

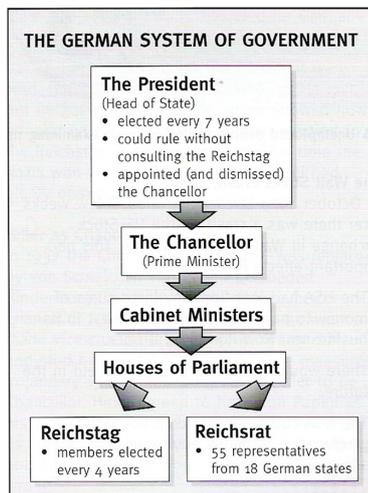
OCR History

What to Revise

Depth Study

Germany

c.1918–1945



Germany c. 1918-1945

These are the key areas that you must know and have confident knowledge of in the exam.

<p>Germany at the end of World War 1</p> <p>Reasons for the Armistice</p> <p>Treaty of Versailles</p>	<p>The Weimar Republic</p> <p>How it worked</p> <p>Strengths and Weaknesses</p>	<p>Economic Problems 1918—1923</p> <p>Hyperinflation</p>	<p>Political Problems 1918 - 1923</p> <p>Left and Right wing Politics</p> <p>Spartacists & Freikorps Uprisings</p>
<p>Early Years of Nazi Party</p> <p>Munich Putsch 1923</p> <p>Consequences</p> <p>What did Hitler learn from this?</p>	<p>Years of Recovery 1924—1928</p> <p>Role of Stresemann</p> <p>Financial Recovery</p> <p>Improved Relations with other Nations</p>	<p>Weaknesses within the Recovery</p> <p>"Dancing on a Volcano"</p>	<p>Nazi Philosophies</p> <p>Reorganisation of the Nazi party 1924— 1928</p>
<p>The Wall Street Crash 1929</p> <p>Great Depression — Effects on Germany—why was this so catastrophic for Germany?</p>	<p>Nazis on the Rise</p> <p>Increasing Popularity</p> <p>Posters, promises, propaganda</p>	<p>Why was Hitler made Chancellor in 1933?</p> <p>Own actions or outside events?</p>	<p>Consolidation of Power & Removal of the Opposition</p> <p>Reichstag Fire</p> <p>Enabling Act</p> <p>Night of the Long Knives etc</p>
<p>The Nazi Police State—Fear and Terror</p> <p>The SS</p> <p>The Gestapo</p> <p>Concentration Camps</p>	<p>Censorship and Propaganda</p> <p>Press</p> <p>Arts</p> <p>Radio & Cinema</p> <p>Sport (Berlin Olympics)</p>	<p>Young People in Nazi Germany</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>Youth Movements</p>	<p>The Nazi Expectation of women</p> <p>Children, Kitchen, Church</p>
<p>The Nazis and Control of Religion</p> <p>Catholic Church</p> <p>Protestant Church</p>	<p>The Economy</p> <p>Did Hitler keep his promise to get rid of unemployment?</p> <p>Did the Standard of Living Improve?</p>	<p>Persecution</p> <p>Jews, Gypsies & 'Social Undesirables' & 'Socially Useless'</p>	<p>How did the Coming of Total War change things in Nazi Germany?</p>

The situation in Germany at the end of World War One

Brief and to the point

Germany's Kaiser (Emperor) fled Germany when it was clear the war was lost and Germany was in chaos. The country asked for an Armistice. The country was bankrupt and many people were starving. The allies (Britain, France, USA) offered peace but on strict terms. One condition was that Germany should become a democracy. The Chancellor (Friedrich Egbert) of the new democratic republic signed the armistice. The allies also imposed very harsh peace terms on Germany—the Treaty of Versailles.

In more detail—Why did Germany Request an Armistice?

- British navy blockading German ports—preventing supplies getting in
- Shortage of weapons for the troops
- Shortage of food for the German population
- Public unrest—strikes
- German navy mutinied (refused to follow orders)
- Kaiser abdicated and left for Holland

What peace terms were imposed on Germany? The Treaty of Versailles

- Germany had to accept the blame (the war guilt clause)
- Germany had to pay reparations (compensation) of £6600 million to the allies
- Germany lost all its overseas territories (colonies)
- Germany lost land—13% of its European territory including Alsace Lorraine which was given to France. Some land given to Poland which cut the Eastern part of Germany off from the rest of it. 6 million people were also lost to other countries.
- Germany was not allowed to have any troops in the Rhineland (the part of Germany that bordered France)
- Military forces severely cut—only 100,000 soldiers, no aircraft, tanks or submarines
- Navy only allowed 6 battle ships, 6 cruisers, 12 destroyers and 12 torpedo boats
- Germany banned from uniting with Austria which was a German speaking neighbour.

This treaty was seen as a **diktat**—the Germans had no choice but to sign or face the war beginning again. Despite the fact they had no choice, the German people bitterly resented their new democratic government for signing this treaty. They said it was a **Dolchstoss—a stab in the back**. These politicians became known as the **November Criminals** (as they signed the armistice in Nov 1918)

The resentment against these politicians followed the new democratic government all the way to its final collapse in 1933.

Key Vocabulary and Terms you must know

Armistice Treaty of Versailles Reparations Diktat Dolchstoss
November Criminals Colonies

The Weimar Republic—a new government

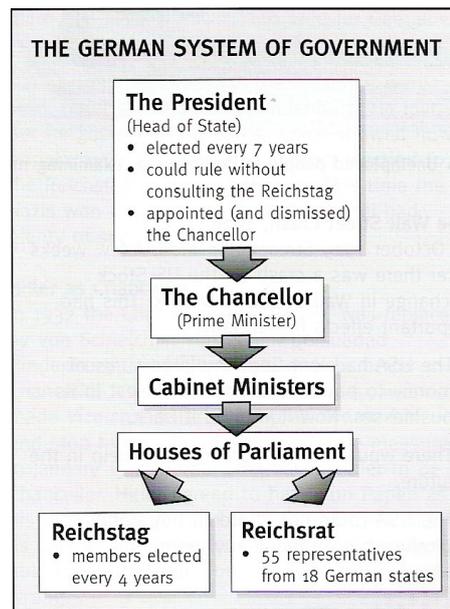
Brief and to the point

The new democratic government was called the Weimar Republic (so called because it had to relocate to Weimar as Berlin was too unstable to govern from to start with) This new republic was the first democratic government Germany had ever had.

The Chancellor and later President was Friedrich Ebert. He was however to face serious challenges from extreme right wing and left wing groups within Germany. The republic attempted to create a fair and democratic constitution but it contained flaws that would later be exploited and help cause it to collapse.

