

Germany:

Democracy and

Dictatorship Knowledge

Organiser

Key Words:

Empire , Industrialisation , Navy Laws , Socialism , SPD , Trade Union , Weltpolitik

What do I need to know:

- To know what industrialisation is.
- To understand how economic growth was possible. To understand socialism and why the SPD were a threat to the Kaiser's power.

Kaiser and his leadership!

Who Kaiser Wilhelm II: reigned from 1888-1918

- 1888, the 29 year old Wilhelm became Kaiser.
- Character: energetic, outgoing. Could be charming.
- If ministers would not do what he wanted he would sack them.
- Career: spent most of his youth in the army.
- Replaced his father when he unexpectedly died of cancer after 3 months as the 2nd Kaiser.
- He was keen to maintain a powerful army and build up a large navy.
- He also took a great pride in leading the army and took a great interest in military tactics.



What do I need to know:

- How Germany was ruled.
- The growth of parliamentary government
- The style of Kaiser Wilhelm II rule.

What did power did the Kaiser have?

- The German Emperor had considerable powers.
- He had personal control of the armed forces.
- **He appointed and dismissed all ministers including the Chancellor.**

- The Kaiser was supported by advisors, and the chief minister was called the Chancellor.
- The Kaiser appointed him and the Kaiser was also Head of the Army

- The Chancellor:
- Prepared legislation for the Reichstag.
 - He had the right to dissolve (get rid of parliament) with the permission of the Kaiser.

Reichstag: German Parliament
This was the German parliament, which was elected by men over the age of 25.
This discussed and voted on laws that the Kaiser drew up

The powers of the Reichstag were limited:

- It could not introduce legislation.
- It had no say in the appointment or dismissal of the Chancellor.
- The Kaiser could dissolve it any time with the agreement of the Bundesrat.

Key Words:

**Bundesrat
Chancellor
Reichstag
Socialism
SPD
Trade Union**



Economic and social change— industrialisation and Socialism!

When he became Kaiser-Britain was the world's most powerful country; it had the largest empire, and dominated world trade.

Wilhelm dreamed of making Germany as great as Britain and began by building up German industry.

This process is called: **INDUSTRIALISATION.**

It was supported by the rich, powerful German businessmen.

It became true by 1913 when Germany was producing much more iron and steel and as much coal as Britain.

It industries such as electrical goods and chemicals German companies dominated Europe.

- The SPD had very different political views of the Kaiser.
- It wanted to improve the conditions for the working classes and disagreed with the privileges held by elites like the military and the monarchy.
- The German aristocracy and the Kaiser Wilhelm worried that the SPD wanted a revolution to overthrow the monarchy and destroy the German class system.
- Even though the SPD and trade unions promised to work with the government to introduce reforms, the Kaiser still saw them as a threat.

Many ordinary workers started to vote for a new political party called the Social Democratic Party (SPD). They believed in socialism- the idea that power and wealth should be shared equally among the people.
In 1887 the SPD had just 11 seats in the Reichstag, but by 1903, they had 81!

The Social Democrats hoped that the Kaiser might share some of his power and allow the Reichstag to make more social reforms or laws to improve workers rights and conditions
Around one in three Germans voted for this political party at this time.

The Kaiser could choose to ignore their advice and make all the decisions he wanted on his own.

The Kaiser also made all the decisions relating to the army, navy and other foreign countries

What was Germany like before WW1

Political instability

The threat of the SPD

Problems faced by Kaiser Wilhelm's governments up to 1914

Desire for an empire

Rapid industrialization

The desire for EMPIRE

To distract attention from the socialist and increase support for the monarchy and the military. The Kaiser adopted a new foreign policy. The Kaiser wanted 'a place in the sun'.

- Many European countries had extensive overseas empires.
- The Kaiser decided that Germany should have an empire abroad.

The Kaiser wanted to transform Germany into a global power with control over countries in different parts of the world.

This idea was known as WELTPOLITIK- 'world policy.'

In 1800s, Germany began to do what many other European countries were doing- they took over nations, most notably Africa.

Protecting the EMPIRE

- The Kaiser wanted a large navy of powerful battleships for several reasons. He thought it would help Germany take over more countries and protect the countries they already had in the empire.
- He was a very militaristic man who wanted the German navy to rival Britain's navy.
- They competed with the British who introduced the Dreadnought in 1906. It was the first all-big gun ship. It had 6 more guns than any other ship and could travel faster than any other. It could also carry 800 men.



Key Words:

Empire
Industrialisation
Navy Laws
Socialism
SPD
Trade Union
Weltpolitik



The Naval Laws!

Germany had passed Laws in 1900 to improve their navy. The laws stated that: 'For Germany, the most dangerous **naval enemy** at the present time is England....' Germany was determined to overtake Britain by building bigger and better ships. This competition was known as the **arms race**.

A series of Naval laws were passed between 1898 and 1912, to increase the size of German navy. It grew rapidly in size and huge sums of money were spent to achieve this.

By **1914** the British had **nineteen** Dreadnoughts compared with Germany's **thirteen**.

The Specific Naval Laws:

1898: the first Navy Law was passed. Its eventual aim was to build up Germany's navy to **rival** Great Britain's. It increased Germany's fleet to **include 19 Battleships**.

1900: the Reichstag passed another Navy Law, which put a **17 year** navy expansion programme into place.

The government used propaganda to promote the Navy Laws and inspire patriotism among the German people. The laws were popular, and socialist opposition to them was seen as unpatriotic.

In the elections of 1907 the SPD lost 36 seats in the Reichstag.

What do I need to know:

- To understand the Kaiser's desire for an Empire.
- To know the Navy Laws
- To understand the social problems the Kaiser faced.

