

## KEY KNOWLEDGE—BACKGROUND



Germany only became a united country in 1871 (before it had been a collection of states). The Empire was created after victory over France in 1870. Berlin became the capital city. The first Kaiser (Emperor) was Wilhelm I. The first Chancellor was Otto Von Bismarck who did much to unify the country. Germany wanted an Empire, like Britain.

## KEY KNOWLEDGE—KAISER WILHELM II BACKGROUND

The grandson of Wilhelm I, Wilhelm II became Kaiser in 1888 at the age of 31. He was determined to rule Germany in his own way. He was the grandson of Queen Victoria.

His character was perhaps unsuited to his position of power; he was unstable in mood and prone to fits of rage, some say he was a repressed homosexual and he had been born with a withered hand which perhaps made him less confident in his role as leader of the armed forces.

He wanted to achieve “a place in the sun for Germany” and wanted Germany to grow in strength in terms of industrial power and its military. He wanted overseas colonies (especially in Africa) and a large Army and Navy.



### KEY WORDS

Kaiser	Emperor	Empire
Industry	Colonies	Socialism
Communism	Social Democrats	Reichstag
Navy Laws	Armistice	Democracy
Abdicate	November Criminals	

### KEY DATES

1871—Germany united
1888—Wilhelm II becomes Kaiser
1898—First Navy Law
1914—1918 The Great War
9th Nov 1918—Kaiser abdicates

## KEY KNOWLEDGE—WHAT HAPPENED TO GERMANY UNDER THE RULE OF KAISER WILHELM II

### INDUSTRIALSATION

German industry grew rapidly and Germany led the world in the chemical and steel industries. The population grew rapidly which provided the man power in the industrial cities

### GROWTH OF PARLIAMENT

The Kaiser had extensive powers and while the Reichstag could meet and discuss ideas the Kaiser dominated decision making. There were many political parties but none got close to a majority in the Reichstag

### THE RISE OF SOCIALISM

German society was dominated by the rich ruling classes which the middle classes liked. There was a growth of socialist parties who might better represent the views of the workers and were therefore a potential threat to the power of the Kaiser.

### THE NAVY LAWS

A strong Navy was crucial to the Kaiser's ambitions. The first Navy Law was passed in 1898 which allowed for the building of 12 new battleships to add to the 12 they already had. A second Navy law was passed in 1900 which increased the fleet to 38

# 1914 8 1918

## KEY KNOWLEDGE—THE IMPACT OF THE GREAT WAR ON GERMANY

In 1914 Germany was an optimistic and prosperous country...4 years later much of this was gone and the German army defeated. The war left Germany with 2 million dead, deep social divisions and a virtually bankrupt economy. The Kaiser abdicated on 9th November 1918 and the Armistice agreed on the 11th November. It was signed by Germany's new leader, Freidrich Ebert. Many Germans felt like they had been stabbed in the back by their new leaders...

# GERMANY 1890-1945

## UNIT 1: GERMANY AND THE GROWTH OF DEMOCRACY (PART 2 OF 3)

### KEY KNOWLEDGE—POST WAR GERMANY

Germany emerged from the war in a state of chaos—the allies at the end of the war had offered Germany peace but with the strict term that they become more democratic—the Kaiser refused! Mutiny and revolts spread through the army and navy and the Socialists led uprisings in German ports. Eventually an independent Socialist Republic was formed in Bavaria and the Kaiser left to go to the Netherlands.

Ebert became the new leader of the Republic, to become known as the Weimar Republic...it was a huge change for Germany from Autocratic rule to complete **democracy** with elections and freedom of speech.

Many Germans were unhappy with the new situation and many blamed him for the defeat in the war. He became more unpopular when he signed to the terms of the **Treaty of Versailles**.



#### TREATY OF VERSAILLES

It's all your fault (War Guilt)

Pay £6.6 billion in Reparations

Lose land and colonies

Restrict your armed forces

### KEY WORDS

Weimar Republic

Democracy

Ebert

Treaty of Versailles

Reparations

Constitution

Proportional Representation

Article 48

Coalition

Spartacists

Kapp Putsch

Freikorps

Hyper-inflation

### KEY DATES

June 1919—Treaty of Versailles signed

1919—Sparticist uprising

1920—Kapp Putsch

1921—first reparation instalment paid

1923—French invade the Ruhr



Germany was very unstable and there were threats from the Right and Left wing of politics.

