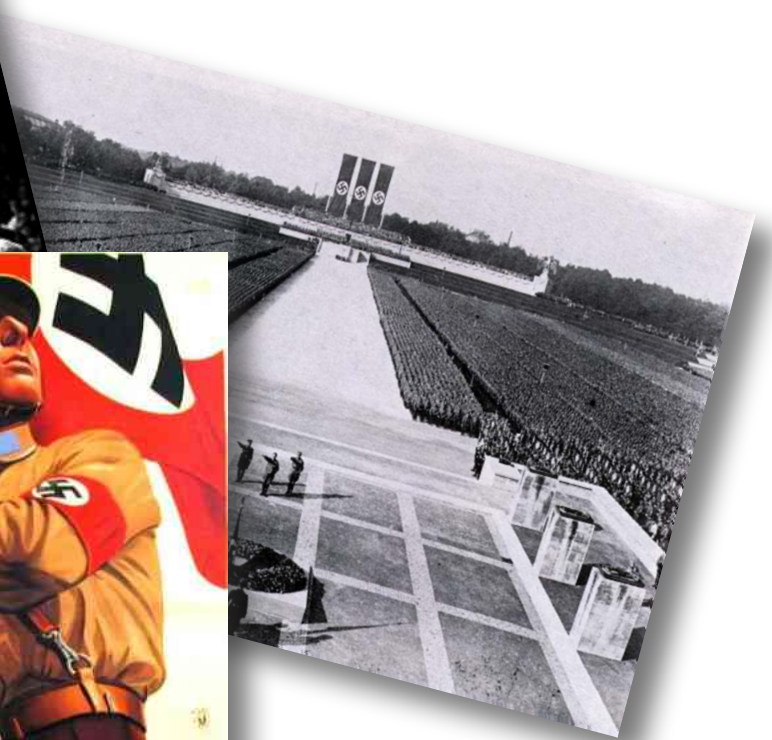


# Germany in transition



# Problems with Weimar and Hitler's rise to power

## Germany at the end of WW1

### Background information

- Prior to and during WW1 Germany had been ruled by a Kaiser, Wilhelm II. He was Queen Victoria's grandson and was virtually a dictator
- The allies offered Germany peace, but under strict conditions. One condition was the Germany had to become more democratic.
- The Kaiser refused causing uprisings and rebellions across Germany the Kaiser was forced to abdicate.
- Socialist leader Ebert became the new leader of the 'Republic of Germany' or Weimar Republic

Term	What it meant	How Germany felt
<b>B - Blame (War Guilt Clause)</b>	Germany was made to accept total blame for WW1 and forced to sign the guilt clause	They felt it was unfair and felt humiliated. Felt the blame should be shared. Meant they had to pay for the damage.
<b>R - Reparations</b>	£6,600 million to be paid to the Allies for the damage caused by the war. Would take until 1984 to pay.	They could not afford to pay and feared the reparations would cripple them.
<b>A - Army</b>	Germany's armed forces were to be severely limited. 100,000 men in the army 6 battleships No submarines or aircraft Rhineland to become demilitarised	They felt that the army was too small. Dented their pride. No other allies disarmed as much as them so they felt it was unfair.
<b>T - Territory</b>	Germany's overseas empire was taken away. Alsace Lorraine was given to France Saarland (large coalfields) to be run by the League of Nations Rhineland to be demilitarised	Damaged their economy as gave them fewer resources to trade with. Lost important industrial areas. Damaged pride.
<b>S - Set up League of Nations</b>	Germany was not allowed to join the League of Nations	Germany felt that it was unfair they were not invited to join.

# Test yourself!

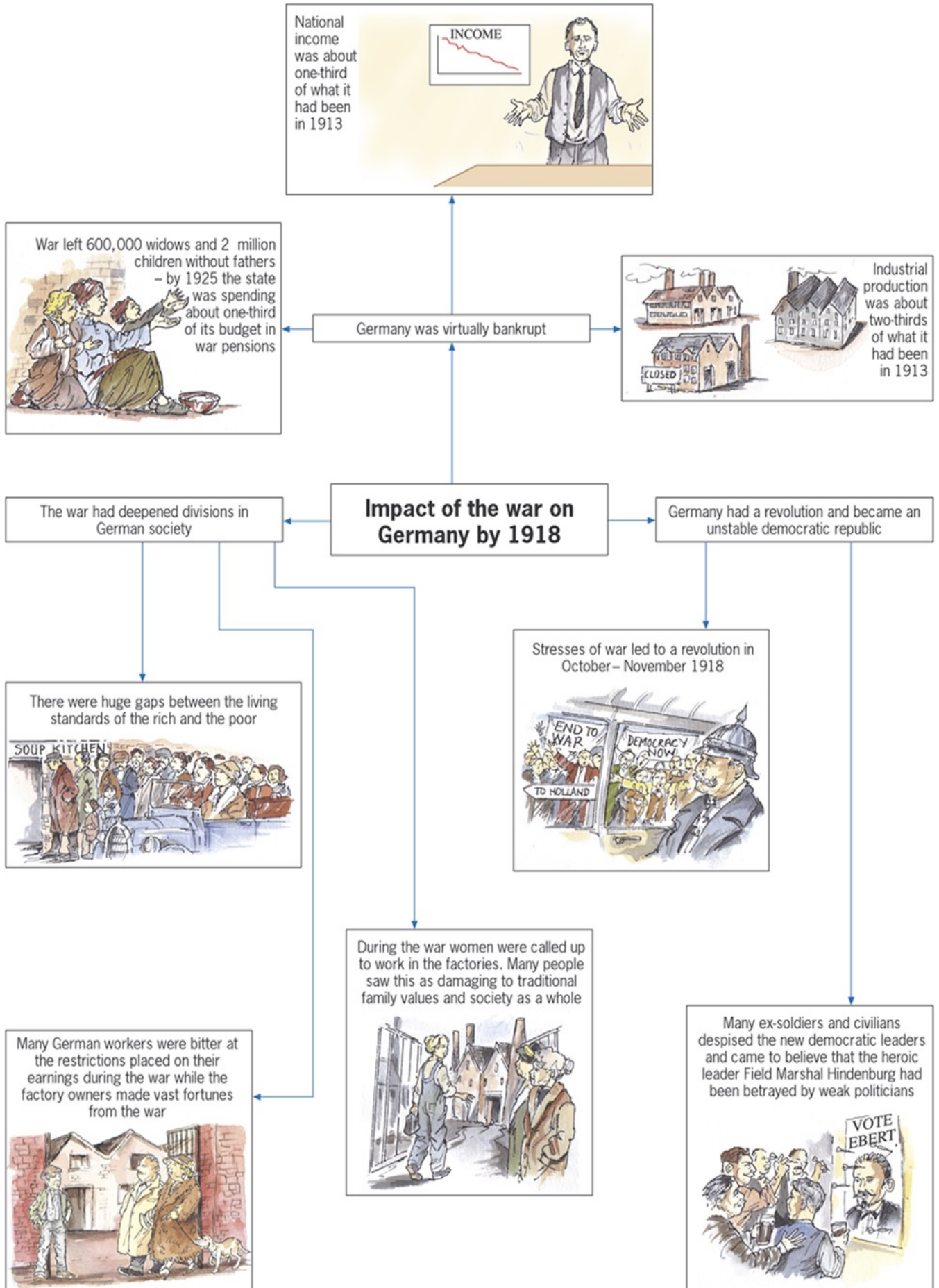
1. Who was in charge of *Germany* before WW1?
2. What was the name of the new Socialist leader?
3. Why do you think he may be disliked from the start?

Name all the terms of the Treaty of Versailles and explain what it meant for *Germany*. Do this without looking at the previous page and then check your answers. Correct any wrong answers

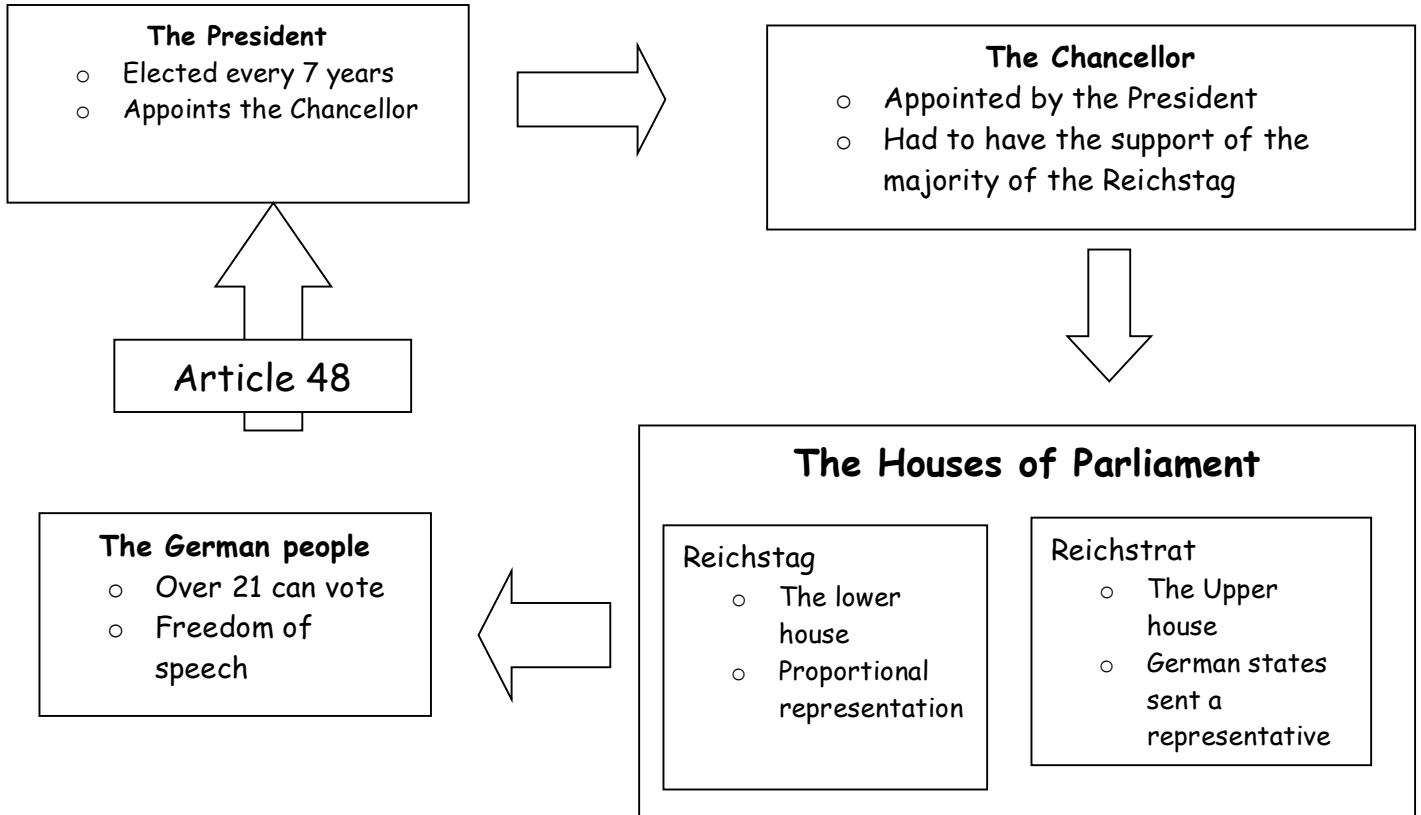
Term	What did it mean for <i>Germany</i> ?	Picture!
B		
R		
A		
T		
S		

