KQ2 The consolidation of Nazi control and dictatorship.

**Content overview**

* The creation of the Nazi state.
* Methods of Nazi control.
* Opposition and resistance to the Nazis.

The creation of the Nazi state: the reasons why Hitler was able to gain total power in Germany, including the significance of the existing constitution and the role of von Papen and von Hindenburg in 1932–33, and of the key events of 1933–4: the Reichstag Fire, the Enabling Act, the banning and removal of rival power groups including political parties, trade unions and the Night of the Long Knives. The nature of Hitler’s role as Fuhrer.

Methods of control : Control through national and local groups and systems, including the role of the SS, concentration camps and local wardens; laws restricting civil liberties; treatment of the press, political parties, churches and opposition groups and individuals, the uses of censorship, and the role of Goebbels. The purpose and effectiveness of different types of propaganda, eg films, posters, rallies.

Opposition and resistance involve its nature and extent, including the significance of the White Rose Group and Pastor Niemoller.

Germany KQ2 Key Words

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| Dietrich Bonhoeffer | Protestant Church leader, opponent of the Nazis who was arrested and executed |
| Catholic Church | Branch of Christianity, led by Pope in Rome. 1/3 of Germans were Catholic in 1933. |
| Centre and Nationalist Parties | Parties that believed in traditional values and accepted social structures. They wanted strong foreign policies. |
| Communist | Believer in a system of government with government control of the economy and a society where all are equal and there is no private ownership |
| ConcentrationCamps | Where opponents were kept, often doing labour. Later some became death camps. |
| constitution | Document laying down basic laws of how a country should be run |
| coup | Sudden seizure of power by a small group |
| DAF | Workers and employers Nazi organisation set up to replace the banned Trade Unions. It included the ‘Beauty of Labour’ and ‘Strength through Joy’ organisations |
| democracy | A system of government where leaders are voted in to office by the people |
| dictatorship | Rule by one all-powerful person or group |
| Emergency Decree | President could make laws without the Reichstag in time of emergency |
| Enabling Act | Change to the Constitution, made in March 1933. Gave Hitler the right to make laws without consulting the Reichstag |
| Fuhrer | Leader-Title used by Hitler after August 1934, amalgamating the roles of President and Chancellor |
| Gauleiter | Regional Nazis Party leader. They controlled 32 Gau (regions) of Germany. |
| German Women’s Enterprise | Nazis Party organisation that all women’s groups were forced to merge into in 1933. It worked to spread Nazi values on the role of women |
| Gestapo | State secret police after 1936. Spied on the population |
| Himmler, Heinrich | Head of the SS |
| Hitler Youth | Nazis organisation from 1936. all previous youth groups were merged into it. Established to spread Nazi ideas amongst the young |
| Nazis Party (NSDAP) | The only political party after 1934. Local party leaders ran each region, whilst party organisations controlled people’s work and lives. |
| Opposition | People that were against Hitler and the Nazis |
| Plebiscites | Vote by all people on an important issue |
| Police State | Overseen by the SS, there was a range of different organisations used to control the German people if they were seen to step out of line. These included the SS, the SD, the Gestapo, the Police, courts, prisons and concentration camps. |
| Polycracy | A system of government in which there are many different groups with roles and responsibilities that overlap. This can increase the control that the overall leader has. |
| Protestant Church | Branch of Christianity. 2/3 of Germans were members of the Protestant Church |
| RAD | The Reich Labour Service. 18-25 year old men had to do 6 months work service. |
| Reichstag fire | German parliament burnt down in 27th feb 1933 |
| SA | Stormtroopers, Hitler’s private army led by Rohm |
| SS | First Private bodyguards for Nazi leaders, later arrested people |
| Trade Unions | Organisations run to protect workers rights |

Focus 1: How and in what ways did the Nazis change the way in which Germany was controlled?

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| **Key Sub Questions**  1 How did the Nazis consolidate their power?  2 Which events were most significant in the Nazis consolidating their power?  3 What were the key features of Hitler’s leadership? |

**Activity 1 :From democracy to dictatorship 1933-34.** Hitler was appointment Chancellor on 30 Jan1933. However, his power over Germany was limited. The political system was still a Democracy, with a President, the Reichstag and the Reichsrat. The Nazis only had 33.1 % of the seats in the Reichstag. Furthermore, the fundamental laws protected the rights of citizens. In his attempts to gain greater power, Hitler faced many decisions. In each case read what he did and identify if he made choice A or B.

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| Decision | Choice A | Choice B | Hitler’s actions |
| 1)There were Non-Nazis in the government because the Nazis didn’t have a majority in the Reichstag. | Call another election for the Reichstag | Abolish the Reichstag | 1st Feb 1933 Hitler announced his ‘proclamation to the German People’ and called new elections for March. |
| 2) What sort of campaign should be fought? | Use propaganda. Also pass a law that makes it difficult for opposition party campaigns | Use violence to injure and kill opponents. | 4th Feb 1933 A law “For the Protection of the German People’ gave Hitler the power to ban political meetings and the newspapers of his political rivals, to disrupt their election campaign. |
| 3)27th Feb 1933 Someone set fire to the Reichstag and it burnt down | Keep quiet about the fire, in case people think it is a Nazi plot | Blame it on Communists, so they will be arrested. Get President to use Article 48 | 27-28th Feb 1933 400 communists were arrested, accused of plot to overthrow government. President Hindenburg introduced ‘Emergency Decree of the Protection of the People and State’ using Article 48 to suspend civil rights, eg freedom of speech, & ban on left wing press. |
| 4) Election results 5th March 1933: Hitler only got 44% in the election. | Get Reichstag to vote to change the Constitution, giving Hitler the power to pass laws without consulting them. | Abolish the Reichstag, ignore the President. Use violence to kill off any opposition. | 23rd March The Enabling Act was passed by the Reichstag. It did not abolish the Reichstag, but gave Hitler the power to make laws personally, without consulting the Reichstag. |
| 5) Reichsrat had democratically elected reps from 18 local state parliaments. None had Nazi majorities. | Hold local elections, using propaganda to gain more Nazi representatives. | Stop reps being chosen democratically. Appoint Nazis to all State gov. posts. | 31st March 1933 Laws were changed so that Nazis were appointed to lead State governments. Later, on 30th Jan 1934, state governments were abolished completely. |
| 6)Biggest trade unions were loyal to the Social Democratic party. | Allow them to continue and persuade them to support the government. | Destroy them and replace with a Nazi organisation. | 2nd May 1933. The leaders arrested and offices smashed up. Trade Unions were banned, in a new law Nazi Deutsche Arbeitsfront (German Workers’ Front) was created to replace them. |
| 7) The Communist and Social Democratic parties proved a threat. | Allow them to continue and persuade them to support the government. | Use violence to crush the SDP and Communist parties. | May 1933 Communist and Socialist Party Headquarters were attacked, their newspapers destroyed and funds confiscated.  22nd June 1933 The Social Democrat Party was officially banned |
| 8) The Centre and Nationalist parties had helped Hitler in the past, but could be opponents. | Allow them to continue and persuade them to support the government. | Make them illegal and ban their activities. | 5th July 1933 new law bans all political parties except the Nazis (became a One Party State.) |
| 9) The Churches had a powerful influence over people’s beliefs and actions Some church members voted Nazi, many hadn’t. | Make agreement with Pope, head of Catholic church. Unite all German Protestant churches under Nazi leader | Ban religious activity. | 20th July 1933 Hitler agreed a concordat with the Pope. Both agreed not to interfere with each others’ affairs.  Sept 1933 A ‘Reich Church’ was set up to unite all Protestant churches loyal to Hitler, as means of promoting Nazism through religion. |
| 10)The Army was important but Army leaders disliked Nazis. The SA helped Nazis gain power, but SA leader Ernst Rohm wanted different policies to Hitler. | Weaken the SA and reassure the army | Replace the Army with an expanded SA | 29th June 1934 The leaders of the SA were wiped out, following its leader Rohm having challenged Hitler’s leadership of the Nazis. 200 SA leaders executed. |
| 11) President Hindenburg died | Allow another President to be elected | Make himself President as well as Chancellor. | 2nd Aug 1934 Hitler declared himself Fuhrer, an amalgamation of both posts, giving him control over the army, ministers, Article 48 etc. Absolute leader. |

