



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: IX	Department: SOCIAL SCIENCE	Subject-History
Question Bank: No. 3	Topic: Nazism and The Rise of Hitler	Year-2022-2023

Question and answers

Q1. "The Treaty of Versailles was a humiliating one for the Germans." Give examples to support the statement.

Peace settlement at Paris was made in a spirit of revenge to punish Germany. As a result of the discussions at the Paris Peace conference on **28th June, 1919** the Treaty of Versailles was signed. The German felt that too much injustice had been done to them.

The main terms of the Treaty of Versailles were as follows:

- The treaty declared Germany guilty of aggression. The victorious powers had deprived Germany of huge tracts of its territories. Germany was burdened with an immense war indemnity.
- Germany was required to pay for the loss and damages suffered by the Allies during the war. The amount of reparations was fixed. Germany was forced to pay compensation amounting to £6 billion.
- Germany lost its overseas colonies, a tenth of its population, 13 per cent of its territories,
- 75 per cent of its Iron and 26 per cent of its Coal to France, Poland, Denmark and Lithuania.
- Rhineland was to be Demilitarized. The German army and navy were dramatically reduced.

Q2. Under what circumstances did Hitler came to power in Germany?

Conditions of the Versailles peace treaty: -

- It was harsh and humiliating, Germany lost its overseas colonies, a tenth of its population,
- Germany lost all of her glory and honor.

Economic crisis after the war: -

- There was a great economic depression after the world war.
- There were severe unemployment and poverty
- Unemployment youths put placards showing willing to do any jobs.

Weakness of the Weimar Republic: -

- Weimar Republican government failed to solve the after-war problem in Germany.
- Weimar government was weak and fragile and the Germans believed that Weimar government responsible for all these problems.
- The charismatic personality of Hitler.

Q3. 'The Weimar Constitution had some inherent defects. Explain.

OR

Describe the problems faced by the Weimar Republic.

The Weimar constitution had some inherent defects, which made the government weak and unstable and vulnerable to Dictatorship. The defects were:

• **Proportional Representation:** Its proportional representation which made achieving a majority by any one party, a nearly impossible task, leading to a rule by coalitions.

• **Article 48:** The Article 48 which gave the president the powers to impose emergency suspend Civil Rights and Rule by decree.

Q4. Discuss why Nazism became popular in Germany by 1930.

Nazism became popular for the following reasons

(i) After defeat in the First World War, Germany was forced to sign the harsh and humiliating Treaty of Versailles, in which it was made to accept the guilt for the war. The Germans felt disgraced and humiliated.

(ii) Political parties like the Communists, Socialists, Democrats, etc. were not united. There were conflicts between them and the government became weak. The Nazi Party took advantage of the situation and captured power.

(iii) Democracy in Germany was relatively new and it was not strong. It did not appeal to the Germans. They wanted a party and a system that would re-establish the glory and prestige of Germany. So, they were attracted to the Nazi Party.

(iv) Hitler was a great orator and with his speeches he was able to sway the masses and win their confidence, He was able to convince them that he would undo the injustice done and bring back the glory and dignity of the German people. He promised employment for those looking for work. He won over the youth by promising them a secure future.

(v) He got the support of the Army, the Industrialists and the landlords because he opposed communism and socialism, which these people also opposed.

Thus, Hitler and the Nazi Party were able to win the support of all sections of Germans and so become popular.

Q5. State the Provisions of the Enabling Act of 1933.

On 3rd March 1933, the famous Enabling Act was passed. This act established dictatorship in Germany.

- It gave Hitler all powers to sideline parliament and rule by decree.
- All political parties and trade unions were banned except for the Nazi party and its affiliates.
- The state established complete control over the economy, media, army and judiciary.
- Special surveillance and security forces were created to control and order society in ways that Nazi wanted.

Q6. Analyze the Foreign policies of Hitler

- In foreign policy also, Hitler acquired quick successes. He reoccupied the Rhineland in 1936.
- Austria integrated with Germany in 1938 under the slogan One Nation, One Empire, and One Leader.
- He then went on to wrest German-speaking Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia, and gobbled up the entire country.
- In September 1940, Hitler signed a Tripartite pact with Italy and Japan to strengthen his claim to International power.

Q7. What are the peculiar features of Nazi ideology?

The peculiar features of Nazism were as follows -

(i) Nazis believed in the idea of One People, One Empire and One Leader.

(ii) It did not tolerate other parties and tried to crush all other organizations and parties.

