

Item name: The Nazi Rise to Power and Establishment of the Volksgemeinschaft



The Nazi Rise to Power

Establishment of the *Volksgemeinschaft*

Gain benefits



Expel "undesirable" elements



Description:

Civilians across the world were caught up in the horrors of World War II on an unprecedented scale.

Nazi racial ideology and anti-Semitism predated World War II. Between 1933 and 1941, Hitler and the Nazi Party (NSDAP) worked to build the *volks-gemeinschaft*, or the German national community of those who were seen as racially superior – Aryan Germans.

These Germans gained many benefits from their inclusion in the national community, including access to good jobs, special government loans for young married couples and families, vacations, etc. This was especially appealing those who had suffered during the 1920s and Great Depression.

Simultaneously, the Nazis began to expel and exclude the “undesirable” elements from the national community. This included Jews, communists, homosexuals, Roma, degenerate artists, etc. To be excluded was a “social death.”

Both legal and coercive means made it possible to isolate and exclude these groups from German society while simultaneously blaming them for society’s problems.

This helped desensitize many of those Germans who were benefitting from the national community to what was being done to the so-called “enemies” of Germany.