. Visual images
 - b. Films
 - c. Radio
 - d. Posters
 - e. Catchy slogans
 - f. Leaflets
- Posters depicted Nazi enemies as evil, mocked and abused.

3. Targeting of Political Opponents:

- Socialists and liberals were shown as weak and degenerate.
- Portrayed as malicious foreign agents threatening Germany.

4. Anti-Jewish Propaganda:

- Films made to create hatred for Jews – most infamous: The Eternal Jew.
- Orthodox Jews stereotyped as having flowing beards and kaftans.
- In reality, German Jews were highly assimilated and often indistinguishable from other Germans.
- Jews labelled as vermin, rats, and pests.
- Their movements compared to rodents.

5. Psychological Impact of Nazi Propaganda:

- Propaganda tapped into emotions, fostering hatred towards those labelled 'undesirable'.
- Nazis worked to win support from all sections of society.
- Promoted the idea that only Nazis could solve Germany's problems.

Source E & Source F

1. Hitler's Views on Gender Roles:

- Hitler believed men and women had separate worlds and distinct roles.
- Men's sphere: battlefield and courage.
- Women's sphere: self-sacrifice, pain, and childbearing.

2. Motherhood as a 'Battle':

- Hitler compared childbirth to a battle for the existence of the German people.
- Every child was seen as a contribution to the survival of the race.

3. Women as Preservers of Race:

- Women considered the most stable element in preserving the folk (racial community).
- Believed women had an unerring sense of protecting the race from extinction.

4. Role of Women in Nazi Racial Ideology:

- Women's children would be directly affected by racial suffering, so they had a vested role in protecting the race.
- Women were integrated into the racial struggle, as per 'nature and providence'.

Some Important Dates:

1. August 1, 1914 First World War begins.
2. November 9, 1918 Germany capitulates, ending the war.
3. November 9, 1918 Proclamation of the Weimar Republic.
4. June 28, 1919 Treaty of Versailles.

5. January 30, 1933 Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany.
6. September 1, 1939 Germany invades Poland. Beginning of the Second World War.
7. June 22, 1941 Germany invades the USSR.
8. June 23, 1941 Mass murder of the Jews begins.
9. December 8 1941 The United States joins Second World War.
10. January 27, 1945 Soviet troops liberate Auschwitz.
11. May 8, 1945 Allied victory in Europe.

New words:

- Jungvolk – Nazi youth groups for children below 14 years of age.

MCQs on NCERT History Class 9 Chapter 3 Topic

– Youth in Nazi Germany

Here are the top exam-oriented MCQ-type questions on “*Youth in Nazi Germany*” that you should prepare for your CBSE or state board exams:

Question 1. Who did Hitler believe was the most important group to shape a strong Nazi society?

- a) Workers
- b) Youth
- c) Soldiers
- d) Women

Answer: b) Youth

Question 2. What was the main aim of Nazi schooling?

- a) To teach democratic values
- b) To promote equality among all races
- c) To instill Nazi ideology in children
- d) To encourage free thinking

Answer: c) To instill Nazi ideology in children

Question 3. What was done to teachers who were Jews or considered 'politically unreliable' under Nazism?

- a) They were promoted
- b) They were dismissed
- c) They were sent abroad
- d) They were given different subjects

Answer: b) They were dismissed

Question 4. Which groups of children were thrown out of schools under Nazi rule?

- a) Only Jews
- b) Jews, the physically handicapped, and Gypsies
- c) Only the physically handicapped
- d) Only political opponents

Answer: b) Jews, the physically handicapped, and Gypsies

Question 5. What was introduced in Nazi school textbooks to justify their racial ideas?

- a) Social sciences
- b) Racial science

- c) Political science
- d) Economic theory

Answer: b) Racial science

Question 6. Which youth organisation did ten-year-old boys have to join?

- a) Hitler Youth
- b) Jungvolk
- c) Labour Service
- d) German Scouts

Answer: b) Jungvolk

Question 7. At what age did boys have to join the Hitler Youth?

