

Weimar and Nazi Germany UNIT 3: Nazi control and dictatorship (1933-39)

| Term | Definition |
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| 1. The Reichstag Fire | In 1933 the Reichstag burnt down. It was blamed on Marinus Van Der Lubbe, a Dutch Communist). However, due to Van Der Lubbe's mental disabilities it is unlikely he was actually involved. |
| 2. The Enabling Act | Following the Reichstag Fire the Nazis were able to use article 48 of the Weimar constitution. This allowed them to ban all other political parties, ban trade unions and abolish the Lander. |
| 3. The Night of Long Knives | The Nazis rounded up hundreds of real (and perceived) opponents and killed them. This included Ernst Rohm and Franz Von Papen. |
| 4. The death of Hindenburg | President Hindenburg's death, in 1934, took away the last democratic wheel in Germany capable of stopping Hitler. After his death Hitler declared himself both Chancellor and President. |
| 5. Fuhrer | After the death of Hindenburg, Hitler declared himself the total leader of Germany (Fuhrer). He did this by combining both the title of Chancellor and President. A sham election was held to confirm this. |
| 6. The Oath of Allegiance | Following Hitler's rise to Fuhrer he changed the army oath of allegiance. It no longer swore allegiance to do the best for Germany but to support Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party directly. |
| 7. The Gestapo | The Gestapo were the secret police of Nazi Germany. People were terrified of receiving a knock on the door by the Gestapo. |
| 8. The SS | Following the Night of Long Knives the SS became the official Nazi army, fronted by Heinrich Himmler. |
| 9. The SD | The SD were the intelligence wing of the Nazi Party. It was their job to identify and track potential enemies before they committed any crimes. |
| 10. Concentration Camps | From 1933 concentration camps were established across the country. These were originally intended to house opponents to the regime, such as Communists, but expanded to include a range of people, including Jews and travellers (Roma). |
| 11. The Reich Church | The Nazis established their own Protestant Church, known as the Reich Church. Here strength was glorified and weakness criticised. The Church reinforced Nazi ideology but was unpopular with most German people. |
| 12. The Concordat | The Nazis signed an agreement with the Catholic Church, known as the Concordat. This agreement promised that the Pope wouldn't speak out against Hitler and the Nazis. In exchange the Nazis agreed to protect the Vatican City from the threat of Communism. |
| 13. The Berlin Olympics | In 1936 Berlin hosted the Olympics. For this event anti-Semitic posters were torn down and Nazi Germany deliberately toned down the image it presented to the rest of the world. Germany won the most medals at the event. |
| 14. The Ministry of Propaganda | Established by Josef Goebbels, the Ministry of Propaganda controlled all aspects of media. They controlled what messages people saw and heard. |
| 15. The Swing Youth | The Swing Youth were a largely middle class organisation. They were made up from people who refused to join the Nazi youth movements. They expressed their opposition by dressing in an overtly US style and listening and dancing to banned US swing music. |
| 16. The Edelweiss Pirates | The Edelweiss Pirates were a largely working class organisation. They were made up from people who refused to join the Nazi youth movements. They expressed their opposition by attacking Hitler Youth members. |