

Knowledge Organiser – Topic Eight: Germany in the War: War Economy & Total War

Key People

1	<p>Albert Speer. Minister of Armaments and War Production. Appointed in 1942. Created the Central Planning Board to help improve the War Economy. His policies included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focusing factories on producing a single product • Employing more women • Using labour from concentration camps • Excluding skilled workers from the military
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Key Concepts

2	<p>The Four Year Plan</p> <p>Set up by Goering in 1936. It focused the economy on building up weapons and increasing its agricultural output. Hitler wanted to make the country self-sufficient but ultimately knew Germany would need to conquer new territories and capture their resources to become genuinely self sufficient.</p>
3	<p>Rationing</p> <p>Food and clothing rationing began in 1939, whilst Germany was winning the war most good could still be bought. As the war went on life became much harder for ordinary citizens. By 1942, German civilians were living off bread, potatoes and vegetables. Their rations were much smaller than British rations.</p>
4	<p>Changing Role of Women</p> <p>After suffering heavy losses the Nazis realised they needed to encourage women back into the work place. Restrictions on women's education and the marriage loans were lifted during the war. From 1939 women under the age of 25 had to complete 6 months labour service before entering full time employment, women mainly completed their 6 months in the agricultural department.</p> <p>By 1944, 50% of the workforce were women, up from 37% in 1939. However only 1.5 million out of a potential 30 million choose to work.</p>

Key Words

6	Economy	A term to describe the management of a country's finances, resources and trade.
7	Total War	A state where all industries are focused on supporting the war effort.
8	Evacuation	Removing people from a place of danger to a place of safety. During WW2 children were evacuated from cities due to the bombing of civilians, in Germany it was known as the Kinderlandverschickung (KLV).
9	Rationing	Protecting supplies by restricting people to a certain amount. Used with food, clothing, shoes and coal.
10	Volksstrum	People's Home Guard. Created to raise the German's spirits and protect the cities from foot invasion from men aged 13-60 who weren't already in the army.

Impacts

11	Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non essential production stopped and small non essential businesses closed. Those workers were moved to war-related industries. • Civilian clothes and consumers goods were no longer manufactured
12	Mass Bombing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1942 British and American forces began bombing German cities more heavily. Around half a million civilians were killed and many more were made homeless. • Many cities were attacked using incendiary bombs which caused huge fires. • Germany was later flooded with refugees from German territories and cities like Dresden, Berlin and Hamburg. • There was little help for these refugees – most struggled to find food and shelter.

Knowledge Organiser – Topic Nine: Germany in the War: Growing Opposition

Key People

1	Hans & Sophie Scholl. <i>Brother and Sister</i> – Among the leaders of the White Rose opposition group. Executed for their participation in resistance.
2	Claus von Stauffenberg. Key participant in the July bomb plot of 1944. Stauffenberg was executed for his participation in the attempted assassination.

Key Events/ Groups

3	The White Rose Active between 1942 and 1943. Opposition group made up of students and lecturers from Munich University. Some of the male members have served in the army and were horrified by the atrocities being carried out by the German army. The group also dislike the strict control and expectations the Nazis promoted over women. The group used non-violent methods of protest including distributing anti-Nazi leaflets to encourage opposition. In 1943 the group organised their first public anti-Nazi demonstration. Many were later arrested by the Gestapo. Several of the leaders were tortured and executed.
4	Kreisau Circle Anti-Nazi movement led by Helmuth von Moltke and Yorck von Wartenburg. The group did not believe in violence so did not actively resist the Nazis, but did meet to discuss how to make a better country after the Nazis had fallen. Some members of the Circle tried to inform Allied governments about the dangers and weaknesses of Nazi Control. In 1944, members of the Kreisau Circle, including Moltke, were arrested and executed.

5	July Bomb Plot During the war plots against the war became more serious as it became more obvious that Germany would not be successful. The most famous plot became known as the bomb plot of July 1944. Army officer Stauffenberg worked with other German officers to try a carry out an assassination. The plan was to kill Hitler and other leading Nazis and replace them with a moderate government including members of the Kreisau Circle. During meeting Stauffenberg left a bomb hidden in a briefcase by Hitler's chair. After Stauffenberg left the meeting, the briefcase was moved so whilst the bomb went off, Hitler was unhurt. Most of the plotters were quickly captured and executed.
6	Rosenstrasse Protests, Berlin, Feb-March 1943 After authorities arrested some of the last Jewish men left in Berlin, their Aryan wives went to the building on Rosenstrasse ('Rose Street') where their husbands were being held. Women spent several days protesting. Eventually Goebbels ordered the men to be released. This was one of the few public anti-Nazi protests that were successful.
7	Bonhoeffer A key member of the Confessing Church. Bonhoeffer helped Jews escape and was involved in a plan to assassinate Hitler. He was caught and executed weeks before the fall of the Nazis.
8	Cardinal Galen In 1941 Galen delivered three famous sermons denouncing the use of terror by the Gestapo, the taking of Church property and the murder of mentally and physically disabled people. The sermons were printed and distributed illegally. Galen lived under virtual house arrest from 1941 to 1945.