Year 10, Autumn term 2 KO - Germany 1890 - 1945 Nazi Control

1. Key individuals

Heinrich Himmler - Head of the SS.
Joseph Goebbels - Minister of Enlightenment and Propaganda.
Leni Riefenstahl - film maker Triumph of the Will.
August Landmesser - Jewish family, photographed refusing to do the Nazi salute.
Hans and Sophie Scholl - leaders of the White Rose resistance group. Executed in 1943.
Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg - part of the July Bomb Plot.

2. Propaganda

Joseph Goebbels was in charge of persuading Germans to believe Nazi ideas.
Key messages were repeated including

- blaming the Jews for problems
- criticising the Treaty of Versailles
- make Germany great again

Methods

Newspapers - only showed Nazis doing good things. Negative sources about Jews. Newspapers were censored and shut down.
Mass rallies - huge parades and rallies. Special arenas were built that could hold half a million people. They had choirs, bands and listened to speeches. Hitler was an engaging public speaker that could whip up an audience into a fenzy.
Films - were controlled with Nazis shown in a good way and their 'enemies' in a bad way. Leni Riefenstahl filmed the Olympics and made other films.
Radio - cheap radios were used to put across Nazi messages with loudspeakers in the streets.
Books - were censored and book burning rallies burnt Jewish, Communist and other unapproved authors.

3. Terror

The police state was organised and used terror to keep people in control.
All police forces were under the control of Himmler as Head of the SS.
The SS - were originally Hitler's bodyguards and were the most feared organisation in the country. They included the Waffen SS and the Death's Head Units that ran the concentration and death camps.
The regular police and law courts - ignored crimes committed by the Nazis and they had all the top jobs. New laws meant the death penalty could be given for telling an anti-Hitler joke, having sex with a Jew or listening to foreign radio.
The Gestapo - the secret police. They spied on people they thought might be a threat tapping phones and opening mail. They could arrest, torture and imprison without a trial. They had a network of informers, encouraged children to inform on parents and teachers.

4. Rewards

The problem of unemployment was dealt with making many people happy.
Beauty of Labour movement - improved working conditions.
Strength Through Joy organised leisure activities including choirs, camps, cheap holidays and cinema tickets. Workers could save up for their own VW Beetle although nobody ever received one.
The Mutterkreuz - reward for women who had 4 children - bronze, 6 - silver or 8 - gold. This was linked to the 100 mark marriage loan which you kept 250 marks for each child you had.

5. opposition

Many Germans were uncomfortable with what the Nazis were doing and moaned or grumbled but even this could be dangerous. Some used passive resistance refusing to do as they were told. Others were more openly defiant such as youth groups including the Swing Movement, Edelweiss Pirates and the White Rose. The Kreisau Circle also tried to eliminate Hitler. They failed and ever executed.

6.Key terms

Propaganda – The use of media to spread a specific message, usually whilst suppressing others
Anti-semitism – The hatred of Jewish individuals
Kristallnacht – "The Night of Broken Glass" Nov 1938, a night which saw widespread attack on Jewish homes and businesses
The Night of Long Knives – July 1934 – Hitler used his SS forces to take down the SA leaders, fearing their power and influence
Einsatzgruppen – Nazi killing squads, tasked with hunting down enemies of the Nazi regime
SS – Schutzstafel, Hitler's own private army, loyal only to him and his Nazi regime.
SA - Sturmabteilung - "the brownshirts", a military group, originally Hitler's hired thugs who helped him bully and harass political enemies.