

# Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39 (Paper 3)



- This topic is tested on Paper 3
- The exam lasts for 1 hour and 20 minutes
- There are 52 marks in total
- The exam is divided into Section A (25 minutes) and Section B (55 minutes)
- You will be given a source interpretation booklet for section B

History GCSE (9-1) Revision Guide  
Ecclesfield School History Department

Name \_\_\_\_\_

History teacher \_\_\_\_\_

# Weimar and Nazi Germany

## What do I need to know for this topic?

Key topic	Details	Red (Need to revise a lot)	Amber (Nearly there)	Green (Nailed it)
1. The Weimar Republic 1918-1919	• The legacy of the first world war (abdication, armistice, revolution)			
	• The strengths and weaknesses of the Constitution			
	• Why was Weimar unpopular? Stab in the back and Treaty of Versailles			
	• Political revolts: Spartacists, Freikorps, Kapp Putsch			
	• 1923: Hyperinflation, occupation of Ruhr			
	• Stresemann success: <b>Economy:</b> Rentenmark, Dawes, Young Plan • <b>Domestic Policy:</b> Locarno Pact, League Nations, Kellogg-Briand Pact			
	• Changes for workers and women: living standards, work, wages, housing, unemployment insurance • Cultural changes in architecture, art and cinema			
2. Hitler's rise to power	• Hitler and the growth of the Nazi party: Setting up, role of SA, 25 point programme			
	• The Munich Putsch: reasons for, events and consequences • Why did the party do so poorly 1924-28? Party reorganisation and Bamberg conference.			
	• Growth in support of the Nazi party 1929-32: Unemployment, Communist threat, Propaganda and work of the SA			
	• How did Hitler become Chancellor: Role of Hindenburg, von Papen and von Schleicher			
3. Nazi control and dictatorship	• Hitler's Consolidation of power: The Reichstag Fire, the Enabling Act and banning other political parties and trade unions			
	• Hitler becomes Fuhrer: Threat of Rohm, SA, Night of Long Knives and Hindenburg's death, army and oath of allegiance			
	• A police state: SS, SD, concentration camps, legal system			
	• Propaganda and censorship			
	• Church opposition: Reich Church and Concordat, Pastor Niemoller			
	• Youth opposition: Swing youth, Edelweiss Pirates			

# Weimar and Nazi Germany

## What do I need to know for this topic?

Key topic	Details	Red (Need to revise a lot)	Amber (Nearly there)	Green (Nailed it)
4. Life in Nazi Germany 1933-39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women and family: marriage, family, employment and appearance</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nazi Youth organisations: Hitler Youth, League of German Maidens, control of schools</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policies to reduce unemployment: labour service, autobahns, rearmament,</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The standard of living of German workers: The Labour Front, Strength Through Joy, Beauty of Labour</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Racial beliefs and policies and treatment of minorities: Slavs, gypsies, homosexuals and those with disabilities</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Persecution of Jews: Boycott of shops and businesses, Nuremburg laws and Kristallnacht</li> </ul>			

### 1. Organise.....

Begin with the red topics.....

Read your notes from class, use this guide and make a flash card or flow chart to summarise the key points.....

### 2. Quiz....

Get someone to quiz you or quiz yourself.....

Keep coming back to it to make it stick.....

**3. APPLY...** your learning to a past question. Can you do it without your flash card?

**4. Assess..** how you have done and revisit..

# The legacy of the First World War

## The Kaiser Abdicates

The First World War end on **11<sup>th</sup> November 1918** and left Germany scarred and crumbling. People were starving. Riots were breaking out. The navy had mutinied.

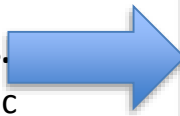
The Kaiser was forced to **abdicate in Oct 1918**. **Fredrich Ebert**, leader of the Social Democratic Party became the **first president and declared Germany a republic**.

- 9<sup>th</sup> November 1918
- Kaiser visits army headquarters
- Ministers try to persuade the Kaiser to abdicate
- Kaiser refuses to abdicate
- Army refuse to support Kaiser
- Kaiser abdicated and flees to Holland



## Impact of the War

**2 million** Germany troops died  
Government debt increased from **50 billion marks to 150 billion marks**  
Revolts were breaking out on the streets.  
**Soldiers and workers councils** were set up in local areas to undermine the Kaiser.  
Germany was on the **verge of a revolution**



**The Armistice..**  
**was signed on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 1918..this ended the war. The Treaty of Versailles would agree the terms of the peace**

## Revolution and the declaration of the republic

Once the Kaiser had abdicated, the German Republic was declared on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1918 by Phillipp Scheidemann a member of the SDP.

Berlin streets were crowded. Some people were armed and hoping to take over the city.

Fredrich Ebert suspended the old Reichstag and formed the Council of people's Representatives as a temporary measure

