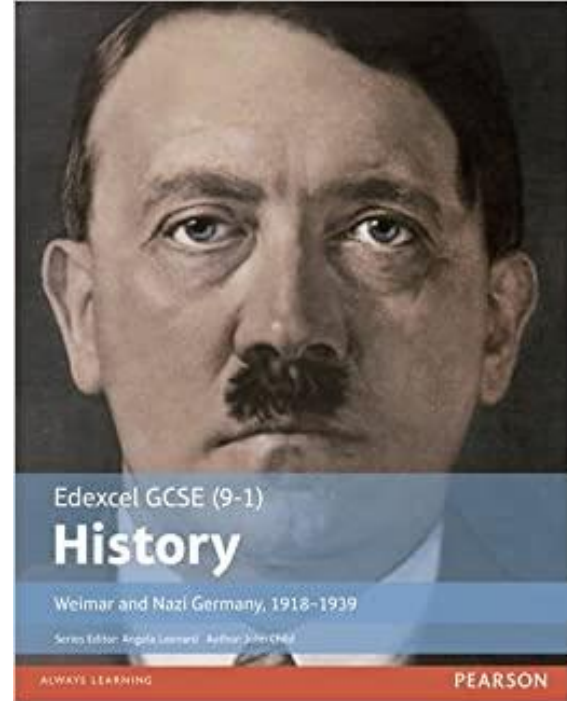


# Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939 Revision Guide



Name:  
Class:



1919-1933



1933-1939

## Weimar Germany: 1919-33

1918

Kaiser Wilhelm  
abdicates

1919

Spartacist uprising

1919

Weimar Constitution  
established, with  
Ebert as Chancellor

1923

French occupation of  
the Ruhr

1923

Hyperinflation  
begins

1924

Dawes Plan

1926

Bamberg Conference

1926

Membership of the  
League of Nations

1929

Young Plan

1932

National Socialist German  
Workers' Party (NSDAP)  
becomes the largest  
political party in the  
Reichstag

## Nazi Germany: 1933-1945

1933

Hitler appointed as  
Chancellor

1933

Reichstag Fire

1933

Enabling Law passed

1935

Nuremberg Laws  
passed

1934

Night of the Long  
Knives

1938

Kristallnacht  
(Night of  
Broken Glass)

1918 1920 1922 1924 1926 1928 1930 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938

1918

Armistice signed

1919

Treaty of Versailles  
signed

1920

Kapp Putsch

1923

Stresemann  
becomes Chancellor  
and Foreign Minister

1923

Munich Putsch

1925

Mein Kampf published

1925

Locarno Pact

1928

Kellogg-Briand Pact

1929

Wall Street Crash  
and start of the  
Depression

1933

People asked to  
boycott Jewish shops

1933

Gestapo (secret  
police) established

1933

Concordat with  
Catholic Church

1934

Death of Hindenburg  
and Hitler becomes  
Führer

1936

Berlin Olympics

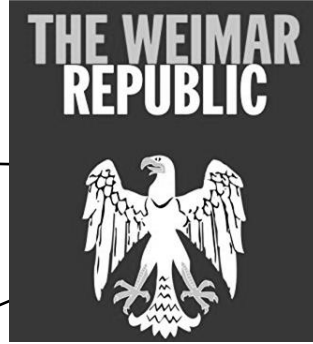


| <b>Topic</b>                       | <b>Detail</b>  | <b>RAG</b>   |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1.1 Origins of the Weimar Republic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Legacy of WW1</li> <li>● The German Revolution (Abdication, Armistice, Republic)</li> <li>● Setting up the Republic</li> <li>● Strengths and Weaknesses of the Republic</li> </ul>  | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table> |  |  |  |  |
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| 1.2 Challenges to the Republic     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Unpopularity of the Republic (Armistice, Treaty of Versailles, the Diktat, War Guilt, Dolchstoss)</li> <li>● Challenges from the Left (The Spartacist Revolt)</li> <li>● Challenges from the Right (The Kapp Putsch)</li> <li>● Challenges in 1923 (French occupation of the Ruhr, Hyperinflation)</li> </ul> | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table> |  |  |  |  |
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| 1.3 Recovery of the Republic       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Economic Recovery (Rentenmark, Dawes Plan and Young Plan)</li> <li>● Recovery in foreign relations (Locarno Pact, League of Nations, Kellogg-Briand Pact)</li> </ul>  | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>  |  |  |  |  |
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| 1.4 Changes in Society             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Changes in the standards of living</li> <li>● Changes in the position of women</li> <li>● Cultural changes (Art, Architecture, Cinema)</li> </ul>   | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>  |  |  |  |  |
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## I.I Origins of the Republic

### Origins of the Republic

By November 1918, the German Revolution had begun and to restore peace the Kaiser (King) agreed to abdicate (giving up his position.) On the 9th November, Germany was declared a Republic by the SPD, the largest party in the German parliament. Friedrich Ebert became leader of the SPD. On the 10th he formed the Council of Peoples Representatives which consisted of six moderate politicians who would lead the country until a new constitution could be agreed. On the 11th, Ebert's representatives signed the armistice, signalling a formal end of the First World War.



