

Germany 1890-1945



Name:

Section 1.- 1890- 1918- The Kaiserreich- Kaiser Wilhelm II ruling Germany as a dictator.

Section 2. 1918-1933- The Weimar Republic – the new democratic government and how well it ruled Germany

Section 3. 1933-1945- Hitler and the Nazis in power.

You will have 6 questions on your Germany paper.

1) They will give you 2 different interpretation of an event or someone and will ask:

In what ways are these 2 interpretations different? (4 marks)

2) Why are they different? (4 marks)

3) Which interpretation do you find more convincing? (8 marks)

4) Describe 2 problems faced by? (4 marks)

5) In what ways were affected by? (8 marks)

6) Which of the following reasons was the most important reason why.....

a) Reason 1

b) Reason 2 (12 marks)

You are expected to show detailed contextual knowledge throughout your answers.

Germany 1890- 1945

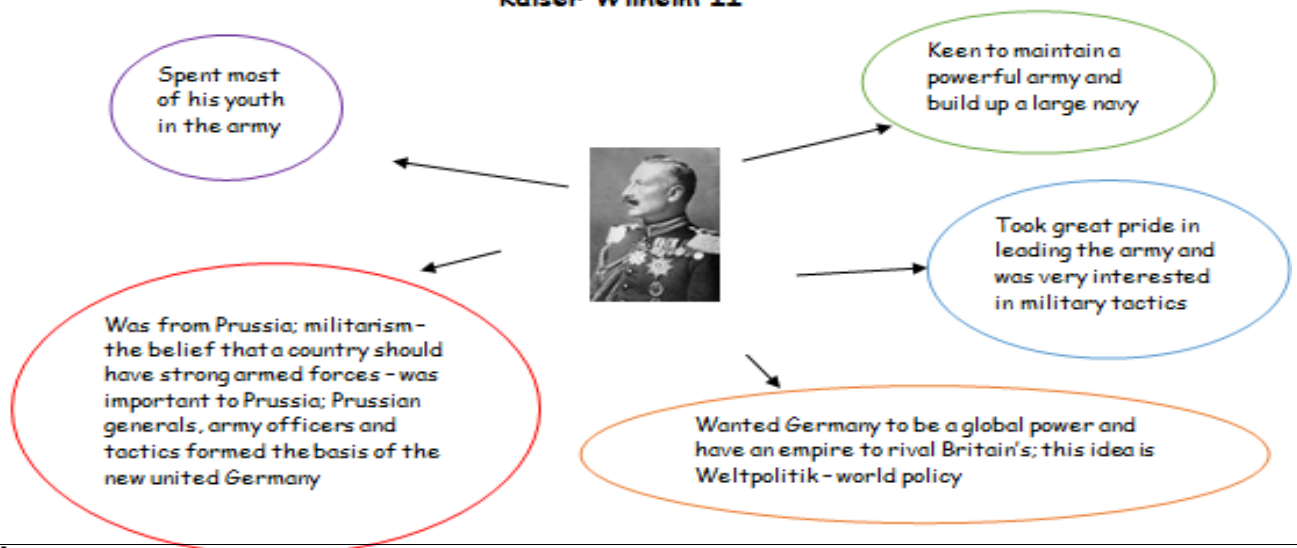
Kaiser Wilhelm II and the difficulties of ruling Germany

When Germany was unified as a nation in 1871, the king of the most powerful state, Prussia, became its new ruler, or **Kaiser**

Parliamentary Government

Kaiser: ruled over all the states of Germany	
Chancellor	(Chief minister) and ministers advised Kaiser
Bundesrat	Made up of representatives from each state
Reichstag	Parliament elected by men over 25. Both debated and voted on laws drawn up by Kaiser and ministers.
Kaiser	Could ignore government advice and made <u>his own decisions</u> . He made all military and foreign policy decisions

Kaiser Wilhelm II



Read the info above. Then answer these 2 questions with a paragraph each.

- 1) Why can it be argued that the **Kaiserreich** was not a real democracy?
- 2) Why was the Kaiser popular with Nationalists but un-popular with socialists?

Industrialisation

In the late 1800's, Germany began to industrialise. Supported by powerful German businessmen, production of iron and coal doubled. By 1913, Germany was producing as much coal as Britain and more iron and steel. By 1914, Germany produced two-thirds of Europe's steel. In industries such as electrical goods and chemicals, German companies dominated Europe. Some leading factory and business owners had become very rich and influential but workers were unhappy at long-hours and poor wages.

Growth of Socialism

Many workers were unhappy with low wages and poor work conditions



Workers joined trade unions and organised strikes hoping to force the government to improve pay and working conditions. By 1914, over three million workers had joined trade unions



A new political party - the Social Democratic Party (SPD) - became popular among the workers.

- It believed in socialism - power and wealth should be shared equally among the people.
- It hoped that the Kaiser might allow the Reichstag to make more social reforms or laws to improve workers' rights and conditions
- It disagreed with the power and privileged positions held by land and factory owners
- Around one in three Germans voted for this political party at this time



Some socialists took more extreme view: they wanted to rebel against the Kaiser's rule, start a revolution and allow cities and towns to be governed by a council of workers

1. Who were the SPD?
2. What is a Trade Union?
3. What is socialism?
4. What is industrialisation?
5. Why were workers unhappy at this time?

Weltpolitik

The Kaiser wanted to place Germany on the world stage. He wanted Germany to dominate Europe, have an empire, and to build a navy and military power that would rival Britain. This was his world policy or WELTPOLITIK

The German Empire at this time was very small in contrast to the huge British Empire and the Kaiser was envious of Britain's standing across the globe.

A series of **Naval Laws were passed between 1898 and 1912** that saw a rapid increase in the size of the Germany navy but building ships cost huge sums of money and **taxes had to be raised** and further money borrowed to achieve this.

Socialists in Germany like the SPD hated the fact that this was money that could have been used to improve the living and working conditions of ordinary people. Whilst Nationalists admired the militaristic strength of the Kaiser.

Navy laws

WHAT?

Between 1898 and 1912 a series a series of Navy Laws were introduced. As a result, a huge amount of money was spent to rapidly increase the size of the Navy. The army expanded in size too.