(iii) According to Nazism there was no equality between people. In this view, the blue eyed Nordic German Aryans were at the top while the Jews were located at the lowest.

- (iv) It was propagated that the Jews were responsible for the economic misery of the Germans.
- (v) Nazis propagated war and glorified aggression.
- (vi) Nazis believed in the idea of **Lebensraum on living space**. i.e., new areas should be acquired so that more space is available for the Germans to settle.
- (vii) Nazis wanted to create a separate racial community of pure Germans by physically eliminating all those who were seen as undesirable by them.
- (viii) The Nazis believed that Jews were inferior and the cause of German misery and therefore should be totally eliminated.
- (ix) The Nazi argument was simple. The strongest race would survive and the weak ones would perish.
- (X) The Aryan race was the finest. It had to retain its purity, become stronger and dominate the world.

Q8. Explain why Nazi propaganda was effective in creating a hatred for Jews.

Nazi propaganda was effective in creating hatred for the Jews for the following reason:

- (i) The Jews were stereotyped as killers of Christ. They had been barred since medieval times from ownership of land.
- (ii) They were already hated as usurers or money-lenders. Violence against Jews, even inside their residential ghettos, was common. Hitler's race theories fanned this hatred. He wanted all Jews to be eliminated from Germany.

Q9. In what ways did the Nazi state seek to establish total control over its people?

Hitler, after coming to power, emerged as a powerful dictator. He destroyed Democracy in Germany.

- (i) The First Fire decree in 1933 suspended the Civic Rights like Freedom of Speech, Press and Assembly and thus controlled the German population.
- (ii) The Enabling Act was passed. It gave all powers to Hitler to Sideline Parliament and rule by decree.
- (iii) All political parties except the Nazi Party were banned. All political opponents were imprisoned or assassinated.
- (iv) The communists were suppressed and sent to Concentration camps.
- (v) Special security forces such as the SA, SS, SD and Gestapo were created to control and order society in ways that the Nazis wanted. These forces were given extra constitutional powers.
- (vi) Media was used carefully to win the support for Hitler and Nazism. Nazi ideas were spread through visual images films, radio, posters and catchy slogans and leaflets.

Q10. Highlight five events of 1933 that led to the destruction of Democracy in Germany.

The events of 1933 that led to the destruction of Democracy in Germany are as follows.

- On 30th January 1933 President Hindenburg gave the Chancellorship, the highest position in the cabinet to Hitler. Hitler now tried to dismantle the structure.
- A mysterious fire broke out in German Parliament which facilitated his move.
- The Fire Decree of 27th February 1933 indefinitely suspended civil rights like Freedom of Speech, Press and assembly that had been granted by the Weimar Republic.
- Communists, who were the enemies of Hitler, were sent to concentration camps.
- On 3rd march, Enabling Act was passed. It established Dictatorship in Germany. Hitler could rule without the consent of the parliament. All political parties and Trade unions were banned except the Nazi Party. The state had full control over media, army and judiciary.

Q11. "Nazi Germany was considered as the most dreaded criminal state." Explain the Statement.

- Special surveillance and security forces were created to control and order society in ways that the Nazis wanted.
- Apart from the already existing regular police in green uniform and the SA or the Storm Troopers, these included the Gestapo (secret state police), the SS (the protection squads), criminal police and the Security Service (SD).
- It was the extra-constitutional powers of these newly organized forces that gave the Nazi state its reputation as the most dreaded criminal state.
- People could now be detained in Gestapo torture chambers, rounded up and sent to Concentration camps.

Q12. What did the Nuremberg Laws mean to the 'undesirables' in Nazi Germany? What other legal measures were taken against them to make them feel unwanted?

Ans. The Nuremberg Laws meant that the 'undesirables' had no rights to live along with the other citizens. These included Jews, Gypsies, 'Blacks' and other nationalities like Polish and Russian people. (i) Only persons of German or related blood would be German citizens, enjoying the protection of the German Empire. (ii) Marriages between Germans and the 'undesirables' were forbidden.

Other legal measures included

- (i) Boycott of Jewish businesses.
 - (ii) Expulsion of Jews from government services.
 - (iii) Confiscation and forcible selling of the properties of Jews.
 - (iv) Jews were forbidden to fly the national flag
- Besides, Jewish properties were vandalized and looted, houses attacked, Synagogues (Place of worship for people of Jewish faith) burnt and men arrested in a pogrom in November, 1938, remembered as 'the night of broken glasses' concentration camps, deported without any legal process.