German Politics becomes unstable:

- Social and economic changes were good for industry, but German politics became unpredictable. The growth of the working class and the rise of socialism made ruling Germany increasingly difficult for the Kaiser Wilhelm II.
- German politics had become more radical. The upper classes feared the growth of the working classes and thought rapid industrialisation threatened their wealth and social status. As the SPD's popularity increased, extreme nationalist groups also grew.
- This made it hard for the Kaiser to govern as he was under pressure to introduce socialist reforms, but knew that doing so would risk angering his supporters.
- There were some socialists with more extreme views, they wanted to rebel against the Kaiser's rule, start a revolution, take over the country, and allow cities and towns to be governed by councils of workers.
- The rise in popularity of socialism is one of the major events in Germany at this time- and was potentially a major problem for the government

Problems in the Reichstag:

- To make matters worse, the popularity of the SPD made it more difficult for the government to get legislation passed in the Reichstag.
- Chancellors found it difficult to get support in the Reichstag, so they struggled to pass new laws.
- The Reichstag had more influence over German politics than it had ever had before.
- The Kaiser tried to reduce discontent among the working classes by introducing some limited social reforms e.g. in **1891 the Worker's Protection Act was introduced to improve safety in the workplace.**

Impact of WW1 – 1914-1918

- In August 1914, the First World War began when Germans and Austrians went to war against the French, British, Russians, Belgians and Serbs.
- Over the next 4 years, other countries joined in.
- When the war first broke out, it has been very popular in Germany.
- Young patriotic Germans thought the war would end quickly.
- Instead, soldiers were worn down by bombs, poisonous gas and machine gun fire; ordinary Germans suffered too.

During the war, political parties agreed to support the government. However by 1918 there was widespread unrest and this eventually resulted in revolution and the abdication of the Kaiser in 1918.

Impact of war...

By 1918, Germany was close to collapse.

The German people were so short of food that they were surviving off turnips and bread, and a deadly flu epidemic was sweeping the country, killing thousands already weak from a poor diet.

On the battlefield, too, Germany were close to defeat.

Germany close to defeat...

- In October General Ludendorff, a leading German army general and war hero, told German politicians that they could never win the war.
- He advised the Kaiser that British, French and Americans might treat Germany more fairly if the country became democratic- in other words, the Kaiser must share more of his power with the German parliament.
- The Kaiser reluctantly did that.
- He allowed the many political parties to form a new government and transferred some of his powers to the Reichstag. However, the changes came too late to satisfy the German people.
- More demonstrations were made and some said the Kaiser should give up his throne.
- Others talked of overthrowing him in revolution.

What do I need to know:

- To know the impact of war on Germany
- To know the economic and political problems.

Mutiny and Revolution...

- On 28th October 1918, the German navy was ordered out to sea from Kiel in northern Germany to attack British ships.
- Sailors on the ships refused to follow orders because they no longer wanted to fight.
- News of their mutiny began to spread.
- In ports nearby, other sailors refused to follow others/
- Workers in towns supported them.
- Soldiers, sent to deal with the protests joined the sailors and workers.
- They took over the towns and set up special councils to run them.

The abdication of the Kaiser.

- In just 6 days workers and soldiers council were governing cities all over Germany, such as Hamburg and Munich.
- The country was in chaos and there was little the Kaiser could do.
- He had lost control and his army generals refused to support him.
- On 9th November 1918, he abdicated and secretly left Germany, never to return.

The end of the war...

- Friedrich Ebert, the leader of Germany's largest political party (the SPD), took the Kaiser's place as leader of Germany, on a temporary basis.
- He promised to hold elections soon.
- If ordinary German people wanted him as their leader, they would get the chance to vote for him if they wished.
- Meanwhile, he gave the people what they really wanted- an end to the war.
- On 11th November 1918, Germany surrendered.

War Weariness:

- People in Germany soon started to suffer during the war, when the British used their large navy to stop supply ships getting to Germany.
- As a result, there were terrible shortages of food, medicines and clothing.
- As the war continued, people grew weary and tired of it. This is known as 'war weariness.'

In 1915, 500 women gathered in front of the German parliament buildings and said that they wanted their men back from the trenches.

A year later, 10,000 workers assembled in Berlin to shout 'Down with war, and down with the government'

The police quickly moved in to make arrests and calm the situation.



Key Words:

- Abdicate
- Patriotic
- Mutiny
- November Criminals
- Rations
- War Weary



The Weimar Republic – structure, strengths and weaknesses

Changes to the Weimar Government

	<u>German Government until end of WWI</u>	<u>New Weimar Government</u>
Place:	Berlin	Weimar
Person in charge:	Kaiser	President
Way he is chosen:	By birth	Democracy
Atmosphere on streets:	Unity and pride in country – fighting for one cause.	Violence between warring political parties
<u>The number of different groups running the country:</u>	1 strong authoritarian figure (Kaiser)	Many – through a system of <u>proportional representation</u>

- On the 9th November 1918 the Kaiser left Germany.
- There were riots and rebellions all over Germany.
- A new democratic government was set up called the Weimar Republic.
- Friedrich Ebert, the SPD leader became temporarily the leader of Germany.
- They came up with a new constitution (set of rules for running the country)

What were Ebert's actions as President?

- One of the first actions he took was to sign the armistice to end the First World War.
- Germany military Chiefs did not accept that Germany had lost and said that Ebert was a NOVEMBER CRIMINAL for signing it.
- German army generals like Ludendorff still believed Germany could win the war and called the new Weimar politicians the **November Criminals** as they had signed the armistice.

