**Germany 1919‐1939**

**Revision Guide**



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| **Topic**  | **After completion of the course**  | **After first time of revising topic**  | **After second time of** **revising topic**  |
| **The German Republic 1918‐1929: Was the Weimar Republic doomed from the start?** **What effect did the First World War have on Germany?** * Was there really a revolution in Germany in 1918?
* Why did the Germans hate the Treaty of Versailles so much?
* How did Germans react to the Treaty?

 **What were the achievements of the Weimar period?** * What was the Weimar Constitution?
* How did the Weimar Republic survive the crises of 1923?
* What was life like during the Great Inflation?
* How far did the Weimar Republic recover from 1924 to 1929?
* What can you tell about Weimar Germany from its culture?
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| **Hitler’s rise to power: How was Hitler able to dominate Germany by 1934?** **How was Hitler able to become Chancellor in 1933?** * How did Hitler become leader of the Nazis?
* The Munich Putsch: success or failure?
* How did the Nazis change their tactics between 1924 and 1929?
* How did the Depression help the Nazis?
* Nazi messages and Nazi methods.
* Why did people support the Nazis?
* Why was Hitler invited to become chancellor?

 **How did Hitler consolidate his power in 1933 and 1934?** * How did Hitler take advantage of the Reichstag Fire?
* Why was the Enabling Act so important?
* Why did the Weimar Republic collapse?
* The SA or the army? – Explain the Night of the Long Knives.
* How did Hitler become President?
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| **Nazi Germany in peace and war** **What were the Nazis trying to achieve, and how did they try to achieve it?** * What kind of Germany did the Nazis want to create?
* Was Hitler really in control of Germany?
* Why was the SS so important?
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| **How effectively did the Nazis control Germany from 1933 to 1939?** * How effectively did the Nazis deal with their political opponents?
* How did the Nazi’s take control of towns and cities?
* Did the Nazi’s win the hearts and minds of the German people?
* Why didn’t the Nazis destroy the churches?
* Why did the Nazis persecute many groups in Germany?
* How did Nazi persecution of the Jews lead to Kristallnacht?  Why was propaganda so important to the Nazis? Art and Architecture, The Berlin Olympics and Images of Hitler.
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| **Nazi Germany in peace and war** **What was it like to live in Nazi Germany 1933‐1939?** * Was everyone better off under the Nazis?
* How did the Nazis tackle the economic crises?
* Did the Nazis achieve an economic miracle?
* What was life like in the Hitler Youth?
* Were children indoctrinated at school?
* What did the Nazis want from German women?
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The German Republic 1918-1929:

Was the Weimar Republic doomed from the start?

**What effect did the First World War have on Germany?**

**1919: An ABC of Crisis**





**bdication of the Kaiser left the government without any authority.**

**lockade by the British Navy meant many Germans were starving.**

**ommunists plotted revolutions like the one in Russia.**

**efeat in the First World War left many demoralised and bitter.**

**bert was elected the first president but he had little experience.**

**reikorps units of ex‐soldiers attacked democratic politician and institutions.**

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| **Germany in 1900 before the war.**  |  |    | In 1900 Germany was the leading industrial nation in Europe. The Kaiser (Emperor) ruled like a King.  |
|  |  |   | By 1914 over half of the German population worked in factories but pay and living conditions were low.  |
|  |  |   | There was a working‐class growth in support for the left‐wing Socialist Party (SPD) who promised they would improve things.  |
|  |  |   | They argued that the Kaiser held too much power and the parliament (Reichstag) should have more say.  |
| **The Impact of the War.**  |  |    | Germany went to war confident of victory in 1914. The **Allied naval blockade** began to create serious shortages of food and Medicines. The food problems were made worse by the 1916‐1917 winter and the loss of the potato crop. This forced German civilians to rely on turnips instead in what was the **‘turnip winter’**.  |
|  |  |   | By 1917, these shortages began to affect Germany’s armed forces – cuts in navy rations led to a mutiny.  |
|  |  |   | Coal shortages then led to electricity cuts. By early 1918, many Germans we fed up with the war. Then and **influenza epidemic** hit, killing many civilians and soldiers.  |
|  |  |   | Most Germans believed they were fighting a **defensive war**. Right up until 1918, the Kaiser and the army High Command led people to believe that they were **winning the war.**  |
|  |  |   | In October 1918, the German army was **near defeat.** So the High Command told the Kaiser that Germany could not win the war, and advised him to **seek peace terms.**  |
|  |  |   | By November 1918 Germany was a defeated nation. The war had cost 2.4 million German lives.  |
|  |  |   | It had been funded by loans so prices of goods soared and there was widespread starvation in Germany and a growth in support for the Socialist Party to take over and for the Kaiser to Abdicate (give up his throne).  |
| **The** **Abdication of the Kaiser and creation of a** **Republic.**   |  |    | When it was clear that Germany was going to be defeated the allies demanded the abdication of the Kaiser before a peace agreement (armistice) would be signed. All over Germany there were strikes and demonstrations against the war and soldiers were mutinying.  |
|  |  |   | The Allied naval blockade was causing near starvation conditions and Germany was in financial ruin. Despite this the Kaiser refused to give more power to the German Reichstag (parliament).  |
|  |  |   | The leader of the Social Democrats – Friedrich Ebert sent an ultimatum to the Kaiser that unless he abdicated there could be a communist revolution in Germany.  |
|  |  |   | On 9th November there was a general strike in Berlin. Ebert declared a new German **Republic** with himself as Chancellor  |
|  |  |   | The Kaiser abdicated on 10th November  |
|  |  |   | The Armistice was signed on 11th November.  |

