

FOCUS ROUTE

- 1 List the range of reasons why people voted for the Nazis.
- 2 Which of these reasons do you consider the most important?
- 3 How have historians' interpretations changed in recent years?

SOURCE 7.23 Nazi publication, *Der Betriebs-Stürmer*, 1931

The years 1914-18 involved the destruction of the German Reich's economic pre-eminence and thus the freedom of German labour. November 1918 did not result in the deposition [overthrow] of the FEUDAL lords to the benefit of the workers. Instead the 9th November brought the defeat of Germany as a state. But the German worker paid the price.

His masters today are the irresponsible, faceless, international big capitalists and the Jews of the banking world ... National Socialism demands a transformation from the utterly unscrupulous profit-motivated economy to an economy geared to need.

SOURCE 7.25
A Nazi election poster, 1932:
'We want work and bread!'



SOURCE 7.26
A 1924 Nazi poster:
'First bread! Then reparations'

SOURCE 7.27
A 1932 Nazi election poster showing Marxism as the guardian angel of big business. The angel has SPD on his helmet – the Nazis called the moderate Socialists Marxists to discredit them



Der Marxismus ist
der Schutzengel
des Kapitalismus
Wählt
Nationalsozialisten Liste 1

SOURCE 7.24
A leaflet from July 1932

GERMAN WOMEN! GERMAN MOTHERS! Our Young People Defiled.

The present Prussian Welfare Minister ... has confirmed ... that in a German Grammar School for Girls 65 per cent of the girls had experienced sexual intercourse and 47 per cent had some form of sexual disease ... The number of sexual offences and cases of incest pile up in the most gruesome manner! ...

This is the result of the many years during which our people, and in particular our youth, have been exposed to a flood of muck and filth, in word and print, in the theatre and in the cinema. These are the result of the systematic Marxist destruction of the family ...

The National Socialists must win the election so that they can put a halt to this Marxist handiwork, so that once again women are honoured and valued, and so that the cinema and the theatre contribute to the inner rebuilding of the nation.

German women and mothers. Do you want your honour to sink still further?

Do you want your daughters to be playthings and the objects of sexual lust?

If NOT, then vote for a National Socialist majority on July 31st. Then vote for

LIST TWO
HITLER-MOVEMENT **NAT.SOCIAL GERMAN WORKERS PARTY**

E Why did people support the Nazis?

ACTIVITY

We will begin to investigate the reasons why some people voted for the Nazis by examining Nazi propaganda in the form of leaflets and posters.

- 1 Draw and complete a table like the one below, using Sources 7.23-32.

Source	Group directed at	Their grievances	What the Nazis offered	Other comments

- 2 What overall conclusions can you reach from these sources?
- 3 How valuable are these sources as evidence of why people voted for the Nazis?

SOURCE 7.28 A 1929 leaflet

TRADERS! SMALL PRODUCERS! ARTISANS!

For a long time you have kept out of sight and let corruption, favouritism and the NEPOTISM of others run all over you. You believed that obeying law and order was the first duty of the citizen. But what has this led to? Ever more exploitation by those in power. The tax-screw being turned ever tighter. You are HELOTS of this system. Your only job is to work and pay taxes which go into the salaries and pensions of ministers.

What have your parties done for you? They promised the world but did nothing. They made coalitions, prattled away before the elections then disappeared into parliament until the next.

They didn't unite against the treacherous leaders of Marxism.

They horse-dealt over ministerial posts and never gave you a thought. They have ruled with Social-Democrats and forgotten the aim of that party – Death to the Middle Class!

Have you forgotten the inflation? How you were robbed of your savings and commercial capital?

Have you forgotten how taxes have slowly throttled your businesses?

Have you forgotten how the Department Stores and Co-operatives have ruined you?

... Middle classes, why is it so bad? Why are your shops empty? Why are you out of business?

Look at the banks and their massive profits! They are eating you out of existence!

Marxism is guilty of pawning the German economy to international high finance. Therefore citizens, you belong to the ranks of those who make no pact with Marxism, but fight it wherever it is to be found.

GERMAN NATIONAL SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

SOURCE 7.31

A 1932 Nazi poster:
'Women! Millions of men without work. Millions of children without a future. Save the German family. Vote Adolf Hitler!'



SOURCE 7.29
'We're for Adolf Hitler!'



Kopf- und Handarbeiter wählt:
Wähltschen Blut

SOURCE 7.30
An anti-Jewish poster.
It says: 'The puppet master. Head and Hand vote Nazi.'

SOURCE 7.32 A 1929 leaflet

GERMAN FARMERS!

Farmers, it's a matter of your house and home!

Factories, forests, railways, taxes and the state's finances have all been robbed by the Jew. Now he's stretching his greedy fingers towards the last German possession – the countryside.

Insatiable [never satisfied] Jewish race-hatred and fanaticism are the driving forces behind this devilish attempt to break Germany's backbone through the annihilation [destruction] of the German farming community.

Doesn't it open your eyes when you see the economy of the countryside being crippled by unnaturally high taxes, while you have insufficient income to set off against this because of low prices for livestock and grain?

Huge imports of frozen meat and foreign grain, at lowest prices, undercut you and push down your earnings ... You cannot obtain credit to tide you over these hard times. If you want money the usurious [very high] interest rates will wring your neck. Under the protection of the state it won't be long before the greater part of the land-owning farmers will be driven from their farms and homes by Jewish money lenders.

Help us build a new Germany that will be NATIONALIST AND SOCIALIST

NATIONALIST because it is free and held in respect.

SOCIALIST because any German who works and creates will be guaranteed not just a slave's ration of bread, but an honourable life, decent earnings and the sanctity of his hard-earned property.

Farmers, it is a matter of the most holy possessions of a people, THE LAND AND THE FIELDS WHICH GOD HAS GIVEN US.

Farmers, it is a matter of house and home,
Of life and death, of our people and our fatherland!

THEREFORE FARMERS – WAKE UP!

JOIN THE RANKS OF OUR DEFENCE FORCE. FIGHT WITH US IN THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST GERMAN WORKERS PARTY