- a) 10 years
- b) 12 years
- c) 14 years
- d) 18 years

Answer: c) 14 years

Question 8. Which year was the Youth League of the Nazis founded?

- a) 1919
- b) 1922
- c) 1926
- d) 1933

Answer: b) 1922

Question 9. What was the Hitler Youth renamed from in 1926?

- a) Jungvolk
- b) Youth League of the Nazis
- c) Labour Service Youth
- d) Aryan Youth Club

Answer: b) Youth League of the Nazis

Question 10. What type of training did Hitler believe boxing could provide to children?

- a) Intelligence and creativity
- b) Loyalty and discipline
- c) Iron-heartedness, strength, and masculinity
- d) Teamwork and cooperation

Answer: c) Iron-heartedness, strength, and masculinity

Question 11. In Nazi ideology, what role were girls encouraged to fulfil?

- a) Become soldiers
- b) Become politicians
- c) Become good mothers and bear pure-blooded Aryan children
- d) Work in factories

Answer: c) Become good mothers and bear pure-blooded Aryan children

Question 12. How were women rewarded for producing racially desirable children?

- a) Gold medals and free houses
- b) Favoured treatment in hospitals, concessions in shops, and theatre and railway discounts
- c) Free education for children
- d) Voting rights

Answer: b) Favoured treatment in hospitals, concessions in shops, and theatre and railway discounts

Question 13. What was the Honour Cross awarded for?

- a) Military bravery
- b) Producing multiple children
- c) Academic excellence
- d) Political loyalty

Answer: b) Producing multiple children

Question 14. How many children were required for a gold Honour Cross?

- a) Four or more
- b) Six or more
- c) Eight or more
- d) Ten or more

Answer: c) Eight or more

Question 15. Which groups were women forbidden to maintain contact with under Nazi laws?

- a) Jews, Poles, and Russians
- b) Italians and French

- c) British and Americans
- d) Chinese and Japanese

Answer: a) Jews, Poles, and Russians

Question 16. What term did Nazis use instead of 'mass killing'?

- a) Final solution
- b) Victory action
- c) Special mission
- d) Purification program

Answer: a) Final solution

Question 17. In Nazi propaganda, what were Jews compared to?

- a) Lions
- b) Rodents and pests
- c) Wolves
- d) Snakes

Answer: b) Rodents and pests

Question 18. What was the most infamous Nazi propaganda film against Jews?

- a) The German Victory
- b) The Eternal Jew
- c) Aryan Glory
- d) The Final War

Answer: b) The Eternal Jew

Question 19. What did the Nazis label gas chambers to mislead victims?

- a) Rest areas
- b) Disinfection-areas
- c) Bathing zones
- d) Purification halls

Answer: b) Disinfection-areas

Question 20. When did Germany invade Poland, starting World War II?

- a) June 28, 1919
- b) September 1, 1939
- c) June 22, 1941
- d) December 8, 1941

Answer: b) September 1, 1939

Ordinary People and the Crimes Against Humanity

1. Common People's Reaction to Nazism:

- Many ordinary Germans accepted Nazi ideas and spoke in Nazi language.
- Felt hatred and anger toward Jews on seeing them.
- Marked Jewish houses and reported suspicious neighbours.
- Believed Nazism would bring prosperity and improve general well-being.

2. Not All Germans Were Nazis:

- Some organised active resistance to Nazism despite police repression and risk of death.
- Majority were passive onlookers—scared to protest or oppose.
- Preferred to look away from Nazi crimes.

3. Pastor Niemoeller's Observation:

- Highlighted silence of ordinary Germans during Nazi crimes.
- Famous lines show gradual targeting of groups (Communists → Social Democrats → Trade Unionists → Jews).
- Message: Indifference to injustice can lead to no one being left to defend you.