**Why did the Germans hate the Treaty of Versailles so much?**

 ***Key Words***

**Clause 231 –** The paragraph blaming Germany for the war.

**Reparations –** The money Germany had to pay for damage done during the war.

**Terms of theTreaty**

The treaty set out 440 Articles detailing Germany's punishment. These were the most important: **Key articles**

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| --- | --- |
| **Article** **number**  | **Description**  |
| 1‐26:  | The Covenant of the League of Nations ‐ Germany was not allowed to join.  |
| 42:  | The Rhineland was demilitarised ‐ the German army was not allowed to go there.  |
| 45:  | The Saar, with its rich coalfields, given to France for 15 years.  |
| 51:  | Alsace‐Lorraine returned to France.  |
| 80:  | Germany forbidden to unite with Austria.  |
| 87:  | Lands in eastern Germany ‐ the rich farmlands of Posen and the Polish corridor between Germany and East Prussia ‐ given to Poland.  |
| 100:  | Danzig made a free city under League of Nations control.  |
| 119:  | All Germany's colonies taken and given to France and Britain as 'mandates'.  |
| 160:  | The German army restricted to 100,000 men.  |
| 181:  | The German navy restricted to six battleships and no submarines.  |
| 198:  | Germany not allowed to have an air force.  |
| 231:  | Germany was responsible for causing all the loss and damage caused by the war.  |
| 232:  | Germany would have to pay reparations, to be decided later ‐ eventually set at 132 billion gold marks.  |

May the hand wither that signs this treaty.

Frederick Scheidemann, the German Chancellor (June 1919) then he resigned rather than agree to the Treaty

**How did Germans react to theTreaty?**

On 7 May, the victors presented their Treaty to the small German delegation. Count Brockdorff‐Rantzau angered the Big Three by giving a long speech criticising the Treaty; then the delegation left and set about countering it. A little later, they sent their counter‐proposal based on the Fourteen Points) to the Big Three ‐‐ their reply was so good that one of the British delegation said it was much better than the Allies' suggestions, and even Lloyd George wondered for a time if they ought to rethink the treaty . Then the delegation went home. Many Germans wanted to refuse to sign the treaty; some even suggested that they start the war again. So it was with great difficulty that the President got the Reichstag to agree to sign the treaty, and the imperious way the two German representatives were treated when they were forced to sign made things worse.

## Memory Aid: UBRAT

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| **Unfair**  | **German outrage** When the Germans heard about the Treaty of Versailles, they felt ‘pain and anger’. They felt it was **unfair**. It was a '*Diktat*' – an IMPOSED settlement. They had not been allowed to take part in the talks – they had just been told to sign.  |
| **Blame**  | **The Germans HATED the Treaty of Versailles** The Germans hated Clause 231; they said they were not to **blame** for the war. The soldier sent to sign the Treaty refused to sign it – ‘To say such a thing would be a lie,’ he said. Clause 231 did not physically harm Germany, but it hurt Germany's pride ‐ and it was this, as much as anything else, that made them want to overturn the treaty.  |
| **Reparations**  | The Germans hated **reparations**; they said France and Britain were trying to starve their children to death. At first they refused to pay, and only started paying after France and Britain invaded Germany (January 1921). |
| **Army**  | The Germans hated their tiny **army**. They said they were helpless against other countries. At first they refused to reduce the army, and the sailors sank the fleet, rather than hand it over. |
| **Territory**  | The Germans also hated the loss of **territory**. Germany lost a tenth of its land ‐ they claimed that the treaty was simply an attempt to destroy their economy. Other nations were given self‐determination – but the Treaty forced Germans to live in other countries. Germans were also angry that they could not unite with the Austrian Germans. |

# Revision Task

Before completing the task watch this video clip to recap on the Treaty and its terms **http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/mwh/ir1/thetreaty\_video.shtml**

**The terms of the treaty can be classified into three groups:**

* **Territorial** ‐ provisions that took land away from Germany
* **Military** ‐ provisions that limited Germany's armed forces
* **Financial and Economic**

Use three colours, one for each category and put each of the terms of the treaty into the correct category.

**Watch these video clips to recap on the impact of WWI and the Germany reaction to the Treaty of Versailles: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/mwh/ir1/opinions\_video.shtml http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YJfOZkriyk**

What were the achievements of the Weimar period?