WHY?

The Kaiser wanted a large navy to help him take over more countries and protect those already in the German Empire

HOW?

Taxes were increased and money was borrowed to pay for this. Germany would remain in debt for a very long time



Interpretation A- A British cartoon of the Kaiser in 1914.



Interpretation B- a portrait of the Kaiser commissioned in 1908

Exam Practice

- 1) How does Interpretation B differ from interpretation A about the Kaiser? (4 marks)
- 2) Why do you think these interpretations are so different? (4 marks)
- 3) Which interpretation do you find most convincing about the Kaiser? (8 marks)

Use PRAT to evaluate here.

Germany and WWI

Due to a series of events in Europe , WWI began in August 1914. The German army launched a massive attack on France going through Belgium and quickly found itself fighting from trenches dug across northern France and Belgium. From as early as 1915 the war was so unpopular among Germans that the first anti-war protests began in Berlin.

The British **blockaded** German ports throughout the war and this led to devastating food and fuel shortages that affected the civilians very badly but the war dragged on. In the winter of 1917 food was so scarce that people had to eat animal food – this became known as **The Turnip Winter**. In 1918 a terrible outbreak of influenza called **Spanish Flu killed thousands** of the weak and elderly. By 1918 the war was going so badly that the leading generals no longer believed the war could be won and that a better peace treaty could be agreed if the Kaiser were to set up a true democracy in Germany.

However there was a feeling of revolution in Germany. At the end of October 1918 the navy refused to sail out from the **port of Kiel** to engage the British. This was mutiny and it spread. Soldiers and workers began to take control of the towns and cities and were only calmed down when the **Kaiser abdicated on 9 November 1918** in fear for his life.

Two days later on **11th November 1918** the new leader of Germany, head of the largest party the SPD (Social Democrats) **Friedrich Ebert signed the armistice and the war was over.**

Timeline: Germany's reaction during the war

In 1914	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The War was popular and patriotic Germans thought it would end quickly➤ Soon the British navy stopped ships getting food into Germany, leading to food and other shortages
In 1915-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ In Germany, protesters demanded an end to the war/ Demonstrations increased from 500 to 10,000 people. War weariness increased.➤ On the front line, soldiers were worn down by bombs, gas and machine gun fire
Politically unstable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Germany was close to defeat. A flu epidemic killed many already weak from a poor diet➤ In October, Army General Ludendorff stated Germany could not win the war. He advised the Kaiser to make the country more democratic so the winning Allies (GB France and the USA) would treat Germany more fairly.➤ The Kaiser allowed the main political parties to form a new government, and transferred some of his powers to Reichstag. But the German people were not satisfied and more demonstrations followed.

Impact of WWI on Germany

German industry had been dominated by the war effort. Now trade collapsed as there were no industrial goods to sell.

Factory owners (industrialists) had got rich from making weapons and supplies but workers wages were reduced. The gap between rich and poor became even wider.

Women had been needed to work in the factories but once the men returned many lost their jobs.

Billions of marks borrowed especially from the US.



60,000 war widows. 2 million children without fathers. War pensions would cost a fortune.

Political extremes were the norm. Socialists and Nationalists fought each other in the streets. Some people were terrified of a possible Communist revolution now that the Kaiser had gone.

Complete the table below.

Impact	Example
Social	
Political	
Economic	

Exam practice 4

Describe two problems faced by Germany as a result of World War I. (4 marks)

Defeat and the end of the monarchy

28th October 1918: The German navy Kiel mutinied. The mutiny spread. Soldiers sent to deal with protests also joined the sailors and workers. In just 6 days, workers' and soldiers' councils were governing towns and cities all over Germany. The Kaiser realised he had lost control. His army generals refused to support him.

9th November 1918: The Kaiser abdicated and secretly left Germany, never to return. Ebert, the leader of Germany's largest political party (The SPD) took over Germany temporarily. He promised to hold elections and ended the war.

11th November 1918: Germany surrendered. The first World War was over.

At the end of the war...

- Germany was in a very poor state: the blockade of Germany had led to a lack of food and supplies. People were starving. **Riots** were breaking out. The navy had mutinied (rebelled) against **the Kaiser** (king of Germany).
- The Kaiser realised the situation was hopeless and abdicated (quit his job) in October 1918. Germany was left without a leader and in a mess.
- The biggest political party in Germany was the **Social Democrats**. Their leader, **Friedrich Ebert**, took on the job of running Germany. He tried to improve people's lives by giving them better working conditions and freedom of speech.



The new government of Germany (eventually known as the **Weimar Republic**) faced many political, economic and social problems in the years 1918-1923. The government had major weaknesses from the start and by 1934 Hitler completely destroyed this democracy in Germany. Hitler and other extreme Nationalists would blame the Weimar politicians, Communists and Jews for all the problems Germany had faced and called them **"The November Criminals."**

Who did the phrase "The November Criminals" apply to?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

1. When did the Kaiser abdicate?
2. When was the armistice signed?
3. Who was Friedrich Ebert?
4. Why do you think the Kaiser abdicated? (Think of 3 reasons)

The Weimar Government



The President (Head of State)

- Elected every seven years
- Controlled army, navy and air force
- Stayed out of day-to-day running of the country; however, in a crisis, he could rule on his own without getting the support of

the Reichstag by issuing special emergency decrees (laws) known as **Article 48**

1. Why might Article 48 cause problems?



The Chancellor (Prime Minister)

- Chosen by the President (usually from the political party with most votes at an election)
- Responsible for day-to-day running of the country, such as law and order, taxation, schooling, health care

- Must have the support of at least half the MPs/politicians in the Reichstag to introduce new laws

2. Whose support did the Chancellor need?

a)

b)

The Reichstag

- Discussed and introduced laws
- Members of the Reichstag (MPs) were elected every four years
- The voting system used was called proportional representation. This meant that the number of MPs each political party had in the Reichstag was based on the number of votes they had. For example, if a party won ten per cent of the votes, it was given ten per cent of the seats



3. Proportional Representation led to many parties in the Reichstag but with no one party gaining a majority. **Coalition governments** then had to be formed. Why are coalition governments often weak?