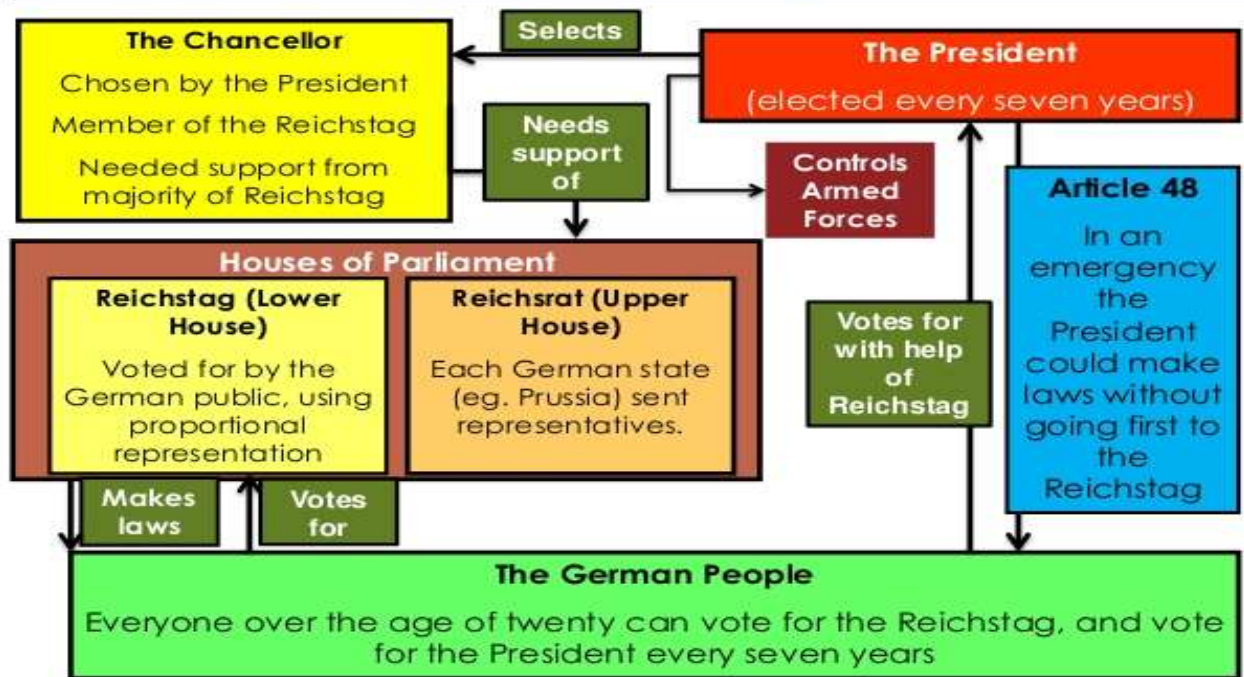


??Why did the First World war lead to economic and political problems for Germany?

# Strengths and weaknesses of the Weimar Constitution

The new democratic government was established by drawing up a new constitution. This was done on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1919 in the town of Weimar. Berlin was too unsettled.

## How did the Weimar Republic work?



Strengths	Weaknesses
Proportional representation made sure that small parties has a fair share of the seats.	Proportional representation made it difficult for one party to win a majority. Coalition governments were unstable and often fell apart
Women able to vote as well as men	Article 40 allowed the president in times of emergency make laws without the consent of the Reichstag
Voting age reduced to 21	German people were not used to democracy and so there was uncertainty about if they would engage with it.
No one person or group could have too much power	
There was an election of the president every 7 years	
Local government retained power in regions	
A poor chancellor or president would only	

??? Describe the key strengths and weaknesses of the Weimar constitution?



# Why was the Republic unpopular? Treaty of Versailles and the Stab in the Back theory

When the peace talks started, Germany wasn't even allowed in! The Allies made sure that Germany was well and truly punished.

Ebert had no choice but to sign it. There was no way Germany could return to war and win. The treaty was so humiliating for Germany that it was called the "shameful diktat" by the press (it was if it had been dictated upon Germany).



**Land Army Money Blame**

Term	How it affected Germany
Germany lost 13% of its <b>LAND</b> . Alsace Lorraine, rich in iron ore, was given back to France. Germany also lost the coal rich Saarland to the League of Nations, who were to run it for 15 years. Also, France were allowed to take coal from the Saarland. Although Germany didn't lose the Rhineland, it was demilitarised (Germany wasn't allowed to put any troops or military equipment in the Rhineland).	Germany's economy depended on the money it earned from exporting coal and other natural resources. With less agricultural land, it would have to increase food imports. This would place a strain on the economy and make it tougher to pay reparations.
Germany's <b>ARMY</b> was reduced to a maximum of 100,000 soldiers. It wasn't allowed to have an air force, nor any tanks or submarines. The aim was to limit Germany's ability to wage war again.	This was particularly shameful for Germany, which had always been especially proud of its military. It strengthened the feeling that many Germans had had before the war—that Germany was encircled by its enemies. Now, it was unable to defend itself.
Germany was forced to accept the <b>War GUILT Clause</b> . This stated that Germany was to blame for starting the war. Germany was made an outcast in Europe, and denied entry to the League of Nations.	This term held up the rest of Treaty—by making Germany admit guilt, the other punishments could be enforced. The War Guilt Clause was the most humiliating of the terms. Germany felt that countries should share the blame for starting the war.
Germany lost its <b>EMPIRE</b> . All of its colonies were handed over to	This resulted in a further loss of international status for Germany. the Allies. It would also deprive Germany of markets and raw materials.
Germany had to pay the Allies £6.6 billion in <b>REPARATIONS</b> (compensation). This money would help the Allies repair any damage caused by the war, and stop G from going to war again.	At the time, this was a huge amount of money. It would take Germany until the 1980s to pay it off. In 1923, reparations indirectly caused 2 crises for the Weimar Republic—the occupation of the Ruhr and hyperinflation

## 'Stab in the back' theory

*People who hated the TOV believed that the German army could have won the war and the politicians pulled out too early. The German politicians are sometimes known as the November Criminals because they announced the armistice*

?? Write an acrostic poem to sum up why the treaty was so unpopular. Use the Versailles as your base word

# Challenges from the left and right

Between 1918 and 1923, the Weimar Republic faced constant threats from both left and right—from groups who didn't support Germany's new government. It seemed that the Republic could not win.

## The Spartacists

- Left-wing
- Had soviet backing
- Led by Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht
- Based in Berlin
- Quite dis-organised and lacked large scale support

Revolt



Rosa Luxemburg addressing the Spartacists

## The Spartacist Revolt

- ◆ In January 1919 the Spartacists took over the government newspaper and telegraph bureau in Berlin
- ◆ The government used the Freikorps to put down the revolt
- ◆ The Spartacists leaders Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht were murdered.

## The Freikorps

- Right-wing
- Made up of ex soldiers that had kept their weapons
- Had 250.000 men in March 1919
- Used violence and were hated by the people
- Organised by the regular army

Crushed the Spartacists

Supported

## The Kapp Putsch

- ◆ The Freikorps went against Ebert in 1920 when they supported **Wolfgang Kapp** in his attempt to take over the country. This event is called the **Kapp Putsch**
- ◆ It was only the workers in Berlin going on strike and refusing the help the Freikorps that stopped the putsch after 4 days
- ◆ The riots showed how vulnerable the new government was.