Now draw a picture for each one to summarise what it meant e.g. for arms you could draw some weapons or soldiers

# Problems faced by the Weimar republic



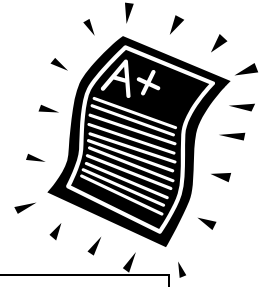
# The Weimar Constitution



## Background

- Before the war Germany had had no real democracy. The Kaiser was virtually a dictator.
- The Weimar Constitution, on the other hand, attempted to set up probably the most democratic system in the world where no individual could gain too much power.
- All Germans over the age of 20 could vote.
- There was a system of proportional representation - if a party gained 20 per cent of the votes, they gained 20 per cent of the seats in the Parliament (Reichstag).
- The Chancellor was responsible for day-to-day government, but he needed the support of half the Reichstag.
- The Head of State was the President. The President stayed out of day-to-day government. In a crisis he could rule the country directly through Article 48 of the Constitution. This gave him emergency powers, which meant he did not have to consult the Reichstag.

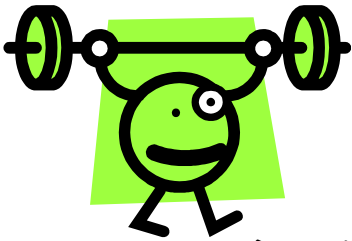
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Germans had equal rights, including the right to vote</li> <li>• Proportional representation made sure parties had the same percentage of seats in parliament as they did in the election</li> <li>• Provided a strong leader to keep control over the country in an emergency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was too radical an experiment given the volatile nature of German society after the war</li> <li>• <b>Proportional Representation</b> encouraged lots of small parties so no one party ever had enough seats to form a majority government</li> <li>• The president could use <b>Article 48</b> to become a dictator</li> </ul>



• Each state had its own elected assembly to represent local interests

• Local states could resist the authority of central government

### Test yourself!



Describe the weaknesses of the Weimar constitution (4 marks)

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Without looking at the diagram try and explain:

What was proportional representation?

What was article 48?

Check your answers and if they are wrong go back and change them

## Threats from the left and right wing (showing the instability of the Weimar Republic)

Which side	Left wing	Right wing
Who?	<b>Spartacists-</b> They were led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg.	<b>Freikorps-</b> They were led by Dr Wolfgang Kapp
What they want?	They wanted a Germany ruled by workers' councils or soviets. Early in 1919 the Spartacists launched their bid for power. Joined by rebel soldiers and sailors, they set up soviets in many towns.	In March 1920 Dr Wolfgang Kapp led 5000 FREIKORPS (EX SOLDIERS) into Berlin in a rebellion known as the Kapp Putsch (Putsch means rebellion). The army refused to fire on the Freikorps and it looked as if Ebert's government was doomed. However, it was saved by the German people, especially the industrial workers of Berlin.
What did Ebert do?	Ebert made an agreement with the commanders of the army and the Freikorps to put down the rebellion. Liebknecht and Luxemburg were murdered and this Communist revolution had failed. However, another one was soon to follow.	Ebert asked the workers to strike. They declared a general strike which brought the capital to a halt with no transport, power or water (see Source 7). After a few days Kapp realised he could not succeed and left the country.

## The origins of the Nazi Party

In 1919 Anton Drexler founded the German workers party (DAP) in Munich. It was a right wing party which stressed the ideal of a pure German people.

After WW1 Hitler was given the job of spying and reporting on groups who might pose as a threat to the new German government. He visited a Nazi Party meeting, ended up joining, and eventually leading the party (from 1921). Right from the start he had strong views on the future of Germany.

\* Germany should be united under a strong leader -the Fuhrer.

- \* Germans were a superior or master race called Aryans. Other races were inferior and a threat. Hitler believed that pure German blood needed to be protected and should not be mixed with other races.
- Hitler believed in a greater Germany. He wanted to take land to the east of Germany (e.g. in Poland). This would provide living space or lebensraum for the German people.

## The early growth of the party

- Party membership increased from 1100 members in June 1920-55,000 in November 1923.
- In 1921 Hitler set up the SA which was led by Ernst Rohm. This armed group of mostly ex-military men were charged with protecting Nazi speakers from attacks by rival groups.

## The Munich Putsch

Another right wing attack. This time led by Hitler. By November 1923 Hitler believed that the moment had come for him to topple the Weimar government. The government was preoccupied with the economic crisis. Stresemann had just called off Germany's passive resistance in the Ruhr.



- November 1923, Hitler decided it was time for a revolution
- 8th Nov Hitler hijacked a local government building
- He announced he was taking over the government of Bavaria
- Nazi storm troopers began taking over official buildings
- The Weimar Government hit back. Police arrested storm troopers
- 16 Nazi's were shot
- Hitler escaped in a car
- He was sentenced to 5 years in prison but only served 9 months because some of the judges were right wing and agreed with his ideas

What did Hitler gain?

- Publicity and time to write Mein Kampf



# The importance of the Munich Putsch

Hitler was arrested and sent to prison. He used his trial to gain valuable publicity for the Nazi Party and his ideas and to criticise the Weimar government.

\* In prison Hitler wrote his book *Mein Kampf* ('My Struggle'). Here he outlined his main ideas.

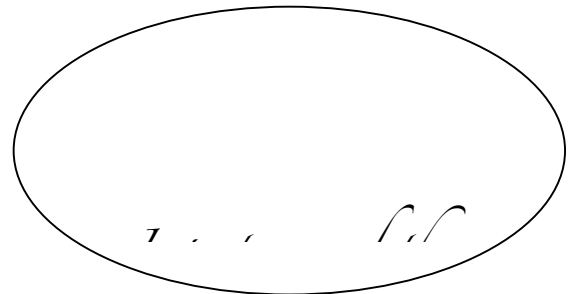
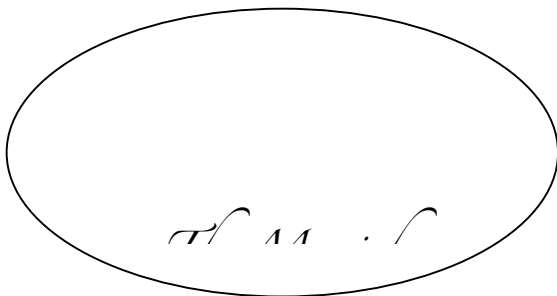
\* The failure of the putsch led to a change of tactics for the Nazis. They would now try to gain power democratically rather than using force and violence.

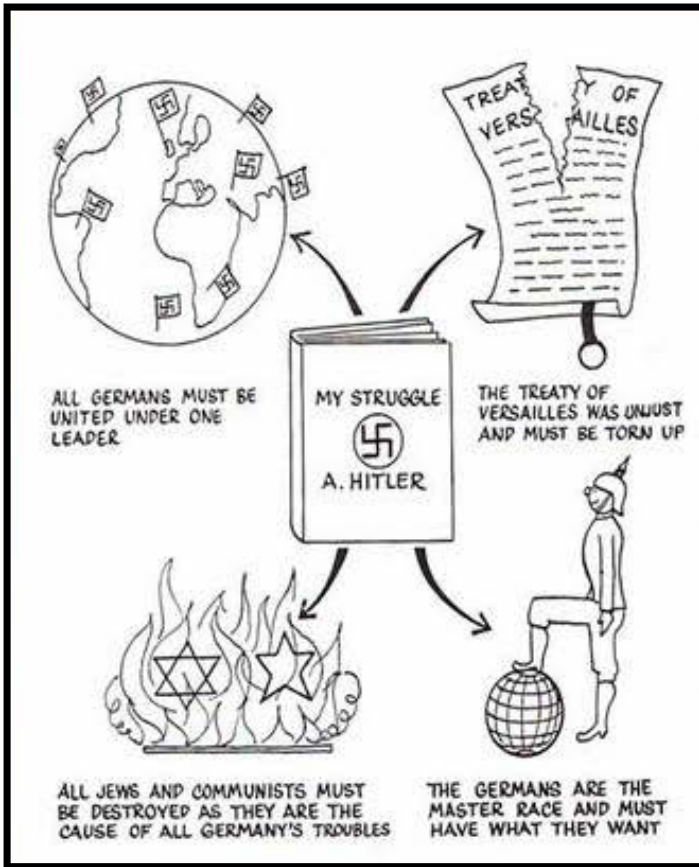
\* **A\* Point!** Hitler was treated far more leniently than left-wing groups who tried to overthrow the Weimar Republic. This shows that there was an underlying sympathy for Hitler's ideas felt by many people in the German legal system.

## Test yourself!



Complete the spider diagrams below with details about each of the rebellions. Add pictures, colour and words to help you remember





What does this poster show about the main beliefs of the Nazi party?

