

Weimar & Nazi

Germany 1919-1939



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Chapter 1 – Beginnings of the Weimar Republic 1919-1923

CHAPTER 1:

- Germany after WW1
- The Weimar Constitution
- Treaty of Versailles
- Spartacists vs Freikorps & the Kapp Putsch
- The 1923 Hyperinflation



1st week of November 1918: There are riots on the streets of Germany and people are setting up their own governments. This is because of the 2 million dead soldiers, 4 million wounded soldiers and the food shortages and starvation.

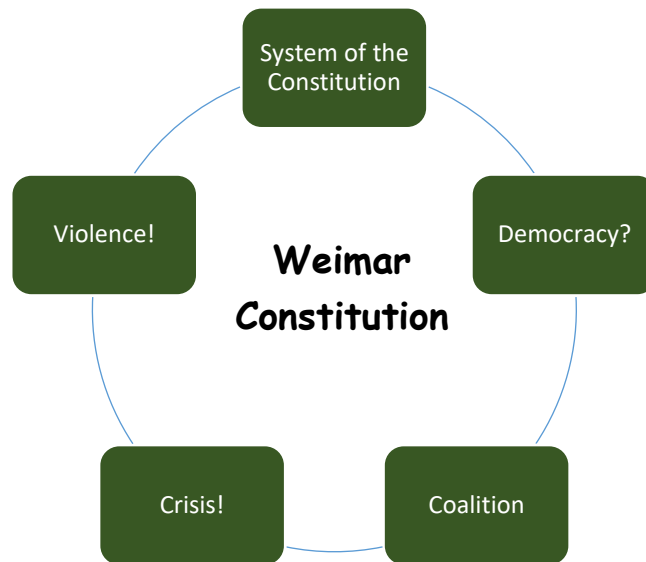
8th – 9th November 1918: The Kaiser has lost control of the country, but he refuses to abdicate (quit).

9th November 1918: The pressure from the German people and the army force the Kaiser to abdicate (quit). Germany has no leader or government.

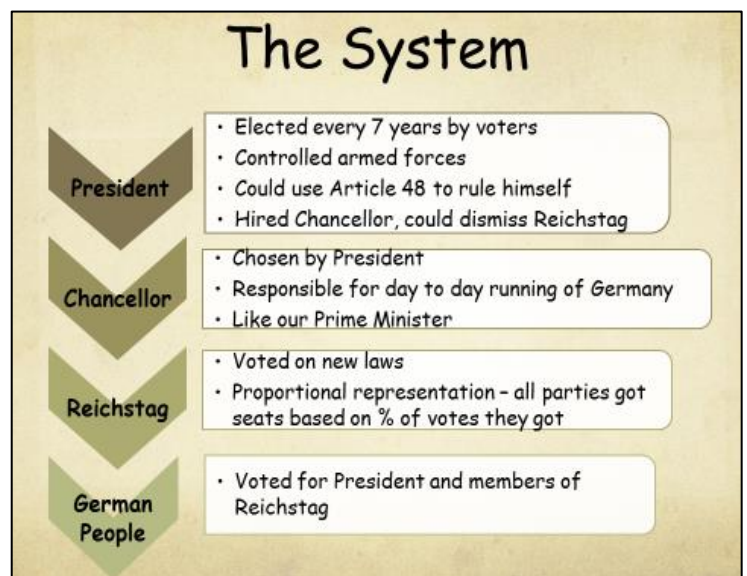
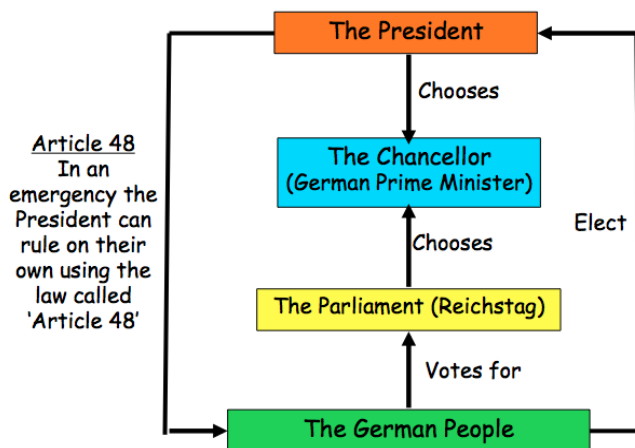
9th November 1918: In Berlin, the capital of Germany, people are rioting and are ready to force a communist government on Germany (just like in Russia) because there is no one in charge.

9th November 1918: The Kaiser is scared of the communists taking over. They would most likely kill him and his family as they had in Russia. He gives control of the government to Friedrich Ebert – the leader of the biggest political party in Germany.

11th November 1918: Ebert and his new government sign a deal with the USA, Britain and France to end World War One. This is known as the armistice. Germany have lost the war, they have lost their “weak leader” in the Kaiser and Ebert and his party are now in control of Germany and preparing a democratic election.



The Constitutional System



Democracy?

ALL men and women over the age of 20 could vote. For the first time ever WOMEN were allowed to vote. 7 years without voting to change the President. Proportional Representation - if you got 50% of the votes you got 50% of the seats in the German government. The President could overrule and dismiss the democratically elected Reichstag.



Coalition

There were lots of different political parties in the Reichstag. 29 different parties in the 1920s! They all had different beliefs but had to come together to make decisions and laws.

There was a lot of disagreement and slow decision making. They often argued so much they fell apart and had to have another election. There were 9 different coalition governments in just 4 years after WW1!!!



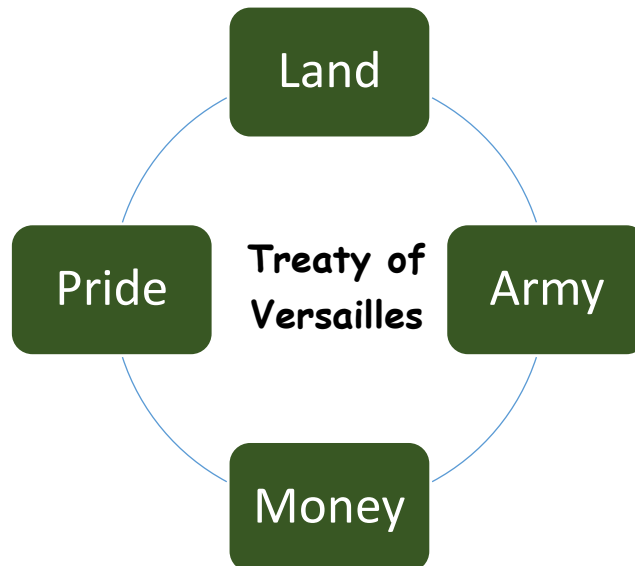
Crisis!

Coalition governments meant there wasn't just one man in charge to make quick and important decisions in a crisis.

However, "Article 48" meant that the President could rule by himself in a time of crisis and ignore the democratically elected Reichstag. This was only supposed to be in a time of emergency, but no one knew exactly what that meant.

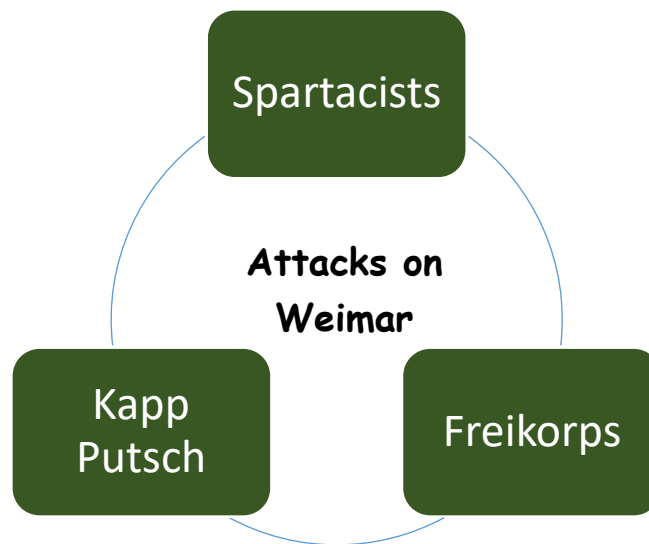
Violence!

In many ways, the new Weimar Constitution was the most democratic and fair in the world. BUT - Ebert had used violence to destroy communist parties after WW1. This NOT how a democracy was supposed to act.



- **LAND** – Germany was forced to give back land they had taken from France (such as Alsace Lorraine). They also had to give up an area called West Prussia and land in Africa. This meant they lost land, people and raw materials.
- **ARMY** – To prevent any future war, the German army was restricted to 100,000 men (far too small). 6 ships and NO airforce.
- **MONEY** – Germany had to pay £6.6 BILLION in reparations (a bit like compensation) to the “winners” of WW1.
- **PRIDE** – Worst of all, Germany was forced to sign “clause 231” – the WAR GUILT clause. They had to admit that the war was all their fault. The people of Germany did not believe this was true.

The “Diktat” - Even before the Germans had fully seen the Treaty of Versailles they hated it! The Germans were given no say in the treaty - They were given the option of sign it, or risk invasion. Therefore they called it the ‘*Diktat*’ = a dictated peace! The German public hated the Weimar Republic for signing the treaty, but in reality they had no choice.



The Spartacists:

In January 1919 some Spartacist members attempted a revolution in Berlin to take over from Ebert's new government.

On the night of 5th January the Spartacists captured the headquarters of the government's newspaper and the telegraph bureau, but they did not capture any other buildings. They did not get the support of other left wing groups and they were very badly prepared.

This revolution was stopped down by the Freikorps (a group of soldiers who had returned from the First World War).



The Spartacist leaders Rosa Luxembourg and Karl Liebknecht were murdered. These murders robbed the Communists of their leaders and the group did not recover. Other Communist revolutions in Germany were stopped by the Weimar Republic who used the Freikorps. Overall, over 1000 people were killed to stop communists taking over Germany.

The Freikorps:



The Freikorps were ex-soldiers who had returned from the First World War angry that Germany had surrendered. They were led by Ernst Rohm.

They were responsible for stopping the Spartacist Uprising and on 10th January 1919 they took over their headquarters. They murdered the Spartacists leaders.

From January 1919 onwards they crushed left wing uprisings in many cities.

Ebert had put his government into the hands of the army and the Freikorps. The new "democracy" of Weimar had been saved by violent thugs and ex-soldiers who wanted to kill communists like the Spartacists. This undermined the Weimar Republic from the very start.

The Kapp Putsch, 1920:

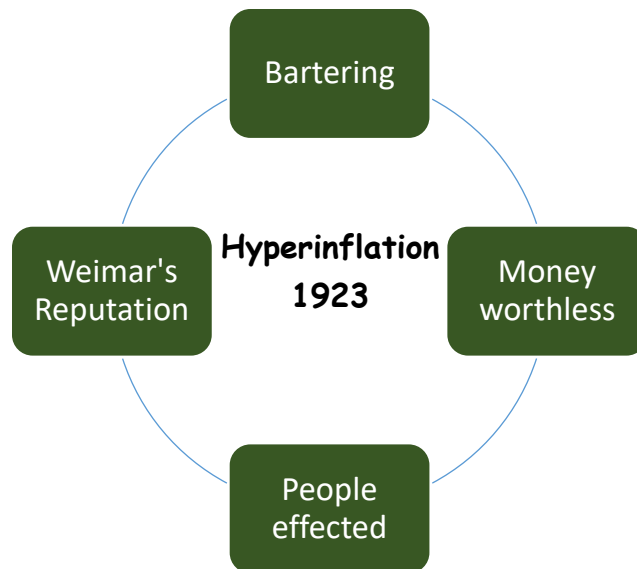
Many Germans hated the Treaty of Versailles. This hatred was a great threat to the Weimar Republic.

The army was the group who were most unhappy with it and they blamed the government for agreeing to it.