On the left the Spartacists wanted to make Germany Communist

On the right the Freikorps wanted a more dictatorial Nationalist government



### THE REPARATIONS

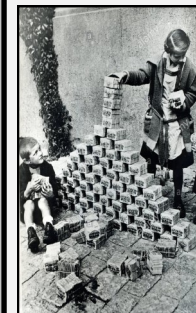
The £6.6 billion was to be paid in annual instalments. This put incredible strain on the German economy and would lead to great resentment and suffering amongst the German people.

### KEY KNOWLEDGE—A COUNTRY IN CHAOS BY 1923

Germany paid the first instalment of the Reparations in 1921 = £50 million but they couldn't afford the next payment. In January 1923 the French invaded the Ruhr (key industrial region of Germany) and began to take materials from factories. The government ordered strikes so there would be nothing to take but it caused a collapse of the German economy. The French killed over 100 workers.

To solve the problem the government simply printed off more money...with so much money in circulation prices and wages rocketed and

the money soon became worthless. It led to **HYPER-INFLATION** and a loaf of bread cost 201,000,000,000 marks in 1923! The poor suffered but the biggest losers were the upper and middle classes—those with savings.



ULTIMATELY IT WAS ANOTHER PROBLEM THAT COULD BE BLAMED ON THE WEIMAR GOVERNMENT

### KEY KNOWLEDGE—THE WEIMAR CONSTITUTION

The Weimar Republic was set up to be one of the most democratic countries in the world

Their electoral system was called Proportional Representation—if a party got 20% of the vote they got 20% of the seats in the Reichstag

Chancellor—day to day running of the country and President as Head of State

Article 48 gave the President power to rule alone in an emergency

Proportional Representation made it difficult for any one party to get a majority in the Reichstag and therefore decision making was very slow and there could be many parties represented in the Reichstag.

Hitler would later use the constitution to his advantage and is crucial to his appointment as Chancellor in 1933.

## ADOLF HITLER—PROFILE



Born in 1889, Austria

Left home at 16 to pursue dream of becoming an artist but failed and lived on the streets of Vienna

Moved to Munich, Germany and joined the army in 1914

Won the Iron Cross but found it hard to accept the Armistice

Worked as a spy for the army after the war which brought him into contact with the DAP...

## KEY KNOWLEDGE—THE BEGINNINGS OF THE NAZI PARTY

The DAP (German Workers Party) were a small political party who met in a beer hall in Munich

They were led by Anton Drexler and had right wing views that included a dislike of democracy and a desire for the “glory days” of the Kaiser

Hitler joined the party in 1919, began making speeches and ultimately became the leader in 1921

The party became the National Socialist German Workers Party (Nazis) in 1920 and they had a 25 point programme to try to appeal to as many people as possible

Hitler had a simple appeal—he gave people “scape goats” to blame Germany’s problems on (GB, France, November Criminals, the T of V, the Communists and Jews)



He set up the SA (Storm troopers or Brown shirts) and their principle role was to protest Hitler’s meetings and disrupt other parties

**THEY WERE STILL A MINORITY PARTY IN 1923**

## KEY KNOWLEDGE—GERMAN RECOVERY 1924 TO 1929

Gustav Stresemann was appointed Chancellor in 1923 and then became Foreign Minister—he presided over a period of economic recovery:

- ⇒ Recalled currency and replaced with Rentenmark
- ⇒ Dawes Plan (1924) - loan of 800 million marks
- ⇒ Industry recovered
- ⇒ Locarno Treaty (1925) guaranteed borders
- ⇒ Allowed to joining League of Nations in 1926
- ⇒ 1929 Young plan reduced Reparations to £2.2 bn
- ⇒ Developments in German culture

**HOWEVER IT WAS ALL TO COME “CRASHING” DOWN AGAIN IN 1929!**

## 25 POINT PROGRAMME

The 25 point programme included:

- ◆ Abolish the Treaty of Versailles
- ◆ Unite Germany and Austria
- ◆ Only “true” Germans to live in Germany (excluded Jews)
- ◆ Strong central government

## KEY KNOWLEDGE—NAZIS IN THE LATER 1920S

Nazi’s came to the conclusion that they would try to work within the democratic system to achieve power

**KEY FACT—THE NAZIS ONLY GAINED 12 SEATS IN THE 1928 ELECTION**

## THE MUNICH PUTSCH, 1923

With the country in chaos in 1923, Hitler thought this was his moment to topple the government

On the 8th November the Nazis hijacked a local government meeting and announced his takeover of Bavaria

The government hit back and rounded up the SA—16 Nazis killed and Hitler escaped

He was captured and put on trial and gained enormous publicity as his words were reported by journalists

Hitler impressed the judges and he was only given 5 years in prison and served just 9 months. In prison he wrote Mein Kampf





# GERMANY 1890-1945

# UNIT 2: GERMANY AND THE DEPRESSION (PART I OF 2)



## THE GREAT DEPRESSION

In 1929 the American stock market crashed and sent the world into a Depression. It hit Germany hard as they had to pay back the money they had been loaned—it led to complete economic collapse in Germany; businesses went bankrupt and unemployment rocketed to 6 million...up step the Nazis...

## KEY DATES

October, 1929—The Wall Street Crash

July 1932—Nazis biggest party in the Reichstag after elections

Nov 1932—Nazis still biggest party

Jan, 1933—Hitler made Chancellor

## KEY WORDS

Depression

Wall Street Crash

Unemployment

Economy

Communists

Reichstag

Propaganda

Chancellor

Hindenburg

Arbeit und Brot

Von Papen

Von Schleicher

The effects of the Wall Street Crash convinced many Germans that the government of the Weimar Republic was failing and many turned to extremist parties. Support for both the Communists and Nazis grew in this period of economic chaos



## PROPAGANDA

The simple promises of the Nazis appealed to people—promised employment and economic strength



Party	May 1928	Sept 1930	July 1932	Nov 1932
Nazis (NSDAP)	12 seats 2.6% of vote	107 seats 18.3% of vote	230 seats 37.4% of vote	196 seats 33.1% of vote
National (DNVP)	73 seats 14.2% of vote	41 seats 7% of vote	37 seats 5.9% of vote	52 seats 8.8% of vote
People's (DVP)	45 seats 8.7% of vote	30 seats 4.5% of vote	7 seats 1.2% of vote	11 seats 1.9% of vote
Centre (Z)	62 seats 12.1% of vote	68 seats 11.8% of vote	75 seats 12.5% of vote	70 seats 11.9% of vote
Democrats (DDP)	25 seats 4.9% of vote	20 seats 3.8% of vote	4 seats 1% of vote	2 seats 0.5% of vote
Social Democrats (SPD)	153 seats 29.8% of vote	143 seats 24.5% of vote	133 seats 21.6% of vote	121 seats 20.4% of vote
Communists (KPD)	54 seats 10.6% of vote	77 seats 13.1% of vote	89 seats 14.3% of vote	100 seats 16.9% of vote

## KEYS TO NAZI SUCCESS

### ROLE OF THE SA

The Nazis were seen as a party of order. The SA fought Communists and disrupted other parties

### THE APPEAL OF HITLER

Powerful speaker, won 13 million votes when ran for President in 1932, travelled round on a plane

### THREAT OF COMMUNISM

Many middle class businessmen and farmers feared Communism and supported the Nazis

### FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT

Politicians failed to deal with the problems of the Depression. Democracy didn't seem to be working

## HITLER MADE CHANCELLOR, JAN 1933

After the election in 1932 the Nazis were the biggest party in the Reichstag. However, Von Papen remained as Chancellor...no support and in election of Nov, 1932 Nazis still the biggest Party. Von Schleicher made Chancellor...no support and lasted a month! 30th Jan, 1933, Hindenburg made Hitler Chancellor thinking that he could control him...they were very wrong!