Treaty of Versailles

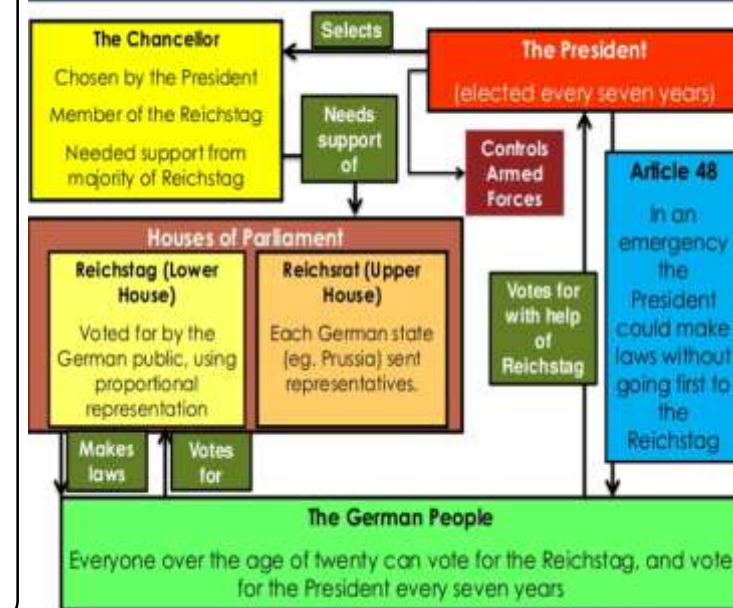
	<u>TERMS</u>
Land	Lost 13% of its land (6 million of its people) Included Alsace-Lorraine, Posen (Polish corridor), and German colonies. Rhineland demilitarised.
Army	Army max 100,000 Navy max 15,000 sailors, 6 battleships, no submarines Airforce disbanded Conscription forbidden
Money	Germany to pay war damages (reparations) of £6.6 billion.
Blame	Article 231: Germany given total blame.

Germans hated the treaty for 3 main reasons:

1. They felt it was too harsh. The treaty took away large areas of land which meant losing people, factories, farms and mines. They had to pay large amounts of reparations (money) to the winners too. They felt humiliated and angry.
2. Germans hated the fact that the treaty had been forced on them. They were ordered to sign it, without discussion. They called a 'DIKTAT'- a dictated peace.
3. They disagreed with Article 231- they did not feel they had lost the war at all!
4. Germany felt the new politicians had betrayed the country by asking for a ceasefire in November 1918. Field Marshal Hindenburg said that 'the German army was stabbed in the back. No blame is to be attached to the army. It is perfectly clear on whom the blame rests!'

- Proportional representation meant that it was difficult to make decisions because there were so many political parties, who all had different views.
- When a decision couldn't be made, the President could suspend the constitution using article 48 which gave him too much power.
- The power was only supposed to be used in emergency, but became a useful way of getting around disagreements that took place in the Reichstag.
- This undermined DEMOCRACY!

How did the Weimar Republic work?



The Years of Crisis 1923-24!

Left-wing: Communist Party.
They believed that they should run the country on behalf of the workers.



Right-wing: German National Party, Nazis
They believed Germany should have one strong leader, whom everyone should obey.

Violence and rebellion!

The Weimar republic was democratic-people had the right to choose their government. This was called Proportional Representation. However, some groups did not think that this was the best way to run Germany. These extremists parties wanted to tear the Weimar Republic apart.

- What do I need to know:**
- To know the challenges faced from the Left and Right.
 - To understand the economic problems.

Key Words:

Diktat
Hyperinflation
Ruhr
Reparations



1919: UPRISINGS - the Left Spartacist Rebellion.

Leaders: Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht and was a communist group.

Aims: They wanted a full scale Communist revolution like the recent Russian Revolution of 1917. They did not trust the new government. They thought that Ebert would not improve the lives of working people.

Methods: They tried to take over Berlin by force. It is called the 'Spartacist uprising'.

What happened: January 1919 workers were protesting throughout Germany. The Spartacists tried to turn this into a revolution like the one in Russia in 1917 where there was a communist Bolshevik revolution.

They took over the government's newspaper and telegraph headquarters.

How was it put down: The new Weimar government crushes them using a group of ex-military soldiers called the Freikorps (a extreme right-wing group) to help them. These units were made up of ex-soldiers who were anti-Communist. In the fighting that followed over 100 workers were killed.

Why did it fail: The uprising was badly planned. The Spartacists did not get support from other left-wing groups. Rosa Luxemburg was captured and shot and her body was dumped into Berlin canal. Karl Liebknecht was murdered.

1923: Germany tells France it cannot keep up with its reparations repayments. France says it will take the money by force and invades an industrial area of Germany called the **Ruhr** land to seize goods. The German workers cannot fight back because France is stronger. Instead they go on strike – this is called 'passive resistance'.

1923: In order to try and help them pay off the debts, the Weimar government begins printing more and more money. They print so much that it causes **hyperinflation**, where the value of money becomes worthless.

Hyperinflation reaches its peak in November 1923.

Who benefitted?	Who lost out?
<p><u>The aristocracy of Germany</u> these people tended to have their money tied up in property, so their wealth was less affected.</p> <p><u>The Jews –</u> Jewish businesses and families tended to keep their money in banks outside of Germany – so their savings didn't lose their value.</p> <p><u>Political extremists –</u> groups like the Nazi party did very well – people tend to vote for extremist parties in times of crisis, and both left and right wing groups got a lot more support. Hitler even tried to take over Munich.</p>	<p><u>The middle classes</u> were worst hit – their savings became worthless.</p> <p><u>The elderly –</u> their savings were wiped out, and their pensions couldn't keep up with price rises.</p> <p><u>Workers –</u> Not as badly hit, as the crisis didn't affect jobs too badly – but they had to live in poverty and rush to shops before their pay became worthless</p>

UPRISINGS from the Right:

The Kapp Putsch

PUTSCH= REVOLT.

Leaders: Wolfgang Kapp

Why did they revolt: In the aftermath of the Versailles treaty. By the early 1920s the allies were worried by the size of unofficial forces e.g. the Freikorps. They put pressure on the German government to disband them, so as to obey the 100,000 limit required by the Treaty. The government disbanded the Freikorps as this was contrary to the Treaty of Versailles.

Dates: March 1920

Events: 12,000 Freikorps marched to Berlin to overthrow the government. The army did not stop them and Ebert's government had to flee to Dresden. They go in, but Berlin workers protested against them and stopped work which made it impossible to rule.

What happened: The workers staged a general strike and Kapp fled after 4 days and the government returned to power.

Success: Failure but the government did not punish the rebels, because many judges sympathised with people like Kapp.

The Freikorps continued to cause problems: In 1922 Walter Rathenau was assassinated by former Freikorp members- he'd been foreign minister and was Jewish.

- Hitler first discovered the German Worker's party in May 1919, when he was sent by the army to investigate new political groups.
- They party had only started a few months before.
- It was based in Munich.
- It's members met in beer halls
- Hitler attended meetings because he liked what was being said.
- People made speeches about 'how the Treaty of Versailles was wrong and made Germany weak and defenceless.'
- This appealed to Hitler, a wounded, defeated ex-soldier.