The Kapp Putsch March 1920



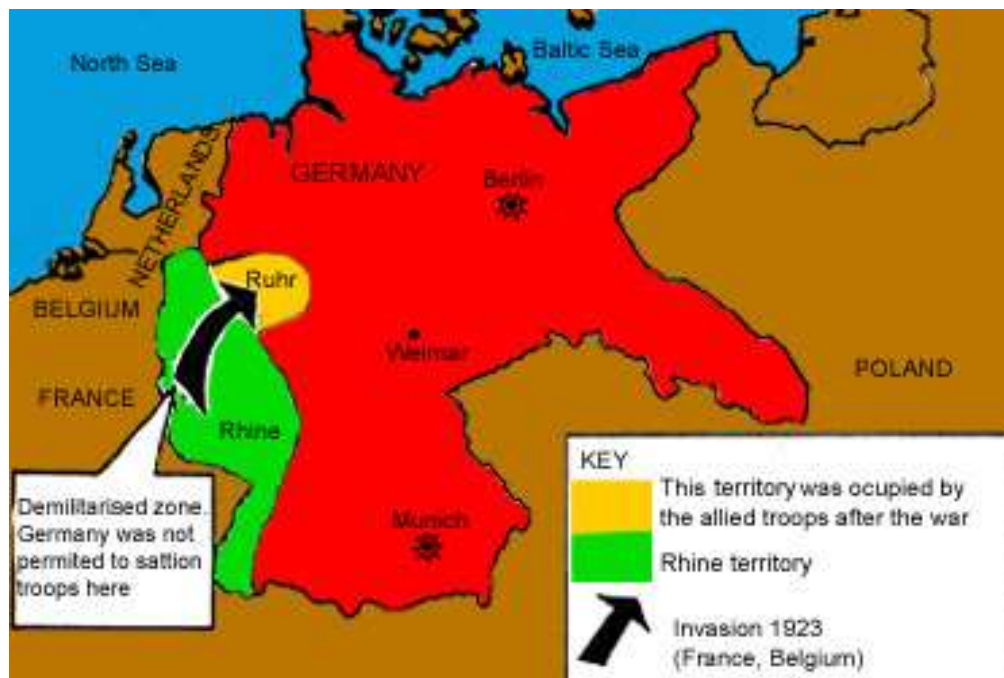
## Political Assassinations

In the early years of the republic 376 political assassinations took place. Conservative judges were sympathetic to the conservative cause and gave light punishments.

???Describe the role of the Freikorps in the Kapp and Spartacist Revolt? Which revolt was more serious?

# The challenges of 1923

## CRISIS 1: The Occupation of the Ruhr



## The occupation of the Ruhr

- In 1923, Germany fell behind in its reparations payments.
- Under the Treaty of Versailles, the French were allowed to invade Germany and seize raw materials as payment—if the Germans didn't pay up (like bailiffs!)
- In Jan 1923, this is what the French did. They marched into the Ruhr, Germany's most important industrial region (see yellow area on map), and occupied it. They wanted to take Germany's coal.
- The Germans in the Ruhr responded with **passive resistance**. This meant refusing to work—the miners were on strike. The idea was that if no coal was being mined, the French couldn't take it.

### What problems were caused by the occupation of the Ruhr?

1. There was violence between French troops and German strikers. Over 140 Germans were killed in clashes with French troops. This stirred up old hatred and reminded people of the war. The right-wing (eg. Nazis) pointed to the French occupation as another weakness of the Weimar Republic.
2. The economy was further disrupted. The government had to pay the strikers to keep them on strike. But with no coal being mined and exported, the government didn't have the money. So it printed money. This caused the value of the German mark to rapidly fall, and prices of ordinary goods to rapidly rise. This is called hyperinflation.

??? Explain how workers were affected by hyperinflation?

?? How can the occupation of the Ruhr and Hyperinflation be linked back to the Treaty of Versailles?



# The challenges of 1923

## CRISIS 2: Hyperinflation

A kite made from worthless German marks



**Hyperinflation:** When the price of goods increases spectacularly it is called hyperinflation.

### How did it affect different people in different ways?

- Workers were OK at first. Unemployment benefit rose, and those employed received higher and higher wages;
- Rich businessmen, at first, could take over smaller companies which were going bankrupt;
- Those who had debts could pay the money back at a fraction of the real cost;
- The rich had land, possessions and foreign currency. Possessions could be bartered (swapped) for food and other essentials;
- In the end, normal business and trade became impossible – businesses went bankrupt, causing much unemployment;
- Old people living on fixed pensions/savings soon found these were worthless;
- The middle classes saw their savings and small businesses destroyed—they were the biggest losers during hyperinflation.

Occupation of Ruhr

German workers on strike

Government print money to pay workers on strike

Germany economy declines

German mark becomes worthless

## Reasons for recovery 1923-29: Stresemann

In Aug 1923, Stresemann became Chancellor. He is still highly regarded by historians, who claim that his policies (actions) led the Weimar Republic out of crisis to recovery. Between 1924-29 Germany became both economically, politically and internationally more stable. This period is usually called 'The Golden Twenties'. But, underneath the surface, Germany was still struggling. Stresemann may have covered up the symptoms, but he didn't cure the disease.

### Stresemann and Economic Recovery

<u>Rentenmark</u>	<u>Dawes Plan 1924</u>	<u>Young Plan 1929</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In November 1923 Stresemann set up a new currency called Rentenmark.</li> <li>Supply of these notes was tightly linked to price of gold.</li> <li>Confidence grew and Hyperinflation was over.</li> <li>Germany's lasting currency was called the Reichsmark.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charles Dawes an American banker designed a plan so Germany could pay back its reparations.</li> <li>Installments were reduced temporarily to £50 million a year</li> <li>US banks agreed to loan Germany industry</li> </ul>	<p>The Young Plan reduced the total reparations debt from £6.6 billion to £2 billion.</p> <p>The payments could be made over a longer period up until 1988</p>

### Impact of Stresemann's Economic Policy

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+Industrial output doubled by 1928</li> <li>+Employment and trade increased</li> <li>-Extreme political parties were against paying reparations at all</li> <li>-The economic recovery was dependent on American loans</li> </ul>
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### Stresemann and Foreign Policy

Policy	Impact
Locarno Pact 1925 ( Germany agreed to its new border with France. Allies and Germany agreed to demilitarisation of the Rhineland)	Improved relations with France Increased popularity of Weimar Republic
League of Nations 1926 ( set up to discuss world problems and avoid war)	Germany's views counted Boosted confidence in Weimar
Kellogg-Briand Pact 1928 (62 countries agreed not to use war to achieve foreign policy objectives)	Germany was a major power Showed moderate parties could build the countries strength internationally

??? Explain how the Germany economy was still vulnerable, despite improvements.

