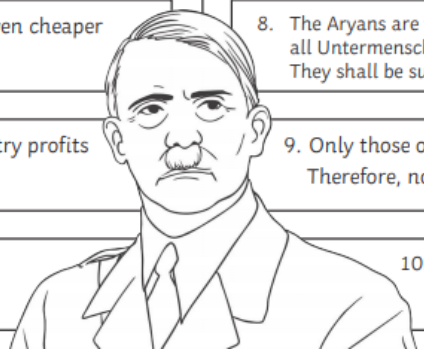
What did the Nazi's believe?

Hitler joined the Nazi Party in 1919 and was influential in defining its beliefs. The National Socialist Party's manifesto of beliefs and ideas was called the 25 Point Programme and it presented how they believed Germany should have been governed after WW1. It included points such as:

1. All citizens shall have equal rights and responsibilities.
2. There should only be one strong leader.
3. Small traders and small businesses should be given cheaper rents and more state help.
4. All trusts should be nationalised and large industry profits should be shared by the German people.
5. All old-age pensions should be increased.
6. Germany needs Lebensraum and colonies for our people to farm and cultivate for our growing populations.
7. All Germans should be united in a Greater German Reich.
8. The Aryans are the master race. The Slavs, Jews and Black people are all Untermenschen and shall reside in Germany as foreigners. They shall be subject to alien law.
9. Only those of German blood can be citizens of Germany. Therefore, no Jew can be classed as German.
10. The Treaty of Versailles should be abolished and the German nation should have equal rights to other countries.



11. Only citizens can choose the Government and be a member of any Public Office or any Governing body of Germany.
12. All Germans shall be able to earn a good livelihood and live a good life.
13. All Germans should be given the opportunity of higher education and the State should have full control of education and curriculum.
14. The State must ensure the good health of its people, especially young people and should promote good maternity health centres.
15. No further immigration of non-Germans into the country and any non-German immigrants admitted since August 4th 1914 shall be removed from Germany.
16. The Press should be controlled by the State and any disruptive forces within the Arts and Culture shall be restricted.
17. Every citizen's first duty is to work either physically or mentally. No work shall be done that is detrimental to the German community as a whole – work should be for the benefit of all.
18. No one should profit from war. Any war profits should be confiscated and are an act of treason against the German people. Treason and Profiteering is punishable by death.

Because the Nazis' 25 Point Programme appealed to people all over the country from all walks of life, they became popular. Other extremist groups, like the communists, only really appealed to the industrial workers in Germany's cities and couldn't keep up.

- **Wealthy businessmen**: were frightened communists would take their wealth away and did not want to see any more increase in support for them. To combat this, they began to give money to Hitler and the Nazis, hoping they would gain more seats – not the communists.
- **The middle-class**: were generally quite traditional and were not convinced by the Weimar democracy. Hitler promised them a strong government and won their votes.
- **Nationalists**: they blamed the legacy of the Treaty of Versailles and reparations for causing the depression and so lent their support to the Nazis who had promised to make Germany strong again.
- **Rural areas**: The Nazis appealed to people in the countryside - especially middle class shopkeepers and craftsmen, farmers and agricultural labourers.

For years before Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany (1933), he spread his beliefs in racial "purity" and in the superiority of the "Germanic race"—what he called an Aryan "master race." He pronounced that his race must remain pure in order to one day take over the world. For Hitler, the ideal "Aryan" was blond, blue-eyed, and tall.

Propaganda and Censorship

The Nazis wanted Germans to support the Nazi dictatorship and believe in Nazi ideas. To accomplish this goal, they tried to control forms of communication through censorship and propaganda. This included control of newspapers, magazines, books, art, theatre, music, movies, and radio.

How did the Nazis use censorship?

When the Nazis came to power in 1933, the German constitution guaranteed freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Through decrees and laws, the Nazis abolished these civil rights and destroyed German democracy. Starting in 1934, it was illegal to criticize the Nazi government. Even telling a joke about Hitler was considered treachery. People in Nazi Germany could not say or write whatever they wanted.

Examples of censorship under the Nazis included:

- Closing down or taking over anti-Nazi newspapers;
- Controlling what news appeared in newspapers, on the radio, and in newsreels - all newspapers/radio broadcasts were controlled by the government and could only print stories favourable to the Nazi regime;
- Banning and burning books that the Nazis categorized as un-German;
- Controlling what soldiers wrote home during World War II.

How did the Nazis use propaganda?

The Nazis used propaganda to promote their ideas and beliefs. Beginning in March 1933, the government department of Ministry of Enlightenment and Propaganda became responsible for all of this. It was led by Dr Joseph Goebbels. It aimed to brainwash people into obeying the Nazis and idolising Hitler.

The Nazis used a variety of propaganda tools to spread Nazi ideas. Examples of propaganda under the Nazis included:

- Glorifying Adolf Hitler by using his image on postcards, posters, and in the press;
- the infamous Swastika symbol appearing on every government uniform and public building
- Germans having to greet each other with a ‘Heil Hitler’ raised arm salute
- Spreading negative images and ideas about Jews in magazines, films, cartoons, and other media;
- Making radios more affordable so that more Germans could listen to Nazi ideas and news;
- Broadcasting Nazi speeches on the radio and public loudspeakers;
- Organizing large and celebratory Nazi Party rallies - these public displays of support for Nazism involved music, speeches and demonstrations of German strength. The biggest one was held each year in August at Nuremberg.;
- Creating groups, like the Hitler Youth and League of German Girls, that fostered Nazi ideals;
- Use of sports events - Berlin hosted the Olympics of 1936, which the Nazis used as an opportunity to showcase the success of the regime and to demonstrate the superiority of the Aryan race. The victories of the African-American athlete Jesse Owens for the USA infuriated the Nazi leadership.

Loudspeakers in public places also blared out Nazi propaganda. Much of the information Germans received reinforced the message of Aryan racial superiority whilst demonising the Jews and other ‘enemies’ of the regime.

The party sought to control German life and win over the population to the Nazi cause.