



English Martyrs GCSE History
Germany 1918-1939
Knowledge Organiser

1) The origins of the Weimar Republic

The legacy of WW1

The war had seen four years of fighting and heavy casualties for Germany, 2 million dead and over 4 million wounded, so 55% of Germany's troops became casualties.

The British Navy had blockaded German ports, preventing German ships bringing in food. Over 75,000 Germans died because of food shortages.

In October, the German navy mutinied at Kiel and refused to follow their orders to attack the British navy. Further strikes and protests followed all over Germany.

In Berlin, the Kaiser, Wilhelm II, and his ministers, had lost control. His ministers informed him that the only way to restore order was to abdicate, giving up his position as Emperor. At first, he refused. But when he was informed that he had lost the support of his army by General Groener, he was forced to resign on 9th November 1918.

The formation of the Weimar Government

On 9th November there were huge crowds all over Berlin, some peaceful, but some were collecting guns and trying to take over parts of the city.

The largest party in the Reichstag was the Social Democrats, the SPD. They were told that armed rioters were preparing to announce a Communist government in Berlin. In response, the SPD announced that the Kaiser had gone and that there was a new German Republic.

On 9th November, Friedrich Ebert, the leader of the SPD, became the new Chancellor. He made an agreement to work with the army to keep the Communists out of power. On 10th November, Ebert suspended the old Reichstag and named six moderate politicians who would form the Council of People's Representatives. This council would head the government until a new constitution could be agreed. Through these steps, Ebert had kept the moderate SPD in charge of Germany, and preventing anarchy or a Communist takeover.

On 11 November, Ebert's government signed the armistice, the formal agreement between Germany and the Allies to end the First World War.



Friedrich Ebert, first
Chancellor of the Weimar
Republic.

Setting up the Weimar Republic

Ebert arranged for civil servants who had run Germany under the Kaiser to stay in office. They were instructed to work alongside soldiers' and works' councils, which local people had set up. By doing this he ensured that the State kept running.

Ebert reassured General Groener that the army would not be reformed. Officers kept their ranks. In return, the army agreed to help keep the new Republic in power. Ebert reassured leaders of industry, like the coal and shipping entrepreneur Hugo Stinnes, that the new Republic would not confiscate land or factories and there would be no nationalisation (state control) of private industries. This helped ensure that businesses and the economy continued to operate.

Ebert won the support of the trade unions. He promised their leader that the new Republic would try to achieve an 8 hour working day.

Impact of Ebert's first measures

Some extreme political parties were still dissatisfied.

Demonstrations and even riots were common in the major cities. Germany was still on the edge of anarchy.

But Ebert had achieved a fragile control, ensuring moderates were in power and avoiding an extremist revolution, which lasted long enough to agree a new constitution for the new republic.

2) The Weimar Constitution

The new Constitution

The Council of People's Representatives was only temporary. Ebert announced national elections to select a National Assembly, whose job would be to create a new constitution for Germany. Elections took place on 19th January 1919. 82% of the electorate voted, a huge success. Moderate parties gained the most seats, the SPD won 40% and the Centre Party won 20%. The National Assembly met for the first time in February 1919, but due to the unrest and violence in Berlin, they had to meet in the town of Weimar, about 250km away. On 31 July, the National Assembly agreed a new constitution, by 262 votes to 75. The new republic, now governed by the constitution, became known as the Weimar Republic.



Elected delegates meeting in the Reichstag in February 1927.

The structure of the Weimar Government

President

Head of the Weimar Republic. Elected every seven years. Played no part in daily politics. Had important political powers, like appointing the Chancellor, head of the army, and Article 48.

Chancellor

Head of the government. Chose all minister. Main role was to ensure a successful parliament which could co-operate and pass laws.

Cabinet

Most important ministers who worked closely with the chancellor, and formed the main decision making body in the government.

The German Parliament was made up of two house, and normally all laws had to be passed by both.

The Reichstag

The more powerful house. Controlled taxation and directly elected every four years.

The Reichsrat

Elected every four years and represented the regions of Germany. Each region sent a certain number of representatives depending on their size.

The electorate

All men and women over 21 years old could vote.

3) The Weimar Constitution on balance

Strengths

1) Democratic: All men and women over 21 could vote. This was more democratic than under the Kaiser or in Britain at the time. The Reichstag was elected under a system of **proportional representation**. This was meant to ensure that even the smaller parties had seats in the Reichstag. Every party was allocated one representative for each 60,000 votes in their favour.

2) Checks and balances: The constitution was built so that no one person or group could have too much power: The **president** could choose the chancellor, usually the leader of the largest party. He could also dismiss the Reichstag, call new elections, and could take control of the army. But every seven years he could be replaced by the electorate. The **Chancellor** decided which laws should be passed, and normally they only became law if the majority of the Reichstag and Reichsrat voted for them.

The **Reichstag** was the most powerful house in the German Parliament. But the Reichsrat could delay any new laws passed by the Reichstag, unless the Reichstag overruled it by a 2/3 majority. **Central government** had more power than it had under the Kaiser. However some powers were kept by **local government**. Each of the 18 regions of Germany kept its own parliament, called a **Land parliament**, which controlled key services such as police, courts and schools.

Weaknesses

1) Coalition government: Proportional representation meant that many small parties won seats in the Reichstag (In the 1920s there were 29 parties in total). Often no single party had a majority. Therefore a government could only be formed by joining together several parties to create a coalition government. This meant that partners often had to compromise, often resulting in a lack of clear, strong policies. The coalitions also frequently argued and fell apart, for example there were nine coalition governments between 1919 and 1923.

2) Weakness in a crisis: In a crisis, swift, clear decisions were needed. Article 48 of the constitution said that in a crisis, the chancellor could ask the president to pass a necessary law by decree, without the support of the Reichstag. By around 1930, the chancellor relied upon the president to pass laws, rather than the Reichstag, bypassing the democratic rules. This made the constitution seem weak and encouraged people to think that a single, all powerful leader was better than an elected government.

3) Based on division and violence: During the German Revolution, the government had used force, relying on the army to stop riots in Berlin whilst they met in Weimar. Several parties in the Reichstag, such as the nationalists and the Communists, were also opposed to democracy and openly hated the new constitution.

4) The Treaty of Versailles

Unpopularity of the government

The politicians who signed the Armistice in 1918 and ended the war by surrendering to the allies were the same ones who set up and ran the Weimar Republic. They were therefore always linked to surrender and harsh peace terms. In reality, they had little choice. Germany was torn apart by social and political unrest, and was running out of money and troops. The US had joined the Allies in 1917 and the German army was in retreat from August 1918. The main German defensive line, the Hindenburg line, had been breached. The peace treaty was eventually signed in a French palace at Versailles, near Paris, on 28 June 1918. Whilst peace was popular with the German people, the terms of the peace were not.

Terms of the Treaty

War Guilt Clause (Article 231) – Germany was blamed for the war. This meant that Germany was forced to pay reparations, and to prevent Germany from starting another war the Allies insisted on reducing Germany's armed forces and territory.

Reparations of £6.6 billion.

German army reduced to 100,000 men, 6 battleships, 6 cruisers, 12 destroyers and 12 torpedo boats. The rest of the navy was destroyed. No air force or submarines.

German land restricted by c.13% including the Polish Corridor (Posen and West Prussia) to Poland, Alsace Lorraine to France, Upper Silesia was given a plebiscite (public vote) and voted to become part of Poland, The German port of Danzig was made an independent city. Northern Schleswig voted to become part of Denmark. The output of the Saar coalfields was to go to France for 15 years.

All 11 German colonies handed over to the Allies as 'mandates', which were to be looked after by the Allies.

A League of Nations to be set up. Germany was not allowed in it.

Overall, Germany lost 10% of its population, 13% of its European territory, all of its overseas property and investments, and almost 50% of its iron and 15% of its coal reserves.



German reaction

Diktat: The Treaty was forced upon them and Germany had no say in its preparation. They were forced to accept it or Germany would be invaded.

November Criminals: Term used to describe the German government who agreed to surrender. The leaders were resented and the Republic was linked to weakness, defeat and humiliation.

Dolchstoß: The myth that the German army was never defeated but was instead stabbed in the back by the Weimar politicians. German people did not believe their army had been defeated in war.

Unfair: The Germans surrendered expecting to receive President Wilson's 14 Points (which would have seen Germany treated fairly along with the other countries in the war). But only Germany was blamed, only Germany had to disarm, German people did not get self-determination in the land that was taken away. All of this led Germans to think the Treaty was horribly unfair and many were determined to do away with the Treaty as soon as they could.

Economy: The Treaty damaged Germany's economy and imposed heavy reparations, so that it could not start another war. This made the economy of the Republic weak from the start.

5) Challenges to the Weimar Republic 1919-1922

Left and Right Wing

Moderates were in the majority in the new Weimar Government. The SPD worked with other parties like the Democrats (DDP) and the Centre Party to create the Republic and they had about 80% of the seats in the Reichstag. But there were extreme groups on the left and the right who did not support the Weimar Republic. After the elections of 1920, the moderate parties only had 45% of the seats in the new Reichstag, with the extreme right and left having about 20%. For most of the 1920s, the moderate parties struggled to form coalition governments while being attacked in the Reichstag by extremist politicians from the Left and Right wings.

The Left-Wing: wanted Germany to be controlled by the people. They opposed capitalism and wanted to abolish private ownership of land and business, putting them in the hands of the workers. They were internationalists, who wanted the co-operation, not independence, of nations. The German Communist Party (KDP) was the main left wing party in 1919.

The Right-Wing: Wanted a return to strong government, with a strong army, headed by a powerful leader like the Kaiser. They supported capitalism (private ownership of land and business), and championed families, law and order, and tradition values. They tended to place the interests of the nation above the individual. The National Party (DNVP) was the main right wing party in 1919.



The Left-Wing challenge: The Spartacist Revolt, 1919

The German Communist Party was formed in 1918 and supported by the Soviet Union. It had 33 daily newspapers and 400,000 members. They were supported by the Spartacist League, extreme socialists from the Independent Socialist Party in Berlin. They were led by Rosa Luxemburg (Red Rosa) and Karl Liebknecht.

Causes and actions: In January 1919, Ebert sacked the police chief in Berlin who was popular with the workers. Thousands of workers protested as a result. The Spartacists called for an uprising and a general strike in Berlin, and on 6 January 100,000 workers took to the streets. They seized the government's newspaper and telegraph offices.

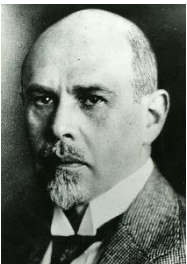
Government response: Ebert could not use the army to respond as they were still suffering the impact of the war, so instead he turned to the Freikorps (Free Corps). This consisted of thousands of soldiers released from the army in 1918 who had kept their weapons. Many were right wing and opposed to the Communists. By March 1919 they numbered c.250,000 men. Ebert turned the Freikorps on the workers. By 13 January the workers had been driven off the streets. On 16 January Luxemburg and Liebknecht were arrested and killed by Freikorps officers. This stopped the left-wing rebellion.

The Right-Wing challenge: The Kapp Putsch, 1920

Causes and actions: By 1920 Ebert's government were struggling to control the Freikorps. In March 1920 Freikorps units near Berlin were to be disbanded. Fearing unemployment, they resisted. Five thousand armed men marched on Berlin. When Ebert ordered General Seeckt, the head of the German military (Reichswehr) to resist the rebels, he refused to fire on them. The rebels were able to take control of the city. They put forward a nationalist politician, Wolfgang Kapp, as a figurehead leader. They declared a new government and invited the Kaiser to return from exile.

Government response: Members of the German government fled to Weimar and then to Stuttgart. They called for a General Strike and urged the German people not to co-operate with the rebels and instead go on strike. Many workers did so, as they were socialist and against the return of the Kaiser. Essential services like gas, electricity, water, and transport stopped and the capital ground to a halt. After four days, Kapp realised that he could not govern. He fled, but was caught and put in prison where he later died. The rebellion collapsed and the Weimar ministers returned.

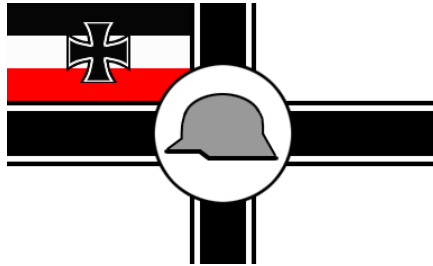
6) Political violence 1919-1922



Political assassinations

- Hugo Haase, one of Ebert's Council of People's Representatives, was murdered in 1919.
- Matthias Erzberger, the politician who signed the Armistice to the Allies in 1918, was shot and killed in August 1921.
- Walther Rathenau, the Weimar foreign minister, was machine-gunned to death in Berlin in June 1922.

