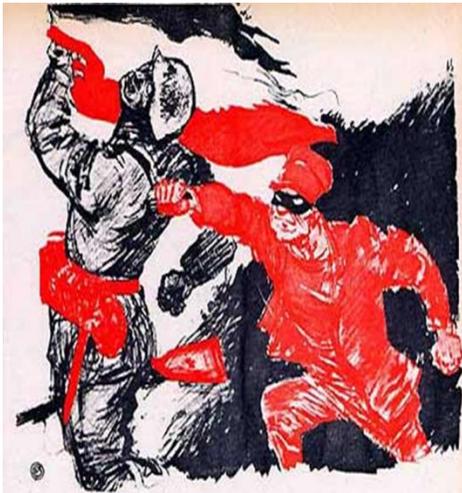




# GCSE History

## Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39 Revision Guide



Name:

## GCSE GERMANY QUESTION TYPES AND HOW TO ANSWER.

There are 6 types of question that will come up on the Weimar and Nazi Germany unit

- Q1/ Give 2 things you can infer from Source A
- Q2/ Explain why (something happened)
- Q3A/ How useful are sources A and B for an enquiry into something
- Q3B/ Study 2 interpretations (different views on something). What is the main difference between these two views?
- Q3C/ Suggest 1 reason why the 2 interpretations are different
- Q3D/ How far do you agree with interpretation 1 (or 2)?

You will notice you use the same sources and interpretations throughout the paper

### Q1: Give 2 things you can infer from Source A

- Infer means guess
- You need to give something you can infer from the source and then explain what part/detail from the source led you to make that guess
- Then do the same thing again as they want 2 points

### Q2: What to do on a explain why something happened question

- You **MUST** explain about a minimum of 3 things!
- You will be given two prompt points you can use but you will need one more point
- Simple sentence starter:  
One reason this happened was because.....A second reason was.....A third reason was.....

### Q3A: What to do on a how useful are source A and B for an enquiry

- You will need to explain the usefulness of each of the two sources
- You will need to explain the limitation to the usefulness of the two sources
- You should have a small judgement on the overall usefulness of both sources
- When considering usefulness you should think is the **CONTENT** useful? Does it gives facts or statistics? Does it miss bits out? Think about the **PROVENANCE** of the source. That means who wrote it, when they wrote it and where they wrote it such as in a newspaper. Could the source have bias or a reason to exaggerate? Was the person an eye witness? Lastly the **CONTEXT**. Does the sources information fit in with what you know about the time?

GCSE GERMANY QUESTION TYPES AND HOW TO ANSWER  
CONTINUED.

Q3B: Study interpretation 1 and 2. What is the main difference between these views

- Interpretation means view
- You will have 2 different interpretations that give 2 different views on the same event
- Identify the difference in the views (could be one is positive and the other is negative for example) and then give examples from the source that show this difference

Q3C/ Suggest 1 reason why the 2 interpretations given different views

- You would have already explained how the interpretations were different on the last question. Now you are explaining why
- Give a clear reason why the interpretations are different. E.g the author and their purpose. Could one have a reason to lie? The time the interpretations were given. Is one written years later? Is one a personal account and the other a newspaper making the newspaper more likely to exaggerate

Q3D: How far do you agree with interpretation 1 (about something)

- Interpretation 1 will clearly set out a view on something
- You need to partly agree with interpretation 1 by using evidence from it. You will then need to use your own knowledge to give it further support
- You then to partly disagree with interpretation 1 by using evidence from interpretation 2 that disagrees. You will again need to use your own knowledge to support it with further evidence
- You should then give an overall judgement on whether you agree with interpretation 1 or not and why (A good judgement will consider the reliability of interpretation 1 and whether it fits in well with what was happening at the time)

# TIMELINE

Year	Event(s)
1918	World War One ends. Germany surrenders. Armistice signed
1919	Treaty of Versailles signed. Spartacist Uprising. Weimar Constitution set up and SPD biggest party in Germany
1920	Kapp Putsch
1921	
1922	
1923	French occupy the Ruhr. Hyperinflation. Munich Putsch.
1924	Dawes Plan/loan
1925	Bamberg Conference. SS formed
1926	Germany joins the League of Nations
1927	
1928	
1929	Young Plan. Wall Street Crash and start of the Depression
1930	
1931	
1932	Nazis become the biggest party
1933	Hitler appointed Chancellor. Reichstag Fire. Enabling Act passed. Gestapo set up. Boycott of Jewish shops ordered
1934	Night of the Long Knives. Hindenburg dies
1935	Nuremberg Laws passed
1936	Berlin Olympics
1937	
1938	Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass - attacks on Jews)
1939	World War 2 starts