**Activity 2. Three key events in Hitler’s consolidation of power. Read and underline key words. Decide which event was most important in Hitler consolidating his power.**

**The Reichstag Fire – 27th February 1933**

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| What happened on the night? | On 27th Feb 1933, the Reichstag building was burned down. Inside the building the Berlin police found a Dutch Communist Marius van der Lubbe. He was arrested, put on trial and found guilty of starting the fire. |
| What theories are there for what happened? | **1)The Communists were to blame.** Van der Lubbe was caught red handed and confessed to the crime. It was argued that he was working with the German communists and that they planned the event to try to start a communist revolution. When speaking to Hitler in front of journalists outside the Reichstag, Goring said “This is undoubtedly the work of the communists. A number of communist deputies were present here in the Reichstag 20 minutes before the fire broke put. We have succeeded in arresting one of the arsonists.”  **However,** Van der Lubbe claimed in his statement to the police and at his trial that he had acted alone.  2)**The Nazis were to blame**. It seemed a real coincidence, in terms of timing and giving Hitler the excuse to attack the communists in the lead up to elections. In his memoirs, General Halder said At a luncheon on the birthday of the Fuhrer…I heard with my own ears when Goring …shouted: “The only one who really knows about the Reichstag building is I, because I set it on fire.”  **However,** this interpretation does not account for the presence of Van der Lubbe. It is a possibility that he was manipulated or framed by the Nazis. |
| What short term impacts did the event have? | It enabled Hitler to accuse the communist party of plotting to take over the government. 4000 communists were arrested on the night of the fire.  The next day he persuaded President Hindenburg to pass an emergency decree giving the police the powers to search houses, confiscate property and detain people without trial. The Emergency Decree, therefore, suspended the fundamental laws of the Constitution.  In the March elections, the Nazis were able to argue that they had to manage the process within the context of the state of emergency. Left-wing party offices were searched or overturned, individuals were arrested, opposition posters removed and meetings banned. Only the Nazis Party were able to campaign un-harassed. On election day polling stations were filled with uniformed Nazis who watched each ballot paper being filled in.  The Nazis won more seats than ever before (288 out of a total 647). However, despite the events leading up to the elections, they still did not have the majority needed to run the country as they wished. |
| What long term impact did the event have? | The emergency decree stayed in place for 12 years, throughout the period of Nazi rule. It formed the fragile legal basis for much of the Nazis’ terror against any opponents. |

**The Enabling Act –23rd March 1933**

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| Why did Hitler want the Act? | In the elections of 5th March the Nazis still didn’t achieve an clear majority of more than 50% of seats in the Reichstag.  This meant other members in the Reichstag could still block his legislation (laws). He sought an alternative way to be able to control law making. |
| What was the Enabling Act? | It was a change to the Constitution which allowed Hitler to make laws without consulting the Reichstag.  The Act stated:  1-The Reich Cabinet is authorised to enact laws.  2-The laws enacted by the Reich cabinet may deviate from the Constitution.  3-The laws enacted by the Reich Cabinet shall be prepared by the Chancellor.  4-A law comes into effect on the day of its publication. It ceases to be valid on 1 April 1937. |
| How did Hitler get the Act passed? | He used the emergency decree (declared after the Reichstag fire) to prevent the Communist Party from taking up the 81 seats they had won. He retained the support of the Nationalist Party, which had 52 seats.  He gained the support of the Centre Party, which had 74 seats, by promising to defend the interests of the Catholic Church.  He also used intimidation where the Reichstag met to vote on the Act. The Kroll Opera House was decorated with swastikas and filled and surrounded with armed SA and SS men whispering abuse and standing behind the Reichstag members as they voted.  The Enabling Act was passed by 444 votes to 94. Only the Social Democrats voted against it. |
| What long term impact did the Act have? | It created a Nazis Dictatorship. In 11 years the Reichstag met 12 times, only to listen to Hitler speaking. They had no say over policies.  A series of laws were created by Hitler to deal with opposition. For example; He reorganised State Parliaments on 31st March 1933, Nazifying them and abolished them altogether in January 1934. Trade Unions were merged into a Nazi ‘German Labour Front’, May 1933. In July 1933 Hitler introduced a law stating that Germany was a one party state. |

**The Night of the Long Knives 30th June 1934**

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| Why was the SA purged? | **1) Issues with Rohm**  a)Rohm was the leader of the SA and a genuine threat to Hitler’s position as leader. He was commander of nearly 2 million men, who had become increasingly violent and out of control whilst Hitler was trying to establish his dictatorship through legal means.  b)He also wanted a revolution to bring in more socialist ideas such as reducing the power of big business and taking over major industries. This worried wealthy businessmen, who Hitler had worked to gain support from.  c)Rohm’s sexuality also had a negative impact on the image of the Nazi Party.  **2) Pressure from other Nazi Leaders**  Heinrich Himmler, leader of the SS wanted his organisation to supersede that of the SA, so it was in his favour for Rohm to be removed. Hermann Goring, the Minister of the Interior, was concerned about the violence being used by the SA and its impact on German society and international perceptions.  **3)Hitler’s desire to create a Greater Germany**  Rohm wanted to take over control of the German army, by merging it with the SA. Hitler realised that this would anger army leaders, who were part of the powerful traditional ruling classes of Germany. Hitler knew he needed the army on his side to gain effective control over Germany and if they were going to invade countries to regain land taken with the Treaty of Versailles and to gain a larger Empire. |
| What happened on the night of the 30th June 1934? | Hitler arranged a meeting with Rohm and 100 other SA leaders at a hotel in a Bavarian resort. The SA leaders were arrested by heavily armed members of the SS and taken to Munich where they were shot. In all an estimated 150-200 SA leaders were executed.  Over the next few days several other individuals seen as a threat to Hitler’s position were ‘purged’, including Gregor Strasser and General von Schleicher. Hitler used the excuse that Rohm and these others were planning a revolution to take over the government. |
| What were the results of the purge? | The SA were now firmly under Hitler’s control, and its power weakened.  Hitler used this opportunity to established the SS as a separate organisation from the SA, with Himmler taking direct orders from him  The purge had also enabled Hitler to remove possible rivals to his position, especially Strasser and Rohm.  It ensured the continued support of army leaders. |

Activity 4. How did Hitler deal with potential opposition groups?

a) Look at the following groups and using info from activities 1-3, highlight those that Hitler suppressed (crushed) in one colour and those he allowed to exist in another.

