The assignment. Write a 4-5-page essay on the topic below. One page means roughly 250 words; your paper should be double-spaced, with normal margins and font size. All of the documents you need are in Robert Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society*. There is no single, "correct" response to the question. You should formulate a thesis, and carefully build an argument for it based on the evidence.

How to read primary sources. These documents are all primary sources, meaning that they were produced by actors or observers during the period we’re studying. “Secondary” sources are historical accounts of the period. For instance, Paxton and Hessler is a secondary source, as is Moeller's introduction to the volume. PLEASE NOTE: the brief introductions (in italics) to the primary sources were written by Moeller to provide context to help you analyze the source. You can't quote those introductions as primary sources.

Before you start to work, think about how to read this kind of evidence. Here are some key points:

• First, consider who is writing or speaking. The introductions to the documents will help you to do this. What aspects of his or her position--for instance, what social experiences or interests, what perspective--may have shaped their views? Are some sources more reliable than others?
• Second, think about what he or she may have been trying to do in the document: simply put something on the record; persuade others; warn others; reflect privately on the meaning of events; come to terms with something in retrospect; and so on.
• Third, suspend judgment until the end. Your primary task is to understand the document in its context and to explain it that way. Any evaluative judgments of your own must be based on the sort of reconstruction and analysis just described.

PAPER #1: THE QUESTION

The primary sources in this collection illustrate how the Nazis used force and repression to maintain order, but they also suggest why millions of Germans enthusiastically embraced a regime that dramatically restricted their civil liberties and denied them fundamental freedoms.


Focus on the second part of Moeller’s assertion—that many Germans positively embraced the Nazi regime—and use the documents collected in *The Nazi State and German Society* to evaluate his claim. Who were some of the key groups who provided the regime’s popular support, and
why did they do so? What issues did the Nazis effectively use to build their support? Again, focus not so much on "Nazi propaganda" as on the experiences, motives, and interests of the supporters.

In addition to the documents in Moeller's collection from the period of the Nazi regime, you may also find it helpful to draw on the documents from the Weimar Republic years. You may refer to Paxton and Hessler, *Twentieth-Century Europe*, as well.

Some qualities of a good answer:
1. it will examine several issues and groups, not just a single one (e.g. workers, ethnic minorities, women, religious groups, sexuality, youth, nationalism);
2. it will be grounded in a careful, critical reading of the primary sources (for an explanation, see the guidelines above); and
3. it will build an argument for a clear thesis, and not just give a list of examples.

**Grading.** Grades will be based on three criteria, in this order of importance:
- **substance** (having a strong, convincing thesis; making informed, insightful reading of the documents);
- **organization** (a clear, coherent presentation to substantiate your thesis); and
- **style** (including grammar and spelling).

All three criteria count.

Some general advice about writing essays:
- **Proofread.** Always proofread a paper before handing it in. Check your spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Don’t rely on a word processor to do your proofreading. It will fail you.
- **Write a good first paragraph.** Pay careful attention to how you write your first paragraph. Use it to set the stage, but avoid empty, overly broad generalizations. Cut to the chase: by the end of the first paragraph, I should know what your thesis is. Hint: I strongly recommend **rewriting** your first paragraph **after** you have written the rest of the paper.
- **Use quotations—and use them effectively and properly.** Refer closely to the text, and use direct quotations where they are called for. But **limit your use of long quotations.** Never simply string quotations together one after another. Quotes are helpful if used well, but they are not a substitute for your own explanation of a point.

If a quote is three lines or longer, you should format it as a block quote: single-spaced, and indented at least half an inch on both margins. With a block quote, you do not use quotation marks. This is the only exception to putting word-for-word citations in quotation marks. Always follow up a block quote by explaining in your own words what you think the text you’re quoting shows us.
- **Give page references.** Whenever you quote something, always give a page reference. In the case of this assignment, quotations from *The Nazi State and German Society* can be indicated by giving a page number in parentheses at the end of the quotation—like this (*NSGS*, p. 37). Names of books should be italicized or underscored; titles of individual pieces within a larger work should be put in quotation marks. If you prefer, you may place the references in footnotes (at the bottom of the page on which they appear) or endnotes (at the end of the essay).