### Strengths of the Weimar Republic

- **Democratic** - Article 1 confirmed Germany was to be a democracy with men and women aged 21 and over able vote. The Reichstag was elected under proportional representation meaning every party who received 60,000 votes was given a seat in the Reichstag.
- **Checks and balances** - The constitution was constructed to ensure no one group could have too much power.

### Weaknesses of the Weimar Republic

- **Coalition government** - A result of proportional representation was that many small parties won seats in the Reichstag (29 parties in the 1920s) meaning no single party had a clear majority. Making decisions consequently became difficult.
- **Weaknesses in a crisis** - The lack of a single party government meant making quick decisions impossible. Article 48 was increasingly relied on becoming less democratic.
- **Based on violence** - The republic was created out of the German revolution.

Overview - The Weimar Constitution

### Head of State - The President

- Head of the Weimar Republic who was elected every 7 years
- Played no part in day-to-day politics
- Had some important political powers. For example, the President chose the chancellor.
- Article 48 was a rule that in a national emergency, the president could pass any law he wanted to without going through the Reichstag.

### The Government

#### Chancellor

- Head of the government in the Weimar Republic
- Chose all government ministers

#### Cabinet

- The most important ministers worked closely with the chancellor in the cabinet making decisions for the government.

### The Parliament

- Made up of two houses: The Reichstag and the Reichsrat
- Normally, all laws had to pass through both houses

#### Reichstag

- The more powerful of the two houses
- Controlled taxation
- Directly elected by the people at least every 4 years

#### Reichsrat

- Also elected every 4 years
- It represented the regions of Germany
- Each region sent a certain number of representation depending on its size

### Electorate

- Consisted of all men and women over 21 years.

## 1.2 Early challenges to the Republic

### The 'November Criminals'

Many Germans denied they had lost the war and blamed the failure of WWI on the 'November Criminals' (Weimar Republic), who had agreed to sign the Treaty of Versailles.

### 'Stab in the Back'

Many believed the armistice was a mistake, and that Germany could have actually won. They felt stabbed in the back by the Weimar politicians who had signed the treaty. This would later be linked to the idea of Jews stabbing Germany in the back during WWI.

### 'Diktat'

The Treaty of Versailles grew resentment towards the Weimar Republic. Germans said that the treaty had been a 'diktat' (a treaty forced upon Germany) and many blamed President Ebert for accepting the terms.

### The French Occupation of the Ruhr

In December 1922, Germany was unable to pay the reparations to France. In retaliation, France sent troops to an industrial area of the Ruhr where they confiscated goods such as materials and machinery. The Weimar urged the citizens of the Ruhr to passively resist the French by strikes.



### Hyperinflation

These strikes led to a shortage in goods meaning the price of things went up (inflation.) The German economy was falling short and unable to pay debts. Their solution was to print off more money however this led to higher inflation - (hyperinflation.) This led to high levels of unemployment, people being unable to live normally and losses of savings.



### Left-wing Opposition - The Spartacist Uprising

In January 1919, communists led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg tried to take over Berlin. They took control of important buildings like newspaper headquarters and 50,000 workers went on strike in support of the left-wing opposition.

### How were they dealt with?

President Ebert asked for help from the right-wing group, The Freikorps (ex-German soldiers) to stop the rebellion. Over 100 workers were killed. The Freikorps' use of violence caused a split on the left between the Social Democratic Party and the Communists

### Right-wing Opposition - The Kapp Putsch

In March 1920, some of the Freikorps themselves took part in a Putsch (a revolt) led by Wolfgang Kapp. They wanted to create a new right-wing government. The Freikorps marched into Berlin to overthrow the Weimar regime. But the German workers opposed the putsch and staged a general strike. Berlin was paralysed and Kapp was forced to give up.

### How were they dealt with?

The Putsch was a failure and Wolfgang Kapp fled the country in fear of treason charges, the Freikorps soldiers were arrested and imprisoned.



# 1.3 Recovery of the Weimar


Gustav Stresemann became Chancellor and foreign secretary in 1923 and worked to stabilize the situation in Germany.




**1923** 

Stresemann set up a new bank - the Rentenbank with the currency Rentenmark. (Later becoming the Reichsbank and Reichsmark) He ensured this new currency had value.

**1924**

US banks agreed to loan Germany \$25 billion between 1924-1940. This was to help improve industry and economy. 

**1929**

Reparations were reduced from £6.6 billion to £2 billion. Germany was given 59 years to pay this. 


Economic Recovery




**1925** 

Germany accepted the new border with France and France promised peace with Germany. The Rhineland was permanently demilitarised. The powers agreed to consider German membership for the League of Nations.

**1926**

After WW1, the League of Nations was set up as a way to discuss world problems without going to War. Germany was not initially included however Stresemann was able to make Germany a member. 

**1928**

Germany and 61 other countries agreed that they would not use War to achieve foreign policy aims. 