## Key people:

**Kaiser Wilhelm II** - leader of Germany in WW1

**Friedrich Ebert** - First President of the Weimar Republic

**Karl Liebknecht** and **Rosa Luxemburg** - Spartacist Uprising leaders

**Wolfgang Kapp** - Led the Freikorps in the Kapp Putsch

**Gustav Stresemann** - Chancellor who began Germany's recovery

**Heinrich Brüning** - Chancellor during the Wall Street Crash and Depression

**Paul von Hindenburg** - President of the Weimar Republic until death in 1934

**Adolf Hitler** - Leader of the Nazis. Chancellor from 1933. Führer or supreme leader of Germany from 1934

**Ernst Röhm** - Leader of the SA

**Heinrich Himmler** - Leader of the SS

**Joseph Goebbels** - Nazi minister in charge of propaganda (controls media)

**Herman Göring** - Nazi minister in charge of preparing Germany for war

**Reinhard Heydrich** - In charge of the Gestapo until his death

## Some key terms

**Armistice** - End of World War 1

**Weimar Constitution** - A set of laws on how Germany is run

**Chancellor** - leader like a Prime Minister, comes from the biggest party

**President** - Most powerful position but stays out of the day to day running of the country as that is the job of the Chancellor

**Treaty of Versailles** - Treaty Germany is forced to sign at the end of WW1

**Putsch** - an uprising or rebellion

**Freikorps** - Ex WW1 soldiers who fight communists

**SA** - Hitler's hired thugs also known as Brownshirts/stormtroopers

**SS** - Fanatically loyal to Hitler and replace the SA

**Golden Years** - The years 1924-28 where the Weimar Republic recovers

**Hyperinflation** - Prices skyrocket and money becomes worthless

**Wall Street** - Where American businesses make money in stocks and shares

**Reichstag** - German word for government

**Enabling Act** - A law that enables Hitler to become a dictator

**Night of the Long Knives** - Leaders of the SA murdered by the SS

**Gestapo** - Nazi secret police

**Concentration Camps** - camps to hold opponents of the Nazis

**Concordat** - agreement of non-interference between the Nazis & the Pope

**National Labour Service** - all unemployed men in Nazi Germany had to do public works projects like building roads

**German Labour Front** - All men in Nazi Germany had to join this & it set out the rules of work

**Anti-Semitism** - Means hatred of the Jews

**Nuremberg Laws** - Laws passed by the Nazis to persecute the Jews

**Kristallnacht** - means Night of Broken Glass. Jewish property attacked.

**Kinder, Küche, Kirche** - German for children, kitchen, church. The role the Nazis believed women should take

## Background

- Germany is losing WW1 (1914-18)
- Their leader Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates and leaves
- Germany's economy is ruined by the war and there's mass food shortages
- A new Republic takes over and Germany becomes a democracy with the SPD the biggest party so they form a new government
- The leader of the SPD signs the Armistice. The war is over, Germany has lost

## The Weimar Republic is officially formed

- The new government forms in the town of Weimar in 1919 as Berlin (the capital) was too unsafe
- Ebert, the new leader, reassures trade unions and the army he will not reform them so they give him their support
- Ebert creates a National Assembly whose job is it to come up with a constitution (set of rules on how the country should run)

## The Weimar Constitution

### Strengths

- Men and women can vote over the age of 21
- Democracy so leaders could be voted in and out
- The Chancellor came from the biggest party in the Reichstag (parliament)
- Supposed system of **checks and balances** so no one person could become too powerful as the President, Chancellor and Reichstag parties could all be voted out.

### Weaknesses

- President could step in an emergency and pass laws on his own. This was known as Article 48. He could also fire the Chancellor. He had a lot of power
- Too many political parties (**proportional representation**) meaning in elections no one party ever gets enough votes to rule alone so need to form a **coalition** with another party and sometimes they can't agree so no laws get passed without the President using Article 48

## Immediate problems after WW1

- Many people felt that Germany had not lost the war but had been **stabbed in the back (Dolchstoß)** by the Weimar politicians so they could get into power and replace the Kaiser
- They were called the **November Criminals** for signing the surrendering and signing the Armistice in November 1918
- Many Germans hated the Weimar Republic for signing the Treaty of Versailles as they felt it was unfair and dictated to them (**diktat**)

# The Treaty of Versailles 1919

The way to remember the treaty that punished Germany is to think they were like a lamb to the slaughter! Harsh treaty!

- L - Germany loses LAND
- A - German ARMED FORCES reduced
- M - MONEY paid for war damages
- B - Germany accepts blame for starting the war



Break down of some of the key terms (Map below has more!)

## LAND LOST (13% of its European territory) including

- Alsace and Lorraine lost to France
- Germany divided into two as Part of Germany given to Poland so Poland can get access to the sea (known as the Polish corridor)
- Saar coalfields given to France for 15 years
- Germany lost all its colonies

