



education and sports development

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GENERAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION TRAINING SERVICES CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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ADDENDUM**

This addendum consists of 10 pages.



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NW/JUNE/HIST/ EMIS/6*****

QUESTION 1: WHAT WERE THE EFFECTS OF WAR COMMUNISM ON THE RUSSIANS IN THE 1920s?

SOURCE 1A

The extract below describes the introduction of War Communism in Russia.

During the Civil War Lenin introduced a policy of war Communism. The government took control of the economy. It was vital that the Red Army was supplied with the weapons and food which it needed to fight the war effectively. War communism was very effective in keeping the army supplied, but it led to widespread starvation among the peasants and workers in Russia.

Lenin set up the supreme Council of National Economy to introduce war Communism. Private trading was banned and profit-making was decreed (ordered) to be exploitation. Factories with more than ten workers were taken over by the government and strict discipline was imposed in them. Strikes were illegal. In the countryside, peasants encouraged to work harder still. The surplus crops they grew were taken by the government to feed the factory workers and the army. The peasants resented (refused) this. They had won the right to own their land under the Communist, but now they wanted to profit from it by selling their crops. They did not see why they should have to give surplus produce to the government. The government also abolished money charges on such services as rail-ways and post. This was to encourage the use of bartering (exchanging) instead of money. As inflation made the rouble almost worthless, many peasants did swap goods instead of using paper money.

[From *Russia and the USSR 1905–1956*, Heinemann, 1956 by N Kelly]

SOURCE 1B

This extract below describes the effects of War Communism on the people of Russia.

Under War Communism, factories were taken over by the government. Workers were ordered into whatever jobs the government felt were needed at the time. Nobody was allowed to make or sell goods for his/her own profit. The scarce supplies of food were strictly rationed, for instance, seven kilos (+7 loaves) of bread, 450 grams of sugar and 225 grams of imitation butter had to last a worker a month - and many people got less. To keep the army and workers fed, the government send soldiers to the countryside. The soldiers forced peasants to hand over any grain they had stored away. Often, they even beat and killed them. But the peasants heat back. One Bolshevik observer described how 'how savage (severe) peasants would slit open a Commissar's belly, pack it with grain and leave him by the roadside as a lesson to all'.

War Communism kept the Red Army going through the civil war. But in every way it was a disaster. The peasants knew that any surplus grain they produced would be taken by the government. So they only grew what they needed to feed their own families. In industry things were worse. The years of war had left mines flooded, machines smashed, factories and railways in ruins. Industrial output dropped to only one-seventh of its pre-war level. In 1920 and 1921, famine and epidemic diseases swept Russia. Millions died with 3,5 million people dying of typhoid alone..

[From <https://www.britanica.com/event/warcommunism>. Accessed on 15 April 2019]



SOURCE 1C

The photograph below shows starving Russian children as a result of War Communism.



History by C Culpin]

[From *Making*

SOURCE 1D

The following extract focuses on the results of War Communism in Russia in the 1920s.

The result of this War Communism was chaos. Peasants refused to hand over the food, or failed to plant crops that they knew would be taken. Many people did not receive enough rations to live on. The situation in the factories was just as chaotic with managers fleeing abroad and workers refusing to work for starvation wages.

By 1921 famine had broken out. Industrial production was down to one seventh of the 1913 level. It is estimated that 3,5 million people died from typhoid alone. With the economy in ruins, inflation out of control and the country in the grip of famine, the peasants called for the overthrow of Communism. They rose up against the army and the CHEKA. Lenin was so concerned that he said: "We are barely hanging on". Again the Bolsheviks responded with terror. They imposed their will by rounding up villages and shooting them in batches; whole villages were also sent into exile. However, they had to face a more serious revolt when, in 1921, the sailors at Kronstadt mutinied (revolted), demanding more political and economic freedom. They had always been regarded as the most loyal supporters of the Bolsheviks. Although Trotsky and the Red Army put down the revolt, the Party realised that if even their most loyal supporters were revolting against them, then it was time to change the policies that were driving them into revolt.