**What was the Weimar Constitution?**



**Weimar Problems 1919‐1923**

**Germany 1919–1923: Key Dates to Know!**

**1919**

Spartacist revolt (Jan) and other Communist rebellions.

Communist 'People's Government seizes power in Bavaria.

**1920**

Kapp Putsch (Mar)

'Red Army' (communist) rebellion in the Ruhr

**1921**

Assassination of Matthias Erzberger

**1922**

Assassination of Walter Rathenau

**1923**

(Jan) France invades the Ruhr

General Strike and hyperinflation

(Oct) Black Reichswehr rebellion

The Rhineland declared independence (Oct) and Communists take power in Saxony and Thuringia

(Nov) Hitler's Munich Putsch.

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| **Strengths**  | **Weaknesses**  |
| Proportional Representation meant that all political parties got a say in government   | Proportional Representation encouraged lots of small parties which meant no one party had a majority. Parties had to group together in coalitions. There were 9 different coalitions in the first four years. Coalitions would frequently fall out and disagree in times of crisis PR also meant extreme parties on the Right and Left could also get seats in the Government  |
| All Germans had equal rights, including the right to vote   | In 1919 the Republic had many enemies. It was not sensible to give equal rights to those who wished to destroy it.   |
| Article 48 was necessary because it made the President strong and able to keep control of the country and protect it with the army in a crisis   | The President had too much power. He could turn himself into a dictator.   |
|   | Germany had little experience of Democracy before. Many preferred the strong system of government under the Kaiser and felt the army and upper class were the rightful rulers.   |

**What problems faced the Weimar Government 1919–1923?**

**Memory Aid: ILRIM**

## 1. Ineffective Constitution

The Weimar Constitution did not create a strong government:

* **Article 48** of the constitution gave the President sole power in ‘times of emergency’ – something he took often.
* The system of **proportional voting** led to 28 parties. This made it virtually impossible to establish a majority in the Reichstag, and led to frequent changes in the government. During 1919‐33, there were twenty separate coalition governments and the longest government lasted only two years. This political chaos caused many to lose faith in the new democratic system.
* The German **states** had too much power and often ignored the government.
* **The Army**, led by the right‐wing General Hans von Seeckt, was not fully under the government’s control. It failed to support government during the Kapp Putsch or the crisis of 1923.
* Many government officials – especially **judges** – were right‐wing and wanted to destroy the government. After the Kapp Putsch, 700 rebels were tried for treason; only 1 went to prison. After the Munich Putsch, Hitler went to prison for only 9 months.

## 2. Left‐wing Rebellions

The Communist **KPD** hated the new government:

* In Jan 1919, 50,000 **Spartacists** rebelled in Berlin, led by **Rosa Luxemburg** and **Karl Leibknecht**.
* In 1919, Communist **Workers’ Councils** seized power all over Germany, and a Communist ‘People’s Government’ took power in **Bavaria**.
* In 1920, after the failure of the Kapp Putsch, a paramilitary group called the **Red Army** rebelled in the Ruhr.

## 3. Right‐wing terrorism

Many right‐wing groups hated the new government for signing the **Versailles Treaty** (June 1919):

* The **Kapp Putsch**: in March 1920, a **Freikorps** brigade rebelled against the Treaty, led by Dr Wolfgang Kapp. It took over Berlin and tried to bring back the Kaiser.
* Nationalist terrorist groups murdered 356 politicians. In August 1921 Matthias **Erzberger**, the man who signed the armistice (and therefore a 'November criminal'), was shot. In 1922, they assassinated Walter **Rathenau**, the SPD foreign minister, because he made a treaty with Russia.

## 4. Invasion‐Inflation: the crisis of 1923

The cause of the trouble was **Reparations** – the government paid them by printing more money, causing inflation. In January 1923, Germany failed to make a payment, and France invaded the **Ruhr**. This humiliated the government, which ordered a general strike, and paid the strikers by printing more money, causing **hyperinflation**:

* In Berlin on 1 October 1923, soldiers calling themselves **Black Reichswehr** rebelled, led by Bruno Buchrucker.
* The**Rhineland** declared independence (21–22 October).
* In **Saxony** and **Thuringia** the Communists took power.

## 5. Munich Putsch

On 8–9 November 1923, Hitler’s Nazis tried to take control of Bavaria (the **Munich Putsch**).

**What was life like during the hyperInflation?**

In 1923 Germany couldn’t pay the Reparations. Hyperinflation happens when production can’t keep up with the amount of money there is, so the money keeps losing its value.

 **1918** **Aug 1923** **Nov 1923**



 =

 **¼ mark**

 **5000 Marks** **80 million Marks**

**Hyperinflation had Three Major Results**

1. **Wages** were paid **twice a day** before prices went up again.
2. The middle classes lost out as **bank savings** became **worthless**.
3. The German **Mark** became **worthless**.

Remember that discontent in Germany got worse when the economy went wrong – but there were lots of other factors too.