By early 1920 there was worry at how angry and powerful the army had become. The government tried to split them up and reduce the size of the army – they had to because of the Treaty of Versailles.

In March 1920 Wolfgang Kapp, leading a group of army units, tried to announce a new “right wing” government. The army did not stop them, even though Ebert commanded them to!

So, Ebert called on the people of Berlin to go on strike to make sure that Kapp couldn't take control. This worked and this led to the collapse of Kapp's putsch.



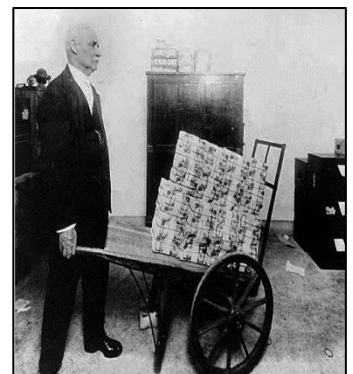
- 1923 – Germany could no longer pay the reparations. The French did not agree with this.
- They sent troops to an area called the Ruhr in Germany which was very industrial and produced iron. They then occupied this area to take resources from Germany.
- Germans in the area went on strike to stop the French getting these resources. This was called “Passive Resistance”. This meant that Germany had even less money as they were not longer making money in this area.
- Germany had to print more and more money to try and pay the reparation repayments.

The more money that was printed, the more worthless it became. Businesses had to increase their prices as money wasn't worth much.

EFFECTS:

- Bartering (swapping goods)
- Cost of goods go up
- Money becomes worthless
- Middle class people who have saved up their money lose it all as it is now worthless
- People who have saved for a pension now have a worthless pension so can't retire
- German people are angry at the Weimar Republic
- However, those in debt had their debts completely wiped out! This was great for them, though not so good for the banks!
- Weimar did recover after the Hyperinflation – a new currency was set up and Germany started to succeed again.

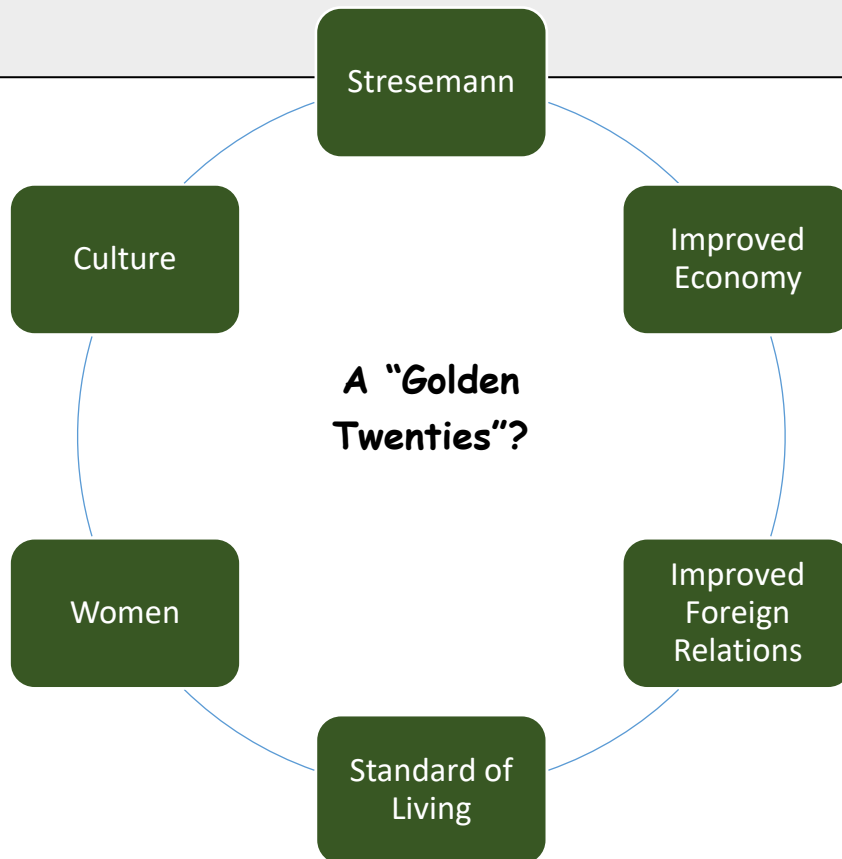
| Prices of goods in Germany (in German marks) | | | |
|--|-------|-------------|---------------|
| Item | 1913 | Summer 1923 | November 1923 |
| 1kg of bread | 0.29 | 1200 | 428000000000 |
| 1 egg | 0.08 | 5000 | 80000000000 |
| 1kg of butter | 2.70 | 26000 | 600000000000 |
| 1kg of beef | 1.75 | 18800 | 560000000000 |
| 1 pair of shoes | 12.00 | 100000 | 320000000000 |



Chapter 2 – A “Golden Twenties”? 1923-1929

CHAPTER 2:

- Stresemann & his Solutions
- Improved Economy – Rentenmark, Dawes Plan & Young Plan
- Improved Foreign Relations – Locarno Pact, League of Nations & Kellogg-Briand Pact
- Standard of Living
- Women
- Culture



Stresemann's Solutions!

Stresemann realised that Germany was in trouble and he decided to act quickly. First of all he tackled the problem of hyperinflation. He asked for help from other countries. The USA sent Charles Dawes (An important US banker) to find a solution. He ordered all of the currency (the mark) to be burned and destroyed. This immediately ended the huge prices. He introduced a temporary new currency (The Rentenmark) which reset the prices of goods in Germany. Dawes also gave Germany more time to pay their reparations which helped reduce their debt. Finally he also secured a huge loan (800 million Rentenmarks) to help get Germany back on its feet. These changes were part of “The Dawes Plan”



Charles Dawes and a One Rentenmark note

French soldiers leaving the Ruhr



The Dawes plan also helped to solve the Ruhr crisis. With a new stable currency and reduced reparations payments, Germany was able to start paying their debts. Stresemann ordered an end to the strike and began to pay the reparations again. France and Belgium pulled their troops out of the Ruhr now Germany were cooperating.



Stresemann also was able to organise a coalition of different parties in the Reichstag (parliament). They agreed to work together and this meant decisions could be made and the long arguments in the Reichstag stopped! Weimar Germany was now able to make decisions quickly.

An Improved Economy:

Rentenmark, 1923

Stresemann set up a new German bank in 1923 and set up a new currency called the Rentenmark. The new currency was backed up by real gold, so could never become worthless. This helped to end hyperinflation.

Although it helped businesses make money again and helped get people back to work, it did not give back all the money German people had lost during the hyperinflation.

Dawes Plan, 1924

Dawes was an American banker who went to Germany to find a way for Germany to start paying reparations again.

With Stresemann, he created the Dawes Plan which said;

- Reparations were reduced to £50 million a year
- American banks would give Germany huge loans to help their economy

This way, America hoped Germany would never stop paying reparations again.

After the Dawes plan (1924 until 1928) German production (what they made) doubled and more people were employed. Because more people were employed, the Weimar government made money off their taxes.

However, many people didn't want Germany to pay reparations at all and were angry with Weimar for agreeing to the Dawes Plan.

Worst of all, the Germany economy in the 1920s was totally built on American loans! What would happen if/when they needed to be paid back?!

Young Plan, 1929

Stresemann agreed the Young Plan in 1929 which reduced the amount of reparations from £6.6 billion to £2 billion. Germany was also given an extra 59 years to pay it all back.

However, although the extra time seemed like it was helping Germany, it angered an increasingly popular Hitler who said that it was "passing on the debt to the next generation".

But paying back less over a longer period of time helped Weimar as they could now lower taxes and spend more money on public works in Germany. This created more jobs and made Germans happier. A referendum in 1929 showed 85% supported Stresemann and the Young Plan.

Improved Foreign Relations:

Locarno Pact, 1925

The Locarno Pact was signed in 1925 between Germany, France and Belgium.

This pact agreed that Germany's borders should stay the same. This agreement meant there should be no more fighting over land in Europe.

This improved the friendship between the countries in Europe, particularly France and Britain, and helped to increase trust in Germany after WW1.

Entry to the League of Nations, 1925

The League of Nations was a group of countries which agreed to protect each other - just like the UN today.

The idea was that the countries would defend each other and work together to avoid future wars.

Germany was refused entry to the League of Nations after WW1 but under Stresemann they had earned enough trust to be allowed in by 1925 which increased Germany's political power and respect.

Kellogg-Briand Pact, 1928

The Kellogg-Briand Pact was signed in 1928.

The countries (including Germany, France, Belgium and Britain) agreed not to use war to settle arguments between countries.

This helped to ensure peace between countries and gave other countries such as France more trust in Germany.

Standard of Living

Wages

In the 1920s, wages went up. By 1928, wages had gone up by 10% and German workers were amongst the highest paid in the whole of Europe - a long way from the worthless money of the hyperinflation.

However, the middle class did not really have a big rise in wages and they were struggling after losing all of their savings in the 1923 hyperinflation.

More people were employed but there was a lot of unemployment in professional jobs like lawyers and teachers.



Housing

There was a massive shortage in housing after WW1. Weimar invested millions in building new houses and apartments across Germany. In the 1920s, more than 2 million homes were built.

In 1928, there were 60% less homeless people on the streets. Weimar had hugely improved the housing situation in Germany after WW1.

Unemployment

The Weimar Republic introduced unemployment insurance in 1927. This meant that all workers paid into a "scheme", and if they ever lost their jobs they would receive welfare payments. There were other welfare payments that supported soldiers who fought in WW1, single mothers and disabled people.

Women

Politics

In 1919, ALL women over 20 were given the vote. Women were also given equal pay to men. By the 1920s, women in Germany had some of the best rights of women in any European country. Weimar even had women representing the country in the Reichstag - unheard of in places like Britain.

Employment

Women's role changed in the types of jobs they were employed in. For example, women were less likely to be cleaners, domestic servants or farmers in Weimar Germany in the 1920s, and more likely to be professionals like lawyers and teachers.

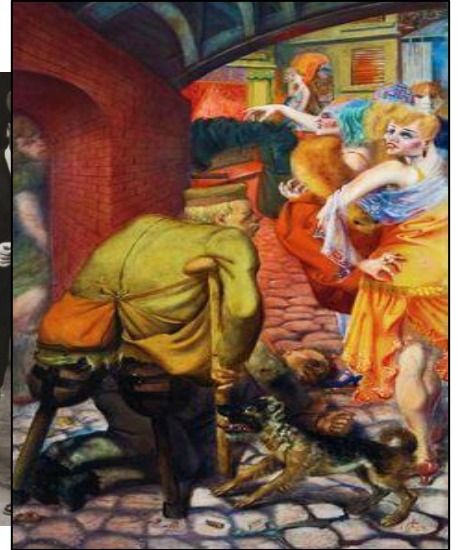
Despite women taken jobs that had previously been seen as "men's work", the better paid jobs in the 1920s were still all taken by men.

▼ Table 4.1 Women in employment in Germany, a comparison between 1907 and 1925. The figures are the percentage of the workforce that was female

| Type of employment | 1907 | 1925 |
|------------------------------------|------|------|
| Domestic servants | 16 | 11.4 |
| Farm workers | 14.5 | 9.2 |
| Industrial workers | 18.3 | 23 |
| White collar and public employment | 6.5 | 12.6 |
| Percentage of women in employment | 31.2 | 35.6 |

Leisure

Women enjoyed much more freedom in the 1920s. They went out without men, drank and smoked in public and were fashionable - for example wearing shorter skirts. They had their hair cut short and wore make up. All of this was unheard of in Germany before the Weimar Republic.



Culture

Art

Art now started to look at and criticise German life. The Weimar republic had given people the freedom to express themselves. This picture painted in 1920s Weimar shows the harsh life of soldiers who survived WW1 and the "poor behaviour" of women.

Architecture



A style of building called Bauhaus is shown in this picture. It was a huge shift away from the old traditional buildings in Germany and was designed to be efficient, futuristic and simple.