Hitler and the Munich Putsch!

- Hitler soon joined the party and threw himself into a task of attracting new members.
- This included: advertisements in newspapers, held public meetings all over Munich.
- He was a brilliant speaker who could fascinate his audience with powerful speeches.
- His use of radio was really important.
- The party also bought a newspaper 'THE MUNICH OBSERVER'
- HITLER THEN BECAME THE LEADER!

What do I need to know:

- To know how the Nazis party was set up.
- To know eth events of the Munich Putsch.
- To asses the impact on Hitler's future political career.

Key Words:

Ernst Rohm
Hindenberg
Hitler
Munich
Swastica
Stormtroopers- SA



The Nazis Party is born!

As leader Hitler made some key changes:

1. Symbol of the SWASTICA.
2. Set up private armies of thugs to beat anyone up who disagreed with him.
3. He called them the STORM TROOPERS (SA). They wore brown shirts with swastika armbands.
4. He changed the name to the National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP) NAZI for short!

1923: The Munich Putsch

- Hitler decided this is his chance to get popular support and take control of Germany.
- He plans to seize control of Munich, in an area of Germany called Bavaria, and then once he has done this march on Berlin.
- He teams up with the local head of the Bavarian government – von Kahr – and a popular WWI army general called Ludendorff. However, von Kahr betrays him and warns the local police and army of Hitler's plan.
- When Hitler marches into Munich in the early hours of the morning of 9 November, the police and army are waiting for him.
- Hitler himself is shot and then later arrested. 16 Nazis are killed.

Hitler was released after just 9 months in prison in December 1924!

Impact!

- The failure of the Munich Putsch, and his time in prison, taught Hitler a valuable lesson.
- He had to change strategy.
- The Nazis would have to stand in elections and win votes.

Trial and imprisonment:

- His trial lasts 24 days
- It was a media sensation.
- Hitler stands trial and is sent to prison for 5 years
- However, things are not all bad as Hitler uses the trial to get publicity.
- He impresses the judges.
- He also only receives a very light sentence – this shows the judge likes what Hitler is saying about Germany.
- In prison, Hitler is able to write a bestselling book called 'Mein Kampf' and rethink how to organise the Nazi party and which strategy to use. He decides that as he has failed to gain power by force, from this point onwards he will only get power by getting the Germany people to vote him in.

WEIMAR'S GOLDEN AGE 1923-29

How did Stresemann try and solve Germany's problems?


The recovery of Germany is placed on the hard work and influence of one man-Gustav Stresemann.
He faced several issues!

What do I need to know:

- Who Gustav Stresemann is.
- What problems there were.
- How successful were Stresemann's solutions?

Key Words:

- Dawes Plan
- Locarno Treaty
- Rentenmark
- Young Plan



Problems	Solutions	Impact
Hyperinflation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stopped printing money. • Recalled all old money. • Introduced brand new currency called Rentenmark. 	People accept new currency, economy stabilised, but never regain lost savings.
French invasion of Ruhr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ended passive resistance – German workers forced back to work. • Negotiated loans from US to help pay reparations (1924 Dawes Plan, 1929 Young Plan) 	French leave the Ruhr, Germany now has money, but is too dependent on US.
Poor relations with other European countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1925 Locarno Treaties - signed number of treaties with European countries agreeing not to fight. • 1926 Germany joins League of Nations. 	Germany accepted back into Europe, trade restored, but some think he should have demanded land back from ToV.
German economy and industry failing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use loans from US to build schools, hospitals, housing and create more jobs. 	Germany recovering – people having fun again! But very dependent on US.
Political threats e.g. Hitler and Munich Putsch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By successfully dealing with the problems made Weimar Government more popular. People stop turning to extremists groups like Hitler 	Hitler is in prison but is still becoming more famous and still has support.

There were no attempts to overthrow the government between 1924 and 1929.
BUT:

- There were still large groups in German society that were in trouble: farmers incomes were low and the Middle Classes had their savings wiped by hyperinflation.
- Much of the prosperity was increased by the American loans. The American's wanted their money back in 1929.

Changes to culture and reactions to the Golden Age?

What do we mean by a Golden Age?

- Before the First World War the Kaiser kept a tight control on all types of entertainment with strict censorship, but the Weimar Constitution allowed free expression of ideas.
- Many people felt a new sense of freedom!
- After the horrors of war and the difficult 1920s, many people decided to experiment with new ideas and new things.
- The 1920s have been called a 'golden age' for German artists, writers, poets and performers who became known for their creativity and innovation.

Positive reactions	Negative reactions
Some embraced the changes and enjoyed the freedom they were not allowed under the Kaiser.	Others hated it. They wanted traditional values in Germany. They thought Nightclubs showed that Germany was heading into a moral decline. Berlin was viewed as sex obsessed. <u>Hitler and the Nazi hated the cultural changes!</u>

Why did support for the Nazi party increase?

1. Fear of Communism- In 1917 there had been a communist revolution in Russia, and the Communist Party took over all businesses and farms. As a result, middle and upper class Germans, particularly business men and landowners, were frightened of German communists. From the start Hitler said he would fight communism. He sent his own private army, the Stormtroopers (SA), to fight with communist gangs. Hitler gained support from the German middle and upper classes because he promised to deal with communist threat.

2. Hitler's change in tactics – Nazi offices were set up all over Germany to recruit more loyal followers. The party made more use of propaganda and Hitler himself took part in fabulous parades to show off Nazi power, where he made passionate speeches. The Hitler Youth was set up to encourage younger followers. After the depression the Nazi's seemed the most organised and disciplined group in the country. Hitler also made use of new technology. He used an aeroplane to take him to different cities and his constant use of radio, which had only just become widely popular showed how 'in touch' and modern the Nazi were.

3. The appeal of Adolf Hitler– Hitler himself had a lot to do with his increasing popularity. He had a magnetic personality, and could make people believe that he could be trusted to make Germany a great nation. As a powerful and inspiring speaker, he was able to fill his audiences with hope. He promised 'Work, Freedom and Bread.'

