

## Compare and contrast Hitler's and Mao's policies towards women

Since, the ideological reasoning, context and pragmatic needs of the two leaders policies towards women will influence policies towards women in all 3 spheres, you may want to show the similarity and different in ideological reasoning, context and pragmatic needs in the intro so that you may not need to repeat them as explanations in all the 3 spheres,

Keep up the continuous comparison and contrast of the two leaders in all 3 sphere

Bring in the concept of Single-party state concept to show how this type of rule tend to influence public and private lives and personal decisions of individuals in this case women, as a similarity, as the extent to which this happens may not be seen in a democratic type of govt – something to consider

Hitler ruled Germany as the supreme leader from 1934 to 1945. Mao ruled over China from 1949 to 1976. During their respective rules, Mao and Hitler implemented policies that aimed to impact the lives of women. However, while Hitler sought to restrict women to be wives and mothers, contributing to the numbers and to preserve the purity of the Aryan population through their motherhood, Mao sought to establish women's equality throughout China by attempting to bring them out of the domestic sphere into the domestic sphere. -gd! You have mentioned the key reason for/of difference. How about a sentence on the similarity? These objectives influenced their women's policies. In many cases, the implementation of the aims of the women's policies was either restricted or helped by the context that the leaders found themselves in.

In the political sphere, while Hitler removed women from the political sphere, Mao sought to encourage women's participation in politics -excellent, just make the comparison explicit. These approaches were based on conflicting ideologies. On one hand, Hitler believed that the priorities of women should be 'Children, Kitchen, Church' and preferred women to be domesticated, leaving the men with the dominant influence in the political sphere. On the other, Mao proclaimed that 'Women hold up half the sky', advocating women's equality, even in politics. These contrasting beliefs were reflected in the party membership of the ruling parties. Nazi membership remained small and shrunk from 8 to 5 percent between 1925 and 1932, whereas many women intellectuals, outstanding female workers and peasant women joined the ranks and cadres of the CCP, and by 1951, there were 36,000 female cadres nationwide. The greater involvement of women in the ruling party under Mao vis-a-vis that of Hitler is significant in relation to their involvement in politics, since in the single-party states of Mao's China and Nazi Germany, party-state overlap existed which meant that involvement in the party meant likely involvement in politics. While the Nazi Reichstag had no female members, in striking contrast to the presence of women politicians in it during the Weimar Republic, women made up 14-23% of the deputies in the National People's Congress in..... This greater proportion of women's representatives in the government under Mao than under Hitler further highlights the differing approaches of the two dictators to women in politics due to the different conception they have of women and in particular their role.

That being said, both ruling parties under Hitler and Mao were influenced by patriarchal values, no matter Mao's belief in women's equality. In the Nazi Party, women were banned from senior positions to ensure that..... Likewise, in the CCP, few important party positions went to women and female cadres were still expected to do domestic chores. The major exception to the lack of women in prominent CCP positions is Jiang Qing, Mao's fourth wife. During the Cultural Revolution, she gained in power, eventually gaining a seat on the decision-making body of the CCP, the Politburo in 1969. She had the power to attack political opponents through the use of radical youths organised as Red Guards. However, such examples were few and far between. In fact, women only provided the CCP with 13%

of its membership. The patriarchal influences on both parties can be attributed to the conservative values that were widespread in both Germany and China. In Germany, under the widespread influence of Christianity, with 95% of Germans claiming membership in Protestant and Catholic churches in 1933, a domestic, maternal role for women was favoured. This meant that women's involvement in the public political sphere was seen as unfavourable. Similarly, in China, entrenched traditional Confucian beliefs promoted the idea among the Chinese that women were to stay at home and obey their menfolk, and shy away from public life. Such conservative values meant that while Hitler was successful in removing women from political life, Mao had limited success in achieving equal participation between men and women in politics, as suggested by the ruling parties' respective membership figures, for instance. Hence, while Hitler was helped by the conservative context in Germany in implementing his political policies towards women, Mao was restricted by the conservative context in China in achieving his aims for women in politics.