The German people (the electorate)

- All men and women over the age of 20 could vote
- They elected the President and the politicians in the Reichstag
- The constitution guaranteed them basic freedoms, such as free speech



4. Why was this far more of a democracy than during the Kaiserreich?

The Treaty of Versailles – June 1919

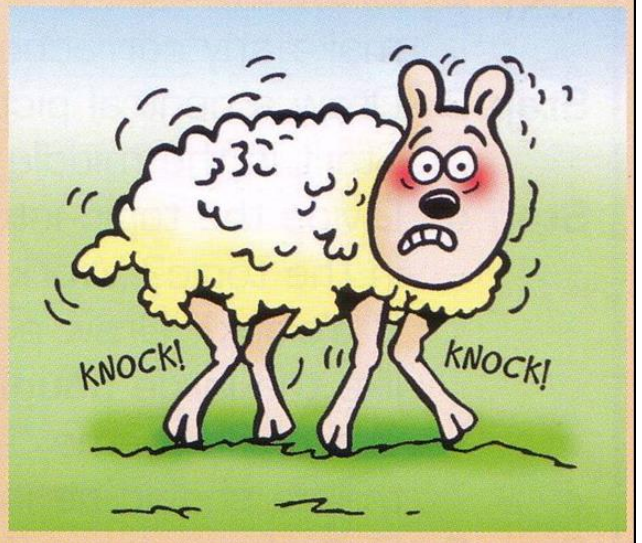
This punished Germany and was forced upon them. Germany was made to pay £6.6 billion in **reparations**, reducing their army to 100,000 men, taking away their tanks, submarines and planes, taking 13% of their land and 12.5% of their population away, taking all their overseas colonies, **demilitarising the Rhineland** (border with France) and forbidding them from uniting with Austria. The Germans were also forced to accept blame for the war – this was known as the **War Guilt Clause** and at first the new German government refused to sign this but were threatened with invasion if they did not do so.

The Germans were outraged. They called the Treaty a **“diktat”** (dictated peace) and Nationalists like the Nazis accused the Weimar Government of **“stabbing them in the back”** by agreeing to such harsh terms. Other political groups tried to destroy the government.

Nationalists called the Weimar politicians **“November Criminals”** for having signed first the armistice and then the Treaty. Later this name, used frequently by the Nazis would incorporate all “enemies” of Germany including Jews and Communists. These people were the scapegoats to blame all of Germany’s problems on.

What did the Treaty of Versailles do to Germany?

- L = Land** (Germany lost 13 per cent of its land.)
- A = Army** (The German army was cut to just 100,000.)
- M = Money** (Germany was made to pay reparations.)
- B = Blame** (Germany was blamed for starting the war.)



Key Word	
Reparations	
War Guilt Clause	
November Criminals	

Exam practice Question 5

In what ways was Germany affected by the Treaty of Versailles? (8 marks)

Consider these factors (Write one paragraph on each)

Social- morale, hunger, poverty, anger, humiliation- War Guilt Clause- afraid -no army

Political- criticisms of the new Weimar government – the SPD (Social Democratic Party) seen as weak by some-rise of nationalism and Communism

Economic- reparations, loss of land = loss of resources

Other opposition to the Weimar Government

Even though the war was over German communists continued to create riots around Germany. In Jan of 1919 a group of them called the **Spartacists** had attempted to take control of Berlin via an armed takeover. Ebert had used the **Freikorps** (ex-soldiers and nationalists who had formed into an organised army) to fight the Communists. But nationalists also hated the Social Democrats. The **Freikorps** themselves went against Ebert in 1920 when they supported Wolfgang Kapp in his attempt to take over the country (**Kapp Putsch**). It was only the workers of Berlin going on strike and refusing to help the Freikorps that stopped the Putsch.

•Over 200 people connected to the Weimar Government were assassinated between 1919 and 1923. The most famous was **Walther Rathenau**, a politician who had been involved with the armistice and the Treaty of Versailles. These assassinations showed how much some people disliked their new government and also made people feel that the government was weak and unable to keep control.

NB: a putsch is an attempted take-over. The Weimar Republic would face 3 serious **attempted** take-overs in the early 1920s

1. **The Spartacist Uprising**- Communists trying to take control of Berlin
2. **The Kapp Putsch**- Nationalists and the Freikorps taking control of Berlin for 100 days. Led by Wolfgang Kapp.
3. **The Munich Putsch 1923**- The Nazis trying to take control of the city of Munich.



1. Who were the Spartacists?
2. Who were the Freikorps?
3. What was the Kapp Putsch?
4. How can we prove that many people thought the new German government was weak?

The beginnings of the Nazi Party

Anton Drexler had a party called the German Workers Party. Hitler joined this in 1920 and soon had become its leader. He re-named it the **National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP/Nazi Party)**. He gave the party a new flag and a new private army to protect it (**the SA/Brownshirts**).

The party was small and would meet in beer houses. It began to attract attention because of Hitler's powerful speeches, especially his rants against the Treaty of Versailles. The SA would also beat up opponents, especially the communists.

1923 –A difficult year for The Weimar Republic!

The Invasion of the Ruhr, Hyperinflation and the Munich Putsch

Germany paid her first reparations payment in 1921 but couldn't afford the 1922 payment.

France and **Belgium** decided to invade Germany and take the payment by force. They invaded **the Ruhr**, Germany's main industrial area, to take goods.

The Germans reacted with **passive resistance**. They went on strike and refused to make the goods that the French and Belgians wanted. They sabotaged factories and flooded mines. The French and Belgians reacted with violence: shooting some Germans and expelling some others.

The Weimar Government supported the strikers by printing more money to pay them so that they could afford to keep striking.

Too many notes in the economy meant that prices went out of control. **November 1923 was the worst month: bread cost 201,000,000,000 marks.**

People had to carry their wages home in wheelbarrows. Prices went up so fast that a day's wages would just buy a cup of coffee the next day. The middle classes and the elderly suffered badly as their savings and pensions were wiped out.

