

Question 2

a) In the years between the inception of the National Socialist German Workers Party and Hitler's accession to the Chancellery in 1933, the Nazi party's impact on German society was decidedly less than ~~was~~ ^{after} its accession to power. However, it did affect the German society through its undermining effect on Democratic Weimar Germany; its policies to attract popular support; its use of violence and terror especially seen in election campaigns; and the role of Hitler himself as Führer of the Nazi Party. All these factors administered an effect on the society of Germany up to and including 1933.

It could be said that the Democratic Weimar Germany was doomed from its inception in 1919. Its role as the 'scapegoat' of Versailles and the subsequent economic, social and political problems of the next decade would turn people away from Democracy and into the arms of extremist groups such as Hitler's NSDAP.

However, the Nazi Party did have a role to play in undermining, and then finally eradicating Weimar

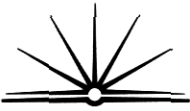


and its democratic constitution. The militarily inspired Beer Hall Putsch in 1923, was one such example - whether it had any effect on Weimar, however, is ~~not~~ ^{uncertain}.

The ~~first~~ Putsch in Munich was an attempt by Hitler to usurp ~~the~~ the position of Chancellorship of the Reich through revolutionary means, its subsequent failure ~~was~~ was a lesson to Hitler, who then decided on a legal course of action in order to take over the Chancellorship.

Yet this, in fact, did not have any long-term effect on the credibility of Weimar Germany. ~~It did,~~ in fact, have a negative effect on the Nazi Party, for more many supporters - in particular the middle-class - were swept off by the radicalism presented by Hitler's militaristic play. What was more significant was ~~the~~ ~~that~~ Hitler's trial - and as Carr believes - it was an indication of the nationalistic mood in Bavaria that Hitler was able to turn his trial into a public demonstration.

The lenient sentence given to Hitler again re-affirmed the opposition the old civil service represented to Weimar, and this - rather than the Putsch itself - would have generated ~~uncertainty~~ ^{scepticism} ~~and~~ the people towards Weimar.

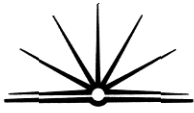


Hitler's time in prison led to a new organisation for the Nazi Party - one that would ensure ~~the~~ greater attacks on the Weimar Republic.

By meticulously reorganising Germany into zones and making sure every single zone was covered with a Nazi official - the Nazis ensured that their radical ideas were spread amongst the population as credibility of Weimar fell drastically.

Being an extreme nationalist group - the Nazis promoted ~~the~~ ideals of a strong Germany in place of the weak and class-divided Weimar State.

Jürgen Kocher is one to believe that it was the 'Same like' character of the Nazi Party's policies which endeared them to the people and earned their impact upon German society. The appealing nature of the 'Volksgemeinschaft' or the 'People's community', coupled with promises of economic reform and nationalist goals - such as "reversing the wrongs of Versailles" and the Rearmament Policy ~~of~~ for the Army - not only attracted people to the Nazi Party - but also earned



The Party's impact upon society ~~was~~ is by undermining the credibility of Weimar Germany.

The concept of the Volksgemeinschaft is believed by historians such as M. Bozart to be a ~~political~~ pivotal policy in the Nazi Party's impact upon the people. This was due not only to its opposition to Weimar - a ~~disorderly~~ class-divided, ~~the~~ politically unstable state, - but its appeal to the people and their subsequent attraction to the Nazi Party.

German society - ^{particularly} ~~including~~ the working class, according to new research conducted by E. Johnson - saw the Nazi Party as a preferable alternative to Weimar due to the 'Volksgemeinschaft' policy. As a result, they abandoned Weimar and democracy - causing the Constitution to decay and become inefficient. This attraction of support away from Weimar can be seen as the effect of the Nazi Party on German society.

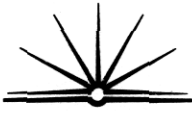
The effect of its policies on the Army, however, is more significant for effects on German society. Promises to "Protect the borders of Versailles" and for extensive rearmament led the army, in particular, to back Hitler



in his progressive rise to power. When the provisions of Article 48 - ~~the~~ the emergency decree - came into force - the army were highly influential in bringing Hitler to power. This was a result of our influence over President Hindenburg - who reluctantly, and only through the persistence of his advisors - appointed Hitler as Chancellor and effectively replaced the democratic society of Weimar with an authoritarian rule. Thus, the effects of the policies of the Nazi Party on the Army can be seen as an effect on German society.

The Nazis were frequently indisposed to use their "Brown-shirts" or SA to commit street brawls and terror and violence in the streets, especially during election campaigns. Although many cities were hard hit by this violence - many were killed in brawls between Communists and the Nazis - it is uncertain whether this had an impact on German society.

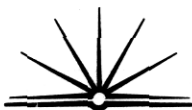
Cart relates that it, in fact had a positive effect on the middle class, who saw this violence



as a good policy - for another way being "dealing" with the Communist threat. However his use of violence had little effect on German society, despite its affective nature at ^{election} campaigns.

The Role of Hitler himself, as Fuehrer, may have also played an impact on German society by assisting the Nazi Party to Power. Albert Speer, in his memoirs, Inside the Third Reich, relates that it was due to Hitler himself, not the Nazi's policies, that ~~and~~ attracted him to the Nazi Party. This was, in fact, a general truth with many who joined the Nazi Party. The personal magnetism of Hitler and ~~the~~ ^{his} surrounding myth as a strong, capable leader who would lead Germany out of the Weimar 'degradation', was a definite factor in helping the Nazis to power, and thus affecting German society, in 1933.

It is apparent that Nazi Policies and campaign techniques aided the Nazi Party, into Power in 1933.



Thus, they were able to use their power to transform the German society from the divided Weimar state into the tightly ruled authoritarian government of 1933.

However, aside from this, Nazi impact was limited.

The Nazi party was one factor in a sea of troubles for Weimar Germany, and it was not just their role which caused its downfall in 1933.

The effects of Versailles; of the opposition of the Army and other ~~nationalist~~ nationalist groups; as well as the drastically detrimental effects of the Depression all conspired to affect the German society in the years of 1918 to ~~1933~~ ¹⁹³³.

As believed by S. Dixon, it was the accumulative effects of these negative events which resulted in the Nazis coming to power - not just their attractive policies. Nazi impact on German society, therefore, up until 1933, was ~~very~~ ^{quite} limited, and it was only their subsequent rise to power in 1933 which constituted any great social change.



The Rise of the Nazis in 1933, however, caused a much greater impact on German society.

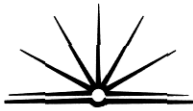
After his accession to power on January 30th, 1933, Hitler set about consolidating his rule. He began the implementation of his Nationalistic policies by implementing the "Burning of the Books" - a massive burning of all those works deemed to be un-German.

He further issued orders for the building to the concentration camp, Dachau, and its role in an affecting German society in later years would be horrific.

He further more, arrested those Communists and trade unionists who he deemed to be enemies to his Reich, thus consolidating his rule and beginning the steps toward a one-line, authoritarian state.

It wouldn't be until 1934, however, when the Nazis would fully realize their potential, dispelling the Reichstag and creating a fully-fledged Totalitarian state. Yet the effects of the Nazi Party on German society in 1933 would prove to be long-term.

In Conclusion. Although the Nazi Party had limited



effect on the German society between 1918 & 1933,
its role in 1933 was the start of a transformation
of German as social life which would culminate in the
'total' society that is well-known as Nazi Germany.