## ARMED FORCES

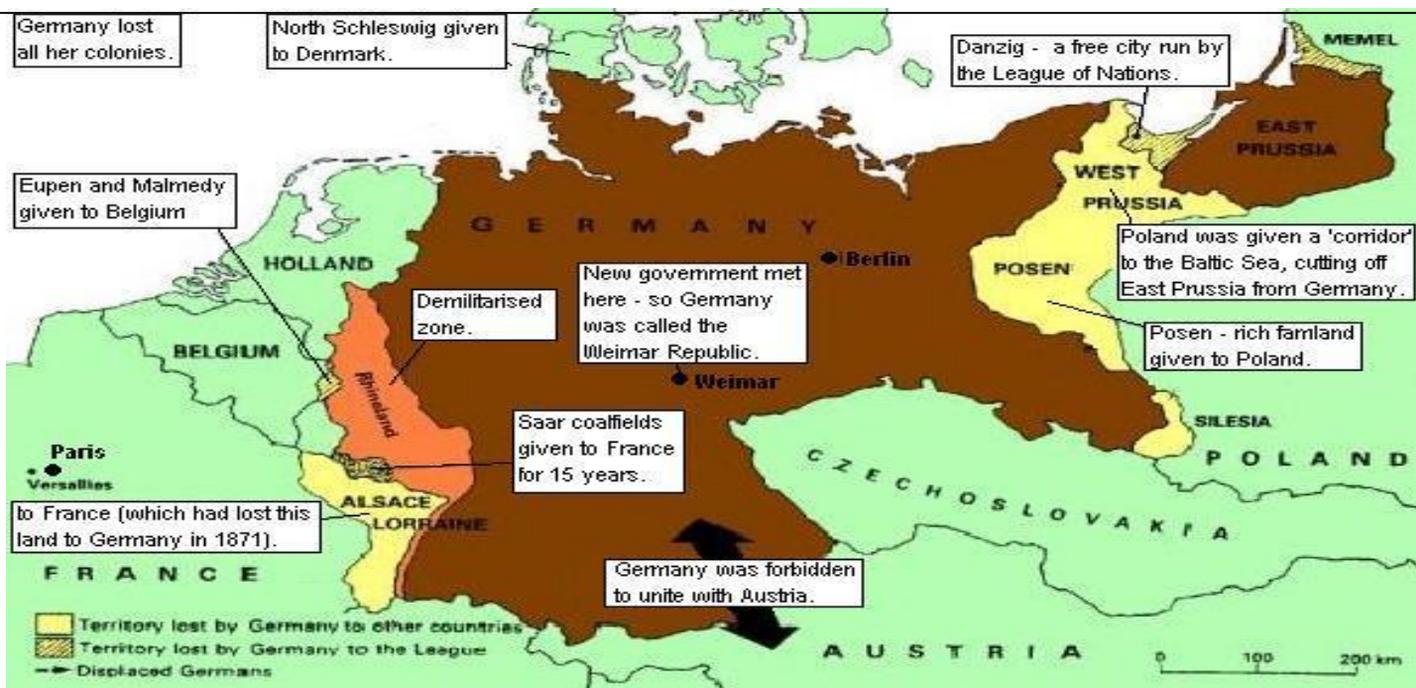
- Only allowed 100,000 men and no conscription (force men into the army)
- No air force
- Only allowed 6 battleships and no submarines
- Rhineland to be demilitarised. Meant no German troops allowed on the border with France

## MONEY (known as reparations)

- The final bill was agreed to be £6.6 billion in 1921

## BLAME

- Germany reluctantly accepted war guilt that they had started WW1



Germany has no choice but to sign the treaty as the allies threaten to restart the war if they don't. Many German's hate them for signing the harsh treaty

## SPARTACIST UPRISING 1919 (threats to the Weimar Republic)

- Extreme left wing Communist Group called the Spartacists try to overthrow the government in the Spartacist Uprising
- Led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg in Berlin with up to 100,000 workers taking to the streets wanting a Communist takeover
- Government calls in ex-WW1 soldiers called the Freikorps to stop the uprising
- Freikorps dislike the government but hated the Communists more and so along with the regular German army they crush the revolt
- Liebknecht and Luxemburg are killed

## KAPP PUTSCH 1920 (threats to the Weimar Republic)

- The same Freikorps who had saved the Weimar Republic from the Spartacists turned on them and tried to seize power
- The Freikorps were an extreme right wing group of angry ex-WW1 soldiers who believed the Weimar Republic had cost them the war (stab in the back theory)
- They were led by Dr Wolfgang Kapp and attacked in Berlin
- The army refused to fire on the Freikorps as they were ex soldiers
- The Weimar politicians urged people to strike to show they did not want Kapp or the Freikorps. They did strike and essential coal, water, electricity, gas, transport stopped
- Kapp realised he did not have the support of the people so gave up & fled.

## Other issues 1919-23

- A number of Weimar politicians are assassinated by extreme groups such as the Foreign Minister Walter Rathenau in 1922
- Most key political parties employed armed men (often ex-soldiers) to protect them and their meetings due to the unsafe political climate



SPARTACIST UPRISING  
1919



KAPP PUTSCH 1920

## The Nazi Party 1920-22

- Hitler joined the German Worker's Party in 1919 and became leader in 1921
- Hitler renamed the party the National Socialist German Worker's Party or NSDAP (they were given the nickname the Nazis)
- Hitler's key policies were opposing the Weimar Republic and democracy, getting rid of the Treaty of the Versailles and removal of the Jews
- He gained support through passionate speeches
- The Nazis started their own newspaper to get their message out
- Hitler managed to persuade a powerful WW1 general to join his cause called General Ludendorff
- Hitler created a group called the SA in 1921 to protect his meetings and attack opponent's meetings. They were known as brown shirts or storm troopers. Ernst Rohm was their leader.
- Nazis are a small party at this point only based in Munich

## 1923 A YEAR OF CRISIS FOR THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC

### French Occupation of the Ruhr

- Germany fails to pay their reparations payment to the victors of WW1 (as ordered by the Treaty of Versailles) at the end of 1922
- French got angry & in 1923 invaded an industrial area of Germany, the Ruhr.
- French want to take what they are owed in raw goods like iron and coal
- Weimar Republic orders workers to go on strike and not make anything for the French to take
- This caused a problem as if you don't make any goods the country does not make any money. This also increases unemployment.

