

4th March

Unit 4: Nazi Organisation and Coordination of German Society

Lesson 5: Women in the Nazi State.



PAIRED
WORK



Based upon this propaganda poster what is my view on the role of women in my Reich?



The picture (right) entitled *Family*, painted by Wolf Willrich shows the ideal Aryan German family. The young blond-haired, blue-eyed couple are seated outside their rural cottage with their four children. The mother wears a plain dress and is shown suckling the couple's newborn baby. She wears no make up and has her long hair in a bun. The father is proudly looking at his newborn child with a protective arm around his wife and elder daughter. The eldest daughter wears a plain dress and has her hair in pigtails. She is watching her mother, seeming to wish for the time when she has a baby of her own. The couple's eldest son wears his Hitler youth uniform and is making earth pots. He is watched by his younger sister who is shown holding a doll.





Learning gain - by the end of this sequence of lessons I will have explored the role of women in Nazi Germany in order to answer a "Hinge Question".



"Explain the role of women in the new Nazi state." (12)

Learning Steps:



- Investigate what the role of women was to be in the Nazi state.
- Explore the background to the Nazi views.
- Examine the means the Nazis used to implement their views.
- Interrogate the success of these attempts.
- Develop quotes and interpretations that we can use to support our understanding.

Organise yourself into four groups. Please make sure you have a mix of sexes.



Use the sources you have been given to prepare responses to the following...



What did the Nazis think women should be like?
What did they think women should not be like?
What was the Nazis proposed role for women?

Remember to support your responses with quotes from the sources.

Nazi attitudes to gender and the lives of women in Nazi Germany were shaped by the personal views of Adolf Hitler. The fuhrer's conceptions of gender were probably influenced by his mother, a simple but caring woman who had protected the young Hitler from his stern, sometimes brutal father.

Hitler came to prefer women who were quiet, demure and motherly; he found it difficult to relax around women who were confident, outspoken or professionally successful. Hitler believed women were kinder, gentler and more emotional than men; because of this, they were not equipped to survive the turmoil and pressure of workplaces, business or politics.

In Hitler's mind the only role for women was domestic: they must tend the home, care for their husbands, bear and raise children.





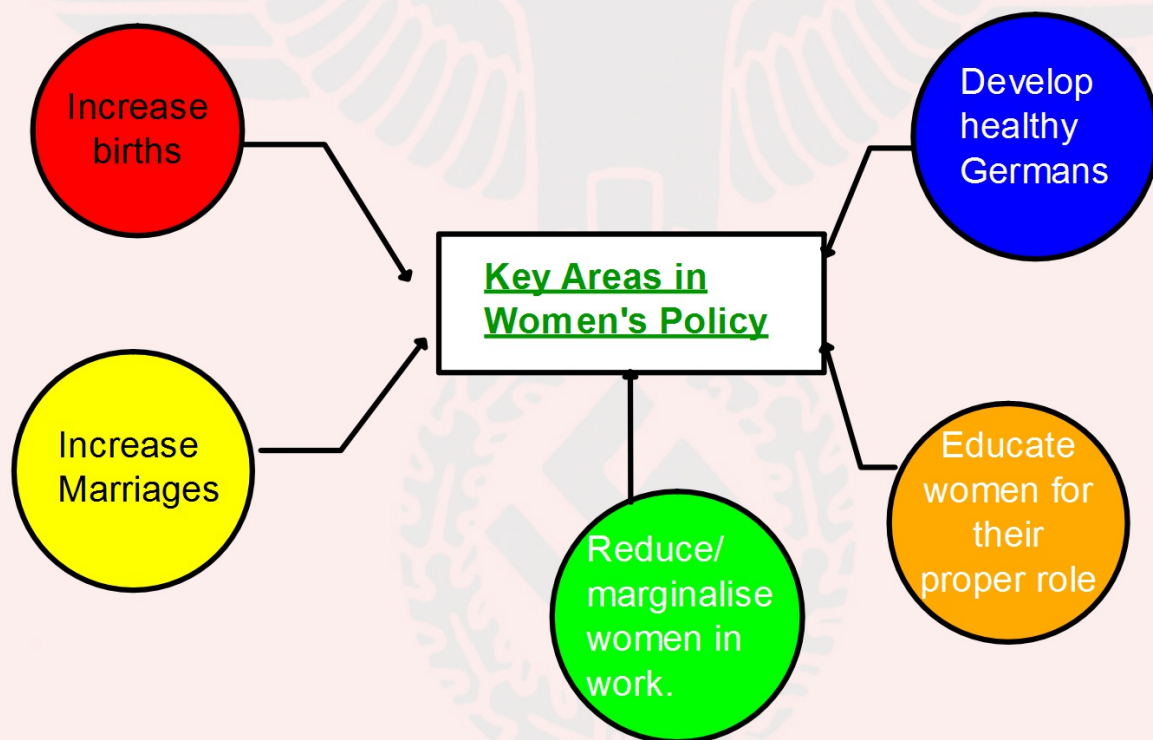
These views were articulated in Mein Kampf and Hitler's speeches:

**“Women are the eternal mothers of the nation”;
“women are the eternal companion of men”; “the
triumphant task of women is to bear and tend
babies”; “men are willing to fight ... women must
be there to nurse them”.**

Equal but **D**istinct roles

Methods:

Hitler's patriarchal views about the subservience of women shaped Nazi policy and propaganda



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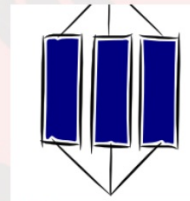
All these policies would organise women and incorporate them into the Nazi State -

the "VOLKSGEMEINSCHAFT"

the Nazi "ideal peoples' community"




Using the grid 15C complete the HOT sheet examining the methods used to achieve the Nazi aims for women.

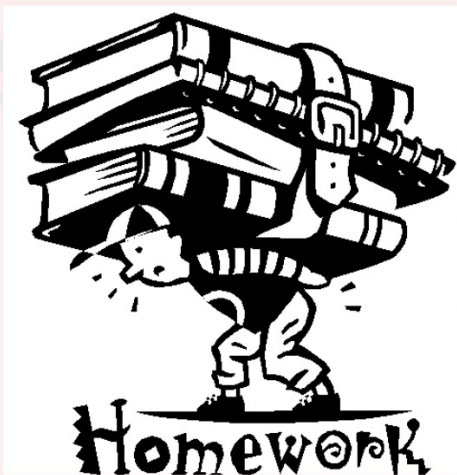


Success of Nazi Policy towards Women?

Evaluating Nazi policies with regard to women and population turns up mixed results. Hitler's attempts to court German women and win their loyalty succeeded for the most part. Having been largely ignored by previous leaders, thousands of German women considered Hitler their saviour. It was not uncommon for German homes to have a picture of the fuhrer, even a small shrine bedecked with candles and flowers.

Use the double page of sources and copy and complete this table in your books -

Source	Providence	Evidence in favour or against.	How does the source show the success or failure of Nazi policies for German Women?	Supporting evidence taken from the source. 
15.18	Advertisement in a German newspaper.	Some success	This advert shows that at least some men agreed with Nazi policy. A doctor wants to marry a woman that matches the ideal Nazi image of a simple Aryan woman in order to have a son. However we do not know how successful he was and whether women were keen to take him up on his offer.	"Wants male child through marriage to a healthy Aryan woman. Needs to be a good simple housewife - undemanding"



Complete all the sources
before Friday's lesson.