## Summary

The Weimar Republic faced many problems. Perhaps the greatest danger was 'the weakness within' - the constitution gave the President, the states and the army too much power, whilst proportional voting meant that the Reichstag was divided and weak. In 1919-23, extremists on both the Left (especially the Spartacist revolt) and the Right (especially the Kapp Putsch) tried to overthrow the government.

The worst crisis occurred in 1923, when the French invaded to try to force Germany to pay reparations. This led to hyperinflation and a number of rebellions (particularly Hitler's Munich Putsch).

# Revision Task

Watch this video for a quick review of the information you have just read above. **http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEt7PLQpjXY**

1. List all the problems facing the Weimar Republic in its early years in order of date. For each problem, decide how big a problem it was.
2. Here is a list of the factors which helped to cause the Weimar government’s problems:

**C**ommunists

**R**ight‐wing parties

**O**fficials – the judges wanted to destroy it

**A**rmy

**P**roportional voting

**O**ccupation of the Ruhr **P**rinting money

**For each factor**

* 1. Find the times when it caused problems for the government.
	2. How did it create instability in Germany?
1. Looking at all the information, what do you think: *Was the Weimar Republic doomed from the start?*

How far did the Weimar Republic recover from 1924 to 1929?

## Memory Aid: FASS

Although it seemed that the Weimar Republic MUST collapse, it managed to survive. To do this it used any method available to it:

### 1. Freikorps

Against the Communists, the SPD Defence Minister, Gustav Noske, used bands of Freikorps. They were right‐wing and enjoyed putting down the Communist revolts of 1919–1920.

### 2. Army

The Army, led by von Seeckt, was also right‐wing, and enjoyed putting down the Communist revolts of 1923.

### 3. Strikes

The Kapp Putsch was right‐wing, so the Freikorps and Army refused to help the government. However, Ebert appealed to the workers of Berlin (who were left‐wing), who went on strike. Berlin came to a standstill and the Putsch collapsed. **Also:**

After 1924, a politician named Gustav Stresemann led the government (he became Chancellor in August 1923). At first he had opposed the Weimar Republic, but changed when he realised the alternative was anarchy.

**4. Stresemann's Achievements (DIFFERS)**

### a. Dawes Plan, 1924

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 the Young Plan of 1929 reduced the payments).

### b. Inflation controlled, November 1923

Stresemann called in all the old, worthless marks and burned them. He replaced them with a new Rentenmark (worth 3,000 million old marks).

**c. French leave the Ruhr, April 1924** Stresemann persuaded the French to leave.

#### d. Foreign Affairs

In 1925, Stresemann signed the Locarno Treaty, agreeing to the loss of Alsace‐Lorraine. In 1926, Germany was allowed to join the League of Nations. Germany had become a world power again.

### e. Economic Growth

Germany borrowed 25,000 million gold marks, mainly from America. This was used to build roads, railways

and factories. The economy boomed and led to prosperity. Cultural life also boomed (the Roaring Twenties).

### f. Reforms

Stresemann introduced reforms to make life better for the working classes ‐ Labour Exchanges (1927) and unemployment pay. Also, 3 million new houses were built.

### g. Strength at the Centre

Stresemann arranged a 'Great Coalition' of the moderate pro‐democracy parties (based around the SDP, the Centre party and Stresemann's own 'German people's Party', the DVP). United together, they were able to resist the criticism from smaller extremist parties, and in this way, he overcame the effects of proportional representation ‐ the government had enough members of the Reichstag supporting it to pass the laws it needed.

**Germany had begun to Recover– but Depended on US Money**

Life was beginning to look better for Germany thanks to the work of Stresemann. But he died in October 1929, just before the disaster of the Wall Street Crash – a massive stock market crash in the USA which started a global economic depression. The plans he had agreed would only work if the USA had enough money to keep lending to Germany – but now it didn’t. Things were suddenly going to get worse again.

**Re‐cap by watching this video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbW8mA\_cdFg**

**What can you tell about Weimar Germany from its culture?**

**Cultural Flowering ‐ The 'Roaring twenties'**

The 1920s became in Germany a time of real cultural creativity, with developments in Architecture, Art, Books, Films and Cabaret.

Famous names of this period include:

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| The film *Cabaret* was set in the Kit-Kat club in Berlin in 1930, before the Nazis took power.  |

* the Bauhaus school of architecture, founded by Walter Gropius.
* the artist Paul Klee.
* the singer and film star Marlene Dietrich
* the artist Otto Dix (famous for his harsh paintings of World War One trenches).
* the novelist Erich Maria Remarque, who wrote the anti‐war novel *All Quiet on the Western Front.*

* 1. Germany’s capital Berlin became a centre for culture under the Weimar Republic.
	2. There were advances in art, architecture, music and literature. German films were successful – e.g. ‘Metropolis’ directed by Fritz Lang.
	3. Some developments were bold and new, like the drama of Bertholt Brecht. The Bauhaus School of design was highly influential.
	4. The Weimar Republic encouraged new ways of critical thinking at places like Frankfurt University.
	5. Not everyone approved of these cultural changes – the cabaret culture in Berlin was seen as immoral by some. The culture of the Weimar Republic didn’t survive under the Nazis...