Hitler chose November 1923 as the moment to attempt his **Munich Putsch**. He thought people were so fed up of their situation that they would support another leader. The Putsch was easily stopped and he ended up in prison. He got very useful publicity from his trial and wrote **Mein Kampf**.

Hyperinflation ended in November/December 1923 as Stresemann the new Chancellor introduced a new currency- the **Rentenmark**.



1. In 1923 the value of money was wiped out by the hyperinflation crisis. Think of 3 things that paper money could still be used for?
2. Why did the hyperinflation crisis further damage the reputation of the Weimar government?

The Munich Putsch 1923

In 1923 Hitler and the Nazis felt strong enough to take control of the government in Munich. After they took control in Bavaria the plan was to march to Berlin and kick-out the Weimar government. Hitler had the support of the WWI hero **General Ludendorff** as well as many rich businessmen. He also thought he had the support of the leader of the Bavarian government – **von Kahr** who had been very vocal about not supporting the Weimar government. The Munich Putsch failed. Kahr alerted the authorities and 14 Nazis were killed. Hitler was arrested but his trial was broadcast and his speeches published. He became famous and admired across Germany. His prison sentence for treason was just **9 months** long at the **Landsberg Fortress** where he had very nice conditions. In prison he wrote his autobiography **Mein Kampf** which became a best seller. **Most importantly** Hitler made the decision to try to attract votes and destroy the Reichstag from within.

The Munich Putsch 1923 failed BUT 3 important consequences would help the Nazis in the future- what were they.

Positive Consequences

1. Hitler became famous
- 2.
- 3.

Interpretations Exam Practice Questions

A -by a Communist writing in 1933.

“The Munich Putsch failed to gain even basic support from the people. The Nazis were a joke back then. Like flies they could be easily swatted away.”

B- From a speech by Heinrich Himmler 1939. “

“Our heroes to this day re-enact the glory of Munich where for the future of Germany we were prepared to sacrifice our lives for the cause.”

Question 1- Interpretations- How do the interpretations differ? (4 marks) Just compare them

Question 2- Why do they differ? (4 marks) content and author

Question 3- Which interpretation do you find most convincing about the impact of the Munich Putsch? (8 marks) PRAT and own knowledge.

1924-9 – The Stresemann Era- A Golden Age?

Gustav Stresemann was **Germany's Chancellor in 1923-4** and her Foreign Secretary after that. Under his leadership Germany experienced a real period of recovery BUT it was largely based on generous loans from the US.



Stresemann's Achievement 1924-1929

Social	Political	Economic
People became more positive and optimistic thanks to the economic and political changes Stresemann had brought.	Stresemann got the Reichstag working together in his " Great Coalition "- this meant that for a time the government became more stable and effective.	In 1924 Stresemann agreed the Dawes Plan with the US to borrow 800 million marks. This money boosted industry and the building of new homes, hospitals and schools.
Cultural life flourished- especially art, literature, music and film.	Stresemann paid the French reparations and they left the Ruhr.	Unemployment began to rise slowly as did wages.
There was investment in housing, roads, hospitals and schools	Stresemann agreed the Locarno Treaty with the French and Belgians in 1925. He agreed to the borders set by the Treaty of Versailles.	Industrial output especially coal, iron and steel began to grow.
	In 1923 Germany was welcomed into The League of Nations .	

However some historians have argued that the achievements under Stresemann were very limited;

1. It was all based on US loans – when the US economy crashed in 1929 so did the German economy in an era called **The Great Depression**.
2. **Unemployment remained high** during the Stresemann Years.
3. **Agricultural production was low**- providing enough food for the people was always a problem.
4. Nationalists accused Stresemann of doing **too many deals with the allies** who had punished Germany after WWI.
5. The "**Great Coalition**" only worked due to Stresemann's charm and skill- underneath it all **the system of government was just as unstable**.

Exam Practice Question 4-

Describe 2 problems faced by Stresemann in the years 1923-1929.(4 marks)

1929 – 1933- The Wall Street Crash and the Great Depression

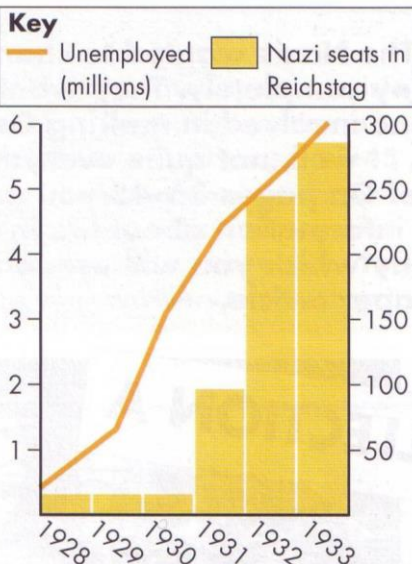
In 1929, the USA's economy collapsed. They recalled all their loans. Germany's money stopped and they spiralled into Depression.

Unemployment rose rapidly. It peaked at 6 million by 1932.

People lost their homes and had to live on the streets, scavenging on rubbish tips for food. The rates of homelessness and suicide rocketed.

Stresemann had died early October 1929. The Weimar Government dealt with it poorly they raised taxes and cut wages. This only increased people's suffering.

Violence began to break out again as people got desperate. The Weimar Government failed to deal with it. Communists and Nationalists were convinced that the Weimar government had failed the people and were determined to get rid of it. Votes for the Nazis rose rapidly the moment The Great Depression began.



Votes for the Nazis began to rise rapidly alongside unemployment. By 1932 unemployment had reached 6 million. The Nazis were financed by rich industrialists, businessmen that were afraid of the rise of the Communist party. With this money they produced huge amounts of propaganda, presenting Hitler as the saviour of Germany, producing posters and flags, organising marches and parades and flying Hitler all over Germany during election campaigns.

At the same time the SA (Stormtroopers/brownshirts) fought against Communists in the streets and intimidated voters.

Hitler's speeches were mesmerising and his campaign slogan was "Work and Bread". By the **July 1932 elections the Nazis became the largest party in the Reichstag** with 230 seats BUT they still did not have a **majority**.