4. Jewish Experience in Nazi Germany:

- Charlotte Beradt recorded Jewish dreams in "The Third Reich of Dreams".
- Jews began to internalise Nazi stereotypes about themselves.
- Dreamt of hooked noses, black hair, Jewish looks, body movements.
- Nazi propaganda images haunted them, even in dreams.
- Jews "died many deaths" before reaching gas chambers due to psychological torment.

5. Was Silence Only Due to Terror?

- Historian Lawrence Rees says No.
- Many Germans genuinely felt the 1930s brought hope and better living.
- Erna Kranz (teenager in 1930s) recalled:
 - a. Salaries increased.

- b. Germany regained sense of purpose.
- c. Described it as a “good time” for many.

Knowledge about the Holocaust

1. Revealing the Nazi Atrocities:

- Some information about Nazi practices leaked out during the last years of the regime.
- Full horrors became known only after Germany’s defeat in WWII.

2. Jews’ Determination to Preserve Memory:

- While Germans focused on their own post-war struggles, Jews aimed to make the world remember the Holocaust.
- Holocaust = Nazi killing operations targeting Jews.
- A ghetto inhabitant once said he wanted to outlive the war for just half an hour—to tell the world what happened.

3. Acts of Documentation in Ghettos & Camps:

- Many inmates wrote diaries, kept notebooks, and created archives.
- Shows an indomitable spirit to bear witness to Nazi crimes.

4. Nazi Efforts to Destroy Evidence:

- When the war seemed lost, Nazi leaders distributed petrol to functionaries.
- Purpose: Destroy incriminating evidence in offices.
- Legacy & Remembrance of the Holocaust
- Holocaust history survives in memoirs, fiction, documentaries, poetry, memorials, and museums worldwide.

- Serves as:
 - a. Tribute to those who resisted.
 - b. Embarrassing reminder to collaborators.
 - c. Warning to those who remained silent.

Mahatma Gandhi writes to Hitler

1. First Letter to Hitler (23 July 1939):

- Written from Wardha, Central Provinces, India.
- Gandhi addressed Hitler as “Dear Friend”.
- Friends urged Gandhi to write for the sake of humanity.
- Gandhi initially resisted, feeling it might be an impertinence (overstepping).
- He decided to appeal without calculating the outcome.
- Gandhi identified Hitler as the one person who could prevent a war that might push humanity back to a savage state.
- He questioned whether Hitler should pay such a high price for any goal, however worthy it seemed.
- Gandhi appealed as someone who had deliberately rejected war and had some success with this approach.
- Closed the letter with humility, asking forgiveness if he had erred.

2. Second Letter to Hitler (24 December 1940):

- Written again from Wardha.
- Gandhi stated that non-violence is a force that can match the most violent powers if organised.
- In non-violent struggle, there is no such thing as defeat—it is “do or die” without killing or hurting.
- Non-violence requires no large funds and no destructive science (weapons).

- Gandhi was astonished that Hitler did not realise violence was not anyone's monopoly—other powers could improve and defeat him with his own methods.
- Warned that Hitler was leaving no proud legacy for his people.
- Stated that cruel deeds, no matter how skilfully executed, cannot be a source of pride.
- Urged Hitler in the name of humanity to stop the war.

MCQs on NCERT History Class 9 Chapter 3 Topic – Ordinary People and the Crimes Against Humanity

Here are the top exam-oriented MCQ-type questions on “*Ordinary People and the Crimes Against Humanity*” that you should prepare for your CBSE or state board exams:

Question 1. How did many ordinary Germans react to Nazism?

- a) They rejected Nazi ideology completely
- b) They saw the world through Nazi eyes and adopted Nazi language
- c) They remained unaware of Nazi activities
- d) They fled Germany immediately

Answer: b) They saw the world through Nazi eyes and adopted Nazi language

Question 2. What did many Germans do when they saw someone who looked like a Jew?