* The Communists and Social Democrats
* The Centre and Nationalist parties
* The Trade Unions
* State Parliaments
* The Army
* The SAs
* The Catholic Church
* The Protestant Church

b) Why do you think Hitler crushed some groups but allowed others to exist?

**Activity 5. How is it best to understand Hitler’s consolidation of power? Write true or false next to each statement**

1. ‘Once Chancellor, Hitler had total control over Germany.’

2. ‘Hitler crushed some groups but allowed other groups to continue to exist as he increased his control over Germany.’

3. ‘Within the first year and a half Hitler had established control over Germany.’

4. ‘Hitler was not prepared to compromise over control of every group in Germany.

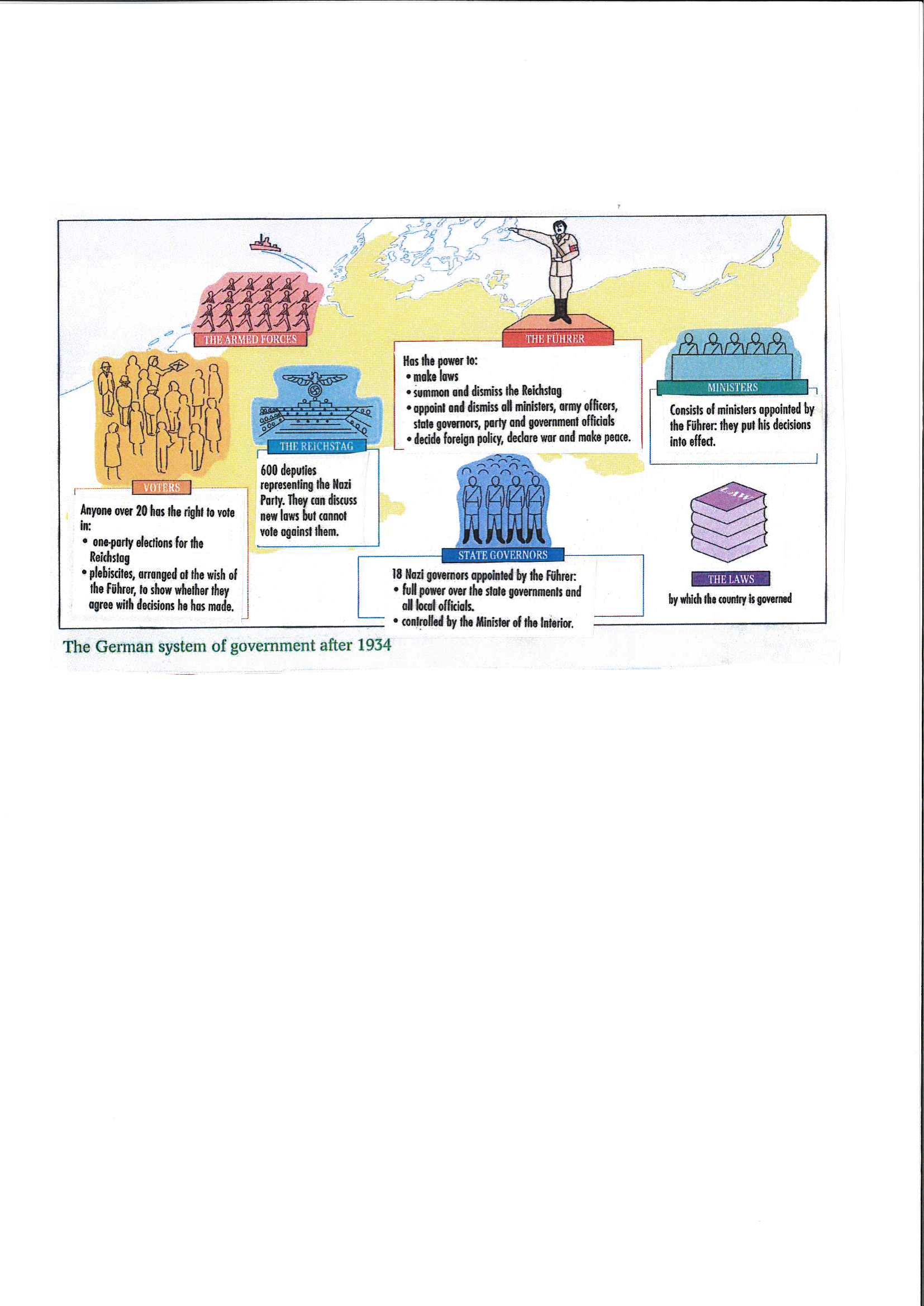
b) What does this reveal about Hitler’s consolidation of his power and control by August 1934?

###### **Activity 6. The concept map!**

Complete factor 1 of your concept map, selecting your 4 pieces of information carefully. Underline the key words in an appropriate colour.

**Activity 7. How was power distributed in the Nazi system of government?**

Draw arrows between the boxes to show who controlled who.



Organisationally, the Führer stood at the apex of a hierarchy. Directly below him were several [*Reichsleiter*](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/496414/Reichsleiter) (“Reich leaders”) with various portfolios, such as finance, propaganda, foreign policy, and law, as well as [*Reichsführer*](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/496403/Reichsfuhrer) Heinrich Himmler, head of the unified police system. Also 43 territorial leaders [*Gauleiter*](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/227093/Gauleiter)s(“district leaders”) were directly responsible to (and selected by) the Führer.

**Activity 8. What were the key features of the cult of the Fuhrer? Read and underline key words.**

A personality cult was built around the Führer. This created a complex portrayal combining apparently contrasting ideas of a god-like leader to be worshipped, with and ordinary person who was one of the people.

**Image**: Hitler’s portraits and photographs were displayed everywhere in [Germany](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/231186/Germany). Hitler was presented as a good soldier and strong and confident leader. Hitler was often shown in posters as a mystical figure, guiding the nation's destiny. Images of him wearing glasses were censored, as Hitler felt they suggested weakness.