4. Germans were unhappy with the Weimar government– The Weimar politicians couldn't seem to agree how to help the unemployed and get Germany out of the Depression. They argued constantly achieving little. They raised taxes and cut unemployment benefit.

1929 - How did the Depression affect Germany?

From 1924 onwards, foreign banks lent huge amount of money to Germany. Most of it was from America in the form of the **Dawes and Young Plan (1929)**. This allowed Germany build factories and businesses, and this created more jobs, more money and a better standard of living. However in 1929 disaster struck in the Wall Street Crash and America recalled their loans.

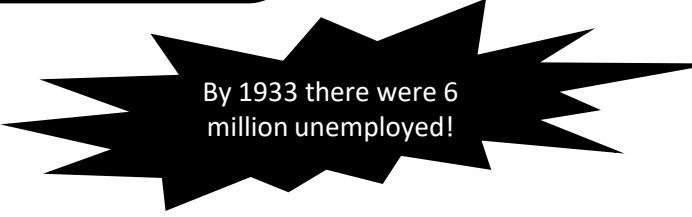



What do I need to know:

- What caused the Depression?
- What happened to the American Loans?
- How did the Depression affect Germany?

Key Words:

- Depression
- Rentenmark
- Wall Street Crash



Why did the Depression increase support for extremist parties?

- Unemployment and hunger changed the way many Germans thought and behaved.
- Millions blamed the Weimar government for their problems.
- The government also cut unemployment benefits- it couldn't afford to support the large numbers of German out of work.
- This made German's resent the Weimar Government.
- People were prepared to listen to political parties (like the Communists and right-wing Nazis) whose leaders promised radical solutions to all of Germany's problems.

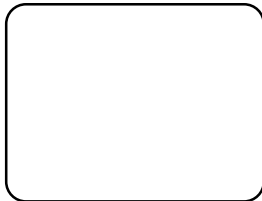
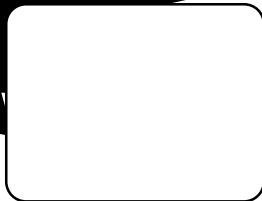
1929: The Wall Street Crash plunges Germany into a depression because America recalls the loans it has lent Germany. Everybody is badly hit, but particularly unemployment which reaches a massive 6 million people.

Impact on Germany: Americans bought goods that were manufactured in different countries (Germany was one of these countries). The Depression meant that Germans could no longer afford to buy these which meant that several factories had to close down. Goods made in German factories like cars, electrical goods and clothing were not selling so workers in these factories lost their jobs. People were living on the streets, jobless, hungry, angry and full of resentment.

Unemployment changed the way many Germans thought and behaved. Millions blamed the Weimar government for their problems. People were prepared to listen to political parties (like left-wing Communists and right wing Nazis) whose leaders promised them radical solutions to all Germany's problems, and ways of making their lives better.

How did Hitler become Chancellor?

Against his wishes
Hindenburg made Hitler
Chancellor on the 30th
January 1933.




What do I need to know:

- To know who was Chancellor before him
- To understand how Hitler persuaded Papen.

Key Words:

- Chancellor
- Reichstag
- Schleicher
- Von Papen.



What were Hitler's main problems in 1933?



- Hitler had the biggest party in the Reichstag
- He was able to get more funding than any other party.
- He had support from the wealthiest people.
- But Hitler still faced 3 huge problems.**

1932: July Elections
Nazis win 207 seats and become the largest party in the Reichstag, but Hitler is not invited to become Chancellor.

1932: November Elections
Nazis win 196 seats. Nazis still the largest party but Hitler is still not invited to become Chancellor.

1933: January.
None of the other possible Chancellors has support in the Reichstag so reluctantly President Hindenburg makes Hitler Chancellor.

- After the 1932 election and the Nazi's success, Hitler demanded to be Chancellor. Hindenburg refused as he thought the Nazis were violent and disruptive. Instead Hindenburg used his emergency powers to give the job to von Papen. Von Papen called another election in November 1932. This time the votes fell for the Nazis but they were still the largest political party.
- Hindenburg then decided to give the chancellorship to his old friend von Schleicher, but he like Papen, lacked support and so resigned. Hindenburg now had little choice but to appoint Hitler as chancellor on the 30th January 1933.
- Hindenburg tried to limit his power by appointing von Papen as Vice-Chancellor and restricting the number of fellow Nazis allowed in the cabinet to two. Hindenburg and his closest advisors thought they would be able to control him.

<u>What were the 3 problems?</u>	<u>Who?</u>	<u>Why?</u>	<u>What event solved it?</u>	<u>How?</u>
1. Opposition in Reichstag	Communists	They had the support of the working class which Hitler needed.	Reichstag Fire 27 th Feb 1933	Blamed on Communists. Article 48 banned Communists. SA beat them up.
2. People more powerful than Hitler	Hindenburg	Hindenburg could sack him at any time. Had to ask Hindenburg to use Article 48.	Enabling Act 23 rd March 1933	Hitler could now use Article 48 whenever he wanted for 4 years.
3. In his own party	Ernst Rohm – leader of SA	Rohm wanted to merge the army and SA and lead them. Army hated Rohm; Hitler needed army.	Night of Long Knives 30 th June 1934	SS killed most of key SA members Rohm arrested. Army still on Hitler's side.

