**Primary Sources- Life in Nazi Germany**

**1. 1936**[**Baldur von Schirach**](https://spartacus-educational.com/GERschirach.htm)**wrote a poem about**[**Adolf Hitler**](https://spartacus-educational.com/GERhitler.htm)**that members of the Hitler Youth had to memorize and recite.**

That is the greatest thing about him,

That he is not only our leader and a great hero,

But himself, upright, firm and simple,

In him the roots of our world.

And his soul touches the stars

And yet he remains a man like you and me.

**(2)**[**Martha Dodd**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martha_Dodd)**,**[***My Years in Germany***](http://www.amazon.co.uk/My-years-Germany-Martha-Dodd/dp/B000RXKZG4/ref%3Dsr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1383230363&sr=1-1&keywords=Martha+Dodd%2C+My+Years+in+Germany)**(1939)**

Young girls from the age of ten onward were taken into organizations where they were taught only two things: to take care of their bodies so they could bear as many children as the state needed and to be loyal to National Socialism. Though the Nazis have been forced to recognize, through the lack of men, that not all women can get married. Huge marriage loans are floated every year whereby the contracting parties can borrow substantial sums from the government to be repaid slowly or to be cancelled entirely upon the birth of enough children. Birth control information is frowned on and practically forbidden.

Despite the fact that Hitler and the other Nazis are always ranting about "Volk ohne Raum" (a people without space) they command their men and women to have more children. Women have been deprived for all rights except that of childbirth and hard labour. They are not permitted to participate in political life - in fact Hitler's plans eventually include the deprivation of the vote; they are refused opportunities of education and self-expression; careers and professions are closed to them.

**(3)**[**Baldur von Schirach**](https://spartacus-educational.com/GERschirach.htm)**wrote a prayer that had to be said by members of the Hitler Youth before meals.**

Führer, my Führer given me by God,

Protect and preserve my life for long.

You rescued Germany from its deepest need.

I thank you for my daily bread.

Stay for a long time with me, leave me not.

Führer, my Führer, my faith, my light

Hail my Führer.

**(4)**[**Herman Rauschning**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermann_Rauschning)**,**[***Hitler Speaks***](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Hitler-Speaks-Political-Conversations-Adolf/dp/1428600345/ref%3Dsr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1383230465&sr=1-1&keywords=Hitler+Speaks)**(1939)**

In my great educative work," said Hitler, " I am beginning with the young. We older ones are used up. Yes, we are old already. We are rotten to the marrow. We have no unrestrained instincts left. We are cowardly and sentimental. We are bearing the burden of a humiliating past, and have in our blood the dull recollection of serfdom and servility. But my magnificent youngsters! Are there finer ones anywhere in the world? Look at these young men and boys! What material! With them I can make a new world.

"My teaching is hard. Weakness has to be knocked out of them. In my Ordensburgen a youth will grow up before which the world will shrink back. A violently active dominating, intrepid, brutal youth - that is what I am after". Youth must be all those things. It must be indifferent to pain. There must be no weakness or tenderness in it. I want to see once more in its eyes the gleam of pride and independence of the beast of prey. Strong and handsome must my young men be. I will have them fully trained in all physical exercises. I intend to have an athletic youth - that is the first and the chief thing. In this way I shall eradicate the thousands of years of human domestication. Then I shall have in front of me the pure and noble natural material. With that I can create the new order.

"I will have no intellectual training. Knowledge is ruin to my young men. I would have them learn only what takes their fancy. But one thing they must learn - self-command! They shall learn to overcome the fear of death, under the severest tests. That is the intrepid and heroic stage of youth. Out of it comes the stage of the free man, the man who is the substance and essence of the world, the creative man, the god-man. In my Ordensburgen there will stand as a statue for worship the figure of the magnificent, self-ordaining god-man; it will prepare the young men for their coming period of ripe manhood."

**(5)**[**Hans Massaquoi**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Massaquoi)**was born in**[**Germany**](https://spartacus-educational.com/Germany.htm)**in 1926. His mother was German but his father came from Africa.**[**Studs Terkel**](https://spartacus-educational.com/USAterkel.htm)**interviewed Massaquoi about his experiences during**[**Nazi Germany**](https://spartacus-educational.com/GERnazigermany.htm)**for his book,**[***The Good War***](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Good-War-Oral-History-WWII/dp/0345325680/ref%3Dsr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1383231248&sr=1-1&keywords=The+Good+War)**(1985)**

There was a drive to enroll young kids into the Hitler Youth movement. I wanted to join, of course. My mother took me aside and said, "Look, Hans, you may not understand, but they don't want you." I couldn't understand. All my friends had these black shorts and brown shirts and a swastika and a little dagger which said Blood and Honor. I wanted it just like everybody else. I wanted to belong. These were my schoolmates.

In 1936, our class had a chance to go to Berlin to watch the Olympics. Not all Germans were sold on this Hitler nonsense. Jesse Owens was the undisputed hero of the German people. He was the darling of the 1936 Olympic games. With the exception of a small Nazi elite, they opened their hearts to this black man who ran his butt off. I was so proud, sitting there.

It's clear to me that had the Nazi leadership known of my existence, I would have ended in a gas oven or at Auschwitz. What saved me was there was no black population in Germany. There was no apparatus set up to catch blacks. The apparatus that was set up to apprehend Jews entailed questionnaires that were mailed to all German households. The question was: Jewish or non-Jewish? I could always, without perjuring myself, write: non-Jewish.

**(6) Hitler Youth Poster issued in 1934.**

The Hitler Youth asks you today: why are you standing on the sidelines? Surely we can assume you hold to our Führer, Adolf Hitler? But this can only be achieved by joining the Hitler Youth. So you are faced with a question of loyalty: are you for the Fiihrer, and therefore also for the Hitler Youth, or are you against? In which case state this on the attached form, to confirm it in writing. This is your last chance. Fulfil your duty as a young German. Heil Hitler!