

CHAPTER-III

NAZISM AND THE RISE OF HITLER

2 MARK QUESTIONS

1.Trace any three main features of the foreign policy of Hitler.

ANSWER:

- On 30th January 1933, Hitler became the Chancellor of Germany and established dictatorship.
- Right from the beginning, he followed a policy of aggression and war towards other countries.
- He pulled out of the League of Nations in 1933, reoccupied Rhineland in 1936 and integrated Austria and Germany in 1938 under the slogan 'One people, One empire, One leader'.

2.The Peace Treaty at Versailles with the Allies was a harsh and humiliating peace. Explain the statement with any three examples.

ANSWER:

In the First World War, Germany was defeated. The peace Treaty at Versailles with the Allies was a harsh and humiliating peace.

Germany lost its overseas colonies and also much of its territories in Europe.

Germany lost 75% of its iron and 26% of its coal to France and other countries.

The Allied Powers demilitarised Germany to weaken its power. Germany was forced to pay compensation amounting to £ 6 billion.

The Allied forces occupied the resources rich Rhineland till the 1920s. (Any three)

3. When did Hitler formally announce his violation of the Treaty of Versailles?

What reason did he give for this ?

ANSWER:

Hitler formally announced his violation of the Treaty of Versailles in March 1935.

Hitler claimed that he was trying to make Germany equal in position to the other European powers.

Since European nations had not followed the policy of disarmament, German rearmament was a necessity.

4. What was the ideology of the Nazis regarding the Jews ?

ANSWER:

The ideology of the Nazis regarding the Jews were :

All schools were cleansed and purified under Nazism. Those teachers were dismissed who were found to be Jews or seen as politically unreliable.

German and Jew children were not allowed to sit or play together.

All the undesirable children—Jews, Gypsies, and the physically handicapped were dismissed from schools and finally were taken to gas chambers in the 1940s.

5.What were the results of the victory of Nazism in Germany ?

ANSWER:

The victory of Nazism in Germany led to the destruction of democracy and establishment of dictatorship.

It also led to the militarism and preparation for the war.

In Germany, all other political parties were banned except the Nazi Party.

Nazism opposed Socialism and Communism, so the advocates of these philosophies were either jailed or killed.

4 MARK QUESTIONS

1. Describe the problems faced by the Weimar Republic.

ANSWER:

The Weimar Republic faced the following problems:

1. The Treaty of Versailles after the First World War was unfair to Germany. Germany was exploited using that treaty and due to the humiliating terms of the Treaty, the common public was discontent.
2. Due to Germany being made to pay for the First World War, its economy crumbled. The price of essential goods increased substantially and also the gold reserves depleted.
3. In an economic crisis, the German governments elected democratically were not able to cope up with the problems and failed to solve them. Thus, the public later accepted the dictatorship of Hitler.

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

ANSWER:

The following reasons made Nazism popular in Germany in the 1930s:

1. The democratic governments could not solve the economic crisis of the country and left abruptly. Thus, people were fed up with weak governments.
2. Adolf Hitler promised the people to uphold the condition and dignity of Germany. This instilled hopes in the minds of the people.
3. The Nazi party did not let other parties to gain grounds and hence, people listened only to the Nazis.

3. What are the peculiar features of Nazi thinking?

ANSWER:

The peculiar features of Nazi thinking were as follows:

1. Racial Hierarchy in all spheres of the society.
2. The German Aryans being at the top and the Jews being kept at the bottom of the racial ladder in Germany.
3. Belief that the strong should rule the poor and not deal with the poor.
4. Territorial expansion for enhancing the power and influence of the country.

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

ANSWER:

The Nazi propaganda was highly effective in creating hatred for the Jews due to the following reasons:

1. Media and Newspapers were regulated by the Nazis. They portrayed the class system in German society where Jews were to be the lowest.
2. The Nazis revived the traditional hatred of Christians against Jews due to which the hatred was intensified.
3. The school curriculum was also made hostile to the Jews and even the children in schools used to study hatred against them. The Jewish students and teachers were thrown out of the schools.

