- Nonetheless, the recruitment of millions of women had an effect on the roles of women in the party and the history of the regime itself
- Middle and upper-class women carved out new spaces for themselves in engaging in an expanding range of welfare and organizational activities
- Fascist women became an unprecedentedly visible female presence at political events such as party rallies
- This at least partially influenced the types of activities women did in post-war political parties
- The lack of real female influence on policy-making has led many to wrongly dismiss women’s role in the party as insignificant
- Circumstances such as the importance of welfare during the world economic depression and the fascist wars from 1935 meant women were brought to the fore
- Women’s activism is one factor that should be considered when accounting for the longevity of Mussolini’s reign

Geoff Eley, ‘Missionaries of the Volksgemeinschaft: Ordinary Women, Nazification, and the Social

- Despite the Nazis not courting the female vote, and not softening its masculine stance until after 1932, it is now clear that women voted for the Nazis in great numbers
- Although the nature of a regime had become clearer and all implications had been realised by the public
- Women voted for the NSDAP because of its growing prominence, dynamism and youthfulness, its direct integration of liberal and conservative parties, and because of disillusionment and dissatisfaction with the Republic
- It is wrong to attribute Nazi anti-feminism as merely an opportunistic element of propaganda as opposed to being based on ideology
- It had a specific coherent program against women that was repressive and reactionary, and a central part of the Party
- Women’s commitments to the family and household, as well as religion, schooling, private hygiene and public health, wholesome recreation and responsible consumption, were all ratcheted upwards to stridency under Nazism

- Nazi rhetoric around the family was always heavily racial

- Although early writings presented women as victims of the regime, Koonz argued that there were aspects of fascism that appealed to women
- Nazism appealed to already established women’s groups through emphasizing a basic convergence of values around motherhood, the family and domesticity
- Koonz argued that, whether intentionally or not, by performing ‘emotional’ work the regime needed to function (teaching, social work, nursing, etc.) women became ‘accomplices’ to the regime
- Women provided the regime with an essential softer public image