In all, there were 376 political murders, mostly of left-wing or moderate politicians. Not a single right-wing murderer was convicted and executed, while ten left-wing assassins were. Judges who were sympathetic to the right wing undermined the Weimar Republic in the courts.



Increasing political violence

Most political parties hired armed men to guard their meetings. They mainly recruited ex-soldiers who were unemployed.

- The KPD set up a private army called the Rotfrontkämpfer (Red Front Fighters)
- The DNVP were supported by the Stahlhelm (Steel Helmets)
- The moderate SPD had the Reichsbanner Schwarz-Rot-Gold (Black Red Gold Flag)

At first, these private political armies were for protection, but their presence often caused political meetings and marches to become violent.



Impact on the Weimar Republic

By the end of 1922, the Weimar Republic had survived, but had lost significant left-wing and right-wing support, and was weak.

7) The challenges of 1923

1) The French occupation of the Ruhr

Causes: Germany was bankrupt. All of its reserves of gold had been spent on the war. The Treaty of Versailles made it worse, it deprived Germany of wealth-making areas like the coalfields in Silesia. Germany also had to pay reparations, but was denied any reductions when it asked, as some Allies, especially France, needed money to pay their debts to the USA. By 1923, Germany could no longer afford to pay reparations. In December 1922, Germany failed to send coal to France from the Ruhr coalfields, as they were supposed to do in the reparations.

French actions: The French sent troops into the German industrial area of the Ruhr in January 1923. They confiscated raw materials, manufactured goods and industrial machinery.

German response: The government urged passive resistance; workers went on strike and there was some sabotage. The French responded by arresting those who obstructed them and brought in their own workers. The German government was unable to resist the French army of 750,000, as their troops were limited by Versailles to only 100,000. This led to more resentment against the government.

Impact: The occupation crippled Germany, as it contained many factories and around 80% of German coal, iron and steel reserves. The disruption increased Germany's debts, increased unemployment and worsened the shortage of goods.

2) Inflation and hyperinflation

Causes: Due to the shortages made by the Ruhr crisis, the price of things went up – inflation. The government still also needed to pay their debts, but unemployment and failing factories meant that they were receiving less money from taxes, during 1919-23, government income was only ¼ of what they required.

Government response: The government printed more money. In 1923 the government had 300 paper mills and 2000 printing shops dedicated to printing more bank notes.

Impact: Initially, printing extra money made it easier for the government to pay reparations, but it also made inflation even worse. This created a vicious cycle, the more prices rose, the more money was printed and this made the prices rise again. By 1923, prices reached spectacular heights. This extreme inflation was called **hyperinflation**, for example a 1 mark loaf of bread in 1919 now cost 200,000 billion marks in 1923.

Effects of hyperinflation:

- 1) Normal living became impossible as people the printing presses could not print enough currency. People carried money in wheelbarrows and baskets. Many workers were paid twice a day so they could rush out and buy goods before prices rose again. Some shops refused to accept the money, and instead used bartering or swapping of goods. Some people raided shops because they couldn't afford food.
- 2) German marks became worthless for importing goods. Foreign suppliers refused to accept German marks for goods, so imports dried up and shortages of food and other goods got worse, affecting everyone.
- 3) People with savings in the bank, insurance policies or pensions were hit hardest, as their saved money became worthless. The middle class were the worst affected.

Benefits from hyperinflation

Some people benefitted from inflation;

- 1) People who had loans or took loans out found that the value of the money they owed went down. Some big businessmen borrowed money and profited because the value of their debts went down.
- 2) Other people hoarded goods and then sold them for a large profit as prices went up.
- 3) Foreign visitors benefited as the value of their own currency rose against the German mark, so they could buy much more with their money. German people bitterly resented people who had made money out of their suffering.



8) The recovery 1924-1929



Gustav Stresemann

Role: Chancellor of Germany from Aug-Nov 1923, and Foreign Secretary until 1929.

Aims: Make the political situation in Germany. By stabilising the economy and regaining respect for Germany in foreign affairs, Germans would feel more content with the Weimar Republic. This would unite most Germans behind moderate political parties, and reduce the support for extreme political parties like the NSDAP and the Communist Party.

Economic recovery

Rentenmark (1923): In November 1923 Stresemann set up a new state-owned bank, the Rentenbank. This issued a new temporary currency, the Rentenmark. It's value was tied to the price of gold and was backed by German industrial plants and agricultural land. It had real value and people trusted it. In 1924 a new independent national bank, the Reichsbank, was given control of this new currency.. It was renamed the Reichsmark and backed by Germany's gold reserves. German money was now trusted at home and abroad. This ended hyperinflation and formed the basis for the recovery of German businesses.

The Dawes Plan (1924): This was an economic plan by the American banker Charles G. Dawes to help resolve the problem of Germany's non-payment of reparations. It temporarily reduced reparations payments to £50 million per year, and US banks also agreed to give loans to German industry. They loaned \$25 billion between 1924-1930. This reassured the Allies that they would get their reparations payments, and Stresemann already agreed to end passive resistance in the Ruhr, which meant that the French now ended their occupation.

The Young Plan (1929): American plan headed by banker Owen Young. This reduced the total reparations debt from £6.6 billion to £2 billion. Germany was given an extra 59 years to pay.

Foreign relations improvement

The Locarno Pact (1925): Treaty agreed between Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Belgium. Germany accepted its new 1919 border with France, who now promised peace with Germany. Germany and the Allies agreed that the Rhineland would be permanently demilitarised. The five powers discussed German membership of the League of Nations.

The League of Nations (1926): Initially Germany was excluded from this international organisation set up at Versailles by the Allies to discuss ways of resolving the world's problems without resorting to war. But in September 1926 Stresemann was able to persuade the other great powers to give Germany a place as a member, and also a place on the League of Nations Council, which took the most important decisions of the League.

Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928): Germany and 61 other countries signed the Pact, which promised that states would not use war to achieve foreign policy aims. As the USA was not in the League of Nations, this was a way that they could not assist in peace.

Impact on domestic policies

Support for moderate political parties rose and support for extremist parties fell. By 1929, the Weimar Republic was a more secure and stable state. Confidence in the Republic increased in 1925, when Friedrich Ebert, the president of the Republic, died. He was one of the leading Social Democrats who led the revolution against the Kaiser and was seen as one of the 'November Criminals'. He was replaced by Paul von Hindenburg, the former field marshal of the Kaiser's armies. He reassured the middle class and gave the Weimar Republic a strong figurehead.

But in October 1929 Stresemann died following a heart attack. The loss of his moderate political policies and the world economic crisis which followed heralded a new crisis for the Republic.

Election results 1924-28	May 1924	Dec 1924	May 1928
Social Democrats	100	131	153
Nationalists	95	103	73
Communists	62	45	54
Nazis	32	14	12

Note: this source does not show the results of all political parties in these years

9) How far did Stresemann help Germany recover?

<u>Economic</u>		
<u>Agreement</u>	<u>Positives</u>	<u>Negatives</u>
Rentenmark	Restored trust in German currency. Ended hyperinflation. Formed basis for recovery of German businesses and improvements to employment.	Could not reverse the losses people suffered due to hyperinflation.
Dawes Plan	Industrial output doubled between 1923 and 1928, passing pre-First World War levels. Employment, trade and income from taxation increased. Most Germans reassured, strengthening support for the Republic.	Extreme political parties furious that Germany had agreed to pay reparations again. Fragile economic recovery also now depended on American loans.
Young Plan	Lowered reparation payments allowing the government to lower taxes on ordinary German people. Lower taxes released public spending power, boosting German industry and creating more jobs. These jobs then boosted spending power which boosted industry and employment again, a 'virtuous cycle of economic growth'. The French now agreed to leave the Rhineland in 1930. This increased the confidence of Germans in the Republic. A referendum in 1929 saw 85% of voters voting in favour of the Young Plan.	Angered extremist parties. Hitler said that extending the payments was 'passing on the penalty to the unborn'. Annual payments were still £50 million a year and payments now stretched out until 1988.

<u>Foreign relations</u>		
<u>Agreement</u>	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>
The Locarno Pact	Made war in Europe less likely. Stresemann given the Nobel Peace Prize in 1926. Germany was now treated as an equal. Boosted prestige of Weimar Republic and increase the confidence of Germans in the moderate parties who supported Stresemann.	Some extremist parties resented that the hated Versailles borders had been confirmed.
The League of Nations	Boosted moderate parties who supported Stresemann. Boosted confidence of most Germans in the Weimar Republic.	Not all political parties liked this. They saw the League as a symbol of the hated Treaty of Versailles and wanted nothing to do with it.
The Kellogg-Briand Pact	Showed that Germany was now included amongst the main powers, not dictated to by them. It showed that the Weimar Republic was now a respectable, stable state, and boosted their prestige in the eyes of the public. It increased confidence that the moderate political parties could be trusted to make Germany strong.	It did not remove the hated terms of the Treaty of Versailles, which still restricted Germany strength with reparations, lost land and military restrictions.

10) Changes in society

Standard of living

Unemployment: In 1924, over 4% of the workforce was unemployed. In 1926 there were 2 million unemployed. By 1928 there were only 1.3 million unemployed. The Unemployment Insurance Act (1927) charged workers 3% of their wages and in return provided an average of 60 marks per week in unemployment and sickness benefits if they fell out of work. Unemployment however remained high in the professions such as lawyers, civil servants and teachers. In April 1928 184,000 middle-class workers were seeking employment and almost half did not qualify for unemployment relief from the state.

Wages: The length of the working week shortened from 50 hours in 1925 to 46 hours in 1927. However, real wages rose by 25% from 1925-1928. However, many of the middle class did not see any rises in wages and could not claim the benefits introduced.

Housing: By 1923 there was a shortage of one million homes in Germany. The government invested a lot in building new homes. Between 1924 and 1931 more than 2 million new homes were built, while another 200,000 were renovated or expanded. By 1929 the state was spending 33 times more on housing than it had in 1913. By 1929 homelessness had been reduced by more than 60%.

Other: Under the 1920 Reich Pension Law, pensions were paid throughout the 1920s to 750,000 war veterans, 400,000 war widows and 200,000 parents of dead servicemen. Education and young peoples aspirations also improved and the number of students in higher education had increased from 70,000 in 1914 to 110,000 in 1928.

Women

Politics: In November 1918 the government gave women the right to vote and the right to stand for elections. In the Weimar elections, the turnout of women voters was 90%. By 1932, 112 women had been elected to the Reichstag. In 1932, almost 10% of its members were female. Women's rights were also strengthened in Article 109, which gave women equal rights to men, marriage was made an equal partnership on both sides, and ensured women were able to enter all professions on an equal basis with men.

Work: During WW1, more women went into paid work. By 1918, 75% of women were in work. Under the Weimar Republic, however, only 36% of women were in work, about the same as pre-war levels. Women were also not treated equally in the workplace, despite Article 109. In jobs where women did the same work as men, they were on average paid 33% less. Women were normally expected to give up work once they were married. Few women entered high-status professions – by 1933 there were only 36 female judges in Germany.

However, the booming retail and service sectors of work produced plenty of part-time jobs in shops and offices. In some liberal professions like education and medicine, women made more progress, e.g. the number of female doctors rose from about 2,500 to about 5,000 between 1925 and 1932. The limited changes for women stirred up negative feelings in some male dominated trade unions who opposed women workers and equal pay and conditions. They were especially against 'double earners', married women who brought a second wage into the home.

Leisure: For young, unmarried working women in the cities, there was greater financial independence, they became known as 'new women'. They bought more clothes and went out more. They wore short hair, more make-up, more jewellery, and more revealing clothes. They smoke and drank more and went out unaccompanied. Some seemed less interested in marriage and families and took advantage of liberal sexual attitudes. Images of these new women were common in adverts and films.

However, they were not popular with all Germans. Some believed that the growing equality and independence of women threatened to change traditional family values. They pointed out that the birth rate was falling. In 1913 there were 128 live births per 1,000 women. By 1925 this had fallen to 80. Many felt that Germany needed women to be mothers. The divorce rate was also rising. In 1913, there were 27 divorces each year per 100,000 people. By the 1920s this had risen to 60. Many felt that Germany needed women to be wives.