## Hyperinflation

Hyperinflation is inflation that is "out of control", a condition in which prices increase rapidly as a currency loses its value.

**What caused it?**

**The occupation of the Ruhr**

- The first installment of £50 million was paid in 1921, but in 1922 nothing was paid. Ebert did his best to play for time and to negotiate concessions from the Allies, but the French in particular ran out of patience. They too had war debts to pay to the USA. So in January 1923 French and Belgian troops entered the Ruhr and began to take what was owed to them in the form of raw materials and goods.
- The results of the occupation of the Ruhr were disastrous for Germany. The government ordered the workers to carry out passive resistance, which meant to go on strike. That way, there would be nothing for the French to take away. The French reacted harshly, killing over 100 workers and expelling over 100,000 protesters from the region. More



importantly, the halt in industrial production in Germany's most important region caused the collapse of the German currency.

**What was the impact?**

With so much money in circulation, **prices and wages rocketed**, but people soon realised that this money was worthless. **Workers** needed wheelbarrows to carry home their wages. **Wages** began to be paid daily instead of weekly. The **price of goods** could rise between joining the back of a queue in a shop and reaching the front!

**Poor people** suffered, but the greatest casualties were the **richer Germans** - those with savings. A prosperous **middle-class** family would find that their savings in the bank, which might have bought them a house in 1921, by 1923 would not even buy a loaf of bread. **Pensioners** found that their previously ample monthly pension would not even buy a cup of coffee.

**Task:**

Try and summarise the Ruhr crisis only using the lines below:

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**Exam question:**

Explain why many Germans turned against the Weimar republic. [8]

What should you consider?

The Treaty of Versailles, rebellions from the left and right, hyperinflation

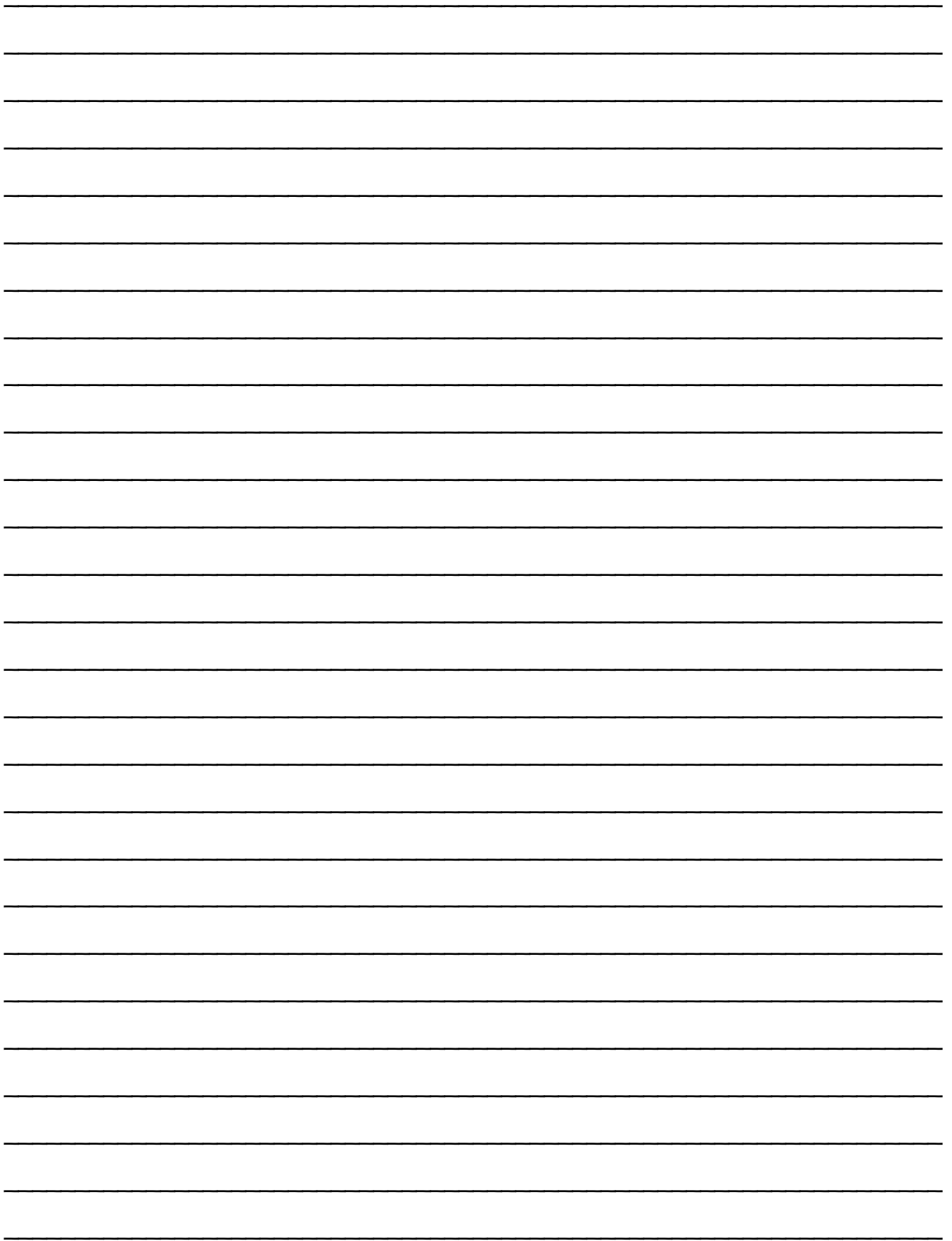
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# The Stresemann Years

## Stresemann, a summary

In August 1923 a new government under *Gustav Stresemann* took over.

- He called off the passive resistance in the Ruhr.
- He called in the worthless marks and burned them, replacing them with a new currency called the Rentenmark.
- He negotiated to receive American loans under the Dawes Plan.
- He even renegotiated the reparations payments.
- He negotiated peace with countries in Europe and as a result Germany was allowed into the League of Nations.
- However, he is known for 'painting over the cracks' and 'dancing on a volcano' due to his solutions being short term.



## Stresemann's achievements

Section	What he did	Why it helped
<b>Economy</b> (money)	1924- Dawes plan 1929- Young plan	The Dawes plan meant that reparations were spread over a longer period of time and Germany were loaned 800 million marks from the USA. By 1928 production had grown to what it was before the war and reparations were being paid. The Young Plan reduced reparation payments by $\frac{3}{4}$ and extended the time to pay them back by another 59 years. Stresemann also gave unemployment benefits and built more houses to help people suffering economic issues.
<b>Foreign policy</b> (agreements with other countries)	1925- The Locarno Pact 1926- League of Nations  1928- The Kellogg-Briand Pact	In 1925 he signed the Locarno Treaties, guaranteeing not to try to change Germany's western borders with France and Belgium. As a result, in 1926 Germany was accepted into the League of Nations In 1928 the Kellogg Briand pact was signed. 65 states had to keep their armies for self defence and promised not to go to war. It made people feel safer.
<b>Politics</b>	Created a more stable Germany	The Weimar Republic was more settled and parties that supported Weimar democracy did well in these years. Hitler's Nazis gained less than three per cent of the vote in the 1928 election.
<b>Culture</b>	Germany became a more cultural place to live	The famous Bauhaus style of architecture developed. The 1920s were a golden age for German cinema, producing one of its greatest ever international stars, Marlene Dietrich.

## Remaining problems

Despite having some successes during this period, there were still many problems that remained.

1. **The success of Germany** depended on Germany having economic success and prosperity, and this was based on American loans. If America had any financial problems, the Weimar Republic would be in great danger.
2. Although the government was more settled there were still 4 different chancellors and the Nazi's and Communists were building their parties. They would still not be strong enough to resist a challenge from extremist parties if ever there was one.
3. Extremist politicians were not won over by the good times. Right-wing nationalists still hated the Republic as the 'November criminals' - they just waited for a situation to arise which would give them the opportunity to attack the Weimar government.

In this way, the Wall Street collapse of 1929 was to prove a disaster for the Weimar

## How did the Nazi Party change 1924-29?

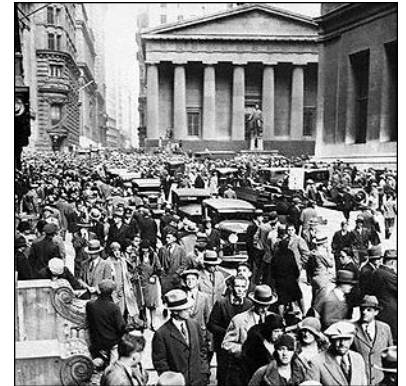
- On his release from prison Hitler managed to have the ban on the Nazi party lifted and set about reorganising and re-establishing his leadership.
  - He created his own bodyguard, the SA.
- He introduced the Hitler Youth (Hitler Jugend) to attract younger members.
- He used every opportunity to attack the weaknesses of the Weimar Republic and began to attract support from all classes.
- In 1925 the party had 27,000 members, this had risen to over 100,000 by 1928.
- In the late 1920s Hitler began to target peasants as voters for his party and put Goebbels in charge of propaganda.

**BUT** . . . . Despite these changes the Nazis only had 12 seats in the Reichstag in the 1928 general election. The lack of success was largely due to the economic recovery brought about by Chancellor Stresemann between 1924-1929. Stresemann's policies and this period of prosperity meant there were not so many people who were attracted to the Nazis.

# The Depression (Wall Street Crash) 1929

## Background

In October 1929, an economic disaster struck America. At the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street, the value of American shares collapsed, following a few days of wild speculation. This event is known as the **Wall Street Crash**. Many US businesses were ruined, and unemployment soon became a serious problem in the USA. Many countries relied upon American investment and loans and therefore the Crash led to a worldwide depression, known as the **Great Depression**.



## Effects of the depression on people

Huge numbers of German workers had to be laid off, and the number of unemployed in Germany rose rapidly, reaching **6 million unemployed by the end of 1932**. That meant that **1/3 of the entire German workforce was unemployed**. Factory workers suffered terribly. 40% of all factory workers were unemployed by 1932. By 1933, young people were feeling the depression badly. Over half of all Germans aged 16-30 were unemployed by 1933. Even graduates suffered, with 60% of new university graduates being unable to find a job. Farmers had been doing badly before the depression, as prices for their produce had been falling since 1925, but now their debts increased even more. Many businessmen saw their businesses close as the public had less money to spend on consumer goods. Even those who did not lose their jobs did badly. Wages were cut, and taxes rose.