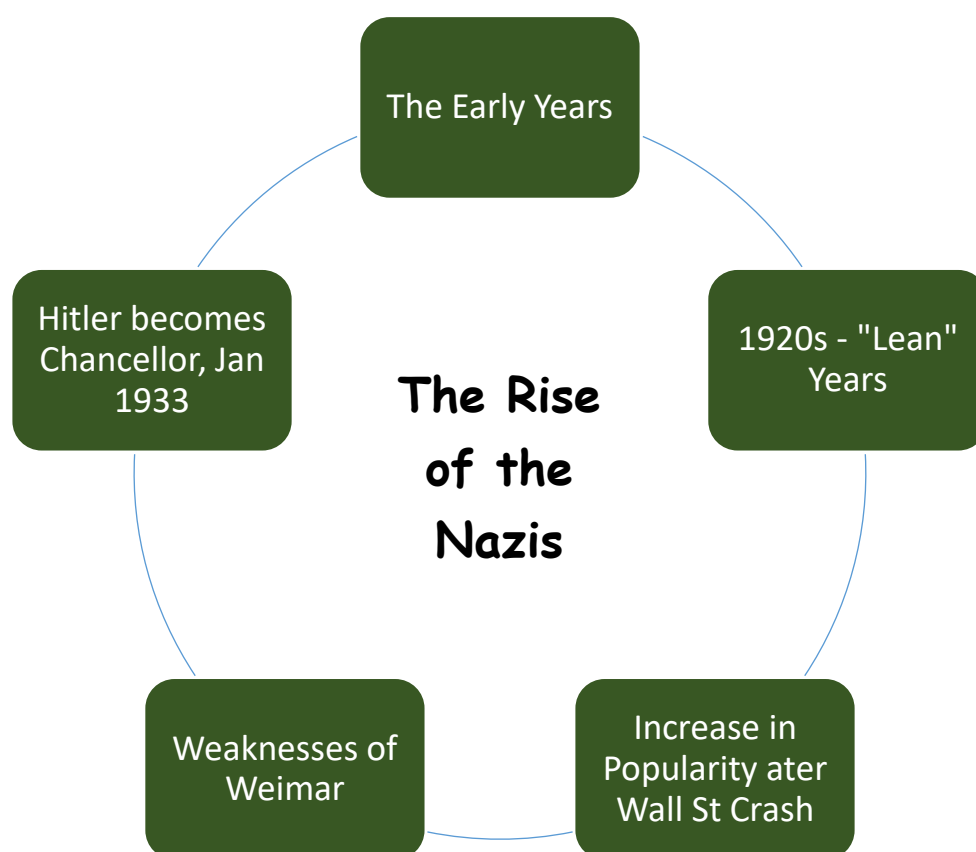
Cinema

Cinema first became huge across the world in the 1920s. German films were some of the best and ahead of their time. A film called "Metropolis", released in 1926, was a science fiction film about life and technology in the 20th century. By the 1930s, there were nearly 4000 cinemas showing films in sound across Germany and they had a big impact on people's lives.

Chapter 3 – The Rise of the Nazis 1923-1933

CHAPTER 3:

- The Early Years
- The 1920s – The Munich Putsch & The “Lean” Years
- Why did the Nazis become more popular after the Wall St Crash, 1929?
- Weaknesses in the Weimar Republic
- Timeline – Hitler becomes Chancellor in Jan 1933



THE EARLY YEARS

How was the Nazi Party Organised?

Hitler was in charge of propaganda at first. He changed the name of the Nazis from the "German Workers Party" to the **NATIONAL SOCIALIST GERMAN WORKERS' PARTY** (NAZIs for short).

- **Nationalist** meant loving your country above all others
- **Socialist** appealed to the ordinary people and the workers.

The new name appealed to a lot of German people who loved their country (nationalists) and who were ordinary workers (socialists).



Hitler also introduced the swastika and the straight armed "Heil Hitler" salute. This made the Nazis stand out ahead of any other party.



By July 1921, Hitler forced the first leader of the Nazis, Drexler, out and had become leader himself. Hitler surrounded himself with talented people who he knew would support him.

Who were the SA/"brownshirts"?



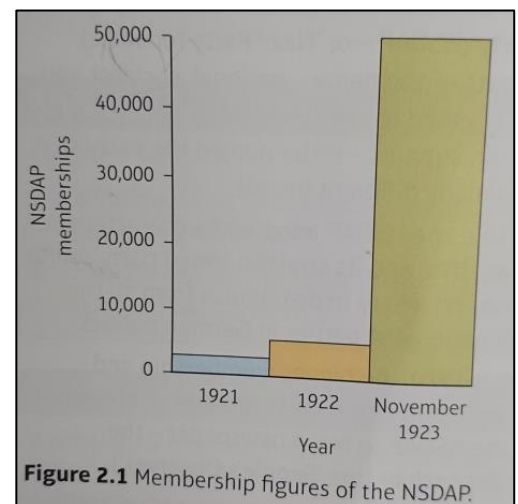
The SA stormtroopers were Hitler's brown shirted Nazi army. They were often soldiers who had fought in WW1 and were angry at the Treaty of Versailles.

They paraded in the streets and impressed people with their military power and organisation. They violently beat up any opposition. German people were especially impressed by the power of the SA because of the failure of the German army to win WW1.

Under their leader, Ernst Rohm, the SA were completely loyal to Hitler.

How did Hitler gain complete control of the Nazis?

By 1922, Hitler had persuaded all Nazi members to give up their right to democratically vote for their leader. Hitler was now in complete control and told everyone else what the Nazi policy would be and what the Nazi party would do. Under Hitler, membership of the National Socialist German Workers' Party grew massively (see table).



THE 1920s - Munich Putsch & "Lean" Years

Hitler was arrested and put on trial, 1924

- Hitler was charged with treason.
- Hitler used the trial as a chance to become famous and spread the message of the Nazis - it was a media sensation and many German people now knew who Hitler and the Nazis were. Other "nationalists" now wanted to support Hitler.
- He used this opportunity to criticise Weimar, calling them weak and saying they were responsible for the Treaty of Versailles and the Hyperinflation. He put across his extreme right wing political views.
- Due to his charming performance at his trial, the judges liked what Hitler had to say. They gave him the minimum sentence for treason - only 5 years in prison.
- He was released after only 9 months, having written his best-selling book that would influence many Germans, called "Mein Kampf" ("My Struggle").



The Nazis change their approach, 1924 onwards



Because their powerful leader was in prison, the Nazis lost support and went into decline in the years 1924-1928. Hitler reflected on the failure of the Munich Putsch and decided that trying to win power by using violence was not going to be successful. He changed the Nazi policy to trying to win elections instead.

The Reorganisation of the Nazi Party, 1924-1928

While Hitler was in prison, the replacement leader Alfred Rosenberg did not have many leadership qualities. When Hitler was released, he immediately made sure he was the one in total control of the Nazi Party. He did this by:

- Creating local Nazi branches to gain more support
- Winning over potential leadership rivals with important positions in the Nazi Party (eg - Goebbels was given the important job of leading the Berlin branch)
- Creating his own bodyguard unit called "the SS"
- Creating a Nazi Youth Group to influence young people, called the "Hitler Youth"
- Calling himself "Der Fuhrer" - the undisputed leader of the Nazi Party.

Votes

Despite the Hitler's changes, the Nazis were failing where it mattered - The Reichstag!

In 1928, the Nazis only got 3% of the votes - the lowest!

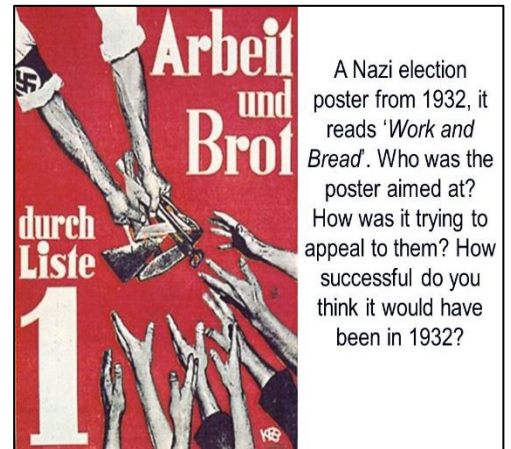
The table shows how many seats in the Reichstag the Nazis won - they were losing votes to democratic parties because Stresemann had fixed Germany's problems and Weimar were experiencing the "Golden 20s".

| Date of Election | Jan 1919 | Jun 1920 | May 1924 | Dec 1924 | May 1928 |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| SPD Social Democrats | 165 | 102 | 100 | 131 | 153 |
| Communists KPD/USPD | 22 | 88 | 62 | 45 | 54 |
| Centre Party (Catholics) | 91 | 64 | 65 | 69 | 62 |
| DDP (Democrats) | 75 | 39 | 28 | 32 | 25 |
| Right-wing parties (BVP/ DVP/DNVP) | 63 | 157 | 156 | 174 | 134 |
| NSDAP (Nazis) | | | 32 | 14 | 12 |
| Others | 7 | 9 | 29 | 29 | 51 |
| Total Deputies | 423 | 459 | 472 | 493 | 491 |

Why did the Nazis become more popular after the Wall Street Crash, 1929?

The name National SOCIALIST German WORKERS Party was aimed at the working class people in society.

To attract the working class people in society, the Nazis promised "Work and Bread" in their posters. However, more workers preferred the communists than the Nazis.



Middle Class families supported the Nazis

People in society who did professional jobs (such as lawyers, teachers, doctors) really supported the Nazis. These people are called Middle Class. They hated the Weimar Republic for losing their money in the Hyperinflation of 1923 and the Wall Street Crash of 1929. The Middle Class people also hated the culture in Weimar, which they saw as immoral and un-German. They supported Hitler who promised to change all of this.

Farmers were people in society who were happy that the Nazis promised not to take their land. They preferred the Nazis to the Communists because the communists would take all land and divide it out.





Young people in society found the Nazi Party exciting. Hitler's powerful speeches, the swastika flag, the strong private army (the SA) created a "buzz" around the Nazis. Hitler's speeches were more exciting to the young, who loved that Hitler promised them a future.

The Weimar government was seen as weak because of the Treaty of Versailles (1919), the Hyperinflation (1923) and now the Wall St Crash (1929). Hitler appealed to people because he was seen as strong because he promised to scrap the Treaty of Versailles and stop paying the reparations for WW1.



Hitler was a great speaker and made sure he spoke across the whole of Germany. He made sure he looked good to the people of Germany by using new technology, such as using an aeroplane to fly to his speeches.

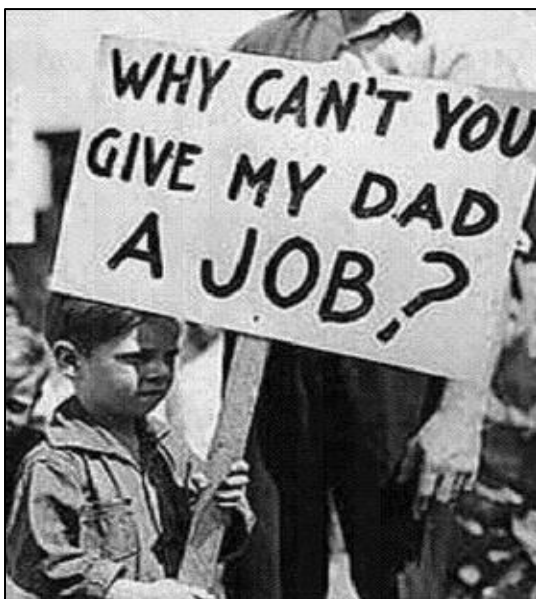
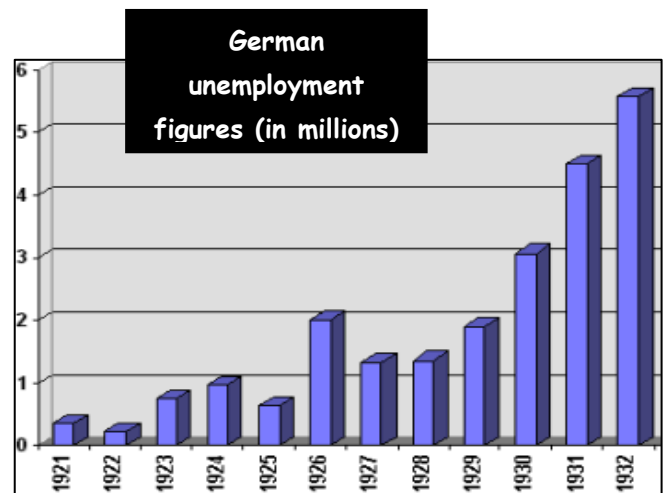
Hitler had support from rich businesses men who gave him money to help him appeal to more people. He used the money to produce propaganda such as posters and radio broadcasts.