11) Cultural changes in the Weimar Republic

New ideas

The restrictions of the Kaiser and the old regime had been thrown off, and the new Weimar constitution encouraged ideas about freedom, which was then financed from 1924 by the economic recovery. The new ideas were:

New Objectivism: The idea that the Arts should not show a romantic view of the world, but should show life as it really is.

Modernism: The idea that the Arts should not focus on the past, but should embrace the future and see beauty in cities, industry and technology.

Expressionism: the idea that the Arts should reflect the thoughts and feelings of the artist, rather than showing things as they look exactly.

Literature

There was literature about politics from both the left and right wing. From the right, writers such as Arthur Moeller and Oswald Spengler were critical of the new democracy and glorified the experiences of WW1. From the left, writers such as Erich Remarque and Ludwig Renn were very anti-war. Remarque wrote the novel *All quiet on the Western Front* which described the horror of WW1. It was so successful that it was made into a film.

Architecture

Some architects like Erich Mendelsohn, were influenced by the Bauhaus movement, for example when he designed the Einstein Tower in Potsdam, he designed a futuristic tower looking like a rocket.



Theatre

New operas and plays emerged, the *Zieththeater* and *Zietoper*, meaning more theatre and opera 'of the time' and featured greater realism. For example, one opera saw the heroine singing in the bath. In Erwin Piscator's *The Salesman of Berlin*, three street sweepers sweep away the worst features of the years after 1918, including a pile of paper money and a steel helmet (representing the defeated army) and the body of the man who had worn it. In Piscator's adaption of *The Good Soldier Schweik*, the hero criticises Germany as he sits on the toilet.

Bauhaus

The Bauhaus was a design college in Berlin run by Walter Gropius. It developed a style of design which influenced all of the Arts. Their slogan was 'Art and Technology – a new unity'. Their ideas stressed using only basic shapes and colours, and new ideas about space, materials, and money. The architects designed things such as chairs, housing estates and cigarette kiosks.

Art

Painters like Otto Dix often painted expressionist versions of scenes from Germany. Some of his work was very critical of German society, reflecting the treatment of war veterans and falling standards of behaviour in Germany's night life. Other artists like George Grosz painted scenes like 'Grey Day' which showed peoples boredom of their lives.



Cinema

This was a golden age for German cinema, and some German films were very innovative. Fritz Lang directed *Metropolis*, the most technologically advanced film of the decade, a science fiction film about life and technology in the 20th Century. The German actress Marlene Dietrich was one of the most popular film stars in the world, often playing strong, mysterious and glamorous women. One of the most popular films, *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari*, was a horror film with an underlying anti-war and anti-military message.



Opposition

Not everyone approved of these changes. On the Left Wing, groups like the KDP said the funding was money spent on extravagance, when working people needed basic help. On the Right Wing, groups like the nationalists and the Nazis said the changes undermined traditional German culture.

12) The early development of the Nazi Party 1919-1922

Early role of Hitler

At the end of WW1, Hitler was angry about the defeat of Germany and the Dolchstoss myth. He worked as an informer for the army in Munich, and as part of this had to report on the meetings of the German Workers' Party (DAP) led by Anton Drexler. He joined shortly afterwards and became head of propaganda in 1920.

He was good at public speaking and often spoke of the Dolchstoss, his disgust at the Treaty of Versailles, his hatred of the Weimar Government and the November Criminals, and his idea of a communist-Jewish conspiracy trying to destroy Germany.

Hitler increased party membership from 1,000 in June 1920 to 3,000 by the end of 1920 through his role as party speaker. He rehearsed his speeches carefully, built up tension to lead to a passionate and persuasive rant. He used gestures, drawing the audience in and waving his hands vigorously. He also had publicity photos and paintings produced showing him as a speaker.

The 25 Point Programme

In 1920, Hitler and Drexler wrote the 25 Point programme, which formed the policies of the DAP. It included aims of:

- To unite all German-speaking people in one country
- To abolish the Treaty of Versailles
- To expand 's borders to give its people lebensraum (more living space)
- To deny Jews the right to be German citizens
- To oppose democracy and destroy the government
- To destroy communism
- To create a strong central government
- To establish government control of all important industries like coal and steel production.

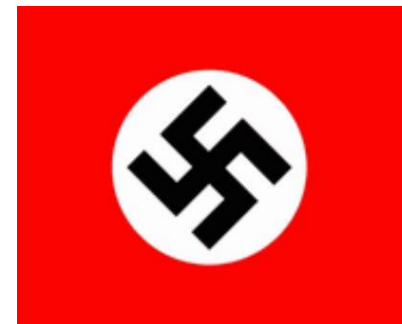
Hitler's changes to the Party

The Party set up a permanent office in Munich and Hitler chose Rudolf Schüssler, an army friend, to be the party administrator. Party meetings became more organised and better advertised. Membership and funds increased.

Hitler renamed the Party the National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP, or Nazi Party) as the Party stood for Nationalism, Socialism and the Workers, whilst also appealing to many different groups. Soon afterwards, the Party began to use the swastika as a logo and also the straight-arm salute. It became easy to distinguish from other nationalist parties.

By December 1920 the bigger membership and better organisation allowed the NSDAP to buy a newspaper – the *Völkischer Beobachter* (the People's Observer). Within a year it regularly sold 17,000 copies, spreading the Nazi message across Munich, Bavaria and Germany.

As a result of all of these measures, NSDAP membership grew from about 1,100 in June 1920 to about 55,000 in November 1923.



Party leadership

In July 1921, Hitler forced a leadership contest with Drexler, who was defeated. Hitler became leader of the NSDAP. Hitler now selected supporters to lead positions within the Party.

Rudolf Hess became Hitler's deputy.

Herman Göring, an ex-WW1 fighter pilot. **Julius Streicher**, a nationalist politician who joined in 192 and found another Nazi newspaper, *Der Strürmer*, which increased support for the Party, and **Ernst Röhm**, an ex-army officer who led the SA. Hitler also got support from General Ludendorff, leader of the German army during WW1. By 1922, Hitler persuaded the other leaders of the Party to give up their right to elect the leader. Hitler now dictated Party Policy and was in complete control of the Party.

The SA

Sturmabteilung, or Stormtroopers, were a paramilitary force, many recruited from the unemployed and ex-soldiers. They dressed in brown uniforms and were nicknamed the 'Brownshirts'. The SA paraded in streets, and impressed people with their sense of power and organisation. They were used to control the crowds at NSDAP meetings, subdue opposition and disrupt meetings of the Social Democrats and other parties. The SA were led by **Ernst Rohm**, but were expected to be wholly loyal to Hitler.



13) The Munich Putsch, 1923

Why did Hitler attempt the Putsch?

1. Hitler detested the Weimar government, and as the Weimar government became less popular as it was blamed for hyperinflation as well as for signing the hated Treaty of Versailles, he believed German people would follow him instead.
2. Germany had been humiliated following the French occupation of the Ruhr. Many Germans were furious that the Weimar Republic ended passive resistance to the French.
3. Hitler thought he could persuade the state government of Bavaria, led by Gustav von Kahr, along with the army chief von Lossow and the police chief von Seisser, all of whom had never supported the government, that an attack on the Weimar government in Berlin was possible. He also had the support of General Ludendorff, the former army commander-in-chief, an extremely popular figure.
4. The Nazi Party had increased support by 1923, with about 55,000 members. Hitler also had the use of the SA to use as armed force.
5. In Italy, the far-right Fascist Party of Benito Mussolini and his private army, the Blackshirts, marched on Rome, forcing the democratic government to accept him as their new leader. Hitler had been impressed by this.

What happened?

On the evening of 8th November, Hitler and 600 Nazis seized the Bürgerbräukeller beer hall in Munich, where a political meeting led by von Kahr, Seisser and Lossow was taking place. He burst in, shot into the ceiling, and announced that he was taking over the government of Bavaria before marching on Berlin. Hitler placed the leaders in a room and won promises of support for his putsch after they had been held at gunpoint. However, the three leaders were allowed to leave the following day, Seisser and Lossow changed their minds and organised troops and police to resist Hitler's planned march through Munich. On the 9th November, Hitler continued the planned march through Munich. However, they were challenged by the well-armed police force. The Nazis only had about 2000 rifles and so were outnumbered. Shots were fired and 16 Nazis and 4 police officers were killed. The Nazis scattered. Hitler disappeared but was arrested two days later and the Nazi Party was banned.

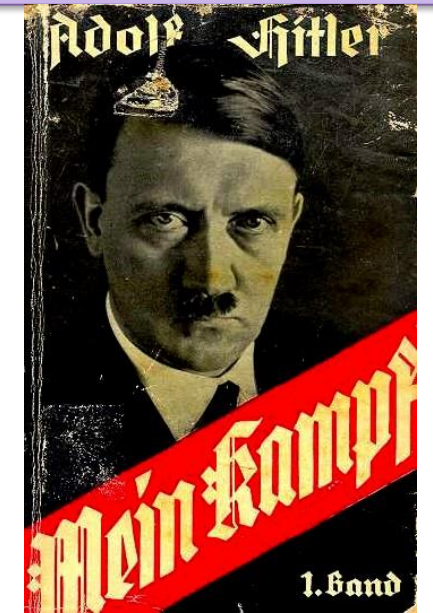


Why was it important?

Hitler was arrested alongside Ludendorff and put on trial for treason in February 1924. The trial gave Hitler nationwide publicity through the press. Hitler denied the charge of treason, insisting that he was trying to restore Germany's greatness and resist the weak Weimar government. He attacked the November Criminals, the Treaty of Versailles and the 'Jewish Bolsheviks' who had betrayed Germany by agreeing to the Armistice in Nov 1918. Hitler used the trial to put forward his views. The judges were sympathetic and allowed him to make long speeches, which were reported in national newspapers. Hitler was found guilty of treason, Ludendorff was not charged. Hitler was sentenced to five years in Landsberg Prison, but was eligible for parole after nine months. In prison Hitler wrote his autobiography, Mein Kampf ('My Struggle'), which contained his political views. Hitler also began to think that he was the leader that was needed to make Germany great again. Hitler's time in gaol was relatively easy, he was allowed visitors and mail and books whenever he wanted.

What was the impact on the Nazi Party?

In the short term, Hitler was imprisoned and the Nazi Party was banned. But in the long term, Hitler's trial was a propaganda success for the Party, making him known nationally and winning support from other nationalists. Hitler realised that he needed to have complete control over the Party to secure its future success. Hitler realised that violent coups would not work, and that the Nazis would need to use legal means to gain power, by winning elections. Therefore the Nazi Party began to change from 1924 onwards.



14) Hitler's ideas in Mein Kampf

Nationalism

- Breaking the restrictions on Germany in the Treaty of Versailles
- Reviving the power of Germany
- AUTARKY: Making Germany self-sufficient, not dependent on imports from abroad.
- Expanding Germany's borders
- Purifying the German 'race'.

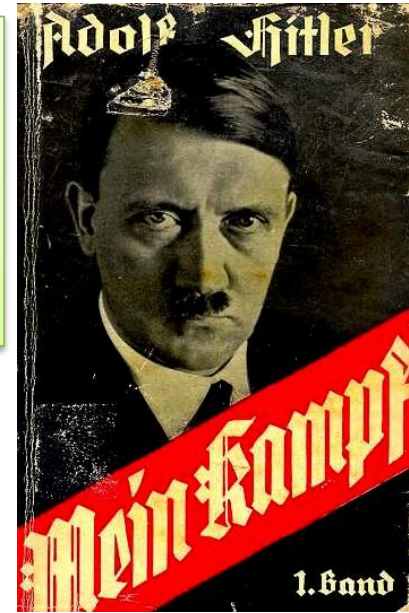


Socialism

Like the Communists, Hitler wanted to control big businesses. For Hitler, Socialism meant running the economy in the national interest. Both agriculture and industry would flourish. Businesses should not make unfair profits.

Totalitarianism

The belief that the Nazi Party should control every aspect of life. Hitler despised democracy. He said it was weak. The Führerprinzip (leadership principle) – total loyalty to the leader.



Struggle

Hitler thought life was a contest, and this constant struggle made people and countries healthier and fitter. Germany should struggle outside her borders, against other countries, for land – to get Lebensraum, so that all German people could live together, united. Germany should struggle inside her borders, against non-German people, so that they could strengthen the true 'German race'.



Traditional German values

Strong family values, with clear male and female roles. Christian morality. Old-style German culture, with traditional art, music and theatre.

Racial Purity

Hitler said that people were divided into superior and inferior races. The Aryans were the superior race. These were the Germanic people of northern Europe who Hitler thought had produced all that was good in human culture. Other races, from places like Eastern Europe, and from Asia and Africa, were inferior races. The lowest form of life, for Hitler, were the Jews – who he described as parasites who fed off countries they lived in.