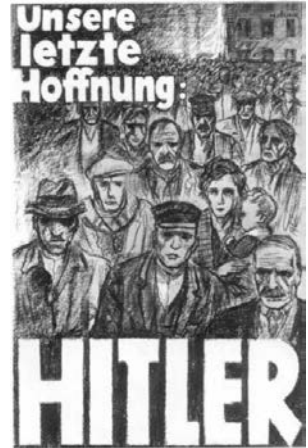
**Soup kitchens** were set up to feed those that could not afford to feed themselves. For the unemployed, this was a time of extreme poverty.

This poverty led to a **large number of homeless families**, as people could no longer afford their rent. Many public parks became large camps or '**shanty towns**' for the homeless. People stayed here so long that the tents were numbered, and arranged in neat rows, which had names, like streets. They even had children's playgrounds and communal kitchens.

## Effects of the depression on the Weimar Republic

Many countries suffered in the Great Depression, but Germany suffered the most. As American businesses were collapsing, America decided to call in the loans they had given to Germany under plans such as the Dawes Plan of 1924. This meant they could demand that Germany pay all the money back that she had borrowed - immediately! This led to thousands of German businesses going bankrupt. Many other US companies had invested in Germany, e.g. by setting up factories there. They now had no choice but to withdraw their investments, leading to more German factories having to close.

The crisis made the government seem weak and divided. For example, in 1929 a coalition government collapsed as the two main parties argued over whether or not to reduce unemployment benefit. Arguments became so frequent that the President began increasingly to use article 48. This stated that the President could pass laws without asking the Reichstag's permission.



### How the Depression helped the Nazis?

The Nazis blamed the Depression on the Weimar Republic, the Treaty of Versailles, the Communists, and the Jews. They promised to destroy these 'enemies within' who were destroying German society. For every problem, the Nazis seemed to have a solution:

- The Weimar Republic is weak - you need strong leadership. Hitler could be that leader.
- Unemployment - The Nazis will get people back to work by setting up road building and public work schemes.
- The Threat of Communism - the SA are the only ones who have the strength and knowledge to deal with the Communists.

### Hitler's steps to Chancellor

1. The Economic Depression - 6 million Germans became unemployed and homelessness became a big problem. People lived in poverty. In desperation many voted for more extreme parties such as the Nazis.
2. \* Hitler was a strong leader. He was an excellent public speaker. He inspired the German people. He promised to restore Germany's strength and unite the German people.
3. \* The Nazis used propaganda to persuade people to vote for them. They used a variety of techniques - newspapers, posters, the radio and cinema newsreels. The Nazis kept their message simple and found something to offer the different groups in German society. (e.g. Middle class were promised protection from communism and law and order, working classes were promised jobs and the protection of workers' rights.)
4. \* The SA beat up the Nazis opponents. Some voted Nazi out of fear. The Nazis deliberately created chaos and violence in the streets. This made it look as though democracy was failing.
5. \* Coalition governments could not agree on how to solve Germany's problems. This made democracy look weak. The Nazis offered strong leadership. - They promised to get rid of democracy.



## Colour code the long and short term causes of Hitler's rise to power.

Hitler was a vegetarian who loved boxing.	Between 1924 and 1928 Hitler re-organised the Nazi Party.	Hitler was a brilliant speaker. The Party held huge rallies where crowds listened to Hitler speak. His views were popular, more so after 1929.
Hitler was born in Upper Austria in April 1889.	The Munich Putsch failed, but the trial gave Hitler publicity and made him change his ideas about how to get power.	Hitler believed in Social Darwinism – that some races were superior to others. He believed that the German people were an Aryan 'Master Race'
The Nazi-Party 25 Point Programme was written to appeal to different sections of German society – upper, middle and working class.	Hitler's main support came from the middle class who were ruined by the economic depression after 1929.	In March 1932 Hitler challenged Hindenburg for the Presidency. He lost but polled 13.4 million votes to Hindenburg's 19.4 million.
After 1929 Hitler campaigned hard. He toured Germany in a plane, meeting people and making speeches.	The Treaty of Versailles, 1919: <i>Article 231, reparations, land, military restrictions</i>	The 'stab in the back' myth
The Wall Street Crash and economic depression which followed, hit Germany harder than most countries. It was like 1923 again – but worse.	Hitler accused the Jews of being responsible for all of Germany's problems. He directed the anger of the German people against the Jews.	Dr Josef Goebbels was Hitler's propaganda chief. He helped convince voters that Hitler was their last hope.
Hitler promised to end unemployment.	Hitler promised to smash the Communists.	Hitler aimed to promote family and moral values. This appealed to women in Germany.
Hitler was a strong leader. He had absolute control of the Nazi Party through the <i>Fuhrer Prinzip</i> which means <i>Leadership principle</i>	The SA was a popular organisation for ex-soldiers.	Chancellors Bruning, Von Papen and Schleicher did not have the support of the Reichstag. They used Article 48 to rule. Democracy was over.
.Von Papen hated Schleicher. He persuaded Hindenburg to appoint Hitler as Chancellor. He believed that Hitler could be controlled!	In July 1932 the Nazis became the largest party in the Reichstag with 230 seats.	President Hindenburg was a very old man and was increasingly believed by many to be senile by 1933.



## The end of parliamentary democracy: the coalition of Brüning

The harsh economic climate created severe problems for the weak coalition governments of the Weimar Republic and they soon collapsed resulting in three general elections between 1930-1932. In March 1930 Hindenburg appointed Brüning (leader of the Centre Party) as Chancellor. Brüning lacked the majority and had to rely on Hindenburg using **Article 48** to be able to pass laws. From this point on the Reichstag was used less frequently and Article 48 marked the end of democracy for Germany.

As the Depression became worse Brüning's government became more hated as they were forced to cut unemployment benefits. In May 1932 he resigned and in the July General election (2 months later) the Nazis polled their highest ever vote securing 230 seats (37%) making them the largest party in the Reichstag.

## Political scheming! How was Hitler made Chancellor in 1933?

1. After the Reichstag elections of July 1932 the Nazis were the largest single party (with 230 seats) but not a majority party.
2. Hitler demanded the post of Chancellor from the President, however, Hindenburg was suspicious of Hitler and refused.
3. He allowed the current Chancellor **Franz von Papen** to carry on as Chancellor.
4. However, von Papen was soon in trouble. He had virtually no support at all in the Reichstag and so called yet another election in November 1932.
5. The Nazis again came out as the largest party.
6. Hindenburg again refused to appoint Hitler as Chancellor.
7. In December 1932 he chose **Kurt von Schleicher** as Chancellor. Within a month, however, von Schleicher too was forced to resign.
8. On 30 January, to everyone's great surprise, Hindenburg offered **Hitler the post** of Chancellor they were confident that they could limit Hitler's influence and resist his extremist demands.

# Hitler's consolidation (securing) of power

## Reichstag Fire - 27 Feb 1933

- The Reichstag building was set on fire. A young Dutch Communist, Van der Lubbe, was arrested and charged with starting the fire.
- Many historians believe that the Nazis started the fire and blamed the communists in order to ban them from participating in the March elections.
- Hitler used the event to persuade Hindenburg to grant him **emergency powers**.
- **The Decree for the Protection of the People and the State was passed.** This restricted freedom of speech, the press and allowed imprisonment without trial.



## The March 1933 Elections

- Hitler called the election to increase his support in the Reichstag.
- The Nazis used the police and the SA to put pressure on political opponents. More than 50 people were killed and many more injured. They also used the radio to broadcast their anti-Communist message.
- This helped them acquire 44% of the vote. The Nazis still did not have a majority in the Reichstag.

## The Enabling Act

Hitler passed this law because he needed more power. This law would give Hitler the power to pass laws without going through the Reichstag or the President. It would suspend democracy and place **all the power in Hitler's hands**.

\* Hitler argued that he needed emergency powers to solve Germany's problems. In order to pass the law he needed two-thirds of the Reichstag to support it.

The law was passed on the 14th March by 444 votes to 94. Hitler managed to persuade the Reichstag to effectively vote itself out of power. The Communist Party were banned from voting. The Centre Party agreed to support it as Hitler promised to protect the Catholic Church. Only the Social Democrats voted against it.



\* The Enabling Act was the cornerstone of the Third Reich. Hitler used it to remove any opposition. Within days he banned other political parties and trade unions.

## The Night of the Long Knives- 30<sup>th</sup> June 1934

Ernst Röhm was the leader of Hitler's private army, the SA. He had been a close ally of Hitler since the beginning. However, by 1934 he was becoming an embarrassment. Röhm had radical ideas. He wanted to merge the SA with the army. The SA now contained 2 million men, but Hitler knew that the army generals would not accept Röhm's leadership. Hitler had a choice - the army or the SA.

\* In June 1934 Hitler made his choice. Leaders of the SA, including Röhm, were taken to prison and shot. Over the following week, hundreds of other SA leaders were murdered, along with dozens of other possible rivals to Hitler. The murders were carried out by the SS.

\* In doing this Hitler had wiped out the only real threat to his power - he had also gained the support of the army generals. He was now stronger than ever. The SS became very important. They became the main vehicle of terror in Nazi Germany.

Why did he remove the SA?

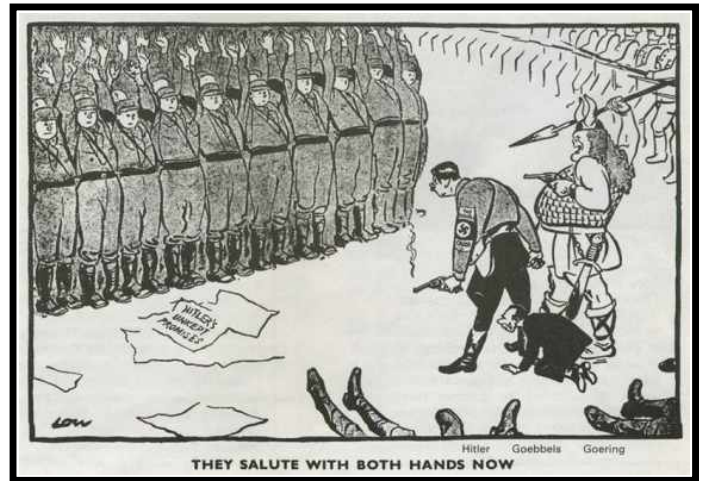
- They were too big and becoming hard to control
- Rohm was a rival to Hitler and was distrusted
- Rohm wanted to merge with the army but the SA was not a professional army.
- S.A. leaders were demanding rewards for their loyal service.