**Greetings:** “Heil Hitler!” (“Hail Hitler!”) became legally obligatory as a common greeting, as did the Hitler salute of the right arm fully thrust forward with the palm facing downward.

**Personal life**: Hitler didn’t marry until the end of his life. He was portrayed as a man who sacrificed personal happiness to serve his country. That said, images were also issues showing him as an ordinary man of the people; reading the newspaper or playing with his pet dogs.

###### **Activity 9. A strong or weak dictator?**

Color code the following statements into two paragraphs;

* Those that suggest that Hitler was an all powerful Dictator by August 1934
* Those which suggest he was a weak dictator by August 1934

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| **He had the power to make laws, due to the Enabling Act of 1933** | **Hitler was often uncertain and indecisive, unwilling to make decisions. Government minister decided specific policies.** | **He had the power to chose all party and government officials, army leaders and ministers.** |
| **He kept existing government organisations but also gave powers to party organisations so there was overlap. ( A Polycracy)** | **Hitler was the Fuhrer. This was a singular overall leader.** | **Hitler was often away from the capital, at his retreat. Then he was difficult to contact and left power with others.** |
| **There was no formal decision making structure. People’s ideas could be adopted by getting Hitler’s direct approval.** | **He stayed up at night and got up late. He spent a lot of time watching films rather than becoming informed of events.** | **Hitler preferred to concentrate on foreign policy and often left other decisions to his ministers.** |

###### **Activity 9. Back to the concept map!**

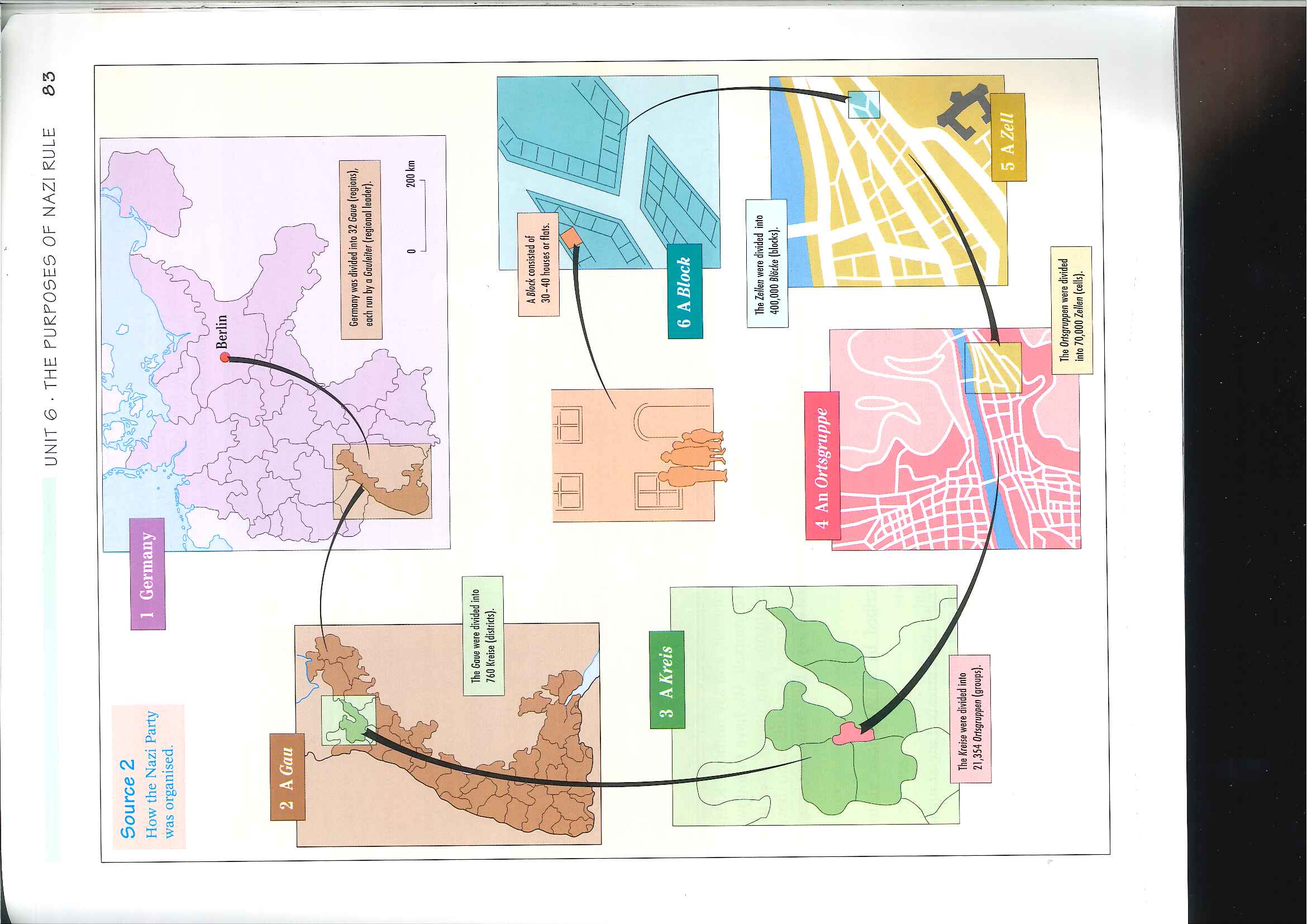
Complete section 2 of your concept map, selecting your 4 pieces of information carefully. Underline the key words in an appropriate colour.

Focus 2 : How effective were the Nazi methods of control over the German people?

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| **Key Sub questions:**  1. How was the Nazi police state and party used to control the German people?  2. What role did propaganda play in controlling the thoughts of German people after 1933? |

**Activity 1. How the Nazi Party controlled the people? Read and underline key words.**

By 1938 the Nazis party had five million members. Numbers had reached this level due to a combination of propaganda and coercion (force). People joined for a number of reasons. Some were pressurised by their families, others wanted to protect their jobs. Some believed passionately in Hitler and the Nazis. The organisation of the Nazi Party enabled the Nazis to supervise every citizen. Each Gau (region) was led by a Gauleiter. They had to enforce Nazi policies at a local level. They interpreted these policies in their way for their community. The other important people in the structure were the Block Leaders. They acted as informers and wrote reports on the ‘political reliability’ of their block residents. Their reports could decide whether someone got a job.



###### **Activity 2. The police sta****te**

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###### **Activity 3. Different branches of the Police State. Read and underline key words**

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| **Branches of the police state** | **Role in controlling the people** |
| The SS –originally the private bodyguard for leading Nazis. It had 500 men by 1939. | They tapped telephones, intercepted mail and spied on people. They used a network of informers to identify and arrest opposition to Hitler. |
| The Gestapo – originally the Prussian Secret Police. In June 1936 it became the State secret police. | They became the main means of terrorising or intimidating Germans into obedience. They had unlimited power to arrest people without trial, search houses, or confiscate property |
| Concentration Camps | Opponents were taken there for questioning, torture, hard labour and ‘re-education’. By 1939 prisoners were used as slave labour. Later they became the scenes of mass Genocide (killing of whole groups of people). |
| Rather than replacing the original police, courts and prisons, the Nazis took the police over and made the judges swear an oath of loyalty | As laws were changed and punishments made harsher, these organisations were increasingly active. Higher and higher numbers were arrested, sentenced and punished for crimes. |

**Activity 4: Answer the following question:**

How were party and the police state used to control the German people?