Explain how Stresemann's foreign policy helped stabilise Germany?

# Changes for workers and women

## Standard of living

### Wages and work

Working hours reduced  
Wages rose  
Working conditions improved  
Hyperinflation made employment insecure

### Women at work

- Most women gave up work after they were married ( 36% worked in 1925)
- Opportunities in teaching and medicine opened up
- Women were encouraged to go to university

### Women in politics

- Women had equal rights to men and could enter work on an equal basis.
- Women could vote at the age of 20 and stand in elections.

Bauhaus Architecture School challenge traditional designs of buildings and interiors



### Housing

15% rent tax was introduced to fund building associations  
101 000 homes were built  
There was still a housing shortage

### Women and leisure

- Greater earning power encouraged women to socialise and have a good time.
- The behaviour of 'new women' was not liked by some men and women who felt the traditional values were being eroded.

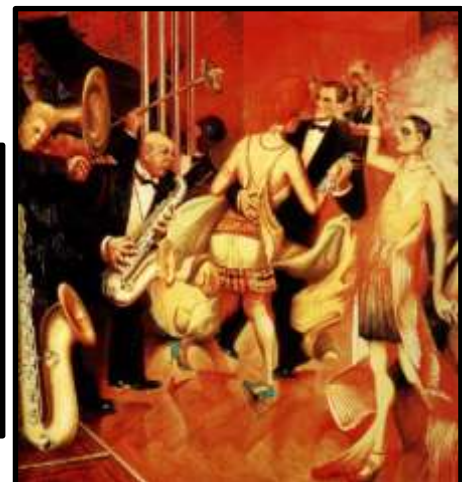
### Unemployment insurance

3% of workers earnings were deducted to be put towards insurance that would give them a basic amount of benefits if they became unemployed or sick

## Cultural changes

There were changes in Art, Film and Architecture. All became more modern under the Expressionism movement

Paintings showed the seedier side of life. Some Conservatives hated the lack of morality



# Hitler and the early growth of the Nazi Party

## Timeline

- Hitler was born in Austria in 1889
- He moved to Munich in 1913
- He fought in the First World War and was shocked by the country's defeat and outcome of the Treaty of Versailles.
- He joined the DAP (which then became Nationalist, Socialist, Workers Party) in 1919.
- He took control of the party from Anton Drexler
- He renamed the party and called it the Nazi Party



## The Sturmabteilung (SA)

- The stormtroopers or SA were a paramilitary force made up of ex soldiers.
- They were under the leadership of Ernst Rohm. They were nicknamed the brownshirts.
- They were crucial in distributing propaganda, disrupting opposition meetings and beating up communists



The Programme opposed the Treaty of Versailles, democracy and Jews who they felt undermined the economy

## 25-Point Programme points included.....

- Increase in pensions for the elderly
- Nationalise industries
- Abolish the Treaty of Versailles
- Everyone should have a job
- Build up the German armed forces.
- Only German races may be members of the nation. No Jew may be a citizen
- All citizens should have equal rights and duties
- Every hard working German to have the chance to higher education.
- State must protect mothers and infants, stop children working,; make laws for compulsory sports.

?? Who would the Nazi Party policies appeal to and why? Choose three groups and explain



# Munich Putsch and its aftermath

Hitler attempted to overthrow the Weimar government in November 1923. This was known as the Munich Putsch. After this event and up until 1928 the Nazi party struggled to win support because the economy was stable, foreign policy was going well all after Stresemann's work. People weren't look for an extreme party to take over.

## Reasons for the the Munich Putsch

Long term	Medium term	Short term
Stab in the back Reparations Loss of Germany's colonies Resentment of the Weimar government, particularly by Bavaria	Hitler was influence and encouraged by Mussolini who march on Rome and they had to accept him as leader	Hyperinflation Occupation of the Ruhr Hitler thought he had support of key people like Ludendorff (Army Commander in Chief during WW1)

## Events of the Putsch



Hitler and 600 Nazis seized a beer hall in Munich where von Kahr, Lossow and Seisser were holding a political meeting. Hitler held the 3 leaders at gunpoint, forcing them to promise they would support his planned takeover.



The three leaders were then allowed to leave! Behind Hitler's back, they organised troops and police to resist Hitler's planned armed march through Munich.



Hitler made his march through Munich. The Nazis were no match for the police force. They only had 2000 rifles. 16 Nazis were killed, and Hitler was arrested. The Putsch had failed to take over the government.

## Consequences of the Putsch

- X The Putsch had failed because of lack of support and poor planning
- X 14 Nazi members were killed.
- ✓ Hitler used the trial to publicise his views
- ✓ He wrote Mein Kampf in prison which outlined his political ideas.
- ✓ It forced Hitler to re think his tactics to get into power. He decided to stop using violence and force and instead aim to get elected

## **Bamberg Conference 1926**

The conference sorted out splits in the party. Hitler's power as leader was secured and his vision for the future taken forward

???? Make two mind maps to sum up the reasons and consequences of the Munich Putsch?



# How did Hitler become Chancellor in 1933?



## The Depression

The depression, spread after the Wall Street Crash in 1928, caused serious financial problems within Germany.

- Mass unemployment of workers – **6 million in 1932**
- The middle classes and businessmen lost their savings and businesses
- Farmers became bankrupt



**The government completely failed to solve the crisis.**

They could not agree on how to fix the depression – so nothing happened

Chancellor Bruning even raised taxes – this made people even angrier!



The Nazis used the depression to get more votes as they promised to fix the economy.

They opened soup kitchens for the poor

Hitler promised 'bread and work' to all workers in Germany – workers were attracted.

All this led to more votes for the Nazis

Year	Unemployed	Nazi Seats in the Reichstag
1930	3 million	107
Nov 1932	6 million	230
July 1932	5 million	196
1933	4.8 million	288

## The Fear of Communism

The depression led to a rise of communist support from the working class.