## KEY KNOWLEDGE—HOW DID HITLER BECOME CHANCELLOR...RECAP

There were many factors that allowed Hitler to become Chancellor of Germany in 1933:

- Hitler's speaking skills      - Nazi propaganda campaigns
- Nazi violence towards opposition      - Nazi policies
- Support from business      - Fear of Communism
- Government failure to deal with the Depression
- Lack of faith in the government      - Impact of the Depression
- The Treaty of Versailles      - Failure of the Weimar system
- Scheming of Hindenburg and Von Papen



However, his position in January 1933 was not strong and few thought he would be able to hold onto power. However, by the summer of 1934 he was the DICTATOR OF GERMANY...how did he do this?



## KEY WORDS

Dictatorship	Reichstag Fire	Van De Lubbe
Enabling Act	Removal	Opposition
Banned	Ernst Rohm	Destroyed
Tyrant	Fuhrer	

## TIMELINE TO DICTATORSHIP

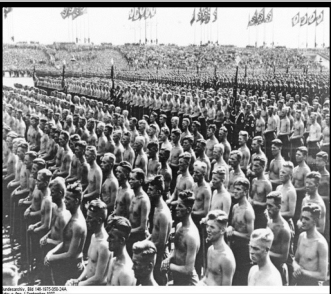
DATE	EVENT	HOW THIS HELPED HITLER
27 Feb - 5 Mar 1933	<b>Reichstag Fire and Reichstag election:</b> on 27 March the Reichstag building was set on fire. A Dutch communist, van der Lubbe, was caught red-handed in the burning building. Days later in the election 44 per cent of the population voted for the Nazis, who won 288 seats in the Reichstag – still not an overall majority. Hitler had to join with the nationalists to form a majority. Speculation that the Nazis started the fire!	Hitler used the fire to persuade Hindenburg to pass an emergency law restricting personal liberty. This enabled him to imprison many communist leaders, which stopped them campaigning during the election. Although the Nazis did not gain the overall majority that Hitler had hoped for in the Reichstag, it gave them enough seats - after Hitler had arrested all the communist deputies and the other parties had been intimidated by the SA - to pass the Enabling Act.
23 Mar 1933	<b>The Enabling Act:</b> with the communist deputies banned and the SA intimidating all the remaining non-Nazi deputies, the Reichstag voted by the required two-thirds majority to give Hitler the right to make laws without the Reichstag's approval for four years.	Arguably this was the critical event during this period. It gave Hitler absolute power to make laws, which enabled him to destroy all opposition to his rule. This removed the Reichstag as a source of opposition.
14 July 1933	<b>Political parties were banned:</b> only the Nazi party was allowed to exist.	Banning political parties made Germany a one-party state and destroyed democracy in the country. This removed other parties as a source of opposition.
30 June 1934	<b>Night of the Long Knives:</b> Many members of the SA, including its leader Ernst Röhm, were demanding that the Nazi party carry out its socialist agenda and that the SA take over the army. Hitler could not afford to annoy businessmen or the army, so the SS (Hitler's personal body guards) murdered around 400 members of the SA, including Röhm, along with a number of Hitler's other opponents like the previous Chancellor, von Schleicher.	This destroyed all opposition to Hitler within the Nazi Party and gave power to the brutal SS. It also showed the rest of the world what a tyrant Hitler was. This removed any internal Nazi Party opposition to Hitler.  
19 Aug 1934	<b>Hitler became Führer:</b> when Hindenburg died, Hitler declared himself jointly president, chancellor and head of the army. Members of the armed forces had to swear a personal oath of allegiance not to Germany, but to Hitler.	This formally made Hitler the absolute ruler of Germany. This neutralised any sources of opposition to Hitler within the army.

# GERMANY 1890-1945

## UNIT 3: EXPERIENCE OF GERMANS UNDER THE NAZIS (PART 1 OF 3)

### THE ECONOMY UNDER THE NAZIS

Hitler and the Nazis partly came to power because they promised to solve the country's main problems—unemployment and a crisis in farming. In return Germans had to give up their political freedoms! This is what the Nazi's did....



### PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

The National Labour Service (DAF) sent men on public works projects—they became part of the RAD (Reich Labour Service) and built the auto-bahns, extended railways, built houses, the Olympic stadium—provided cheap labour and made it look like the Nazis were making a real difference to Germany

### STRENGTH THROUGH JOY

Hitler tried to win the loyalty of workers with a scheme called Strength Through Joy (KDF) - this gave workers cheap theatre and cinema tickets, organised trips and sporting events and even cut price tickets on cruises



### REARMAMENT

In 1935 Hitler introduced conscription for the German Army. In 1936 he announced a 4 year plan to get the economy ready for war—Goering was put in charge of this. Conscription reduced employment as did the need for weapons, equipment etc. He was particularly keen to develop a powerful air-force (LuftWaffe)



### THE PEOPLES CAR

Workers were encouraged to put 5 marks a week into a savings scheme to buy a Volkswagen Beetle. No-one ever received their cars as production was stopped by the war



### WHO BENEFITTED?

Hitler promised and delivered lower unemployment which gave him popularity amongst industrial workers (a crucial group for his ambitions for Germany). There was lots of propaganda aimed at workers to help them feel they were doing their part in making Germany "great again"!

Farmers were helped with guaranteed food prices and rights to keep their land

Big business were pleased about the Nazis getting rid of Communists

### WHO DIDN'T BENEFIT?

Workers lost a lot of freedoms as Trade Unions were abolished and replaced by the German Labour Front—kept strict control of workers

Wages remained low

Nazi opponents were excluded from the prosperity—Jewish businesses were boycotted and then closed down and Jews were banned from many jobs



### KEY KNOWLEDGE—HOW THE WAR CHANGED THINGS

As the war started to go badly for the Germans from 1942 onwards it had a huge economic impact for its people:

Rationing started in 1939 on food and clothes, 1942 onwards the economy totally directed towards war production, German civilians started to suffer with shortages of food and fuel, German cities started to be heavily bombed (the bombings of Berlin and Dresden lowered morale), many died and millions made homeless, many became refugees when fleeing the Russian advance



### KEY WORDS

National Labour Service	auto-bahn	Re-armament
Reich Labour Service	Strength Through Joy	
Conscription	Luftwaffe	Volkswagen
Employment	Un-employment	Trade Unions
Excluded	Boycott	Dresden



## NAZI SOCIAL POLICIES

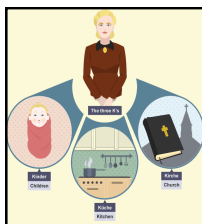
This section is all about what it was like for different groups of people within Nazi Germany and the impact of the policies of the Nazis...

## KEY WORDS

Hitler Youth	League of German Maidens	
Aryan Race	physical fitness	Reich Church
Concordat	Martin Niemoller	Gypsies
Jews	Persecution	Holocaust
Einsatzgruppen	Ghettos	Final Solution

## KEY KNOWLEDGE—WOMEN

All Nazi leaders were men and Hitler had very traditional views on the role of women as wives and mothers. Women's role was summed up as

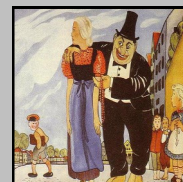


"Kinder, Küche, Kirche" (Children, cooking, church)

The birth rate was falling so incentives were offered for married couples to have 4 children. Birth rate did increase but there was also an increase in pregnancy outside marriage. By 1939 and in the war years many women were encouraged back into work.

## KEY KNOWLEDGE—THE YOUTH

At school children learnt about the history of Germany and how the German army was "stabbed in the back" at the end of WWI and that the hardships of the early 20s were caused by Jews and Communists.



In Biology lessons pupils would have learnt that they were special and as part of the Aryan race were superior to others.

