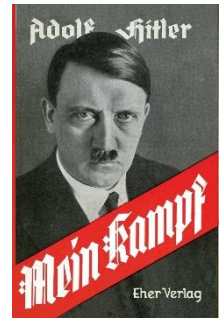


# National Socialist Ideology and World View



Basis: Party program of the NSDAP and 'Mein Kampf' (Bible of the Nazi movement)

## Volksgemeinschaft

Hitler envisioned the ideal German society as a *Volksgemeinschaft*, a racially unified and hierarchically organized body in which the interests of individuals would be strictly subordinate to those of the nation, or *Volk*. Like a military battalion, the people's community would be permanently prepared for war and would accept the discipline that this required.



- "You are nothing, your people is everything"
- Integration (youth, women, workers)
- Kraft durch Freude (KdF) – engl. 'strength through joy', affordable leisure activities, vacation
- Hitlerjugend – school, activities, trips, Nazi education
- Exclusion of social outcasts, community aliens e.g. Jews, handicapped people (euthanasia), Sinti and Roma, homosexuals, juvenile delinquents; term to include all those who failed to live by the social norms of the national community



## Raciology (Rassenlehre), Racism, Anti-Semitism

- Struggle between superior and inferior races
- Three types of people
- Cultural founders (Kulturgründer) – Aryans
- Culture founders (Kulturträger)
- Culture destroyer (Kulturzerstörer) – Jews - hatred, discrimination, persecution, extermination, sedition, demagoguery (hate speech, hate crime)
- Jews are presented and treated as scapegoats – "parasite", "cancer", "harmful bacillus"
- Struggle for survival – social Darwinism (attempt to apply biological concepts of natural selection and survival of the fittest in human society)



## *Lebensraum Expansion to Eastern Europe (Lebensraumerweiterung im Osten)*

- Battle against communism (Russians are stupid and weak)
- Aryans are destined to rule over the inferior bolshevists, who are meant to be enslaved
- According to Hitler, Germany is overpopulated, without space
- Necessity to create space for German people
- Expansion to the east and submission of the inferior peoples
- Preparation for war of conquest

## *Führerprinzip*

- Authority is enforced from above – the most intelligent people are at the top
- Unconditional obedience
- Hitler as “savior” (pseudo religious adoration), has the ability to liberate the people from their suffering and misery – encouraged opposition to the Weimar Republic
- The German people are forced to unconditional surrender

## *Propaganda*

- Design/creation of enemy images
- Distribution of NS-Propaganda in all households via “Volksempfänger”, “Gleichschaltung” of the press
- Extensive staging of events e.g. Nazi Party Rallies in Nuremberg, Olympia 1936
- Effective propaganda is limited to only very few points, constant repetitions, emotional effect, eliminate critical thinking, based on the assumption that people are naïve and easy to manipulate

