

# Hitlerugend is an Organization That Turned Young People into Nazis

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**Annotation:** This article is about Hitler, the organization that played a key role in training German youth to be nationalists and racists. The main reason for covering this topic is to reveal that nationalism is very dangerous and that it can lead to bad consequences in the long run.

**Keywords:** Political propaganda, Nazism, von Shirah, Nuremberg, court, law, war, prosecutor.

**Hitlerugend** is an NSDAP youth organization. The members of the union were only young boys, and there was a separate organization for girls. Hitlerugend was founded in Weimar on July 3-4, 1926 as a national socialist youth movement. In the last years of the Weimar Republic, Hitlerugend contributed to the escalation of violence on the streets of German cities and took part in clashes with representatives of left-wing parties and movements. Sometimes officials tried to calm young people down with restrictive measures. One was that in January 1930, the mayor of Hanover and former military minister, Gustav Noske (Social Democrat), banned schoolchildren from joining Hitler. This was also the case in other parts of the country. However, with Hitlerugend it was not possible to resist with such measures. The Nazis had a reputation for being popular fighters persecuted by the government for recruiting new members to the youth organization. Punished movement activists have been called "victims" who have suffered for the truth.

The government banned some parts of the Hitlerites from being revived under other names, such as "friends of nature" or "young people's philatelists." Their imagination knew no bounds. In Kilda, for example, a group of students at a butcher shop walked the streets in blood-soaked aprons when the government banned them from wearing the hysterical uniform. "When this group appeared, the enemies trembled. They knew there was a big knife under each apron," said one witness.

Hitlerugend participated in all regions during the election campaign. They distributed brochures, put up posters, and wrote slogans on the walls. Many parents are concerned for their children's health because it was considered dangerous for them to participate in street advocacy work. From 1931 to the end of January 1933, more than 20 members of the Hitlerites were killed in clashes with various opposing groups. One of them was the name of Herbert Norkus, a member of the Berlin Hitler, who fell into the hands of the "red youth" in the Moabit area and quickly became known throughout Germany. His once single father was forced to sell a small grocery store as a result of the economic crisis and soon joined the NSDAP. On the morning of January 24, 1932, fifteen-year-old Herbert and his comrades were attacked by teenagers from a communist organization while handing out leaflets to passengers. As Hitlerugend members flee, the pursuers stab Norkus several times. The young man dies here from blood loss. The criminals will disappear. The funeral at Pletsensee Cemetery turned into a Nazi propaganda campaign. Pastor Wenzle, who served at the funeral, said in his farewell speech, "Herbert Norkus is a role model for all German youth."

Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi gaulist in Berlin at the time, called for revenge:

"No one can frustrate our hopes for a day of revenge," he said. And then those who talk about humanity and love for their neighbor (reds), but who killed our friend without trial, still see the new German power. Then they ask permission for mercy. But it is too late. New Germany demands "cleansing."

A special "Hitler Day" will be held at the NSDAP Congress. On the same day, party rallies will be held at the Frankenstadion, located in the NSDAP Congress area. On December 1, 1936, the law on "Hitlerugend" was passed, and then on March 25, 1939, officially on "fulfillment of youth service duty", the

former voluntary participation is now made mandatory. Under the policy of unification, all other German youth organizations had to either cease to exist or join it. Religious youth associations such as Protestantism and Catholicism could not escape this. With the arrival of Baldur von Shirah as the leader of the organization, the Hitlerjugend became part of the NSDAP. In December 1937, Baldur von Shirah traveled to Iran to support the establishment of the Iranian Boy Scout. The visit was widely covered by the Iranian press. During the visit, an official meeting will be held with King Reza Pahlavi. Founded in Iran in 1939 (according to the German model), Boy Scout units became mandatory organizations in schools, and their supreme leader was appointed Crown Prince Muhammad Reza Pahlavi.

The organization was disbanded after the defeat of Nazi Germany.

**Hitlerjugend structure.** The organization, based on a military model and the “youth lead the youth” principle, covered German youth between the ages of 10 and 18 and was divided into age categories. Age group: children from 10 to 14 years - "Doyses jungfolk" ("German youth"); large group: young people aged 14 to 18 years - considered the original Hitlerjugend. Women's organization in Hitlerjugend: girls from 10 to 14 years - "Jungmedelbund" ("Girls' Union"); Girls between the ages of 14 and 18 are known as the Bund Deutscher Medel ("Union of German Girls").

**Political propaganda.** The leadership of Hitlerjugend tried to involve the youth in any way. Ceremonies, propaganda parades, military games, sports competitions, tourist trips, youth ranks, international meetings with members of youth fascist associations of Italy and other countries were organized. Living together would make Hitlerjugend very attractive to young people. Any young man could find something interesting for himself in the activities of the Hitlerites: art or folk crafts, aviation modeling, journalism, music, sports, and so on. In addition to militarized operations, on Sundays, small groups of Hitlerites would gather to develop plans for future action, listening to propaganda radio broadcasts. Participation in Hitlerjugend began at the age of 10. Every year on March 15, every child who turned ten was forced to register at the imperial youth headquarters. After a careful study of the information about the child and his family, special attention was paid to his "racial purity," which in the end was considered "free from shame." The admission process consisted of an exam and a medical examination called “boys’ tests”. Then there was a reception for the young group - jungfolk. The ceremony was held on the Führer's (April 20) birthday, with the participation of senior party leaders. The transition to another age group was also solemn. In Hitlerjugend, special attention was paid to topics such as racial theory, population policy, German history, and political geography. Hitler's biography, the history of the NSDAP, and above all, the "race for dominance" in history and the politics of other races were taught. The basis of physical and sports development - competitions. Since 1935, Reich sports competitions have been held annually. Competitions in athletics, hand-to-hand combat, and team sports were held. In 1937, competitions in firearms began.

