

Plenty of examples of Nazis using drugs to enhance their soldiers' performance. "The Wehrmacht found out that Pervitin [methamphetamine] reduces fear, it reduces your need to sleep, and it makes you more aggressive. So these three reasons seemed perfect for the German army in 1940".

They then created a cocktail of cocaine, Pervitin, and oxycodone as a painkiller, which together made a super drug called D-IX that provided superhuman endurance. It was tested on prisoners from the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Test subjects could march for up to 90 kilometers in a day without rest, while carrying a 20 kilogram backpack. D-IX was tested on a handful of soldiers and pilots, and was slated to be supplied to all German troops, but the war ended before the drug was put into mass production.

Sources: Norman Ohler, *Blitzed: Drugs in the Third Reich*

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/D-IX>

From the Holocaust Encyclopedia:

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/lebensborn-program>

Lebensborn: Nazi state-sponsored eugenics program, started using SS members. It only accepted healthy applicants who could establish their Aryan ancestry. The program was overseen by Heinrich Himmler, leader of the SS. Originally, the program encouraged "racially elite" SS members to have large families of at least 4 children, and provided financial assistance to some families. SS members and their brides had to pass medical examinations and background checks concerning their family's racial and psychological history in order to be allowed to marry. The program also targeted unmarried, pregnant "Aryan" women, providing financial support, adoption services, and private maternity homes away from family and acquaintances in order to discourage abortions. Abortions were broadly illegal (and harshly punished) in the Third Reich, with the exception of "hereditary health" courts that ordered abortions and sterilizations for undesirables, or just anyone outside of good racial stock.

Later on in the war, due to concerns of losing too many "racially valuable soldiers", Himmler started looking for other sources of children. In occupied territories, German forces impregnated foreign women, and the children were taken by the program. Additionally, thousands of foreign children, who had German ancestry or just showed "appropriate racial features", i.e. blond haired, blue eyed, were kidnapped and placed with German families. Apparently families weren't even told that the children were part of a eugenics program, just that the children had been orphaned by the war. Children were mostly taken from eastern and southeastern Europe. An estimated 7000 children were born into Lebensborn homes, and many more were kidnapped, but numbers are very hard to establish.

State Eugenics programs:

https://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session1/CZ/PDR_CZE_UPR_S1_2008anx_MatterofSterilisation.pdf

This article describes a lawsuit against the Czech government in the early 2000s. Numerous Romani women had been sterilized without consent, either without being asked at all, or having signed documents about procedures that had not been properly explained. Prior to November 1989, the state had explicit eugenicist policies in place against Romani people; in order to promote assimilation, "These measures included efforts by social services to

control the birth rate in the Romani community to stop it presenting a "social risk". However, some cases occurred after 1990, and were apparently due simply to doctor-patient interactions, rather than being explicitly state-sanctioned.

The article also takes a digression to discuss some of the history of several "Eugenically-Oriented Social Systems". Sweden, Switzerland, and Czechoslovakia are discussed. All three of these states made use of sterilization of undesirables, overwhelmingly performed on women, particularly mentally disabled women and those of low social status. In the Swedish case, they viewed sterilization as an important factor in maintaining a stable welfare state. Switzerland sterilized a lot of young women in this way, and in the early 2000s there was a push to create a reparations program for those affected by earlier eugenic policies, but the reparations proposal was rejected in parliament. They did outlaw sterilization, at least.

In the Czechoslovak case, there was a surprisingly powerful Czech Eugenic Society, which had institutional backing. The society created a programme that included the establishment of legal measures allowing eugenic marriage revision, but their main form of action was, as with the others, sterilization of inferiors. A quote from a Czech eugenics representative:

"Charity is rightfully reproached for its blame in proliferating the inferior, in the degeneration of mankind; that thousands of the abnormal who would have perished alone in dirty corners are preserved with care and love, while hundreds of thousands of the normal lack such love and care."

You see the same sort of appeal to the welfare state here, in that 'our ability to care for the normal, the worthy, is impeded by caring for the abnormal.

Soviet super soldier programs:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_MKUltra

The Soviets were engaged in similar experiments with mind control and drugs as the CIA was, with programs like MKUltra. Using drugs to force confessions in interrogations certainly happened, which is something that happened to Johan at 511 Kinderheim. Franz Bonaparta seemed to be using hypnosis in experiments too, which was part of those programs.

I couldn't find much about explicitly soviet programs. One *extremely nebulous* exception is a book called *The Secret Weapon of the Soviets* by an American historian called Jeff Strasberg. Secondhand accounts of the book claim that it describes the bodies of Soviet soldiers found with metal prostheses. Arm and leg bones were replaced with steel, even ribs in one case. The claim was that they had discovered, and to some extent implemented, some sort of metal-to-bone grafting technology. The trouble is, neither the book nor the author seem to actually exist – all I could find were two vague references from weird websites to the book, though both talked about the metal limbs. I suspect that story is entirely made up.

<https://mysteriousuniverse.org/2015/09/the-secret-nazi-institute-of-the-occult-super-soldiers-and-zombies/>

Child detention center in East Germany:

<https://coldwarsites.net/country/germany/closed-juvenile-detention-centre-torgau/>

On the 511 Kinderheim page on the Monster wiki, I found reference to a detention center (not an orphanage) in East Germany that was used for re-education. Youth between 14 and 18 were sent there without trial or court judgment, and it essentially operated as a prison, with bars and watchtowers. They had an extremely strict disciplinary regimen, dress code, cleaning orders, and so on. The goal was to produce disciplined, full members of the socialist society, and failure to comply involved strict punishments, including being confined to dark cells (essentially solitary confinement) for up to 12 days.

Experiments on children:

<http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Sherif/chap7.htm>

Also on that wiki page, a couple of interesting articles are referenced. The more pleasant one is a study about reducing inter-group friction. Two groups of adolescents in a camp environment are first established, and a rivalry between the groups is encouraged. Members of one group start out with a strong unfavorable view of the other group. Their hypothesis is that providing the groups with superordinate goals will be effective in reducing friction between the groups. These are goals that both groups share and that they need to work together to achieve. So, they gave them a whole bunch of tasks like that. They had to unblock a water cistern so everyone could drink. They had to pull down a dead tree together. They found that collectively preparing meals was more effective than each group doing it alone. They had to pull a truck a bit up a hill in order to push-start it. By the end, the researchers found that perspectives of the out-group had improved significantly. On the whole, it worked. Kind of an interesting opposite study to what was being done at 511 Kinderheim, finding ways to promote cooperation instead of competition and brutality.

The other, less fun one, is about Romanian orphanages. It's a sketchy, unsourced article, but I found better articles on the same topic. Many orphanages were grossly understaffed, meaning that children had little chance to interact with caregivers. In many cases, especially in orphanages for children with disabilities, illnesses, or physical differences, there was institutionalized neglect and abuse. Many children were found to have AIDS, due to the use of unsterilized needles for injections. Children were kept in empty rooms with nothing but a cot or bed. Children were consistently observed to rock back and forth constantly, and the orphanages were apparently just... silent. All the time. The children didn't cry or talk or do anything. Many were physically and intellectually delayed, and older children struggled to interact socially or form relationships. It's just. Really bad.

<https://www.mamamia.com.au/romanian-orphans/>