**It was nearly all okay...**

The 1920s were a tough decade in Germany, but Stresemann seemed to have the problems sorted.

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| **Summary** The republic survived the crises of 1919-23 by using the right-wing army and Freikorps units to crush the Communists, and getting the help of the left-wing unions to crush the Kapp Putsch.  |
| Stresemann, and American money (the Dawes Plan) led to a period of prosperity which saw a cultural flowering in Germany.  |

# Revision Task

Watch the YouTube clip below in order to review the information you have just read above. **http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbW8mA\_cdFg**

Hyper‐inflation affected the German people in different ways. Draw a set of scales under the title ‘Hyperinflation.’ Write the negative effects of hyper‐inflation on one side and the positive effects on the other side. Which side had the most points?

Hitler’s rise to power: How was Hitler able to dominate Germany by 1934?

**How was Hitler able to become Chancellor in 1933?**

**How did Hitler become leader of the Nazis?**

## 1. Start

The German Workers’ Party, led by Anton Drexler, was formed in 1919. Hitler joined and soon became leader. His speeches gave people scapegoats to blame for Germany’s problems:

* The Allies.
* The Versailles Treaty and the ‘November Criminals’ (the politicians who signed it).
* The Communists, and:
* The Jews.

* + Hitler fought in WW1 and was employed afterwards by the German Army as a propaganda agent. His job was to go to political meetings where a chance encounter with the **German Workers Party (DAP)** changed his life.
	+ Hitler joined the Party in 1920 and put together the **25 point programme** with the leader Anton Drexler.
	+ The Party was renamed the **National Socialist German Workers Party** (Nazi for short).
	+ By 1921 Hitler’s skills had led him to be made leader.
	+ The party became more aggressive with an emphasis on **discipline and loyalty to the Leader.**
	+ Hitler founded the **Sturmabteilung (SA)** – a brown‐shirted paramilitary organisation
	+ The SA attracted ex‐soldiers and members of the Friekorps who hated communists and wanted to intimidate them
	+ The swastika became the symbol of the Party

**Points from the Twenty‐Five Point Programme, 1920**

* + Unite all German‐speaking people.
	+ Abolish the Treaty of Versailles and end reparations.
	+ Share all profits made by profiteers during the war.
	+ From a strong central government with unrestricted authority.
	+ Take over land and colonies in Eastern Europe to feed Germany’s population.

**Memory Aid:** A good way to remember these points is to think of them as:

**U**ncle’s **A**pple **P**ie **S**mells **L**ovely

* + **U**nite
	+ **A**bolish
	+ **P**rofit
	+ **S**trong
	+ **L**and

**The Munich Putsch: A turning point?**

**What happened?**

* + In 1923 Adolf Hitler and his Nazi party staged an attempted Putsch in Munich. They felt the time was right because of the right‐ing atmosphere caused by the French occupation of the Ruhr.  The SA burst in on a meeting of the Bavarian government
	+ and Hitler declared himself leader.
	+ Hitler planned to march on Berlin the next day and take over the German government.
	+ But Von Seisser and Von Lussow changed their minds and informed the Bavarian police.
	+ The Nazis were met with armed resistance and 16 were killed.
	+ Hitler was arrested and put on trial for treason.

**Why was it a turning point for the Nazis?**

* + Hitler used the trial to put forward his ideas. He portrayed himself as a patriot (loyal to his country) who wanted the best for Germany.
	+ He was able to use the trial as a publicity opportunity for the Nazis.
	+ He was given a very lenient sentence – only 5 years. He only served 9 months.
	+ Whilst in prison he wrote Mein Kampf which outlined his ideas for Germany and became the bible of the Nazi movement.
	+ He realised in Prison that he would have to take power legally through the ‘ballot’ not the ‘bullot’

**How did the Nazis change their tactics between 1924 and 1929?**

## 1. Elections and decline

After the failure of the Munich Putsch, Hitler decided that he would have to get power by being elected, rather than by rebellion. However, he was banned from speaking until 1928.

The prosperity of the Stresemann years, also, meant that the Nazi’s message became less appealing and the party lost support.

## 2. Re‐organising the Party

In this period, however, Hitler set about reorganising the Party, he had made a decision in prison that he would now try to gain power through legal and democratic methods. He put in place many of the things which helped it take power after 1928:

* He reduced the number of Stormtroopers (SA) and set up the SS, a personal bodyguard fanatically  loyal to himself.
* He set up a network of local parties. He merged with other right‐wing parties, then took them over.
* He set up the Hitler Youth, which attracted young people to the party.
* He put Josef Goebbels in charge of propaganda. Goebbels and Hitler believed that the best way to
* get the support of the masses was by appealing to their feelings rather than by argument. They
* waged a propaganda campaign using posters, leaflets, radio and film, and organised rallies.
* He cultivated the support of wealthy businessmen promising them that, if he came to power, he
* would destroy Communism and the Trade Unions. This gave him the finance to run his campaigns.