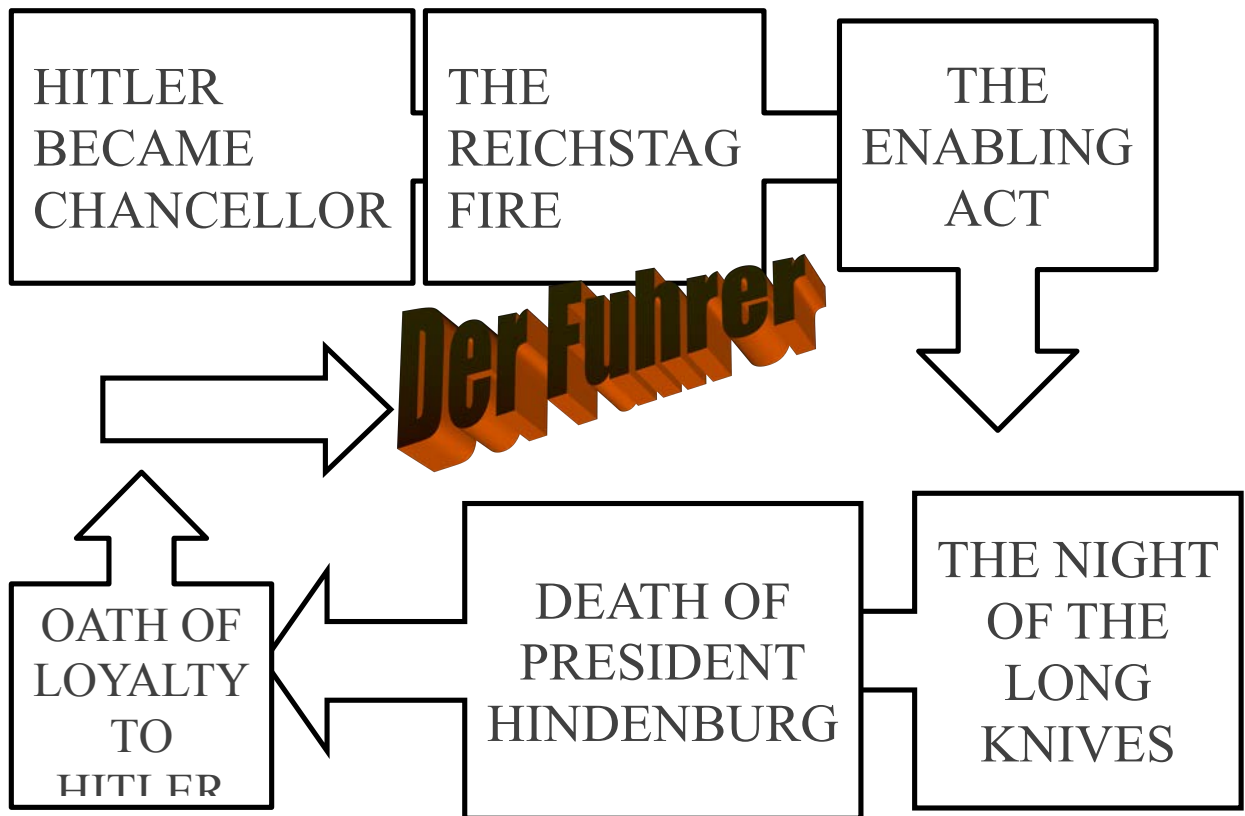
### Death of Hindenburg

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1934 President Hindenburg died. He was the only person who had the power to stand in Hitler's way.

### Oath to Furher- 19 August 1934

When Hindenburg died, Hitler took the opportunity to combine the two posts of President and chancellor and gave himself the title of 'Führer' (meaning leader). He was now head of state and commander of the army. The same day the officers and men of the German army were made to swear an oath of loyalty to Hitler. Hitler was now absolute dictator of Germany and, to make the seizure of power appear legal, he asked the German people to vote on his actions. The Nazi propaganda machine made sure there was a 90% vote in his favour.





### Questions-

1. How did Hitler secure power between 1933 and 1934?
2. Which factor between 1933 and 1934 was most important in ensuring Hitler had power?
3. Why was the Reichstag fire so significant in Hitler securing power?
4. Why was the Night of the Long Knives so significant in removing opposition?

# Changing life for German people 1933-1939

## Life in Nazi Germany

### Education and Youth

The youth were very important to Hitler as they would grow up to be his next loyal army or supporters.

At school your lessons changed:

- You were taught how Jews took profits from honest Germans in maths.
- Your biology lessons taught you that as an Aryan you were special.
- You would learn how Germany was 'stabbed in the back' by past politicians in history.
- The classrooms would have swastikas, images of Hitler etc. Students would have to start with 'Heil Hitler'.
- Teachers had to be a part of the Nazi Teacher League - if they did not join they could lose their job.
- Students were encouraged to inform on teachers or fellow students/parents that spoke badly of Hitler.
- Timetables had to have 15% PE lessons - girls to become fit mothers and boys to become soldiers.
- Girls were taught needlework, home-making etc. and boys were taught how to be soldiers.

You would also go to youth groups which from 1939 became compulsory and had 7 million members.

Boys would be part of the 'Hitler Youth' and would go on marches and be taught to be physically fit.

Girls would attend the League of German maidens and would be taught how to sew and cook as well as completing fitness training. They got a sense of belonging and fun from going on camps and being part of a group.

### Youth opposition

Towards the end of the war, youth gangs such as the **Eidelweiss Pirates** grew up, rejecting the Hitler Youth and Nazi youth culture, drinking and dancing to American jazz and 'swing' music.

In Cologne in 1944 they sheltered army deserters and even attacked the Gestapo.

If they were caught, they were hanged.

The White Rose (Sophie and Hans Scholl) handed out anti-Nazi leaflets at Munich university. They were caught by the janitor and were executed.

Women:

Hitler had a very traditional view of the role of the German woman as wife and mother.

- It is worth remembering that many *women* agreed with him.
- In the traditional rural areas and small towns, many women felt that the proper role of a woman was to support her husband..
- Alarmed at the falling birth rate, Hitler offered tempting **financial incentives** for married couples to have at least four children. You were given a loan of 1000 Reichmarks and for every child you had, you did not have to pay back a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of it. This was called the 1933 Law for the Encouragement of Marriage.
- You got a '**Gold Cross**' for having **eight children**, and were given a privileged seat at Nazi meetings.
- Women were to follow 'Kinder, Kirche, Kuche' - Children, Church, Kitchen.
- Hitler introduced 'Lebensborn' - whereby an aryan woman could 'donate a baby to the Fuhrer' by having a child with a racially pure SS member.
- Women were excepted to dress conservatively, have plaits/buns etc.



Posters, radio broadcasts and newsreels all celebrated the ideas of motherhood and homebuilding.

- The German Maidens' League reinforced these ideas, focusing on a combination of good physical health and housekeeping skills. This was reinforced at school.
- With all these encouragements the birth rate did increase from 15 per thousand in 1933 to 20 per thousand in 1939. There was also an increase in pregnancies outside marriage. These girls were looked after in state maternity hostels.
- Women who were already wives and stay-at-home mothers during this time benefitted hugely under Nazi rule, but women who were older, infertile, working women etc. did not.

Exam question:

Describe how women were affected by Nazi rule (5marks)



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# Hitler and the Church

## How did Hitler deal with the church?

Initially there was some cooperation between the Nazis and the church and Hitler signed the Concordat in 1933 with the Catholic Church agreeing to leave the Catholic Church alone and keep control of their own schools. This was because the Nazis agreed with the traditional ideas of the Church. The church agreed to stay out of politics.

Hitler also tried to get all Protestant churches together to form the Reich Church

Later on Hitler's policies towards the Church became stricter and he organized the following

1. In 1935 Hitler set up a 'Department for church affairs' which began to interfere with church life and co-ordinated harassment of practising Christians
2. Catholic Schools were made to remove Christian symbols from classrooms
3. The Nazis introduced the Reich Church in 1936 which fitted with many Nazi ideas and claimed control over all churches, replaced the Bible with Mein Kampf and cleared away crucifixes from the altars.



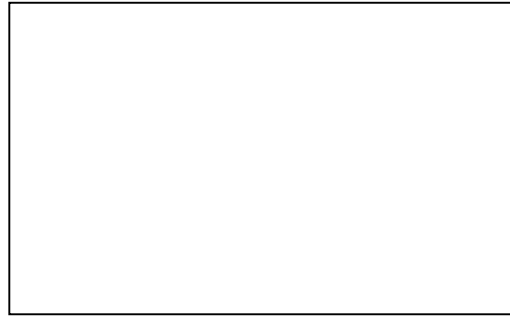
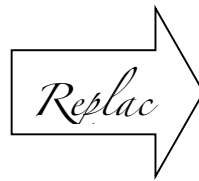
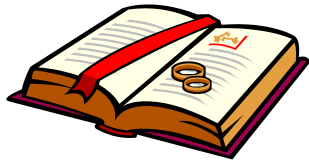
## Opposition from the Church

Many churchgoers either supported the Nazis or did little to oppose them. However, there were some very important exceptions.

The Catholic Bishop Galen criticised the Nazis throughout the 1930s. In 1941 he led a popular protest against the Nazi policies of killing mentally ill and physically disabled people (the T4 programme), forcing the Nazis temporarily to stop. He had such strong support among his followers that the Nazis decided it was too risky to try to silence him because they did not want trouble while Germany was at war.

Pastor Bonhoeffer preached against the Nazis until the Gestapo stopped him in 1937. He later increased his and in 1942 he contacted the Allied commanders and asked what peace terms they would offer Germany if Hitler were overthrown. He was arrested in October 1942 and hanged shortly before the end of the war in April 1945.