[From *Russia and the USSR 1905 – 1995*, Oxford University Press, 2000 by T Downey]

QUESTION 2: WHAT WERE THE EFFECTS OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION OF 1929 ON THE AMERICANS?

SOURCE 2A

This source below analyses the buying and selling of shares on the New York stock exchange in the United States of America in the 1920s, which led to the collapse of the American economy.

A company can sell shares in the ownership of their business on the stock exchange in order to raise money. The company then uses the money from these shares to expand its businesses or to buy more factories in order to make higher profit. When the company is doing well, more people will buy shares in that company so that they can earn dividends (type of profits). As more people buy shares in a company, the company increases in the value, There is a greater demand for shares in the company and the price of the shares increases. In the 1920s, the price of shares on the stock market increased rapidly. People believed that buying and selling shares and speculation (buying and selling of shares) on the stock market was an easy way to make money fast. Speculation is a form of gambling. Speculators buy shares they do not intend to keep them for long. They buy shares which they believe will make a quick profit and sell them as the price rises.

In the 1920s, speculative shares were widespread. Speculators often borrow money to buy shares or bought shares on the margin. This meant that they bought shares with money they did not have. It also meant that the value of the share was based on people's willingness to buy that share rather than on the real value of the company. By 1928, shares prices had risen far above their real value and this rise was not supported by real industrial expansion. Financial experts warned that this false prosperity (richness) would not last but most speculators and the public ignored them. People's confidence in their ability to make money on the stock market lasted well into 1929 and public could be criticised for this. However, in September, shares prices began to drop and panic set in. People were hesitant or unwilling to invest in suspicious companies.

In many ways, the investors caused the collapse of the stock market. Confidence is vital for successful speculation. However, some investors began to lose confidence in the market promised. They believed that something must be wrong, so they decided to sell their shares while the price was still high. This caused share prices to drop. When people saw this, they began to sell their shares too and prices dropped even further. On 29 October 1929, shareholders dumped 13 million shares and this was the trigger (start) that led to the collapse of the American economy.

[From *The USA in the Twentieth Century* by P Lane]

SOURCE 2B

The source below is an extract from historian Howard Zinn's book *A People's History of the United States: 1942–present*. It focuses on the effects of the 1929 Great Depression on the Americans.

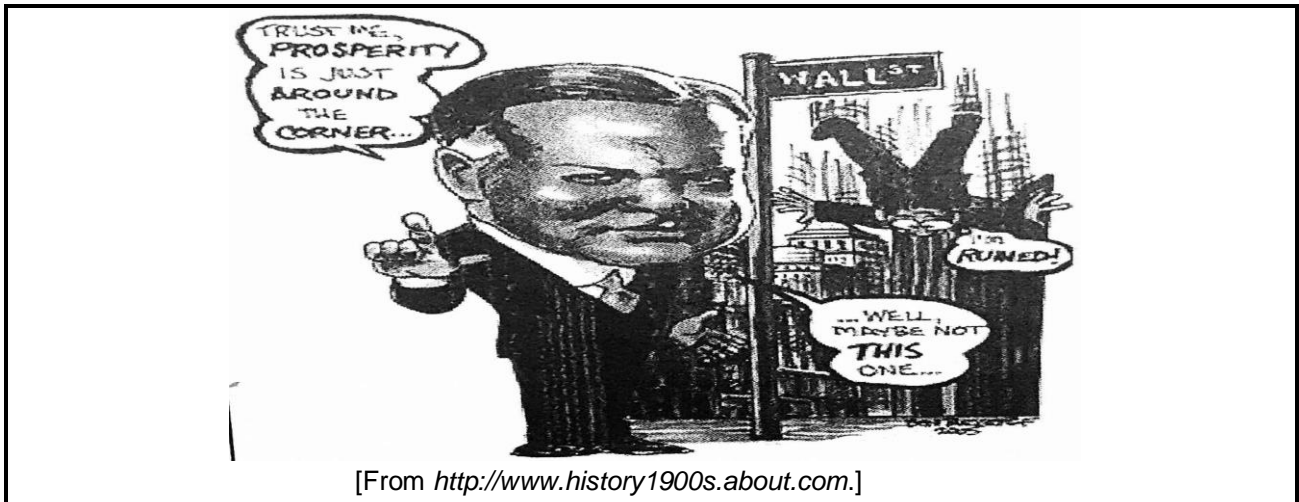
After the crash, the economy was stunned (negatively affected), barely moving. Over five thousand banks closed and huge numbers of businesses, unable to get money, closed too. Those businesses that continued laid off employees and cut the wages of those who remained, again and again. Industrial production fell by 50 percent, and by 1933 perhaps 15 million (no one knew exactly) – one fourth or one third of the labour force were out of work. The Ford Motor Company which in the spring of 1929 had employed 128 000 workers, was down to 37 000 by August of 1931. By the end of 1930, almost half the 280 000 textile mill workers in New England were out of work. Former President Calvin Coolidge commented with his customer wisdom: 'When more and more people are thrown out of work, unemployment results.' He spoke again in early 1931. 'This country is not in good condition.'

