

work hard as they were guaranteed sales and the price would not change with quality. However there were benefits to the Nazi policy. One example was the annual harvest festivals. Luise Essig, a farmworker, described the harvest festivals, in Source K, like so: 'we all felt the same happiness and joy.' Harvest festivals were obviously a time of celebration and unity, a way to inspire and encourage farmers. It kept farmers happy and encouraged them not leave to go to the city. Essig also said 'I believe no statesmen has ever been as well loved as Adolf Hitler was at that time.' This suggests that farmers liked Hitler despite his policies. This may be because Hitler made them feel valued, as shown when Essig said '[The] harvest festival was a thank you for us farmers having a future again.' By making farmers feel important for the success of Germany Hitler managed to reduce the retaliation against new policies. The celebrations were also a way to make the farmers feel that they were better off whilst this was not necessarily the case.

The working class benefited from the rapid drop in unemployment but it was by no means perfect. The new jobs were often poorly paid manual labour with primitive conditions. The ban on labour saving machinery meant that some workers were doing jobs that could be easily done by machines. They could not even strike as trade unions had been abolished. Due to their (often) low wages the standard of living dropped. The Labour Front (DAF) decided the wages and made compulsory deductions for income tax. However there were benefits to having increased government interference, one of these was the fact that employers had to seek government permission before reducing the size of the work force. This was a benefit to workers because the threat of redundancy was greatly reduced. However to the factory owners and employers it was another government policy that made their job harder.

The KDF (strength through joy) offered many benefits such as theatre benefits, but many working class people couldn't afford the most desirable rewards such as cruise ship holidays. Also the KDF was funded through yet another set of compulsory wage deductions. In this time having a car was seen as a sign of success and very few Germans had their own cars. This led to Hitler introducing a scheme which meant every German could own an affordable, practical car- the Volkswagen Beetle. 100,000s Germans took part in a government spending scheme in order to get a car, by paying five marks a week until the majority of the car was paid off. This scheme had two main focuses, creating jobs in factories and showing the Germans how much better off they were. However after the four year plan was introduced the factories making the cars started making army vehicles like tanks instead meaning that nobody got their car, nor was their money returned but no one dared complain. All of the above show that in actual fact life did not improve for the working class Germans. For example one of the best indicators of the standard of living is beer, the more people drink beer, the better their standard of living is. Between 1927 and 1937 the average consumption of beer dropped by almost 60%. In fact the consumption of all food dropped except for potatoes, cheese and rye bread which were all cheap and often poor quality. This suggests that although the majority of Germans now had jobs their lives had not actually improved much.