Y11 History: C2 Knowledge Organiser – Living under Nazi rule, 1939-45: Unit 4 – The impact of war on the German people





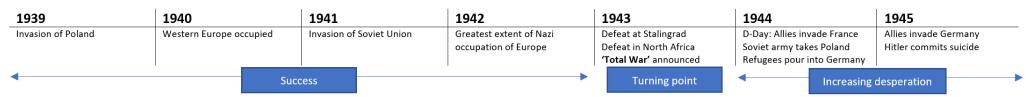
| Box 1: Impact of limited war, 1939-42 | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Limited war | A war that only involves the military , not the whole of society | |
| War economy | Economy set up to prioritise war needs: 1941 – 55% of workforce in war- related work + shortage of food and consumer goods | |
| Rationing | Introduced for most foods, clothing, shoes and coal – extra food for workers and pregnant women (40% ate more than before war) | |
| 'Ersatz' products | Artificial products introduced as imports not possible – synthetic coffee, butter and soap | |
| Air-raid shelters | Built for safety when British began bombing German cities in 1940 | |
| Luxury goods | Conquest of western Europe led to more imports of luxury goods | |

| Box 2: Impact of war on women and families | | |
|--|---|--|
| <i>KLV</i> programme | Plan for evacuation of children from cities – not compulsory + not popular as some sent to Hitler Youth indoctrination camps | |
| Albert Speer | Minister for war production – wanted women to work (Hitler disagreed) | |
| Women in work | A 1941 – of 30 million working-age women, only 1.5 million were in work | |
| Domestic challenges | Hot water only on weekends + long queues for rations – led to exhaustion and depression | |
| <i>BDM</i> support | Hitler Youth for girls (BDM) – supported in agriculture , nursing and operating searchlights | |

| Box 3: Opposition during war | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Cardinal Galen | Catholic leader – spoke out against Nazi murder of physically and mentally handicapped people – Nazis ended killings |
| Dietrich Bonhoeffer | Protestant pastor who helped organise escape of Jews in Germany to Switzerland – died in concentration camp |
| The White Rose | University students who dropped leaflets encouraging Germans to end support for the Nazis – Hans and Sophie Scholl executed |
| Otto and Elise Hampel | Dropped over 200 anti-Nazi postcards in stairwells and post boxes – caught and executed |
| Passive resistance | Non-violent resistance by ordinary people increased during war, eg. anti- Nazi jokes, not giving Hitler greeting |
| July 1944 bomb plot | Led by Colonel Claus von Staffenberg - nearly succeeded – resulted in 8,000 arrests, 5,000 killed |

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| Box 4: Impact of Total War in 1943 | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Total War | Announced by Goebbels in Feb. 1943 – war now involved the whole of society | |
| Closures and restrictions | All non-essential businesses closed; professional sport ended; hair-dying and perming banned | |
| Severe shortages | Clothes production and rationing stopped; exchange centres replaced shops | |
| Mobilisation of women | 3 million women instructed to work – only 1 million turned up – some avoided by getting pregnant | |
| <i>HJ</i> combat | Hitler Youth (HJ) involved in fighting – operating anti-aircraft guns | |
| Bombing raids | USA and Britain began day and night bombing raids – July 1943: half of Hamburg destroyed | |
| Propaganda | Huge increase organised by Goebbels – new posters and films | |

| Box 5: Germany in defeat, 1944-45 | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Volkssturm | All males 16-60 not already in military had to join – no training or uniforms + old weapons | |
| Foreign labour | Forced labour from Nazi-occupied countries the only way to keep factories running – 7.5 million foreign workers in Germany | |
| Dresden | Allied bombing led to a firestorm in the streets of the city – 25,000 killed | |
| Black market | Rationing collapsed and food was only available illegally on the black market – starvation by 1945 | |
| <i>HJ</i> fanaticism | Boys as young as 12 fought against Russian tanks in the streets | |