Event/Date:	Details:	Who are the losers?	How does this increase Hitler control ?
Reichstag Fire 27 February 1933	Reichstag building in Berlin was destroyed in a fire. Marinus van der Lubbe, a Dutch Communist was found at the scene. Nazis claimed the communists had started the fire and were trying to take control.	Communists: Were blamed and lost favour. Thousands of opponents of the Nazi party were arrested. The Nazis banned their political opponents from having meetings and closed down their newspapers.	The next day Hindenburg granted Hitler emergency powers. This gave him the power to arrest people without trial and hold them for as long as they wanted.
Emergency Powers. 28th February 1933	Hitler asked Hindenburg to pass a special emergency 'Protection Law' giving Hitler the power to deal with Germany's problems.	Communists. 1, 000 arrested and jailed.	
The Enabling Act, 24th March 1933	The law would give Hitler the power to pass laws without going through the Reichstag or the President. To achieve it he needed to get two-thirds of the votes in the Reichstag to support it.		
Trade Unions are banned, 2nd May 1933	Hitler banned all trade unions. He took away their money and threw the leaders in jail.	Factory workers. Communists.	By removing the trade union, Hitler had taken a worker's way of complaining.
All political parties are banned, July 1933.	All political parties except the Nazis are banned. The 'Law against the Formation of Parties' stated that anyone trying to set up or run another party would go to prison for 3 years.	All other political parties: Communists, SPD, KPD etc.	Germany was a one party state , no competition.
The Knight of the Long Knives, 29th - 30th June, 1934.	By 1934, Hitler was worried about the Power of the SA. It had over 3 million member and wanted to take control of the army. The leader SA, Ernst Rohm, was a close friend of Hitler's. But Hitler worried Rohm was a rival. He also needed to reassure the army a well-trained and disciplined group who were smaller than the SA. The army was supported by strong and powerful businessmen who wanted Hitler to expand and buy new weapons for it.	The SA, Ernst Rohm and political opponents.	Hitler got the army onside and got rid of the fear of Rohm.
Death of Hindenburg 2nd August 1934	The final obstacle from Hitler becoming Dictator (someone with unlimited powers in a country) was Hindenburg – who even now still had the power to sack Hitler if he wanted. Unfortunately, he died of natural causes. Hitler appointed himself as President, but then merged the two positions of President and Chancellor to become 'Führer' of Germany		Hitler calls himself 'Führer' meaning Supreme Leader and makes himself President and Chancellor.
Army oath, August 3rd	The government army took an oath of loyalty to Hitler. All soldier vowed to obey him and give their lives for him.		Has control of the military.

Youth

Girls: League of German Maidens

- Physical fitness tests.
- Household skills
- Childcare
- Lessons on history of Nazi party.
- Inform on family and friends.
- **Girls youth group seen as less important than the boys.**

BOYS: HITLER YOUTH

- Physical fitness tests.
- Military training.
- Lessons in 'real' German history.
- Lessons on the Nazi Party.
- Inform on friends and family
- Motto: 'Germany must live even if we die'.

New Schools

- New schools created for the best students.
- Nicknamed 'Adolf Hitler Schools'.
- Leadership schools for the future government and army leaders of Germany.
- Controlled by the SS.
- Military-style education where pupils didn't belong to a class but a platoon or squad.

2. Curriculum

PE –

- Made much more important.
- 15% of school timetable.
- Some sports like boxing became compulsory for boys.
- Pupils had to pass physical examination – unsatisfactory performance could lead to expulsion.

2. Curriculum

History

- Made more important
- Changed so that pupils only studied the history of Germany.
- This was biased towards Germany, so pupils learnt about the injustice of the ToV and how Jews had ruined Germany in the past.

2. Curriculum

Biology

- Focused on Nazi ideas of Aryan race being superior.
- Taught how to identify Jews and 'other' races.
- Taught how they should not mix with other races.

Work and Bread and workers!

Benefits of economic policies:

Farmers: had supported the Nazi Party the most. Hitler supported farmers by guaranteeing food prices and offering them security if they fell behind on their rent.

Workers: strength through joy program which rewarded loyal, hard working loyal Germans. The Nazi's also organised better facilities in the factories.

Businessmen and Factory owners: Did well out of rebuilding Germany. Workers were not allowed to strike and wages fell.

Workers

Hitler's brilliant economist Dr Hjalmar Schacht, reduced unemployment from **6 million in 1932 to 0.3 million in 1938.**

Other economic policies:

- Make Germany self-sufficient (e.g. by making oil from coal) this failed.
- Encourage new industries such as electrics and medicines. There were some great successes such as jet engines and televisions.

Failing of economic policies:

Workers: Unions were banned. Workers instead had to join the DAF- the Nazi union. Workers had no rights, strikes were banned. Wages fell and working hours increased.

Farming: remained old fashioned and inefficient. The price of food rose, which hit factory workers hard because of their reduced wages.

Small businesses and shops lost out in competition to big companies.

The Nazis provided the workers with cheap holidays and leisure activities. This was the Nazi's way of controlling the working classes leisure time.

Cheap holidays :

These include cruise holidays to destinations like the canary islands on brand new cruise ships built by the Nazis. Cost – only 62 marks (approximately 2 weeks wages). However, only loyal and hardworking Nazis will be given a place on this.

There were also holidays in the mountains for just 28 marks a week, or, in winter, skiing holidays in Bavaria. This price included travel, board and lodging ski hire and skiing lessons from an instructor. The scheme organised sports matches and competitions, and mass outings to the theatre and the opera.

Cheap Cars:

In a time where only the richest can afford cars, Hitler believes that everyone should have the chance to own one. The car produced by the scheme is the Volkswagen Beetle (Volkswagen actually means 'People's car'). They are built so that everyone can afford one. The price is a mere 990 marks – about 35 weeks wages.

Even more, you don't have to pay the full price up front but can pay it back in weekly instalments of 5 marks a week.

What had life been like for women in Weimar Germany?

All women over the age of 20 could vote.

Women could choose any profession, and many worked.

(1933 – 100,000 teachers, 3,000 doctors).

Women could be involved in politics.

(1933 – 10% of Reichstag members)

Women

Undesirables

Early persecution of the Jews.

Boycott of Jewish shops 1933 – the Nazis wanted Germans to boycott Jewish businesses and shops. However the German public didn't support the Nazis' ideas about Jews at this point.

Limiting Freedom:

- Women were banned from being lawyers in 1936 and the Nazis did their best to stop them following other professions.
- The League of German Maidens spread the Nazis idea that it was an honour to produce large families for Germany. Nazis gave awards to women: Gold- 8 children, Silver- 6 children, Bronze-3 children.
- Women were expected to dress in plain clothing and were taught at school in Eugenics how to choose 'Aryan' husbands.