Bonhoeffer and Martin Niemhoeller set up an Anti-Nazi Confessional Church and an Emergency Pastor's League that tried to make the church Protestant again.



## The Nazis and workers (including economic policy)

### Autarky

One of the key policies introduced by Hitler was '**autarky**'. Autarky means economic self sufficiency. This means that a country produces enough goods of its own so that it doesn't have to import goods (**especially raw materials - coal, oil, and iron ore**) from other countries. Hitler wanted to achieve autarky so that if war came Germany would not be dependent on imports. He tried to achieve this by:

1. Experiments began to try to produce artificial replacements for vital raw materials.
2. Cutting taxes for farmers

5 million who were unemployed in 1933 when Hitler came to power. He introduced a number of strategies to reduce unemployment.

1. The economist **Schlacht** organised Germany's finances to fund a huge programme of work creation. The National Labour Service (RAD) sent men on **public works projects** and conservation programmes, in particular to build a network of motorways or **autobahns**. They had free accommodation but little pay. They had to do it for 6 months if they were unmarried 18-25 year olds.
2. Railways were extended or built from scratch.
3. There were major house-building programmes and new public building projects such as the Reich Chancellery in Berlin.
4. One of Hitler's most cherished plans was **rearmament**. In 1935 he reintroduced **conscription** for the German army.
5. In 1936 he announced a **Four Year Plan** under the control of **Goering** to get the German economy ready for war (it was one of the very few clear policy documents that Hitler ever wrote).
6. The need for weapons, equipment and uniforms created jobs in the coal mines, steel and textile mills. Engineers and designers gained new opportunities, particularly when Hitler decreed that Germany would have a world-class air force (the Luftwaffe).

As well as bringing economic recovery, these measures boosted Hitler's popularity because they boosted **national pride**. Germans began to feel that their country was finally emerging from the humiliation of the Great War and the Treaty of Versailles, and putting itself on an equal footing with the other great powers.



# Jews



As soon as Hitler took power in 1933 he began to mobilise the full powers of the state against the Jews. They were immediately banned from the Civil Service and a variety of public services such as broadcasting and teaching. At the same time, SA and later SS troopers organised boycotts of Jewish shops and businesses, which were marked with a star of David. Jewish children were targeted in schools, propaganda painted Jews as greedy and evil.

## 1935 - the Nuremberg Laws

These took away German citizenship from Jews. Jews were also forbidden to marry or have sex with pure-blooded Germans. Goebbels' propaganda experts bombarded German children and families with anti-Jewish messages. Jews were often refused jobs, and people in shops refused to serve them. In schools, Jewish children were humiliated and then segregated.

## The Nuremberg rallies

Goebbels organised huge rallies, marches, torch-lit processions and meetings. Probably the best example was the Nuremberg rally which took place in the summer each year. There were bands, marches, flying displays and Hitler's brilliant speeches. The rallies brought some colour and excitement into people's lives. They gave them a sense of belonging to a great movement. The rallies also showed the German people the power of the state and convinced them that 'every other German' fully supported the Nazis.

## The media

- In contrast with the free expression of Weimar Germany, the Nazis controlled the media strictly. No books could be published without Goebbels' permission (not surprisingly the best seller in Nazi Germany was *Mein Kampf*).
- Goebbels also controlled the newspapers closely. They were not allowed to print anti-Nazi ideas.
- The cinema was also closely controlled. All films - factual or fictional, thrillers or comedies - had to carry a pro-Nazi message. The newsreels which preceded feature films were full of the greatness of Hitler and the massive achievements of Nazi Germany.

## 1936 Berlin Olympics

One of Goebbels' greatest challenges came with the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.

Goebbels and Hitler also thought that the Olympics could be a showcase for their doctrine that the Aryan race was superior to all other races

Goebbels built a brand new stadium to hold 100,000 people. It was lit by the most modern electric lighting. He brought in television cameras for the first time.

The most sophisticated German photo-electronic timing device was installed.

With guests and competitors from 49 countries coming into the heart of Nazi Germany, it was going to take all Goebbels' talents to show that Germany was a modern, civilised and successful nation. No expense was spared.

When the Games opened, the visitors were duly amazed at the scale of the stadium, the wonderful facilities, and the efficiency of the organisation.



To the delight of Hitler and Goebbels, Germany came top of the medal table, way ahead of all other countries. However, to their great dismay, a black athlete, Jesse Owens, became the star of the Games. He won four gold medals and broke 11 world records in the process. The ten black members of the American team won 13 medals between them. So much for Aryan superiority!

### **1938 - Identification**

Jews had to wear the star of David, have a J in their passport, be called Ismail or Sarah etc.

### **1938 - Kristallnacht**

In November 1938 a young Jew killed a German diplomat in Paris. The Nazis used this as an excuse to launch a violent revenge on Jews. Plain-clothes SS troopers were issued with pickaxes and hammers and the addresses of Jewish businesses. They ran riot, smashing up Jewish shops and workplaces. Ninety-one Jews were murdered. Hundreds of synagogues were burned. Twenty thousand Jews were taken to concentration camps. Thousands more left the country. This event became known as *Kristallnacht* or 'The Night of Broken Glass'. Many Germans watched the events of *Kristallnacht* with alarm and concern. The Nazi-controlled press presented *Kristallnacht* as the spontaneous reaction of ordinary Germans against the Jews. Most Germans did not believe this. However, hardly anyone protested. The few who did were brutally murdered.

### **1939 - Ghettos**

After Kristallnacht, and after the start of WW2 where Germany found 3 million more Jews in Poland after invading it, Hitler wanted to place all Jews in one area and take their resources/money to fund the war effort. Ghettos were cornered off areas of a town, they had very bad conditions such as 500 calories a day, hard labour work, 6-7 sharing one room etc. 500,000 Polish Jews died from starvation/disease. Some Jews fared better than others - such as those who worked for the Nazis as police of the ghettos. The Nazis stole all of the Jews possessions, including melting down wedding rings for gold.

### **1942 - Death camps**

In 1942, Germany invaded Russia (the Battle of Stalingrad/Operation Barbarossa) - they found 5 million more Jews and began to lose WW2, meaning they desperately needed more funds. This led to the decision to mass murder all Jewish people.

In January 1942, senior Nazis met at **Wannsee**, a suburb of Berlin, for a conference to discuss what they called the '**Final Solution**' to the 'Jewish Question'. At the Wannsee Conference, Himmler, head of the SS and Gestapo, was put in charge of **the killing of all Jews within Germany and German-occupied territory**. Slave labour and death camps were built at Auschwitz, Treblinka, Chelmo and other places. The old, the sick and young children were killed immediately. The able-bodied were first used as slave labour. Some were used for appalling medical experiments. Six million Jews, 500,000 European Gypsies and countless political prisoners, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals and Russian and Polish prisoners of war were sent to these camps to be worked to death, gassed or shot.

Complete the timeline below to show how Hitler's actions towards the Jews progressed between 1933 and 1939

Jewish treatment timeline

1933

- 
- 
- 

1935

- 

1938 (Kristallnacht)

- 
- 

1939

- 
- 
- 

1942

- 
- 
- 

**Practice exam question**

**How did the Nazis treatment of Jews change between 1933 and 1939? (6 marks)**

# Fear

How did the Terror state work?



Fear was vitally important to retain control in Nazi Germany. This was broken down into 4 sections:

## The SS

The SS was formed in 1925 from fanatics loyal to Hitler. After virtually destroying the SA in 1934, it grew into a huge organisation with many different responsibilities. It was led by Heinrich Himmler. SS men were of course Aryans, very highly trained and totally loyal to Hitler. Under Himmler, the SS had primary responsibility for destroying opposition to Nazism and carrying out the racial policies of the Nazis.

Two important sub-divisions of the SS were the Death's Head units and the Waffen-SS. The Death's Head units were responsible for the concentration camps and the slaughter of the Jews. The Waffen-SS were special SS armoured regiments which fought alongside the regular army.

The Gestapo (secret state police) was the force which was perhaps most feared by the ordinary German citizen. Under the command of Reinhard Heydrich, Gestapo agents had sweeping powers.

They could arrest citizens on suspicion and send them to concentration camps without trial or even explanation.

Modern research has shown that Germans thought the Gestapo were much more powerful than they actually were. As a result, many ordinary Germans informed on each other because they thought the Gestapo would find out anyway.

**The police and courts** also helped to prop up the Nazi dictatorship. Top jobs in local police forces were given to high-ranking Nazis reporting to Himmler. As a result, the police added political 'snooping' to their normal law and order role. They were, of course, under strict instructions to ignore crimes committed by Nazi agents. Similarly, the Nazis controlled magistrates, judges and the courts, which meant that opponents of Nazism rarely received a fair trial.

**Concentration camps** were the Nazis' ultimate sanction against their own people. They were set up almost as soon as Hitler took power. The first concentration camps in 1933 were simply makeshift prisons in disused factories and warehouses. Soon these were purpose-built. These camps were usually in isolated rural areas, and run by SS Death's Head units. Prisoners were forced to do hard labour. Food was very limited and prisoners suffered harsh discipline, beatings and random executions. By the late 1930s, deaths in the camps became increasingly common and very few people emerged alive from them. Jews, Socialists, Communists, trade unionists, churchmen and anyone else brave enough to criticise the Nazis ended up there.

Method of control	Key facts	Pictures to help you remember!
The SS		



# Impact of War

## The early years of WW2

- The war went well in the early years. Children were evacuated from the cities. The war had a limited impact on the lives of the German people.



- Food rationing was introduced soon after war began in September 1939. Clothes rationing followed in November 1939. Clothes rationing was introduced in 1939. Hot water and soap were restricted. Artificial substitutes were found to replace things like coffee. Many items were available on the black market - but only if you could afford them. Even so, from 1939 to 1941 it was not difficult to keep up civilian morale because the war went spectacularly well for Germany. Hitler was in control of much of western and eastern Europe and supplies of luxury goods flowed into Germany from captured territories.
- Initially, the war was not welcomed by all Germans - many remembered the horrors of the First World War.
- The German tactic of Blitzkrieg (lightening war) led to the army sweeping across Europe. Germany captured Poland in 1939 and Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway and France in 1940. These victories boosted the morale of the Germany people.