One way in which they controlled the people was through monitoring. For example…This meant that…

Another way in which they controlled the people was through intimidation. For example…This meant that…

Another way in which they controlled the people was through incarceration. For example…This meant that…

**Activity 5. Back to the concept map!**

Complete sections 3 of your concept map, selecting your 4 pieces of information carefully. Underline the key words in an appropriate colour.

**Activity 6. The role of the Ministry of Propaganda**

Soon after the appointment of Hitler as Chancellor in January 1933 Hitler set up a Propaganda Ministry under Joseph Goebbels, who supervised a vast machinery for control of all aspect of the media. Highlight a copy of the following flow diagram

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| **Dr Joseph Goebbels**  Reich Propaganda Minister President Chamber of Culture Director of Propaganda | | |
| **Minister.** Ministry for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda | **President** of the Reich Chamber of Culture | **Director** of Central Propaganda Office of the Nazi party. |
| Departments of Broadcasting, Press, Film, Theatre, Arts and Music. | 7 Presidents in charge of Press, radio, Film, Literature, Theatre, Music and Fine Arts. | Departments for active Nazi Propaganda through media. |
| Regional offices | Regional offices | Regional offices |

**Activity 7. Control of the media and how it was used to get across the Nazi message.** Highlight.

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|  | **How Goebbels controlled it.** | **How Goebbels used it.** |
| Books  Screen Shot 2014-06-10 at 07.42.31.png | Goebbels had to give personal permission for publication of books and he produced a list of banned books which the Gestapo removed from bookshops and libraries, including those by Jews, Communist, Socialists or containing ideas seen as un-German. Students were encouraged to remove & burn books. | Books allowed focussed on race, war and the Nazis themselves. Goebbels encouraged books about race, war and the Nazi movement. Goebbels wrote a book called ‘Michael’ for youth, all about Nazi ideals and described the thrill of dying for your country |
| Newspapers  Screen Shot 2014-06-10 at 07.41.09.png | Goebbels took control newspaper publication. He openly censored all that was published. Anti-Nazi newspapers were closed down. By 1944 daily newspapers had dropped from 4700 different ones to 1000. Newpaper sellers were checked by the Nazis. Jews banned from working on newspapers. | Goebbels sent out daily instructions telling newspapers what to print (content and images) via a Nazi news agency. Some Nazi papers threaten people who cancelled their subscriptions. |
| Radio  Screen Shot 2014-06-10 at 07.41.20.png | The local state radio stations were closed down. Clear instructions were given and enforced by radio wardens, which told people certain times when they were expected to listen, eg speeches by Hitler. | Reich Radio Company produced cheap radios cheap called (people’s receivers). They could not pick up foreign stations. This gave the Nazis access to all homes. Programmes included Hitler’s speeches, German History & marching music.70% of German’s owned radios by 1939 and 6000 public loud speakers continuously broadcasting. |
| Posters | Anyone caught putting up material which expressed anti-Nazi sentiments, was arrested and imprisoned, using the emergency powers. | These successfully promoted Nazi ideals in a simple and powerful visual way, in both the lead up to the Nazis gaining power, and afterwards. They used symbolism and slogans to hammer home massages. |
| Cinema  Screen Shot 2014-06-10 at 07.41.32.png | Earlier films produced during Germany’s golden age of film (the 1920s) were banned, as they were seen to promote amoral values. | The Nazis produced 1300 films- 200 were explicit propaganda films. Goebbels realised people would get bored if they were just propaganda films. High quality films were made with subtle Nazi messages about sacrifice, superiority of Aryans, anti Semitism,eg ‘The Eternal Jew’. 45 mins Newsreels about Nazi success and Hitler were always shown before the feature films. |
| Rallies |  | Rallies and festivals gave the impression of Nazis power and public support. A special stadium was built at Nuremberg to hold rallies, annually there was a week long one. Goebbels staged them to give a dramatic sense of power and unity. People were encouraged attend parades, listen to speeches & wave flags on celebrations, such as the Reich Party Day Rally and Hitler’s birthday. |
| Culture  Screen Shot 2014-06-10 at 07.41.55.png | Musicians, artists & actors had to be members of Reich Chamber of Culture & could only work if members. Music: Any music with a ‘Black’ influence such as jazz was banned.  Art: The Art of Weimar Germany was banned as ‘degenerate', unpatriotic and Jewish.  Theatre: plays were also heavily censored. | Music: Guidelines stated it had to be German; mostly folk, marching or classical, eg Bach, Beethoven & Mozart.  Art: Artists were encouraged to focus on Nazi themes such as the Aryan ‘Master Race’, family, traditional and rural scenes or war heroism.  Theatre: Plays concentrated on German History, cheap tickets encouraged attendance. |

Focus 3 : What was the nature and extent of opposition to Nazi control?

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| **Key Sub-Question:**  1 What was the nature and extent of opposition?  2 How successful was opposition by the Churches, Youth, Political Parties and the Army? |