15) The Nazis in the lean years, 1924-28

How did Hitler change the Nazi Party?

Upon his release from prison, Hitler was able to persuade the President of Bavaria to lift the ban on the Nazi Party in 1925. Hitler now resumed his position as leader of the Party. Hitler saw the Communists building up their strength with local branches and youth organisations, so he did the same by creating a large network of local party branches (Gau), led by a Gauleiter, as well as creating the Hitler Youth. Hitler made sure that only his closest supporters helped him run the party from Munich, and these people alongside the Gauleiter, pushed the idea of the *Führerprinzip* (The leadership principle which gave Hitler absolute power in the party) Hitler forced Röhm to resign as leader of the SA, because he was concerned that the SA would continue to be a violent group and that Röhm may not follow his orders. The new leader of the SA was Franz Pfeffer von Solomon. He also enlarged the SA, drawing about 55% of the storm troopers from the unemployed. By 1930 it had expanded to 400,000 members. Hitler also formed a new group, the Schutzstaffel (SS), who were fanatically loyal to Hitler and would ensure his personal protection. At first they were led by Julius Schreck, Hitler's personal bodyguard and chauffeur, but soon came under the leadership of Heinrich Himmler. The SS expanded to 3,000 members by 1930, and were famous for their black uniforms. Hitler also appointed Phillip Bouler as Party secretary and Franz Schwarz as treasurer. They made sure the Party was well organised and funded. Hitler raised money from wealthy industrialists who shared some of Hitler's nationalist views, like Thyssen, Krupp and Bosch, who gave loans to the Party.

The Bamberg Conference, 1926

Whilst Hitler was in prison, the party had split into rival groups, under the leadership of Alfred Rosenberg, who possessed few leadership qualities. Some party activists like Strasser and Goebbels were based in northern, urban and industrial areas like Berlin and the Ruhr. They emphasised the **socialist** part of National Socialism, stressing the benefits for workers and attacks on businessmen and landowners. Other party leaders, like Hitler, were in southern, more rural areas of Germany like Bavaria. They emphasised the **nationalist** part of National Socialism, stressing the need for a strong state and action against the Jews. Hitler called the conference, to address the split, at Bamberg in Bavaria. Southern leaders dominated the conference. Northern leaders were allowed to put their views forward, but Hitler made his views clear, speaking for five hours, likening the socialist wing of the Party to the Communists. He also tried hard to win over Goebbels, who then abandoned his support for Strasser (who then called him a 'scheming dog'). Hitler was now fully in control of the Party. Goebbels was appointed as Gauleiter in Berlin, Strasser was made propaganda leader for the Party (although Hitler had him murdered in 1934). The socialist policies of the Party were now weakened, allowing Hitler more freedom to adopt any policies he liked.

Did Nazi support grow between 1924-29?

YES: Peasant farmers and middle-class shopkeepers and small businesses did increase their support as they did not feel the recovery of Stresemann's policies. 35% of Germans still lived in rural areas and were unaffected by his policies. The Nazis highlighted the importance of the peasants if they came to power, and promised to help agriculture. They praised the peasants as being racially pure Germans, and compared them to the corrupt and crime-ridden cities. The Nazis also hated Weimar culture, and so gained some support from conservative people in towns who saw the cultural achievements of Weimar as immoral. Membership of the Nazi Party rose to over 100,000 by 1928. It was funded partly by members' subscriptions and partly by wealthy individuals or businesses like Thyssen, Bosch and Krupp.

NO: In the 1928 elections, the Nazis only gained 12 seats in the Reichstag and only a quarter of the votes that the Communists won. They failed to win over the majority of workers, who supported the government or the Communists. This was because of the flourishing industry and recovery provided by Stresemann's government. The Nazis were still only a minority party with less than 3% of the vote in the 1928 elections. They were the smallest party in the Reichstag, with fewer seats than the Communist Party. The economic prosperity of the Stresemann years alongside his successful foreign policies meant that most Germans were not interested in extreme politics.

16) The impact of the Great Depression

Causes

In October 1929 the Wall Street Crash took place in the USA. Bankers in the USA now recalled the loans made to Germany in 1924 under the Dawes Plan.

International trade began to dry up, and German exports fell. Unemployment began to rise as employers sacked workers and factories closed. German farmers were already experiencing problems and these worsened as food prices fell. Some Germans were unable to pay their rent and became homeless.

Stresemann had also died the previous month, he was seen as the only person who could steer Germany through this crisis.

Government responses

- 1) The Müller government (1928-30) were split over whether to increase unemployment contributions (benefits) from 3 to 3.5% for the increased numbers of unemployed. In March 1930, Müller resigned.
- 2) The new chancellor, Brüning, tried to balance the budget by reducing spending and raising taxes. In March 1930 he introduced a wage cut of 2.5% for civil servants. This was blocked by the SPD in the Reichstag. President Hindenburg backed Brüning and used Article 48 to decree the wage cut. Brüning increased taxes on income, beer and sugar, and introduced further new taxes. He also made further cuts to the pay of civil servants, eventually reducing their pay by 23%. He also made very unpopular cuts of up to 60% to unemployment benefit. These harsh policies made the crisis worse and more businesses failed. Brüning was nicknamed 'the Hungry Chancellor' due to his policies.
- 3) By January 1932 the total unemployment exceeded 6 million, four out of every 10 German workers were without jobs. German people began to lose faith in the government and began to look for other political parties with simple and clear solutions. The workers wanted jobs and the middle classes feared a Communist Revolution like the one in Russia in 1917. The German Communist Party was growing and promised a way out of the depression.

Impact on Weimar Government

Brüning of the Centre Party did not have a majority during his Chancellorship (1930-32) and so relied on President Hindenburg and Article 48, so the Reichstag was used less frequently. Brüning called a general election in 1930 hoping to win a majority in the Reichstag. But the Nazis made a breakthrough, winning 107 seats and becoming the 2nd largest party, to the Social Democrats who won 143. Brüning's lack of a majority forced him to rely even more on President Hindenburg and Article 48.

German people began to lose faith in democracy.

Brüning continued to reduce government spending which lost him the support of the unemployed and led to him being nicknamed 'the Hungry Chancellor'. The people were very tired of food shortages. When some German banks collapsed in 1931, foreign investors withdrew from Germany and the crisis deepened. Brüning was forced to resign in May 1932.

Impact on German Communist Party

The German Communist Party, the KPD, had recovered from the failure of the Spartacist Revolt of 1919. In 1923 their new leader, Ernst Thälmann, abandoned the goal of immediate revolution and tried to gain support in the elections instead. During the 1920s the KPD was the largest Communist Party in Europe and the largest outside of the Soviet Union. In the 1928 elections it received 10% of the votes, by 1932 this increased to 15%, more than a million extra voters. It was especially popular amongst the working classes who thought they were the only party who would defend their jobs and wages against employers and landowners, as unemployment was increasing and wages were falling. But this also caused fear amongst the middle and upper classes of a possible Communist takeover. Support for the Nazis increased as they feared that a Communist government might confiscate their land and companies. The middle and upper classes saw the Nazis as the best defence against the Communists. So in the presidential election of 1932, Thälmann (KPD leader), took 13.2% of the vote, but Hitler took 30.1%.



17) Why did support for the Nazis increase 1929-32?

Role of Goebbels

The Nazis increased their support through propaganda, having rallies, putting up posters in prominent places, and displaying banners so that Nazis appeared to be everywhere. In 1929, Goebbels was appointed Head of Propaganda for the Nazi Party. He understood how to use the mass media and manipulate huge audiences. He ensured that the Nazi message was simple and frequently repeated. By the early 1930s, the Nazis owned 120 daily or weekly newspapers read by hundreds of thousands of people. Goebbels was able to present the Nazi Party in local, regional, national and presidential elections, so they were heard everywhere, especially on the radio.

Nazi election success

The Weimar government's response to the Great Depression was not effective. The Depression hit all people in society and so the Nazis tried to appeal to all people in society – they blamed the Weimar government for causing the economic crisis, and the weak coalition governments seemed unable to solve it. The Nazis played on the resentment of the Treaty of Versailles and the November Criminals. Hitler also blamed the Jews as a scapegoat for Germany's problems. He said that they were involved with Communism but also the evils of capitalism. They had helped cause unemployment. They had been involved in Germany's defeat in WW1, as well as being involved in the Communist revolution in 1917 in Russia. Hitler claimed that they were preparing to cause a revolution in Germany which would mean that all private property and wealth would be seized by the government.

General Elections 1928–32: seats in the Reichstag and votes

	May 1928	Sept 1930	July 1932
National Socialists	12	107	230
Communists	54	77	89
The Nazi vote	1 million	6 million	13 million

The Presidential election of 1932

During this election, Hitler stood against Hindenburg. The Nazis used a lot of modern technology. Hitler took an aeroplane to be able to speak at up to five cities on the same day. Goebbels ensured that there was mass rallies spreading the Nazi message but also the idea of Hitler as a national political figure. The message was spread in films, the radio and even records. President Hindenburg did not campaign. Hindenburg failed to win the necessary 50% majority in the first round of elections, so there had to be a second round. Hitler won more votes the second time round but still lost out to Hindenburg. These tactics paid off and in the July 1932 elections the Nazis won the most seats (37% of the votes).



18) Why did support for the Nazis increase 1929-32? Pt 2

Financial support for the Nazis

The Nazis received funds from leading industrialists like Thyssen, Krupp and Bosch. These industrialists were scared of the communist threat and also worried about the growth of trade union power. They knew that Hitler hated communism and that he would reduce the influence of the unions. By 1932 the Nazis also built links with the National Party (DNVP), led by Alfred Hugenberg. Hugenberg was a newspaper tycoon and he allowed the Nazis to publish articles attacking Brüning. This kept the Nazi campaign against the government going and kept the message of the Nazis in peoples minds.

Role of the SA

In Hitler's speeches he claimed that democracy and the Weimar Government was weak, and said that only himself and the Nazis could provide the strong government Germany needed. The Nazis used the SA to provide protection for their meetings, and also to disrupt the meetings of their opponents, especially the Communists. Hitler reappointed Ernst Röhm as leader of the SA in 1931 and by 1932 its membership increased to 400,000, compared to the KPD's militia of only about 130,000. The Communists also had their own private fighting force, the Red Front Fighters, and there were many fights between them and the SA. Hitler tried to show that he could stamp out the Communist violence and their threat of revolution. The SA also attacked and intimidated any other open opponents of the Nazis.

Role of Hitler

Hitler had developed the art of public speaking in the early years of the NSDAP and attracted many members to the Party. He helped draw up the 25 point programme and he was aware that that following the failure of the Putsch he had to present himself and the Party as law-abiding and democratic. To achieve success in the elections he knew that he had to offer something to all groups in German society.

Hitler's image was built upon through Nazi propaganda. He became a war hero, a saviour of Germany, an ordinary man in the street – he could be all things to all people. His image gave the impression that his whole existence was given to Germany and making Germany the strongest nation in the world. Unlike most other politicians of the time, Hitler had charisma.



19) Who supported the Nazis?

Big Business

The leaders of big businesses were actively targeted by the Nazis. The Nazis were able to persuade them that they were the best hope of protection from the Communists. As a result, Nazi finances improved, as businessmen like Benz and Krupp gave money to the NSDAP. Nazi propaganda benefitted from the National Party leader Alfred Hugenberg, a newspaper tycoon who allowed Goebbels to use his newspapers for Nazi propaganda against the Communists.

Working-class support

The NSDAP tried to appear like the party of the German working class, as seen in their name – National Socialist German Workers Party. The Nazis had policies which directly appealed to workers, such as supporting traditional German values and wanting to create a stronger Germany. The Nazis also promised 'Work and Bread' in their propaganda. However, many workers preferred the Communists, so the workers never dominated the Nazi vote – they needed support from other groups too.

Middle-Class support

This included professional people like teachers, lawyers, business people and small farmers. They often owned land or businesses and had savings. From 1929-3, they switched support from the moderate parties to the Nazis. They were hurt by the Great Depression, having lost companies, savings or pensions. They saw Hitler as a strong figure who could help the country recover. After 1929 they were also afraid of the growth of the Communist Party, who wanted to abolish private ownership of land and businesses. The middle classes saw the Nazis as a strong party who could protect them from the Communists.