## How did the role of women change during the war?

- \* Women were needed to replace the male workers in the factories.
- \* Measures were taken to encourage women to enter the workplace. - These were not very successful.
- \* In 1943 the Nazis tried to mobilise all women. 3 million women aged 17 -- 45 were called up to work.
- \* Many women tried to avoid this and only 1 million women obeyed the call.
- \* The fact that women were not employed on a large scale was a factor in Germany's eventual defeat.



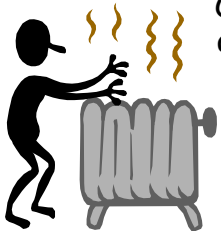
## The use of propaganda on the home front

- \* Joseph Goebbels was Minister of Propaganda. - Propaganda was seen as very important.
- \* It was used to encourage Germans to support the war and contribute to the war effort e.g. in encouraging women to work in the factories.
- \* Posters played on the fear of Communism.
- \* Enforced Nazi ideas e.g. their policies towards the Jews.
- \* Seen as important in increasing the morale of the German people.
- \* Used to discredit the enemy.



## The organization of total war (1942-1945)

In 1941 Hitler took the massive gamble of invading the Soviet Union, and for the next three years his troops were engaged in an increasingly expensive war with Russian forces who 'tore the heart out of the German army', as the British war leader, Winston



Churchill, put it. As the tide turned against the German armies, civilians found their lives increasingly disrupted. They had to cut back on heating, work longer hours and recycle their rubbish. Goebbels redoubled his censorship efforts. He tried to maintain people's support for the war by involving them in it through asking them to make sacrifices. They donated an estimated 1.5 million fur coats to help to clothe the German army in Russia.

At this stage in the war, the German people began to see and hear less of Hitler. His old speeches were broadcast by Goebbels, but Hitler was increasingly preoccupied with the detail of the war. In 1942 the 'Final Solution' began, which was to kill millions of Jewish civilians in German-occupied countries.



From 1942, Albert Speer began to direct Germany's war economy. All effort focused on the armament (weapons) industries. Postal services were suspended and letter boxes were closed. All places of entertainment were closed, except cinemas - Goebbels needed these to show propaganda films. Women were drafted into the labour force in increasing numbers. Country areas had to take evacuees from the cities and refugees from eastern Europe.  
were closed.

## Effects of Allied bombing

1) The RAF started bombing Germany in 1939. Heavy bombing started in May 1943. German cities were targeted - the aim was to destroy morale and force an end to the war.



2) Berlin, Cologne, Hamburg and Dresden were all severely bombed. One raid in Cologne caused a fire storm which destroyed large sections of the city. Raids on Dresden in February 1945 destroyed 70% of the buildings in the city and killed more than 150,000 civilians in just two nights of attacks.

3) By 1944 continuous bombing was beginning to damage manufacturing output. Bombing attacks were not very accurate. 50% fell on residential areas and only 12% on factories and war industries.

4) The bombing hardened the morale of the people and made them even more determined to resist.

5) It is estimated that as many as 800,000 German civilians were killed by Allied bombing.

## The People's Home Guard- The Volkssturm



By 1944 Germany's armed forces were heavily stretched and in September Hitler gave orders for the creation of the Volkssturm. This was a people's army which was intended to be used to defend Germany's cities from allied invasion. It was made up of men and boys who were expected to provide their own uniforms and weapons.

The Volkssturm lacked experience and was never a serious fighting force. Its men were poorly trained, possessed few weapons and suffered from low morale.

Negative: The Volkssturm lacked experience and was never a serious fighting force. Its men were poorly trained, possessed few weapons and suffered from low morale.

Positive: Some members of the Hitler youth were more dedicated members of the Volkssturm and were keen to get involved. They played an active role in the defence of central Berlin against the Russian assault upon the city in April 1945.



## Military opposition

### **The July Bomb plot**

In July 1944, some army officers came close to removing Hitler. By this stage of the war, many army officers were sure that the war was lost and that Hitler was leading Germany into ruin. One of these was a colonel in the army, Claus von Stauffenberg. On 20 July he left a bomb in Hitler's conference room. The plan was to kill Hitler, close down the radio stations, round up the other leading Nazis and take over Germany. It failed on all counts, for the revolt was poorly planned and organised. Hitler survived and the Nazis took a terrible revenge, killing 5000 in reprisal.



### **The death of Hitler and German surrender**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> May the last German troops surrendered. During the Soviet attack on Berlin Hitler was in his underground bunker in the Reich Chancellery. Around midnight on the 28<sup>th</sup> April Hitler married Eva Braun. On 30<sup>th</sup> April Hitler committed suicide.

Hitler was found with a bullet hole in his right temple. The bodies of Hitler and Eva were then taken to the entrance of the Chancellery where they were soaked in petrol and burned. On the 1<sup>st</sup> May Goebbels committed suicide with his wife in the Chancellery.

## Post war agreements

### What Was Decided At The Yalta and Potsdam Conference?

#### The Yalta Conference - 1945

The conference was held between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of February 1945. It was led by Roosevelt (USA), Stalin (USSR) and Churchill (UK). During this conference they discussed the re-organization of post war Europe. The main purpose, though, was to help re-establish the nations destroyed by Germany during the war.



- 1) Agreed to divide Germany into four sections controlled by each of the three nations present.
- 2) Berlin would be divided into these four zones too.
- 3) Nazi War Criminals would be hunted down and trialled.
- 4) All countries would be liberated (freed) from Nazi rule and would be allowed to have elections to decide their future government.

**Potsdam Conference- 1945**

This conference confirmed the decisions reached at Yalta.

It also agreed to demilitarise Germany, ban the Nazi party and begin the process of de-Nazification.

They also started to put the Nazi leaders on trial **at Nuremburg**.

However, there were also disagreements as the Soviets showed no signs of withdrawing from Eastern Europe and did not keep their promise to allow free political elections in there, they arrested non-Communists. Stalin was angry with Truman for not being informed about their Atomic Bomb.

**Exam question**

Describe the division of Germany at the end of the Second World War [5]

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# The Punishment of Germany

**The Nuremberg Trials**

\* The trials were held in the German town of Nuremberg and began in November 1945. It was the first international war crimes trial. Nuremberg was a significant choice as it was where the Nazis held their annual rallies.

\* 21 people stood trial. - Some were leading Nazis, others were deputies or junior ministers who stood trial because their leader had killed themselves rather than face trial. These people were seen as the key playmakers in causing the war which cost the lives of 50 million people. They were accused of various crimes - causing the war, crimes against humanity (the 'new' crime of genocide) and ordinary war crimes.

\* Their reaction to the trial varied - the three most famous cases were Herman Goring, Albert Speer and Rudolf Hess (Hitler's deputy). Goring remained defiant during the trial and committed suicide the night before he was due to be executed. Albert Speer presented himself as a victim of the system. He cooperated fully with the lawyers and was given a 20 year prison sentence. Hess fled to Britain in May 1941, was captured and drifted in and out of amnesia. He wasn't really fit to stand trial. He received life imprisonment.



## De-Nazification

- \* The Western Allies embarked upon a programme of converting the Germans from Nazism to democracy.
- \* Germans were shown the horrors of the camps virtually on their doorsteps.
- \* The Nazi Party was declared illegal.
- \* Millions of Germans had to fill in questionnaires as part of a policy of trying to exclude committed Nazis from important positions in post-war Germany.
- \* Thousands of colleges were set up to re-educate adults. Unrepentant Nazi teachers were replaced, others were retrained, and new textbooks were written.
- \* The Allies controlled the press, radio and films.



## East and West Germany:

### West:

- 1949 'Trizonia' created.
- Federal Republic of Germany.
- Run by Konrad Adenauer.
- Marshall Aid (\$15 million)
- Deutschmark (1:1 with US currency)
- European Coal and Steel Community 1958 (Steel trade up 151%)
- European Economic Community set up through Treaty of Rome 1957 (free movement of people and goods).
- NATO set up.
- American Dream
- Most educated flocked from East to West.
- Income increased 400%
- Building jobs from war.
- Highest standard of living in Europe.
- Newest and best technology (from USA).
- Democracy.



### East:

- German Democratic Republic.
- One-party Communist state.
- Led by Walter Ulbricht.
- Free speech banned.
- Censorship.
- 120,000 people put in concentration camps.
- Erich Fritz Emil Mielke in charge of Stasi.
- 100,000 telephone lines tapped.
- 1 in 6 people spied.
- Warsaw Pact.
- USSR stole resources rather than financially helping.
- Intellectual people flocked to West.



## The Berlin Blockade:

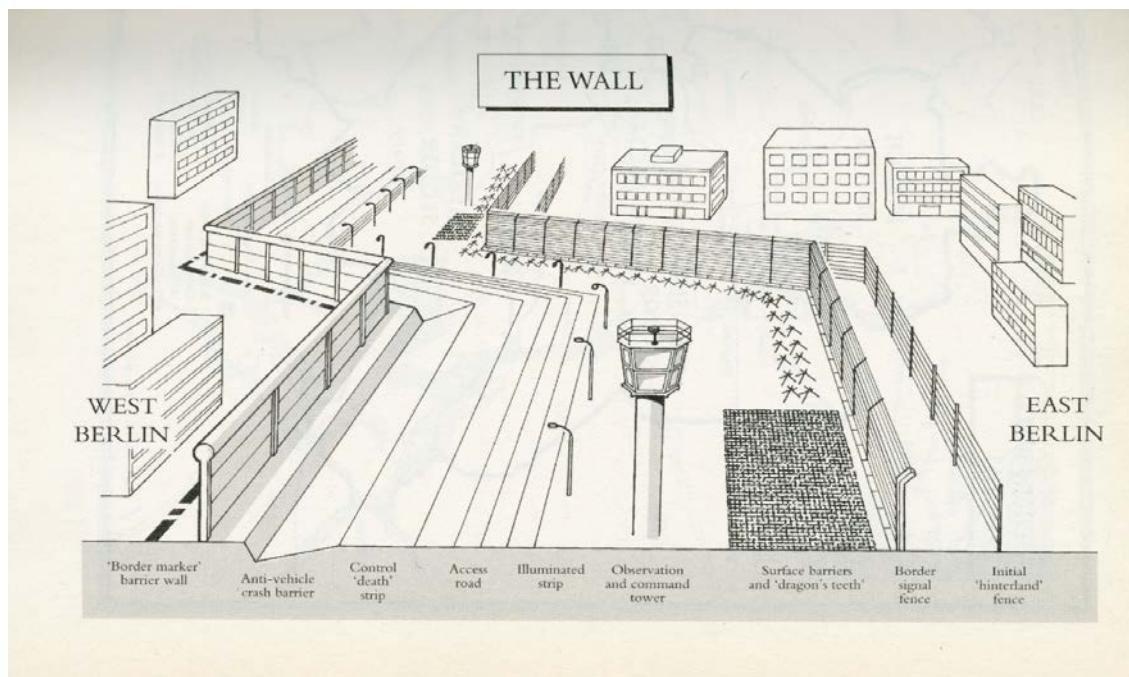
In June 1948, Britain, France and America united their zones into a new country, West Germany. On 23 June 1948, they introduced a new currency, which they said would help trade.