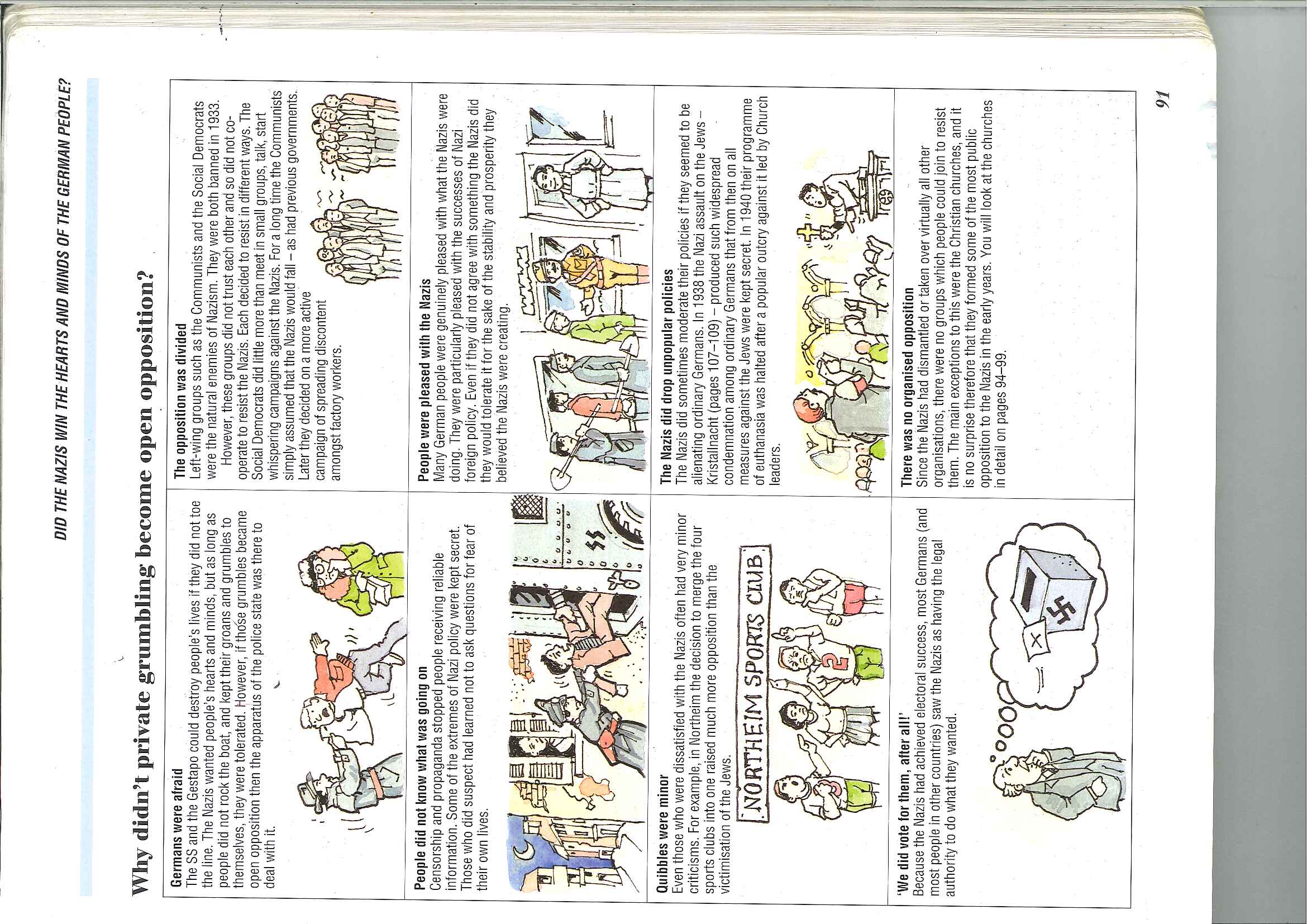
**Activity 1 : What forms can opposition take and how common was it in Nazi Germany?**

Complete the following table using the sheet of information provided.

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| **Form of opposition** | **Evidence of extent of this form of opposition** |
| Attempted coups d’etat  (take over) | **Hardly any** :The Nazis could not be voted out. The only direct way to get rid of a dictator like Hitler was by killing or imprisoning the leader and replacing him by force.  Through the first ten years of Nazi rule there were no coup d’etat. Only in the last years of the war, when the regime was collapsing anyway, were there plots by the army. |
| Underground resistance and open opposition | **Not a lot**:There was more underground resistance than most people realise. Throughout the regime, working class and left wing groups produced anti- government leaflets. People like Pastor Grueber helped Jews. There was sabotage of factories, railways and army depots. Some Germans acted as spies passing on industrial or military secrets to other countries.  Within the churches there were some leaders who openly criticised the Nazi dictatorship. For example, they led a public outcry against the Nazi policy of Euthanasia of people with disabilities, and got it stopped. However, when open criticism could result in arrest, torture or execution, most opponents preferred to carry out underground opposition rather than public. |
| Passive resistance and non-cooperation with the Party and State | **Quite common:** Many people refused to join the party. Some refused to give the ‘Heil Hitler’ salute; a few people were even executed for this. Some refused to contribute to Nazi funds. Members of banned political parties continued to meet in secret throughout the 1930s. Although they risked imprisonment or execution. In 1936 the Gestapo broke up reported 1000 meetings of socialist meetings. |
| Private grumbling | **Very widespread:** Available evidence suggests that ordinary Germans greatly resented many aspects of the Nazi regime; the intrusion into private lives, the aggressive tactics of the authorities, the grating propaganda. The Block Leader was seen as a pest. People would pay up or sign up, when he arrived with the latest scheme, but only for a quiet life, then they’d moan about it afterwards. Many people attended Nazi meetings, parades and demonstrations with apathy or indifference. They went because their job depended on it or to avoid persecution. Private grumbling appears to have been very common and included the telling of anti-Nazi jokes. However, even this was risky, as this too could result in imprisonment in a concentration camp. |

###### **Activity 2 Why didn’t most private grumbling become open opposition?**

Try to decide their order of importance, ranking them from 1-8. Explain why you think the top three had so much impact.

**Activity 5** Complete sections 5 of your concept map, selecting your 4 pieces of information carefully. Underline the key words in an appropriate colour.

**Activity 3 : Where did opposition to the Nazis come from and how effectively were they dealt with?**

**A)**

**Youth Opposition to the Nazis - The Edelweiss Pirates**

Who were the Edelweiss Pirates?

The Edelweiss pirates were a gang consisting of youths which included; ‘Travelling Dudes’ from Essen, the ‘Kittelbach Pirates’ from Dusseldorf and the ‘Navajos’ from Cologne. They wore checked shirts and dark trousers and this they wore the Edelweiss Flower as a badge.

Why did they oppose the Nazis?

They didn’t like Hitler’s views and didn’t like the way he was dictating how German youth behaved and what they did. They wanted to resist indoctrination and refused to join the Hitler Youth organisations.

How did they oppose the Nazis?

They beat up Nazi youths who went on trips like hiking and trashed where they stayed. Made anti-Nazi slogans on walls and songs. Some went on hikes to the countryside, hoping to encounter Hitler Youth groups to fight or attack. During the War, some went further, collecting up propaganda leaflets dropped by allied bombers and pushing them through people’s doors. They also offered shelter to deserters of the Armed Forces.

**Navajo song:**

Hitler’s power may keep us low and keep us locked in chains,

But we will smash the chains one day and we’ll be free again.

We’ve got fists and can fight

We’ve got knives and we’ll get them out.

We want freedom don’t we boys?

We’re the fighting Navajos.

How did the Nazis respond to/deal with them?

12 Pirates were executed in public in Cologne, for their assassination of a local Gestapo leader. On 7 December the Gestapo arrested 283 gang members in Dusseldorf and another 124 in Essen. They had all of their heads shaved as a sign of shame.

How successful did the Nazis deal with them? How much of a threat was this opposition to the Nazi regime?

They were not much of a threat. The biggest event was the assassination of the Gestapo leader, but this was harshly punished. Nazis dealt with them fairly successfully.

**Youth Opposition to the Nazis The White Rose Group.**

Who were they?

The White Rose group started by students at Munich University, Their leaders were Professor Kurt Huber and two students, Hans and Sophie Scholl.

Why did this group oppose the Nazis?

They opposed the Nazis because of the atrocities and racism carried out against the Jews and non-Aryans. They were inspired by the sermons of Bishop Galen.