Q13. What do you think was the impact of the Nuremberg laws on Jews?

- i) Many shops and restaurants did not serve the Jewish population.
- ii) Jews were banned from public parks, swimming pools and public transport.
- iii) Germans were also encouraged not to use Jewish doctors and lawyers.
- iv) Jewish civil servants were dismissed from their jobs.
- v) Jews were banned from universities.
- vi) Jews had to wear a Star of David (For identification).

Q14. How far was Hitler responsible for the Second World War?

- a) **Expansionist policy of Hitler:** -Believed in the principles of Lebensraum or living space. In **1936**, reoccupied the Rhineland and integrated Austria and Germany in **1938** under the slogan, **One people, One empire, and One leader**. He then went on to wrest German speaking Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia, and gobbled up the entire country.
- b) **Attack on Poland:** -On 1st September 1939: Hitler attacked Poland. This was the immediate cause for the outbreak of the Second World War.
- c) **Formation of the Tripartite alliance:** - **In September 1940**, a Tripartite Pact was signed between **Germany, Italy and Japan**, strengthening Hitler's claim to international power.
- d) **Attack on Russia:** -Hitler moved to achieve his long term aim of conquering Eastern Europe and attacked Russia. He wanted to ensure food supplies and living space for Germans. He attacked the **Soviet Union in June 1941**. In this historic blunder Hitler exposed the German western front to British aerial bombing and the eastern front to the powerful Soviet armies. The Soviet Red Army inflicted a crushing and humiliating defeat on Germany at Stalingrad. After this the Soviet

Red Army hounded out the retreating German soldiers until they reached the heart of Berlin

- e) **Attack on Pearl Harbour:** -USA had resisted involvement in the war. It was unwilling to once again face all the economic problems that the First World War had caused. But it could not stay out of the war for long. *Japan was expanding its power in the east. It had occupied French Indo-China and was planning attacks on US naval bases in the Pacific. When Japan extended its support to Hitler and bombed the US base at Pearl Harbor, the US entered the Second World War. *The war ended in May 1945 with Hitler's defeat and the US dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima in Japan.

Q15. Mention the communities termed as “desirable” and “undesirable” in Nazi Germany.

- Jews were not the only community classified as undesirable. There were others. Many Gypsies and blacks living in Nazi Germany were considered as racial inferiors.
- Even Russians and Polish people were considered subhuman, and hence undeserving of any humanity.
- Nazis wanted only a society of pure and healthy Aryans. They alone were considered desirable.
 - Even Germans who were mentally and physically challenged were killed.

Q16. ‘The year 1945 was the end of Nazi Germany’. Substantiate.

- In May 1945 Germany surrendered to the Allies. Hitler and his propaganda minister Goebbels and his family committed suicide in his Berlin bunker.
- As the Allies armies overran the areas, occupied by Nazi Germany, they came across many concentration camps where people were on the last stage of their life.
- When the war seemed lost, the Nazi leaders distributed petrol to their subordinates to destroy all evidences available in the offices.

Q17. How did the Nazis proceed to realize their murderous racial ideology by eliminating the ‘undesirables’? Explain.

The Nazis proceeded to realize their murderous racial ideology by eliminating the ‘undesirables’ in the following manner.

- Jews remained the worst sufferers in Nazi Germany. From 1933-1938 Jewish business was boycotted, they were expelled from government services and their property was confiscated.
- From 1939-1945 the Jews were kept in **Ghettos**, in extreme poverty and misery & eventually they were killed in Gas chambers.
- Germany occupied North-Western Poland. Polish people were forced to leave their homes and property, to be occupied by ethnic Germans. Polish people were sent to the final destination of the ‘undesirable’.
- Polish children who looked like Aryans were forcibly snatched and examined by race experts. If they passed the test, they were raised in German families and if not they were sent to orphanages, where most of them died.

Q18. Explain the following terms:

(i) Holocaust, (ii) Concentration Camp, (iii) Wall Street Exchange. (iv) Special treatment (v) Gas chamber (vi) Propaganda:

(i) Holocaust: It refers to the Nazi killing operations. Undesirable people were taken to concentration camp, Gestapo, gas chambers etc., and were subjected to death.

While the Germans were pre-occupied with their own plight as a defeated nation emerging out of the rubble, the Jews wanted the world to remember the atrocities and sufferings they had endured during the Nazi killing operations.