Outside school boys were expected to join the Hitler Youth and girls to join the League of German Maidens

Girls were being prepared for motherhood and boys for the army

The Nazis put a great emphasis on physical fitness—boys would be taught to clean a rifle, go on long marches, read maps and above all to be devoted to Hitler



## KEY KNOWLEDGE—CHURCH AND RELIGION

Hitler set up the Reich Church (a Protestant Church) - not hugely popular and many turned away from these churches when they began to fully realise the evils of some of the Nazi policies

Hitler signed a Concordat (agreement) with the Catholic Church promising not to interfere with the Church as long as they didn't meddle in politics

Some Protestant leaders such as Martin Niemoller stood up to Hitler (although he was sent to a Concentration Camp)

KEY POINT—THERE WERE A NUMBER OF GROUPS OF YOUNGSTERS WHO OPPOSED THE NAZI PARTY (SEE NEXT KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER FOR DETAILS)

## KEY KNOWLEDGE—RACIAL POLICY AND PERSECUTION

The Nazis believed in the superiority of the Aryan Race and Jews, gypsies, homosexuals and mentally and physically disabled people were persecuted and killed in their 1000s. The Holocaust ended up with the deaths of 6 million, largely Jewish, people.

## THE HOLOCAUST

A brief timeline

1935—The Nuremberg Laws passed  
Jews no longer classed as German citizens

1938—Kristallnacht  
Night of violence towards Jewish people—largely carried out by SS

1939—Ghettos  
Jewish population rounded up and put into ghettos

1941—Einsatzgruppen  
1/2 million Jews rounded up and killed by SS death squads

1942—The Wannsee Conference  
Meeting to plan the Final Solution which set in motion the mass killing of Jews in death camps



## THE TERROR STATE

The Nazi's took control of media, restricted culture and dealt ruthlessly with any form of opposition. Nazi Germany was a "Terror State". The Nazi's had a powerful range of organisations and weapons that they used to control Germany and terrorise its own citizens...

## KEY KNOWLEDGE—PROPAGANDA AND CENSORSHIP

Propaganda was a crucial method of keeping control in Nazi Germany—it stressed the importance of the Nazis and the superiority of the German people. Propaganda included controlling the newspapers, radios, films, speeches. Books that didn't reflect Nazi values were burnt

Every year the Nazis put on spectacular shows in Nuremberg to show what a great job they were doing

Goebbels was Minister for Propaganda and had a tight control of all forms of media

The Olympics in 1936 was designed to be the ultimate propaganda victory! (Remember Jesse Owens)



## THE SS

Led by Himmler. Responsible for destroying opposition to the Nazis and carrying out the racial policies of the Nazis. Ran the concentration camps.

## THE GESTAPO

The secret police—led by Heydrich. Could arrest on suspicion and send people to the concentration camps without trial. Myth that they were everywhere and watching everyone—scared people

## CONCENTRATION CAMPS

Set up in the first few months of Hitler's regime and used to detain and terrorise political prisoners and anyone who criticised the Nazi Party could end up in a camp. Brutal conditions and few emerged alive from them.

## POLICE AND LAW COURTS

Top jobs in the police forces were given to Nazis. The Nazis controlled the law courts and judges and could therefore do whatever they wanted!

## OPPOSITION GROUPS



## THE WHITE ROSE GROUP

A group of students at Munich University who used leaflets and posters to criticise the Nazis. Leaders arrested and killed

## THE EDELWEISS PIRATES

Mainly working class teenagers who made fun of the Nazis and their policies. A group were hung in 1944

## THE SWING MOVEMENT

Middle class teenagers who rebelled by listening to Jazz music that the Nazis had banned

## KEY WORDS

SS	Gestapo	Himmler
Concentration camps	Propaganda	Goebbels
Edelweiss Pirates	White Rose Group	Swing Movement
Opposition	Terror State	Nuremberg
Stauffenberg		

## KEY KNOWLEDGE—WHY SO LITTLE OPPOSITION?

Not all were brainwashed and many valued the economic achievements and the stable government

Many were prepared to tolerate the lack of freedoms in return for work and foreign policy success

Many believed that the Nazis were bringing discipline back to Germany

Many were scared of losing their jobs if they spoke up

## THE STAUFFENBERG PLOT, 1944

The plot to kill Hitler that came closest to success—organised by army officers. Their bomb went off and Hitler was only slightly injured. All the plotters were executed and the SS rounded up 5000 opponents who were tortured and killed.