

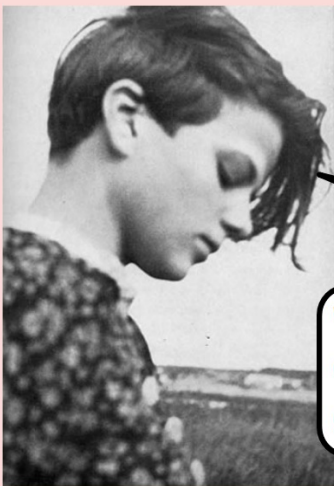
April 1st

Unit 4 - Nazi Coordination of Society  
Lesson 9 - Resistance to the Nazis:  
"Resistance Without the People."



"What we have written and said is in the minds of all of you, but you lack the courage to say it aloud."

Sophie Scholl  
University Student 1943  
Leader of the White Rose Organisation



What do you think Sophie is saying?  
Can you explain how her comments might give you an insight into the quote in the title?

Learning gain - by the end of this sequence of lessons I will have explored what opposition there was to the Nazi Regime and thought about different historical viewpoints on this topic.

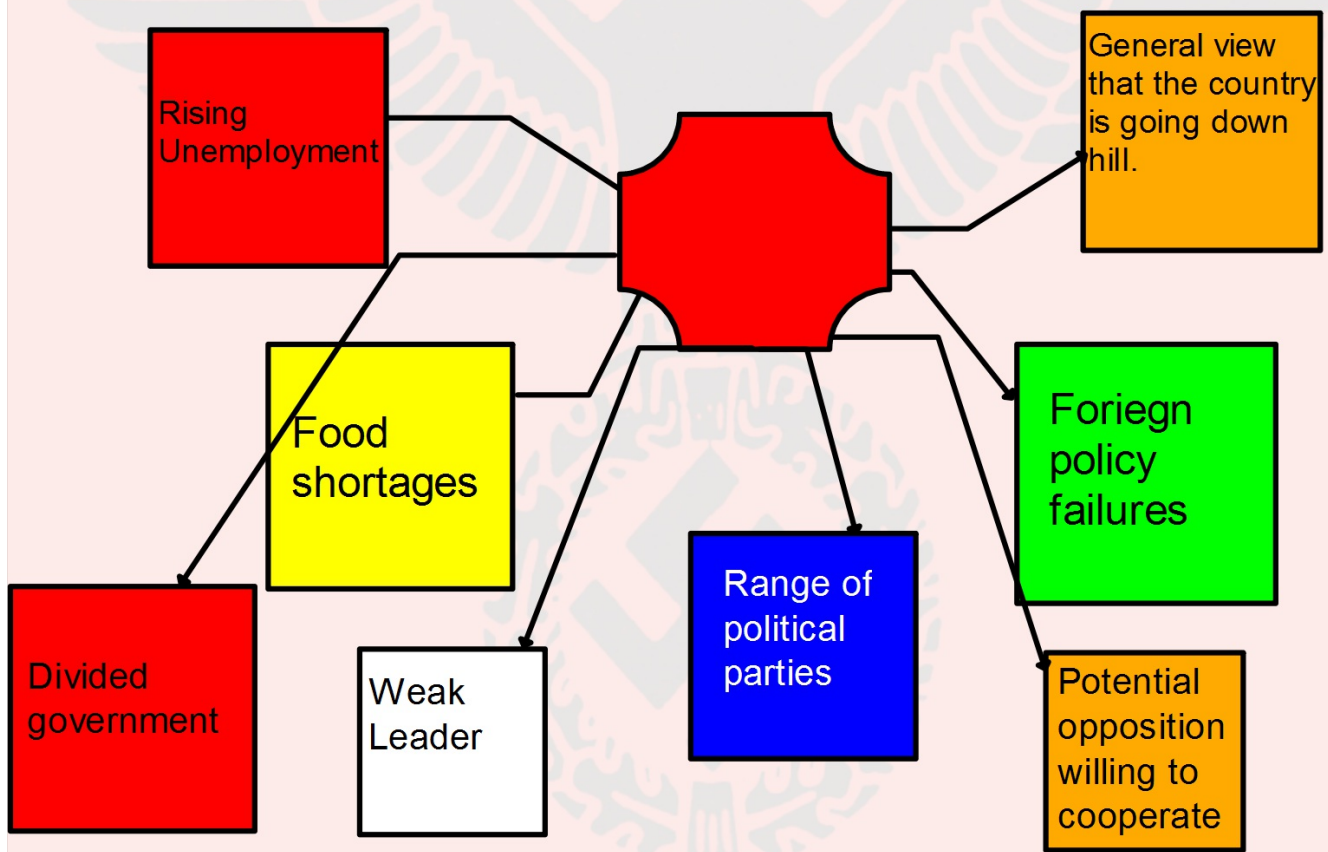


### Learning Steps:

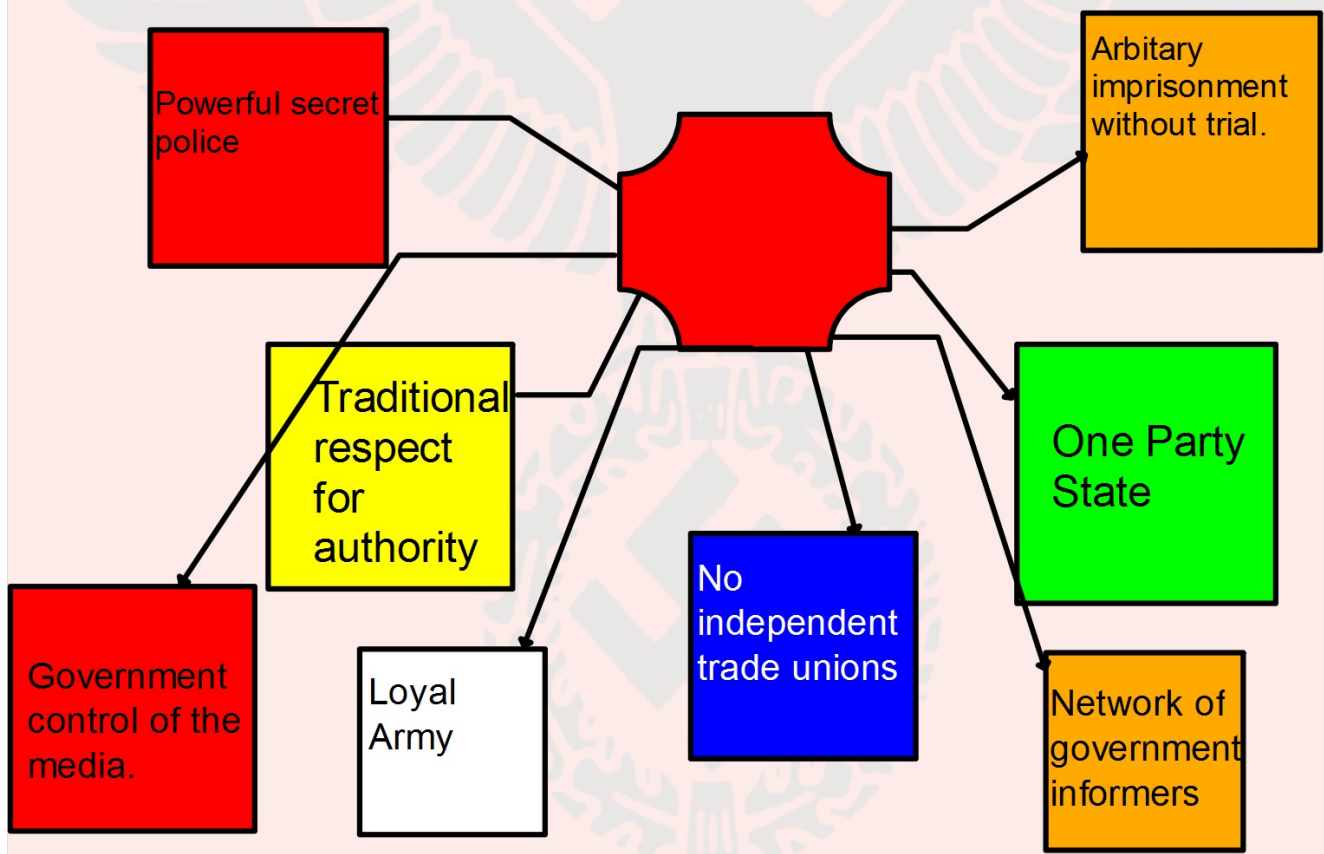


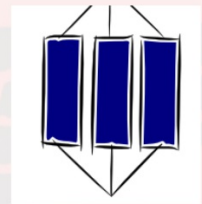
- Explore what factors encourage and discourage political opposition.
- Investigate what opposition existed.  
Discover who were the resisters to the Nazis.
- Interrogate historical perspectives on the nature of opposition to the Nazis.