(ii) **Concentration Camp:** It was a camp where people were isolated and detained without due process of law. Typically, it was surrounded by electrified barbed wire fences.

When Hitler became the Chancellor on 30th January 1933, he hurriedly packed off his arch-enemies, the communists to the newly established concentration camp.

(iii) **Wall Street Exchange:** It is the world's biggest stock exchange located in the USA.

In 1929, when the Wall Street Exchange crashed, Germans were very much affected because they were totally dependent on short-term loans, largely from the USA.

(iv) **Special treatment:** Mass killings were termed special treatment, final solution (for the Jews), euthanasia (for the disabled), selection and disinfections. 'Evacuation' meant deporting people to gas chambers.

(v) **Gas chambers:** They were labelled 'disinfection-areas', and looked like bathrooms equipped with fake showerheads.

(vi) **Propaganda:** Specific type of message directly aimed at influencing the opinion of people (through the use of posters, films, speeches etc.

(vii) **Proletarianisation:** To become impoverished to the level of working classes.

Q19. "Youth organizations played a very important role in Nazi Germany." Justify the statement
Youth organizations were made responsible for educating the German children in the "The spirit of National Socialism."

- At 10 they had to join Jungvolk at the age of 14 they had to join the youth organization 'Hitler Youth'
- They learnt to hate the Jewish, the Gypsies, and communist, condemned democracy, worship war and glorify the aggression and violence and all those who categorized as 'undesirable'.
- After a period of vigorous ideological and physical training they joined the labour service, usually at the age 18. Then they had to serve in the in the armed forces and enter one of the Nazi organizations.

Q20. 'In Nazi Germany all mothers were not treated equally.' Explain the statement with examples.

- Children in Nazi Germany were repeatedly told that women were radically different from men.
- While boys were taught to be aggressive, masculine and steel hearted, girls were told that they had to become good mothers and rear pure-blooded Aryan children.
- But in Nazi Germany all mothers were not treated equally. Women who bore racially undesirable children were punished and who produced desirable children was awarded.
- They were given favored treatment in hospitals and entitled to concession in shops, on theatre tickets and railway fare.
- To encourage women to produce more children, Honour Crosses were awarded.

Q21. Explain what role women had in Nazi society. Return to Chapter 1 on the French Revolution. Write a paragraph comparing and contrasting the role of women in the two periods.

*Role of women in Nazi society was modelled on the principles of a largely patriarchal or male-dominated society. Hitler hailed women as most important citizens, but this was limited to only Aryan women who bred pure-blood, 'desirable' Aryans.

*Motherhood was the only goal they were taught to strive for, in addition to performing the duties of managing the household and being good wives.

*This was in total contrast to the role of women in the French Revolution, where women led movements and fought for the right to education and the right to equal wages as men. They could not be forced to marry against their will. They could also train for jobs, become artists or run small businesses. Schooling was made compulsory for them.

Q22. "All schools under Nazi were 'cleansed' and 'purified'." Explain with examples

- All schools were cleansed and purified. This meant that teachers who were Jews or seen as politically unreliable were dismissed.
- Children were first segregated. Germans and Jews could not sit together or play together. Subsequently, undesirable children Jews, the physically handicapped, Gypsies were thrown out of schools.
- And finally, in the 1940s, they were taken to the gas chambers.
- Good German children were subjected to a process of Nazi schooling, a prolonged period of ideological training. School textbooks were rewritten. Racial science was introduced to justify Nazi ideas of race. Stereotypes about Jews were popularized even through math classes.
- Children were taught to be loyal and submissive, hate Jews, and worship Hitler.
- Even the function of sports was to nurture a spirit of violence and aggression among children.
- Hitler believed that boxing could make children iron hearted, strong and masculine.

Q23. "The Nazi regime used language and media with care, and often to great effect." Explain.

- Nazi Germany used language and media with care and often to great effort.
- Nazis never used the word killed or murder in their official communication. **Mass killing termed as special treatment, final solution** for the Jews, **euthanasia** for the **disabled**, selection and **disinfection**. Evacuation meant deporting people to the gas chambers.
- Nazis ideas were spread through radio, posters, leaflets, catchy slogans. In posters groups identified as the enemies of the Germans were stereotyped, mocked, abused and describe as evil.
- Propaganda movies were made to create hatred for the Jews. The most infamous movie against the Jews was 'The Eternal Jews'.