Such kinds of propaganda made the Germans believe that the Jews were inferior to them.

5. 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.

ANSWER:

The Nazi society was highly patriarchal and the women were only seen as beings to give birth to the next generation of the Aryans. They were to perform the household chores and remain good wives. No women were allowed in military or industries in the Nazi Germany. However, in French society, the women not only did protest and fought for their rights but also were granted equality at work and in rights.

7 MARK QUESTIONS

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

ANSWER:

The Nazi state established a total control over its people by various means:

1. Using propaganda, they glorified their behaviour in the state.
2. Media was used to hide the negativities of the Nazi Party.
3. The Nazi party used the psychological effects to rule the people, and they were shown only good things about them.
4. Every citizen was monitored closely and hostilities were checked at the emergence level.
5. The punishment was brutal due to which the people feared to raise their voice against the Nazi Party.

2.What steps were taken by Adolf Hitler for the destruction of democracy ?

ANSWER:

The following steps were taken by Hitler for the destruction of democracy :

A mysterious fire that broke out in the German Parliament building in February, 1933 indefinitely suspended civic rights. It is said that the fire was broken out by Hitler's supporters, while Hitler blamed his political enemies for it. The Fire Decree of 28 February, 1933 indefinitely suspended civic rights such as freedom of expression, speech, press and assembly that had been guaranteed by the Weimar Constitution.

After that Adolf Hitler turned on his enemy, i.e., the Communists of Germany, most ' of the communists were quickly packed off to the newly established concentration camps.

The repression of the Communists was severe. Their membership was in thousands. They were, however, only one among the 52 types of victims persecuted by the Nazis across the country.

On 3rd March, 1933, the famous Enabling Act was passed. This Act established dictatorship in Germany. It gave Adolf Hitler all political and administrative powers to sideline German Parliament and rule by decree.

3.What were the main effects of Nazi rule on Germany ?

ANSWER:

The victory of Nazism produced far reaching effects on Germany :

Hitler tried to pull his country out of the Economic Crisis that had befallen on Germany as a result of her defeat in the First World War.

Different types of industries were set up to provide work to the workmen. Trade was encouraged with the same aim in mind.

Hitler inspired to make Germany a powerful country and enhanced his military power in all possible ways.

All political parties except the Nazi Party were banned. And, then a Reign of Terror was let loose in Germany. Assassinations of anti-Nazi leaders took place on a large scale.

The Communist Parties were also banned.

Trade unions were suppressed.

4.What did Hitler do to overcome the economic crisis that badly hit the German economy ?

ANSWER:

After establishing his dictatorship in Germany,he took major steps towards the economic reconstruction.

Hitler assigned the responsibility of economic recovery to the economist Hjalmar Schacht who aimed at full production and full employment through a state-funded work-creation programme.

In foreign policy also, Hitler acquired quick successes. He pulled out of the League of Nations in 1933, reoccupied the Rhineland in 1936, 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. In all of this he had the unspoken support of England, which had considered the Versailles verdict too harsh. These quick successes at home and abroad seemed to reverse the destiny of the country.

Hitler chose war as the way out of the approaching economic crisis. Resources were to be accumulated through expansion of territory. In September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. This started a war with France and England. In September 1940, a Tripartite Pact was signed between Germany, Italy and Japan, strengthening Hitler's claim to , international power.

Hitler now moved to achieve his long-term aim of conquering Eastern Europe. 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.

5. Why is Nazism considered a calamity not only for Germany but for the entire Europe ?

ANSWER:

Nazi ideology specified that there was racial hierarchy and no equality between people.

(a) The blond, blue-eyed Nordic German Aryans were at the top, while the Jews were located somewhere on the lowest rung of the ladder.

(b) The number of people killed by Nazi Germany was 6 million Jews, 200,000 Gypsies, 1 million Polish civilians, 70,000 Germans.

(c) Nazism glorified the use of force and brutality. It ridiculed internationalism, peace and democracy.

(d) Nazi Germany became the most dreaded criminal state. Hitler chose war as the way out of approaching the economic crisis.