The New Weimar Government—How it Worked

The President could use Article 48 to pass laws by decree (by himself) if the Reichstag could not agree. He could also take control of the army



Members of the Reichstag voted for every 4 years by all men and women over 20

Proportional Representation was used. This meant each political party gained seats in the Reichstag depending on the proportion of the votes they got

Weaknesses of the Constitution:

Proportional representation made it difficult for one party to get a **majority**. Weimar governments were usually weak coalitions of parties who had different ideas about how the country should be run. No party in the life of the Weimar Republic ever got more than 50% of the vote cast, so all governments had to be coalitions (a coalition is where two or more parties agree to work together and form a government.) It was rare for these to last long. **Between 1919 and 1932 Germany had 21 different governments. During the 1920's there were up to 28 different parties in the Reichstag. Some of these were extreme right wing and left wing parties who wanted to destroy democracy.**

If those parties could not compromise and agree then the President ruled by decree (deciding on new laws himself). This gave the impression the new government and constitu-

Key Vocabulary and Terms you must know

Reichstag

Proportional Representation

Coalition

Compromise

Article 48

Friedrich Ebert

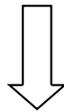
Economic Problems 1918–1923

Brief and to the point

The Weimar Republic inherited a bankrupt Germany. The war had meant all Germany's reserves had gone. This situation soon was made much worse by the conditions of the Treaty of Versailles. Germany lost wealth making areas, rich in natural resources like coal to the allies, the reparations would spell ruin for Germany. When they refused to pay, the French invaded the industrial area of the Ruhr. It did France little good but crippled Germany, causing further huge economic problems—hyper inflation.

The development of hyper inflation

- The Germans refused to pay their reparations payments
- In retaliation French and Belgium troops invaded the Ruhr and confiscated raw materials, goods, machinery
- German workers in that area (encouraged by the government) went on strike and even sabotaged (smashed up) some machinery and factories to stop production
- French arrested them and brought in their own workers
- Germans hated the French for this and the disruption caused debts, unemployment and shortages of goods.



Consequences

- These shortages meant the price of things went up—people had to pay more to get what they needed.
- Govt was receiving less money from taxes because of the unemployment and closed factories caused by the Ruhr crisis. Their income from taxes was only a quarter of what was required.
- In response the government printed more money, flooding the market with valueless currency. In 1923 there were 300 paper mills and 2000 print shops used solely to print money
- It was a vicious circle—the more prices rose, the more money was printed and this made prices rise again.
- By 1923 there was spectacular hyperinflation. A loaf of bread cost 100,000 million marks

Effects of Hyper Inflation



Everyone suffered from shortages as the currency became worthless compared to other currencies—no foreign companies would trade with Germany



People found it hard to buy what they needed—money had to be carried around in wheelbarrows and lost value even within the same hour



People with savings were hit hardest—savings, investments, pensions—their value was wiped out

Key Vocabulary and Terms you must know

Hyper Inflation

Ruhr region

Sabotage

Bankruptcy

Political Problems 1918–1923

Brief and to the point

Many within Germany regarded the Weimar Republic as weak. By 1919 soldiers were returning home to no jobs, most Germans were suffering from food shortages. These conditions meant the government came under attack from both left wing and right wing groups who had very different ideas as to how the country should be run. Groups from both sides tried to take control of Berlin. The left wing Spartacists and the Freikorps led by Wolfgang Kapp. Many political groups and parties started to have their own private armies (made up of returning soldiers who refused to give up their weapons) The situation was dangerous and fraught. There were 376 political murders between 1919 and 1922.

In more detail—

What did those on the extreme right wing of politics want?

- Stable society, strong government, supported capitalism and private ownership, hate communism, stress traditional values.
- *In Germany the right wing hated the Weimar Republic, they felt it had abandoned the army in 1918. They hated communists and feared a communist Revolution like had happened in Russia. They also wanted to tear up Treaty of Versailles.*

What did those on the extreme left wing of politics want?

- Rapid change, to treat all people as equals, to give political power to workers, they were against capitalism, and wanted to abolish private ownership.
- *In Germany they wanted a communist revolution like the one in Russia in 1917, wanted to abolish the power of the land owning classes, more power for the workers*

The Spartacists—a left wing threat

6th Jan 1919—100,000 communists took control of key buildings in Berlin.

Led by Rosa Luxembourg and Karl Liebknecht.

Ebert's government used the Freikorps to put down this revolt. Several 1000 Spartacists were arrested or killed.

Leaders both killed

Ebert deplored this violence but had been prepared to use the right wing Freikorps to crush this rebellion.

The Freikorps—a right wing threat (also known as the Kapp Putsch)

The threats continue, this time by the same people used to put down the last uprising Led by Wolfgang Kapp, 5000 Freikorps (ex soldiers who hate the Weimar Republic and are still armed) and right wing supporters march on Berlin in 1920 to overthrow the government

Government had to flee and for a time rebels controlled the city.

Ebert encouraged workers to strike and they did as they had no wish to see a right wing victory. Berlin ground to a halt and Kapp fled when he realised he did not have enough support.

Key Vocabulary and Terms you must know

Rosa Luxembourg
Communists

Karl Liebknecht
Right wing

Wolfgang Kapp
Left wing

Spartacists

Freikorps

The Early Years of the Nazi Party

1920—1923

Brief and to the point

Hitler had fought bravely in World War 1 and was bitterly disappointed when Germany asked for an Armistice. In 1919 he joined the DAP, this later became the Nazi party. In 1921 Hitler became the leader of the National Socialist German Workers party—the NSDAP (or Nazis) He quickly gained a reputation as a good public speaker and played upon the German people's bitterness, anger and frustration over their tough lives very successfully when times were hard.

In 1919, Hitler had joined the German Workers Party (DAP) that had been set up by Anton Drexler. Here he discovered he had a talent for public speaking. This party became the Nazis. Their standard themes were;

- Germany had been stabbed in the back by their new government
- Disgust at the Treaty of Versailles
- Hatred of the Weimar Republic
- The belief that Communists and Jews trying to destroy Germany

Hitler and Drexler devised a 25 point programme. These points included

- The union of all Germans to form a greater Germany
- Scrapping of Treaty of Versailles
- Citizenship only given to those of German blood. No Jews will be allowed to be a citizen of Germany
- Only German citizens allowed to vote
- Any land needed for communal purposes seized. No compensation
- All non Germans who entered after 1914 to leave

Hitler became the leader in 1921. He introduced the Swastika emblem and the raised arm salute. He formed the private army of the Nazi party, the SA (or brownshirts/ stormtroopers) to disrupt and undermine the other parties especially the communists. (Often with physical intimidation and violence)

The party became relatively successful in Bavaria in southern Germany. One of the reasons why was Hitler's ability as a speaker. He was able to play on the anger felt by many Germans over their defeat in the First World War and the hardship they were suffering. By 1923, Hitler's 35,000 brown shirts were pressing him to seize power.