Recovery in foreign relations



## 1.4 Changes in Society

### Living Standards

#### Unemployment

- Unemployment reduced from 2 million in 1926 to 1.3 million in 1928.
- Unemployment Insurance Act 1927 provided an average of 60 marks per week in unemployment and sickness benefits.

#### Work and Wages

- Working conditions improved
- Length of the working week was shorted from 50 hours in 1925 to 46 hours in 1927
- Real wages rose by 25% from 1925 to 1928

#### Housing

- In 1923 there was a shortage of 1 million homes
- From 1925-1929, private companies built 37,000 new homes whilst building associations built 64,000 new homes.

#### Other improvements

- 1920 Pension Law - pensions were paid to 750,000 war veterans, 400,000 war widows and 200,000 parents of dead servicemen.
- Students in higher education rose from 70,000 to 110,000 in 1928.



### Women

#### Women in politics

- In 1918 Women were given the right to vote and the right to stand for election.
- By 1932, 112 women had been elected to the Reichstag.
- Article 109 of the Weimar constitution stated that women had equal rights with men

#### Women at work

- By 1925, only 36% women were in work. Despite Article 109, women were not treated equally in work often being underpaid
- However, in liberal professions such as education and medicine women made much more progress. The number of female doctors rose from 2,500 in 1925 to 5,000 in 1932.

#### Women at leisure

- There was a rise in young, unmarried women living independently in cities 'new women.'
- New clothes, wore make-up, smoke and drank.
- Less interest in marriage and children
- Less traditional and more sexually liberal.
- Decreased birth rate
- Increased in divorce rates.



### Culture

#### Art

- Painters like Otto Dix often painted expressionist versions of scenes from German life which were critical of German society.
- In his painting, *Metropolis*, in an expressionist style he shows the harsh life of war veterans and falling standards of behaviour in German nightlife.

#### Architecture

- Architects, like Erich Mendelsohn, were influenced by the *Bauhaus* school of design.
- He designed the Einstein Tower in Potsdam, which had a futuristic design like a rocket.

#### Cinema

- One of the world's first horror films, *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari*, was a German film. *Metropolis*, directed by Fritz Lang in 1926 was a science fiction film about technology in the 20th century.
- Germany's first sound film was made in 1930 and by 1932 there were 3,800 German cinemas showing films with sound.



| Topic                                   | Detail  | RAG  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2.1 Early development of the Nazi Party | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hitler's early political career in the DAP (later NSDAP)</li> <li>● 25 Point Programme</li> <li>● Hitler's personal appeal</li> <li>● Party organisation and leadership</li> <li>● The role of the SA</li> </ul>   | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> </table> |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 2.2 The Lean years                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Munich Putsch (The long and short term causes, the events and the consequences)</li> <li>● Mein Kampf</li> <li>● Party re-organisation (Nazi Headquarters and the SS)</li> <li>● The Bamberg Conference</li> </ul>   | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> </table>                     |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 2.3 Growth in Nazi Support              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Wall St Crash in the USA (unemployment in Germany)</li> <li>● Weimar's failure to deal with unemployment (support for the Nazis)</li> <li>● The appeal of the Nazis to different groups in society (Businesses, working-class, middle-class, farmers, the young, women)</li> </ul> | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> </table>   |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 2.4 Hitler becoming Chancellor          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Changes in chancellorship in 1932/33</li> <li>● The Roles of Hindenburg, Von-Papen and Von-Schleicher</li> </ul>   | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> </table>   |  |  |  |  |  |
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## 2.1 Early developments of the Nazi Party

Hitler joined the **DAP** (German workers Party) in September 1919. By 1921 he had taken over the party and **reshaped** it into the Nazi party.



### Party Policy

The DAP strongly opposed; the Weimar politicians who accepted the Treaty of Versailles, democracy, and Jews who they blamed for weakening the economy.

In February 1920, Hitler wrote the **25 Point Programme** which explained in detail their policies.

### Stormtroopers/SA/Brownshirts

They were a **paramilitary force** made up of ex-soldiers and students who were unemployed. They were a show of force with 800 members by August 1922. They strengthen the NSDAP by using violence towards any opposition and their organisation impressed others.

Ernst Rohm was in charge of the SA but Hitler demanded obedience to him. They were violent and difficult to control.



## Reshaping the DAP into the Nazi Party

### Party Organisation

1. January 1920 a **permanent office** was set up in Munich meaning meetings were more organised and better advertised.
2. Hitler changed the name from the DAP to the **NSDAP** (Nationalist Socialist German Workers' Party.) The name appealed to many different people.
3. The NSDAP was given the **swastika** as a logo which distinguished it as a party.
4. The NSDAP bought a newspaper, **The People's Observer**, which meant its views could be spread across Germany.



### Party leadership

In July 1921, Hitler became leader of the NSDAP. He surrounded himself with supporters to help him lead the party.

1. **Rudolf Hess**, a wealthy academy, became Hitler's deputy.
2. Hermann **Goering**, a wealthy WW1 Fighter Pilot.
3. Julius **Streicher**, a publisher who founded another Nazi newspaper.
4. Ernst **Rohm**, an ex- army officer.