1. Why were people voting for the Nazis in 1932?

2. When did the Nazis become the largest party in the Reichstag?



1. Hindenburg neither liked or trusted Hitler so why do you think he made him Chancellor?

On 30th January 1933 President Hindenburg used Article 48 to appoint Hitler as Chancellor even though the Nazis had not won an election outright. Hindenburg made this decision because the two previous Chancellors he had appointed, **Von Schleicher and Von Papen**, could not control the Reichstag and get laws passed to help Germany out of the economic crisis. The Nazis inside the Reichstag were being deliberately difficult trying to force Hindenburg to appoint Hitler instead.

Eventually Hindenburg decided to give Hitler a shot at the Chancellorship believing he and Von Papen as Vice-Chancellor would be able to control Hitler who was an in-experienced politician. However once appointed as Chancellor Hitler used his position to consolidate (strengthen) his power

From Chancellor to Dictator

Step 1-

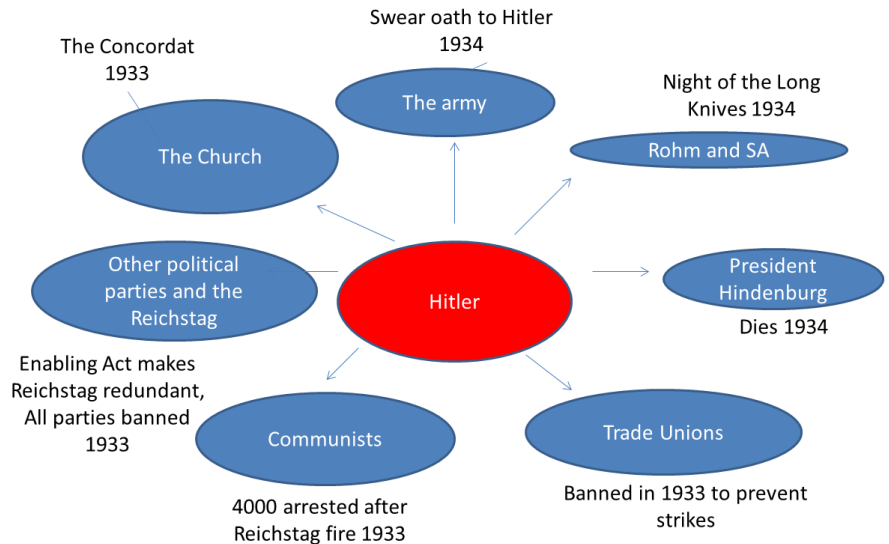
Jan 1933-Hitler called for another election hoping to gain a majority.

Step 2-

Feb 1933- The Reichstag Fire burns down. A Dutch **Communist Marianus Van Der Lubbe is blamed**, Hitler gets emergency powers from Hindenburg to arrest **4000 Communists** effectively knocking them out of the next election.

Step 3- March 1933 after failing again to get a majority in the Reichstag elections the **Nazis allied with the Nationalists party**

Real and Potential Enemies



Step 4- March 1933

Hitler was able to convince the majority of the Reichstag to pass **the Enabling Act** which gave him dictatorial powers for the next 4 years. Many politicians by now believed that Hitler would be able to get things done and some were afraid of offending the Nazis. Either way now Hitler could pass any laws that he wanted to.

Hitler Consolidates his Power

Now that the **Enabling Act** had been passed Hitler set about making his position even stronger. First he **banned Trade Unions** so that workers could not strike against him. Next he **banned all political parties** other than the Nazis and hundreds of his political opponents were sent to concentration camps. Additionally he signed an agreement with the Catholic Church called **the Concordat** in which they agreed not to challenge or oppose one another.

The only group now powerful enough to rise up against Hitler was the SA which by now numbered 2 million men. They were loyal to their leader Ernst Röhm. Hitler became concerned that Röhm was plotting against him and so at the end of June 1934 he organised a mass purge of the leaders of the SA including Röhm. This event was known as **The Night of Long Knives**. 400 of the SA were executed without trial. Hitler made it clear that he was judge and jury now. The German people rather than reacting in horror were mostly impressed that he had made such a strong stand against enemies within his own party.

1. Once the Enabling Act was passed what two things did Hitler ban?
2. With what organisation did the Nazis organise a “friendly” agreement?
3. How many SA were executed on the Night of Long Knives?
4. Who was the leader of the SA?
5. **In August 1934 President Hindenburg died and Hitler gave himself the title of Fuhrer- Supreme leader- now the army and the SA had to swear an oath of loyalty to him alone.**

Design a diagram to show how Hitler’s power grew once he became Chancellor to the end of 1934.

Diagram to show how Hitler consolidated his power.

Question 5- In what ways did Hitler consolidate his power between Jan 1933 and August 1934? (8 marks)

Nazi Propaganda and Censorship of the Media

Hitler set up the **cult of the Führer**, presenting himself as the saviour of Germany. His image was used very carefully – he was only ever shown serving Germany.

Joseph Goebbels (Hitler's Propaganda Minister) made sure that people were bombarded with information to keep them loyal to the Nazis. Posters, pictures, art exhibitions and films were all made to show how great the Nazis were. At the same time public information was very strictly controlled by Goebbels through the **Ministry of Culture** which **censored** all music, literature and film. The books and works of writers opposing the Nazi ideal were banned and public book-burnings organised by the SA and the Hitler Youth were commonplace. **In 1936 Berlin hosted the Olympic Games** and this was seen as a propaganda triumph for the Nazis who presented themselves to the world as having transformed Germany into a positive, forward-thinking nation.

Hitler's speeches were regularly broadcast on the radio to remind people of how much the Nazis were improving their lives. Cheap radios sets, known as the **People's Receiver**, were sold to people and connected up to loudspeakers so that everyone could hear as they went about their daily business. Nazi flags were mass-produced and sold cheaply. People were encouraged to show loyalty to the **Führer** by displaying the Nazi flag and performing the Nazi salute when greeting people. Nazi films were produced to promote Nazi ideals.

Use the text on this page to complete the table below.

