**Hitler Economic Policies Factsheet**

1. **1933-1939**

* Initial Policies of 1933:
  + Mar – Oct 1933: Debts of 12 billion Reichsmark suspended
  + 13th September 1933: Reich Food Estate – Richard Darré
  + Sept 1933: Reich Entailed Farm Law
  + May 1933: Law for the Protection of Retail Trade
* Wehrwirtschaft:
  + Acceleration of Rearmament (required support of big businesses)
  + Jul - Dec 1936: 1,600 new cartel arrangements
  + Monopolies in production increased from 40% in 1933 to 70% by 1937
* ‘Guns and Butter’
  + Conflict with providing food and rearming
  + Shortage of fats in Germany – for consumption and industrial purposes
* Unemployment:
  + March 1933: Hitler appointed Dr. Hjalmar Schacht president of the Reichsbank. He is a non-Nazi respected in the business community
* Laws to reduce unemployment
  + Arbeitsdienst & subsidies for private projects
  + Reich Labour Services (RAD) from 1934
  + Discouragement of Female Labour and increased bureacracy
  + March 1935 Conscription and rearmament
* New Plan (September 1934)
  + Increased regulation of imports
  + Development of trade with less-developed countries and central and south-east Europe
  + Encouraged to buy German products in return
* DAF (Deutsche Arbeitsfront – May 1933)
  + Dissolution of Trade Unions and banning of strikes
* ‘Economic Miracle’
  + Unemployment fell from 6 million to 2 million within 18 months of Hitler coming to power
  + 1936 – 1.6 million unemployed à 1939 – 200,000 Unemployed
  + Economic Investment rose drastically
* Four Year Plan (August 1936, Hermann Goering)
  + Self-Sufficiency (Substitute synthetic materials & artificial rubber [Buna])
  + Development and Control of private and war-related industries
* Molotov-Rippentrop Pact of 1939
  + Peaceful division of Poland
  + Economic Build-Up by using Polish resources

1. **1939 onwards**

* British blockade which restricted the German's access to markets
* Germany relying most on Romanian Oilfields at Ploiesti
* Iron production, Germany was depending on Sweden, tungsten from Spain and Portugal.
* Rationing for German consumers was introduced in 1939.
* 1941 Germany taxes were at 13.7% meanwhile Britain 23.7%
* Plundering in the own territory as well as the conquered ones from the Jewish citizens as well from other countries militaries
* problems in getting goods from the east with the soviets scorched earth policy.
* Western front loads of goods flowing into Germany were in 1941 2/3 of France's trains were used to carry goods to Germany.
* 1) A rather broad and still quite general planning and work between October 1936 and the summer of 1938.
* 2) The period of an economic policy based entirely on military mobilization from July 1938 to the start of World War II in September 1939.
* 3) the phase of merging the four-year plan with the war economy from autumn 1939-1942.
* Speer's up-rank at the time where rearmaments programs were half completed.
* German Economy lead into long war, instead of a Blitzkrieg.
* Fritz Todt died in 1942 and replaced by Albert Speer.
* April 42', Speer convinced Hitler, to create the Central Planning Board
* In the first six months the overall production rose 50%
* Reach of peak in 1944 with 25,285 planes, where it was by 1940 just 3.744 planes.
* Speer was able to manage the production of another 5,000 planes in the first four months of 1945.
* In 1945, Hitler commanded the destruction of Germany.
* Speer countermanded the order, but with no doubt, the Nazi Economy failed with a great success."

**Conclusion:**

Hitler’s economic policies were mainly concerned around two factors. 1) Increase of Popular Support (political) by gaining the favour of groups, underrepresented in Nazi Germany and by the reduction of unemployment. 2) Support of the war effort by actively and passively aiding private industries through benefits and special arrangements, such as cartels and monopolies.