In the economic sphere, Hitler attempted to remove women because... from the workforce while Mao attempted to include women in the workforce because.... Hitler's Law of Reduction of Unemployment in 1933 attempted to remove women from the workforce by granting them generous marriage loans in that amounted over half an average year's of earnings and a low interest rate of 1%; this reduced female employment from 37% in 1931 to 31% in 1937. (add why he did that, apart from economic reason itself/ideology and context of the two countries will help to bring out or rationalise the differences) Mao, however, attempted to raise employment because... instead, using the Land Reform Law of 1950 which redistributed land to women under their name, a stark contrast from the tradition of only men owning property in patriarchal China. Female employment, in contrast to Hitler, quadrupled from 8% (1949) to 32% (1976). This reflected Hitler's belief that women should be restricted to the home and to leave the men in workforce, in contrast with Mao's belief that just as men were employed to work, women should be equal in having such opportunities applied to them as well was this the only reason why Mao wanted women in the economic sphere – look at ideology and practical needs in the economic sphere. However, that being said, Hitler did try to include women in the workforce only much later in January 1943 where he conscripted women into the workforce to contribute to the war efforts, thus revealing that his aims of female domestication could be reversed to achieve his ultimate goal of engaging and winning the war to restore national glory and strength. Mao's policies of female liberalization was similarly inconsistent because women's ownership of land was swiftly reversed as well after 8 years during the Great Leap Forward which placed ownership of land from men and women to the state because of Mao's attempt to achieve a successful foreign policy of overtaking Britain in 15 years. Thus, both leaders were restricted in achieving their aims for women in the economy because of the context of overriding pragmatic concerns that they had, such as in foreign policy.

Both rulers did attempt to improve the livelihood of women. In Hitler's Germany, one can consider organizations Strength through Joy and Beauty of Labour which provided paid holidays, sport facilities and warm food in communal kitchens that improved worker morale and were effective in improving livelihood, as seen from the lack of violent uprisings in Germany until it began losing the war, along with improved childcare facilities for working mothers that allowed better balance between work and child-caring, similar to Mao who created communal childcare facilities to reduce time taken for child-minding and focus on work during the collectivisation of the Great Leap Forward. However, the leaders sought to improve the lives of women at work for different reasons. Hitler wanted to ensure that German women would remain healthy enough to produce healthy pure Aryan babies, to pursue his goal of a superior German society. In contrast, Mao sought to improve the lives of working women because by allowing women to redirect their energies away from the home and into work, Mao thought that the communist Engelsian prediction that women's participation in productive labour would inevitably lead to gender equality. -I think this argument can be incorporated into the earlier para/ I think for exam purpose you can skip this

**para and move to social policies.** However, despite these efforts to allow for a work-life balance for women, under Mao jobs for women could still be physical demanding and many women had to act as both workers and mothers. Likewise, under Hitler the 'double burden' of employment and housekeeping remained crushing for married women. It was such that the German Labour Front trained female social workers to ensure that 'Aryan' pregnant factory women workers' health was safeguarded. **-can be incorporated to the earlier para** In both cases, the context of a conservative society in both Germany and China meant that Hitler's attempts to maintain the health of working women, and Mao's attempts to redirect women's energies into work, were constrained by the entrenched belief that women should still take charge of taking care of the home.