Key Vocabulary and Terms you must know

DAP NSDAP

Anton Drexler

Swastika

The Early Years of the Nazi Party

The Beer Hall or Munich Putsch 1923

Brief and to the point

Hitler launched an attempt to seize power in Bavaria in the city of Munich. He then intended to march on Berlin with the aim of seizing control of the whole country. The attempt failed and Hitler was sentenced to 5 years in prison (although only served 9 months) During his time in prison he wrote *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle)

In more detail:

- **The plan:** Remove the 'disgraced' Weimar Republic. 1st step to seize control of Bavaria and Munich then march on Berlin and remove the government.
 -
 - **The reality:** Hitler and 600 Nazi stormed and seized the Beer Hall in Munich where a meeting was taking place. Captured the leader of the Bavarian Government (von Kahr) , the chief of Police and the head of the Bavarian Army. Got promises of support from them at gunpoint....
 - Next day they resisted and organised troops against the Nazis. In the battle that followed 16 Nazi supporters and 3 policeman were killed. Nazis overwhelmed and arrested. Hitler arrested and tried for treason . At his trial he got lots of publicity. He stated he was just trying to restore German pride and was resisting the weak and feeble Weimar government.
 - Hitler was found guilty of treason and sentenced to 5 years in prison. He served 9 months. Whilst in jail he wrote *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle)
 - His trial gained the Nazis a lot of publicity and his sentence was very light suggesting there was support or sympathy from the judge for the Nazi views
- **Hitler's Beliefs**
- Hitler believed that to be successful, his party needed one all-powerful leader ('fuhrer') - in other words, Hitler himself!
 - Hitler now stated that attempting to take power by force would never destroy the system. Instead, it would be necessary to "hold our noses and enter the Reichstag [parliament]" - in other words, get elected and then destroy the system from within.

Key words and phrases you must know:

Mein Kampf

Beer Hall (or Munich) Putsch

Reichstag

Germany's Years of Recovery 1924–1929

Brief and to the point

In these years 1918–1923 Germany had faced massive problems—Economic (the massive inflation). Political (the extremist groups and political unrest) and Diplomatic (bad relations with its ex enemies) A skilled politician called Gustav Stresemann helped deal effectively with these problems. His skill meant the moderate political parties combined to support him. Consequently the years 1924–1929 saw important recovery and increased stability within Germany

Economic Recovery

Stresemann abolished the currency and issued a new one—the Rentenmark. This increased confidence in Germany at home and abroad.

The Dawes Plan 1924—a new reparations plan

- Stresemann agreed the Dawes Plan with America. This plan dealt with the reparations issue:
- Annual repayments reduced to a more affordable level
- American banks agreed to invest in German industry
- This reassured the allies they would get their reparations so the French agreed to leave the Ruhr
- Led to doubling of industrial output, imports and exports increased, unemployment reduced, government got more taxes

The Young Plan 1929

- This made further progress with reparations issue
- Reduced debt from £6.6 billion to £2 billion
- Germany given an extra 59 years to repay it all (until 1988)
- This made it possible to lower taxes and increase people's spending power which boosted the economy

Key Vocabulary and Terms you must know

Rentenmark

Dawes Plan

Young Plan

Gustav Stresemann

Germany's Years of Recovery 1924—1929 cont....

Improvements in International Relations with other Nations

The Locarno Pact 1925

- Stresemann signed this pact. It was between Germany, Britain, France Italy and Belgium,
- Germany agreed to keep to the 1919 border with France and Belgium (the one decided in the Treaty of Versailles)
- In return, France promised peace with Germany
- The other countries agreed to talk about Germany joining the League of Nations

The League of Nations

- This had been set up at the end of the war as a powerful body to discuss problems and to try and prevent war. Germany had not been allowed to join in 1919
- Stresemann persuaded the other nations to accept Germany as a member in 1926. This showed Germany was being accepted again by other European nations.

Kellogg-Briand Pact

- Germany was one of 65 countries to sign this. These countries promised not to use war against each other in the future. (Memories of World War One horrors a main reason for this pact)
- This again showed Germany was starting to be seen as a respectable country again by others.
- However nothing was said about what would happen if a country broke this pact.

Cultural Recovery in Weimar Germany

- Germany recovered in other ways too.
- In Germany during this period painting, architecture and design flourished. Berlin became a centre for theatre and plays. It became a very hip and happening place and rivalled Paris as the cultural capital of Europe.
- However some people disapproved of all the new shows and nightclubs and thought it showed Germany was becoming immoral and corrupt.

So, Stresemann's success was that:

- More in Germany gained confidence in the Weimar Republic
- There was economic stability
- Germany position with other nations improved
- He had support of moderate parties so laws could be passed and action taken
- New industries were set up—cars, telephones, radios airships ocean liners etc were built
- The Arts flourished (films, drama, song, architecture and art)
- Entertainment—Berlin became known as a good time place, liberal with lots of freedom
- PARTIES THAT FED ON DESPERATE CONDITIONS IN GERMANY DECLINED: VOTES FOR THE NAZIS FELL - BY 1928 THEY WERE IN A POLITICAL WILDERNESS (only 2% of seats in the Reichstag)

Key Vocabulary and Terms you must know

Locarno Pact

League of Nations

Kellogg-Briand Pact

Nazis in the Wilderness 1924 -1928

Brief and to the point

The economic recovery brought about by Stresemann brought a time of relative wealth, peace and prosperity to Germany. In this sort of climate people were not so prepared to turn to extremist ideas and support for the Nazis fell dramatically. By 1928 the Nazis only had 12 seats in the Reichstag (2%)

In more detail:

After his release from prison, Hitler set about reorganising the Nazi party. He set up local Nazi party branches, the Hitler Youth was created and the SS was set up in 1925, personally loyal to Hitler. Hitler also put Goebbels in charge of propaganda.

Despite Hitler's efforts, the Nazis remained a minor political force. Nazi party support fell during the 'golden years'. Hitler seemed to be offering desperate remedies to problems which the German people did not have any more. (Not during the Stresemann years)

In 1924 they had 5% of the seats in the Reichstag.

In 1928 they had less than 2% - even the Communists had four times as many seats!

Key words and phrases you must know:

Propaganda

Goebbels

Awful Years again The Great Depression 1929 - 32

Brief and to the point

Stresemann died of a heart attack early in October 1929. Two weeks later the Wall Street Crash occurred in America. The value of shares crashed dramatically. \$4,000 million were lost in a week. This was to have disastrous effects for Germany.

Was the recovery before 1929 all it seemed?

Germany was dangerously over reliant on American money and loans. Stresemann himself said:

“The economic position is only flourishing on the surface. Germany is in fact dancing on a volcano. If the short-term credits are called in, a large section of our economy will collapse...”