Hitler had his own private army - the "SA" or "Brownshirts" - which appealed to people as it made the Nazis look strong, organised and powerful compared to the weak Weimar Republic.

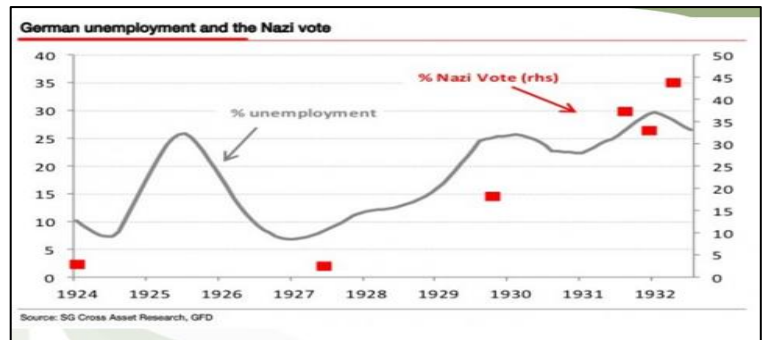


Because of the Wall Street Crash, loans were called in and countries stopped trading with each other. This meant there were less goods being sold so people lost their jobs. By January 1933, 6 million people were unemployed.



As more people were unemployed after the Wall Street Crash, the government had to cut employment benefits because so many people were claiming! People had also lost their savings, so if they lost their job they wouldn't have anything to fall back on. Weimar increased taxes to get more money, but doing this meant those still in work had no money!

As the amount of unemployed people went up, so did the amount of people who were voting for the Nazis.



As life became harder for people, they stopped voting for Weimar's democratic parties and started voting for extreme parties like the Nazis and the Communists.



The KPD (Communist Party of Germany) got a lot of support from workers who were unemployed. Many workers who were in work were getting smaller and smaller wages, so they also supported the Communists. The KPD was the biggest communist party in the world outside of the USSR.

The Communists got a lot of support, but many were scared to lose their land and businesses, so preferred the Nazis.

| General elections, 1928–32: seats in the Reichstag | | | |
|--|----------|-----------|-----------|
| | May 1928 | Sept 1930 | July 1932 |
| Social Democrats (SPD) | 152 | 143 | 133 |
| Nazi Party (NSDAP) | 12 | 107 | 230 |
| Communists (KPD) | 54 | 77 | 89 |

Weaknesses in the Weimar Republic

Many Germans hated the Weimar Republic from its creation. They blamed it for '*stabbing Germany in the back*' after WW1 and the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.

Proportional representation meant that no parties ever got a majority. This led to coalitions between a number of parties. Between 1919-1933, there were 20 different coalition governments. They rarely agreed, so achieved nothing. Like solving the depression.

Chancellor Brüning had to consistently use Article 48 to rule and pass laws - he passed 66 laws in 1932 alone! Chancellor Brüning quit in 1932 as he could not get any support

How did this help the Nazis?

The Weimar Republic was seen as weak and it looked like democracy was failing the German people. To many Germans, the Nazis and Hitler looked like the strong, decisive party they wanted a return to.

The ineffective government reduced opposition to the Nazis, they couldn't organise themselves let alone to oppose the Nazis.

Timeline - Hitler becomes Chancellor in Jan 1933:

Hitler stands to become President - March AND April 1932

Hindenburg had been president of the Weimar Republic since 1925. He was 84 years old and very weak, but stood for election again in 1932 to try and keep the Weimar Republic as stable as possible after the Wall St Crash.

Look at the results of the Presidential election of March 1932. Note - to be president you must get at least 50% of the vote. Also note how many people voted for Hitler;

| Ernst Thälmann, leader of the KPD | Hindenburg | Adolf Hitler, leader of the NSDAP |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 5 million votes (14%) | 18 million votes (49.6%) | 11 million votes (30%) |

Because no one achieved 50% of the vote, there had to be another election in April 1932. Hitler campaigned with his army, the SA, parading in the streets and attacking communists. He flew across Germany in an aeroplane delivering speeches from town to town. Hindenburg was re-elected as president, but Hitler was gaining more support;

| Ernst Thälmann | Hindenburg | Adolf Hitler |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4 million votes (11%) | 19 million votes (53%) | 13 million votes (36%) |

Early May 1932 - Chancellor Brüning resigns

The Chancellor of the Weimar Republic, called Brüning, tried to save Weimar by;

- Banning Hitler's SA
- Taking land from landowners to house the 6 million unemployed people

However, this only made Hitler even more popular because the landowners were furious, so supported Hitler, and other parties were scared Brüning would try and ban their army groups, just like the SA.

Brüning had failed and resigned.



Chancellor Brüning tried to ban the SA and solve the unemployment problem – but failed

Schleicher suggests a new Chancellor

Schleicher was an army general who was advising president Hindenburg. He suggested a man called von Papen, a friend of Hindenburg should be the new Chancellor of the Weimar Republic. However, von Papen had little support in the Reichstag...



Schleicher plotting his next move with von Papen

Late May 1932 - Von Papen becomes Chancellor

As soon as Brüning resigned, von Papen became Chancellor. It was thought he could control the Nazis, who were becoming very popular.

July 1932 - Reichstag Elections

There was more violence from Hitler's SA in the lead up to the elections of July 1932. More than 100 people were killed. The Nazis managed to win 230 seats in the Reichstag (37.8% of the votes). They were now the biggest party in the Reichstag! Hitler demanded that HE should be Chancellor.



Nov 1932 - von Papen is sacked and Schleicher becomes Chancellor

Hindenburg HATED Hitler and refused to make him Chancellor. Another election in November 1932 saw the Nazi vote fall to 196 seats (down to 33.5%).

However, the Nazis were still the largest party. Hitler simply would not go away.

Von Papen, like Brüning, had failed to help the Weimar Republic and stop the Nazis. He was sacked and Schleicher became Chancellor in December 1932.

Schleicher was the third Chancellor to try and stop the Nazis. He thought he could stop the Nazis by getting rid of Hitler. He offered Strasser, a senior Nazi, the position of VICE-Chancellor. He thought that Strasser would take this and that the Nazis would support him and forget about Hitler.



Strasser, a senior Nazi, was offered the position of VICE - Chancellor

Jan 1933 - Hitler becomes Chancellor

Hitler ordered Strasser to reject Schleicher's offer. Schleicher had become the third Weimar Chancellor to fail to stop the Nazis.

Von Papen offered Hindenburg a solution. Hindenburg hated Hitler and thought he was dangerous (he was right!) and didn't want Hitler to be Chancellor. Von Papen suggested Hitler should be Chancellor, but that he could be "controlled" by Hindenburg as president and von Papen as Vice-Chancellor.

On 30th January, Hitler was offered the position of Chancellor of Germany. But could Hindenburg and von Papen "control" him.....?

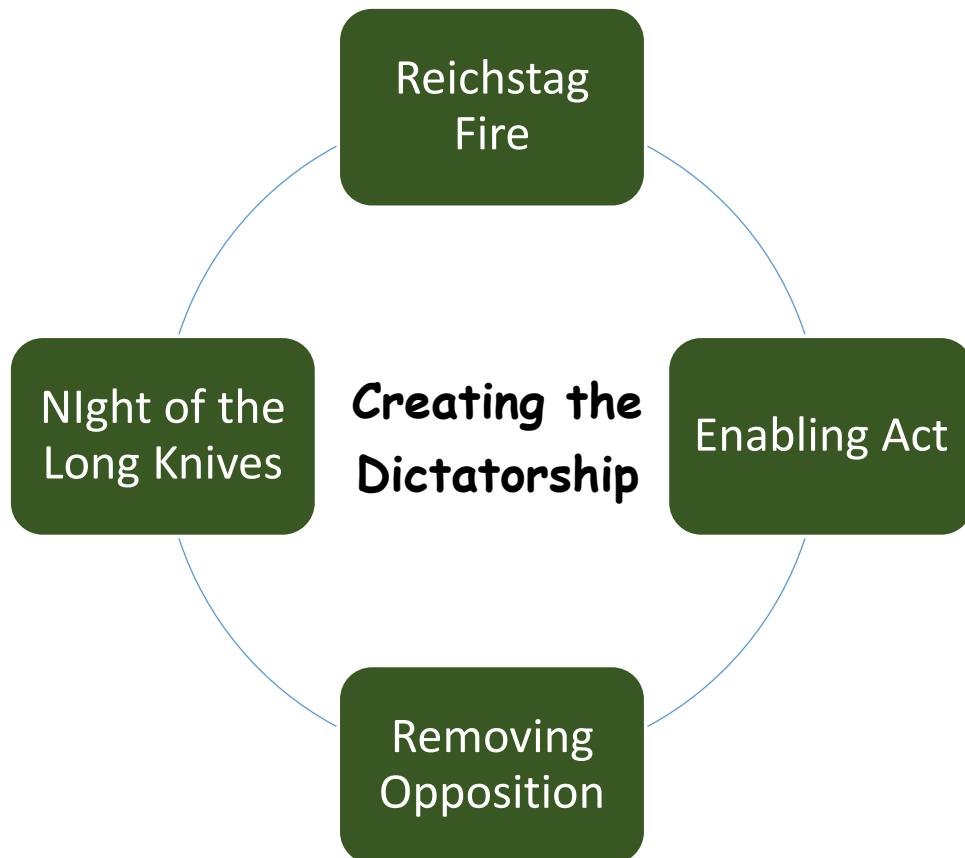


Hindenburg visibly unhappy at offering Hitler the position of Chancellor

Chapter 4 – Creating a Nazi Dictatorship 1933-1934

CHAPTER 4:

- Reichstag Fire
- Enabling Act
- Removing all Opposition
- Night of the Long Knives



The Reichstag Fire, Feb 1933

Hitler and the Nazis had only got **37.8% of the votes in July 1932** and **33.5% of the votes in November 1932**. So, when Hitler became Chancellor in January 1933, his position was not strong enough.

Hindenburg and von Papen's idea to control Hitler failed from the start.

Hitler immediately **called an election in March 1933**, hoping to get a **majority** (more than 50%) and completely control The Reichstag.

One week before the election in March 1933, the Reichstag was set on fire. It is not known who definitely started the fire, but Dutch communist Marinus van der Lubbe was found at the scene and arrested.

Hitler and his head of propaganda, Josef Goebbels, claimed that the communists were trying to take over Germany.

Van der Lubbe was found guilty and Hitler persuaded Hindenburg to pass a new law - "Decree for the Protection of people and State".....

The emergency decree which **suspended individual freedom** such as **freedom of speech**.

This gave Hitler sweeping powers. The police could **arrest anyone suspected of opposing the government**, they could also ban the meetings of political opponents and close their newspapers. The police could also **hold people without trial** indefinitely.

