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| **HA Resource Hub Submission Form** | | | |
| **Resource Title: Hitler’s Police State** | | | **Age Range:  12-14 (yr 8- Yr 9)** |
| **Author name and email contact:**  Emma Bevan  [ebevan@harrogatehighschool.co.uk](mailto:ebevan@harrogatehighschool.co.uk) | **Resource Details:**  Powerpoint: “The Nazis Police State”  Document:  Information sheet on Police State Organisation (next page of this Word doc, below) | | |
| **Necessary prior learning to complete this:**  Knowledge on Hitler’s Rise to Power | | **What does it lead to next?**  Life in Nazis Germany as well as feeding into the start of WW2 and Appeasement Policy | |
| **Explanation: How should this resource be used?**  Students work their way through the Powerpoint activities, using the information sheet and any of their own research to start to unpick the Nazis Police State.  The Powerpoint includes a source that students can pull inferences on to also further develop source analysis skills. | | | |

**The Police State in Nazi Germany**

**Who were the Police State?**

A police state is when a government uses the police to control everyone’s lives. The Nazis used the SS, SD and the Gestapo to do this. Anyone the Nazis were suspicious of could disappear, at any time. They could be killed or taken to concentration camps.

After the elimination of the SA in the Night of the Long Knives in June 1934, Hitler used three main organisations (in addition to the regular German police force) to control the German people through spying, intimidation and imprisonment.

**The Schutzstaffel (SS)**

The SS was led by **Heinrich Himmler** and was the most important of the three organisations. It oversaw the others. Initially it was set up in 1925 as Hitler’s personal bodyguard service, and it was fanatically loyal to the Führer and utterly ruthless.

By 1935, it numbered 200,000. Its leaders became more important than the Party organisation in running the country. The SS set up concentration camps where ‘enemies of the state’ were sent. They also developed their own huge industrial enterprises, where prisoners were used as slave labour.

**The Gestapo**

The Gestapo was the Nazis’ secret police force. In 1934 Himmler replaced Hermann Göring as its leader. Its job was to monitor the German population for signs of opposition or resistance to Nazi rule and eliminate it. Although its membership was not huge, it was greatly feared because it was powerful. They listened to telephone calls, intercepted letters and encouraged ordinary Germans to inform on their fellow citizens.

**The Sicherheitsdienst (SD)**

The SD was the intelligence-gathering agency of the SS. It was responsible for the security of Hitler and other top Nazis and was led by Himmler’s right-hand man, **Reinhard Heydrich**.

To help these organisations a spy network made up of ordinary people was established across the Germany.

They spied on all opponents of the Nazi Party at home and abroad.