The Wall Street Crash, the fall in share prices and the recalling of the loans proved him right.

Impact on Germany of the Wall Street Crash

- Banks invest heavily in shares so when the shares lost their value the banks lost loads of money too. People rushed to get their money back—some banks ran out of cash
- America urgently wanted back the money they had lent - Germany was dependent on these loans. For German companies this meant closure or a drastic cut back in staffing etc.
- Unemployment inevitably followed
- The middle classes lost their homes, businesses, savings
- People demanded action from the government. The chancellor from 1930 -32 was Brüning. He upset those in work by raising taxes to pay for unemployment benefit. He upset those out of work by reducing unemployment benefit.
- Political parties could not agree on how to deal with the crisis. The suffering was out of government control.
- The unemployed roamed the streets, the private armies of the political parties grew further and violence was commonplace.
- Brüning resigned in 1932, leaving a dangerous power vacuum for someone to step into.

Key Vocabulary and Terms you must know

Dawes Plan

Locarno pact

Rentmark

Economic Recovery

Nazis on the Rise 1928—1933

Brief and to the point

The single most important factor in Hitler's rise to power was the Depression. It was a factor he could turn to his advantage and made many Germans prepared to listen to his extremist politics. Other factors did play a part but the Depression gave Hitler the platform he needed. By 1932, 6 million German people were out of work and desperate.

In more detail:

The Wall St Crash in America set up a domino effect across the world. American banks and lenders wanted their money back and other countries could not afford to give it back. Bankruptcy, unemployment and misery followed. Due to the huge loans Germany had from America the situation was particularly bad there. The Weimar Republic seemed unable to deal with the problems or even agree on a strategy—this angered the German people and made them lose faith in their democratic government. They had blamed the Weimar Republic for the defeat and the humiliation at the end of the war, for the inflation in 1923, and now this.. In this context the Nazis began to increase their support

Why did the Nazis win support during this period:

- The SA. They grew in size and continued to use violence, breaking up opponents' meetings and beating people up. This helped Hitler because it increased the idea that the Weimar government could not keep law and order. Also many middle classes and rich people who were scared stiff of communism were pleased to see the Nazi hostility to Communists and supported and funded Nazi campaigns.
- Nazi uniforms and processions gave an impression of discipline, order and purpose in a time of chaos.
- Nazi policies gave the German people someone to blame: Jews and the Weimar politicians. They offered strong leadership, promised to make Germany great again, to rip up the Versailles treaty and end unemployment.
- Propaganda and Hitler's ability as a speaker. Nazi propaganda was way ahead of their opponents—torchlight processions, huge rallies, films, concerts etc. It was modern, impressive and purposeful. Hitler's skills as a speaker convinced many that only he could save Germany and solve her problems

Did Hitler become Chancellor in 1933 through his own actions or through external factors????

Key words and phrases you must know:

Wall St Crash

The Depression

Versailles treaty

Propaganda

Nazis on the Rise

What happened in 1932—33?

Brief and to the point

Due to the inability of coalition governments to rule effectively and make purposeful decisions, there were several elections across 1932—33 trying to gain one party a clear majority. President Hindenburg initially makes his friend, von Papen, Chancellor rather than Hitler. Later they decide they will be able to control Hitler and make him Chancellor in order to get the support from the Nazis in the Reichstag. This was a huge mistake. Once he was Chancellor, Hitler took steps to complete a Nazi takeover of Germany, within a few months Hitler was in total control and democracy in Germany was finished.

In more detail:

- In May 1932, President Hindenburg appointed von Papen as Chancellor. (he was leader of Centre Party) but did not have enough support to rule effectively. So he called an election in July 1932 hoping to increase the number of seats his party had. This did not work so he tried again with another election in Nov 1932. He ended up with less seats so resigned. Von Schleicher replaces him as Chancellor but he can't get a majority either. All this puts pressure on Hindenburg to make Hitler Chancellor as he is now the leader of the biggest party.
 - By January 1933 Hindenburg has little choice but to make Hitler Chancellor. He tries to limit his power by making von Papen the Vice Chancellor.
 - After Hitler was made Chancellor, yet more elections were called for March 1933—the third in nine months. The police were now largely under SA control and there was massive Nazi violence—at least 50 anti Nazis were killed.
 - A week before the elections came the **Reichstag Fire**. A communist (van da Lubbe) was found inside the building and using this as an excuse, claiming it was the beginnings of a communist revolution, Hitler persuaded Hindenburg to declare a state of emergency and Hitler issued the Decree for the Protection of the People and the State. This gave him the powers to suspend the civil rights of German citizens and arrest anyone suspected of opposing the government. Using these powers, 4,000 Communists were arrested and the Communists were banned. In this un democratic situation the Nazis won 288 seats in the Reichstag in March 1933 and were the biggest party. This fire gave Hitler the perfect opportunity to go after the Communists. Some historians believe the Nazis started the fire themselves then framed van da Lubbe. Either way, Hitler seized the opportunity.
 - Next came the **Enabling Act** which gave Hitler the power to pass any law he wanted, without the need to consult the Reichstag. This new law was passed by 444 votes to 94. Reichstag members were intimidated into voting for it. (The SA were stood outside chanting 'Give us the Act or else fire and murder.')
- Other Reichstag members stayed away or had been beaten up. Hitler used this Act to ban Trade Unions and all other political parties.

Key words and phrases you must know:

Reichstag Fire

Enabling Act

Ernst Rohm

von Papen

Nazis on the Rise Cont...

What happened in 1932–33? Cont.....

In more detail:

- Next Hitler needed to make sure he had no rivals or challenges on his power. Rohm, the leader of the SA was a potential threat as was the SA itself, the very people who had helped Hitler seize power. However they were becoming a very large force and very poorly disciplined. Hitler started to see them as a rabble with far too much loyalty to Rohm rather than to him. He now had the SS to do his bidding.
- In June 1934 Rohm and over 400 SA members were brutally executed by the SS. This became known as the **Night of the Long Knives**. Hitler was clearly acting illegally by murdering his rivals for power. This pleased the army who saw the SA as a potential threat to their power and status. The SA never regained its influence and from this point the SS, personally loyal to Hitler, became the organisation of the Nazi regime.
- Hitler used this opportunity to get rid of some old political opponents—for example von Schleicher (previous Chancellor) was murdered
- Few people knew the true story and many were grateful that the brutal thugs of the SA appeared to have been restrained. It was very carefully reported in the Nazi controlled newspapers
- In August 1934 Hindenburg died. Soon after this Hitler took up the title **Fuhrer** (the leader) and combined the jobs of President and Chancellor. Germany was now a dictatorship.
- The **army now swore a personal oath** to Hitler, promising to defend him with their lives. In return Hitler promised to ignore the Treaty of Versailles and make the German military strong and powerful again.