The Ideal Nazi Women:

- Did not go to work.
- Aryan.
- Cooked frugally and well.
- Dressed modestly.
- Behaved demurely.
- Have lots of children.
- Raised loyal Nazis.



How did the Nazis support Women?

- Special loans to new brides who agreed not to take a job.
(800,000 women took these)
- Encouraged to stop smoking, stop slimming and do sport to improve their fertility.
- Young women, especially newly married, were encouraged to attend mothercraft and homecraft classes.

Limiting Freedom:

Nuremburg Laws 1935

- All Jews were stripped of their citizenship – they were not allowed new passports.
- Jews were not allowed to marry non-Jewish Germans. All relationships were stopped.
- Jews were banned from certain jobs/professions.

Kristallnacht 1938

- Night of the Broken Glass – The Nazis (under orders from Himmler) attacked Jewish businesses and shops because a French Jew had shot and killed a Nazi German diplomat in Paris.
- More than 1,000 synagogues were burnt down.
- The Nazis stopped any compensation claims – Jews had to pay for the clean up and damage to their businesses themselves.

The Holocaust

During WW2 1939-45 The Nazis' policy of placing the Jews in Ghettos was not efficient enough for the Nazis.

They decided on the Final Solution to the Jewish problem by creating Death Camps.

These camps were built mainly in Poland and were built purposefully for killing off all of the Jews in Europe.

This policy was agreed at the Wannsee Conference in 1941.

Overall, 6 million people died in the Holocaust.

Goebbels put Hitler's approach to propaganda into practice brilliantly. He ensured posters carried strong, simple, repeated slogan of the Nazis.

The key themes of posters were:

- The importance of family
- Patriotism/Nationalism
- Promoting the image of Hitler
- Anti-Semitism. Blaming the Jews for Germany's problems.
- Criticising the Treaty of Versailles
- Making Germany great again.




Propaganda

What do I need to know:

- To know the role of Joseph Goebbels.
- To understand the different methods of Propaganda used.

Key Words:

- . Goebbels
- Hitler Myth
- Cult of the Fuhrer
- Media
- Censorship



Radio:

Radio was a decisive weapon employed by the Nazis. Cheap radios were made so that as many Germans could listen as possible by 1939-70% of Germans had radio and programmes targeted all groups from adults to young children. Loudspeakers were set up in public squares so all Germany could here programmes and announcements.

Goebbels took over control of all radio broadcasting. Regular programmes included Hitler's speeches, German music and German history- foreign programmes could not be picked up. Cheap It was an ideal medium to influence the nation through carefully selected new programmes and Hitler's speeches.

Books!

- As soon as they cam to power, the Nazis organised official book-burnings- book were burned in pulic on massive bonfire.
- The Nazi burned:
- Books by Communists and Socialists
- Books by Jews
- Books by anyone they disapproved of
- Books containing ideas they disapproved of

By burning books the Nazi were preventing German people from reading and thinking beyond the Nazi message. All new books published had to be censored by Goebbels's ministry.

Films

The cinema was very popular in most countries in the 1930s. Goebbels controlled all films made in Germany. Most were adventure stories, comedies and love stories, but there was always a newsreel film, News of the Week. The newsreels were made by Goebbels' film-makers and shown before the main film. The Nazi's produced 200 propaganda films.

Some openly pro-Nazi films were made on Goebbels orders and with strict control of scripts. The Eternal Jews was one such anti-semetic film made by the Nazi in 1937.

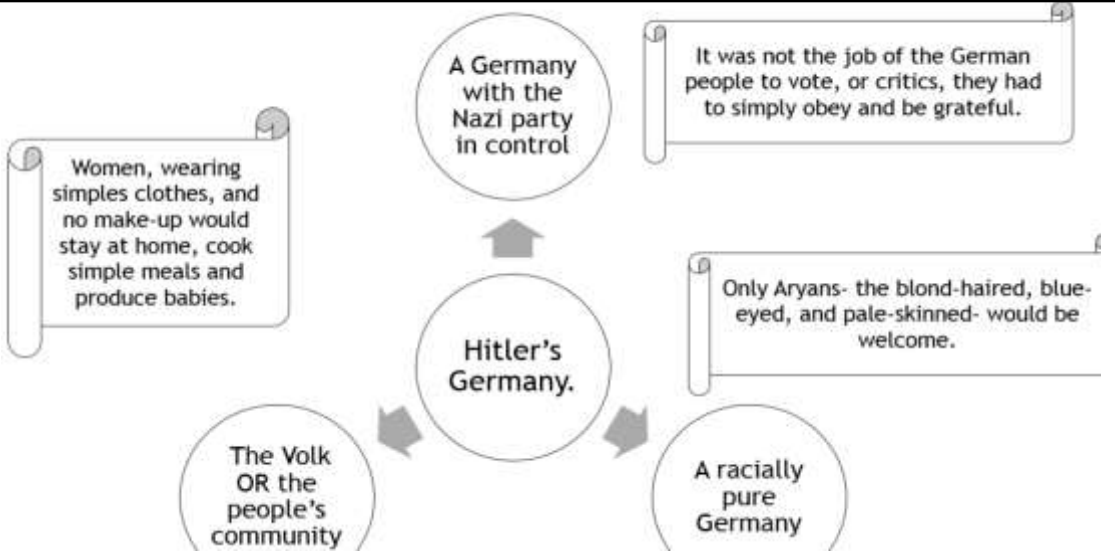
Newspapers

Strict censorship meant that any anti-Nazi message were suppressed. Anti-Nazi newspapers were shut down. Jews were banned from owning or working for newspapers. Goebbels' Ministry of Propaganda sent out daily instructions to all remaining newspapers telling them what to print, what kind of pictures should be published and what angle they should take on the news. The Nazis printed their own newspapers, e.g. Volkishcer Beochacter and Der Sturmer. Display boards were set up in public places so that all could read the newspaper.



Rallies

Albert Speer was key figure in the organisation of rallies. The Nazis always presented an image of order and control to the German people, with their uniforms, meetings, torchlight, processions and rallies. Once they were in power, they made their rallies even more impressive. A huge stadium at Nuremberg was specially built for them. Goebbels stage-managed these rallies to give a dramatic impression of overwhelming power and unity.