### Hitler's personal appeal

Hitler's personal appeal as an **orator** (public speaker) gained support for the party and so he would often speak at party gatherings.

As a result, membership for the DAP grew from 1,000 in June 1920 to 3,000 by the end of 1920.



## 2.2 The Lean Years

### The Bamberg Conference, 1926

By early 1926, it was clear there was a split in the party between the Nationalists and the Socialists. Hitler called a national conference in Bamberg to address this. The conference, where Hitler spoke for 5 hours, resulted in the party's socialist side becoming weaker and the Nationalist side stronger. It also demonstrated Hitler was in control.

### Nazi Party Headquarters

Based in Munich it was organised like a mini state with departments for all aspects of government such as finance, foreign affairs, industry and education.

### Creation of a national Nazi Party

Germany was divided into 35 regions or Gaue. Each Gaue had a leader, Gauleiter, who was the local leader of the Nazi Party.

### The SS

After the failed Putsch, Hitler realised he needed his own private army that was totally loyal. In 1925 he replaced Rohm as leader of the SA and set up the SS acting as his bodyguard.

After being released from prison, Hitler resumed his political career and after the ban on the NSDAP was lifted in February 1925, Hitler launched the party. Understanding that he needed to be elected into power, he introduced a number of changes to turn the Nazi's into a more organised party.

## The Munich Putsch, 1923

### Long term causes

Stab in the back theory and agreeing to reparations in the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 had caused deep resentment of the Weimar.

### Medium term causes

From 1921-1922 Hitler was influenced by the right wing group, the Fascists led by Mussolini in Italy. In 1922, Mussolini led his forces in a 'march on Rome' in which Italy was forced to accept him as leader.

### Short term causes

Hyperinflation angered the German people who saw the Weimar as weak. Hitler saw his chance to gain power by exploiting this weakness.

On the 8th November 1923, Bavarian government officials, including von Kahr, von Seisser and von Lossow met in a beer hall in Munich. Hitler burst into the meeting with 600 members of the SA and announced he was taking over Bavaria and would march to Berlin to overthrow the Weimar. Hitler demanded that the government officials supported him who reluctantly agreed and were released at 5am. After release, the officials withdrew their support and wanted to put down the uprising. Despite this, Hitler decided to continue with the revolt. At midday on the 9th with 1,000 SA and 2,000 supporters they marched on the town centre declaring Hitler the President of Germany. There he was met with little support and the state police. Hitler was outnumbered. Gunfire began and 14 of Hitler's supporters and 4 policemen were shot dead. Hitler and Nazi supporters were arrested.

### Short term consequences

Hitler was found guilty of treason and sentenced to five years in Landsberg Prison and the NSDAP was banned.

### Long term consequences

The Munich Putsch made Hitler realise he could not take power by force and violence but rather he needed to gain nationwide support. Hitler used his time in prison to write Mein Kampf which contained his political views which became a key source of information about the political beliefs of the Nazi party. In Mein Kampf he made his extreme racist views very clear.

Causes

Events

Consequences

## 2.3 Growth in Nazi Support

### Decline in support for the Weimar Republic

The Wall St Crash in the USA - In October 1929 there was an economic crash in the USA causing a banking crisis in Germany. German banks lost so much money people were worried they would not be able to access the money in their accounts, eventually the German banks ran out of cash. A collapse in German banking led to a general economic crash in German industry. American banks demanded Germany return their loans leading to a collapse in the German economy.

Unemployment - A collapse in the global economy led to a rise in unemployment. In September 1929 there were 1.3 million people unemployed. By 1933, this rose to 6.1 million. This had a severe impact on the German people, with unemployment benefit being cut, a loss in savings, a rise in taxes, and a rise in homelessness (which in turn led to a rise in violence.)

The failure to deal with unemployment - People demanded political action from the Weimar but it failed. The Chancellor Brüning's first action of raising taxes for unemployment benefit was unpopular amongst businesses and the middle class. He was unable to get laws passed in the Reichstag so Brüning used Article 48 100 times between 1931 and 1932. It proved the Weimar was not working and not in control.

### Rise in support for the Nazi's

Appeal of Hitler and the SA - Where the Weimar appeared weak, Hitler was seen to be a strong, powerful leader who promised law and order who wanted to force other countries to treat Germany fairly.

Nazi appeal to big businesses - Hitler promised businesses that the Nazis would protect them from communists.

Nazi appeal to working and middle classes - Nazis appealed to the working classes by claiming to be the party for the working class, and they promised the 'work and bread' on their posters. Whereas they also appealed to the middle classes as Hitler appeared to be a strong leader who could help the country recover after the Wall St Crash who could protect them from the communists,

Nazi appeal to farmers - The Nazis promised that they would allow farmers to keep their land (only if they were not Jewish.)

Nazi appeal to the youth - Young people saw the Nazis as exciting and full of promise.

Nazi appeal to women - Nazis created propaganda specifically aimed at women, promising that they were the best hope for their families.

