

This week you will look at one of the Nazi's key components to their "master plan" the development of the Hitler Youth.

After reading the notes and watching at least one of the attached videos you are to answer the following question

We did the Nazi Party see the Youth as so important as to establish an entire program dedicated to them?

What were some of the key elements of the Hitler Youth? Why were these seen as important?

How was the Youth movement implemented?

How was the Youth movement viewed by A) the children B) the parents?

Who benefited from the Youth movement?

What groups if any did the Youth movement harm or put at a disadvantage?

What elements of the Hitler Youth can be found in other youth movements post WWII?

In your opinion was the Hitler Youth movement something that could be reenacted today by other groups. Why or why not?

HITLER YOUTH

The Hitler Youth was a logical extension of Hitler's belief that the future of Nazi Germany was its children. The Hitler Youth was seen as being as important to a child as school was. In the early years of the Nazi government, Hitler had made it clear as to what he expected German children to be like.

Nazi education schemes part fitted in with this, but Hitler wanted to occupy the minds of the young in Nazi Germany even more.

Movements for youngsters were part of German culture and the Hitler Youth had been created in the 1920's. By 1933 its membership stood at 100,000. After Hitler came to power, all other youth movements were abolished and as a result the Hitler Youth grew quickly. In 1936, the figure stood at 4 million members. In 1936, it became all but compulsory to join the Hitler Youth. Youths could avoid doing any active service if they paid their subscription, but this became all but impossible after 1939.

The Hitler Youth catered for 10 to 18-year olds. There were separate organisations for boys and girls. The task of the boys' section was to prepare the boys for military service. For girls, the organisation prepared them for motherhood.

Boys at 10, joined the German Young People until the age of 13 when they transferred to the Hitler Youth until the age of 18. Here they learned "military athletics" included marching, bayonet drill, grenade throwing, trench digging, map reading, gas defence, use of dugouts, how to get under barbed wire and pistol shooting.

Girls, at the age of 10, joined the (League of Young Girls and at the age of 14 transferred to the League of German Girls. Girls had to be able to run 60 metres in 14 seconds, throw a ball 12 metres, complete a two-hour march, swim 100 metres and know how to make a bed.

To the outside world, the Hitler Youth seemed to personify German discipline. In fact, this image was far from accurate. School teachers complained that boys and girls were so tired from attending evening meetings of the Hitler Youth, that they could barely stay awake the next day at school. Also, by 1938, attendance at Hitler Youth meetings was so poor – barely 25% – that the authorities decided to tighten up attendance with the 1939 law making attendance compulsory.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPajbHFv_iQ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQl1Xx0J7AM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvkU-wjiHPo>