### Hyperinflation

- With a shortage of money the Weimar Republic just printed more money
- People soon realised there was more money about than Germany actually had so put prices up to match and so again the government printed more money and the cycle continued
- People's savings were wiped out as German money became worthless
- Foreign countries refused to accept German money

### The Munich Putsch

- In this time of desperation Hitler tried to seize power in the Munich Putsch
- Nazis also hated the Weimar Republic due to the Stab in the Back theory
- Hitler took over a beer hall where a local government meeting was happening and at gunpoint forced them to agree that he was taking over
- Hitler took to the streets to get more support from the people but the army had been tipped off by the government officials who had managed to get a message out from the beer hall meeting
- The Putsch was violently ended by the army. Some Nazis were killed
- Short term disaster for the Nazis as Hitler was imprisoned and the Nazi Party was banned. In the long run it ended up not so bad. Hitler got a very small sentence & only served 9 months in jail. The Nazi Party were now known nationwide

## THE GOLDEN YEARS OF THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC 1924-29

Gustav Stresemann is the key person in leading the recovery.

### ECONOMY

- Stresemann replaces the worthless hyperinflation money and replaces with a new accurate currency called the Rentenmark
- Stresemann ended the resistance in the Ruhr so Germany made money again
- Stresemann got a huge loan from the USA called the **Dawes Plan** in 1924
- Stresemann invested the loans in starting new businesses
- In 1929 Stresemann agreed the **Young Plan** with the USA. This meant Germany could pay less in reparations and over a longer period

DRAWBACK - radical parties angry deals with America were being made

### FOREIGN RELATIONS

- Stresemann signed the **Locarno Pact** in 1925 which meant German accepted the new borders of Europe laid out by the Treaty of Versailles
- In return Germany got to join the **League of Nations** in 1926. Germany now had a position and a say in the world again
- German signed the **Kellogg-Briand Pact** in 1928 which stated all countries would try to talk through issues before using their military. The Weimar Republic was becoming respectable to the world

DRAWBACK - radical parties angry the Weimar Republic was making deals with Germany's enemies and accepting the terms of the hated Treaty of Versailles

## THE GOLDEN YEARS OF THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC 1924-29 CONTINUED

### IMPROVING LIVING STANDARDS

- Unemployment reduced
- Length of working week shortened but pay actually increased
- Thousands of houses were built to deal with the previous shortage
- The number of students going onto higher education increased
- Pensions were paid to war veterans and war widows

### IMPROVEMENTS FOR WOMEN

- Women could now vote & be politicians. Now equal rights to men in work
- In jobs like education and medicine women workers drastically increased
- With their new felt liberation some women became known as '**new women**' which meant they had the freedom to smoke, wear make up or drink

### DRAWBACKS

- Trade unions opposed female workers fearing they would work for less than the men and so the men would then be paid less too
- Women were still often paid less than men & had to give up jobs if pregnant
- Some men resisted change for women saying it threatened traditional roles because birth rates had decreased and divorce rates had increased

## WHAT WERE THE NAZIS DOING BETWEEN 1924-28

- Hitler wrote his book *Mein Kampf* that outlined his political & racial views
- The Nazis expanded and became a national party (not just based in Munich)
- Hitler created the SS. This group was totally loyal to him

## WHAT WERE THE NAZIS DOING BETWEEN 1924-28

- Hitler changed tactics and decided the Nazis would now try and win votes rather than seize power violently
- Hitler unified the party at the Bamberg Conference in 1927. Northern Nazis had been questioning the direction of the party before this
- Joseph Goebbels became a committed follower of Hitler at this conference

## 1929 WALL STREET CRASH

- Germany's economy had been rebuilt on American loans (**Dawes Plan**)
- America suddenly recalled these loans when **Wall Street Crashed** in 1929
- German banks were severely hit as they were major investors in US stocks and shares on Wall Street
- With banks running out of money they demanded their loans back from ordinary Germans. Businesses collapsed.
- Unemployment sky rocketed.
- People lost their savings
- Wages were cut & homelessness increased
- The Wall Street Crash caused a worldwide financial Depression meaning all countries felt its affects. German companies found they could not sell goods abroad as countries could not afford to buy them now
- Germany's economy had collapsed and people were now angry and desperate.

