

Swastika and harvest crown

The 'Reich Harvest Thanksgiving Festival'

When the NSDAP came to power, harvest festivals were exploited for the party's purposes. This culminated in five 'Reich Harvest Thanksgiving Festivals' between 1933 and 1937 on the Bückeberg near Hamelin. With up to 1 million participants per festival, these were among the largest mass events in Nazi Germany. Thanksgiving was no longer directed at the Christian God, but replaced by a 'Germanic' thanksgiving to 'the Führer'. The harvest crown, formerly presented to a landowner, was now given to Adolf Hitler personally. The aim of the event was to create an ideological and emotional bond between the rural population and the party. It was a visual expression of the 'blood and soil' ideology.