## 2.4 How Hitler became Chancellor

### Hindenburg stands for re-election

At the end of his term as president Hindenburg stood for election again despite being 84 and frail. He won 18 million votes (49.6%) Hitler won 30% of the votes.

March 1932

### Chancellor Brüning resigns

Brüning lost support of the President and the Reichstag due to his banning of the SA/SS and his plan to buy land to use it for the unemployed. Without support, he decided to resign.

30th May 1932

### Reichstag elections

The Nazis won 230 seats (38% of the vote) making them the largest party in the Reichstag. Hitler demanded that Hindenburg sack von Papen and make him Chancellor instead.

July 1932

### Von Schleicher becomes Chancellor

Hindenburg still refused to make Hitler chancellor and instead appointed von Schleicher. Schleicher was certain the support for the Nazis was starting to fade.

December 1932

### Hindenburg stands for re-election (again)

As no candidate won 50% of the votes, the election was repeated. Hitler won 36% of votes whereas Hindenburg won 54% and was re-elected as president.

April 1932

### Von Papen becomes Chancellor

Von Papen, in a coalition with the Nazis and right wing parties, became Chancellor at the suggestion of von Schleicher who thought he could control the Nazi party.

30th May 1932

### Von Papen is sacked

Hindenburg hated Hitler and refused to make him Chancellor. Von Papen called another election in the hope the Nazi would lose support. This failed and von Papen was told to resign..

November 1932

### Hitler becomes Chancellor

Von Schleicher had no support so was unable to govern. Von Papen suggested that Hindenburg should make Hitler Chancellor and Papen Vice Chancellor so that he could control Hitler. Hindenburg agreed - Hitler was Chancellor.

January 1933



| Topic                                     | Detail  | RAG   |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| 3.1 Creation of a dictatorship            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Reichstag Fire</li> <li>● The Enabling Act</li> <li>● Removing opposition/Night of the Long Knives</li> <li>● Death of Hindenburg</li> </ul> | <table border="1"> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> </table> |  |  |  |  |
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| 3.2 The Police State                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Policing the police State</li> <li>● Controlling the legal system</li> <li>● Controlling religious views</li> </ul>                              | <table border="1"> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> </table>                     |  |  |  |  |
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| 3.3 Controlling and influencing attitudes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Goebbels and propaganda (media, rallies and sport)</li> <li>● Nazi control of art and culture</li> </ul>   | <table border="1"> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> </table>   |  |  |  |  |
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| 3.4 Opposition and conformity             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Support for the Nazi regime</li> <li>● Opposition from churches</li> <li>● Opposition from the young</li> </ul>                                  | <table border="1"> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> </table>                     |  |  |  |  |
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## 3.1 Creating a dictatorship



Once he was Chancellor, Hitler took a number of steps to create a dictatorship in Germany.



### 1. The Reichstag Fire

- On the 27th February 1933, the Reichstag was destroyed by fire.
- A communist supporter, Marinus van der Lubbe confessed after being caught at the scene with matches. He was put on trial and executed.
- Hitler used the fire to argue there was a communist plot against the Government. He declared a state of emergency. This allowed him to imprison 4,000 communists and other political opponents and to ban communist newspapers.
- He used these powers to call for an election hoping he would win more seats. He succeeded and won 288 seats.
- He used the emergency powers to ban the Communist party from taking up the 81 seats it had won, giving Hitler a 2/3's majority in the Reichstag.



### 2. The Enabling Act

- In March 1933, Hitler proposed the Enabling Act (The Law for the Removal of the Distress of the People and the Reich) to the Reichstag. It stated that the Reich Cabinet could pass new laws, that could overrule the Weimar constitution, and the laws would be proposed by the Chancellor (Hitler.) It would give Hitler the power to make laws without the consent of the Weimar.
- The Reichstag voted (in which violence was used against opponents) and the Enabling Act was passed by 444 votes.
- It marked an end of democratic rule in Germany and the end of the Weimar constitution.



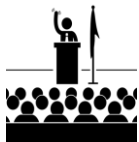
### 4. Death of Hindenburg

- On 2nd August 1934 President Hindenburg died.
- Hitler declared himself Germany's Fuhrer stating he would have all the Presidents and Chancellors power.
- He forced an oath of loyalty from every soldier in the Army.
- This signified the end of the Weimar Republic and the start of the Third Reich.



### 3. Removing Opposition

- Once the Enabling Act was passed, Hitler removed opposition to him. He banned Trade Unions as he thought they could undermine the Government. He then removed political opposition by banning all political parties except the Nazi Party.
- The Night of the Long Knives
- Hitler believed that Rohm, the leader of the SA, was a threat to him as the majority of the SA was loyal to Rohm rather than Hitler. Rohm also often opposed Hitler's policies as he more inclined to socialist policies which Hitler did not.
  - In 1934 leaders of the SS warned Hitler that Rohm was planning to seize power.
  - Hitler arranged a meeting with Rohm and 100 other SA leaders and when they arrived they were imprisoned and shot.