Farmers

In 1928 the Nazis changed their 25 Point Programme from confiscating all private land, to stating that they would only confiscate it if it was owned by Jews. This reassured farmers, who also hoped that Hitler would protect them from the Communist Party, who would confiscate their land. Farmers and rural Germans had also not benefitted from Stresemann's recovery, the Nazis promised them help. Support for the NSDAP from farmers was strong, the Nazis gained 60% of the votes in some rural areas.

Women

The Nazis argued that women should play a traditional role in society as wives and mothers. Nazi propaganda made special appeals to women. It claimed that voting for the NSDAP was best for their country and best for their families. This was attractive for many.

Young People

For many young people, the Nazi Party was exciting. Its rallies were colourful and full of atmosphere. Hitler's speeches were passionate and promised more than the traditional parties. Hitler attracted many younger people to become members

Something for everyone

Whilst the Nazis did target support from specific sections of society, they also appealed to the whole nation, not just to specific groups. This was a new method for German politics and helped the NSDAP grow.

20) How did Hitler become Chancellor?

The July 1932 elections

In 1930 the Nazis had become the second largest party in the Reichstag. Brüning's government was unpopular and he ruled by presidential decree, dependent on President Hindenburg. But by 1932 he had lost the support of the President as he failed to improve the economy, but Hindenburg also disapproved of Brüning's plan to give away bankrupt farms in Prussia to the unemployed. He was forced to resign, and was replaced by Franz von Papen of the Centre Party. There was much violence in the run up to the election, about 100 people were killed and more than 1,125 wounded in clashes between the political parties. More people voted than ever before in the election. The Nazis won 230 seats and became the largest party in the Reichstag.

Von Papen's Chancellorship

Despite not winning a majority in the July election, Von Papen did not give up his role as Chancellor and began to scheme with President Hindenburg. Hitler demanded the post of Chancellor, as he was the leader of the largest party in the Reichstag. Hindenburg refused at a meeting in August, he considered Hitler a jumped up corporal who was intolerant. Von Papen was unable to command a majority in the Reichstag and could not maintain a coalition. He was forced to dissolve the Reichstag in September and call for new elections in November. Von Papen hoped that the Nazis were losing momentum and if he continued the Nazis would slowly lose support. They did lose some support due to the continued violence of the SA worrying some middle classes, as well as beginning to run out of funds, but they still remained the largest political party with 196 votes (33%).

Rivalry between Von Papen and Von Schleicher

Von Schleicher's Chancellorship: Following the November elections, Hitler continued to demand the post of Chancellor and Von Papen suggested abolishing the Weimar Constitution. Kurt von Schleicher, the Minister of Defence, was able to persuade Hindenburg that if this happened there might be a civil war. Papen lost Hindenburg's confidence and resigned. He was replaced by Schleicher who hoped to form a *Querfront*, a 'cross front' bringing together political parties from the left and right.

Von Papen's deal with Hitler: Von Papen was determined to regain his power, and so met Hitler in early January 1933. They agreed that Hitler should lead a Nazi-Nationalist government, with Papen as Vice-Chancellor. The army, major landowners and industrial leaders were convinced that Papen and Hitler were saving Germany from Schleicher's plans and a possible Communist takeover. Papen was able to convince Hindenburg that a coalition government with Hitler would save Germany and bring stability. He believed that he would be able to control Hitler, as a 'Puppet Chancellor'.

Hitler becomes Chancellor on 30th January 1933. He was the leader of the largest political party and he had been invited by the President. He had achieved his aim of becoming Chancellor legally and democratically.

Reichstag Elections, 1928-1933

Party Representation in the Reichstag of the Weimar Republic						
Party	May 1928	Sept. 1930	July 1932	Nov. 1932	Mar. 1933	Nov. 1933
National Socialist (Nazi)	12	108	230	196	288	661
German National Peoples	78	41	37	51	52	
German Peoples	45	30	7	11	2	
Economic	23	23	2	1		
Catholic Center	61	68	75	70	74	
Bavarian Peoples	17	19	22	20	18	
State (Democrats)	25	15	4	2	5	
Social Democrat (Socialist)	153	143	133	121	120	
Communist	54	77	89	100	81	
Other Parties	23	53	9	12	7	
Totals	491	577	608	584	647	661



21) HOW DID HITLER CONSOLIDATE HIS POWER? (1933-1934)

January 30th 1933
Hitler becomes Chancellor. The Nazis celebrate with a torchlight parade. But Hitler only had two other Nazis in the Cabinet – Wilhelm Frick as Reich Minister for the Interior (giving him power over government ministries and officials, and Hermann Goering as Minister without Portfolio and Minister for Prussia (giving him control of nearly 2/3 of Germany. Hitler's position was also not strong because he did not have a majority and he was disliked by President Hindenburg. Hitler immediately calls an election for March 4th 1933.

February 27th 1933
The Reichstag fire occurs. Marinus Van der Lubbe, a Dutch Communist, is arrested outside of the building with fire lighting equipment. The latest evidence suggests that it was the work of Goering and the Nazi party. Hitler persuades Hindenburg, the German President, that the fire is the start of a Communist revolution. Hindenburg panics and gives the Nazis **THE DECREE FOR THE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE AND STATE**, placing Germany in a state of emergency and suspending civil rights. The Nazis could now imprison large numbers of their political opponents. In the following week, 4,000 Communists were arrested including their leader Ernst Thälmann. The Nazis also killed 51 opponents and injured several hundred. The police did nothing. Communist and socialist newspapers were banned.

March 4th 1933
The Nazis win the election with 44.6% of the vote (288 seats). They do not have enough for total control of the Reichstag so they form a coalition with the Nationalists. This gave them a majority in the Reichstag (51.9% - only just!)
The Nazis use the DECREE FOR THE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE AND STATE and propaganda to destroy the Communist election campaign. Hitler now asks the Reichstag for emergency powers to rule by decree for 4 years. He calls this THE ENABLING LAW.
Over 2/3 of the Reichstag agree and Hitler is granted the **ENABLING ACT**. This allows him to suspend the Reichstag. Democracy in Germany is now at an end.

HOW DID HITLER GET THE ENABLING ACT PASSED?

- 1 – Many Communists were arrested and were not able to vote due to the emergency decree.
- 2 – Protesters were stationed outside the Kroll Opera House (the temporary Reichstag) demanding the law.
- 3 – Hitler gave an impressive speech about the threat of Communism. He also convinced the Centre Party to support it as he promised to respect the rights of the Catholic Church.
- 4 – SA troops lined the opera house with machine guns as a threat to the members of the Reichstag who were voting.

Hitler now tried to bring German society in line with Nazi philosophy, and Nazify Germany – **Gleichschaltung**.
May 1933 Trade Unions are banned and their funds are taken. Hitler creates a new Nazi workers trade union called the German Labour Front (RAD).
In July 1933, all other political parties were banned and the leaders arrested. Many are placed in the first concentration camp, DACHAU.
State (Länder) Parliaments are Nazified and then closed down in January 1934. Hitler wanted a strong central government controlling all of the people through Reich governors.

The Night of Long Knives

WHY DID HITLER LAUNCH THE NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES?

- 1 – Rohm had boasted of a second more socialist revolution, and was concerned about Hitler's relationship with big business. This could only mean overthrowing Hitler in a coup. Rohm was seen as a threat.
- 2 – The SA had served their purpose in getting Hitler into power. Their actions of bullying the German people were in danger of turning people against Nazism, this worried Frick and Goering.
- 3 – Hitler needed the army on side. The removal of the leaders of the SA would help him to achieve an oath of allegiance from the army.
- 4 – There were 3 million members of the SA. This number was dangerously large. Hitler wanted to give more power to his personal bodyguards – Himmler's SS

HOW?

Rohm and the other leaders were sent to the Hotel Hanselbauer in Bad Wiessee for a break on 30th June following a tip-off from Himmler that Rohm was plotting to seize power. Himmler and Hitler planned the coup with Hitler personally arresting Rohm first. 300 SA leaders were rounded up and executed. The purge also included leading Weimar politicians, e.g. Schleicher and also Gregor Strasser, an old rival in the Nazi Party. The Nazis explained the purge to the people as preventing a revolution. About 400 were killed in total.
AUGUST 1934 – Hindenburg dies. Hitler now declared himself the FUHRER (leader) and the army swear an oath of allegiance to the Hitler as Fuhrer. In the following referendum, 90% of Germany supported Hitler's actions.

22) Gleichschaltung - Hitler's vision for Germany

Greater Germany

Lebensraum (living space): there would be a giant empire in Eastern Europe where pure Aryan Germans would live.

Germany would win back the land lost by the Treaty of Versailles

National Community

All Germans would put the needs of the state (the National Community) above everything else – even the needs of their family and friends.

Loyalty

Hitler (the Führer) would be the key figure in Germany. The armed forces, government, all organisations and all Germans would be loyal to him.

Propaganda would win Germans over to Nazi ways of thinking.

Terror would deal with anyone who opposed the Nazi regime.

Economic Strength

In the short term, the Nazis would get the unemployed back to work and help Germany recover from the Depression.

In the long term, Hitler would build up Germany's industries ready for war.

Military Strength

The armed forces would be built up

War would make Germany strong. The German people would be mentally prepared for war.

The Nazis would destroy the USSR and all those who believed in Communism.

Racial Purity

Aryan people would get the best jobs and be encouraged to have lots of children.

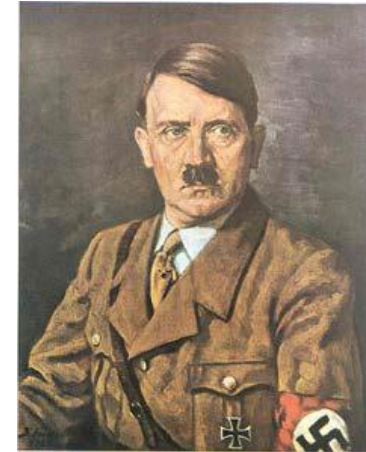
All non-Aryan people (such as Jews) would have no place in Germany. They would be sent away or killed.

All non-Aryan people (such as Jews) would have no place in Germany. They would be sent away or killed.



23) HOW DID THE NAZIS CONTROL ALL GERMAN PEOPLE? Pt 1

HEINRICH HIMMLER
HEAD OF THE SS



Reinhard Heydrich
Chief of the SD and the Gestapo (from 1936)



ADOLF HITLER – THE FUHRER



EVIDENCE
OR
SUSPICION

In 1934, the SS had more than 50,000 members, who were expected to be racially pure Aryans. By 1939 it was 250,000. Their main role was to maintain security within the party and the country, dealing with political opposition. The SS ran the concentration camps. The SS officers at the camps were called DEATH HEADS. SS were known as the Blackshirts.

The Gestapo investigated political threats to Hitler or the Nazis. They arrested people for political crimes, who most likely ended up in concentration camps. The Germans believed cities were crawling with them, but there were only 4 in Berlin. They relied on informants. They were ruthless, used torture to obtain confessions and were feared by most German people.

The *Sicherheitsdienst* (SD) Set up in 1931 as the intelligence body of the Nazis under command of Himmler but run by Heydrich. Their role was to discover actual and potential enemies of the Nazi Party and remove them. It attracted many educated, professional people.

THE GERMAN PEOPLE – the most important factor in the Nazi control system. They were expected to denounce suspicious characters.



24) HOW DID THE NAZIS CONTROL ALL GERMAN PEOPLE? Pt 2



The concentration camps

By 1939, 150,000 people under 'protective arrest' in prisons. They were locked up for doing things which the Nazis disapproved of. To cope with the growing numbers of prisoners, concentration camps were created and run by the SA and SS.

The first one opened at Dachau in 1933. The first camp for women was opened later in 1933 at Moringen. Camps were located in isolated areas, away from the cities and the public.

The inmates included people like 'undesirables' (prostitutes and homosexuals), minority groups such as Jews, and political prisoners who the Nazis feared would undermine their control of Germany (intellectuals, communists or political writers and journalists like Carl von Ossietzky, a journalist who spoke out against the Nazi regime, who was arrested and placed in a concentration camp at Esterwegen where he died in 1938).

Control of the legal system

Hitler set up the National Socialist League for the Maintenance of the Law. He insisted that all judges must be members. If any judges were displeased with the Nazis, they were denied membership. This way Hitler could ensure that all judges supported Nazi ideas. Judges were instructed that if there was a conflict between the Nazi Party and the law, the interests of the Party were more important. From 1936 all judges had to wear the swastika and Nazi eagle on their clothes.

The German Lawyers Front was set up in 1933 which had more than 10,000 members by the end of 1934. The lawyers had to swear an oath that they would aim to follow the course of the Führer all of their lives. Hitler also stopped trial by jury. Judges decided someone's guilt and their punishment.