Key words and phrases you must know:

Reichstag Fire	Enabling Act
Ernst Rohm	von Papen
The Night of the Long Knives	
Hindenburg	Der Fuhrer

Nazi Control of Germany—Fear and Terror 1933—1945

Brief and to the point

There was to be no opposition of any kind in Nazi Germany. The aim was to create a totalitarian state. In a totalitarian state there can be no rival parties, no political debate, no criticism or opposition. The Nazis had a range of organisations and weapons they used to control Germany and to terrorise Germans into silence and submission.

In more detail:

The following all helped create the totalitarian state Hitler wanted:

The SS—members were fanatically loyal to Hitler and after virtually destroying the SA in the 1934, it grew into a huge organisation with many responsibilities.. It was led by Heinrich Himmler. SS men were Aryans, and highly trained . Their main roles were to destroy opposition to Nazism and to carry out the racial policies of the Nazis. They later were responsible for carrying out the Final Solution.

There were two important sub divisions of the SS

- i) The Death's Head unit—they were responsible for the concentration camps and the slaughter of the Jews and other minorities
- ii) The Waffen-SS—these were special SS armoured regiments which fought alongside the regular army.

The Gestapo— These were the secret state police and were the most feared by the ordinary German citizen. They had huge powers. They could arrest citizens and send them to concentration camps without trial or explanation.

The Police and the Courts—these helped support the Nazi dictatorship. Top police jobs were given to high ranking Nazis. Crimes committed by Nazis were ignored. The Nazis also controlled judges, magistrates and the courts so opponents of Nazism rarely received a fair trial.

Concentration Camps

These were the Nazis ultimate weapon against their own people. Prisoners were forced to do hard labour. Food was limited and prisoners suffered harsh discipline, beatings and random executions. By the late 1930's they were common and few people emerged from them alive. Jews, Socialists, Communists, trade unionists, churchmen and anyone else who did not fit in Hitler's regime or were brave enough to criticise the Nazis ended up there. Later came the Death camps once the Final Solution had been decided on. (6 purpose built in Poland)

Key words and phrases you must know:

Totalitarian state **Heinrich Himmler**

Gestapo

SS

Concentration Camps

Why was there so little open opposition to the Nazis? 1933—1945

Brief and to the point

The Nazis faced relatively little open opposition from the German people. Any complaining or criticism was done in private. Terror was obviously one reason why people were afraid to speak out but that does not explain it all. It takes more than just terror to explain 12 years of relative silence from the German people.

In more detail:

Terror

As we have seen this played a part with organisations such as the Gestapo, SS and Concentration Camps operational.

'It's for the Good of Germany'

Many were prepared to overlook the rule by terror and their loss of rights and freedoms because they admired and were grateful for other aspects of Nazi rule. The Nazis were generally seen as a strong government that brought about economic recovery, discipline, and restored German pride. To many these things were more important.

Why was there little open opposition to the Nazis?

'I don't want to lose my job, - Economic fears

People were terrified of being out of work again after the Depression. Bosses who did not contribute to Nazi Party funds risked losing business and going bankrupt. If you asked no questions and kept your head down, life could be relatively comfortable for some.

'Have you heard the good news? - Propaganda

The propaganda regime of the Nazis ensured many Germans found out nothing about the bad things and the 'glories' of the Nazis were hugely promoted through rallies, the newspapers, the radio and cinema and so on. Newspapers were not allowed to print anything without Nazi permission.

Key words and phrases you must know:

Propaganda

The expression—"You have to take the rough with the smooth." sums up how many Germans thought about Nazi rule.

Censorship and Propaganda

Brief and to the point

Censorship—controlling what you allow people to know (through censoring newspapers etc)

Propaganda— using posters, films and other methods to make sure you get people thinking and believing what you want them to think, using powerful slogans and visual images

Josef Goebbels— Hitler's minister of propaganda

In more detail:

- **Largest propaganda event was the Berlin Olympics of 1936.** Everything carefully stage managed. Largest stadium in the world built. News carefully controlled. Anti Jewish slogans and posters removed during the games so people got a positive impression of this 'new' Germany.
- **The Media**— Radio brought under Nazi control. All broadcasts had to go through Goebbels' department. Public places and workplaces had speakers erected so everyone could hear government announcements and speeches. Radios deliberately cheap so most families could afford one. Newspapers had to be Nazi controlled ones. All others (including foreign press) banned.
- **Films** at cinema were vetted and checked to ensure they fitted with the Nazi ideas
- **Books** not approved of by the Nazis were burnt in mass burnings. Over 2,500 writers were banned.
- **Education** controlled and university courses only permitted if they suited Nazi ideas. Generally the Nazis were not fans of Higher Education and many courses were banned
- **Theatre, Art, Music** all similarly controlled. Traditional music encouraged. Jazz and blues banned. (Black music)

If you wanted to hear a view different to those of the Nazis it would have been very difficult or dangerous to seek out different ideas or opinions. Hitler wanted to control what everyone thought.

Key words and phrases you must know:

Propaganda

Censorship

Goebbels

Women in Nazi Germany 1933—1945

Brief and to the point

Women in Germany during the 1920's (before the Nazis) had made quite a lot of progress both in terms of jobs and socially as well. It became much more acceptable for women to work in certain professions and to go out and have a good time without a male escort. However, the Nazi's view of women was very different and was very traditional.. Women had main one role as far as the Nazis were concerned and that was to produce the Master Race. Women at home producing children also helped reduce unemployment among men as well.

In more detail:

The three Ks—**Kinder, Kirche and Kuche** summed up the Nazi view (children, church and cooking)

The Nazi Ideal Woman—no make up, blonde, not too skinny (no good for having children) did not smoke, took no interest in politics, did not work, wore flat shoes and a full skirt, interested in her family and her household duties. Massive amounts of propaganda was produced to persuade women to follow these ideals.

They were also encouraged choose husbands carefully, checking out their 'blood line' and ancestors.

Marriage and the Family—the Nazis were worried about the drop in the birth rate so a huge campaign was launched. The key points were;

- **1933—the Law for the Encouragement of Marriage.** Loans were given out to married couples and for every child you had, you could keep 25% of the loan.
- Medals given out on Hitler's mother's birthday to women with large families
- 1938—A new law allowed a man or a woman to divorce if their spouse could not have children
- **Lebensborn programme (life springs) set up**—specially chosen unmarried women could 'donate a baby to the Fuhrer' by getting pregnant by racially pure SS men

However, by 1937, the Nazis were finding they needed to reverse these policies. Germany was rearming, men were joining the army and women were needed to take their place. The marriage loan was abolished, and a 'duty year' was introduced for women to do. This usually meant working on a farm etc in return for bed and board but no pay. This change of policy was not very successful. It was also very confused. In 1943 all women aged 17—45 were called up to work, though many refused. At the same time, all German women, married or single were ordered to have four children.

