



## Part 3. National Socialist Philosophy

### 6. *The Nazi Party Program*

The Nazi Party grew out of the D.A.P., the German Workers' Party. Its goal according to one of its founders, Gottfried Feder, "was to reconcile nationalism and socialism." It was a lecture by Feder in 1919 that attracted Adolf Hitler to the party. Within a year the party changed its name in order to have a name that expressed more accurately its core principles: The new name was the National Socialist German Workers' Party. At a rally in Munich in 1920 involving over 2,000 participants, the party announced its platform—a twenty-five point program.<sup>9</sup> The main authors of the program were Feder, Adolf Hitler, and a third man, Anton Drexler. To understand what National Socialism stood for, the main points of the Program are worth looking at more closely.



**Adolf Hitler**

### 7. *Collectivism, not individualism*

A major theme of the Program is a stress upon collectivism and a rejection of individualism.

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<sup>9</sup> See Appendix 1 for the twenty-five point *Program of the National Socialist German Workers' Party*.

Point number 10 of the Program, for example, says “It must be the first duty of every citizen to perform mental or physical work. Individual activity must not violate the general interest, but must be exercised within the framework of the community, and for the general good.”

National Socialism thus consciously rejects Western liberal individualism with its emphasis on the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—all of which are individualistic rights. Nazism is collectivistic: it does not hold that individuals have their own lives to live and happiness to pursue. Rather, individuals should work for the community out of a sense of duty; they serve the general good, to which they subordinate their personal lives.

Point 24 of the Program returns to this theme and emphasizes it strongly: “THE COMMON INTEREST BEFORE SELF-INTEREST.” The bold print and capitalization are in the original, for emphasis.

## ***8. Economic socialism, not capitalism***

The second theme of the Program is a stress upon socialism and a strong rejection of capitalism.

Numerically, socialism is the most emphasized theme in the Nazi Program, for over half of the Program’s twenty-five points—fourteen out of the twenty-five, to be exact—itemize economically socialist demands.

Point 11 calls for the abolition of all income gained by loaning money at interest.

Point 12 demands the confiscation of all profits earned by German businesses during World War I.

Point 13 demands the nationalization of all corporations.

Point 14 demands profit-sharing in large industrial enterprises.