In the **social sphere**, Both Mao and Hitler sought to **increase motherhood** **-I know what you mean but this is a weird expressin – maybe focused on/gave importance to motherhood, although Mao eventually sought to decrease it.** In Nazi Germany, to encourage motherhood **because...**, birth control centres were closed, abortion was made illegal, with the exception of removing genetic defects, and maternity benefits such as marriage loans were increased. Similarly, in Mao's China, the Marriage Law of 1950 stated that a man or woman might not marry if either of them was sexually impotent, indicating that the state promoted reproduction. The communist government condemned birth control and banned imports of contraceptives to increase motherhood. **However, -gd! this initial inclination of the CCP to favour large families that swelled the population** in the early 1950s phased out with the coming of the Great Famine in 1959 after the disastrous Great Leap Forward, when women were told that two children was the ideal. Late marriage was encouraged and couples who had large families were criticised in their group meetings. While both leaders, at least initially for Mao, sought to increase motherhood, **they did so for different motives.** While Hitler was motivated by the need to increase the population of pure Aryans, which was thought to contribute to German society prospering, Mao was motivated by economic reasons. The increasing population as a result of increasing motherhood would result in more workers and peasants to increase economic production. As Mao said in 1949, "Even if China's population multiplies many times, she is fully capable of finding a solution; the solution is production." Both leaders faced *limited* success with their motherhood policies. **Despite the number of births in Germany increasing from 15 to 20 per 1,000 from 1933 to 1939, the birth rate slowly declined from 1939, and did not get back to the levels of Weimar Germany. Likewise, after the CCP's turn towards seeking to limit population growth, while the Chinese population grew more slowly than had been expected, between 1953 and 1964 it increased to 112 million, as death rates fell and birth rates remained high. (gd!, but can you add on to show what it shows about a single-party state? Show off your understanding of the concept).**

Both leaders made divorce easier **bring issue of marriage and divorce together.** Under Hitler, the 1938 Marriage Laws extended the grounds for divorce. Likewise, Mao's 1950 Marriage Law made divorce easier by allowing either spouse to effect a divorce, instead of needing to have the husband's approval first. However, the reasons behind increasing the ease of divorce differed between the leaders. **Hitler wanted to reduce unproductive marriages and improve the birth rate of pure Aryans, whereas Mao wanted to establish equality between the genders in being able to decide the fate of marriage.** Previously, in the Chinese patriarchal society, only the husband was allowed to effect a divorce, but Mao saw this as a remnant of the feudal past that prevented women from being liberated. Both leaders saw increase in divorces as a response **to their easing of restrictions** **-in reference to what in the context of Germany?.** From 1938, the numbers of divorces increased in Germany. Likewise, in China, there was a huge increase in the number of divorces, with 1.3 million divorces filed in 1953.

Hitler's women's social policies were more popular than Mao's-from whose point of view?. Despite their openly anti-feminist policies the Nazis had little trouble gaining at least the tacit support of most German women. For example, the Nazi marriage loans to encourage women out of employment to focus them on the tasks at home were successful as 42% of all marriages in Germany were loan assisted. In contrast, in China, especially in the rural areas, laws regarding women's equality was not enforced, and female infanticide continued, despite being officially abolished by the CCP in 1950-you are comparing from different perspectives. This difference in popularity was due to the approach the ruling parties took in implementing the policies and the societal contexts of Germany and China respectively. The Nazis made every effort to endow the traditional role of women as mothers and homemakers with status and respect. In addition, this view of women as mothers and housewives was not much different from the conservative attitudes and theories that prevailed in Europe in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This meant that the Nazis' conservative policies towards women were mostly supported in the dominant anti-feministic thinking in Germany. In contrast, Mao's policies towards women's equality were not well-received in rural areas and Xinjiang province, which was Muslim-dominated, because there were ingrained notions of women and their domesticated role in those areas, and Chinese couples continued to believe that boys brought honour and economic benefits while girls were a drain on resources. Thus, while Hitler was helped in the popularity of his women's social policies by the entrenched conservative values of German society, Mao's policies faced more resistance and were constrained by-but by men or women? similar conservative values in Chinese society.

In conclusion, in the political, economic and social spheres, Hitler and Mao attempted to apply their differing attitudes towards women into their women's policies. In many cases, they were either helped or constrained by the contexts that surrounded their rules.