

# Weimar and Nazi Germany knowledge organiser

## Key dates

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| <b>1918</b> | -Armistice: Germany had lost the war and surrendered to USA, Britain and France. Many Germans were upset that the war lost, they felt betrayed by their new leader.<br>-The German revolution- Above and Below.<br>- Abdication of the Kaiser: 9th November 1918. He fled to Holland. The new leader of Germany was called Ebert (SPD).                                                                                                                 |
| <b>1919</b> | -Spartacist uprising- Jan 1919, 50,000 Spartacists rebelled in Berlin, led by Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht.<br>-Weimar Constitution established<br>-Treaty of Versailles signed. This included the war guilt clause 231 which meant that Germany had to take full responsibility for the war.                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>1920</b> | -Kapp Putsch: a Freikorps brigade rebelled against the Treaty, led by Dr Wolfgang Kapp. It took over Berlin and tried to bring back the Kaiser<br>-The German Workers' Party announced the 25-Point Programme - later became the Nazi Party (NSDAP)                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>1923</b> | -January: French occupation of the Ruhr. This led to hyperinflation.<br>-August: Stresemann became Chancellor and Foreign Minister<br>- November: Munich (Beer Hall) Putsch where Hitler and the Nazi party tried to overthrow the Weimar government.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>1924</b> | -The Dawes Plan: Stresemann called off the 1923 Ruhr strike and started to pay reparations again - but the American Dawes Plan gave Germany longer to make the payments and loaned Germany \$25 billion.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>1925</b> | -Mein Kampf published<br>-Locarno Pact agreed to accept the boundaries set up in the Treaty of Versailles.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>1926</b> | -Bamberg Conference: A Nazi Party conference to stop any further challenges to Hitler's leadership.<br>-Membership of the League of Nations meant that Germany were able to discuss issues with other countries without resorting to war.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>1928</b> | -Kellogg-Briand Pact where countries promised not to use war to solve problems or disputes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>1929</b> | -The Young Plan reduced reparation payments to £2 billion.<br>- The Wall Street Crash<br>-Start of the Depression                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>1932</b> | -NSDAP the largest political party in the Reichstag                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>1933</b> | -January: Hitler appointed as Chancellor<br>- February: Reichstag Fire. This was blamed on a communist and as a result they were not allowed to stand in any further elections.<br>-March: The first Nazi concentration camp at Dachau<br>-March-Enabling Law passed. This allowed the chancellor to pass laws for 4 years without going to the Reichstag.<br>-April: Shop boycott Gestapo (secret police) set up -July: Concordat with Catholic Church |
| <b>1934</b> | -Night of the Long Knives where the SS murdered the SA including their leader Rohm.<br>-Death of Hindenburg and Hitler became Führer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>1935</b> | -Nuremberg Laws introduce restrictions on Jews.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>1936</b> | -Berlin Olympics was used as a mass propaganda campaign.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>1938</b> | -November: Kristallnacht (Night of the Broken Glass) was an attack on hundreds of Jewish shops, homes and synagogues.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>1939</b> | -Outbreak of WW2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |



## Key Individuals

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| Kaiser Wilhelm               | Leader of Germany during WW1. He was the King and believed he could rule independently. He did not hold elections. He abdicated at the end of WW1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Friedrich Ebert              | He was the leader of the new Weimar government. He was part of the <b>centre SPD</b> party.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| The Spartacists              | <b>Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht</b> wanted a communist revolution.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Freikorps                    | These were ex-soldiers who had helped to end the Spartacist revolution. They then tried to take control and bring back the Kaiser in the Kapp Putsch. They were led by <b>Wolfgang Kapp</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Stresemann                   | Chancellor of Germany from <b>1923-1929</b> . He introduced acts and treaties to bring back economic stability to Germany and end hyperinflation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Hindenburg                   | The President of Germany from <b>1925-1934</b> . He was reluctant to make Hitler chancellor. He was a popular president.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Bruning                      | Chancellor from <b>1930-32</b> . He did not effectively deal with the depression after he seized land and raised tax. He ruled using article 48.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Von Papen                    | Chancellor from <b>May 1932-November 32</b> . He did not have a majority in the Reichstag and so was ineffective.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Von Schleicher               | Chancellor from <b>November 32- Jan 33</b> . He had no majority in the Reichstag and was not popular. He was Hindenburg's final option before Hitler.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Joseph Goebbels              | Minister of propaganda in the Nazi party. He aimed to gain support for Nazis: focusing on glorifying the Aryan race, the role of German workers, women as wives and mothers and Hitler as the Führer and increase hatred for opponents: focusing on hatred of Treaty of Versailles.                                                                                                           |
| SS                           | Protection Squad' created in 1925, led by <b>Himmler</b> . They controlled all German police and security forces. Wore black uniforms to distinguish between brown SA. By the <b>1930s they had ¼ million</b> , they favoured pure Aryans.                                                                                                                                                    |
| SA                           | Led by <b>Rohm</b> . They were the Nazi party's own army. They would disrupt meetings of opposition parties. Led by Rohm they were disbanded after the night of the long knives where <b>Rohm and 100 other leaders were murdered</b> .                                                                                                                                                       |
| Gestapo                      | 'Secret Police' created 1933, led by <b>Heydrich</b> . Non-uniformed officers who reported anti-Nazi behaviour and used public informants. These were the most feared in Germany because anyone could be Gestapo or be an informant. <b>In reality there were a max. of 30,000 but the fear meant they controlled population of 80 million. In 1939 160,000 were arrested by the Gestapo.</b> |
| Martin Neimoller and the PEL | Niemoller opposed Weimar and originally voted Nazi. Key figure in the <b>pastor's emergency league</b> against the Nazi party. He spoke out against the Nazis and was sent to a concentration camp.                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Youth opposition             | Swing Youth and the Edelweiss pirates. The Edelweiss Pirates wrote anti-Nazi slogans, sheltered deserters and beat up Nazi officials. Swing youth. These were young people who rejected Nazi values, drank alcohol and danced to jazz.                                                                                                                                                        |