Wall Street Crash is the biggest reason Hitler is able to come to power by 1933

## Growth of the radical parties

- Chancellor Bruning could not solve the unemployment crisis as all political parties disagreed on what to do. He needed the President to force through his policies (**Article 48**) but this made him even more unpopular
- People were beginning to feel democracy did not work
- Support for the Communist Party (KPD) grew as workers grew tired of low wages or no work at all. The Communists were about protecting the workers
- Support for the Nazis also drastically increased (see why below)

## NAZI SUPPORT DRAMATICALLY INCREASES. WHY?

- SA now look disciplined in chaotic times & intimidated opponents and voters
- Hitler was a powerful speaker and promised to make Germany strong again
- Use of propaganda posters, radio and newspaper to get Nazi message across. Hitler even flew around the country to increase support
- Promised to protect big businesses, middle & upper classes from Communists
- Big businesses, farmers, middle and upper classes already angry at the Weimar Republic for loss of money, savings etc
- Promised the working class **work and bread**
- Had previously targeted young people by starting youth groups and they were now old enough to vote for the Nazis
- Hitler promised **unity**. Bring all Germans together making Germany strong

## Hitler becomes Chancellor in 1933

- By March/April 1932 the Nazis are the 2nd biggest party on votes received.
- Hitler tries to become President but loses to Hindenburg.
- Hitler turns his attention to becoming Chancellor as Chancellor Brüning had resigned due to no support from President Hindenburg & the Reichstag
- Hindenburg disliked Hitler however and appointed a political friend, **Franz Von Papen**, instead in May 1932.
- Von Papen had no chance to rule as the Nazis are the biggest political party by the July 1932 elections. So he can not control the Reichstag with so many Nazi ministers in there
- In November 1932 Hindenburg sacks Von Papen and replaces him with another one of his advisors **Kurt Von Schleicher**.
- Schleicher could not control the Nazis in parliament either and it was rumoured Schleicher was considering a military take over to gain full control
- In desperation Hindenburg appoints Hitler Chancellor in January 1933
- Von Papen helped this to happen as he convinced Hindenburg that Hitler could be controlled if Papen was made vice-chancellor and with Hindenburg as President. Papen also wanted Schleicher removed due to their rivalry.
- Nazis were now in a coalition government with Von Papen's Centre Party  
**HITLER WANTED TO RULE ON HIS OWN HOWEVER!! (no coalition)**

## Hitler becomes Dictator STEP 1: REICHSTAG FIRE

- The government building is burnt down
- Dutch Communist found inside and blamed
- Hitler declared Germany was under attack from the Communists and President Hindenburg granted him special powers to deal with it
- Hitler now empowered had many political opponents locked up and the Communist Party banned from elections
- Hitler now called another election and with the Communists banned and other political parties terrified Hitler received an overall majority (More Nazis in parliament than all the rest added together). The Nazis were no longer in coalition they ruled outright

## Hitler becomes Dictator STEP 2: ENABLING ACT

- Hitler declared that the Communists were still a threat and he needed to be able to deal with them instantly and without delay
- Hitler argued that the Reichstag took too long to debate
- Hitler demanded the Reichstag pass the Enabling Act that would 'enable' him to deal with the Communist crisis and pass laws on his own
- The Reichstag, mainly made up of Nazis, naturally agreed
- President Hindenburg, very elderly and now ill, believed Hitler about the Communists and allows the Enabling Act to pass
- Hitler could now pass whatever law he wanted on his own for the next 4 years. He was now a dictator. The Weimar Constitution had ended.

## Hitler becomes Dictator STEP 3: REMOVE OPPOSITION

- Trade Unions were now removed as they could argue against Hitler if they did not like his policies towards workers
- Hitler made all other political parties illegal by July 1933
- Hitler closed all local governments & appointed governors who reported to him directly

## Hitler becomes Dictator STEP 4: NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES

- Ernst Rohm led the SA but was supposed to be loyal to Hitler
- The SA had 3 million men and Hitler worried if they were more loyal to Rohm
- Rohm wanted the SA to replace the German Army with him in charge
- The German army disliked Rohm and would never accept this. The army could still remove Hitler by force if they felt threatened by Rohm
- Hitler took action and had Rohm and the leaders of the SA arrested.
- Rohm was executed and then Hitler took the opportunity to arrest or murder anyone else that was also a threat in what was known as the **Night of the Long Knives**
- Many others were sent of to concentration camps
- Hitler convinced the rest of the SA Rohm was a traitor plotting to kill him
- Hitler got the SA to join the German army but under the usual army generals and not Rohm
- The army was happy that they had gained more men and the threat of Rohm was gone

## Hitler becomes Dictator STEP 5: HINDENBURG DIES

- The last person who could stop Hitler President Hindenburg dies in August 1934
- Hitler combines the role of Chancellor and President. Hitler was now the Fuhrer (supreme leader).
- The army now swears direct loyalty to Hitler