The Nazis needed these voters.

The Nazis hated communism and vowed to destroy it

They used the SA to fight the communists in the streets and disrupt meetings.

German businessmen and upper classes were frightened of a Communist revolution. So they began to support the Nazis giving them votes and money.

## The Weaknesses of the Weimar Republic

- Many people hated the Weimar Republic, they blamed it for the loss of WW1, the Treaty of Versailles and they wanted a strong ruler again.
- The political system meant that no parties ever got a majority, so government was made up of a coalition (parties working together).
- Between 1919-1933, there were 20 different coalition governments who constantly fell out – they didn't fix the depression.
- This made the German people hate the government even more and vote for the Nazis and Hitler who promised a strong government.



# How did Hitler become Chancellor in 1933?

## The Organisation of the Nazis

### Organisation

The Nazis were very organised, they set up Nazi offices all over Germany to recruit more voters and got financial support from wealthy businessmen

### The SA

The SA were the Nazis private army and thugs. They were used to beat up and disrupt other parties like the communists.

### Role of Hitler

**Hitler was shown as the strong, decisive leader that Germany needed.** He was a veteran, worker and appealed to all Germans. Germany propaganda called Hitler '*our last hope*'

Hitler was an excellent orator (speaker) who drew large crowds, he would fly around 6 cities a day, delivering simple but powerful speeches.

### Propaganda

Josef Goebbels used modern technology such as radios, films, and loudspeakers alongside posters and leaflets

They had simple messages '*One People, One Nation, One Leader*'

Propaganda targeted specific groups; workers, mothers and businessmen

### Promises

The Nazis **promised something to everyone** to keep them popular. In Hitler's speeches he promised:

- To destroy communism
- To solve unemployment and economic crisis
- To make Germany great and powerful again
- Restore traditional values

He also attacked the Weimar government and blamed Jews for the problems.

## Hitler becomes chancellor in 1933

May  
1932

- Hindenburg replaces Brüning with new chancellor Franz von Papen

July  
1932

- The Nazis get the most votes (38%) but Hindenburg refuses to make Hitler Chancellor as he dislikes him.

Nov  
1932

- Von Papen loses support and quits. He is replaced by Von Schleicher

Dec  
1932

- Schleicher resigns in December 1932,
- Von Papen persuades Hindenburg that they could control Hitler as Chancellor.

Jan  
1933

- 30<sup>th</sup> January 1933, Hitler is appointed Chancellor
- The Nazis have got into power legally and democratically

???What were the most important reasons for the Nazi party rise to power

# How did Hitler become Fuhrer in 1934?

## The Reichstag Fire

On February 27<sup>th</sup> 1933, the Reichstag was burnt down with a communist Van Der Lubbe arrested at the scene.

Hitler had warned of a communist plot to overthrow the government, this was his 'proof' that the communists want to destroy Germany.

*This led to*

Hitler persuaded Hindenburg to sign 'The Reichstag Decree; or Emergency Powers)

This suspends all civil rights

It allows the Nazi controlled police to arrest anyone suspected of opposing the government, ban meetings, close newspapers and hold people without trial.

**German is effectively a police state**

## The Enabling Act

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1933, the Reichstag passes Enabling Act which **gives Hitler power** to pass any law without approval of the Reichstag

### Results

There is **no way to stop Hitler**, Germany is effectively dictatorship under Hitler as he has all power in Germany.

### **May 1933, Trade Unions banned**

This puts workers under the Nazis control

### **July 1933, Political parties banned**

Parties banned and their leaders imprisoned  
The Nazis are only party allowed.  
Democracy effectively destroyed.

## *Results*

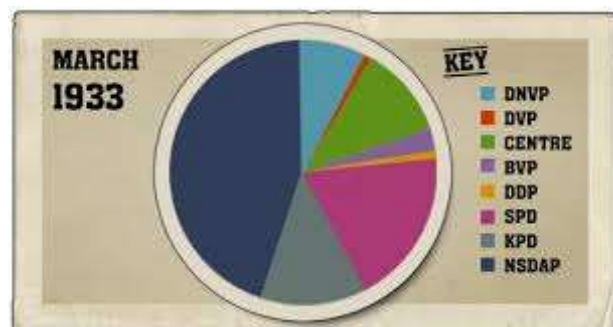
**The Nazis arrest over 4000 communists** and ban the communist party.

They shut down opposition meetings and newspapers.

Thousands of opponents sent to concentration camps

**The Nazis political threats are gone**

## The March 1933 Election



The Nazis got their best ever result (44%)

However, it still failed to give the Nazis an overall majority.

Historians believe it persuaded Hitler to pass the Enabling Act.

Next

???Summarise in a diagram the Reichstag Fire and what followed.

# How did Hitler become Dictator in 1934?



Hitler sets up the 'People's Courts' to give him control over the justice system and laws. He makes judges swear an oath to Hitler.



## The Night of the Long Knives

Hitler fears threats in his own party, the SA (4 million men) and their leader Ernst Rohm.

He believes they want to overthrow him and they were not needed now Hitler was in power.



After encouragement from the Army and SS (who despise the SA), Hitler orders the arrest SA 'traitors'

On the night of 30<sup>th</sup> June 1934, the SS arrest hundreds of SA leaders, some are imprisoned and others are executed, over 400 in total including Ernst Rohm.

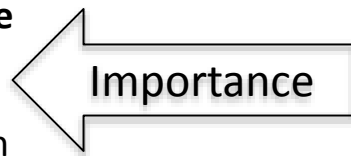
Hitler also uses the opportunity to take out old political opponents, such as ex-chancellor Von Schleicher

## All threats to Hitler inside Nazi party are gone

Army more loyal to Hitler

The SS becomes a more powerful organisation

The SA are merged with the German army.