## 3.2 The Police State



### The SS

From 1929 it was led by Heinrich Himmler. Wore black uniforms. Their role was the Nazi's own police force. The SS controlled Germany's police and security forces.



### SD (Security Service)

Reinhard Heydrich was in charge. The SD spied on opponents and critics of the Nazis.



### The Gestapo

The Secret police led by Heydrich. Spied on people to identify anyone who opposed the Nazis. Feared by Germans as they were unidentifiable and used torture.

Hitler used these organisations to control the **legal** system and **religious** views.

### Controlling the legal system

#### Controlling the judges

Hitler set up the Nationalist Socialist League for the Maintenance of Law and all judges had to be members.

Hitler could ensure that all the Judges supported the Nazi Party and they were instructed to always act in the interests of the Nazis.

#### Controlling the law courts

Hitler abolished trial by Jury meaning that Judges decided if people were guilty/innocent and decided their punishments. (Remember, all Judges now had to be loyal to Nazis.)

Hitler then set up a new People's Court to hear cases of treason against the state and you could not appeal against the verdict. Between 1934 and 1939, 534 people were executed for political offences



### Controlling religious views

#### The Catholic Church

A third of German Christians were Catholic. Hitler saw this as an issue due to the differences between Nazism and Catholicism. (Catholic allegiance to the Pope and Catholic Schools.)

In July 1933 Hitler reached a concordat (agreement) with the Pope. Hitler agreed to confirm freedom of worship for Catholics and not to interfere in Catholic Schools. Catholics agreed that the priests would not interfere in politics and the bishops would swear loyalty to the Nazis.

Hitler did not keep his promise. (Priests ended up in Concentration Camps and Catholic youth activities were banned.)

#### The Protestant Church

Protestants worked with the Nazis to form the Reich Church, a single protestant church, in 1936, with Ludwig Muller as the leader.

Not all protestants accepted the Nazis and some, such as Niemoller, spoke out against them.







### 3.3 Controlling and influencing attitudes

Nazis controlled attitudes and ideas by using  **censorship**  and **propaganda**. This was under the control of Joseph Goebbels who was the Minister of People's Enlightenment and Propaganda.



**Censorship** - Controlling attitudes by forbidding certain information or opinions (in pictures, radio, newspapers and films.)

**Propaganda** - Controlling attitudes by using information (newspapers, radios, posters and films) to put ideas into people's minds to create opinions

| Types of information  | Censorship  | Propaganda  |
|---|---|---|
|  <b>Media</b>     | <p><b>Journalists</b> were told what they could not publish. Newspapers that went against Nazi ideas were banned. (1600 newspapers were closed in 1935.) <b>Radio</b> stations were censored and put under Nazi control. They had to have a short range so they could not pick up foreign stations.</p>   | <p><b>Journalists</b> were given briefings containing information they had to publish and were sometimes told exactly what to write. Hitler and other Ministers would often make broadcasts on the <b>Radio</b>. Cheap radios were sold to the public so the Nazis could use them for propaganda.</p> |
|  <b>Rallies</b>  |   | <p>The Nazi's held <b>parades</b> and <b>rallies</b> frequently (in Nuremberg there was one a year) to advertise and 'show off' the strength of Germany and the Nazi Party. They would be watched by hundreds of thousands of Nazi supporters.</p>  |
|  <b>Sport</b>     |   | <p>Goebbels 'Nazified' <b>sport</b> by covering stadiums with Nazi symbols and insisted all teams (including visitors) did the Nazi salute during the national anthem showing their respect. The Berlin Olympics 1936 was used to demonstrate and show Nazi strength and power.</p>                   |
| <b>Culture</b>  | <p>The Reich Chamber of Culture was set up in 1933 which covered <b>art, architecture, literature, music, theatre</b> and <b>film</b>. Its role was to ensure that these were consistent with Nazi ideas and did not promote ideas that went against Nazi beliefs. Artists had to become a member of the Chamber of Visual arts, if not they were forbidden to teach/produce/sell art. Jazz music was banned as it was seen as the work of black people so therefore inferior. Music which emphasized German culture, like Wagner and Beethoven, was promoted. All books had to be approved by the Chamber of Culture before they could be published and any books the Nazis didn't like were censored (2,500 writers were banned.)</p> |   |



## 3.4 Opposition and conformity

**Martin Niemöller** - trained as a Pastor in the 1920s. He had complicated views about the Nazis. He did believe that Germany needed a strong leader and subsequently voted for the Nazi Party. However he did not approve of the Nazis interfering in Churches or their regime as a dictatorship. He was caught by the Gestapo and imprisoned in concentration camps until the end of the war.

It is difficult to fully know how much opposition there was to Hitler as most forms were banned. However, there was resistance to the Nazi Regime.

**Resistance** - refusing to support something

**Opposition** - actively working against something.

**The Edelweiss Pirate** - Consisted of teenager from working class areas of German cities in the late 1930s who resented the military discipline of the Nazi Youth Group and the lack of freedom under the Nazis. They copied the fashion from America to demonstrate their freedom and would often go on hikes in the countryside and would sing parodies of Hitler youth songs and mocked the Nazis.