Wall Street  
Crash  
October 1929



Hitler becomes  
Chancellor January  
1933



Reichstag Fire  
February 1933.  
Communists banned



Trade Unions  
abolished May  
1933



Enabling Act passed  
March 1933



Nazis win election  
majority March 1933



Political parties  
removed May  
1933



Night of the Long  
Knives June 1934



Hindenburg dies  
August 1934

## NAZI CONTROL OF GERMANY (POLICE STATE)

### SS

- Run by Heinrich Himmler and famous for their black shirts
- Loyal to Hitler first and then Himmler
- Supposedly racially pure Germans only (Aryans)
- SS ran concentration camps and were the visible face of fear on the streets

### SD

- Monitored opponents and kept records on them

### The Gestapo

- Run by Reinhard Heydrich
- German Secret police
- Bugged phones and spied to find opponents
- Could arrest and imprison people without trial
- Used torture to get information
- People terrified of them. No one knew who they were as they wore civilian clothing

### Concentration Camps

- There was not enough room in the prisons for all the Nazi's opponents. So they built concentration camps to keep them in
- Run by the SS and inmates treated poorly. Some executed.
- In isolated areas out of the view of the public
- Inmates were political prisoners like communists, minority groups like Jews and 'undesirables' like homosexuals or prostitutes

## NAZI CONTROL OF GERMANY (LEGAL SYSTEM)

### Judges

- All judges had to join the **National Socialist League for the Maintenance of the Law**. This ensured judges were loyal to the Nazis
- Any judges who refused were removed

## NAZI CONTROL OF GERMANY (LEGAL SYSTEM)

### Law courts

- Trial by jury abolished. Loyal Nazi judges decided guilt
- Trials often in secret and death penalty became more frequent
- Hitler sometimes decided guilt and punishment himself



Inside a Nazi court

## NAZI CONTROL OF GERMANY (RELIGION)

### Catholic Church

- Nazis & the Pope reached a **Concordat** in 1933 (agreement). Nazis would stay out of religion & the Church out of politics
- Hitler promised to leave Catholic schools alone. He did not want to anger the many German Catholics
- Hitler began to break the Concordat as many Catholic priests were arrested and some went to concentration camps
- Catholic youth groups were banned and many Catholic schools closed
- The Pope finally spoke out against the Nazis in 1937

### Protestant Church

- Hitler tried to force all Protestant Churches to become the new **Reich Church** (government church)
- Swastikas were often in these churches
- Jewish teachings from the Bible were removed
- Many protestants resisted these changes
- The **Pastor's Emergency League** was set up to campaign against the Nazi actions
- Pastor **Martin Niemoller** was one of the Nazis biggest critics. He ended up in a concentration camp

## NAZI CONTROL OF GERMANY (PROPAGANDA)

- **Joseph Goebbels** in charge of propaganda and enlightenment
- Nazis often just repeated their messages endlessly until people started to believe it as no one dared to argue against it

### Media

- Newspapers only printed Nazi pre-approved articles. This is censorship
- Propaganda on the greatness of the Nazis was continuous
- Any anti-Nazi papers shut down

### Radio

- Radio was also censored and pro-Nazi messaged endlessly broadcast
- Radios were made very cheap so all could afford them, ensuring the Nazis got their message into all homes
- All radios only worked over short range so not to pick up foreign stations

### Rallies

- Mass rallies and parades were held each year. The Nuremburg Rally being the biggest.
- It brought all Germans together in a sense of unity
- The swastika flags, soldiers, statues and speeches were to show off the strength and organisation of the Nazis

### Sport

- Sports stadiums, such as the Olympic stadium were covered in Nazi symbols
- All sports teams (including visiting foreign teams) had to do the Nazi salute
- At the 1936 Berlin Olympic games the Nazis made sure they were very organised to impress all visitors
- The Nazis won the most gold medals at the Berlin Olympics which Goebbels hailed as a success for Nazism and the idea Germans were the master (Aryan) Race

# NAZI CONTROL OF GERMANY (ART AND CULTURE)

- Nazis had objected to the 'morally wrong' Weimar art and culture
- Nazis liked romantic ideas about Germany's past and strong family units.
- In 1933 the **Reich Chamber of Culture** was set up to control all art and culture. They wanted all art to be consistent in delivering the Nazi message. This was called *Gleichschaltung*
- Goebbels oversaw art and culture

## ART

- All artists had to join the **Reich Chamber of Visual Arts**. Those who did not were not allowed to make or sell paintings
- Art that the Nazis disapproved of or was made by Jewish artists was removed
- The Gestapo spied on artists to ensure they followed the rules

## ARCHITECTURE

- Nazis disliked modern and futuristic buildings
- **Albert Speer** was the most famous Nazi architect
- Speer designed the Berlin Olympic stadium, grounds for the Nuremberg Rallies and new Reich Chancellery (government building)
- Speer tried to make the building look powerful to make the Nazis look powerful. He put in features of **ancient Rome and Greece** for example

## MUSIC

- Some music was censored. For example Jazz. It was considered black music
- Jewish music was banned
- Traditional German music like Wagner or Beethoven was preferred

## LITERATURE

- The Nazis did **mass book burnings** of any books they did not like (Jewish, pacifist, Communist or critical of Germany's past)
- All new books had to be approved by the Chamber of Culture or Goebbels
- Anti-Nazi writers were banned