The Nazis used this to:

- Ban the communists and arrest 4000 communists members - the communist threat to the Nazis was destroyed
- Hitler became more popular for stopping the communists
- This gave the Nazis more votes in the March 1933 election - 43.9%, their best result ever
- Nazis set up concentration camps & Germany became a "police state"

The Enabling Act, March 1933

On the 5th March one week after the Reichstag Fire Hitler called an election. All Communists had been arrested and banned from the Reichstag and Hitler had imposed laws which stopped other parties from campaigning through his Emergency Decree (to supposedly protect the country from acts of terrorism). Hitler also used the SA to intimidate opposition and 70 people were killed in the weeks leading up to the election. The Nazis won 288 seats but he needed two thirds of the seats and this was not enough.

Hitler needed two thirds of the seats in the Reichstag to change the constitution and make himself a dictator. Therefore, he came up with the **Enabling Act**.

This Act would allow Hitler to pass any law he wanted without consulting the Reichstag. However, the Nazis yet again used violence and intimidation to scare members of the Reichstag into voting for this law.

The Enabling Act was passed on the 23 March 1933 and is regarded as the "foundation stone of the Third Reich".

Hitler quickly used this act to make sure he had control over every aspect of German life (known as **Gleichschaltung**). On 2 May 1933 he banned trade unions and the right to strike (anyone who argued would be sent to concentration camps). The first concentration camp was opened at Dachau in March 1933.

Hitler also used the Enabling Act to ban all other political parties on the 14th July 1933 (the Law against the Formation of Parties).

Removing all Opposition

Trade Unions

A Trade Union is a group that makes sure workers get paid enough and are protected at work.

They fight back against the government when they are not happy. Hitler was worried that they would fight back against the Nazis and go on strike. He was also worried that there were a lot of communists in the Trade Unions.

So, in May 1933;

- The Nazis broke into Trade Union offices across Germany and arrested Trade Union leaders.
- Hitler banned Trade Unions and made strikes illegal - if you went on strike you were sent to a concentration camp.
- All workers had to become members of the Nazi union - the DAF (translated as the "German Workers' Front").



The SA marching into SPD and Communist offices

Banning other Parties

Hitler had already banned the communists from campaigning after the Reichstag Fire in February 1933. In May 1933, after the Enabling Act, Hitler went one further and sent the SA to attack the SPD and the communists' offices, taking all their money and property.

Two months after this, Hitler banned all other political parties in July 1933. It was now illegal to be anything other than a Nazi.

Local Government

Hitler wanted to control the whole of Germany from the capital, Berlin. The Weimar Constitution meant every local area had its own council. Hitler destroyed these local councils, called "Lander", and made sure that every town and region was run by a Nazi appointed by Hitler himself.

Night of the Long Knives, June 1934



Ernst Rohm, leader of the SA, was arguably the most powerful Nazi other than Hitler. He was in charge of 3 million Nazi SA soldiers. Many of these were as loyal to Rohm as they were to Hitler.

Ernst Rohm was a friend and ally to Hitler, but disagreed with some of Hitler's views. For example, he criticised Hitler for his friendship with army generals (the SA were competition for the German army) and he also criticised Hitler for cosying up to rich businessmen. He wanted Hitler to support working class people rather than big business.

SA membership 1931-2

| | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Membership figures | 100,000 | 291,000 | 425,000 | 3,000,000 |

Therefore;

- The army generals hated him and thought he wanted to replace the German Army with the SA. The army only had 100,000 soldiers!
- The SS, Hitler's elite bodyguard, hated Rohm and the SA. They wanted the SS to be more powerful.

What happened on the "Night of the Long Knives"?

The SS and the German Army warned Hitler that Rohm and the SA were planning to seize power. Hitler decided to act. He sent Rohm and members of the SA to a lakeside German town. Once there, they were arrested, imprisoned and shot.

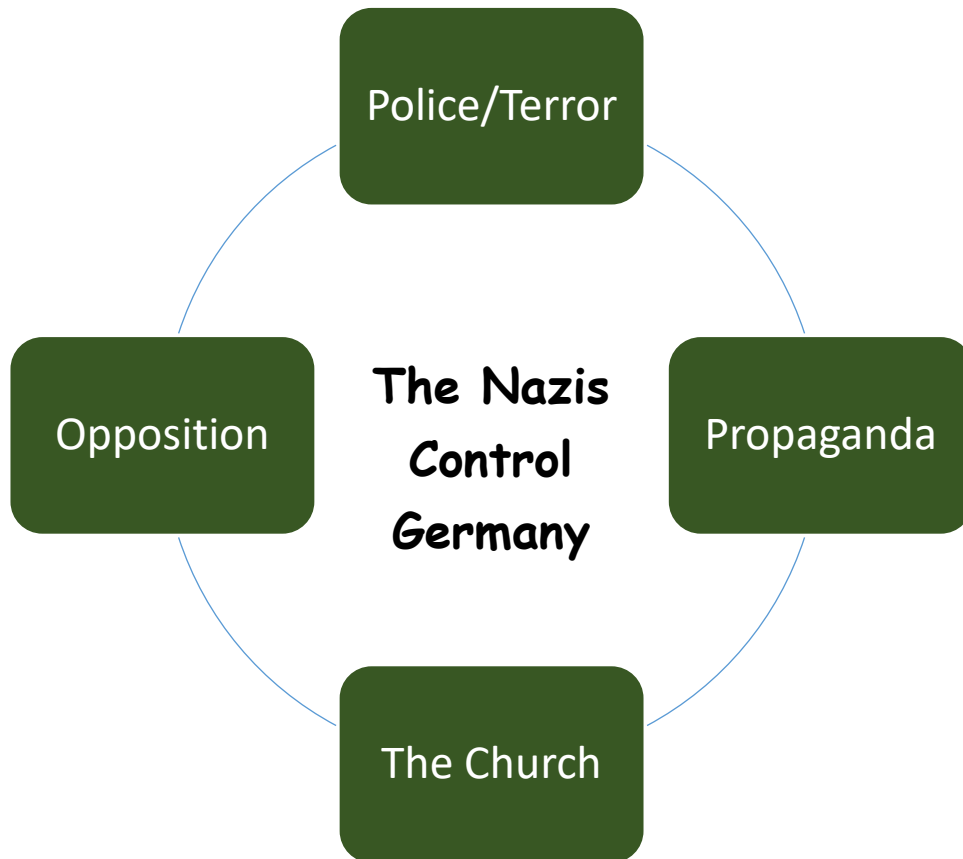
It wasn't just the SA who were destroyed on the Night of the Long Knives - any remaining opposition were rounded up and murdered. Schleicher (who tried to stop Hitler when he was Chancellor) and Strasser (who was offered the job of vice-Chancellor) were both shot. It is thought around 400 people were murdered by the Nazis.

Soon after, President Hindenburg died. Hitler now made himself Chancellor AND President - he was now "DER FUHRER" of Germany and the army had to swear an oath of loyalty directly to Hitler.

Chapter 5 – Nazi Control of Germany 1933-1939

CHAPTER 5:

- Police State/Terror – SS, Gestapo, Concentration Camps, SD & Courts
- Propaganda
- The Church
- Opposition to the Nazis



The Nazi Police State & Terror

The role of the SS

The SS was originally Hitler's personal bodyguard unit. Himmler became leader of the SS in 1929 and built it up to challenge the SA. The SS swore total obedience to Adolf Hitler and wore the infamous black shirts.

The SS were expected to be part of the "Master Race" or "Aryan" and marry "racially pure" wives. They were expected to be perfect Nazis. After the Night of the Long Knives in 1934, it was the job of the SS to remove all opposition to the Nazis from Germany. It was the SS who ran the Nazi concentration camps.

The Gestapo

The Gestapo was the most important part of the Nazi police. They acted as a "secret police" and were allowed to arrest and imprison anyone thought to be opposing Hitler and the Nazis. After 1936 the Gestapo was under the control of the SS and Himmler.

Once you had been arrested by the Gestapo, the most likely destination would be a concentration camp run by the SS. By 1939, there were about 160,000 people arrested for "opposing" the Nazis. The main weapon of the Gestapo was fear. Because they were "secret", the German people could never tell who was and who wasn't a member of the Gestapo. Once people had been sent to a concentration camp, they were often released to spread the fear of how terrible conditions were.

Concentration Camps

After the Enabling Act in 1933, the Nazis began to set up their system of concentration camps. At first, concentration camps were mostly for communists or trade unionists. Gradually, concentration camps filled with anyone suspected of opposing the Nazis. By 1939, there were 150,000 people in concentration camps for no real crime - just opposing the Nazis.

It was the SS who ran the concentration camps, however it was the Gestapo who had the power to arrest, interrogate and send people to the camps.

Concentration Camp prisoners were put into different categories. Each prisoner had a different coloured triangle on their clothes;

- Black triangles for "work-shy" prisoners.
- Pink triangles for homosexuals.
- Red triangles for communists.

Many people died in Nazi concentration camps, mostly due to being worked too hard, not being fed enough and treated so badly by the SS.

The SD

The SD collected the intelligence and information on opponents of the Nazis. The leader of the SD was Heydrich and his job was to identify possible opponents to Hitler.

Because the SD dealt with so much information, it employed highly educated people like lawyers and professors.

Judges

Hitler immediately set up the "National Socialist League for the Maintenance of Law" - this was to make sure that all judges were members of the Nazi Party and made sure that Nazi views were forced on Germany through the courts. Any non-Nazi judges lost their job.

Judges were told that Nazi laws were more important than the laws of Germany. From 1936, all judges had to wear the swastika and Nazi eagle on their robes.

Courts

Hitler removed trial by jury. He made sure Nazi Judges decided who was innocent and who was "guilty". He also set up a "People's Court". The People's Court would hear any trials of those accused of treason and were held in secret. Hitler sometimes went above the courts and imposed sentences on people accused of treason himself.

By 1939, 534 people were sentenced to death by People's Courts for treason.

Propaganda:

Non- Nazi Newspapers were closed down - the Nazis closed down 1600 by 1935. Newspapers were told by the Nazis what they could and couldn't print. "The Reich Press Law" banned all Jewish journalists and any journalists who printed anti-Nazi articles.



Der Stürmer – a pro-Nazi Newspaper



A group called the "Hitler Youth" encouraged sport amongst young people. Hitler wanted healthy Germans - healthy boys would make good soldiers and healthy girls would make good Nazi mothers.

Football and athletics stadiums HAD to be covered with the swastika. Foreign teams visiting from abroad HAD to do the "Heil Hitler" salute.



The ENGLAND team performing the Nazi salute in 1935

The major sporting event was the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The aim of the Berlin Olympics was to show the Nazis in a good light around the world. It was very successful;

- The Nazis built the Olympic stadium which held 110,000 people - the biggest in the world.
- Nazi Germany won 33 medals, more than any other country.
- Propaganda films of the Olympics were made to show the success of the Nazis.



Overall, it was a huge propaganda success for the Nazis.

But, Jesse Owens was one of nine black athletes who won gold medals. Hitler refused to present them with a medal.

Hitler hated Weimar art and wanted to go back to traditional art that showed German strength and sacrifice. He believed the more liberal art of the 1920s was "Jewish" and was banned. Artists were expected to paint ordinary Germans as heroes. All artists had to be members of the Nazi art group. Those who weren't members were not allowed to make or display any type of art.



The Nazis liked older, traditional architecture and buildings. They wanted huge buildings that showed how powerful the Nazis were. Albert Speer was Hitler's architect and designed buildings that were reminiscent of ancient Rome, for example the arena for the huge Nuremberg Rallies and the new "Chancellery" government building.