The overall impact of youth resistance was minimal. Their actions were limited and they did little to oppose the Nazis. They were more culturally motivated than political and their numbers were small in comparison to the 8 million members of the Hitler Youth.

**The Swing Youth** - Consisted of teenagers from wealthy middle class families. They admired American clothes, films but mainly music. They liked to listen to music from American, particularly Swing music and would dance. They began to organise illegal dances which were attended by up to 6,000 young people.

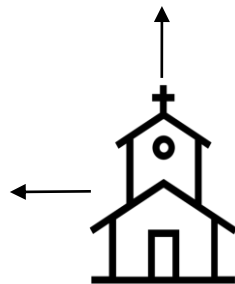
Other young people would listen to Jazz music, they would become known as the Jazz Youth. Jazz music was banned by the Nazis, who despised due to its connections to black people therefore they saw it was inferior.



Opposition from the...

Church

Young



Some **Catholic priests** spoke out against the Nazis. Around 400 Catholic Priest were later imprisoned at Priests Block at Dachau Concentration Camp.

The **PEL (Pastors Emergency League)** 1933. A group of Protestant Pastors who opposed the Nazi treatment of the Church.

The PEL set up the **Confessing Church**, meaning there was a second protestant church in Germany. 6,000 Protestant pastors joined in opposition to Nazi Policy (2,000 remained in the Reich Church.) Some even spoke out against the Nazis, Around 800 were arrested and sent to concentration camps.

| Topic                               | Detail  | RAG  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 4.1 Nazi policies towards women     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nazi views on the family</li> <li>● Policies towards women</li> <li>● Women and employment</li> </ul>  | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td style="width: 33%; height: 33px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 33%; height: 33px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 33%; height: 33px;"></td></tr> </table>  |  |  |  |  |
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| 4.2 Nazi policies towards the young | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Nazi Youth movement</li> <li>● Nazi Youth groups for boys (The Hitler Youth)</li> <li>● Nazi Youth group for girls (The League of German Maidens)</li> <li>● Education (control of the curriculum)</li> </ul>                            | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td style="width: 33%; height: 33px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 33%; height: 33px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 33%; height: 33px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 33%; height: 33px;"></td></tr> </table> |  |  |  |  |
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|                                     |   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.3 Employment and Living Standards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nazi policies to reduce unemployment (RAD, Autobahns, Rearmament, invisible unemployment)</li> <li>● Changes in living standard (Employment, wages, DAF, KdF, Volkswagen, SdA)</li> </ul>  | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td style="width: 33%; height: 33px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 33%; height: 33px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 33%; height: 33px;"></td></tr> </table>  |  |  |  |  |
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| 4.4 Persecution of minorities       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Racial beliefs and policies (Eugenics, racial hygiene, anti-Semitism)</li> <li>● Treatment of minorities (Slavs, gypsies, homosexuals, disabilities)</li> <li>● The persecution of Jews (Boycotts, Nuremberg Laws, Kristallnacht)</li> </ul> | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tr><td style="width: 33%; height: 33px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 33%; height: 33px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 33%; height: 33px;"></td></tr> </table>  |  |  |  |  |
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## 4.1 Nazi policies towards women



### Marriage and the Family

A falling birth rate in Germany concerned the Nazis as fewer children meant fewer workers and soldiers and so they introduced laws to encourage marriage and motherhood.

The Law for the Encouragement of Marriage 1933  
Loans were provided to encourage young people to marry and to encourage wives to stay at home to bring up children. This encouraged childbirth as a quarter of the loan was written off for every child born into the family.

#### The Mother's Cross

An award was given to women for the number of children they had. (4 - Bronze, 5 - Silver, 6 - Gold)

#### Lebensborn

The Lebensborn programme was another way to encourage childbirth. Financial aid was given to women who had children with SS men. Single women were encouraged to breed with SS men to create 'genetically pure' children for worthy German families.



### Employment

Once in power, the Nazis reduced the number of women in work as they believed a woman's place was in the home raising her children.

This was encouraged by propaganda in which they persuaded women to leave work and become housewives.

Women were told to focus on the 'three Ks.'  
Kinder, Küche, Kirche (children, kitchen and the church.)

From 1933, women were banned from professional posts as teachers, doctors and civil servants.

Schoolgirls were trained for motherhood and taught housework and other domestic tasks.



### Appearance

Women were encouraged by propaganda to look a certain way. They were encouraged to wear modest clothes, with their hair tied back. They were discouraged from dyeing their hair or wearing makeup.

### Success of the policies?

Some women accepted the Nazi policies as we birth rate did increase, fewer women went to university.

However, many women did disagree with the Nazi policies and felt like their ideas degraded women.

Nazi policies were also temporary as with the German industry expanding and so the Nazis needed women to work. By 1939, 7 million women were employed.

