Third Reich, Part II:

The Nazi State, 1933-1945

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**Course description:** Third Reich, Part II: The Nazi State, 1933-1945. Takes up where Third Reich, Part I: The Nazi Revolution, 1919-1934, leaves off. Hitler’s hold on power was practically secure following the purge of the SA with the Night of the Long Knives. Thus followed the building of the Nazi State. And this course will dissect a Thousand Year Reich that would last just twelve years. Such aspects as, the Nazi Party; the Black Guard, the SS; Lebensraum, the blueprint for the Thousand-Year Reich; Hitler’s economy; Social structure of Nazi Germany; the German Armed Forces; Hitler’s program of organized medical killing. . . Such will be the look into the Nazi State.

**Week 1: The Nazi Party**

The structure and composition of the Nazi Party: Offices, duties and personalities. In addition, there will be a comparison-contrast with Mussolini’s Corporate Fascist State with the Nazi model.

**Week 2: My Honor is My Loyalty**

The dreaded SS; AKA the Schutzstaffeln or Protection Squads. The SS began as a body guard for Hitler and as a subsection of the SA. Following the Night of the Long Knives, the SS came into its own, eventually becoming a state within a state. Run by that consummate bureaucrat, Heinrich Himmler, the SS contained the Gestapo, the SD or Reich Security Service, the Concentration Camp system, the Waffen or Armed SS, Hitler’s political army, as well as the plethora of SS enterprises. . . The SS was emblematic of Hitler’s Third Reich.

**Week 3: Killers in the White Coats**

Many historians have labelled Hitler’s attempt to rid the Reich of its incurably physically handicapped and metal incompetents as a euthanasia program. According to Webster’s, euthanasia is the putting to death humans and animals for reasons of mercy. T4, as the program came to be known, was not implemented for reasons of mercy; rather, was a premediated, diabolical collusion of the German medical community, SS and Nazi party hacks to Aryanize the German race by purging it of “useless eaters.” T4 was the prelude to the Final Solution.

**Week 4: Lebensraum**

This session will unfold the Nazi plan for the restructuring of Europe. Use of maps and narrative will showcase the division of Poland and the Government-General; Nazi plans for Leningrad, Moscow, Ukraine, Slav Lands, Greater Germany. . . Large portions of Eastern and Central Europe were to be altered and restructured for the Thousand Year Reich. Included, too, will be an explanation of the Nazis’ racial policy.

**Week 5: Hitler’s Economy**

The economic structure of the Third Reich will explored. Much attention will be focused on the Nazi version of War Socialism. And, how Nazi Germany delayed its implementation of a Total War policy with regards to the economy. Spotlighted will be Albert Speer, Hitler’s armaments minister. Explored, too, Slave Labor; and, Fascism as a perverted form of Capitalism.

**Week 6: Society in Nazi Germany**

The effect of National Socialism on German society, on men, women and children. Urban versus rural Germans. The effect on families. Religion. Included, too, will be the Hitler Youth and the League of German Maidens. The Press, Radio, Cinema, Music and Art. . .

**Week 7: The German Armed Forces**

The Army historically enjoyed primacy in Prussia and then with the founding of the German State. The vaunted General Staff became a veritable institution. In 1898, the Flottengesetz or Navy Law was passed, as Germany sought to compete on the high seas with Britain’s Royal Navy. And then during World War I, Germany adopted air power, which would eventually lead to Herman Goering’s Luftwaffe. This session will focus on that totem pole structure of the Army, Luftwaffe and Kriegsmarine or Navy; in addition, to explaining each service’s political status in Hitler’s Reich.

**Week 8: July 20, 1944**

Elements in the Army, supported by a circle of civilians, attempted to assassinate the Fuhrer in his bunker at his Eastern Front command post in East Prussia . . . the *Wolfsschanze* or Wolf’s Lair. This was not the first attempt against Hitler’s life, as this session will highlight. But the focus will be on the failed attempt of July 20, 1944; the major personalities involved; reasons for their actions; why the attempt failed; and, the discussion of taking action, such as assassination, against a despotic leader. Explained, too, will be how those of the privileged class, who supported Hitler’s ascension to power in 1933, sought to reverse their misstep on July 20, 1944 . . . and what lessons can be gleaned from this development.