

Hitlerjugend

(Hitler Youth), Nazi youth movement. The Adolf Hitler Boys' Storm Troop, a branch of the Storm Troopers, was established in 1922. In 1926 it changed its name to Hitler Youth. The movement first admitted girls into a separate organization in 1928; it eventually became the League of German Girls (*Bund Deutscher Maedel*, BDM).

The movement's purpose was to shape the young generation, the group that would ensure the continuation of the Nazi revolution. In accordance with Nazi ideology, German youth were to focus on physical development, and sophisticated methods of propaganda were used to gain their support for the movement's ideals. Their movement activities eclipsed their formal education and often turned them into their families' lead Nazis.

Hitler Youth was run by an official government agency, the Reich Youth Leadership. Members were organized into two age groups: 10--14 and 14--18, and divided into military units. Boys were given uniforms and bayonets; when they turned 19, they were drafted into the Reich Labor Service, after which they joined the army. Girls were taught to be the ideal Nazi woman—obedient, self-sacrificing, dutiful, and physically fit. They were also trained to hate Jews and become mothers of superior Aryan children.