(e) Germany invaded Poland. This started a war with France and England in September 1940.

6. Explain the impact of the First World War on European society and polity.

ANSWER:

The First World War left a deep imprint on European society and polity. It had a devastating impact on the entire continent.

(a) In society, soldiers were ranked higher than civilians. Trench life of the soldiers was glorified by the media. The media glorified trench life.

(b) Politicians and publicists laid great stress on the need for men to be aggressive and masculine.

(c) Aggressive war propaganda and national honour occupied centre stage in the public sphere.

(d) Popular support grew for conservative dictatorships that had recently come into being.

(e) Democracy as a young and fragile idea could not survive the instabilities of interwar Europe.

7.Trace the events that led to the birth of the Weimar Republic.**ANSWER:**

In the 20th century Germany was a powerful Empire. During the First World War Germany took up the cause of Austria against the Allies. Many countries joined the war hoping to gain something, without realizing the fact that the war would prolong and drain Europe of its resources. Though Germany made initial gains by occupying France and Belgium, the Allies became stronger when the US joined them in 1917 and defeated Germany and the Central Powers.

The defeat of Germany resulted in the abdication of the German Emperor. This gave an opportunity for the parliamentary parties to bring in a change, in German politics. A democratic constitution with a federal structure was formed by the National Assembly, which met at Weimar and the Weimar Republic came into existence.

8.What was the out come of the Versailles treaty?**ANSWER:**

At the end of the First World War, in which Germany lost, a peace treaty was signed at Versailles with the Allies. The Versailles treaty was harsh and humiliating, for the Germans. Germany lost its

Over seas colonies

One tenth of its population

13% of its territories

75% of its iron and

26% of its coal to France, Poland, Denmark and Lithuania.

The Allied powers demilitarized Germany to weaken its power.

The War Guild Clause held Germany responsible for the war and damages the Allied countries suffered.

Germany was forced to pay a compensation of £ 6 billion.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1.Where is the Wall Street Exchange?

- (a) America
- (b) Britain
- (c) France
- (d) Germany

Answer: (a) America

2.Which country was defeated after the First World War?

- (a) France
- (b) Germany
- (c) Russia
- (d) Britain

Answer: (b) Germany

3.The time span of the First World War was

- (a) 1911-1914
- (b) 1914-1918
- (c) 1918-1921
- (d) 1920-1925

Answer: (b) 1914-1918

4.The Nazi Party had become the largest party by the

- (a) 1920
- (b) 1925
- (c) 1926
- (d) 1932

Answer: (d) 1932

5.Hitler became the Chancellor or Germany in the year

- (a) 1931
- (b) 1932
- (c) 1933
- (d) 1934

Answer: (c) 1933

6.The country that dropped atom bomb on Hiroshima in Japan was

- (a) France
- (b) America
- (c) Germany
- (d) Britain

Answer: (b) America

7.Who could enter Jungvolk?

- (a) Ten-year-old boys
- (b) Twelve-year-old boys
- (c) Fourteen-year-old boys
- (d) Eighteen-year-old boys

Answer: (a) Ten-year-old boys

8.Who were the worst sufferers in Nazi Germany?

- (a) Jews
- (b) Poles
- (c) Russians
- (d) Gypsies

Answer: (a) Jews

FILL IN THE BLANKS

- 1.The Great Depression was a period of **Economic crisis**
- 2.What is the German Parliament known as **The German Parliament is known as the Reichstag.**
- 3.A camp where people were isolated and detained without due process of law, referred to as **Concentration camp**
- 4.Which Article of the Weimar Constitution gave the President the powers to impose emergency, suspend civil rights and rule by decree **Article 48**
- 5.Who offered the chancellorship to Hitler on 30 January 1933 **President Hindenburg**

SUMMARY

In September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. This started a war with France and England. In September 1940, a Tripartite Pact was signed between Germany, Italy and Japan, strengthening Hitler's claim to international power. Puppet regimes, supportive of Nazi Germany, were installed in a large part of Europe.