## The Death of Hindenburg

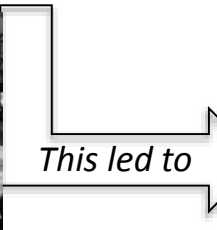
On 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1934, President Hindenburg dies

Within hours, Hitler combines the role of President with Chancellor to create a new title '*Fuhrer of the Third Reich*'

## The Army Oath

Hitler, as leader of the army, now ordered the army swear a unconditional oath of loyalty and obedience to him. **Army now under total control.**

??? Write a paragraph to explain the steps Hitler took to secure his power in 1934



Hitler is now the dictator of Germany



# Nazi Control of Germany

• The Nazis used a number of ways to control the German population – using the following methods:

- **Fear and Terror**
- **Propaganda and Censorship**
- **Education and Youth Groups**
- **Work – DAF and KDF**
- **Women - Work**
- **Religion – The Church**

?? Summarise three ways in which the SS was used to control German people

## Fear and Terror

• The Nazis used a mixture of threat, fear and intimidation to keep control of their regime – it was their most powerful tool to control the German people



?? Why was it so difficult to oppose Nazis after 1934?

**The Gestapo**  
The Gestapo, set up in 1933 were the Nazi secret police. They looked for enemies of the Nazi Regime and would use any methods necessary; torture, phone tapping, informers, searching mail and raids on houses. They could imprison you without trial, over 160,000 were arrested for 'political crimes'. **The SD** were also a security service who spied on opponents at home and abroad.

## **The SS**

The SS were personal bodyguards of Adolf Hitler but became an intelligence, security and police force of 50,000 Ayrans. They had unlimited power to do what they want to rid of threats to Germany. Himmler was their leader. They also ran the concentration camps and controlled the police and Gestapo.



## **Concentration Camps**

First camp set up at Dachau in 1933 and run by the SS, it had over 100,000 inmates. At first camps were used for political enemies and opponents but they eventually became execution camps. Beatings and murder were common place.



## **The Legal System**

The Nazis also controlled the legal system – the Enabling Act meant that the Nazis could pass any law they wanted. Whilst the 'People's Court' used Nazi judges who swore on oath of loyalty to Hitler. . Over 44 crimes became punishable by death



## **Local Control**


The Nazis used Block Wardens in towns who were the eyes and ears of the party. The Gestapo also used informers who would report anyone who told anti-Hitler jokes or attended illegal meetings.





# Propaganda

Josef Goebbels, Minister of Propaganda, used propaganda to brainwash Germany  
Propaganda focused on; the greatness of Germany, the Fuhrer cult, the Aryan Race and attacking Germany's enemy's (communism and Jews). **The Reich Chamber of Culture** ensured that Nazi ideals were consistent in the country.



### Culture

The Nazis controlled all music, books and plays.

Theatre and art focussed on German greatness

### Film

The Nazis produced over 1000 films  
The *Eternal Jew* and *Triumph of the Will* were two Nazi 'masterpieces'.  
They showed German triumphs, attacked Jews and enemies.

In 1930, 250 million went to the cinema.


### Newspapers

Goebbels controlled all newspapers.

Anti-Nazi papers were shutdown, negative news was censored.



### Rallies/Speeches



The Nuremberg rallies were huge spectacles to show Nazi power. Millions attended.



### HOW DID THE NAZIS USE PROPAGANDA?


### Events



The 1936 Olympics were used as an opportunity to showcase Aryan superiority.

### Radio

The Reich Radio company controlled all stations and cheap Nazi radios were made so that over 70% of homes had one. Hitler's speeches and history were common radio shows. Loudspeakers were put up in streets so all could listen



### Censorship




The Nazis censored everything – all anti-Nazi ideas were banned.

1,600 newspapers were shut down

During WW2, only positive news stories were shown



In 1933, 20,000 Jewish books were burnt.

### The Fuhrer Cult



The Nazis developed the 'Fuhrer cult', which showed Hitler as both superman and man of the people.

Hitler was presented as a brave WW1 veteran, a generous worker and fond of children.



Writers, film makers and artists could only produce pro Nazi arts

Jazz music was banned

Telling an Anti-Nazi joke was a crime, leading to a fine or imprisonment.

The aim was for Germans to idolise and follow their leader – like a god.

Pictures of Hitler were everywhere - 'Heil Hitler' even became the national greeting.



??Write about one method of propaganda and how it targeted workers and women

# The Nazis and the Church

Hitler believed that religion was a threat to the Nazis' control over people's minds as they would worship god over him but he knew that attacking the Church could cause serious opposition from a very religious German people.

## The Concordat, July 1933

Hitler and the Pope signed an agreement to not interfere with each other.

## German Faith Movement

In 1934 the Nazis set up their own religion, the German Faith Movement



## The Reich Church, 1936.

Unites all churches under one Nazi church with Nazi priests. Bible replaced by Mein Kampf, Swastika replaced the cross which is banned.



## Schools attacked

- RE is banned in 1938
- Church Schools and Youth Groups closed in 1939

## Catholic persecution

In 1937, the Pope criticises the Nazis so 400 priests were sent to the camps

??? Explain why Hitler couldn't get complete control of the churches

## Results

The Nazis did not manage to fully control the Church. The majority chose to keep quiet and still practiced their religion.

There was still open opposition by Martin Niemoller and Bishop Galen (see below) Thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses were sent to concentration camps, hundreds of Protestants and Catholics were also persecuted too.

## Opposition to the Nazis



Those who spoke out against Hitler faced imprisonment and execution but during the 1930s and 40s some groups did oppose the Nazis.

### The July 1944 Bomb Plot

Army generals led a plot called Operation Valkyrie to kill Hitler and take control of Berlin

On 20 July 1944, Colonel Claus von Stauffenburg used a bomb to blow up Hitler but he survived and the plotters were too slow and unorganised so they were caught and executed

### The White Rose Movement

The White Rose Movement was led by Hans and Sophie Scholl. Between 1942-43 they gave out six anti-war/anti-Nazi leaflets and graffitied around Munich. They were arrested by the Gestapo, tortured and hanged.



### Swing Groups and Edelweiss Pirates

During WW2 'swing' groups were young people who rejected the Nazis, drank alcohol and danced to jazz.

More violent groups were called the Edelweiss Pirates. They put up anti-Nazi graffiti, hid deserters and beat up Nazi officials.



### Church Opposition

**Martin Niemoller** opposed the Nazis and set up his own anti-Nazi church, the Confessional Church. He was arrested in 1937 and sent to concentration camp until 1945

**Catholic Bishop Galen** opposed the Nazis killing of mentally-disabled people and he successful led to its ending in 1938.

