

*YOUNG PEOPLE
THEN AND NOW*

WORLD WAR TWO

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YOUNG PEOPLE THEN AND NOW

- Focus on the 1940s
- Second World War (1939–1945)
- Life for young people then vs now
- How world events influenced youth work
- Source: Jeffs & Smith (2010)



LIFE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE DURING WWII

- Air raids and bombing
- Evacuation from cities
- School disruption
- More responsibility at a young age
- Around 3.5 million children evacuated



RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE

- LEFT SCHOOL EARLIER
- WORKED IN FACTORIES
OR FARMS
- HELPED CIVIL DEFENCE
EFFORTS
- CHILDHOOD WAS
SHORTER
- OVER 1 MILLION JOINED
YOUTH ORGANISATIONS



SOCIETY AND CULTURE IN THE 1940S

- Strict rules and authority
- Rationing and shortages
- Strong sense of duty
- Traditional gender roles
- Food rationing lasted until 1954



YOUTH WORK DURING WWII

- YOUTH GROUPS LIKE SCOUTS AND GUIDES
- FOCUS ON DISCIPLINE
- PRACTICAL SKILLS AND TRAINING
- ADULT-LED ACTIVITIES
- SOURCE: JEFFS & SMITH (2010)



INFLUENCE OF WORLD EVENTS

- War shaped youth services
- Prevent youth crime
- Support the national effort
- Focus on order and structure
- Youth Service developed during wartime



LIFE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

1. Education required until 16
2. More rights for young people
3. Mental health awareness
4. Technology and social media
5. Source: National Youth Agency (2018)



YOUTH WORK TODAY

- Voluntary participation
- Empowerment and youth voice
- Strong safeguarding focus
- Holistic support
- Source: National Youth Agency (2018)



THEN VS NOW

- Then: discipline and duty
- Now: support and empowerment
- Then: adult-led
- Now: youth-centred
- Sources: Jeffs & Smith (2010); NYA (2018)





CONCLUSION

- WWII shaped youth work
- Young people faced hardship
- Youth work has evolved
- Still supports young people through challenges



THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

REFERENCES

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