

# Living Under Nazi Rule 1933-1945: Topic 4 Germany in war

1943-45 Total War

## Germany in war



1939-1942		Wartime Opposition	
Early changes	No bombs fell but... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People stocked up on food.</li> <li>▪ Sandbags were distributed.</li> <li>▪ Air raid shelters built.</li> </ul>	July 1944 Bomb Plot	Led by Colonel von Stauffenburg. Set off a bomb in a meeting but the table leg deflected the blast from Hitler.
War economy	All industries had to focus on the war effort and meet ambitious targets.	Cardinal Galen	Preached sermons that attacked the use of terror by the Gestapo and Nazi murders of mentally and physically disabled people. Held under house arrest.
Albert Speer & the Central Planning Board: Feb 1942	Took charge at improving Germany's war economy. Made changes such as focusing factories on single products.	Dietrich Bonhoeffer	Protestant pastor who opposed Nazi policies. Helped to organise the escape of Jews to Switzerland. Killed in a concentration camp.
Shortages	Shortages experienced of food and other products throughout the war.	The Rosenstrasse	Protest by the wives of 'part-Jewish' men who had been arrested and held at an office on the Rosenstrasse. The men were released.
Rationing	Introduced at the very start of the war. Controlled supply of food, clothing, shoes and coal.	The White Rose	Group at Munich University: produced anti-Nazi leaflets.
Bombing	Spring 1940 RAF began bombing industrial areas in north and west of Germany. Shelters worked well.	Otto & Elise Hampel	Wrote 200 postcards urging people to refuse military service and overthrow Hitler.
Evacuation	Voluntary evacuation introduced in autumn 1940 for children in all German cities: only 15% eligible children participated.	Passive Resistance	Examples = saying 'good morning' rather than 'Heil Hitler', listening to the BBC, hiding Jews, telling anti-Nazi jokes.

  

4	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Tanks	1,600	3,800	6,300	12,100	19,000
Aircraft	10,200	11,000	14,200	25,200	39,600

▲ Number of German tanks and aircraft produced, 1940-44

The move to 'Total War'	After a massive defeat in Russia in Jan 1943, the Nazis knew they could only win the war if German people made huge sacrifices = 'Total War'
Impact on German people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tried to mobilise women into the war effort (only 1/3 of the women requested took up the call)</li> <li>▪ Anything that did not contribute to the war effort was eliminated such as professional sports.</li> <li>▪ Shortages became even worse.</li> <li>▪ Increase in propaganda.</li> </ul>
Impact of air raids	July 1943: half of Hamburg destroyed and more than 40,000 civilians killed. Nov 1943 bombing rain on Berlin left half a million people homeless.
Desperation 1944	The Nazis were retreating. People struggled to survive in the ruins of bombed cities. Shock of July bomb plot led to arrest of over 7,000 people, of which 5,000 were executed.
Increasing the war effort	Nazis pushed harder for 'Total War'. Goebbels made Reich Trustee for Total War.
The Volkssturm	People's Storm created: all males ages between 16 and 60 who were not already in military forced to join.
Chaos, & destruction	Allied troops entered Germany, the leadership panicked, the country began to fall apart. Shops ran out of goods, severe food shortages and millions faced starvation. Allied bombings launched ferocious attacks on Berlin and other cities.

### TIMELINE OF MAJOR EVENTS

<b>Sep 1 1939</b> Hitler announced that Germany had invaded Poland.	<b>Sep 3 1939</b> Britain joined the war on Poland's side.	<b>1939</b> 23% goods made in Germany = related to military	<b>1939</b> 760,000 women worked in war industries.	<b>Spring 1940</b> British RAF bombed industrial areas in north & west Germany.	<b>Sep 1940</b> Hitler announced that Germany would become a war economy	<b>Sep 1940</b> Voluntary evacuation programme introduced.	<b>1941</b> 47% goods made in Germany = related to military	<b>1941</b> 1.5 million women worked in war industries.	<b>Feb 1942</b> Albert Speer = Minister of Armaments & War Production	<b>1942</b> Albert Speer created Central Planning Board	<b>1942</b> 4 x anti Nazi leaflets by the White Rose appeared	<b>Jan 1943</b> German army faced a massive defeat in Russia.	<b>Jan 1943</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> White Rose leaflet produced	<b>18 Feb 1943</b> Goebbels announced 'Total War'
<b>April 1943</b> Otto and Elise Hampel were executed	<b>1943</b> Rosenstrasse protest	<b>1943</b> American planes started bombing Germany – the Allies intensified their attacks.	<b>Nov 1943</b> 750 planes attacked Berlin leaving half a million people homeless.	<b>July 1944</b> Bomb Plot led by Colonel von Stauffenburg	<b>Summer 1944</b> The Hitler salute became compulsory in the army	<b>July 1944</b> Goebbels made Reich Trustee for Total War	<b>Summer 1944</b> 7.6 million foreign workers had been brought to Germany to work as forced labour.	<b>Summer 1944</b> All theatres, opera houses and music halls were closed.	<b>October 1944</b> The Volkssturm created	<b>Feb 1945</b> Allied bombing of Dresden	<b>March 1945</b> British and Americans entered Germany through the west	<b>April 1945</b> Soviets pushed into Germany from the east	<b>30 April   1945</b> Hitler took his own life	<b>7 May 1945</b> Germany surrendered