

Candidate 3 evidence – Historical Issues

QUESTION		M
52.	<p>Between 1933 and 1939, the Nazis attempted to change the status of women in society, to an extent. Before 1933, the women in Germany were already treated with respect. Germany had been one of the first countries to give women the vote, and they were allowed to choose their own career path. However, when the Nazis came to power, they attempted to change women's status in a way that still made them appear important. Great importance was placed on the fact that women were fighting for the strength of their nation by having children and providing for her husband. The Nazis told them that by leaving their jobs they were allowing unemployed men to help their families, while they could stay at home and support her own family. Hitler introduced a range of policies which attempted to create the ideal German</p>	

women, and luckily for him many women conformed to his wishes. He introduced incentives for having children, with mothers receiving money, holidays or medals if they had many children. Through different policies, he was able to change women's status in Germany while still being respectful.

One of the first things Hitler did when he came to power was make a lot of women redundant, so men could have their jobs. He needed a new generation of young Aryans who would be the new leaders of the regime when they were older, and so women had to stay at home solely to have children. This seemed to work though, as there was a steady increase in population between 1933 and 1939. Many women began to have upwards of 12 children, and were rewarded for doing so. The 'German Cross of Motherhood' was a medal given to

women who had basically devoted their bodies and life to the regime. Hitler placed great importance on the typical German mother, and how they were a huge part of the regime. Hitler created a 'Mother's day' in honour of all women, and propaganda regularly showed women as being the head of the family. One thing Hitler did not like was the way some women were trying to copy American or British looks, and so he issued a guide on the 'ideal woman' where women were told to dress traditionally, and to wear little makeup. He did not want them becoming obsessed with their appearance and forgetting about their duty to save the country. In doing this, Hitler changed the status of women to strong, respected traditional mothers, who were helping to drive the country forward.

Towards 1939, once Hitler realised war was imminent, he allowed women to return to their jobs in the munitions factories, to try and increase productivity. He also sent them to farms to harvest food for the nation. In doing so, women proved they could do the same work as any other man in the country, and helped keep the country going. Hitler needed women on his side if he wanted to succeed and so appealed to their nature. Luckily for him, many women found him charismatic and were only too happy to ~~add~~ serve him for the greater good. Women gained a lot of respect for their hardworking nature in whatever jobs they were sent to. Their status changed as they were important parts of the regime and the Nazis demanded they receive respect for it.

Overall, women's status changed in Nazi Germany ~~of this period~~ due to different

givers. They were the mothers of the new leaders of the regime, and were the only ones available to help create a new generation. Their willingness to work solely for their Führer meant they were well respected by all German people. The traditional German woman became one of the most important groups to the Nazis, as without their support for Hitler, and their willingness to help their country, ~~they~~ the Nazis would have found it a lot harder to have any power over the people.