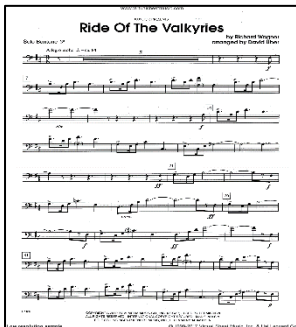
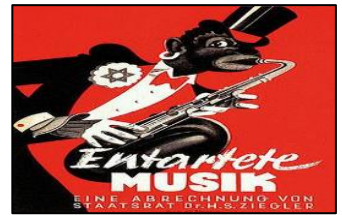
After 1933, radio was censored and only allowed to play Nazi propaganda. All radios were under Nazi control and Hitler often made speeches broadcast across Germany. Radios had to be in public places like factories, coffee shops etc.





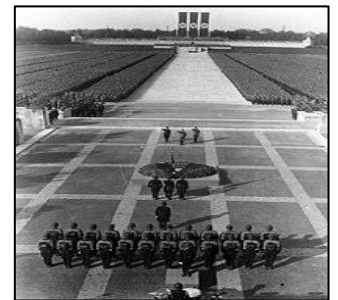
In Nazi Germany, cheap radios were made available for everyone. These were called "Peoples' Radios". By 1939, 70% of Germans had a Peoples' Radio that constantly spread Nazi propaganda, so most Germans were hearing the Nazi message every day.

Hitler hated modern music, especially jazz music which the Nazis called "black" music. Any Jewish composers were also banned.



The Nazis encouraged traditional German music, especially the classical composers like Beethoven and Wagner (Hitler's favourite). This was designed to promote Germany and show how talented "true Germans" were.

Rallies were huge parades that the Nazis had held in the 1920s and 1930s. When Hitler became Fuhrer, he made the rallies even bigger. For example, a massive rally was held every year at Nuremberg to show the power and strength of the Nazis Party and the "unity with the German people".



Nazi Rallies were huge parades that showed Nazi power through the presence of the SA then the SS, the playing of the German National Anthem, and the fact there were thousands and thousands of people in attendance.

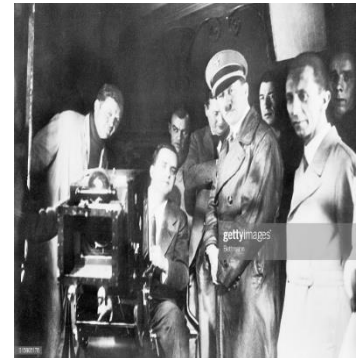
At huge Nazi rallies, Hitler made himself appear important by arriving deliberately late. This caused an atmosphere to build in the crowd. He also waited for absolute silence before speaking, a clear sign of the Fuhrer's power over the people of Germany. Hitler then repeated simple promises so everyone would understand the Nazi message. Women and children were placed at the front of crowds to make it appear like he was "cool" and had sex-appeal.



No one was allowed to write a book without it being approved by the Nazis. The Nazis banned thousands of books including those written by anti-Nazi authors, Jews and communists. In May 1933, 20,000 books were destroyed in the "burning of the books" at Berlin University. Those books burned included works by Albert Einstein.



Cinema became very popular in Weimar Germany in the 1920s, but the Nazis used film as propaganda to spread their message. Goebbels instructed that all films should start with a 45 minute newsreel showing the successes of Nazi Germany. Every film made in Nazi Germany had to be approved by Goebbels.



The most famous Nazi film was called "Triumph of the Will", which showed the power of the Nazis overcoming their enemies. There were many films made that showed communists and Jews to be evil like "The Eternal Jew".

The Church:

Nazi Protestants set up the Reich Church in 1933 under Nazi Bishop Ludwig Muller. It aimed to unite all Protestants in one Church. Bible replaced by Mein Kampf and the swastika replaced the cross. Only Nazi priests allowed.

The Concordat is signed between the Nazis and the Pope in July 1933. It agreed that Hitler would not interfere with the Church, if the Catholics stayed out of politics.

In 1934, Nazis set up the German Faith Movement. It was a non-Christian church which promoted Nazi ideology.

In 1934 Protestant Martin Niemoller set up Pastors' Emergency League to oppose Nazism and Hitler. He was arrested in 1937 and sent to a concentration camp for 7 years.

Crucifixes banned in Catholic Churches 1934.

Hitler set up the 'Ministry of Church Affairs' in 1935 to take control back from Catholics and Protestants.

Catholic Youth Groups banned in 1936.

In 1937, the Pope spoke out against the Nazis. 400 priests were sent concentration camps as a result.

From 1938, Catholic schools and teaching was attacked;

- Priest banned from teaching in schools 1938
- Church Schools closed in 1939
- RE banned in schools in 1939

Opposition to the Nazis:

Edelweiss Pirates

- A *working class youth group* who listened to Jazz music and painted anti Nazi graffiti. Their symbol was the edelweiss flower or skull and crossbones. They wore *clothes that were seen as outlandish by the Nazis - checked shirts and short trousers*. They were created in 1934 and by 1939 they had 2,000 members. They weren't a unified group; a few across Germany such as the Navajos and Roving Dudes. They were not seen as a threat to the Nazis.

The Swing Youth

- These *were middle/upper class teenagers*. They listened to swing music, which was classed as 'non German' and it came from black culture. They rebelled against Nazi order and discipline. The boys grew their hair long, and the girls wore make up (bright lips and nails)

The Church

Catholics

- In 1937, the Pope publically attacked the Nazis and their attempts to control the Church. In retaliation, the Nazis arrested 693 Catholics and closed catholic groups. **Cardinal Von Galen** also openly protested against the Nazi euthanasia programme - which killed the disabled. The programme was stopped and Galen was not.

Protestants

- Pastor **Martin Niemöller** set up the Pastors' Emergency League, which opposed the Nazis. By 1934, membership rose to 7,000 - but many left as many were persecuted. Niemöller was arrested in 1937 and sent to a concentration camp until 1945.

Assassination Attempts

- There were many attempts to assassinate Hitler before 1939. Jewish students plotted to assassinate Hitler between 1935-1936, but plans came to nothing. Maurice Bavaud, a student, tried to shoot Hitler but failed as he did not want to injure anyone else. In November 1939, *Georg Elser planted a bomb in a Munich Beer Hall where Hitler was speaking* - but Hitler left early so nothing happened.

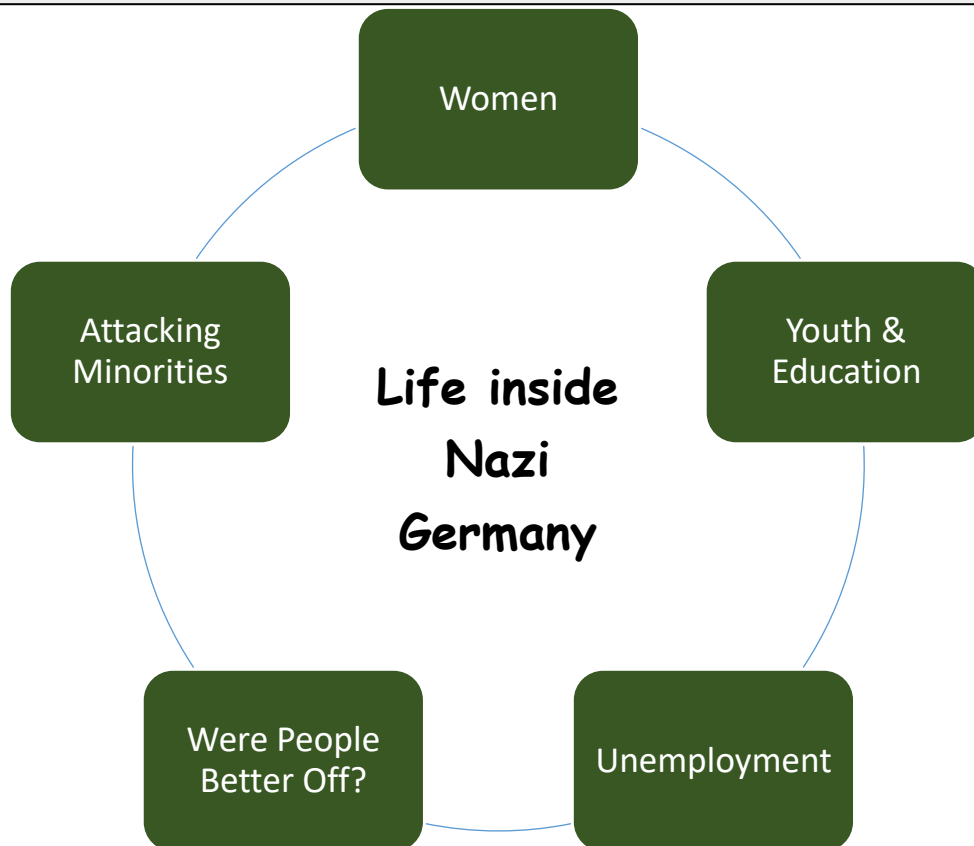
The Army

- In late 1938, some army leaders planned to overthrow Hitler, however this idea was cancelled. During 1938, Hitler removed 16 generals, meaning he had tightened his grip on the army and reduced resistance.

Chapter 6 – Life inside Nazi Germany 1933-1939

CHAPTER 6:

- Women
- Youth & Education
- Unemployment
- Were People Better Off?
- Attacking Minorities



Women:

Life before 1933

• The Weimar Republic had a very **progressive** attitude towards women's rights. Women, like men, were entitled to vote from the age of 20.

• By 1933 10% of Reichstag members were female.



In the Weimar period women were also encouraged to enter into **professional careers**.

Many women became teachers, doctors, lawyers, judges and civil servants. By 1933 there were 100,000 women teachers and 3,000 women doctors.

Women's fashion flourished in Weimar Germany, and clothing and make up which celebrated the female form were encouraged.



The ideal Nazi woman:

- Did not wear make up
- Was blonde, heavy hipped and athletic
- Wore flat shoes and a full skirt
- Did not smoke
- Did not go out to work
- Did all the household duties (especially cooking and looking after the children)
- Took no interest in politics



In 1900 there had been 2 million births a year. This dropped to 1 million in 1933. The number rose to 1.4 million in 1939. Abortions were illegal (although Jews were allowed to have abortions)

Women were encouraged to keep healthy and wear their hair in a bun or plaits. They were discouraged from wearing trousers, high heels and make up.

Concentration Camps

- In October 1933, the first concentration camp for women was opened at Moringen.
- Communists, Jehovah's Witnesses, abortionists and Jews were sent there.
- Ravensbrück camp was opened in 1939.
- By 1939, there were more than 2000 prisoners at Ravensbrück (including 400 Gypsies)

Children



Marriage and Family

- Propaganda was used to promote motherhood and large families.
- 1938 - the divorce law was changed. Divorce was only allowed if the couple could not have children.
- The Sterilisation Law of 1933 led to 320,000 being sterilised due to 'mental deficiency'

• Special awards called the Honour Cross were given out to mothers annual ceremonies held on Hitler's mother's birthday:

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

• Any married couples who failed to produce children were encouraged to divorce

• Only Aryans could benefit from loans and awards.



The Nazis rewarded women for being housewives.

The "Honour Cross of the German Mother" rewarded women for having more babies - bronze for 4 children, silver for 6 and gold for 8! If you had a 10th child and it was a boy, Hitler would be named godfather!

At home & family role

The Nazis often used the propaganda slogan 'Kinder, Kirche, Kuche' to sum up what they thought a woman's role was. Directly translated this means 'Children, Church and Cooking'.

The Nazis directly promoted the ideas of Nazi women having large families, being Christians and housewives

Girl's education was based around preparing them to be a mother (eg they were taught ironing!). The number of females going on to university dropped from 17000 to 6000.



• In 1936 the Nazis began 'Lebensborn'

- Fit, healthy, single Aryan women were encouraged 'donate' a child to the Fuhrer by getting pregnant with Aryan SS soldiers. 540 "master race" babies were born because of Lebensborn.

• Laws against abortion were strictly enforced and contraception was banned.

• Only Jews were allowed to have abortions.