How did they oppose the Nazis (what did they do)?

They believed that, if they publicised these atrocities, many Germans would support them in opposing the Nazis. Therefore they produced lots of leaflets to educate people. These leaflets had to be issued anonymously by leaving them in public places, on doorsteps or in postboxes.

How did the Nazis respond to/deal with them?

On the 18th of February 1943, Hans and Sophie Scholl were seen giving out leaflets by a caretaker at Munich University, who was a Nazi party member. The caretaker informed the Gestapo and the Scholls were arrested, tortured and beheaded. Sophie Scholl had her leg broken during the interrogation and had to limp to the scaffold on crutches.

How successfully did the Nazis deal with them? How much of a threat were they to the Nazi regime?

The Nazis dealt with them very well even though their tactics were brutal. Their opposition did not affect the Nazi regime as the Nazis found out and dealt with them immediately.

**Youth Opposition to the Nazis - Swing Youth**

Who were they?

They were Middle class youths who wanted to dance and listen to swing music (a blend of black jazz and white dance band music).

Why did they oppose the Nazis?

They opposed the Nazis because they wanted to dance and mingle and listen to music, which was banned by the Nazis and did not want to be controlled in how they enjoyed their free time.

How did they oppose the Nazis (what did they do)?

They met in cafes. The men wore English clothes like sports jackets and the girls wore make-up, which the Nazis disagreed with. They also accepted Jews into their groups and greeted each other with ‘Heil Benny’ both referring to Benny Goodman (a famous band leader) and mocked Hitler. They danced to banned music and as such showed the Nazis that they weren’t afraid of them.

How did the Nazis respond to them?

They tried to stamp it out and harshly punished anyone they caught. Hasso Schutzendorff who in October 1932 was put in a concentration camp had his hair cut off, was thrashed with an iron bar and forced to push trolleys full of earth uphill for a fortnight.

How successfully did the Nazis deal with them? How much of a threat was this opposition to the Nazi regime?

The Nazis beat anyone they caught and closed down places where the groups met. However because of the nature of the opposition it was very hard to stop. Therefore the Nazis could not successfully deal with it. In terms of showing up the Nazi regime the Swing Youth were extremely successful as they showed the government that they were not afraid of them and in fact preferred English culture to that of the Germans. However because of the cultural nature of the opposition they were in no way a threat to the regime.

**B Opposition to the Nazis – The Church**

Who Were They?

In 1933, Hitler signed the Concordat with the Pope. This agreement stated that the Catholic Church would be left alone by the Nazis, as long as the Church would stay out of politics. The Church soon discovered that they could not trust the Nazis – who began to try to control the Catholic Church’s powers. This triggered a reaction from the Catholic Church generally and from specific individuals.

There were also members of the Protestant church who also actively challenged the Nazi regime. These Protestants refused to join the Nazified Reich Church. Individuals included:

Pastor Martin Niemoller- Disliked the new German Reich Church and set up the Confessional Church. After the war, he studied theology and became pastor in the German protestant church in 1924. In 1933 he welcomed Nazism, thinking Hitler will restore greatness of Germany and restore the Treaty of Versailles.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer -A Church leader who spoke out against Nazi ideas. He helped Niemoller found the Confessional church. He believed that the church couldn’t accept Nazi racist views. In 1939, he joined the Abwehr, the German counter-intelligence service. He helped set up ‘Operation 7’, which assisted a small number of Jews to escape to Switzerland.

Why did this group oppose the Nazis?

The main reason for religious opposition to the Nazis was due to being morally opposed to Nazi beliefs and actions, such as persecution and use of violence. However the Catholic opposition was also triggered by the Nazis’ attempts to interfere with and control religion.

How did they oppose the Nazis?

The Catholic Church broke its silence in 1937. Pope Pius XI criticised the German Government in an encyclical (a papal letter sent to all Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church). Also, in 1941, a letter was read from the pulpits of Catholic Churches throughout Germany. This letter criticized the Nazis’ abuse of human rights, and the policy of euthanasia (mercy killing of the insane).

Some Protestants opposed the Nazis by refusing to join the Nazi Reich Church and setting up the Confessional Church. Sermons given there would often implicitly or explicitly criticize Nazi actions.

Niemoller: Criticised Nazi policies

Bonhoeffer: During WWII, helped Jewish people escape to Switzerland.

How did the Nazis respond to/deal with them?

One third of the all Catholic Priests were punished by the Nazis – at least 400 were put in a special block in Dachau Concentration Camp. Protestant Churches went through similar processes. Hitler also banned the Catholic Youth organisation.

Niemoller: was arrested and sent to a Concentration camp (he survived and was still alive when it was liberated by the allies in 1945).

Bonhoeffer: In 1943, he was arrested by the Gestapo for plotting against Hitler, and was sent to a concentration camp. He was exiled in April 1945.

How successfully did the Nazis deal with them? How much of a threat was this to the Nazi Regime?

The Pope tried to protest in 1937 with a letter to each Catholic Church, although this didn’t manage to trigger a significant religious backlash to the Nazi Regime. Most of the Catholic Churches remained quiet due to fear from the Gestapo. However, the Nazis dealt with the Catholic Church quite unsuccessfully due to the fact that the Catholic Churches were not abolished. It was an international organization, which was too powerful and beyond the reach of the Nazis. Therefore neither managed to defeat the other.

In terms of Protestant opposition, there was some organised opposition with the formation of the Confessional Church, but this remained smaller than the Nazi Reich Church of unified Protestants. Furthermore, some Pagans became pro-Nazi and became racist. They worshipped the Sun and the seasons. The Nazis killed one-third of Jehovah Witnesses in Concentration Camps.

**C Opposition to the Nazis–Political opposition**

Who were they?

The two main political groups who opposed the Nazis were the SPD (Social Democrat Party) and KPD (German Communist Party). The SPD was most likely the largest source of resistance to the Nazi regime. They then went “underground” to form the “Red Strike Troops” or Strosstrup. They had around 3000 members.

Why did their group(s) oppose the Nazis?

One of the main reasons the Communists were opposed to the Nazis was because the Nazis were violently opposed to communism. Another reason for the SPD opposing the Nazis was due to them being banned and robbed of everything.

How did they oppose the Nazis (what did why do)?

The largest opposition that came from the communists was the distribution of anti-Nazi literature. Anti-Nazi newspapers and leaflets were circulated in the working-class workplaces and beer halls.

The SPD owned a newspaper called the Red Shock Troop, which came out around every 10 days. The newspaper clearly stated that the only way the Regime could be overthrown would be due to a revolutionary action of all German workers. In 1944, the KPD organised a bomb attack on Hitler.

How did the Nazis respond to/ deal with them?

The Communists were initially attacked straight after the Reichstag Fire and then banned. Later, on August the 18th 1944 Ernst Thalmann (Former KPD leader) was executed along with 24 former Reichstag deputies. Also, during the later stages of the war the Gestapo hunted down members of the communist resistance to be arrested and executed.