The next day, Stalin cut off all rail and road links to west Berlin - the **Berlin Blockade**. The west saw this as an attempt to starve Berlin into surrender as Stalin wanted the whole city to be a part of the East, so they decided to supply west Berlin by air.

The Berlin Blockade lasted 318 days. During this time, 275,000 planes transported 1.5 million tons of supplies and a plane landed every three minutes at Berlin's Tempelhof airport. Stalin offered people from the West to come to the East but only 2% took up this offer.

On 12 May 1949, Stalin **abandoned** the blockade.

## The Berlin Wall:



- Travel between East and West Germany was not allowed. The border was closed from 1952 onwards and measured 866 miles in length.
- However, people were still allowed to travel between East & West Berlin. This provided tens of thousands of people with an escape route to the West.
- Khrushchev pressured the new young and inexperienced American President John F Kennedy
- Demanded withdrawal of Western forces from West Berlin - Kennedy refused
- July 23 - Flow of refugees from East to West = 1000 a day = CRISIS for EAST GERMANY

- July 25 - Kennedy repeats support for West Berlin and announced increase in arms spending
- August 13-22 1961 Khrushchev and East German government order barbed wire barrier across Berlin to stop the flow of refugees - they then include concrete blocks.
- Total length around West Berlin = 96 miles, border between East & West Berlin = 27 miles, concrete wall = 3.6m, Wire mesh fencing = 41 miles, anti-vehicle trenches: 65 miles, number of watch towers: 302.
- Kennedy accepted the Soviet action - he refused to pull down the wall using the US army to avoid a war. He looked weak but the West turned it into good propaganda - *why was a wall needed in Communism was such a good thing?!*
- In 1963 Kennedy visited West Berlin and pledged continued support - 'Ich bin ein Berliner' - his famous speech.
- Khrushchev looked bad and lost face by failing to remove the West from Berlin.
- Berlin was divided for 40 years (wall for 30 years).
- Free access between East and West was ended.
- Families were split apart.
- Propaganda taught people to hate each other - even family members.
- People could not get to their jobs in the West.
- Many attempted to escape - at least 192 died trying to cross the wall - there were 5000 successful escapes.
- East and West would NOT recognise each other as countries - no 'mutual recognition'.
- The height of the Cold War.

## Reconciliation and Reunification

### Willy Brandt and Ostpolitik:

- Chancellor of the West from 1969 to 1974.
- Ostpolitik = East Policy
- Treaty of Moscow:
  - August 12, 1970 between the USSR and West Germany (FRG).
  - It "recognised the German Democratic Republic (GDR) for the first time and the Oder-Neisse line." which was the new boarder with Poland.
  - Both sides wanted to normalise relations and keep peace. This also caused stability between both Germanys as they cemented their division.
- Treaty of Warsaw:
  - December 1970

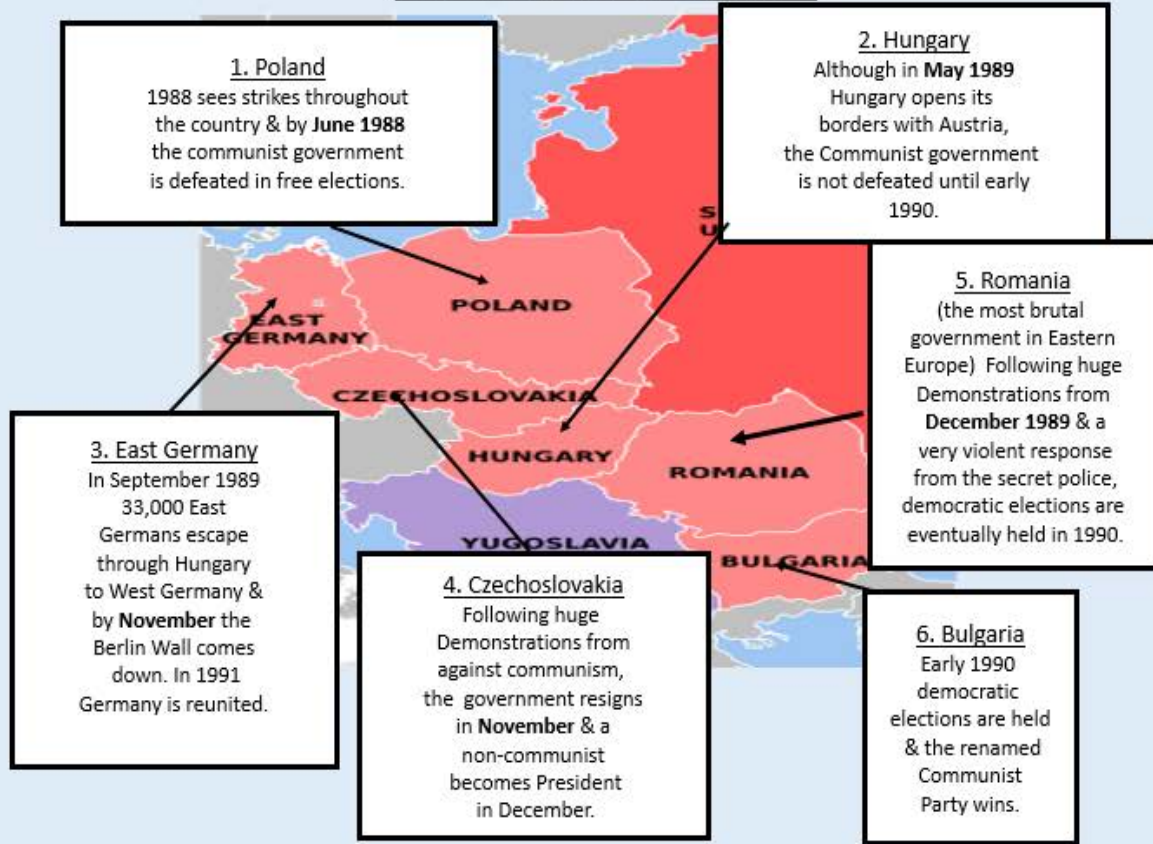
- Both sides committed to nonviolence and accepted the existing border — the Oder-Neisse line, imposed on Germany by the Allied powers at the 1945 Potsdam Conference. This had been a quite sensitive topic since then, as Poland was concerned that a German government might seek to reclaim the land.
- Transit Treaty:
  - 26 May 1972
  - Arranged access to and from West Berlin from West Germany, secured the right of West Berliners to visit East Berlin and East Germany, and secured the rights of East German citizens to visit West Germany, although only in cases of family emergency.
- Basic Treaty:
  - December 1972:
  - Two German states to be recognised by the international community.
  - Diplomatic relations were opened between the German Democratic Republic and Australia, UK, France, Netherlands, USA, East and West Germany.
- From the treaty Brandt coined the phrase "two German states one German Nation". As a result, any East German citizens leaving for the West automatically could claim full citizenship. This paved the way for reunification after 1989 although in the GDR the West was still demonised.

## Fall of Communism:

### Mikhail Gorbachev:

- Began to **reform** the Soviet system by allowing **perestroika** (economic freedom - withdrew money from small Communist countries) and **glasnost** (political freedom - stops censorship on newspapers, freedom of speech etc.).
- Dec 1988 - He announced that Russia's **communist ideology should play a smaller role in foreign affairs** e.g. The USSR would no longer trade with Communist states over Capitalist States.
- He did *not* intend to weaken communist control there, he simply wanted to **strengthen it through reform** - however once reform had begun he could not contain it.
- In 1989, shocking news broadcasts from Tiananmen Square highlighted to the world the perils of military intervention to stop protests. As a result, and in a bid to cut costs, Gorbachev **withdrew military intervention** from the Eastern states.
- Revolutions in other Eastern European countries quickly followed.

### The Fall of the Eastern Bloc 1989-90



### Helmut Kohl:

- Chancellor of West Germany 1982.
- 10-point plan to reunify.
- Expensive - forced to increase tax and cut government spending - led to unemployment and decrease in popularity.
- Franco-German relations:
  - September 1984 met French President Francois Mitterrand, commemorated World War deaths at Verdun and hand minute handshake. Laid foundations for Maastricht Treaty 1992 (EU).
- American-German relations:
  - Celebrated 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW2 in 1985.
  - Visited concentration camp Bergen-Belsen together on 5<sup>th</sup> May.
  - Reagan - "tear down that wall".
- Reconciliation with East:
  - 1987 invited Erich Honecker (Chancellor of East) to the West (first ever visit from East Chancellor).

- Signed an economic and social union treaty with East - Article 23 of the Basic Law. Any German could become a citizen of West Germany and any new East German state could become a West German state if they got the majority vote.
- 18<sup>th</sup> May 1990 East and West Germany signed currency union - deutschmark became the currency. West would pay huge loans to East to rebuild it which damaged West's economy. East felt worse off as they couldn't earn enough to pay the prices charged in West.
- 3 October 1990 East Germany ceased to exist.
- East and West reunited and Berlin the capital of enlarged Federal Republic (West Germany)
- 1990 fair, democratic election for all Germans. Kohl won a Vision for Europe award.