• Generous marriage loans of 600 marks were given to married couples.

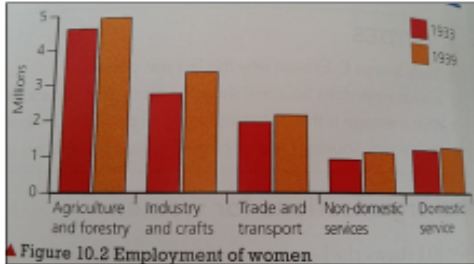
• After each child born 25% of the loan would be scrapped, so that after 4 children you would not have to pay back anything at all.



Women in Work

- The Nazis directly controlled jobs and they began to get rid of women- 15% of **teachers, all women doctors and civil servants were sacked**.
- By the end of 1936, **360,000 women had given up work** altogether.
- **University** enrolment was **limited** to 10% of total entry for women.

Women were encouraged to stay at home by new 'marriage credits and child bonuses'. The gradual decline of unemployment, however, created a new demand for labour. The result was the steady recruitment of women into both agriculture and industry, the total reaching 5.2 million by 1938.



- From 1937 Germany started to rearm and men were called to join the army, so the Nazis **needed more women to work**
- They ended marriage loans and a compulsory 'duty year' for all women to go to war.
- They usually worked on farms or in a family home in return for bed and board, but no pay.
- So, in spite of what the Nazis may have wanted, between **1933 and 1939 the number of women working increased from 11.6 million to 14.6 million.**

Youth & Education:

Teachers

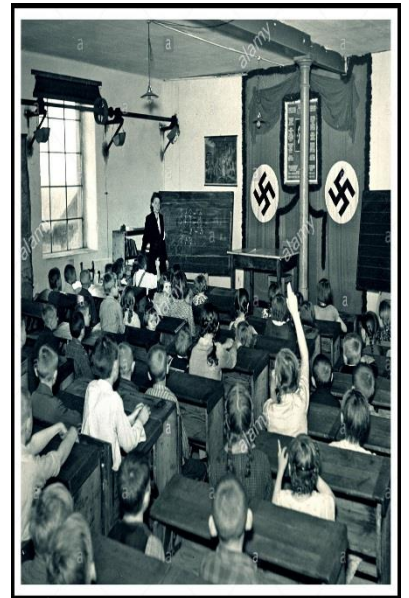
In 1933, almost immediately after Hitler became Chancellor, the Nazis passed a law that allowed them to sack teachers they didn't like. In just one small area of Germany – in Prussia – 180 headteachers were sacked.

All teachers now HAD to swear an oath of loyalty to Hitler and they HAD to join the Nazi Teachers League if they wanted to keep their jobs.

The Nazi Teachers League "educated" teachers to make sure that all teachers were teaching the Nazi message.

The Nazis expected teachers to behave as good Nazis by;

- Leading all classes in the "Heil Hitler" Nazi salute at the beginning and end of every lesson
- Decorating classrooms with swastikas, flags and pictures of Hitler

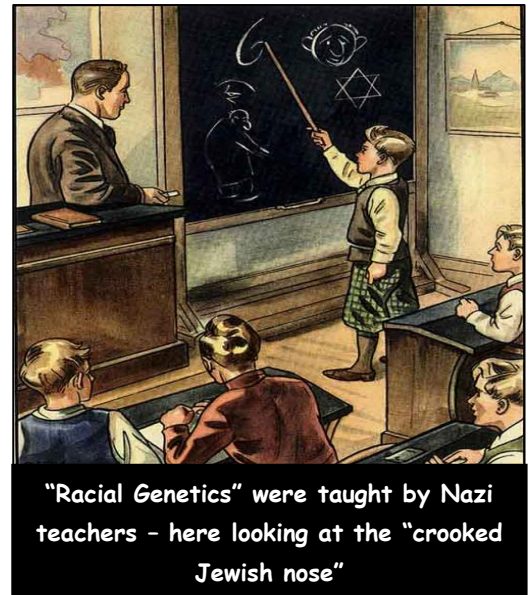


Curriculum

The curriculum is what is taught in schools, so the Nazis made sure they took full control over what was being taught in German schools.

- New subjects were added, such as "Race Studies". In this subject, students were taught how to identify different races and how the Aryan (German) race was superior to all others. Jews were shown to be the most inferior race, not even considered to be human.
- Maths was changed to make it more useful in Nazi society, for example counting amount of guns/armaments made.
- PE time was doubled. This was to create strong and fit workers, soldiers and mothers.

- The curriculum for girls was based around domestic science, cooking and needlework to prepare them to be good wives and mothers.
- New history books were created to show how the Treaty of Versailles was a “stab in the back” for Germany and that Germany only lost WW1 because of the Communists and Jewish conspiracies.
- Mein Kampf was a compulsory textbook for all students.
- Pupils gathered together with their teachers to listen to radio broadcasts by the Nazis.



Hitler Youth

In 1933, Hitler banned all youth groups apart from Nazi youth groups. More and more pressure was put on young people and their parents to join the Nazi groups. From 1939, it was compulsory for ALL young Germans to join Nazi youth groups from the age of 10.

Nazi youth groups were strictly separated for boys and girls. For boys they were as follows;

- The Pimpfe (Little Fellows) for 6-10 year olds
- The Deutsche Jungvolk (German Young People) for 10-14 year olds
- The Hitler Jugend (Hitler Youth) for 14-18 year olds

Political Training:

The Hitler Youth had to swear an oath of loyalty to Hitler. They would attend courses where they learned the Nazis ideals (ie how to be a “good Nazi”). There was a schedule of lessons and lectures called “German Heroes”, “Hitler and his fellow fighters” and “The Evil of the Jews”.

The Hitler Youth had to report anyone who was disloyal to the Nazis – even teachers and parents!

Physical Training:

The Hitler Youth (HJ) was used to make young men as fit and healthy as possible. There were regular camping and hiking trips and constant sporting events to encourage competition and fitness.

Military Training:

Skills that were useful to soldiers were constantly practiced, such as map-reading and signalling. Shooting and handling guns was also essential and by 1938 1.2 million members of the Hitler Youth were trained in small-arms shooting. There were specialist training groups, such as the Naval Hitler Youth, Motor Hitler Youth, Gliding Hitler Youth and Flying Hitler Youth.

Character Training:

Comradeship and loyalty were important lessons in the Hitler Youth, but so was competition and ruthlessness.

Young Boys entering the Jungvolk, aged 10, would swear an oath saying “I devote all my energy and strength to the saviour of our country, Adolf Hitler. I am willing and ready to give up my life for him”.

Hitler Youth members were constantly being “toughened up”, by being plunged into ice or experiencing harsh punishments for disobeying orders.



League of German Maidens

Girls aged 10-14 belonged to the Jungmadel (Young Maidens). 14 – 21 year old girls were in the Bund Deutscher Madel – the BDM or “League of German Maidens”.

Some of the activities and expectations were the same as for the boys, for example the swearing of the oath and extra PE, sports and camping.

However, the girls were trained to do different tasks to the boys. They received no military training and were instead taught to cook, iron, make beds, sew and generally prepare to be a housewife.

Girls were also taught “racial hygiene” – the idea that they should keep the Aryan (German) race pure by only marrying true German men. Girls were always portrayed in propaganda with blond hair, blue eyes and doing domestic jobs.



Unemployment:

The Reichs Labour Service (RAD)

- The RAD gave paid work to unemployed people in Germany. They were given jobs in public works schemes e.g. building schools, hospitals and over 7000 km of motorways (autobahns), so it didn't just give young men jobs – it improved Germany as a country.
- All young men between 18-25 years had to join for six months.
- However, the RAD was not popular because they had to wear uniform, lived in camps and were given a weekly sum of money that was considered too low. Many men thought it was more like military service than a job.

Rearmament

- In 1935 conscription was introduced. Conscription meant all men had to join the army for military service. All 18-25 year olds had to join the armed forces for 2 years.
- With so many men joining the army, the numbers grew to much more than the 100,000 allowed in the Treaty of Versailles. The army grew from 100,000 to 1.4 million by 1939.
- Many more found jobs producing weapons and equipment to get Germany ready for war. For example, in 1933 only 4000 people were employed in making airplanes. By 1935 this had grown to a huge 72,000.

Hiding unemployment!

- Many women and Jews were forced out of their jobs due to Nazi policies. Neither Jews nor women showed up on the unemployment figures.
- Hundreds of thousands of people were put in concentration camps and were not included in the unemployment figures. This masked how bad unemployment really was.
- Thousands more jobs were created by the Nazis themselves – in the SA, SS and Gestapo. This might show that many people were employed by the Nazis, not in “real” jobs.

Autobahns

- The autobahns were 7000 miles of motorways built by the Nazis. The first motorways in the world were opened in 1935. By 1935, 125,000 men were employed building motorways across Germany.
- The autobahns were just one example of the Nazis giving people jobs in Germany to build things for the public. Building things like hospitals, bridges and sports facilities created a lot of jobs and improved Germany in many ways. The economy began to improve.
- However, these jobs were all funded by the Nazi government. It cost the Nazis 38 million marks!

Were people better off?

BETTER OFF:

"Strength through Joy"

The Nazi Trade Union called "The German Labour Front" (the DAF) took control of the "Strength through Joy" idea - to improve every German workers' leisure time and promote concerts, theatre visits, museum tours, sporting events, holidays, weekend breaks and cruises.

These were all provided at a low cost, which meant ordinary Germans could now afford these luxuries that were usually just for the better off.

"The Beauty of Labour"

This was a part of the "Strength through Joy" that aimed to improve working conditions. "The Beauty of Labour" helped set up canteens, swimming pools and sports facilities in work places. It also installed better lighting and lowered noise levels.

Tax breaks were given to workers so they had more money to spend on themselves.

By 1938, the Nazis claimed 34,000 companies had improved their conditions.

Volkswagen Scheme

Volkswagen means "people's car", and was set up by the Nazi Labour Front. Workers paid into the Volkswagen scheme (5 marks per month) and could eventually own their own Volkswagen car.

Wages

Under the Nazis (1933-39), the average weekly wage rose from 86 to 109 marks per week. Although prices went up too, higher skilled workers could afford the higher prices and spend more money on luxury goods.

Food Consumption

Nazi propaganda told women what food they should buy and what simple, cheap meals they should be making. The "Eintopf" was a one-pot dish made of meat and vegetables. People were happy to make the simple, cheap meals to help "sacrifice for the nation".

WORSE OFF INFO:

"Strength through Joy"

"Strength through Joy" planned to improve every German workers' leisure time and promote concerts, theatre visits, museum tours, sporting events, holidays, weekend breaks and cruises.

These were all provided at a low cost, however many German workers still couldn't afford to go on the holidays, such as cruises, because they didn't earn high enough wages to cover the increased food prices AND go on holiday.

"The Beauty of Labour"

This was a part of the "Strength through Joy" that aimed to improve working conditions. "The Beauty of Labour" helped set up canteens, swimming pools and sports facilities in work places. However, many workers had to give up their free time to set up all of these improvements and were often not paid for it.

Volkswagen Scheme - The "Swindle"

Volkswagen means "people's car", and was set up by the Nazi Labour Front. Workers paid into the Volkswagen scheme (5 marks per month) and could eventually own their own Volkswagen car. However, persuading people to buy Volkswagens was a con. Despite putting money aside every week, by the time the war started in 1939, not a single person had taken delivery of a new car! These people never got their money back or their promised new Volkswagen.

Wages & Prices

Under the Nazis (1933-39), the average weekly wage rose from 86 to 109 marks per week. However, the cost of living (such as the price of food) went up too. All basic groceries cost much more in 1939 than they had in 1933. This meant that low-earners had to use their higher wages to buy the more expensive essential goods.

The Nazis purposely didn't produce enough food, so the prices stayed high and the farmers earned more money.