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| **Summary**  |
| The Nazis grew out of a small right-wing party, which Hitler took over after 1919. He developed a TwentyFive Point Programme based on hatred, and built up a paramilitary group (the SA) to defend his meetings and attack other parties.  |
| The Nazis appealed to a wide range of people, but especially the 'middling' sort of people, and the party grew rapidly in the years of crisis 1919-1923.  |
| After the disaster of the Munich Putsch, and during the prosperity of the Stresemann years, however, support for the Nazis fell. During this time Hitler believed that he could be elected to power. He used these years to develop and strengthen the party's organisation.  |

# Revision Task

Using the information above decide whether the statements below are True or False. When you identified the ones that are False, rewrite them so they are True.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Statement**  | **True / False**  |
| The Munich Putsch showed Hitler that using force was the best way to gain power.  |   |
| Joseph Goebbels used propaganda such as posters and newspapers to persuade the German people to vote for the Nazis.  |   |
| Hitler wanted to gain the vote of businessmen so he promised to get rid of the Communists if the Nazis came to power.  |   |
| The SA were used to disrupt meetings of other political opponents.  |   |
| During this period the Nazis decided not to create organisations such as the Hitler Youth.  |   |

Why was Hitler invited to become Chancellor?

## Memory Aid: LIMP PAPER

The story of why Hitler came to power is about the reasons why the German people lost their senses and allowed a vicious madman to come to power. What could have brought this about?

**All the following were present from the 1920s:**

### 1. Long‐term bitterness

Deep anger about the First World War and the Treaty of Versailles created an underlying bitterness to which Hitler’s viciousness and expansionism appealed, so they gave him support.

### 2. Ineffective Constitution

Weaknesses in the Constitution crippled the government. In fact, there were many people in Germany who *wanted* a return to dictatorship. When the crisis came in 1929–1933 – there was no one who was prepared or able to fight to stop Hitler.

#### 3. Money

The financial support of wealthy businessmen gave Hitler the money to run his propaganda and election campaigns.

### 4. Propaganda

Nazi propaganda persuaded the German masses to believe that the Jews were to blame and that Hitler was their last hope.

### 5. Programme

Hitler promised everybody something, so they supported him.

#### 6. Attacks on other parties

The Stormtroopers attacked Jews and people who opposed Hitler. Many opponents kept quiet simply because they were scared of being murdered – and, if they were, the judges simply let the Stormtroopers go free (see point 2).

#### 7. Personal Qualities

Hitler was a brilliant speaker, and his eyes had a peculiar power over people. He was a good organiser and politician. He was a driven, unstable man, who believed that he had been called by God to become dictator of Germany and rule the world. This kept him going when other people might have given up. His self‐belief persuaded people to believe in him.

**After 1929, however, two short‐term factors brought Hitler to power:**

#### 8. Economic Depression

After the Wall Street Crash of 1929, the US called in its loans to Germany, and the German economy collapsed. The Number of unemployed grew; people starved on the streets. In the crisis, people wanted someone to blame, and looked to extreme solutions – Hitler offered them both, and Nazi success in the elections grew.

Germans turned to Nazism because they were desperate. The number of Nazi seats in the Reichstag rose from 12 in 1928 to 230 in July 1932.

#### 9. Recruited by Hindenburg

In November 1932 elections the Nazis again failed to get a majority of seats in the Reichstag. Their share of the vote fell – from 230 seats to only 196. Hitler contemplated suicide. But then he was rescued by Hindenburg.

Franz von Papen (a friend of Hindenburg) was Chancellor, but he could not get enough support in the

Reichstag. Hindenburg and von Papen were having to govern by emergency decree under Article 48 of the

Constitution. They offered Hitler the post of vice‐Chancellor if he promised to support them.

Hitler refused – he demanded to be made Chancellor. So Von Papen and Hindenburg took a risk. On 30

January 1933 Hindenburg made Hitler Chancellor. He thought he could control Hitler – how wrong he was. In the end, Hitler did not TAKE power at all – he was given it.

## Summary

Hitler's rise to power was based upon long‐term factors ‐ resentment in the German people, the weakness of the Weimar system ‐ which he exploited through propaganda (paid for by his rich, Communist‐fearing backers), the terror of his stormtroopers, and the brilliance of his speeches. During the 'roaring twenties' Germans ignored this vicious little man with his programme of hatred. But when the Great Depression ruined their lives, they voted for him in increasing numbers. Needing support, and thinking he could control Hitler, President Hindenburg made the mistake in January 1933 of giving Hitler the post of Chancellor.