Key words and phrases you must know:

The 3 Ks—Kinder, Kirche, Kuche
Law for the Encouragement of Marriage
Lebensborn programme

Education and Young People in Nazi Germany 1933—1945

Brief and to the point

The youth of Germany were the future of the Nazi regime according to Hitler. Therefore they had to be converted to Nazi ideas and beliefs. This was achieved through control of schools and education and through organisations such as the Hitler Youth. The whole school curriculum was redeveloped to ensure loyalty to the Nazis and the teaching of their policies and beliefs.

In more detail:

- Teachers had to swear an oath of loyalty to Hitler and had to promote Nazi ideals in the classroom else face being sacked and arrested.
- Curriculum—there was lots of PE to ensure strong, fit and healthy future adults. The emphasis with the boys was preparation for the military and for the girls preparation for motherhood and a role as a homemaker. New subjects such as **race studies** were taught. Pupils were taught that Aryans were superior and Jews were inferior.
- Textbooks—these were rewritten to emphasise past German glories and to promote the idea of Jews as the enemy of Europe throughout history. *Mein Kampf* became a standard text.
- Lessons began with an allegiance pledged to Hitler and Nazi themes were there in every subject, even within Maths exam questions and illustrations in books.

Outside of school, Hitler controlled the young through the various groups for boys and girls that were part of the **Hitler Youth Movement**. Membership became compulsory in 1936 and all other youth groups were banned. Boys took part in sport, hiking, camping, map reading, military skills. Girls were similar except a lot less on military training and a lot more on domestic skills (sewing, cooking etc)

So successful was Hitler's attempt to control the minds of the young that often young people were more loyal to Hitler than they were to their own parents. There were many examples of children reporting their parents to the *Gestapo*.

However, by the late 1930's it seems the appeal of the Nazi Youth was reducing a little and rebel groups appeared that listened to banned music, wore their hair in unapproved of styles and refused to idolise Hitler as was required. The **Edelweiss Pirates** was one such group but there were others. Some members of that group were hanged when a plot was discovered to attack the *Gestapo* in Cologne. At other times the Nazis seemed unsure what to do with rebel groups of young people

Key words and phrases you must know:

Hitler Youth

Edelweiss Pirates

Racism and the Treatment of Minorities in Nazi Germany 1933—1945

Brief and to the point

Racism, particularly anti-Semitism (hatred of Jews) was something that Hitler picked up early in his life and carried with him to the end. It had been present in Europe for centuries but Hitler had the power and technology to take it to extremes. He used the Jews as scapegoats and through propaganda made ordinary Germans turn against the Jews and support a policy of persecution. Nazi propaganda taught that the superior Aryan race was being contaminated by those he saw as sub human.

In more detail:

Hitler believed that Germany's future was dependent on the creation of a pure Aryan racial state. This would be achieved by:

- Selective breeding
- Destroying the Jews

Measures taken against the Jews::

1933

April—SA organise a boycott of Jewish shops and businesses

1000s of Jewish government workers,, lawyers and university teachers sacked

May—Jewish books burnt

1934

Local councils banned Jews from public places such as parks, playing fields and swimming pools

1935

May—Jews banned from army

June—Restaurants closed to Jews

September—The Nuremburg Laws were passed. These included measures that excluded Jews from being German Citizens, they lost their right to vote and sexual relations and marriage between Jews and German citizens were banned.

1936

April—Jews banned from professional jobs including dentists, teachers, vets, nurses etc

July -August—A lull in anti-Jewish campaign whilst the Berlin Olympics were taking place

1937

Sept—Hitler makes a speech publicly attacking the Jews and more and more Jewish businesses are seized

1938

Jews have to carry identity cards, have yellow stars sewn on their clothes, have the red letter 'J' stamped in their passport. All aimed at making them extremely visible and conspicuous

Key words and phrases you must know:

Anti-Semitism

Scapegoat

Nuremburg Laws

Racism and the Treatment of Minorities in Nazi Germany 1933—1945 cont....

Brief and to the point

Racism, particularly anti-Semitism (hatred of Jews) was something that Hitler picked up early in his life and carried with him to the end. It had been present in Europe for centuries but Hitler had the power and technology to take it to extremes. He used the Jews as scapegoats and through propaganda made ordinary Germans turn against the Jews and support a policy of persecution. Nazi propaganda taught that the superior Aryan race was being contaminated by those he saw as sub human.

In more detail:

Kristallnacht—9th November 1938

On 8th November, a young Polish Jew shot a German official at the German Embassy in Paris. He was protesting about the treatment his parents had received in Germany. Goebbels used this an opportunity to organise anti Jewish demonstrations which involved attacks on Jewish property, shops, homes and synagogues. So many windows were smashed it became known as the 'Night of the Broken Glass' Over 100 Jews were killed and 20,000 were sent to concentration camps

Many Germans were disgusted at Kristallnacht. Hitler and Goebbels were anxious that it should not be seen as the work of the Nazis. Instead they portrayed it as a spontaneous act of vengeance by Germans. Hitler officially blamed the Jews themselves for having provoked the attack and fined them one billion Reich marks as compensation for the damage caused.

Which other groups were persecuted?

Ideal Germans were 'socially useful' in that they had a job and contributed to the state. Every one else was seen as worthless and expensive to the state and had to be removed. This included people such as the mentally disabled, those with hereditary diseases, and the homeless. Others were seen as undesirable and not contributing to the Master race—including homosexuals, juvenile delinquents and alcoholics.

Measures taken:

- 1933 Sterilisation Law—allowed the Nazis to sterilise people with certain illnesses, described as 'simple mindedness' Nearly 70,000 men and women were compulsorily sterilised.
- Many 'undesirables' were sent to concentration camps including homosexuals, juvenile delinquents, prostitutes, gypsies, the homeless.
- In 1939 the Nazis secretly began to exterminate the mentally ill. Around 6,000 disabled babies, children and teenagers were murdered by starvation or lethal injection..

Key words and phrases you must know:

Kristallnacht

1933—Sterilisation law

How did the Coming of War Change Things? The Holocaust

Brief and to the point

Hitler had made life increasingly difficult for the Jews of Germany from the moment the Nazis took power in 1933. But the Second World War and the invasion of many other countries with Jewish populations allowed the Nazis to push their anti-Jewish policies to new extremes.

In more detail:

The Einsatzgruppen

In 1939 there were 350,000 Jewish people still in Germany. As the Nazis invaded other countries such as Poland and the USSR, 6 million Jewish people came under their control. Special SS squads called Einsatzgruppen rounded up the Jews in each area, took out into the country, ordered them to dig trenches and then shot them. The trenches became mass graves.