## FILM

- Goebbels controlled the film industry and he had to approve all new films
- Before each film was a pro-Nazi newsreel
- Nazis made their own propaganda films. They always had a political message

# OPPOSITION TO THE NAZIS

## RELIGIOUS

- Protestant group the **Pastor's Emergency League (PEL)** opposed the Nazis and set up the **Confessing Church** to offer Protestants an alternative to the Nazi controlled Reich Church
- Many Protestant Pastors spoke out such as **Martin Niemoller**
- Niemoller had originally supported the Nazis but then started the PEL and Confessing Church as he disagreed with the Nazification of the Protestant Church. He spoke out against the Nazis more and more and eventually ended up in a Concentration Camp
- Some Catholics also spoke out against the Nazis. Around 400 Catholic priests were sent to concentration camps

# OPPOSITION TO THE NAZIS CONTINUED

## YOUTH RESISTANCE

- Children were pressured into joining Nazi youth groups. A small number resisted (although most did not)

## THE EDELWEISS PIRATES

- This was a group of working class teenagers who resisted the Nazis
- They resented Nazi military discipline & wanted freedom of choice
- They copied American fashion styles and haircuts
- They hung out on street corners and taunted the Hitler Youth members
- They often went camping to escape Nazi life singing & telling anti-Nazi jokes

## THE SWING YOUTH

- These were mainly teenagers from wealthy middle class backgrounds
- They largely stayed in doors and drank alcohol and smoked
- They listened to banned American Jazz music and danced the 'Jitterbug' which led to some illegal dance nights happening

## NAZI POLICIES ON WOMEN

- The key policy to women was **Kinder, Kuche, Kirche** (Children, kitchen, church). Women should raise children, be in the kitchen and go to church
- Nazis did not want women to work and they liked them to dress traditionally
- Women were forced to give up professional jobs such as teaching as soon as the Nazis came to power
- The Nazis forced all women's groups to merge into their group for women called the **German Women's Enterprise**. This way they could control them
- Concerned with a falling birth rate the Nazis wanted women to have lots of children so they could expand into other countries (**Lebensraum**)
- Loans were given encourage couples to marry so they could then reproduce
- Women were even given medals (**Mother's Cross**) if they had 4 or more children
- If a wife couldn't have children or had an abortion the Nazis changed the law so husbands could divorce them
- **SS leader Himmler** started a programme called the Fountain of Life (**Lebensborn**). It encouraged single women to 'breed' with SS men to produce 'genetically pure children'
- In schools girls were trained for motherhood and taught domestic jobs like needlework and ironing
- Some did not like these changes but little could be done



Mother's Cross



Female Nazi Gertrude Scholtz-Klink was in charge of the German Women's Enterprise

## NAZI POLICIES TOWARDS THE YOUNG (YOUTH GROUPS)

- Nazi propaganda encouraged children to see Hitler as a father figure
- Pressure was put on the young to join Nazi youth groups. The **Hitler Youth** owned all sports facilities so if you wanted to play sport you had to join
- There were youth groups for all ages of children but the Hitler Youth was the most important (for boys aged between 14-18)

### HITLER YOUTH

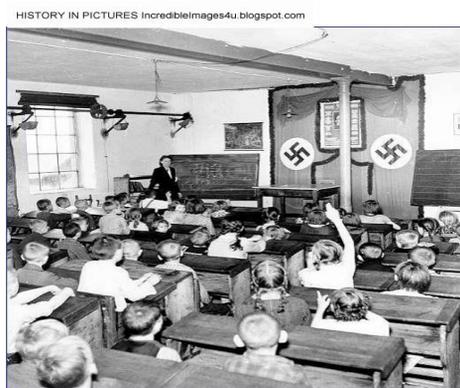
- Swore an oath of loyalty to Hitler
- Attended courses & camps to learn Nazi ideas (E.g evil Jews, Heroic Hitler)
- Members taught to report anyone (including parents) who were disloyal to the Nazis
- Boys learnt military skills (Hitler knew they would be his future soldiers)  
Boys learnt map reading, signalling and handling weapons. They also did hiking and exercises in preparation for the future.
- Hitler wanted the children be tough so there was character building exercises such as being plunged into ice cold water or severe punishments

### LEAGUE OF GERMAN MAIDENS

- Girls were also expected to swear an oath of loyal to Hitler too
- They also did some physical activities and character building
- Girls were mainly trained to cook, iron etc & prepared to be a housewife
- Girls were taught the importance of '**racial hygiene**'. They were told not to mix with other races and only marry German Aryan men

## NAZI POLICIES TOWARDS THE YOUNG (EDUCATION)

- The key policy was **indoctrination**. This meant brainwashing them to create Nazis.
- All teachers had to swear an oath of loyalty to Hitler and join the **Nazi Teachers' League**. Any who refused were fired
- Teachers had to promote Nazism by getting students to do the Hitler salute, say '*Heil Hitler*' and decorate their classroom in Nazi posters/flags
- Children were taught race studies. Jews were said to be inferior and the Germans the master race (Aryan Race)
- PE time doubled. Hitler wanted fit and healthy future workers, soldiers etc
- Sexes taught separate subjects. E.g Girls lessons around being housewives
- All Textbooks had to be approved by the Nazis and *Mein Kampf* was a compulsory book to read



# **NAZIS AND UNEMPLOYMENT**

- Unemployment was a huge problem when the Nazis came to power and so solving this crisis was a top priority for the Nazis. The Nazis managed to almost eliminate unemployment by 1939. Below is how...