# Revision Task

Listen to the podcast below and watch the YouTube links to review the information you have just read above: **http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/audio/history/d3\_hitlers\_rise\_to\_power.mp3 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CFWH4Fhkak http://s161.photobucket.com/user/lauram\_020/media/HITLERBECOMESCHANCELLOR\_0002.mp4.html? sort=3&o=2#/user/lauram\_020/media/HITLERBECOMESCHANCELLOR\_0002.mp4.html?sort=3&o=2&\_sui d=136405367403509551861664641059**

This is a favourite topic for exam questions so make sure you know all that led to the Nazis taking power really well. You must know how they contributed to Nazi success. Create a revision card for each factor. On one side write the heading, on the other side write the key points.

How did Hitler consolidate his power in 1933 and 1934?

**There were eight steps to Hitler becoming dictator**

## Memory Aid: Rigged German Election Leads To Psychopath Nazi Fuhrer

### 1 Reichstag Fire ‐ 27 Feb 1933

The Reichstag (the German Parliament) burned down. A Dutch Communist named van der Lubbe was caught red‐handed with matches and fire‐lighting materials. Hitler used it as an excuse to arrest many of his Communist opponents, and as a major platform in his election campaign of March 1933. The fire was so convenient that many people at the time claimed that the Nazis had burned it down, and then just blamed the Communists. Modern historians, however, tend to believe that van der Lubbe did cause the fire, and that Hitler just took advantage of it.

### 2 General Election ‐ 5 March 1933

Hitler held a general election, appealing to the German people to give him a clear mandate. Only 44% of the people voted Nazi, which did not give him a majority in the Reichstag, so Hitler arrested the 81

Communist deputies (which did give him a majority). Goering become Speaker of the Reichstag.

### 3 Enabling Act ‐ 23 March 1933

The Reichstag voted to give Hitler the power to make his own laws. Nazi stormtroopers stopped opposition deputies going in, and beat up anyone who dared to speak against it.

The Enabling Act made Hitler the dictator of Germany, with power to do anything he liked ‐ legally.

### 4 Local government ‐ 26 April 1933

The Nazis took over local government and the police. The Nazis started to replace anti‐Nazi teachers and University professors. Hitler set up the Gestapo (the secret police) and encouraged Germans to report opponents and 'grumblers'. Tens of thousands of Jews, Communists, Protestants, Jehovah's Witnesses, gypsies, homosexuals, alcoholics and prostitutes were arrested and sent to concentration camps for 'crimes' as small as writing anti‐Nazi graffiti, possessing a banned book, or saying that business was bad.

### 5 Trade Unions banned ‐ 2 May 1933

The Trade Unions offices were closed, their money confiscated, and their leaders put in prison. In their place, Hitler put the German Labour Front which reduced workers' pay and took away the right to strike.

### 6 Political Parties banned ‐ 14 July 1933

The Law against the Formation of Parties declared the Nazi Party the only political party in Germany. All other parties were banned, and their leaders were put in prison.

### 7 Night of the Long Knives ‐ 30 June 1934

The SA were the thugs who Hitler had used to help him come to power. They had defended his meetings, and attacked opponents. By 1934 there were more than a million of them.

Historians have often wondered why Hitler turned on the SA. But Hitler was in power in 1934, and there was no opposition left ‐ the SA were an embarrassment, not an advantage. Also, Rohm, the leader of the SA, was talking about a Socialist revolution and about taking over the army. On the night of 30 June 1934 ‐ codeword 'Hummingbird ‐ Hitler ordered the SS to kill more than 400 SA men.

### 8 Führer ‐ 19 August 1934

When Hindenburg died, Hitler took over the office of President and leader of the army (the soldiers had to swear to die for Adolf Hitler personally). Hitler called himself 'Fuhrer'.

# Revision Task

The information above is really important for you to learn. Draw your own timeline of the period 1933‐34. This should include all the steps that led to Hitler becoming the Supreme Leader of Germany.

 How effectively did the Nazis control Germany from 1933 to 1939?

## Memory Aid: Overdo The Power You Worthless Ranting Rogue

### 1 One‐Party State

The Enabling Act (23 March 1933) made Hitler was the all‐powerful Fuhrer of Germany. The Law against the Formation of Parties (14 July 1933) declared the Nazi Party the only political party in Germany. It was an offence to belong to another Party. All other parties were banned, and their leaders were put in prison. Nazi Party members, however, got the best jobs, better houses and special privileges. Many businessmen joined the Nazi Party purely to get orders.

### 2 Terror

The Nazis took over local government and the police. On 26 April 1933, Hitler set up the Gestapo (the secret police) and the SS, and encouraged Germans to report opponents and 'grumblers'. Tens of thousands of Jews, Communists, gypsies, homosexuals, alcoholics and prostitutes were arrested and sent to concentration camps for 'crimes' as small as writing anti‐Nazi graffiti, possessing a banned book, or saying that business was bad.

On the Night of the Long Knives (13 June 1934) Hitler used his legal power to assassinate all his opponents within the Nazi Party.

### 3 Propaganda

The German people were subjected to continual propaganda, under the control of Josef Goebbels. It was the cult of personality ‐ everything was organised to make Germans permanently grateful to Adolf Hitler. Germans were made to feel part of a great and successful movement ‐ in this respect the 1936 Olympic Games were a propaganda coup.

