

Part Three:

The experiences of Germans under the Nazis

Economic changes

DO IT!

Explain how:

- rearmament created jobs
- conscription reduced unemployment
- policies for women created jobs for men.

Employment

One of Hitler's main priorities was to reduce unemployment in Germany, for example he had promised in the 1933 election to abolish unemployment. The Nazi state was successful in achieving this. The number of unemployed people fell from 4.8 million in 1933 to 0.3 million in 1939. However, there were drawbacks: living conditions did not improve quickly for German workers because the Nazi state kept a strict control on wages through the DAF, which replaced trade unions (see page 34).

Public works – the state building projects (e.g. **autobahns**) created new jobs.

Rearmament – government contracts boosted military production, creating jobs.

National Labour Service – all young men served six months in the NLS.

Conscription – for all young men from 1935.

Creating demand – Germans were encouraged to buy cars, which were tax free.

How was unemployment reduced?

Controls on employers – employers needed government permission before they reduced numbers of workers.

Women – from 1933, women were barred from some jobs and **propaganda** encouraged them to stay at home. By 1934, 360,000 women had left their jobs.

Jews – from 1933, Jews were banned from government jobs.

Prisons – by 1939, 160,000 people were in prison for 'crimes' against the Nazi state.

Statistics – from 1935 the government counted all part-time workers as full-time.

STRETCHIT!



Historians say some Nazi policies 'hid' unemployment rather than creating new jobs. Which policies on the diagram below do you think did this?

Road construction in Nazi Germany.

