

Were people better off under Nazi rule?

Task

Highlight evidence to show that the people of Germany were better off under Nazi rule in one colour.
Highlight evidence to show that people were worse off in another colour.

Trade unions were banned.

Industrial production increased.

New motorways (autobahns), hospitals, schools, sports stadium and other public buildings were built.

Employment increased from 13.1 million (1933) to 18.8 million (1938).

National income increased from 42.6 billion reichsmarks (1932) to 79.8 billion (1938).

Unemployment fell from 5.6 million (1932) to 2 million (1938).

Small businesses suffered.

Big businesses like Volkswagen and Mercedes made huge profits.

Public expenditure increased from 17.1 billion reichsmarks in 1932 to 37.1 billion in 1938.

Women and Jewish people were taken off the lists of unemployed people.

Germany achieved self-sufficiency in important foodstuffs such as grain. This meant that Germany could produce all its own food.

Women were given money for having children, and encouraged to have many children with rewards like the Motherhood Cross. The gold cross went to women who had eight children, silver for six and bronze for four.

Wages were lower in 1938 than in 1928. The length of the working day rose by an average of 10% in 1939 compared to 1928.

The 'Strength through Joy' program gave working people the chance to go on holiday, some for the first time in their lives, with cheap trips to the coast and to countries like Norway.

Women lost their jobs and male candidates for work were always given preference over female.

300,000 people were forcibly sterilised under Nazi rule. Most of these people were disabled.

Conscription was re-introduced so that all men had to join the army.

Were people better off under Nazi rule? Did some people benefit more than others?