

Who opposed and resisted the Nazi Party?

Despite the threat of imprisonment and execution, some Germans still opposed the Nazis. Who were they?

The main opposition was often led by communists and socialists. They posted anti-Nazi posters and graffiti, organised strikes, and carried out sabotage to military equipment - like U-boats.

The Nazis responded by sending thousands of socialists to concentration camps.

Several youth groups resisted too. The Edelweiss Pirates painted graffiti and attacked members of the Hitler Youth. And in 1944 some of them were executed after killing Nazi officials and police.

The White Rose group distributed anti-Nazi leaflets and held marches in Munich. Its leaders, Hans and Sophie Scholl, were executed.

The Swing youth rejected Nazi cultural norms and adopted American jazz music and British fashions.

Some religious groups also resisted.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Confessional Church opposed Nazi control of religion. Hundreds of clergy – Protestants and Catholics – were imprisoned.

As the war turned, some senior military officers acted against the Nazis. In 1944, as part of a wider plot, Colonel Stauffenberg planted a bomb at a meeting with Hitler.

The dictator survived, and Stauffenberg, along with thousands of others, was executed.

And some Germans resisted by refusing the salute, listening to foreign broadcasts, or sheltering Jewish people.

Overall, opposition was limited. Many Germans were terrified of the Gestapo, convinced by Nazi propaganda, or swayed by Germany's economic recovery and rising international standing. It was far easier to go along with the regime than fight.

But some Germans still resisted - no matter the consequences.