# Nazi Youth



## Nazi Education

The school system became the main tool to indoctrinate Germany children

There were separate schools for girls and boys:

- Military skills for boys
- Domestic skills (housework) for girls.

The number of PE lessons doubled, RE was stopped. Race and Nazi beliefs were introduced.

School lessons included hidden brainwashing to promote Nazi ideas e.g. The Aryan race

History books emphasized Germany's military success and blamed Jews for the the loss of WW1

Girls were taught about motherhood, genetics and how to be an ideal Nazi housewife.



All teachers had to join The Nazi Teachers' Alliance and had to **teach the Nazi curriculum or risk being informed on by a student.**

The Nazis also set up specialist 'Leadership Schools', such as Adolf Hitler Schools to train future Nazi leaders.

### **Anti-Jewish Education**

Encouraged a hatred of Jews, they were shown as ugly, bad and selfish people

Jews were banned from schools in 1938

## Nazi Youth Groups

The Nazis saw the youth as the future of Germany, in 1932 they banned all other youth groups and began to use Nazi groups to brainwash German youth



<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
<b>10–14 - German Young People (Cubs)</b> <b>14-18 – The Hitler Youth</b>	<b>10-14 – Young Girls League</b> <b>14-18 – League of German Girls (BDM)</b>
<b><u>Aims:</u></b>	<b><u>Aims:</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical training for the military</li> <li>• Brainwashing in Nazi ideology</li> </ul>	<p>Preparing lives as wives and mothers</p>
<b><u>Activities:</u></b>	<b><u>Activities:</u></b>
<p>Military style training; marching, camping, hiking, map reading and rifle shooting. They had uniforms and ranks like the army</p> <p>They also had to learn Nazi ideology and race theory</p>	<p>Activities like sports, intended to enhance fitness, strength and beauty. Girls had to be able to run 60 metres in 14 seconds</p> <p>There were also classes on grooming, needlework and German traditions</p>
<p><b>1932</b> – Membership: 108,000</p> <p><b>1936</b> – <u>Hitler Youth Act</u> passed, membership practically compulsory</p> <p><b>1939</b> – Membership: 8 million</p>	<p>There was significant emphasis on the importance of German mothers – to create and nurture Aryan children</p>

Millions joined the Nazi Youth Groups and many went on to join the army and have Aryan children - it was popular and many of the young became fanatical Nazis . However, secret groups like the **Edelweiss Pirates** and **White Rose Movement** were anti-Nazi. They were small in number and mostly opposition was related to telling anti Nazi jokes, listening to banned music, wearing make up etc..They were never a serious threat.



# Nazi Women

## Life before the Nazis

•The Weimar Republic had a very **progressive** attitude towards women's rights. Women could vote from 20, they could attend university and many had professional careers like teachers, doctors, lawyers, judges.



## Aims of the Nazis towards Women

1. They would not work but stay at home and look after the family
2. They were to breed more pure Aryan children

The life of women should revolve around the 3 K's' – **Kinder, Kirche, Kueche** (Children, Church, Cooking)

??? Three differences between women's roles in Nazi Germany to those in Weimar Republic



Josef Goebbels said: "The mission of women is to be beautiful and to bring children into the world."

### Changes to Women: Work

Women were bribed by 'marriage credits' and child bonuses to not work

**1933** – Women were banned from professional posts, e.g doctors, solicitors, civil servants and overall 15% of women were sacked.

### Changes to Women: Life

- Women were encouraged to stay at home and raise loyal Nazis
- Women were supposed to wear traditional women's fashion
- They should not smoke and they should focus on keeping fit.
- Classes and radio talks trained women on housework and bringing up children.



### Increasing births



Hitler wanted more babies to expand the Aryan **Master Race**



The **Mothers Cross** for the more children women had.

- 4 children = a bronze medal.
- 6 children = a silver medal.
- 8 or more children = gold medal.



**Married couples were given** a loan of 1,000 marks. They could keep 250 marks for each child they had



The '**Lebensborn**' programme

Aryan women were encouraged 'donate' a child to the Fuhrer by getting pregnant with Aryan SS soldiers



**Abortion** and contraception was banned.

Non-Aryan women were even sterilised so they could not have children!

## Results of Nazi policies towards women

In 1936 there were over 30% more births than there had been in 1933.

Marriages increased 21% between 1933-39

Women liked being important in Germany, support for the Nazis was high.

**The number of women working in Germany**

**1933** – 11.48 million  
**1939** – 12.7 million

# Controlling workers



## The German Labour Front (DAF)

When Hitler took power, he banned all **trade unions** on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1933 and replaced it with the **German Labour Front (DAF)**.

All workers had to join, it basically took workers rights and freedoms away

### Changes introduced by the DAF

- Strikes were made illegal
- Working hours were increased, 60+ hours a week
- Workers could not leave a job without permission
- Workers couldn't ask for higher wages

## Strength Through Joy (KDF)

Strength through Joy (KdF) was set up by the Nazis to provide leisure activities for workers that everyone could afford



It aimed to keep workers happy so they did not complain. **Beauty of Labour** improved working conditions e.g. canteens, Swimming pools ..

Workers could go on luxury holidays for cheap

A ski trip cost one weeks wages!

Over 7 million people took part in KDF sports events

A savings scheme to help workers buy a Volkswagen (Peoples Car)

Free evening classes were offered to adults to learn new skills

## Did Germans benefit from Nazi rule?

Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pride in Germany had risen, more people began to support Nazis and they believed Hitler had given his promises</li> <li>• Businesses did well from rearmament, closure of Jewish businesses and Four Year Plan</li> <li>• Women gained from having more children and not working</li> <li>• Nazi party members got the best of everything</li> <li>• Farmers profits increased +40%</li> <li>• Germans got their promised 'Work and Bread' – unemployment dropped</li> <li>• The KDF gave workers holidays and leisure activities they could afford</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DAF completely took away German workers rights</li> <li>• Women and Jews were sacked from their jobs</li> <li>• Workers were forced to work in poor jobs in the RAD</li> <li>• Hours of work rose from 40 to 60+</li> <li>• Germans lost freedom of speech and culture as Nazis censored everything</li> <li>• Nazis ruled by terror and fear</li> <li>• Jews and minorities were persecuted and lost rights, money and eventually killed in death camps</li> <li>• Wages did not actually rise</li> <li>• Anyone who opposed the Nazis risked imprisonment and death</li> </ul>

???