## Key terms

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| <b>Treaty of Versailles</b> | The agreement made at the end of WW1 by France, Britain and Germany. The treaty included <b>clause 231-War Guilt Clause, 10% of the population lost, pay £6.6 billion in reparations, 100,000 soldiers and no submarines, loss of land to France and Poland</b> . It was very unpopular and the politicians that signed it were known as the <b>November criminals</b> . |
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| <b>Weimar constitution</b>              | This was the set of rules about how Germany should be governed after WW1. Within this system both men and women could vote in a system of <b>proportional representation</b> where votes were equal to seats in the Reichstag. It was difficult for one party to get 50%o of votes and seats so many <b>coalitions</b> were formed. <b>Article 48</b> allowed the president to rule in an emergency without going to the Reichstag (parliament). This system was democratic but weak.                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Threats from the left</b>            | This included the ideas of Communist and socialists. They believed that wealth should be shared out. They were usually supported by workers. The Communist KPD hated the new government:<br>-In <b>Jan 1919, 50,000 Spartacists rebelled in Berlin, led by Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht</b> .<br>-In 1919, Communist Workers' Councils seized power all over Germany, and a Communist 'People's Government' took power in Bavaria.<br>-In 1920, after the failure of the Kapp Putsch, a paramilitary group called the Red Army rebelled in the Ruhr.                                                 |
| <b>Treats from the right</b>            | Right wing groups included the Nazi party. They wanted a strong government and were usually supported by businessmen. Many right-wing groups hated the new government for signing the Versailles Treaty (June 1919):<br>-The Kapp Putsch: in <b>March 1920, a Freikorps brigade rebelled against the Treaty, led by Dr Wolfgang Kapp</b> . It took over Berlin and tried to bring back the Kaiser. It was only stopped when the workers went on strike.                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Hyperinflation</b>                   | This was when money became worthless. This was because of Reparations - the government paid them by printing more money, causing inflation. In January 1923, Germany failed to make a payment, and <b>France invaded the Ruhr</b> . This humiliated the government, which ordered a general strike, and paid the strikers by printing more money, causing hyperinflation. Food prices became too high for people to afford e.g Bread:<br><b>1919=1m 1922=100m 1923=200,000 billion</b>                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Political and economic recovery</b>  | This refers to the period 1924-29 under the leadership of Stresemann as chancellor. Stresemann introduced the <b>Rentenmark, Dawes Plan and Young Plan to end hyperinflation and solve the problem with reparations by reducing them to 2 billion</b> . He gained loans from the USA to support. He also improved relations with other countries through the <b>Locarno Pact, League of Nations and Kellogg-Briand pact which promised to negotiate rather than resort to war</b> .                                                                                                                        |
| <b>The golden era</b>                   | This is the period of improved living standards and flourishing culture under the Weimar government. As part of this <b>real wages (their value) increased by 25% from 1925 to 1928</b> , Between <b>1924 and 1931 over 2 million new homes were built</b> and art, architecture, literature and the cinema all grew in popularity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>NSDAP</b>                            | This was the name for the Nazi party when Hitler took over in 1920. He wrote a <b>25 point programme</b> which set out his aims including uniting all Germans, his hatred of the Treaty of Versailles and limiting the rights of foreigners and Jews. At this point they were not very popular and so this was known as the lean years as they were not popular when Weimar Germany was thriving.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>The depression</b>                   | As a result of the Wall Street Crash in October 1929, Germany fell into depression. As America called in their loans, businesses closed and jobs were lost, <b>wages were cut by 30% and in January 1933 6 million people were unemployed</b> . The Weimar government were ineffective.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Creation of a dictatorship</b>       | After Hitler was made chancellor in January 1933 he took several steps to becoming Fuhrer of Germany. These included the <b>Reichstag fire</b> which was blamed on communists and meant they could not vote in elections, the <b>Enabling Act</b> which allowed Hitler to pass laws for 4 years without the Reichstag, <b>banning trade unions and political parties</b> in 1933 and the <b>death of Hindenburg</b> in August 1934. This meant that Hitler now had all political power in Germany.                                                                                                         |
| <b>Consolidation of power</b>           | This is the term of Hitler ensuring he had total obedience in Germany. This was done through a combination of <b>fear including the SS, Gestapo, SD and concentration camps, and propaganda</b> where, for example, journalists would be told what they were not allowed to report on. <b>Newspapers who opposed the Nazis were shut - 1,500 by 1935</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Nazi culture</b>                     | The Arts were heavily controlled with censorship and used to promote Nazi ideology through The <b>Reich Chamber of Culture &amp; other organisations</b> . Competitions and exhibitions held to promote Nazi endorsed art and the <b>Nuremburg stadium was built in 1934</b> for rallies. Holding the Olympics in Berlin gave Goebbels a chance to show the world the glorious Third Reich. The largest stadium was built & covered in swastikas.                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Women in Nazi Germany</b>            | The roles of wife/mother were celebrated as the strength of Germany: seen in propaganda & policies. This included the <b>1933 Law for Encouragement of Marriage which gave 1,000 mark loan</b> for couples marrying if the wives stopped working. For every child, $\frac{1}{4}$ paid off. Women were to concentrate on the <b>three Ks: Kinder, Kuche, Kirche (children, kitchen &amp; church)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Aryan</b>                            | The ideal version of a German person. Traditionally thought to have blonde hair, blue eyes and from a family tree of pure blooded Germans.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Living standards in Nazi Germany</b> | To try and improve the lives of German workers after the depression, the Nazi party introduced a number of schemes. <b>Autobahns: 7,000 miles of motorway building to create jobs. By 1935 125,000 men employed</b> . It also created more demand & jobs in construction & raw materials. <b>Strength through Joy (KdF)</b> : Provided rewards/leisure activities for workers, including holidays. <b>The Volkswagen 'People's Car'</b> scheme made affordable for workers. <b>Beauty of Labour</b> : part of DAF dedicated to improving work conditions. <b>Nazis claimed 34,000 companies improved</b> . |
| <b>Youth groups</b>                     | The Nazi party wanted to encourage young people to follow their beliefs and not challenge them. The Hitler Youth trained boys in sport, health and political training to train them as future soldiers. <b>By 1938 1.2 million were weapons trained</b> . The young maidens and league of German maidens taught girls about domestic training, cooking, and child rearing and racial hygiene.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Minority groups</b>                  | Nazis believed in the superiority of the Aryan race. Hitler's views in Mein Kampf blamed non-Aryans for Germany's issues. This included Jews and a number of laws were introduced against them including the <b>Nuremburg laws</b> which removed German citizenship and demanded yellow stars be worn, and <b>Kristallnacht</b> where the Gestapo and SA attacked synagogues and Jewish homes. 100 Jews were killed and 191 synagogues attacked. As well as Jews, the Nazis targeted <b>Slavs, gypsies, homosexuals and people with disabilities</b> .                                                     |