In 1934 a **People's Court** was set up to try all cases of treason. The judges were hand-picked by the Nazis and trials were held in secret. Hitler sometimes imposed sentences himself, and all sentences would be checked by the Minister of Justice to see if they had been too lenient. Between 1934 and 1939, 534 people were sentenced to death for political offences, compared to only 8 people between 1930-32.

PROPAGANDA

☑ Josef Goebbels was made Minister of People's Enlightenment and Propaganda, co-ordinating Nazi policies to media, sport, culture and art.

☑ Posters promoting Nazi policies and denouncing the enemy.

☑ Films such as the Triumph of the Will or the Eternal Jew.

☑ The Press – All newspapers Nazi controlled. Editors told what they could and could not print. They were also given regular briefings by the government and sometimes direct orders of what to write.

☑ Radio – All radio stations under Nazi control. Cheap, mass produced radios (the Peoples Receiver) sold to the public (by 1939, 70% of homes had a radio). Frequent mass broadcasts in the streets, workplaces and cafes by Nazi officials.

☑ Rallies – Nuremberg rally each year. Up to 100,000 present to hear Hitler. In 1934, Nuremberg rally had a giant 100 foot Nazi eagle statues, thousands of banners, and shining lights. It had over 200,000 flag waving supporters. Spectacular parades.

☑ One pot Sunday campaign – All leftovers from the week cooked in a pot on Sunday.

☑ Misinformation – The Nazis spread rumours and re-wrote text books to suit their ideas.

☑ Censorship – Book burnings of Jewish authors in 1933, American music banned as well as certain films.

☑ Law Against Malicious Gossip – Illegal to tell Anti-Nazi jokes.

25) Nazi control of culture and the Arts

Sport

Goebbels tried to 'Nazify' sport. Sports stadiums were covered with Nazi symbols, linking enthusiasm for sport with enthusiasm for Nazism. He insisted that all teams made the Nazi straight-arm salute during the German national anthem, so that all sports stars seemed to be paying respect to the Nazi state. All sports victories were hailed as victories for the Nazi ideal.

The Berlin Olympics, 1936

The Nazis built a stadium which could hold 110,000 people, the largest in the world. It was full of swastikas and Nazi symbols.

All the events were well organised, demonstrating Nazi efficiency.

Germany won 33 gold medals, more than any other country – heralded as a success for Nazism.

The games were filmed by Leni Riefenstahl, a leading German film director. She released two films in 1938 for Nazi propaganda.

The Reich Press Chamber warned the press not to print any information about the Olympics before the official press report, except 'at their own risk'.

Films

Cinema was a useful way of getting the Nazi message spread. Films began with a 45 minute official newsreel. All film-makers had to send plot details of every new film to Goebbels for approval. The Nazis made their own films, about 1,300 in total. Nazi films had political underlying messages, such as the Eternal Jew. Goebbels also made a cartoon with the main character, Hansi the canary, based on Mickey Mouse, who was pestered by villainous black crows with stereotypical Jewish features.

Culture and the Arts

The Nazis wanted to stress traditional German values in cultural activities, as well as Nazi ideals like loyalty, struggle, discipline and self-sacrifice.

In 1933 the Reich Chamber of Culture was set up which covered art, architecture, literature, music, theatre and film. Overseen by Goebbels. It aimed to ensure all cultural activities were in line with Nazi ideals (*Gleichschaltung*).



Art

The Nazis set up a Reich Chamber of Visual Arts. All painters and sculptors had to be a member. Any who refused membership was forbidden to teach, produce or sell art.

In 1936, over 1,200 paintings and sculptures were removed from art galleries and museums, including work by Picasso and Van Gogh. The Gestapo also made visits to art centres to check rules were not being broken. The Nazis held competitions to encourage art they did approve of with large prizes, e.g. at the German Great Art exhibition in 1936.

Architecture

The Nazis disliked modernist and futuristic architecture. They wanted architecture to make the Nazis seem powerful. One of the main architects for the Nazis was Albert Speer, whose projects included the parade ground for the Nazi rallies at Nuremberg in 1934, and the new Chancellery for Hitler in Berlin in 1938. Speer built huge buildings, suggesting power, as well as using Ancient Roman and Greek features to make the buildings seem grand and historic. His buildings were also decorated with huge Nazi flags.

Books

All new books had to be approved by the Reich Chamber of Culture. Existing books which had views which the Nazis did not like were censored. 2,500 writers were banned. Millions of books were taken from libraries and universities and burned on huge, public bonfires. In May 1933, students in Berlin burned 20,000 books written by Jews, communists and anti-Nazi authors, including works by Sigmund Freud and Einstein.

Music

Some types of music were banned. Jazz music as it was seen as it was seen as 'black music' and inferior. Mendelssohn's music was also banned partly because he was Jewish. Some music was promoted because it emphasised Nazi approved ideas; Richard Wagner was liked because he put the legends of heroic and powerful Germans to music, and Beethoven, Bach and traditional German music were also favoured.

26) Nazi policies towards the Church

The Nazis and the Catholic Church

Reason for tension: One third of German Christians were Catholic, owing allegiance to the Pope on social issues, not the Nazis. Catholics had their own schools, which taught different values to the Nazis. Catholics also consistently supported the Centre Party, who Hitler needed the support of to get a majority initially in the Reichstag.

Early attempts at compromise: July 1933 the **Concordat** was made with the Pope. Hitler agreed to confirm freedom of worship for Catholics and not to interfere with Catholic schools in Germany. The Church agreed that its priests would not interfere in politics and ordered German bishops to swear loyalty to the Nazi regime.

Later actions against the Church: Hitler broke his promise. Catholic priests were harassed and arrested, many were sent to concentration camps. Catholic schools were closed or placed under the control of the state. Catholic youth activities such as the Catholic Youth League, were banned. By 1937, Pope Pius XI realised that the Concordat was worthless and issued a strong criticism of the Nazis in a statement known as 'With Burning Anxiety'



The Nazis and the Protestant Church

Early relationship: At the start of the Nazi regime, some Protestants admired Hitler – the 'German Christians'. They believed that the Nazis had protected them from the anti-Christian Communists.

Early support: In 1936 the German Christians set up the Reich Church, which working with the Nazis, led by Ludwig Müller. Hitler made Müller the Reich Bishop of Germany. Protestant pastors who supported Nazi views were allowed to continue providing church services. Some Protestant pastors allowed the Nazi swastika to be displayed in their churches. The Nazis insisted that Jews should not be baptised into the Reich Church and that the Jewish teachings in the Old Testament should be excluded from Christian teaching.

Opposition: Not all Protestants accepted the Nazis. The most famous was the Pastor Martin Niemöller. He helped set up the Pastors' Emergency League (PEL) to campaign against Nazi actions. In 1937 he was sent to a concentration camp and the PEL was banned.



27) OPPOSITION FROM THE CHURCH

Opposition from Churches

The Pastors' Emergency League (PEL):

Protestant Pastors including Martin Niemöller, set up the PEL in 1933. They opposed two key aspects of Nazi treatment of Protestant Churches in Germany. They did not support the joining of regional churches into one national German Christian Church. They also did not like Nazi attempts to stop Jews becoming Christians and to ban the Jewish Old Testament from Christian teaching.

The Confessing Church: The PEL set up the Confessing Church in 1934, creating effectively two Protestant Churches in Germany – the Reich Church which co-operated with the Nazis, and the Confessing Church, which opposed Nazi interference. About 2,000 pastors remained in the German Christian Church, but about 6,000 joined the Confessing Church. Some pastors spoke out against the Nazis. About 800 were arrested and sent to concentration camps.



The Catholic Church:

In 1937, Pope Pius XI realised that the Concordat was worthless and issued a strong criticism of the Nazis in a statement known as 'With Burning Anxiety'. He issued an encyclical (special letter) to German Catholic priests which attacked the Nazi system and dictatorship. Priests read the letter to their congregations.

The Nazis closed Catholic groups and prevented Catholics from joining the Nazi Party. Symbols like the cross and the crucifix were removed from Catholic Schools. This was halted following complaints, but re-introduced when war broke out in 1939.

Some Catholic priests spoke out against Nazi ideas and policies. Around 400 were eventually imprisoned in the Priests' Block at Dachau concentration camp.



Pastor Martin Niemöller

In the 1920s he opposed the Weimar government and believed Germany needed a strong leader – therefore initially welcomed Hitler as Chancellor. But he was against Nazi interference in the Protestant Church. Niemöller was a founding member of the PEL in 1933 and the Confessing Church in 1934. He also opposed Nazi ban on Jews becoming Christians, but not the other restrictions on Jews. Niemöller was monitored by the Gestapo for criticising the Nazi regime and was frequently arrested between 1934-37. In 1937 charged with 'treasonable statements', which opposed the Nazi regime. Found guilty, and imprisoned in Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

In 1939 offered to fight for Germany in WW2 if he could be released from prison, which was denied. Later transferred to Dachau concentration camp in 1945, when he was freed at the end of the war.

28) OPPOSITION FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

The Edelweiss Pirates

Who and why? Emerged in the late 1930s in working-class parts of big cities. They used the white edelweiss flower as a symbol to show their allegiance to the Edelweiss Pirates. Best known groups were the 'Travelling Dudes' in Essen and the 'Navajos' in Cologne. Consisted of boys and girls who resented the military discipline of Nazi youth groups and their lack of freedom.

What did they do? Boys wore their hair long and copied American fashion styles. They hung around on street corners where it was difficult for the Gestapo to distinguish them from anyone else. Would sometimes taunt or even attack Hitler Youth groups. They went on long hikes in the countryside to get away from Nazi restrictions. They pitched tents, sang mocking versions of Hitler Youth songs, and told anti-Nazi jokes.



The Swing Youth

Who and why? Mainly teenagers from wealthy middle-class families in big towns, especially Berlin, Hamburg and Kiel. They admired American culture, clothes, films and music.

What did they do? Because of their wealth, they often owned record players and illegally imported American records. Listened to Swing bands like the Glen Miller Orchestra. They drank and smoked, listened to and danced in groups. Their favourite dance was the American 'Jitterbug'. They began to organise illegal dance parties, attended by up to 6,000 young people.

Some preferred jazz music, made popular by musicians like Louis Armstrong.

Became known as the **Jazz Youth**.

Himmler, leader of the SS, said that any young people who listened to jazz music should be 'beaten given the severest exercise and then put to hard labour'.

Significance?

Their actions were limited and low-level. They did little to actively oppose the Nazis. It was only after 1939 and the outbreak of WW2 that some Edelweiss Pirates began to launch more serious attacks against the government. Motives were limited, mainly focused on cultural freedoms rather than political reasons. Numbers were limited, by 1939 the Edelweiss Pirates membership was about 2,000. In contrast, the Hitler Youth membership in 1939 was about 8 million.



29) WHAT WERE NAZI ATTITUDES TOWARDS WOMEN?

1933 – The Nazis believed that men and women had different roles in life. A woman's role was to be the homemaker, good wife and mother.

The Nazis were concerned with the falling birth rate, (1900, 2 million per year, 1933 1 million per year) and needed more children to be born for the army. The Nazis created the **MARRIAGE LOANS (The Law for the encouragement of marriage)** system whereby a woman could obtain 1000RM if she married and gave up her job. If she had 4 children in the first 4 years of marriage she would not have to repay the loan at all. The loan was reduced by 250RM per child.

Marriage loans were successful with 800,000 women taking them up. The Nazis now launched a huge Propaganda campaign to get women to adopt Nazi ideals. The Mother's Cross of the German Woman was created for mothers. Gold medals were awarded to women with 8 children, silver for 6 children and bronze for 4 children. Newly married women were expected to take classes in mothercraft and homecraft by the Gauleiter.

Women were given very strict instructions about their behaviour and conduct by the Nazis.

Women were meant to:-

Not work.

Be blonde, athletic wearing a full skirt with flat heels and no make-up.

Cook all the leftovers in a stew on Sunday – "One Pot Sunday"

Not smoke in public.

Raise their children to be loyal Nazis, encouraging them to worship the Fuhrer and join the Hitler Youth.

Women were to follow the 3 K's –

Kinder, Küche, Kirche

Children, Kitchen and Church

1937 – The role of women changes. We need women workers again!

After re-armament and conscription in 1935 it was clear that the Nazis would need women to work again. This greatly troubled Hitler, but he was forced to agree to a change in policy.

Marriage loans were abolished and a DUTY YEAR was created for all women. Women had to work on a farm or in a family home for board and no pay. The number of women working increased, but still never reached Weimar levels of female employment.

1938 – But we still need more children...