Key Word	Definition
Joseph Goebbels	
Ministry of Propaganda	
Ministry of Culture	
Censorship	
People's Receiver	
Führer	
Nuremberg Rally	

Every year in the city of **Nuremberg**, in a huge purpose-built stadium, the Nazis held mass rallies that demonstrated their strength and discipline to the public.

The Nazi Police State- Intimidation and Control

It is difficult to judge to what extent Nazi propaganda **indoctrinated (brainwashed)** the people. Opposition to the Nazis was very dangerous because their control was so powerful. The Nazi Police state refers to these methods of control and **repression**. The concentration camps were used to imprison anyone who went against the Nazi state. These were run by the **SS**. In the camps, people were expected to work to benefit Germany. They were often worked to death with very long hours and insufficient rations.

Blockleiters (block-leaders) were local Nazi officials who patrolled the streets and reported back on any anti-Nazi behaviour. The **Gestapo** (secret police) would go round checking that people were being loyal to the Nazis. People who weren't would often be taken off in the middle of the night for torture or to be taken to a camp. Most of the evidence that the Gestapo used was based on testimony from **informers and spies**. Children in the Hitler Youth were expected to spy on their parents and neighbours. People became afraid to show their true-feelings about the Nazis and few opposed them. By 1945, 70 different offences carried the death penalty including telling a joke against Hitler!

Question 6- Which of the following reason was most important why so few people opposed the Nazis.(12 marks)

- The Nazi Police State
- The impact of Nazi propaganda

Controlling the Young

Hitler planned to build a Third Reich- a great German empire. He knew that young people were vital to his plans for Germany to expand in Europe. Boys would be needed to become loyal, brave and strong soldiers for the Third Reich and girls would be trained to become strong and fertile, loyal and obedient wives and mothers for the Nazi state. The Hitler Youth Organisation included 4 branches. For girls over the age of 14 the **BDM (The League of German Maidens)** prepared young women to become the ideal Aryan woman a strong, fit, obedient and loyal mother. Boys at 14 joined the Hitler Youth and trained to become soldiers. By 1939 the Nazis made membership of the Hitler Youth compulsory. Mostly it was a very popular and many children came to idolise Hitler but 18% of young people refused to join even after it was made compulsory.

Education

The Nazis developed a new curriculum. Maths questions promoted messages of war and getting rid of minorities, History focused on the Nazi Party, Geography focused on the “Greater Germany”, Biology focused on recognising the **Aryan** race as superior. A new topic was introduced called Eugenics to prove scientifically that **Aryans** were a **master race**.

New resources: History books were rewritten without German defeats, Story books were written warning children of the dangers of the Jews.

Teachers had to join the **Nazi Teachers’ Association** or lose their jobs. Women could no longer be teachers as they were denied a professional role.

Jewish pupils were persecuted in lessons. Eventually they were forced to leave German schools in 1938.

Interpretation A- by Klaus Henman writing in 1988. He had been a member of the Hitler Youth.

“Hitler was a God to us boys. We believed he was transforming Germany into the greatest nation on earth. We idolised him. We would have given up our lives for him-many of us did in the war that was to come.”

Interpretation B – By a book about Nazi Germany by Andrew Simmonds 2002. “Life in the Third Reich.”

“In spite of the propaganda and pressure, Hitler was forced to make membership of the Hitler Youth compulsory in 1939 if he was to have enough young men trained and ready to be soldiers. The fact that a significant minority still refused to join the Hitler Youth demonstrates that, in fact, few young people truly bought into the cult of the Führer.

Question 1- Interpretations- How do the interpretations differ? (4 marks) *Just compare them*

Question 2- Why do they differ? (4 marks) *content and author*

Question 3- Which interpretation do you find most convincing about the success of Nazi attempts to indoctrinate young people? (8 marks)

Evaluate/ judge the quality of the evidence using PRAT and own knowledge.

Use PRAT to evaluate.

- Purpose- what is the source saying?
- Reliable-How reliable do you think it is?
- Accurate- how accurate is it compared to your own knowledge?
- Typical-How typical a point of view is it for the time?



Controlling Women

Initially women were not expected to work but to stay at home and raise children. Once the war began in 1939 however women would be required to work. The ideal was that women would follow **Kinder, Kirche and Kuche**- Children, church and cooking. Many women were sacked from professional jobs such as doctors, teachers and lawyers and women were never included in unemployment figures.

The **Law for Encouragement of Marriage** – loaned a young couple money to marry and set up home together. They did not have to pay any of it back if they had 4 children.

Women were awarded a bronze **Motherhood Cross** for 4 children, a silver for 6 children and a gold cross for 8 children. They also received benefit payments from the state for each child. The medals were awarded on the date of Hitler's mother's birthday.

The **Lebensborn** programme was set up so that unmarried mothers could go to a hostel and have many children impregnated by SS officers.

Abortion and contraception were banned, make-up, smoking, wearing trousers and dyeing hair was discouraged. Women who had a disability or a disease were **forcibly sterilised**. The birth rate in Germany did rise but many women chose not to conform to the Nazi ideal and many women welcomed a return to work once the war began.

Industry, Agriculture and the Economy

The German economy was still suffering badly from the Depression. Hitler set up two 4-year plans to get the economy back on track. The plans focused mostly on industrial production like steel, iron and coal. Agriculture stayed in decline and when the war began, rationing of food happened immediately. In 1939 the German economy was not ready for war.

Goering was put in charge of the economy even though he had no experience of this. The previous economics minister **Schacht** was fired by Hitler for daring to suggest that the Hitler's dream for Germany to become **self-sufficient** could not work. Hitler wanted Germany to become self-sufficient and produce all that it needed and not have to rely on imports. This system was called **Autarky** but proved to be impossible. Hitler wanted teams of scientists to search for replacement products like rubber- these were known as **Ersatz** products but again this proved impossible to achieve.