## **LABOUR SERVICE (RAD)**

- This was a scheme to provide paid work for the unemployed
- Workers did public works projects like repairing roads or planting trees
- The biggest public works project was the building of autobahns (motorways). New buildings and bridges were also built. This created many jobs and helped get German goods around the country quicker
- Compulsory for all unemployed men to join
- Not popular as was forced on people and people did not like being forced to wear uniforms or any of the military drill style work

## **REARMAMENT**

- Hitler had a 4 year plan for getting Germany ready for war (rearming)
- Treaty of Versailles had greatly reduced the German armed forces
- Conscription was introduced and so many men found employment in the army
- Building tanks, planes, ships and submarines all created jobs

## **INVISIBLE UNEMPLOYMENT**

- Women and Jews were not counted on the unemployment list
- If you worked in the RAD you were not counted as unemployed
- Many who opposed the Nazis were in prison and did not count on statistics
- Part time workers were classified as being in full time work

# **NAZIS AND LIVING STANDARDS**

- Although most had jobs, pay was low and hours of work high for the poor
- Big business owners such as in weapons factories did well
- Prices for food rose but wages did not for the poor making life a struggle
- To stop workers being unhappy the Nazis brought in some key policies such as

## **STRENGTH THROUGH JOY**

- This was a policy where hard workers were rewarded with cheap to buy radios, theatre shows, holidays and even the chance to buy a Volkswagen (People's Car) if they donated a little of their wages each week (although in reality no worker ever got one)

## **BEAUTY OF LABOUR**

- To keep worker's happy the Nazis wanted to improve working conditions.
- They did this by pressing companies to provide better canteens, toilets, etc. Employers made their workers do the improvements themselves however

## **THE LABOUR FRONT (DAF)**

- The Nazis still wanted to control the workers however and the DAF did this
- All workers had to join this and agree to the hours, length of their working week and pay. They were not allowed to negotiate this so the outcome was usually not great for them (long hours, low pay)
- The DAF could also punish and fire anyone they wished and there were no trade unions to complain to if it was unfair as the Nazis had banned them

# PERSECUTION OF MINORITIES UP UNTIL 1939 ONLY (MAINLY JEWS)

- Nazis believed in **eugenics**. This means selective breeding. Hitler wanted the best Aryan Germans to reproduce and those who were unsuitable were sterilised (so can no longer have children)
- Nazis also believed in **racial hygiene**. Nazis said they were the master (Aryan) race (blonde hair, blue eyes) and other races were sub-human (**untermenschen**). These included Jews, gypsies and Eastern Europeans.

## SLAVS

- Eastern Europeans considered **untermenschen**. Hitler wanted them forced out of Eastern Europe so his master race could spread there (**Lebensraum**)

## GYPSIES

- These are travelling people the Nazis considered **untermenschen**
- The Nazis believed they did not work or contribute to society
- Gypsies lost their German citizenship, were often sent to concentration camps or at the very least forcibly removed from Germany

## HOMOSEXUALS

- Nazis believed they lowered moral standards
- Nazis encouraged voluntary castration of homosexuals
- Homosexuals were either imprisoned or sent to concentration camps

## DISABLED

- Those with **hereditary** problems were sterilised so that they could not pass on an illness (these included blind, deaf, deformed or mentally ill people)
- Under the **T4 programme** the Nazis began to murder babies and children born with any mental or physical disabilities

## JEWS

- The Nazis biggest hatred was the Jews. Hatred of the Jew is known as **Anti-Semitism**
- Nazis began their persecution of the Jews the moment they came to power
- 1933 - Nazis organised a boycott of Jewish shops and they were banned from doing any professional jobs
- 1934 - Jews banned from some public places like swimming pools
- 1935 - **Nuremberg Laws passed**. Jews lost their German citizenship and were forbidden to marry or be in a relationship with a non-Jewish German
- 1938 - Jews had to wear identity cards and register all possessions so they could be then taken from them

## 1938 - KRISTALLNACHT

- Nazi politician shot by a German Jew whilst in Paris. Nazis react furiously
  - Plain clothed SS men ordered to attack local Jewish synagogues (churches), shops and homes of where the Jew was from in Hanoever
  - Nazi politician shot dies soon after and violence to Jews increases
  - Nationwide attacks on Jews now. Many Jews were killed or arrested and sent to concentration camps. 100s of homes and synagogues destroyed. So much damage was done it was called **Night of Broken Glass (Kristallnacht)**
  - Nazis even forced the Jews to pay for the damage done to their property
- By 1939 the order was out that all Jews should now be deported from Germany