The number of live births in Germany began to decrease again at the end of the 30's. The Nazis needed to increase the number of births with a long war approaching.

In 1938 – a new DIVORCE LAW was introduced whereby a man or woman could obtain a quick divorce if no children had been born into the relationship.

In 1938 the LEBENSBORN programme was set-up to "donate a baby to the Fuhrer."

Unmarried women could become pregnant by SS men. Many women doing this would scream out Hitler's name whilst in labour! During WW2 the Lebensborn programme was extended into Scandinavian countries that had many Aryans.

HOW SUCCESSFUL WERE NAZI POLICIES TOWARDS WOMEN?

AIM: To produce more births in Germany and to ensure women follow the Nazi ideals.

VERY SUCCESSFUL – Over half a million more babies were being born per year under Nazi rule than Weimar rule. That adds up to about 3 million extra children.

Women were generally Hitler's most loyal followers. Most gave up working without a fuss and were committed to the 3 K's and raising their children with Nazi ideals. Women liked Nazi organisation and most families were better off than in the Great Depression and attributed that to Hitler.

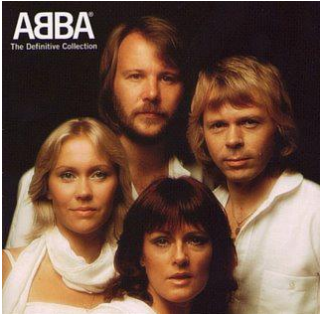
The Lebensborn policy was accepted by the most fanatical of Hitler's female supporters as being necessary for Germany.

UNSUCCESSFUL to a small extent – Due to conscription and the war the Nazis did not achieve their aim of stopping women working altogether. After 1937 women were needed to play a key role in the war effort, but do remember that less women were working under the Nazis than in the Weimar Republic. A few women were very bitter about having to give up their careers in 1933.

Overall, Nazi policies towards women achieved their aims and were largely successful.

WHO WAS GERTRUDE SCHOLTZ-KLINK?

She was a German mother of 6 children. She had classic Aryan looks and followed Nazi ideals on dress and behaviour. She became the Head of the Women's Bureau in 1934 – a kind of figurehead for women. She insisted all women's organisations should join with the German Women's Enterprise, (DFW). If any refused, they were banned. This gave the Nazis control of all women's groups in Germany, and eventually had 6 million members.



30) WHAT WERE NAZI ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE YOUNG?

1933 – Hitler wants to turn the young into Nazis and soldiers of the future. Girls to be trained as the wives and mothers of political soldiers. Boys – Start in the German Young People and progress to the Hitler Youth (HJ). Girls start in the Young Girls and progress to the League of German maidens (BDM). By 1936 membership was made compulsory: 3 million boys are in the Hitler Youth (although many did not join) with 2.5 million girls in the BDM. Interest in the BDM is slower than the HJ. Goebbels issues many Propaganda posters promoting girls' involvement in 1935 and 1936 to spark interest.

Why join the Hitler Youth?

- 1 – Many poor families could send their children on holiday in the summer camp.
- 2 – The Gauleiter would be less suspicious if your child was a Hitler Youth member.
- 3 – The Hitler Youth was “cool” at first and appealed to the natural rebelliousness of Youth.
- 4 – The activities were exciting for the young – camps, marching and fighting.

Activities –

At the start of their membership all HJ members have to prove their loyalty and take a series of physical and bravery tests. Hitler Youth activities centre around preparation for war. They build aeroplanes, camp, march, sing military songs, study the Treaty of Versailles and learn to fire weapons. The highlight of the year is the Hitler Youth Summer Camp. Girls activities include fitness, domestic work, athletics and raising money for the Nazi party. All Hitler Youth members received a uniform and jewelled dagger. They got right of way if marching on the street or pavement. All members of the Youth movement were expected to denounce anti-Nazi family members. By 1939 there were over seven million members.

1935 – Nuremberg Rally

As the Propaganda film, The Triumph of the Will, shows the Hitler Youth played an important role. They crammed the front rows and provided military music. They were treated to a speech by the Hitler Youth leader, Baldur Von Schirach. Hitler spoke to the Youth and gave a stirring speech about dying for Germany and righting the inequalities of the past. He said that the blood of the Youth was the blood of Germany and that in them lay the future of the country. All Hitler Youth members swore an oath of allegiance to Hitler.



1936 – Berlin Olympics

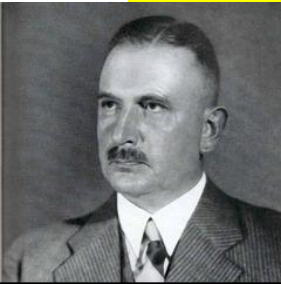
The Youth played a part in displaying Nazi power and unity by being present at the Berlin Olympics. Hitler and Goebbels wanted to use the event to show German might. A brand new Olympic stadium had been created and German Aryans were expected to win key events. German women did take medals in the javelin. However, Hitler's party was spoiled in the Men's 100 metres. A black man, Jesse Owens, easily defeated the German Aryan athletes in the final. This was too much for Hitler and he never returned to the Olympic stadium for any further events.

The League of German Maidens

There were separate youth groups for girls – the Jungmädel (Young Maidens) for girls aged 10-14, and the Bund Deutscher Mädel for girls aged 14-21. Some of the activities were the same as for boys; political activities including rallies and oaths of allegiance, as well as physical and character building activities like camping and marching. However, girls did not receive any military training, they were trained to cook, iron, make beds, sew and prepare to be a housewife. Girls were also taught the importance of 'racial hygiene', that they should keep the German race pure by only marrying Aryan men.



31) NAZI CONTROL OF EDUCATION



Bernhard Rust, Nazi education minister. His purpose of education is to create Nazis'.

Nazi control of teachers

In 1933 the Nazis passed a law giving them the power to sack teachers they didn't approve of. All teachers had to swear an oath of loyalty to join the Nazi Teachers' League. This ran political education courses for teachers, setting out the Nazis ideas which teachers should support. By 1939, over 200,000 had attended these courses.

Teachers taught students to do the Nazi salute, starting and ending each lesson with the children saying 'Heil Hitler', and decorating classrooms with Nazi posters and flags.

Nazi control of the curriculum

New subjects were added to the curriculum, including Race Studies where children were taught how to classify racial groups and were told that Aryans were superior and that they should not marry inferior races such as Jews. Traditional subjects were changed to make them more useful to the kind of society the Nazis wanted, or to develop Nazi ideas.

The amount of time for PE and sport was doubled, taking up about 1/6 of lesson time – this was to create strong workers and soldiers, and healthy mothers.

The curriculum was different for boys and girls. Girls were made to do domestic science, which included needle work and cookery as it made them better wives and mothers.

From 1935 all new textbooks had to be approved by the Nazis. These perpetuated Nazi ideas. History books taught that the Treaty of Versailles was a 'stab in the back' for Germany, planned by Socialists, and that Jews were evil. Mein Kampf was made a compulsory school text.

Pupils gathered together in schools halls to listen to major Nazi political speeches on the radio.

New schools:

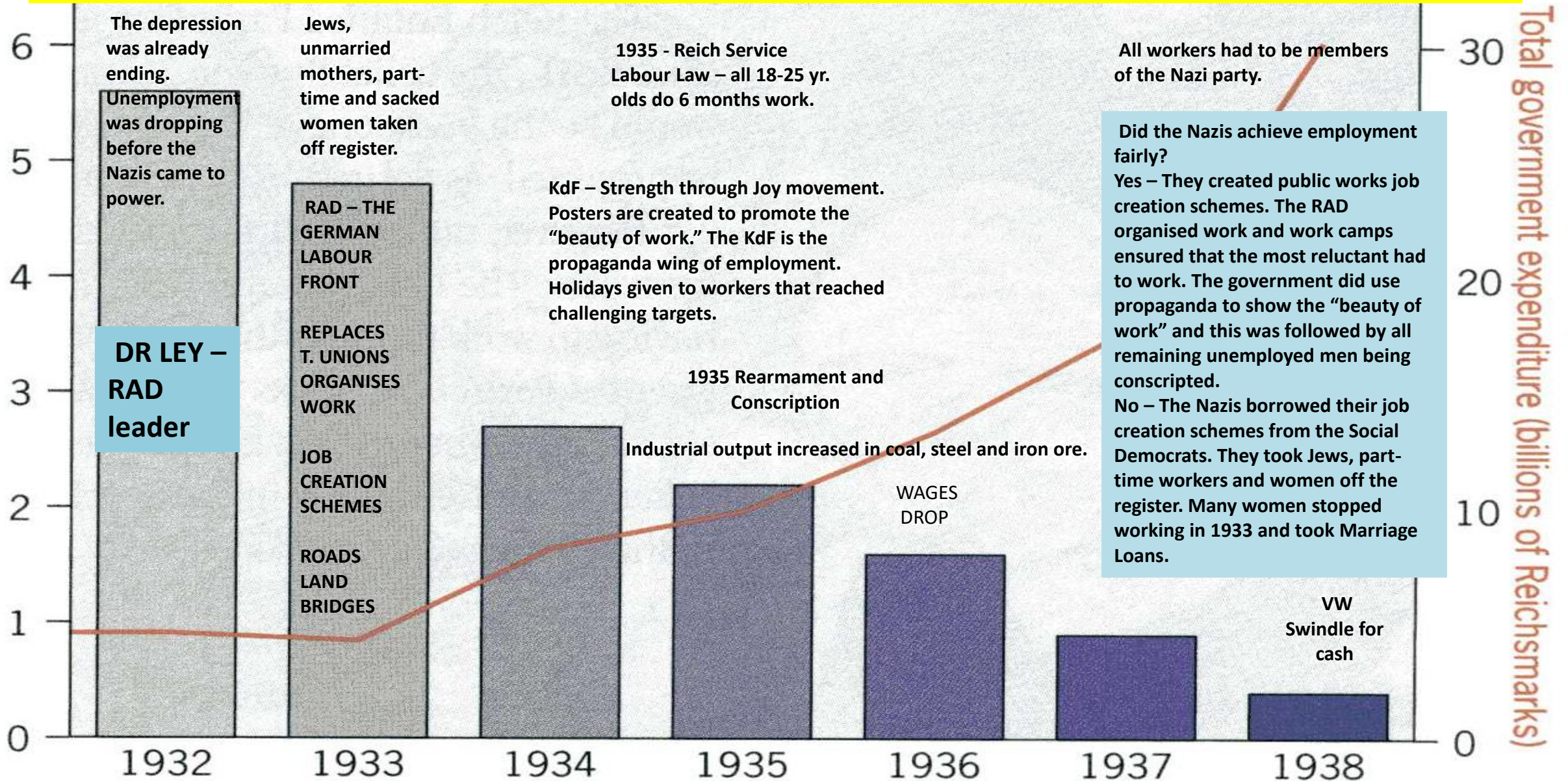
Napolas: Napolas stand for National Political Training Institutes. These were set up in 1933 by Rust as boarding schools for boys aged 10-18 intended to train the future leaders of Germany. From 1936 it was run by the SS. By 1939 there were 16 of these schools. Pupils were selected by being tested in examinations and sports, and then examined by doctors. Only the most intelligent, competitive, aggressive and racially pure children were selected. Pupils were taught by members of the SA and SS. The curriculum was similar to other schools, but there was no religious education and more sport. After pupils graduated, many went into the army, the SS, or officers in the police.

Adolf Hitler Schools: For students aged between 10-18 who were mainly the elite of the Hitler Youth.

Order Castles (Ordensburgen): For graduates of the Adolf Hitler Schools, with entrants in their 20s. Live ammunition was used in war games, and in some cases students were killed in these activities.



32) HOW DID THE NAZIS ACHIEVE EMPLOYMENT IN GERMANY?



33) HOW DID THE NAZIS IMPROVE THE ECONOMY? Part 1

PHASE 1 – The work of Dr Schacht 1933-1936

AIMS: To reduce unemployment.

To re-arm.

To make Germany self-sufficient from imports.

HOW? THE NEW PLAN

Imports were limited and controlled.

Trade deals were made with other countries i.e. Hungary provided butter and vegetable oil.

Government spending in the arms industry increased.

Unemployment reduced (see separate timeline)

How successful was Schacht's New Plan?

The New Plan solved the economic crisis in Germany which had resulted from the Great Depression.

The New Plan was helped by the fact that the World was sliding out of depression.

The New Plan was designed to prepare for war slower than Hitler would have liked. This cost Schacht his job as Finance Minister.

PHASE 2 – The work of Hermann Goering 1937- 1939

AIMS: To prepare Germany for war.