- a) Helped them escape
- b) Marked their houses and reported them

- c) Invited them to meetings
- d) Ignored them completely

Answer: b) Marked their houses and reported them

Question 3. Who was Pastor Niemoeller?

- a) A Nazi propagandist
- b) A resistance fighter against Nazism
- c) A Jewish ghetto inhabitant
- d) A Nazi army officer

Answer: b) A resistance fighter against Nazism

Question 4. What was the main observation of Pastor Niemoeller about ordinary Germans?

- a) They actively supported Nazis
- b) They showed an absence of protest and silence
- c) They revolted against the regime
- d) They escaped to other countries

Answer: b) They showed an absence of protest and silence

Question 5. What was Charlotte Beradt's book "The Third Reich of Dreams" about?

- a) Nazi war strategies
- b) Secret Jewish resistance movements
- c) Dreams of Jews under Nazi rule
- d) Hitler's speeches

Answer: c) Dreams of Jews under Nazi rule

Question 6. What did Jewish people sometimes start believing due to Nazi propaganda?

- a) Nazi racial stereotypes about themselves
- b) Their equality in German society
- c) That the war would soon end
- d) That Hitler supported them

Answer: a) Nazi racial stereotypes about themselves

Question 7. What does Lawrence Rees's documentary "The Nazis: A Warning from History" suggest about Germans' support for Hitler?

- a) It was purely because of fear
- b) It was also because life seemed to improve in the 1930s
- c) It was due to foreign influence
- d) It was entirely for military pride

Answer: b) It was also because life seemed to improve in the 1930s

Question 8. What is the term for the mass killing operations of Jews by the Nazis?

- a) Blitzkrieg
- b) Holocaust
- c) Kristallnacht
- d) Pogrom

Answer: b) Holocaust

Question 9. How did Jews in ghettos and camps preserve the memory of Nazi atrocities?

- a) By creating paintings only
- b) By destroying Nazi documents
- c) By writing diaries, keeping notebooks, and creating archives
- d) By sending letters abroad

Answer: c) By writing diaries, keeping notebooks, and creating archives

Question 10. What did the Nazi leadership do when they realised the war was lost?

- a) Surrendered peacefully
- b) Distributed petrol to destroy evidence
- c) Released prisoners from camps
- d) Fled to other countries immediately

Answer: b) Distributed petrol to destroy evidence

Question 11. In what forms does the history and memory of the Holocaust survive today?

- a) Only in history textbooks
- b) In memoirs, fiction, documentaries, poetry, memorials, and museums
- c) Only in court records
- d) Only in survivor interviews

Answer: b) In memoirs, fiction, documentaries, poetry, memorials, and museums

Question 12. Who wrote letters to Adolf Hitler appealing for peace?

- a) Jawaharlal Nehru
- b) Mahatma Gandhi
- c) Subhas Chandra Bose
- d) Winston Churchill

Answer: b) Mahatma Gandhi

Question 13. In Gandhi's 1939 letter to Hitler, what did he urge Hitler to do?

- a) Continue the war for national pride
- b) Prevent a war that could destroy humanity
- c) Ally with Britain
- d) Focus on economic reforms

Answer: b) Prevent a war that could destroy humanity

Question 14. In Gandhi's 1940 letter, what did he describe as a force that could match violent powers?

- a) Democracy
- b) Non-violence
- c) Education
- d) Economic progress

Answer: b) Non-violence

Question 15. According to Gandhi, what was the flaw in Hitler's legacy?

- a) Lack of political unity
- b) A record of cruel deeds

- c) Economic mismanagement
- d) Dependence on foreign support

Answer: b) A record of cruel deeds

Topics of NCERT/CBSE History Class 9 Chapter 3: Nazism and the Rise of Hitler

Topics No.	Topics Name
1	Birth of the Weimar Republic
2	Hitler's Rise to Power
3	The Nazi Worldview
4	Youth in Nazi Germany
5	Ordinary People and the Crimes Against Humanity

Thank You



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