### Factors which encourage opposition:



## Factors making effective opposition difficult:





What conclusions do you draw about the potential nature of opposition to the Nazi Regime?



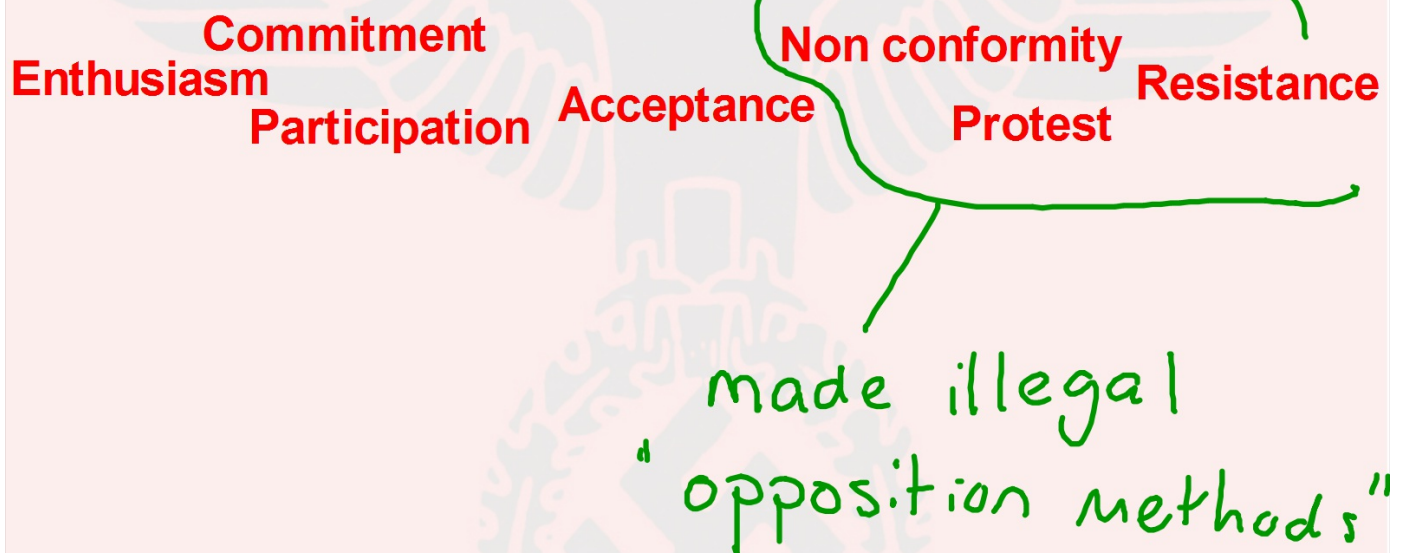


Look at the list of seven possible reactions to the Nazi Regime...

Non conformity    Protest  
Acceptance    Participation  
Enthusiasm  
Commitment    Resistance

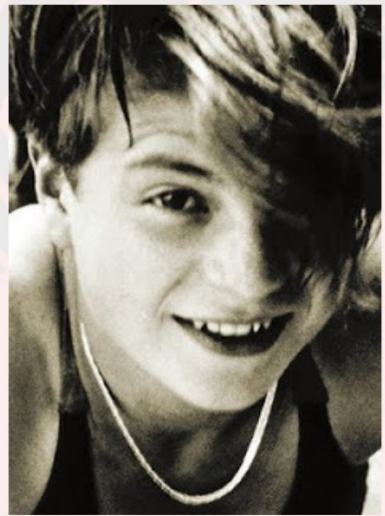
Write them out in a line from left to right - left being the most positive.