The SPD were robbed of all funds and declared illegal in 1933 and was after forced to disband. They were also later hunted down and arrested by the Gestapo in the same way they did with the KPD.

How successfully did the Nazis deal with them? How much of a threat were they to the Nazi Regime?

The method the Nazis dealt with the KPD was very effective as it caused fellow citizens to denounce the KPD which led to there being nowhere to run from the Gestapo. However they were a major threat to the Nazi Regime and were thought of one of the largest sources of resistance to the Nazi Regime. If they were ignored it would have most likely have led to the Nazi’s downfall.

The SPD was dealt with very efficiently and the SPD came to accept that there was no way to overthrow the powerful and repressive regime of the Nazis, that was supported by a strong police force and effective method of undertaking underground propaganda. They decided that the only way to overthrow the Nazis was through a coup led by the German Army.

**D Army opposition to Nazi rule**

# Who were they?

The two main leaders of Army opposition to the Nazis were Colonel Beck and Count von Stauffenberg who were both prominent Army figures. Their opposition to the Nazis ranged from before the war to close to the end of Nazi rule.

Why did they oppose the Nazis?

Colonel Beck opposed the Nazis because of how they were conducting their relationship with other countries. He believed that the war in the Sudetenland was completely unjustified and that the Nazis had no right to the land. Count von Stauffenberg was at first a supporter of the Nazi Regime but began losing faith during the failure of the Russian front and other areas. In 1943, while serving in North Africa, he was badly wounded, losing his arm, fingers and left eye. He was especially disgusted by the brutality of the SS, even towards their own forces.

How did they oppose the Nazis?

The two main attempts on the Nazi rule came at the beginning and close to the end of the Nazis reign in Germany. The first was organised by Colonel Beck in 1938 as a response to the possible invasion of the Sudetenland. The plan was that when the army was given the order to invade, they should instead capture Hitler and oust him from power. This never happened as the British Prime Minister at the time, Neville Chamberlain gave the Sudetenland to Germany.

Count von Stauffenberg led the second attempt in 1944 and once again Beck was involved, to replace Hitler as President after he was dead as well as many other Nazi generals including Admiral Canaris and Field Marshal Rommel because of the brutality of the SS and the lack of surrender despite heavy German losses. On the 20th of July Stauffenberg took a bomb concealed in a briefcase to a military conference in Rastenburg, East Prussia and put it under the table two metres away from Hitler The bomb went off but Hitler was only deafened as a result of the heavy table. He was still very much alive.

# What threat did the opposition pose and how did the Nazis deal with it?

In response to the 1938 attempted coup, Hitler introduced three measures to ensure full control and obedience from the Army. Firstly he made sure that the presence of the Nazis were well felt within the army so as to discourage any future attempts at an uprising. He did this by insisting that the Nazi insignia was included in army uniforms. Secondly he placed a division of the SS (the Waffen SS) at the head of the Army so that they and by extension Hitler would be in control of all major operations carried out by the Army. Finally Hitler sacked many generals within the Army and introduced a new High Command: the Oberkommando Wehrmacht. However this did not stop future opposition.

Hitler dealt with the second attempt in a far harsher way. He took savage revenge on all involved in the plot. The final execution count came to 5,746 people including 19 generals and 26 colonels. Beck shot himself.

These two plots were quite different in their threat to the Nazi state. The first wasn’t an attempt on Hitler’s life; it was merely a plot to take power. It was also just a plot; it was never actually carried out. Even if it was it is highly unlikely that it would have been successful due to the high level of support for Hitler at the time. The second was far more severe in its purpose and since it was very close to working it was far more dangerous to the Nazis. Additionally, because of the amount of powerful officials (such as Field Marshal Rommel) who were involved we can infer that by this point, Hitler was losing control.

**Activity 4 Explain why there was so little opposition to the Nazi Government after 1933. (16)**

You may use the following in your answer and any of your own knowledge:

* March 1933 The first concentration camp opened in Dachau
* Block Wardens reported on local residents
* Cheap radios were made available

There are several reasons why…..

Firstly….For example…This meant that….

Secondly….For example….This meant that….

Thirdly…For example….This meant that……..

**Activity 5 In what ways did the Nazi Government control the Churches in the years 1933-1945? (12)**

You may use the following and own knowledge to answer this question.

* 1933 The Concordat was signed
* 1933 The Reich Church was set up
* Pastor Niemoller spent 7 years in concentration camps

One way in which the Nazi government controlled the Churches was…..For example…This ….

Another way in which the Nazi government controlled the Churches was…..For example…This ….

Another way in which the Nazi government controlled the Churches was…..For example…This ….

**Activity 6** Complete sections 6, 7, 8 of your concept map, selecting your 4 pieces of information carefully. Underline the key words in an appropriate colour.

**Why was Dietrich Bonhoeffer executed in April 1945**?

**Mystery Game.** Dietrich Bonhoeffer was the Pastor of the German Protestant Church who became involved in underground resistance to the Nazis. He was arrested by the Gestapo in April 1943 and sent to Flossenburg concentration camp where he was executed in 1945.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 Bonhoeffer joined the underground resistance movement in 1940. | 9 Bonhoeffer believed that Christianity taught to treat everyone equally, no matter who they were |
| 2 The Enabling Act (1933) changed the constitution, giving Hitler the power to make new laws on his own, thus making Germany a Dictatorship. | 10 In 1937 the Gestapo closed Bonhoeffer’s church training college and banned him from preaching and publishing his ideas. |
| 3 Hitler believed that Aryans (German people) were superior to other races such as Jews. | 11 Bonhoeffer’s brother-in-Law was arrested and tortured until he revealed other opponents, including Bonhoeffer. |
| 4 The Nazis tried to be the only ones influencing people’s thoughts and behaviour, through the establishment of Nazis Party organizations | 12 By 1938 various laws had been passed which discriminated against Jews. In November, they destroyed Jewish Synagogues, shops and homes |
| 5 Concentration camps were set up for Hitler’s enemies. They were supposed to ‘correct’ opponents but many people died in concentration camps. | 13 In October the Gestapo arrested a member of the Abwehr for currency smuggling. When interrogated he confessed about the Abwehr and mention members including Bonhoeffer’s Brother-in Law. |
| 6 The judges in the Courts were forced to take an oath of loyalty to Hitler. | 14 In 1941 the mass execution (genocide) of Jews and other groups began, with some concentration camps becoming extermination camps. |
| 7 From the mid 1930s the Nazis attempted to control religion so set up the Reich church, with Nazis in positions of power. | 15 Bonhoeffer had a trial which lasted only half an hour, without someone to defend him. He was sent to a concentration camp. |
| 8 In 1939 Bonhoeffer became involved in the Abwehr, the German army counter-intelligence service which aimed to overthrow Hitler. | 16 Hitler established a police state, with the Gestapo (the State secret police), the SS and concentration camps. |