Decide whether the standard of living had improved by 1939 and write a paragraph to explain your decision



# The Nazi Economy 1933-1939

## Economic conditions in 1933

There were two major economic problems

1. Mass unemployment (6 million in 1932)
2. The depression had ruined trade, business and production.



**Hitler had two main aims:**

1. Fix unemployment and the economy
2. Begin to prepare Germany for war

## The New Plan

In 1933 Hjalmar Schacht introduced his 'New Plan' to solve unemployment

### Results

#### **Unemployment in Germany**

**January 1933**

6 million

**January 1939**

0.5 million

The Nazis claimed they had fixed unemployment

But they sacked workers and lied about the statistics

### Ways the Nazis reduced unemployment

#### **Sacking Workers**

Women and Jews were sacked from their jobs and they were given to men

#### **National Labour Service (RAD)**

**All young men between 18-25 years had to join the RAD for six months.** They were given jobs building schools, hospitals and motorways. They had to wear uniform, lived in camps but got no wages

#### **Conscription and Rearmament**

**In 1935 conscription was introduced for 18-25 year olds.** The army grew from to 1.4 million by 1939.

**Rearmament created new jobs** in weapons factories

## The Four Year plan

In 1936 Hitler put Herman Goering in charge of the economy as he wanted to prepare for war quicker. Goering started the Four Year Plan



**Goering's aims were...**

1. To speed up rearmament
2. To make Germany self sufficient in essential war materials (Iron, Oil, Coal, Rubber)

### How did it work?

Rubber, oil, petrol were produced from within Germany and iron/coal was mined and stored.

Imports on goods were reduced, so Germans would buy products made in Germany.

Businesses were controlled by the Nazis, workers were told where they worked and all wages were set by the Nazis

Spending on the army increased by 160%.

### Results of the Four Year Plan

- The production of coal and chemicals doubled, iron and steel production trebled and iron mining increased 500% but they still needed to import 1/3 of its materials
- Germany focussed on guns over butter, food production actually dropped!
- German military spending had increased massively

**??Who didn't benefit from the Nazi economy?  
(invisible unemployed)**

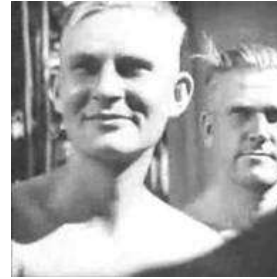
# Nazi Race Theory

According to Hitler, the **Aryans** were the strongest and most superior people in the world. They were the '**Master Race**'

They were blond hair, blue eyed, tall and strong

The inferior races, like Jews, needed to be removed from Germany as they had weakened the country.

More Aryans needed to be born so that Germany could become a world power again



## Nazi persecution of minorities

Ideal Germans contributed the Nazi regime, anyone else was seen as worthless, undesirable and dangerous to the ideal Nazi Germany and they needed to be removed.

The Nazis targeted minorities throughout their rule.



### Persecution of minorities in the community

<b>Targeted Group</b>	<b>Why were they persecuted?</b>	<b>How were they persecuted?</b>
<b>Workshy</b>	As they would not work they were seen as lazy and not useful to Germany.	Sent to concentration camps and many were sterilised.
<b>Mentally and physically disabled</b>	The Nazis persecuted the mentally and physically handicapped people.  Nazi propoganda said killing them it was a good thing for Germany.	About 350,000 were sterilised.  In the T4 Euthanasia campaign, about 200,000 people were killed in nursing homes. It was stopped due to protests.
<b>Homosexuals</b>	Ideal Germans married, had children and created stable families	Stripped of their civil rights, 15,000 sent to concentration camps, sterilised and thousands died.
<b>Beggars, and alcoholics</b>	They were regarded as anti-social, work-shy and a burden on the community	Around 500,000 tramps and beggars were sent to concentration camps in 1933.  Many were sterilised.
<b>Gypsies</b>	The Nazis saw the Gypsies as similar to Jews, they were a problem that Germany needed to be cleansed of.	44,000 Gypsies were sent to concentration camps.  85% of Germanys gypsies were killed in by the Nazi regime.

# Timeline of Nazi persecution of Jews 1933-45

Once in power, the Nazis began to slowly but increasingly persecute and discriminate against the 550,000 Jews living in Germany in 1933.



**1933 – Jews are banned from public places and all government jobs.**

**1935, September The Nuremberg Laws**  
Jews are no longer German citizens and cannot vote.

Marriage and sexual relations between Jews and Aryan Germans is punishable by prison



**1939, April- Jews can be evicted from their homes without reason**

Between 1939-1941, all Jews in Nazi territory are put into Ghettos in Poland.

The Germans systematically tried to starve, overwork or just beat Jews to death. In Warsaw, 500,000 Jews die from conditions.



In 1942, the Nazis decide a **'Final Solution'** to Jews at the Wannsee Conference. Nazis set up **Death Camps** where they gas or work Jews to death. By 1945, 6 million Jews dead, 33% of German Jews, 85% of German Gypsies and many German 'undesirables' dead

**1933 April - Boycott of Jewish businesses.**  
The SA stood outside Jewish businesses to prevent customers from entering. 'Jude' and Star of David are painted on windows



**1936 Jews banned from working as doctors, dentists and lawyers**

**9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November, 1938 – Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass)**

The Nazis destroyed 7,500 Jewish shop windows, burned 400 synagogues and sent 30,000 Jews to concentration camps. Jews forced to pay for all the damage.

**Turning point in persecution of Jews.**

**1938, December - Jews are banned from owning shops or businesses**

**1941 all German Jews were forced to wear the yellow star of David.**



From 1941, **Einsatzgruppen** (Killing Squads) go into Polish/Russian territory and hunt down Jews. Around 1.5 million Jews were shot between 1941-43. First mass killing of Jews.

??? How did Jewish persecution intensify after 1930. Describe the impact on them economically, socially and in terms of violence