Ghettos

Jews were also forced to relocate into a separated section of cities, surrounded by walls, armed guards, barbed wire and dogs. These were shut off from the rest of the city and all their homes, furniture, property and bank accounts were seized by the Nazis. Conditions in the ghettos were appalling—overcrowded, unsanitary, shortages of food, clothes, medicine, etc. Often the water and power was deliberately cut off. Hundreds died every day. Anyone who tried to leave was shot. SS squads would also randomly kill people within the ghetto. There were attempts to fight what was happening. The Warsaw ghetto uprising in 1943 lasted 43 days against the German army.

The Final Solution

Shootings and the ghettos came to be seen as 'inefficient' ways to kill. In January 1942 Nazi leaders held a conference at Wannsee, to work out a more efficient way to kill. It was decided to use industrial methods. Six death camps (different to the concentration camps that already existed) were built with gas chambers capable of killing 2000 people at once and large ovens for burning the bodies.

Jews were brought in in railway from all over Europe. The main camps were: Auschwitz—1.1 million people killed there and Treblinka—850,000 killed there. There were 4 others—Sobibor, Belzec, Majdenek and Chelmno.

On arrival at these camps a Nazi doctor would indicate whether they should go left or right: left to work, right to the gas chambers. 80% were killed at once. Those put to work usually only lasted a few months before dying of malnutrition, disease and overwork.

6 million Jews, and 4 million Russian prisoners of war were murdered as well as countless

Key words and phrases you must know:

Einsatzgruppen Ghetts Final Solution Treblinka Auschwitz

Wannsee Conference

The Nazis and Christianity

Brief and to the point

Nazi ideals were opposed to the beliefs and values of the Christian church. Hitler could not however immediately attack Christianity in Germany as it was essentially a Christian country. Two thirds of the population was Protestant and one third was Catholic. Hitler particularly saw the Catholic church as a threat as the loyalty of Catholics may lay with the Pope rather than with him.

In more detail:

Hitler made a 'concordat' (agreement) with the Pope in July 1933 that he would not interfere with the Catholic church if they agreed to stay out of politics. However, within a few months he had broken this promise. Monasteries and Catholic Youth Groups were shut down and several Catholic bishops were imprisoned as were hundreds of priests and nuns.

Catholic Bishop Galen criticised the Nazis throughout the 1930's. In 1941 he led a protest against the Nazi policy of killing mentally ill and physically disabled people, forcing the Nazis temporarily to stop. He had such strong popular support the Nazis decided it was too risky to try and silence him.

There were some Protestants in Germany prepared to support Hitler. He attempted to set up a 'Reich Church' of Protestant Nazi supporters. Many Protestants could not agree to this and left the Reich Church. Many were arrested and put in concentration camps including their leader Martin Niemoeller. He is attributed with the famous following words:

•In Germany they first came for the Communists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist.

Then they came for the trade unionists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist.

•Then they came for the Jews,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.

•Then they came for the Catholics,
and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.

Then they came for me —
and by that time no one was left to speak up for me.

Key words and phrases you must know:

Concordat

Bishop Galen

Martin Niemoeller

Did the Nazis Improve the Economy? Were the unemployed found jobs?

Brief and to the point

The Nazis promised they would tackle unemployment and strengthen the economy and Hitler certainly put a series of measures in place to reduce unemployment and improve the lives of the German workers. It is important to realise though there was hidden unemployment in Germany however, and that many of the schemes to improve workers lives were not quite what

In more detail:

Measures taken to reduce unemployment:

- **The National Labour Front (DAF)** used unemployed men to do public works such as building schools, housing and most especially motorways (autobahns) Hitler had 7,000km of these roads built. From 1935, all 18-25 year olds had to spend 6 months in the National Labour Service. They were paid only pocket money. The scheme took millions off the unemployment figures
- **Trade Unions banned** and strikes etc illegal
- **Re-Armament**—Hitler ordered the building of aircraft, tanks, battleships and submarines (defying the Versailles treaty) This provided work in ship yards, factories, mines, steelworks etc. He had spent 26 billion marks on rearmament by 1939. Hitler also increased the size of the army from 100,000 in 1933 to 1,400,000 by 1939.
- **Job creation schemes** were set up which meant thousands of new jobs—forestry work, new schools, hospitals, stadiums etc
- **Hitler also tried to make Germany more self sufficient** and therefore less vulnerable to any future blockades by increasing the production of oil, coal, rubber etc in Germany rather than having to import it. He was not entirely successful in this. He realised he needed increased amounts of raw materials and food. His idea of Lebensraum (living space) and invading other countries was partly to achieve this aim as well as to get land for his 'superior race'.
- **His '4 year plan' revealed in 1936 showed Hitler wanted Germany ready for war by 1940.**

What was the Hidden or Invisible Unemployment?

The Nazis used some dubious methods to keep down unemployment figures. Remember the official figures did not include the following:

- Jews were dismissed from their jobs
- Unmarried men under 25 who were pushed into National Labour schemes
- Women who were dismissed from their jobs or gave them up to fulfil the Nazi ideal of women

Key words and phrases you must know:

National Labour Scheme

Hidden/Invisible Unemployment

Re-Armament

Did the Nazis Improve the Lives of German workers cont....?

Brief and to the point

The Nazis promised they would tackle unemployment and Hitler certainly put a series of measures in place to reduce unemployment and improve the lives of the German workers. It is important to realise though there was hidden unemployment in Germany however, and that many of the schemes to improve workers lives were not quite what they seemed.

In more detail:

Were German workers better or worse off under the Nazis?

Things that suggest YES

- Strength through Joy organisation tried to improve people's free time by sponsoring a wide range of events—concerts, theatre visits, museum tours, sporting events, even cruises and holidays at a low cost
- Beauty of Work Organisation. Tried to improve working conditions by building canteens, swimming pools, sports facilities, better lighting etc
- Volkswagen Scheme—set up to enable workers to save for a car by saving 5 marks a week into a fund

Things that suggest NO

:

- Many of the schemes were not what they appeared to be. Many things offered by the Strength Through Joy organisation were still too expensive for most workers. Plus the improvements made under the Beauty of Work scheme had to be done by the workers in their own time and without pay which caused resentment.
- The Volkswagen scheme was a swindle—by 1939 when the war broke out the factory converted to war production, no-one had received their car and none of the money was refunded.
- The cost of living rose during this period and the price of nearly all basic groceries cost more in 1939 than they had in 1933.
- Working Hours increased from 42.9 hours per week in 1933 to 47 in 1939.

Key words and phrases you must know:

Strength through Joy (Kraft durch Freude - KdF)

Beauty of Work

Volkswagen scheme

How did the Coming of War Change Life in Nazi Germany?