Clearly those responsible for organising the economy did know what had happened, were baffled (puzzled) by it, refused to recognise it, and found reasons other than the failure of the system. Herbert Hoover had said, not long before the crash: 'We in America today are nearer to the final triumph over poverty than be for in the history of any land.' Henry Ford, in March 1931, said the crisis was here because 'the average man won't really do a day's work unless he is caught and cannot get out of it. There is plenty of work to do if people would do it.' A few weeks later he laid off 75 000 workers. There were millions of tons of food around, but it was not profitable to transport it, to sell it. Warehouses were full of clothing, but people could not afford it. There were lots of houses, but they stayed empty because people couldn't pay the rent, had been evicted, and now lived in shacks in quickly formed 'Hooverilles' built on garbage dumps.

[From *the online version on the History is a weapon site:*
<http://www.historyisaweapon.com/defcon1zinn/hel15.htm>]

SOURCE 2C

The cartoon below portrays President Hoover's reaction to the Great Depression of 1929.



SOURCE 2D

The extract below is written by a novelist writer, John Steinbeck (witer of “The Grapes of Wrath”). He described the social effects during the Great Depression on American families.

The situation was not much better in the towns. In the steel city of Cleveland, 50% of workers were unemployed. In Toledo, the figure was closer to 80%. At night, the parks were full of homeless and unemployed people. At worse, there was no social welfare or unemployment benefits which could have been to relief the poor and the destitute (extreme poverty). The unemployed and the poor depended on bread queues and charity soup kitchens.

Every town had a so-called Hooverville, a shanty town of ramshackle huts where migrants and the poor lived. Jon Steinbeck's novel, “The Grapes of Wrath” captured the harrowing (painful) scenes of these shanty towns. The rag town lay close to water; and the houses were tents, and weed-thatched enclosures, paper houses, a great junk pile. The man drove his family in and became a citizen of Hooverville. He scoured (searched) the countryside for work and the little money he had went for gasoline (petrol) to look for work. “The towns were named after President Herbert Hoover, who seemed to be doing nothing to help the poor.

[From <http://www.buzzle.com/articles-of-thegreat-depression>. Accessed on 17 April 2019]

QUESTION 3: HOW DID HITLER AND THE NAZI PARTY USE EUGENICS AND EXCLUSION OF OTHER RACES TO CREATE A MASTER RACE IN GERMANY?

SOURCE 3A

The source below highlights how Eugenics was used in Germany.

In Nazi Germany, eugenics shaped and ultimately justified policies of mass murder. The impact of eugenics on Nazi's policy and practice is evident in the legislation passed, e.g. the Law for the Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Diseases, 14 July 1933. This legislation put into practice negative eugenics: those considered 'genetically unfit', e.g. "black" Germans and "Germans of mixed descent" were forcibly sterilised. Those Germans who were mentally or physically disabled were killed by gassing or lethal injection as part of a programme known as T4.