Explain the following terms

Four Year Plans

Autarky

Ersatz

The Nazis and Unemployment

On paper it looked as if the Nazis had achieved an economic miracle by ending unemployment completely in Germany however it would be wrong to think that this was entirely true. Firstly **women and Jews were never included in the unemployment figures** and young men aged 18-25 had to do 2 years of military service or work for the **RAD the Public Work Schemes**. Millions of men were given jobs through this, although they were paid poorly and the work and discipline were hard. They did hard manual labour such as tree-felling and ditch-digging. They are most well known for building the **autobahns** (motorways)

All workers had to join the DAF (German Labour Front) which controlled the workers and settled disputes between them and their employers. (Hitler had banned trade unions immediately in 1933.) It persuaded employers to improve working conditions in factories **but wages were going down and working hours were going up.**

The KDF (Strength through Joy) organisation was set up to organise the leisure time of the workers, providing them with cheap theatre tickets, cruises, skiing holidays and saving up for VW Beetles.

The government took control of prices, wages, profits and imports which stopped big businesses from running their affairs in their own way.

Jewish small businesses were closed down allowing other German small businesses to flourish.

Farmers were given help in paying off loans but were given quotas for production to meet which limited their freedom. Agriculture remained in decline throughout the Nazi period in spite of Hitler's promises to support farmers. In the run up to WW2, German men began to be conscripted into the army and more and more factories were set up for arms production. Germany tried to achieve autarky (self-sufficiency) so that they could keep fighting when other countries stopped trading with them. All workers were expected to be loyal and obedient to Hitler and the Third Reich. The best workers were rewarded.



Give 3 ways in which Hitler reduced unemployment.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What was the DAF? The RAD? And the KDF?

Controlling the Churches

In the 1930s most people in Germany were Christians and went regularly to church. About 1/3 were Catholics and the rest were Protestants. In theory the Church should have been one organisation that stood up to the Nazis but in most cases it did not defy the Nazis.

Early in 1933 Hitler had signed a **Concordat** with the Catholic churches- this was a friendly agreement to leave each other alone. The Catholic priests would not preach against the Nazis and the Nazis would not close down the church's youth groups. Hitler broke this agreement in 1937. The Pope responded with a statement that was read out in all Catholic churches against the Nazis but it had no real impact.

However one **Catholic Archbishop Von Galen** preached persistently against the policy of euthanasia but he was put under house arrest until the end of the war.

Many Protestants hated what the Nazis stood for and set up the Confessional Church men like **Pastor Martin Niemöller** openly preached against the Nazis. But like 800 other preachers Niemöller was arrested and sent to a concentration camp. The Confessional Church was banned.



Many patriotic German protestants were willing to join the **new Reich Church** led by **Ludwig Müller**. This promoted Nazi ideals alongside "Christianity".

Key Term	Definition
The Concordat	
Von Galen	
Niemoller	
Reich Church	

The Impact of WWII

Germany had annexed Austria in 1938 and invaded Czechoslovakia in 1938. Hitler then attacked Poland in 1939 but he wasn't expecting the British and French to respond. When they did, WWII began. Although Germany had rapidly rearmed since 1933 it was still not ready for a war on this scale and although the German army was hugely successful at first, when they launched an attack on Russia in 1941 everything began to change.



From 1942 the allies set about destroying German cities with bombs. In Feb of 1945 Dresden was so badly bombed by the US and British that 2/3 of the entire city was destroyed. Over 100,000 died. Dresden was not a military target.

1939- food and clothing was rationed at the start of the war.

1939-1940- Using Blitzkrieg (lightning war) Germany takes Poland, France, Holland, Belgium, Denmark and Norway.

1941- Battle of Stalingrad 80,000 Germans soldiers died. A real turning point

1942- "Total War" effort demanded by Goebbels in propaganda.

1942- women had to work in factories because men needed in the army.

1944- 7 million foreign slave-labourers brought in to work in factories mostly producing armaments.

From 1942 onwards allied bombing destroyed factories, roads, bridges, fuel supplies, trade routes, homes- this led to thousands of German refugees

As support for the Nazis waned oppression grew worse- by 1944 90 different offences carried the death penalty.

Exam Practice Question 4- Describe 2 problems faced by the German people during WWII.(4 marks)

Persecution in Nazi Germany

Many groups of people were classed as “undesirable” by the Nazis including Communists, Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, Slavic people, Poles, the physically and mentally disabled, tramps, beggars, alcoholics. All were regarded as inferior and dangerous. All were considered a threat to the purity of the **master race- the Aryans**. Millions of them were rounded up across Nazi controlled Europe and sent to concentration camps. The Jews in particular were blamed for all of Germany’s problems and labelled “**untermenschen**” - sub-human.

Key dates to Learn

1933- Jewish lawyers, judges, teachers sacked.

1934- Jewish shops marked and boycotted by the SA

1935- The Nuremberg Laws denied the Jews German citizenship and said no marriage or sex between the races.

1938- Jewish doctors sacked. Jewish children banned from schools. Jewish property attacked on Kristallnacht. 20,000 Jews sent to concentration camps.

1939- Jews forcibly removed to the ghettos

1942- The Final Solution – decision to exterminate the Jews

Ghettos- areas where the Jews were forcibly moved to- inner-city slum areas, closely guarded, walled-up.

Einsatzgruppen- SS troops formed execution squads to shoot as many Jews as possible



Kristallnacht/The Night of Broken Glass

In November 1938 under Goebbels’ orders the SA carried out a nationwide campaign of terror against the Jews. On Kristallnacht 10,000 Jewish shops were attacked and 200 synagogues burned down. About 100 Jews were killed and 20,000 sent to concentration camps. Many thousands of Jews attempted to leave Germany after this.

Once the Germans took control of Poland, France, Holland, Belgium, Norway and Denmark; Jews there were treated to the same inhumane policies as Jews in Germany.

Why could Kristallnacht be regarded as a turning point against the Jews?

The Final Solution

The leading Nazis held a conference in 1942 at **Wannsee** they put together a plan for the mass extermination of Jews as efficiently as possible using **Zyclon B gas**. Six major extermination camps were to be built for this purpose. The most well known of these was **Auschwitz in Poland**.

Most people claimed not to know about these camps but some evidence contradicts this. The Jews themselves offered some resistance to this program. In 1944 there was an **uprising at the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland** which lasted for 43 days. There was also an uprising at the death camp in **Treblinka in 1943**, 15 Nazis were killed but it did not last long.