To make Germany self sufficient. This was called AUTARKY.

HOW? THE 4 YEAR PLAN

Production in coal, iron and steel was increased.

Big businesses were persuaded to manufacture rubber, fuel and textiles.

Imports reduced again.

Controls placed on wages and prices.

Forced labour introduced through the camp system.

How successful was Goering's Four Year Plan?

The government poured billions of Reichsmarks into the economy under Goering. Government spending on arms increased from 3.5 billion marks in 1933, to 26 billion in 1939. This caused a large improvement in employment in the arms industry, and helped reduce unemployment to about 1/2 million by 1939.

The Treaty of Versailles had limited Germany's army to 100,000 men. By 1939 there were 1,360,000 in the armed forces, with over 900,000 in the army.

They were still not prepared for war. Autarky had not been achieved. This meant that Germany could only be ready for war economically by conquering countries quickly.



Who was Dr Schacht?

Dr Schacht was the Nazi economic minister. He was a brilliant financial expert.

In 1936 he criticised the speed in which Hitler was planning for war. This led to him resigning in 1937 when he lost his power.

Who was Hermann Goering?

Hermann Goering was an ex-WW1 fighter pilot. He was leader of the Luftwaffe (German air force). He knew very little about finance and business. He became Finance Minister because he made promises to Hitler that he could have Germany ready for war quicker than Schacht.



DID YOU KNOW?

Goering claimed responsibility for setting up the Reichstag fire in 1933. It was certainly helpful that his HQ was connected to the Reichstag by underground tunnels.

Goering was responsible for the Nuremberg laws against Jews and charged the Jews a 1 billion mark fine after the Kristallnacht.

At the end of the war Goering was put on trial for committing war crimes. He pleaded not guilty and insisted that he was not anti-Semitic. He was found guilty and due to be executed in 1946. The night before his execution he took his own life by taking poisonous pills.

34) HOW DID THE NAZIS IMPROVE THE ECONOMY? Part 2

Economic recovery and Rearmament

Schacht organised Germany's finances to fund huge programmes of work creation. **The National Labour Service (RAD)** sent men on public works projects, in particular to build a network of motorways (autobahnen). Railways were extended or built from scratch. There was major house-building programmes and grand new building projects like the Reich Chancellery in Berlin.

In 1935 Hitler reintroduced conscription for the army. In 1936 he announced a **Four-Year Plan**, under Goering's control, to get the German economy ready for war.

Conscription reduced unemployment. The need for weapons, equipment and uniforms created jobs in the coal mines, steel and textile mills.

Engineers and designers were given new opportunities such as building up the German air force (Luftwaffe). As well as boosting economic recovery, these measures also boosted national pride. People felt that Germany was finally recovering from the humiliation of the First World War and Versailles.

The Workers

Hitler promised lower unemployment, and therefore ensured popularity among industrial workers. He needed them to help make Germany great. He did this through a variety of initiatives:

- Propaganda which praised the workers and tried to associate them with Hitler.
- **Strength through Joy (KdF)** gave workers cheap theatre and cinema tickets, organised courses, trips and sports events, and even cruises. By 1939 over 2 million Germans had been on one of KdF's holidays.
- Workers were encouraged to save five marks a week in the scheme to buy a Volkswagen Beetle, the 'people's car'. But the scheme was halted by the war in 1939.
- The **Beauty of Labour (SdA)** movement improved working conditions in factories and introduced features like washing facilities and low cost canteens. But it was common for employers to force the workers to do this work as extra time for no pay.
- But Workers lost any representation. They lost their political party (the SDP) and trade unions were banned. They were forced to join the **DAF (German Labour Front)**, run by **Dr Robert Ley** which controlled the workers. They could not strike. Wages remained low, but prices were also strictly controlled.

Standard of living for workers

Unemployment fell from just over 5 million in 1933 to around ½ a million in 1939 due to the Nazi employment policies. This did however include the 'invisible unemployed' who did not show up in Nazi statistics, like women forced to become housewives, the Jews, and the workers in the Reich Labour Front (DAF). Wages overall rose by about 20% in 1939 compared to 1933. But this was unequal, the wages of workers in the arms industries rose much quicker than those in the RAD. The price of goods also rose by about 20% in the same period, so the benefit of high wages was cancelled out by the higher prices. So the standard of living improved for skilled workers who could afford to buy luxury goods, for example the number of car owners trebled in the 1930s. But low paid unskilled workers had to use their new wages to cover the cost of increased prices for essentials like food.

The German Labour Front (DAF)

The Nazis banned trade unions in 1933 as they believed that they could disrupt the economy by calling strikes, and they were a potential source of opposition for groups like the Communists. They were replaced by the DAF, run by **Dr Robert Ley** which controlled the workers. It controlled the rights of workers, the length of the working week and set minimum pay levels. But workers lost the right to negotiation about pay and conditions, they lost the power to strike. The length of the working week increased on average by about 6 hours, and the DAF had the right to punish those who disrupted production.

35) WERE MOST PEOPLE BETTER OFF UNDER THE NAZIS?

YES

The Nazis inherited a country in economic ruins in 1933. Hitler promised to end all unemployment in 4 years.

Hitler **created 750,000 jobs by introducing Conscription** in 1935. Re-armament created more jobs in factories.

They created jobs using **Public Works schemes such as building autobahns.**

Many poorer families were delighted with Nazi rule at first. Hitler had created an improved standard of living for these people than in the Weimar days. Some also liked the “classless” Hitler Youth system since it gave their children summer holidays.

The KdF, Strength Through Joy, movement gave extra food and even holidays to the hardest working workers. However, these offers soon were withdrawn when Goebbels’ 4 Year Plan was introduced in 1936.

By 1936 Hitler had achieved his promise of creating jobs for 6 million people.



NO

By 1936 wages had fallen for most German people. By 1938 German people were working on average a further 5 hours per week for less pay.

Conditions for workers also declined under the Nazis. They lost their own trade unions and were forced to join the RAD.

As war approached the German people saw a **reduction of consumer goods** in shops as Goering’s 4 year plan geared everything towards the war.

By 1939 **German people had less civil rights** than ever before. They had a Nazi controlled media, lost the chance to vote in elections (the Enabling Law) and could not speak freely in public for fear of arrest. During the war almost every German suffered one way or another. **For Jews, homosexuals, gypsies and black people this meant persecution and eventually imprisonment in a camp. Over 6 million lost their lives.**

VS.

36) WHY DID THE NAZIS PERSECUTE MANY GROUPS IN GERMANY?

NAZI BELIEFS

Hitler set out his racial views in Mein Kampf. The Nazis had strong beliefs which were intolerant of others that did not fit their way of life:- Aryans were the master race (the *Herrenvolk*). They were a Germanic racial group that were superior. Those that did not fit the Nazi ideal were not meant to be Germanic and, therefore, did not have a place in Nazi Germany. They believed that other races such as the Slavs of Eastern Europe were sub-human (*Untermenschen*). Gypsies and the Jews were the worst of the *Untermenschen* and later deemed unworthy of live (*Lebensunwertes*).

EUGENICS and RACIAL HYGIENE

The Nazis believed in the idea of selective breeding. The Nazis wanted a strong Germany of Aryans, which could be encouraged through education in schools and in Nazi policies. They could also prevent unsuitable groups by sterilising them.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Nazis were fascinated by trying to prove a biological reason for Aryan supremacy over other races. Josef Mengele, the SS camp doctor at Auschwitz, did experiments on prisoners to find a link. He had a fascination with twins and would conduct experiments on them together. These experiments were cruel and were often completed without pain relief or anaesthetic. After the war Mengele escaped and lived in South America until 1979. Mengele's horrific methods led to him being nicknamed, "The Angel of Death."

ANTI-SEMITISM

Nazi views about the Jews is an example of anti-Semitism – hatred of the Jews. This had been common in Europe for some centuries, but by the 1930s was very strong in Germany. Many agreed with Hitler's viewpoint that the Jews had lost Germany World War One. This argument defied logic since many Jews fought for Germany and achieved iron crosses. Jews were also blamed for the Treaty of Versailles, the Hyperinflation crisis of 1923 and the Great Depression.

Homosexuals were persecuted because they did not fit the ideal of Nazi masculinity and need to produce children. Homosexuals were imprisoned. The Nuremberg Laws increased the persecution in the Nuremberg Laws, which saw them being sent to concentration camps and voluntary castration.

Slavs were an ethnic group in Eastern Europe, and many lived in Germany in the 1930s. Nazi propaganda and schools stated that the Slavs were *Untermenschen*, sub-human and needed to be treated differently. The Nazis also threatened to invade Slavic countries in Eastern Europe for *Lebensraum* (living space) for Germany's people. But before WW2 the Slavs were persecuted less than some other minorities.



People with Disabilities were seen as a burden on society and weakening the racial purity of Germany. In 1933 the **Law for the Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Offspring** made it compulsory for people to be sterilised if they were mentally ill, alcoholic, epileptic, deaf or blind. 40,000 people were sterilised by 1939. In 1939 the Nazis introduced the **T4 euthanasia programme** for mentally and physically disabled German babies and children. 70,000 adults and 5,000 children were killed by lethal injection, gassing or starvation.

Gypsies, or the Roma people, numbered about 26,000 in Germany in the 1930s. The Nazis believed they did not work enough or contribute enough taxes. They also believed that they posed a threat to the racial purity of Germany. In 1933 gypsies were arrested as social nuisances and sent to concentration camps. In 1936 Gypsies in Berlin were rounded up and forced to live in special camps with poor facilities. In 1938 Gypsies were banned from travelling in groups, put on a register and tested for racial characteristics. If they failed they lost their German citizenship. In 1939 orders were sent out to prepare Gypsies for deportation outside of Germany.

37) The Persecution of the Jews

THE JEWS

The Jews did not suit Hitler's plans for a pure Aryan Germany and, therefore, became natural opponents to his rule.

1 April 1933 – **The April Boycott** – for one day there was an official boycott of all Jewish businesses. The SA painted Jewish stars or the word Jude (Jew) outside Jewish shops. They then stood outside discouraging people from going in. April 1933 – Jews were banned from government. Jewish civil servants and teachers were sacked.

September 1933 – Jews were banned from inheriting land.

1934 – Germans were banned from public places such as swimming pools, parks and cinemas.

1935 – Jews were banned from the army.

Sept 1935 – **The Nuremberg Laws**

March 1938 – Jews had to register all of their possessions with the government.

July 1938 – Jews had to carry identity cards, making it easier to persecute them.

Nov 1938 – **Kristallnacht**

Jan 1939 – The Reich Office for Jewish Emigration was set up under Reinhard Heydrich of the Gestapo whose job it was to deport all Jews from Germany.

April 1939 – Orders were sent out to evict all Jews from their homes and begin deportation.

September 1935 – **THE NUREMBERG LAWS** are announced at the Nuremberg rally – the annual Nazi party conference.

The Reich Law on Citizenship stated that only those of German blood could be German citizens, therefore Jews were no longer German citizens. This meant that they lost the rights of citizenship like the right to vote, hold government office or have a German passport. They were required to wear a yellow star-shaped patch on their clothes so that they could be easily recognised.

The Reich Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honour forbade Jews from marrying German citizens or having sexual relations with them.

KRISTALLNACHT (The Night of Broken Glass) Nov9-10 1938

Causes: In Paris on 7th Nov, a Nazi diplomat, vom Rath, is murdered by a Jew called Herschel Grynszpan. The Jew was protesting about the treatment of his family. Goebbels responded by launching the KRISTALLNACHT (Night of the Broken Glass) in November 1938, ordering the local papers in Hanover (Grynszpan's hometown) to condemn the shooting, ordering the SA, SS and Gestapo to attack local synagogues and the houses of local Jews. On the following day, Hitler approved the policy to be extended all over Germany, ordering Nazi leaders to arrange attacks on Jews and their property, but under cover. Police were told not to prevent any violence against the Jews by members or the public. Instructions were sent to the SS to arrest as many Jews as their prisons could take.

What happened? On 9 and 10th Nov synagogues are burnt down, Jews are arrested and killed by undercover SS, SA and Hitler Youth groups. They were sometimes joined by members of the German public. Official figures listed 814 shops, 171 homes and 191 synagogues destroyed. About 100 Jews were killed.

Consequences: The Jews were fined 1 billion marks to pay for the damage. By 12 Nov, 20,000 Jews had been sent to concentration camps. There was no large public outcry against Kristallnacht, which encouraged the Nazi leadership to increase their levels of persecution further and look for ways to remove the Jews from Germany altogether.

