



RESOURCE 10

Living under totalitarianism

'For young Germans, the 1930s were just wonderful. The red flags with swastikas, the zeppelin Hitler sent to fly all over Germany, the Austrians wanting to become part of it — to us, it was just like sunlight and peace and eating again. Things were moving up!'

Source: Frederic C. Tubach, Growing up in Nazi Germany

'... For the majority, their everyday life wasn't really affected. Some restrictions [...] were pretty much the same as those imposed by the previous right-wing governments and were easily accepted by the citizens. The trick was that these restrictions didn't affect the majority anyway. [...] The colonels even managed to win the farmers' acceptance as they erased their debts...'

Source: a Greek citizen

'Old Benjamin, the donkey, seemed quite unchanged since the Rebellion. He did his work in the same slow obstinate way as he had done it in Jones's time, never shirking and never volunteering for extra work either. About the Rebellion and its results he would express no opinion. When asked whether he was not happier now that Jones was gone, he would say only "Donkeys live a long time. None of you has ever seen a dead donkey", and the others had to be content with this cryptic answer.'

Source: Animal Farm by George Orwell

'...We also received tickets for food and sometimes clothing. These tickets were provided to good employees and others as well. However, because of these benefits, the workers were not allowed to strike. During the Soviet Union, workers did not strike because no one had any reason to. Everyone had work, which also came with benefits.'

Source: Gendrik Vartanyan