## 4.2 Nazi policies towards the young

Hitler wanted to create the '**Thousand Year Reich**' - a Nazi state that would continue for years. This meant the Nazis had to plan for the future by putting policies in place for young people, to ensure that all young Germans were brought up as supporters of the Nazi party. The Nazis believed that boys and girls were different but equal and therefore needed different policies for the two. Policies for boys were aimed at them being brought up to be strong and healthy to work for the economy or the army. Policies for girls was to ensure they would be strong wives and healthy, fertile mothers.



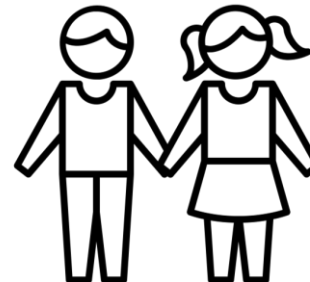
### Education

#### Control of the teachers:

From April 1933, the Nazis had the power to sack teachers who they did not approve of and all teachers had to join the Nazi Teachers' league in which they swore an oath of loyalty to Hitler. The Nazis expected teachers to act like Nazis, doing the Nazi salute, having Nazi poster in classrooms and saying 'Heil Hitler.'

#### Control of the curriculum:

Schools taught new subjects such as 'race studies' and traditional subjects were used to promote Nazi ideas. PE and sport was doubled to create a strong, healthy generation. All textbooks had to be approved by the Nazis and pupils had to listen to speeches on the radio. Girls and boys had different curriculums.



From 1939 it was compulsory for all Germans aged 10 and over to attend Nazi youth groups.

### Hitler Youth

In the Hitler Youth, all boys aged 14 and over were trained in four areas;

#### Political:

Boys had to swear an oath of loyalty to Hitler and taught about Nazi ideas. Lessons such as 'The evil of the Jews.'

#### Physical:

Took part in camping and hiking expeditions to make sure they were fit and healthy.

#### Military:

Practice skills useful to the army such as map-reading, signalling, small-arms shooting.

#### Character:

Activities required loyalty to their teams but competition and ruthlessness was encouraged. Were encouraged to 'toughen up' by being plunged into ice-water.

### The League of German Maidens

In the League of German Maidens, all girls aged 14 and over were trained in four areas;

#### Political:

Girls had to swear an oath of loyalty to Hitler and took part in rallies.

#### Physical:

Took part in camping and hiking expeditions to make sure they were fit and healthy.

#### Becoming a housewife:

They were trained how to cook, sew, complete housework.

#### Racial hygiene:

Girls were taught the importance of keeping the German race 'pure' by marrying Aryan men who were considered superior to other races.:

## 4.3 Employment and living standards



Improvements in the standards of living?

### Employment

#### **Wages**

Wages rose from 1933-1939 by 20% so some workers would have benefited from having a higher, regular income and therefore a better quality of life. However, the price of goods also increased, food by 20% in between 1933-1939 and therefore this cancelled out the higher wages for low earners.

#### **Hours worked**

On average, the working week for workers rose from 43 hours to 49 hours in between 1933 to 1939.

### Nazi policies

#### **The Labour Front (DAF)**

After banning trade unions in 1933, Hitler set up the DAF as an alternative. The DAF protected the rights of workers, the hours they could work and minimum wage levels. To some extent the DAF protected the workers however they always acted in the best interest of the state not the worker e.g. increased working hours, punishing who disrupted production.

#### **Strength through Joy (KdF)**

The purpose of KdF was to make workers happy and make work more enjoyable to prevent unrest. They provided leisure activities such as sporting events, films and holidays.

#### **Volkswagen (the 'people's car')**

Hitler organised the production of the Volkswagen, a car that the average German could afford. The KdF encouraged workers to give 5 marks per week from their wages to save and buy the new car. However, in 1938 the company switched to armament and workers lost their money and did not receive their Volkswagen.

#### **Beauty of Labour (SdA)**

They campaigned for better facilities for workers and gave companies tax breaks to help them afford this. (Although workers were expected to do the building for this themselves.)

Nazi policies to reduce unemployment

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

This provided paid work, such as repairing roads and planting trees, to the unemployed. These projects benefited the unemployed but also Germany as a whole.

Voluntary at the first but later became compulsory for all young men to work in the RAD for six months. Pay was very low and working conditions were poor.

#### **Autobahns**

The motorway project. The Nazis planned a 7,000 mile network of motorways around Germany to improve transport. By 1935, 125,000 men were employed for this project.

Better transport also helped creating more jobs as it meant quicker transport for German industry which boosted the sale of German goods.

#### **Rearmament**

Hitler's main aim was to boost the German armed forces, especially after the Treaty of Versailles had limited these numbers. Hitler ignored this and by 1939, there were 1,360,000 men in the army which reduced unemployment. Hitler also needed to create more arms and equipment and by 1935 there were 72,000 people employed in the aircraft construction industry compared to 4,000 in 1933.

#### **Invisible unemployment**

Some Historians argue that unemployment in Nazi Germany didn't decrease and there was actually a higher number than official statistics showed. This was because both women and Jews were forced to give up work, and thousands of the population were in prisons or concentration camps, but they did not show on the unemployment figures.