Brief and to the point

In the early months and years of the war the German forces did spectacularly well with huge military successes as they invaded and conquered much of Europe. But the war's direction would change and later shattered the Germany Hitler and the Nazis had created.

In more detail:

- **The invasion of the USSR.** Many historians see this as Hitler's biggest mistake. Instead of a quick victory he had achieved elsewhere' his army got bogged down in a four year conflict that ruined his army. Despite the German propaganda machine the German people began to realise all was not well by the vast numbers killed and wounded.
- **Hardship at home,** Germany, like Britain was not self sufficient in food and other vital supplies. They had to bring in rationing. After 1943 food was in seriously short supply along with many other vital materials.
- **Bombing**—from 1942 the allies were bombing German cities intensively. Thousands were made homeless. The enormous raids (like the one on Dresden) caused fire storms that sucked in all the surrounding oxygen, causing people to suffocate. In one fire storm in Hamburg 45,000 people died, That is more than the total number killed in Britain across the whole country and across the whole war by the German bombing campaign. Doctors were in short supply partly because Jewish people and women banned from practising.
- **Labour Shortages**—Severe shortage of labour as most men in armed forces. Some Nazis wanted to conscript women but were opposed by others who were against women working. Instead slave labour was used and Russians and Poles were worked to death.
- **Defeat**—From 1943 German forces were being driven back.

Goebbels was put in charge of 'total war'. Nothing mattered except the war effort. No theatres, concerts, (cinemas remained open because of their propaganda value) no magazines, no non military clothing or furniture made, no sport, no sweets, some foods totally unavailable.

Women under 50 **WERE** finally called up to work in factories

Nazi leaders decided to go down fighting. This caused terrible suffering for the German people. Dresden bombed for two nights 150,000 killed (more than the Atomic bomb in Japan killed)

A kind of Home Guard set up—every teenage boy and retired man had to join.

In May 1945 Hitler, Goebbels and other Nazi leaders committed suicide.

Nazism and the war in Europe was over.

Key words and phrases you must know:

'Total war'

Glossary

The Key Terms you need to know

Armistice	Cease fire, an end to the fighting
Treaty of Versailles	The Treaty that ended World War 1
Reparations	The compensation Germany was made to pay to the allies (set at £6,600 million)
Diktat	An agreement forced upon someone
Dolchstoß	'The stab in the back' Said about the Weimar politicians when they signed the treaty
November Criminals	Term used for the above politicians
Weimar Republic	The name given to the new democratic government Germany got after World War 1 (1918–1933)
Reichstag	Main house in the German Parliament (like House of Commons here)
Proportional Representation	System of voting where the numbers of seats you have in the Reichstag is based of the % of votes gained. Led to lots of political parties
Coalition	A Government formed from two or more political parties
Compromise	Where no-one gets precisely what they want, they have to give way to other parties' wishes and views
Article 48	Rule in Weimar Constitution that says President can pass laws alone if no agreement can be reached in the Reichstag
Hyper—Inflation	Where the value of money falls so rapidly it becomes worthless
Ruhr region	The part of Germany the French and Belgian soldiers occupied to seize goods when the Germans failed to pay reparations

Glossary

The Key Terms you need to know

Sabotage	Deliberately breaking equipment and machinery to prevent others using it
Rosa Luxembourg	Leader of the Spartacists
Karl Liebknecht	Leader of the Spartacists
Wolfgang Kapp	Leader of the Freikorps attempt to seize power
Spartacists	Left wing group who wanted a Communist revolution, like in Russia. Attempted to seize control of Berlin in 1919
Freikorps	Right wing group made up mainly of returning soldiers. Gave military support to right wing political parties
Rentenmark	The new currency issued by Stresemann to replace the worthless German mark
Dawes Plan	Introduced in 1924 to reduce annual Germany's reparation bill
Young Plan	Introduced in 1929. Reduced the overall amount to £2 billion and gave them another 59 years to pay
Locarno Pact	1925—Improved relations between France, Germany and Belgium
League of Nations	International organisation set up after World War 1 to try and maintain peace
Gustav Stresemann	Key political figure (chancellor, then foreign minister) during Germany's good years—1924—1928
Kellogg-Briand Pact	Agreement between 69 countries including Germany not to use war to achieve foreign policy aims
DAP	The German Workers Party—the party that later became the Nazi Party
Anton Drexler	Leader of DAP

Glossary

The Key Terms you need to know

NSDAP	National Socialist German Workers Party - the official name for the Nazi Party
Swastika	The crooked cross symbol of the Nazi Party
Mein Kampf	My Struggle. The book Hitler wrote whilst in prison
Munich (or Beer Hall) Putsch	Hitler's failed attempt to seize power in 1923
Propaganda	Methods (speeches, posters etc) to make people believe what you want them to believe. Used very effectively by the Nazis
Josef Goebbels	Nazi minister for propaganda
Wall St Crash	The collapse of USA's financial markets in Oct 1929 which led to the world wide Great Depression
SA (stormtroopers, Brown shirts)	The first private army of the Nazi Party
SS	Replaced the SA in power and influence—began as a personal bodyguard for Hitler
Ernst Rohm	Leader of SA. Murdered in 1934
Night of Long Knives	Term used to describe the culling of the SA
State of emergency	A crisis so great that normal rules of government are suspended and the rulers are given extra powers
Gestapo	Secret Police— could arrest and send people to concentration camps without trial
Concentration Camps	Nazis ultimate weapon against their own people. Harsh forced labour camps. Many deaths through beatings, lack of food, over work

Glossary

The Key Terms you need to know

The 3 Ks—Kinder Kirche, Kuche	(Children, Church, Kitchen) The Nazi ideal for women
Lebensborn programme	Life Springs Programme 'donate a baby to the Fuhrer'
Hitler Youth	Youth Groups set up by the Nazis to train young people to be good Nazis
Edelweiss Pirates	Rebel groups of teenagers who did not conform with Nazi expectations
Scapegoat	An individual or group who is blamed for everything that goes wrong
Nuremburg Laws	Laws passed in 1935 that persecuted Jews and other minority groups
Kristallnacht	Night of Broken Glass. State organised violence against German Jews and their property
Einsatzgruppen	Special SS squads responsible for mass shooting of Jews, especially in Russia
Ghettos	Small areas in cities walled off where Jewish people forced to live in appalling conditions
Wannsee Conference	Conference in Jan 1942 where leading Nazis took decision to try and exterminate the remaining Jews of Europe through gassing
Concordat	An agreement (made between Hitler and the Pope) about the Catholic Church
Re armament	Policy of increasing armed forces and weapons in preparation for war
Strength through Joy (KDF)	Set up to replace banned trade Unions. Gave people leisure time activities
Beauty of Work	Designed to improve working conditions for people (eg. Canteens, better lighting, washing facilities)