Control by Terror

Hitler was the **Fuhrer**, the all-powerful supreme leader of Germany, also known as a dictator. He felt that if people didn't accept Nazis ideas and beliefs willingly, then they would be forced to accept them. All dictators need a large police force to protect them and make sure people did what they were told.

Nazi Germany was a POLICE STATE.

The Nazis wanted control over the machinery of government and people's lives.

Changes made by the Nazis to make Germany a Police State:

1. 1934: The Law for the Reconstruction of the Reich. This gave the Nazis total power over local government.
2. There were laws to sack civil servants who didn't support the Nazis and accept their rules.
3. The Nazis made changes to the justice system. Judges didn't have to be fair and unbiased. Instead, they were expected to make ruling that were in the line with Nazi Party policy.
4. 1934: People's Court. This was set up in BERLIN, which held trials for important political crimes.
5. The SICHERHEITSDIENST: (SD) was a Nazi intelligence service. It was initially run by Reinhard Heydrich- he aimed to bring every German under continual supervision.

The number of crimes carrying death penalty went up, including telling on anti-Nazi joke, or listening to foreign radio stations.



Local Wardens.

- The country was divided into 42 'gaus' each with a Nazi Gauleiter, loyal to Hitler.
- Each town was divided into blocks, each with a block leader.
- Local warden's would visit these blocks to collect donations for the Nazi party and to check support for the Nazis.
- Each town divided into 'blocks' with a 'block warden' who was to inform on people.
- He wrote reports on people of 'political reliability'.
- Reported people for things like anti-Hitler jokes, refusing to support the party, hosting illegal party meetings or not flying a Nazi flag on celebration days.

What do I need to know:

- Methods of Control
- What we mean by a Police State.

Key Words:

- Gestapo
- Heydrich
- Police State
- Schutzstaffel (ss)
- Wardens.



For those that didn't fit in with the Nazi ideals (e.g. Jews) life under the SS and Gestapo could be terrifying. But Hitler was supported not feared.



The SS- led by

Himmler

- Originally just a private bodyguard for Hitler. Built up of 240,000 members.
- ALL RECRUITS HAD TO BE BLONDE, BLUE-EYED (Aryan) and fit.
- SS stands for Schutzstaffel which means 'protection squad'.
- Originally only 500 members.
- Destroyed SA in Night of Long Knives, 1934.
- Led by Heinrich Himmler.
- Wore black shirts.
- Almost unlimited power: arrest people without trial, search houses, confiscate property.
- Also ran concentration camps.

The Gestapo



- Secret police
- Tapped phones, intercepted mail, spied on people.
- Network of informers throughout Germany
- The most feared of all Hitler's organisations

Opponents

- The Nazi's used 'fear and horror' against anyone who disapproved of their regime:
- Hitler banned all Trade Unions on 2 May 1933. Their offices were closed, their money confiscated, and their leaders put in prison.
- Communists were put into concentration camps or killed.
- Many Protestant pastors such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer were persecuted and executed.
- Each block of flats had a 'staircase ruler' who reported grumblers to the police - they were arrested and either murdered, or sent to concentration camps.
- Children were encouraged to report their parents to the Gestapo if they criticized Hitler or the Nazi party.

Why were there not more opponents?

- Most people who disagreed with the Nazi were afraid of the SS and Gestapo and that their friends and neighbours would inform on them.
- Thousand of those who did voice opposition were sent to concentration camps.
- Opposition within the party was ended by the Night of the Long Knives.
- Anti-Nazi opposition had to be secret making it hard for them to work together.
- Nazi propaganda made most people feel they were better off.

Who did oppose Hitler and Why?

- Before 1939 there were lots of opponents: communists, Jews etc.
- After 1933 opposition did continue from political groups, young people, religious groups and individuals.
- After the outbreak of WWII, there was opposition from sections of the German elites

Opposition



What do I need to know:

- To know who opposed and why?
- To explain why opposition failed.
- To understand why many did not oppose.

Key Words:

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Edelweiss Pirates
- White Rose Group



Political Opposition:

In March 1933, the Nazi had won only 43% of the vote despite intimidation and violence. There were many political who continued to oppose Hitler's regime after 1933, even though many lost their lives doing so.

Who: The Communists (KPD) and the Social democrats (SPD).

Aims: Democracy restored to Germany with free speech and workers rights.

Methods: Secret meetings, anti-Nazi graffiti, slogans on walls, leaflets, strikes. Set up underground organisations. Although they still refused to co-operate, both groups published anti-Nazi leaflets and organised industrial sabotage and strikes. The Communists Red Orchestra (Rote Kapelle) group also passed on military secrets to the Soviet Union until its members were eventually betrayed to the Gestapo.

How effectively did the Nazis deal with them?

All opposition parties were banned in July 1933. Thousands of leaders and supporters were arrested and put into concentration camps. Others were tortured, beaten up or killed to scare people into supporting the Nazi Party. Those who didn't were forced abroad or went into hiding to wait until democracy returned to Germany.

Opposition from the Youth:

Edelweiss Pirates:

Who: Young working class-people. It was not a united organisation, just local groups.

Aims: To have fun and avoid Hitler Youth events.

Methods: Sang anti-Hitler songs, drank alcohol, had sex, wore badges with the edelweiss flower or skull and crossbones. Some of the groups attacked Nazi officials. During the war, some sheltered communists and army deserters.

How effectively did the Nazis deal with them? In 1944, one group killed Nazi Youth Leader in Cologne, and some Pirates were hanged. The Nazis could not control this opposition.

The White Rose Group:

Who: A small group of students at Munich University, led by Sophie and Hans Scholl.

Aims: To shame the Germans into protesting about the Nazis, and to urge them to overthrow Hitler. Sophie wrote 'Germany's name will be disgraced forever unless the German youth finally rises up.'

Methods: Spread anti-Nazis messages by handing out leaflets and writing graffiti.

How effectively did the Nazis deal with them? Sophie and Hans were arrested, tortured and executed and the group disbanded.