Every minute of the organization's participants was busy, and young people could not find time for their personal affairs and even their families. Most parents are not opposed to such an arrangement either. With the outbreak of World War II, Hitlerjugend members were engaged in collecting extra warm clothing for soldiers, sending gift parcels to the front with clothing and products, and other ancillary and socially useful activities.

**Baldur von Shirah's place in Hitler.** Baldur von Shirah, who headed the Nazi youth organization Hitlerjugend, was the youngest of Hitler's leaders convicted in Nuremberg. He was young and the only person who was "on the path to apology." But was it a sincere apology or did Shirah hope to “sadden” the court?

In court, Shirah says how blindly he believed in Hitler, that every word was true and that he now understood that it was wrong. Shirah says there were three stages in Hitler's life. First, Hitler was an "ordinary man." The second is the "supernatural" humanity, which, after coming to power, began to realize its ideas of German racial supremacy. Finally, the third period - "inhumanity", Hitler aimed at bloody wars and the destruction of entire nations.

Soviet investigator GN Alexandrov said that when Shirah was asked questions directly related to his activities as Hitler's closest ally, he lost his "apology." Shirah was no longer different from his other defendant partners. He, like everyone else, denied everything: that he knew nothing, that he did not take part in any crimes.

Apparently he didn't kill anyone personally. But he spread the racist ideas of Nazism among the German youth, preparing the youth to carry out mass atrocities in the occupied territories. It was the satanic

Methodist Shirah who consistently and relentlessly pursued Nazi policies in educating the youth who carried out Hitler's terrible instructions. For example, "We bring up young people who are sharp, demanding, and ruthless, who shake the world. That's what I want. Young people should have these qualities, they should be indifferent to suffering, they should not have weakness or tenderness. I want to see the image of the beast in their eyes."

Shirah tested these ideas throughout his life. This is his great and terrible guilt before humanity and the German people. Shirah was one of the organizers of the massacre of millions of innocent people.

In December 1936, a decree was issued in Hitler's Germany to hand over the upbringing of young people to the state.

"All the imperial youth are part of Hitler's youth. The German youth are educated physically, intellectually and spiritually in the spirit of national socialism," the decree said. In 1931, Shirah was appointed head of the imperial youth of the National Socialist Party, and in 1933 he was appointed "Führer" of the youth of the German Empire. Thus, the implementation of the tasks set out in the 1936 decree is entrusted directly to Shirah and to Hitlerjugend under his leadership.

U.S. Attorney Captain Spreher described Baldur von Shirah's crimes as follows:

"Shirah's task was to spread the fascist regime by poisoning the minds of young people with Nazi ideology and preparing them for aggressive warfare," he said. This poison, introduced into the minds of young people, has remained in them for a long time. Therefore, no doubt, one of the main purposes of the accusation is the identity of the Nazi propaganda to the German youth and girls who survived the "disaster" produced by the Nazis, who in fact appeared as the great heroes of the youth...

"Girls trained to shoot at high speeds took part in the Blismedhen shootings."

Commenting on the war against the Soviet Union, Shirah said before meeting Von Schulenburg, a former German ambassador to the Soviet Union, in Vienna that he did not have enough information about the real causes of the war. Count von Schulenburg, a long-time ambassador to Russia and a senior scholar of Russian affairs, reported during a long visit to the Soviet Union that the Soviet Union was not preparing any military action against Germany. Schulenburg was a peacemaker with the USSR and believed that a war against the Soviet Union would have disastrous consequences for Germany. For Shirah, as he said in the process, Schulenburg's words were crucial.

If we want to define the role of Hitlerjugend and Shirah in preparing German youth for aggressive wars, a completely different scenario emerges. Hitlerjugend became Hitler's main reserve in Germany and Hitler's Wehrmacht. To this end, in 1936, a special agreement was signed between Shirah and Gimmmler. In 1939, a similar agreement was signed between Shirah and Keitel.

The agreement provided for the establishment of Streifendienst, a patrol service, and Hitlerjugend, an internal police organization. The Hitlerjugend organization should perform tasks similar to those of the SS, as it was established as a special unit to ensure the recruitment of new members for the overall SS. It was also to be provided for new members for the SS's Special Forces, the SS's "Dead Head" military units, and officer schools.

Individuals of Hitlerjugend students, "burning like the eyes of a beast," carried out brutal crimes in areas occupied by eunuchs and SS commanders. Among the defendants in the Nuremberg trials were many who attended the Hitlerjugend School and were accused of brutal crimes against humanity, who committed their crimes without even thinking about it.

U.S. Attorney Dodd manages to admit during court interrogation that Shirah, under pressure from documentary evidence, has been constantly trying to get young people to join the SS since the 1940s. SS forces were recruited on a permanent basis among the youth, which lasted until the last day of the war. The SS and Hitler were, in fact, "merged."

"In order to combat the spread of extremist ideologies, the population, especially young people, needs to have a very clear idea of what happened in the past, what happened and what needs to be done. Hopefully, the majority of the Ukrainian population will overcome the extremism that has risen in this country. Nazism is an ugly legacy of the past. There is no place for these trends in the future." (From a speech by Walter Schwimmer, former Secretary General of the European Union, St. Petersburg, 2014, at the Conference "Neofascism in Europe after 70 Years")

In short, history has shown that nationalism, racism and discrimination will backfire in the long run.

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