Some brave people did help and hide Jews but eventually most of them were caught and executed by the Nazis.

The attempt by the Nazis to wipe out the Jews in Europe is known as **the Holocaust**. **Around 6 million Jews in Europe were killed**.



Heinrich Himmler
Head of the SS and
the Gestapo.



Herman Goering
Head of the Luftwaffe
(air-force) and in
charge of the 4 Year
Economic Plans.



**Joseph
Goebbels**
Minister for
Propaganda and
Enlightenment
and Minister for
Culture.



Reinhard Heydrich
In charge of the Final
Solution against the
Jews.

Question 5- In what ways were the Jews affected by Nazi policies? (8 marks)

What do you need to know about Nazi Culture?

Principal ideas were that

- Agriculture was good, back to basics, the land, nature.
- The ancient heroic past was good
- Traditional morals and values
- Dislike of modern 1920's fashions and morals.
- Dislike of higher education and elites.
- During the war all frivolity was stopped- beer halls closed
- **Cult of the Fuhrer** promoted.

Art, architecture, music, literature, theatre and film all became opportunities for Nazi propaganda.



The 1936 Berlin Olympics was a great propaganda triumph and showed Nazi culture at its very best.



Hundreds of artists, writers and performers left Germany for freedom of speech. Most famous example **Thomas Mann** a novelist and a strong critic of the Nazis.

The **Chamber of Culture** was set up by the Nazis and led by **Joseph Goebbels**. All musicians, writers artists and actors had to belong if they wanted to work.



Book burnings of all anti-Nazi material were frequent.



Women were discouraged from modern fashions, trousers, short dyed hair, smoking.



Art, architecture, music, literature, theatre and film all had to be approved of by the Nazis. All information was **censored**.

Jazz and modern art frowned upon. Work by Jewish artists was banned. Only older German or Austrian musicians, playwrights, authors and painters were approved of.

The Nazis produced hundreds of films. **Triumph of the Will** and **The Eternal Jew** were big box office hits.



Complete the table below

Weimar Germany 1920s	Nazi Germany 30s and 40s
Modern/ Avant-Garde artists- e.g Otto Dix	
Pacifist writers like- Eric Remarque "All Quiet on the Western Front"	
Cabaret Culture and transvestite clubs	
Women smoking and wearing trousers	
Jazz and Swing clubs	
Bauhaus School of Design leads the world.	
Thriving film industry e.g Fritz lang	
Many books by Communist or Jewish writers.	
Freedom of speech and expression.	

Opposition to the Nazis

Many groups and individuals did attempt to defy Hitler and the Nazis. There were seven assassination attempts on Hitler's life- all of them failed and those involved in the plots were executed. But some groups defied the Nazis in spite of the rule of terror they faced.

The Young

The Edelweiss Pirates

were young people that defied the Nazis by listening to jazz music, smoking and refusing to join the Hitler Youth. However they sometimes went much further and in 1944 in Cologne 12 of them were executed for assassinating a Gestapo chief.

The White Rose Movement

A group of university students led by brother and sister **Hans and Sophie Scholl**. They printed and distributed anti-Nazi propaganda. Both were caught and executed.

The Churches

Archbishop Von Galen

This Catholic leader preached against the Nazis especially their policies on Jews and disabled people. He was placed under house arrest in 1940 until the end of the war.

Pastor Niemoller and the Confessional Church

This was set up by 300 Protestant pastors who preached against the Nazis and refused to accept the Reich church. The leaders were sent to camps.

The Jews

The Treblinka Uprising

In 1943 at the death camp in Treblinka there was an armed uprising. 15 Nazis were killed and some Jews escaped but the camp was quickly back under Nazi control.

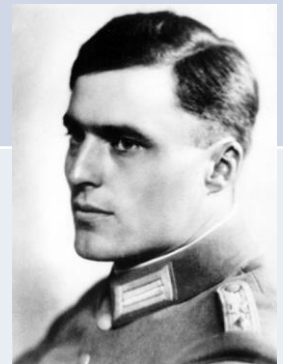
The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

In 1944 in the largest Jewish ghetto in Europe at Warsaw hundreds of Jews led an armed take-over. They held control of the ghetto for 43 days but the Nazis killed thousands of the Jews there in revenge.

The Army

The July Bomb Plot

In the summer of 1944 with the war going very badly for Germany a group of military leaders executed a plan to assassinate Hitler and take control of Berlin. They were known as the **Kreisau Circle** and were led by **Colonel Von Stauffenberg**. The plot failed and the leaders were executed.



Colonel Von Stauffenberg of the Kreisau Circle.

Question 6- Which of the following reasons was most important why so few people opposed the Nazis?(12 marks)

- Nazi Propaganda indoctrinated the people
- The Nazi Police state was too oppressive to oppose

Key Word Revision

Word	Definition	Word	Definition
Bundesrat		Invasion of Ruhr	
Reichstag		Hyperinflation	
Kaiserreich		Stresemann	
Weltpolitik		Dawes Plan	
Nationalism		Locarno Treaty	
Socialism		Great Coalition	
SPD		Great Depression	
Weltpolitik		Article 48	
blockade		Enabling Act	
Turnip Winter		Reichstag Fire	
abdicate		Night of the Long Knives	
Ebert		Lebensorn	
Spartacists		Law for the Encouragement of Marriage	
Freikorps		Autarky	
Armsitce		4 year plans	
Kapp Putsch		BDM	
Munich Putsch			
Coalition Governments			

Key Word Revision

Word	Definition	Word	Definition
DAF		Himmler	
RAD		SA	
KLF		Rohm	
Nuremberg Laws		Goering	
Kristallnacht		Heydrich	
Mein Kampf		Goebbels	
untermenschen		ensorship	
Einsatzgruppen		Aryan	
ghettos		Total War	
Confessional Church		Reich church	
Kreisau Circle		Motherhood Cross	
Edelweiss Pirates		Law for the Encouragement of Marriage	
White Rose Movement		Blockleiter	
Treblinka		November Criminals	
Auschwitz		Rearmament	
Final Solution		Reparations	
Gestapo		Treaty of Versailles	
SS		People's Courts	