**Glue in the sheet of the various methods of resistance to the Nazi Regime - find two examples for each of the three classified as opposition activities.**

Which of the many methods of opposition do you think were private or personal responses to the Nazi regime?





## Who resisted the Nazis?

“All that is necessary for the *triumph* of evil is that good men do nothing”

Edmund Burke

### The Churches:

Overall the church both Protestant and Catholic concentrated on resisted the state to protect their own position rather than because they felt the Nazis to be a monstrous regime.

Some brave individuals resisted and were imprisoned or killed.



Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Pastor Niemoller

### Youth:

Some opposition from groups like the Swing Youth and Edelweiss Pirates, and University groups like the White Rose. The White Rose groups publicised genocide and atrocities on the eastern front in pamphlets: "Germany's name will be disgraced until her youth rises up to take revenge, atone and smash its torturers."



Sophie and Hans Scholl

## The Army:

Aristocratic officers generally remained suspicious of Hitler.

“Such a fine, sunny day, and I have to go, but what does my death matter, if through us thousands of people are awakened and stirred to action?”

Sophie Scholl, founder of the White Rose Movement

Several officers were involved in various plots to assassinate Hitler. The Abwehr (Military Intelligence) led by Admiral Canaris created surprising amount of opposition to the Nazis - tolerated resistance within Germany and helping Jews leave. Eventually stopped when absorbed into SS in 1944.



General Hans Oster, Colonel Graf von Stauffenberg

## Judiciary, and Government Civil Service:

Some tried to maintain pre-Nazi standards despite increasing interference from SS.

### **The workers:**

The workers maintained some links to banned political parties - the communists and socialists. Strikes occurred - 400 between 1933 and 1935.

Some working class districts were "no - go" areas for Nazi officials.

### **Opposition Parties:**

All banned in 1933.

The Socialists - SPD (or SOPADE in exile) maintained underground efforts through groups such as the Hanover Socialist Front and Berlin Red Patrol.

Published leaflets and carried out word of mouth whispering campaigns to provide opposition.





## Find the Resisters! Treasure Hunt.



Break into groups no bigger than 4.

Make sure at least one of you has a phone or device with a camera on it.

Around the top floor and ground floor notice boards are hidden 10 Nazi Resisters.

Your job is to send out members of your group to find and photograph these opposition leaders.

This information is to be used to fill in the A3 dossier.

NOT ALL OF YOUR GROUP CAN BE OUT AT ONCE.  
ALL OF YOU NEED TO FILL IN THE DOSSIER.  
TAKE IT IN TURNS TO HUNT THE RESISTERS DOWN.

Ian Kershaw - "The Nazi Dictatorship" 1993



"Resistance without the people"

Kershaw has argued that there was widespread opposition to the Nazis but this did not translate into coherent and organised resistance to Hitler's regime. Only a small minority of brave and dedicated individuals resisted, mostly with the explicit support of the people.

What do other Historians think about the level and nature of resistance in Hitler's Germany?



### **M.Housden - "Germans and their opposition to the Third Reich. 1994**

"While very many Germans remained at odds with the Third Reich only a few exceptional souls driven by a mixture of bravery and despair, dared express themselves openly."

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### **J.Hiden - "Republican and Fascist Germany" 1996**

The persecution of 100,000s of Germans by Hitler serves to illustrate that dissent and non-conformity must have been widespread. Resistance defined as an organised and sustained attempt to destroy the regime - was not."

### **A. Leber - "Conscience in Revolt". 1994**

It is believed that between 1933 and 1945:  
3 million were imprisoned for political crimes.  
800,000 sentenced for active resistance,  
32,600 executed of which 12,000 was for high treason.

### **D. Peukert - "Inside Nazi Germany".**

the cumulative effect of the use of terror against political opponents was to paralyse anti-Nazi resistance.

Use the evidence provided by the 4 historians to write a paragraph on the extent to which they agree with Kershaw's view.

Use quotes to support your answer.