The Nazi practiced 'Positive Eugenics' by encouraging Germans they deemed 'genetically' and 'racially pure' to procreate (reproduce). Financial rewards were given as incentives for large families.

The influence of eugenics as well as racial theory and Social Darwinism on Nazi policy and practice is evident in their division of German society into 'desirables' and 'undesirable'.

In 1939, the Nazis extended their policy to kill the disabled, the chronically ill and social misfits. They described this as euthanasia or mercy killing. In special institutions German doctors killed about 275 000 people, usually by gassing them...

The Nazis added the element of anti-Semitism to their ideas. Hitler believed that society could be divided into a hierarchy of races. At the top were the ubermenschen – the supermen – personified by the Aryan race. At the bottom end of the continuum (sequence) were the untermenschen – the sub-humans. These included Slavs, gypsies, and finally, blacks. Jews however, did not even have a place in this continuum. As far as the Nazis were concerned, 'the Jew is not a human being'. And because the Jew occupied the lowest level possible, the Nazis believed that they had to be eliminated.

[From The Holocaust, Lessons for Humanity]

SOURCE 3B

The extract below looks at Hitler's aim to establish a 'master race' in Germany.

In Nazi Germany racism was founded on an obsession with racial purity which called for the ultimate destruction of other supposedly inferior racial groups, more especially the Jews.

One of Hitler's major goal was to establish a pure national community – a 'master race'. The Nazi vision of a pure Aryan community excluded minority groups who were regarded as undesirable or racially impure. In the years to come more than a quarter of a million 'Gypsies' would be thrown into concentration camps and eventually murdered. Jehovah's Witnesses were arrested and persecuted (tortured) because of their religious beliefs and many died of ill-treatment in camps. Homosexuals were also incarcerated (imprisoned) and thousands died of starvation and brutality.

The mentally and physically disabled did not conform to the Nazi ideal for a pure master 'race'. Almost 200 000 of these people were murdered.

Germany's small 'black' population of several thousand did not escape either. Black men and children of 'mixed' marriages were forcibly sterilised to ensure the racial group would die out.

People with 'pure blood' (those with blond hair and blue eyes) were encouraged to have more children. In 1935 the leader of the Schutzstaffeln (SS), Heinrich Himmler, created a project called Lebensborn, which means 'spring for life'. The aim of the project was to give young "racially pure" girls the opportunity to give birth in secret. Such girls could come to these centres to create a baby with one of the SS officers. The children would then be taken from their mothers and given to the SS, who took charge of their education and upbringing.

[From www.sahistory.org.za Accessed on 17 April 2019]

SOURCE 3C

This frame from a Nazi film strip, that was made to be shown in schools, shows that their racial hatred was not just directed at the Jews. The caption reads “The Jew is a bastard”. The image was meant to link Jews to other groups deemed inferior – eastern peoples, blacks, Mongols and east Africans.



[From *The Nazi Era: Racial Policies*]

SOURCE 3D

The extract below highlights the reason why German people acted as they did against the Jews. It is written by a Jewish German, Hans Margules.

I was decorating the shop window with my boss and then we heard breaking glass everywhere, all over; it just didn't stop. We looked out into the street and saw a mass of people and we saw that the neighbouring shop, all the Jewish shops had been broken into. The people who were smashing the windows, they weren't even in uniform, they were just young boys with sticks who were enjoying themselves enormously (hugely). That was the end of Jewish business in Germany.

... The Germans had to feed his family. He wasn't anti-Semitic, but he had to do what the party desired, he had to belong to the party to carry on his job, to feed his family, and as it was repeated, the Jews are terrible, that must have gone into people's head. They must have thought - well, maybe that's right. You can't judge all the German people... everyone had to speak quietly ... fear ... it was a dictatorship.

[From *The dawn of the century to the start of the Cold War*, London: BBC Books.
Page 204 by G Hodgson.]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Visual sources and other historical evidence were taken from the following:

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