Hours Worked

Under the Nazis, workers had to work much harder. The average working week for a German worker rose from 43 hours p/week in 1933 to 49 hours p/week in 1939. Although wages had gone up, workers had to work harder to earn them.

Attacking Minorities:

Nazi Racial Beliefs - The Master Race

The Nazis wanted to create a "pure", "strong" country. This meant that all groups seen as "non-German", especially Jews, were treated very badly. Hitler's idea about race was that the white Germanic Europeans were seen as the "master race" and all others were "sub-human". The Germanic people were called "Aryans", and Hitler used the Bible to try and prove that God had a special purpose for Aryans.

Hitler's ideal Aryan would have blonde hair and blue eyes and be tall, slim and athletic - a "master race" fit to conquer the world. To create the master race, Hitler planned;

- Breeding programmes of pure Aryans
- Destroying all Jews

Members of the SS were used in the breeding programmes to impregnate blonde haired German women. Any "mixed marriages" were not allowed, this meant "true" Germans were not allowed to marry Jews, or any non-German.

Build-up of hate - Attacking the Jews 1933-39

The attack on Jews didn't happen straight away. Hitler needed to persuade the German people to believe the Jews were the enemy and support his attacks. He managed this by using Anti-Semitic propaganda. All Germans, especially young people, were persuaded to hate the Jews and see them as sub-human. This hate was taught in schools and was passed in laws against the Jews.

1933 - Boycott of Jewish shops:

As soon as Hitler became Chancellor of Germany, the Nazis persuaded people not to visit Jewish shops. The boycott started in April and lasted one day. Members of Hitler's private army, the SA, were at the entrance to Jewish shops and businesses, persuading people not to enter. The SA also painted the Jewish Star of David to make Jewish shops stand out.

In 1933, Jews were also banned from working for the government and all Jewish teachers were sacked.

1935 - The Nuremberg Laws:

In 1935, two laws were passed by the Nazis;

The Reich Citizenship Law - only those of true German blood were allowed to be German citizens. This meant they lost their right to vote, benefits and work for the government. The Nazis had taken away the rights of all Jews.

Law for the Protection of German Blood - marriage or sexual relations between Germans and Jews were made illegal. Marriages from before 1935 were still legal but divorce was encouraged.

1938 – Kristallnacht (The Night of Broken Glass):

Around the time of the 1936 Olympics, the Nazis stopped attacking Jews. However, in 1938 the Nazis became more violent towards the Jews. This was sparked by a young Polish Jew who walked into the German embassy in Paris and shot someone. Goebbels, Hitler's head of propaganda, used this as a chance to attack the Jews in Germany.

The Nazis attacked and destroyed Jewish homes, shops and businesses and burned down synagogues. So many windows were smashed it became known as the "Night of Broken Glass". Around 100 Jews were killed, 30,000 sent to concentration camps and 7500 businesses destroyed.

Many of the Jewish shops were never allowed to reopen. The Nazis made sure this was seen as a "spontaneous uprising" of the German people, but really it was coordinated by the SS. In the aftermath, the Nazis confiscated jewellery and efforts to force Jews out of Germany were stepped up. The Reich Office for Jewish Emigration was set up – with the SS aiming to drive all Jews out of Germany.

Treatment of other Minorities

Disabled People:

Disabled people did not fit with the Nazi ideas of the perfect master race. Therefore, the Nazis created the Sterilisation Law which allowed them to sterilise people who suffered from any physical or mental deformity, learning difficulties or blindness or deafness. They were shown in propaganda as "unworthy of life" and "useless eaters" – a burden on society.

Homosexuals:

The Nazi values of family life and producing children meant same sex relationships could never be allowed. The Nazis were no different to any country in the 1930s in looking at homosexuality as wrong. Gay men were arrested and sent to concentration camps – where 5000 gay men died. Nazis also promoted the idea of voluntary castration of gay men.

Gypsies

There were about 30,000 Gypsies in Germany. The Nazis gave two reasons for removing them;

- They were non-German and not racially pure
- They travelled across the country and had no permanent home, so didn't fit in with Nazi family and community values

In 1935 the Nazis banned all marriages between Gypsies and Germans. Many Gypsies were sent to concentration camps for being "work shy".

List of Key People:

Kaiser Wilhelm II – Leader when Germany lost WW1. Abdicated in November 1918.

Ebert – First leader of the new, democratic Weimar Republic from 1919.

Rosa Luxembourg – Leader of the communist group the Spartacists. Murdered to stop the communists taking power in 1919.

Wolfgang Kapp – hated the Treaty of Versailles and tried to overthrow the government. Had the support of the army but was stopped when Ebert ordered the whole of Berlin to go on strike.

Gustav Stresemann – Chancellor & Foreign Secretary from 1923 – 1929. Responsible for the Golden Twenties through the new currency (Rentenmark, 1923), the 1924 Dawes Plan that secured big loans and changed reparation payments to be in line with what Germany could afford, and gained Germany entry to the League of Nations in 1925.

Bruning – Chancellor after Wall St Crash, 1929. Used Article 48 more and more.

Von Papen – Chancellor in 1932 but had little support and couldn't stop Hitler & the Nazis. Was appointed Vice-Chancellor underneath Hitler in Jan 1933 to help "control" him with the President.

Schleicher – Chancellor before Hitler. Tried to get the support of the Nazis by making Strasser Vice-Chancellor. This plan to get rid of Hitler AND get the support of the Nazis failed.

Hindenberg – President of Germany from 1925-1934. Supported the Weimar Republic and HATED Hitler.

Hitler – Leader of the Nazi Party from 1921. Chancellor of Germany from Jan 1933. Fuhrer/Dictator of Nazi Germany from 1934 – 1945.

Van der Lubbe – Dutch communist convicted of starting the Reichstag Fire in February 1933.

Rohm – Leader of the SA until 1934. Disagreed with Hitler. The SA was becoming very powerful until it was destroyed in 1934 in the Night of the Long Knives.

Goebbels – Head of Nazi Propaganda.

Himmler – Leader of the SS.

Martin Niemoller – Pastor in Nazi Germany who spent 7 years in a concentration camp for opposing the Nazi Policies towards the Church.

Chapter 7 - Big quiz of Germany 1919-1929

Early years of the Weimar Republic 1919-23

1. What happened to the Kaiser after Germany lost WW1?
2. Who was the first leader of the new Weimar Government?
3. Give two strengths of the Weimar Constitution.
4. Give two weaknesses of the Weimar Constitution.
5. Give two examples of LAND lost by Germany in the Treaty of Versailles.
6. Give two examples of ARMY lost by Germany in the Treaty of Versailles.
7. What was the name of MONEY Germany had to pay in the Treaty of Versailles.
8. What was the name of the clause in the Treaty that meant Germany had to give up PRIDE.
9. What was the name of the communist group who tried to take power from the Weimar Republic in 1919?
10. What was the name of the group of soldiers that Weimar used to stop the communists?
11. How did Weimar stop the Kapp Putsch?
12. Why was there Hyperinflation in Germany?
13. What area did the French invade when Germany stopped paying reparations?
14. Give one effect of the Hyperinflation on Germany.

The Golden Twenties 1923-1929

15. What was the name of the new currency introduced by Stresemann?
16. Why would this new currency never become worthless?
17. What was the Dawes Plan?
18. The Young Plan, 1929, reduced the reparations from £6.6billion to.....
19. What group did Germany join that showed they were being accepted by foreign countries?
20. What did the Locarno Pact agree on?

Rise of the Nazis 1923-1932

21. After WW1, Hitler was sent to spy on the German Workers' Party. Who was their leader in 1919?
22. When Hitler became leader, what did Hitler change the name of the Party to (clue - "Nazis" for short).
23. Hitler introduced the new "salute" and the new Nazi flag - what was it called?
24. What was the name of Hitler's brown shirted private army?
25. What was the name of the leader of this private army?
26. Give one example of what the private army did.
27. Under Hitler, how many members did the Nazi Party have by 1923?
28. What is the Munich Putsch of 1923 sometimes known as?

29. What prison sentence was Hitler given? How long did he actually serve?

30. What did Hitler do whilst in prison?

31. How did Hitler change the Nazis approach after the Munich Putsch?

32. What % of the votes did the Nazis get in 1928?

How did Hitler become Chancellor? 1932-1933

33. Brüning tried to solve unemployment and stop the Nazis by.....

34. But this only made Hitler more popular because.....

35. It was thought von Papen could control the Nazis, but he failed. In the November 1932 elections, the Nazis got.....and von Papen was sacked.

36. Schleicher sneakily tried to stop the Nazis by.....

37. But in January 1933, Hitler.....

How did Hitler become Dictator (Führer)? 1933-1934

38. What was the name of the Dutch communist who supposedly started the Reichstag fire?

39. After the fire, Hitler (with Hindenburg) passed an emergency law. What powers did this give Hitler?

40. How many communists were arrested after the fire?

41. What % of votes did the Nazis get in March 1933?

42. Give one reason why other parties voted for the Enabling Act.

43. After the Enabling Act, Hitler made every worker join the DAF - what was this?

44. What did the SA do to SPD and communist offices after the Enabling Act?

45. What was the name of the leader of the SA?

46. How did he disagree with Hitler?

47. How many men were in the SA by 1934?

48. What happened on the NOLK?

49. Hitler became the "Führer" after NOLK - what does this mean?

Nazi Control of Germany 1933-39 (Police, Terror, Propaganda, the Church)

50. Who was the leader of the SS?

51. What was the overall job of the SS?

52. Who were the Gestapo?

53. By 1939, how many people had the Gestapo arrested for "opposing" the Nazis?

54. What colour triangle did different groups have?

55. Who was employed by the SD? Why?

56. What was the "People's Court"?

57. How many non-Nazi newspapers were shut down?
58. What time of newspapers were banned?
59. What did visiting sports teams have to do in Germany?
60. How was the Berlin Olympics of 1936 a propaganda success?
61. What type of art did the Nazis like?
62. What were "People's Radios" and what % of Germans had them?
63. What music was banned in Nazi Germany?
64. How were Hitler's rallies used as propaganda?
65. 20,000 books of what types of books were burned in 1933?
66. What did everybody have to watch before every film at the cinema?
67. What was the "German Faith Movement"?
68. What was the Concordat?
69. Who was Pastor Niemoller and what happened to them?
70. What did the Edelweiss Pirates do to oppose the Nazis?
71. What did the Swing Youth do to oppose the Nazis?

Life for Women, Young People, Workers and Minorities inside Nazi Germany

72. Describe the "ideal" Nazi woman.

73. What did the birth rate rise to under the Nazis?

74. Describe the Nazi Honour Cross.

75. How many women were sterilised to prevent giving birth to disabled babies?

76. Translate "Kinder, Kirche, Küche".

77. Describe the "Lebensborn" programme.

78. What % of professional women were sacked?

79. What % of women were allowed to universities in Nazi Germany?

80. What was the name of the Nazi teacher group? Give two examples of what teachers had to do.

81. What changes were made to subjects? Which were the most popular subjects?

82. Hitler Youth - give examples of character, military and political training.

83. What were the activities of the BDM?

84. What did the Reichs Labour Service (RAD) provide people? Why was it unpopular?

85. How much had the army grown by under the Nazis?

86. Who didn't count on unemployment figures?

87. How many men were employed building autobahns?

88. What was the "Strength through Joy" group?

89. What happened to wages under the Nazis?

90. What happened to prices?

91. What happened to hours worked?

92. What did the "Beauty of Labour" do to improve working conditions? Why was it a problem?

93. What was the Volkswagen "swindle"?

94. What types of marriages were banned under the Nazis?

95. What happened to Jewish shops in 1933?

96. What was the Reich Citizenship law?

97. How many Jewish people were sent to concentration camps on Kristallnacht?

98. What was the "Sterilisation Law"?

99. How many Homosexuals died in concentration camps?