The Nazis used the most up‐to‐date technology to get their message across.

### 4 Youth

'When an opponent declares, 'I will not come over to your side', I calmly say, 'Your child belongs to us already'. The Nazis replaced anti‐Nazi teachers and University professors, and school lessons included hidden indoctrination ‐ requiring children to calculate how much mentally disabled people cost the state, or to criticize the racial features of Jewish people.

German boys were required to attend the Hitler Youth, which mixed exciting activities, war‐games and Nazi indoctrination. German girls went to the BDM and learned how to be good mothers, and to love Hitler.

### 5 Workforce

Hitler banned all Trade Unions on 2 May 1933. Their offices were closed, their money confiscated, and their leaders put in prison. In their place, Hitler put the German Labour Front which reduced workers' pay and took away the right to strike. The National Labour Service sent men on public works programmes. To keep the workers happy, the Nazis set up the Strength through Joy movement, which offered good workers picnics, free trips to the cinema and (for the very few) free holidays.

### 6 Religion

Hitler signed a Concordat with the Pope, agreeing to leave the Roman Catholic Church alone if it stayed out of politics ‐ so most Catholics were happy to accept the Nazi regime.

Protestants and Jehovah's Witnesses ‐ if they opposed the Nazis ‐ were sent to concentration camps.

### 7 Racism

The Nazi regime was from the start based on anti‐semitism. The Racial Purity Law (15 September 1935) took away German citizenship from the Jews, and forbade sex between Germans and Jews. Other key dates include Kristallnacht (9‐10 November 1938) and the Wansee Conference (January 1942). Many Germans approved of this racism.

## Summary

Within a one‐party state, Hitler used terror to keep power, underpinned by propaganda and indoctrination of the young. There were special measures to keep the workers happy. Hitler signed a Concordat with the Pope, which stopped Catholics opposing him, and he persecuted the Jews (which many Germans approved of).

# Revision Task

Listen to the podcast below to review the knowledge you have just read above.

**http://www.mrallsophistory.com/podcasts/nazicontrol.mp3**

Create a mind map showing the ways the Nazis used ‘Terror’ to control people.

Create a mind map showing the ways the Nazis used ‘Propaganda’ to control people.

What was it like to live in Nazi Germany 1933-1939?

## Memory Aid: NOW YOU

### 1 Nazi Party Members

 Were especially happy ‐ they got all the best houses, preferential treatment, good jobs in the government and power over other people.

### 2 Ordinary people

For ordinary people, life was good, and many Germans even today look back and remember the years before 1939 as happy years:

* Nazi economic policies gave full employment (work programmes/ Strength through Joy), prosperity and financial security ‐ many observers stated that there seemed to be no poverty in Germany,
* The Strength through Joy programme (KdF) gave some people fun and holidays.
* The 'Beauty of Work' movement (SdA) gave people pride in what they were doing.  Law and order (few people locked their doors),
* Autobahns improved transport,
* Frequent ceremonies, rallies, colour and excitement,
* Nazi propaganda gave people hope,
* Nazi racial philosophy gave people self‐belief
* Trust in Adolf Hitler gave a sense of security (one German woman told the American reporter Nora Wall: 'He is my mother and my father. He keeps me safe from all harm.')

There were few drawbacks:

* Wages fell, and strikers could be shot ‐ the Nazis worked closely with the businessmen to make sure that the workforce were as controlled as possible.
* Loss of personal freedoms (eg freedom of speech).
* All culture had to be German ‐ eg music had to be Beethoven or Wagner or German folk songs ‐ or Nazi ‐ eg all actors had to be members of the Nazi party/ only books by approved authors could be read.

### 3 Women

The Nazis were very male‐dominated and anti‐feminist. Nazi philosophy idealised the role of women as child‐bearer and creator of the family:

* The Law for the Encouragement of Marriage gave newly‐wed couples a loan of 1000 marks, and allowed them to keep 250 marks for each child they had.
* Mothers who had more than 8 children were given a gold medal.
* But not all women were happy with the Nazi regime:
* Job‐discrimination against women was encouraged. Women doctors, teachers and civil servants were forced to give up their careers.
* Women were never allowed to serve in the armed forces ‐ even during the war.

### 4 Youth

Most German young people were happy:

* Nazi culture was very youth‐oriented.
* The HJ provided exciting activities for young boys.
* The HJ and the BDM treated young men and women as though they were special, and told then they had knew more than their parents.
* Many parents were frightened that their children would report them to the Gestapo, which gave young people a power that they enjoyed.

But not all young people were happy with the Nazi regime:

SOME girls were unhappy with the emphasis on the three Cs (Church, children, cooker).

Girls who were regarded as true Aryan girls were sent off to special camps where they were bred (like farm animals) with selected 'Aryan' boys.

Towards the end of the war, youth gangs such as the Eidelweiss Pirates grew up, rejecting the HJ 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.

### 5 Opponents

The Nazi's used 'fear and horror' against anyone who disapproved of their regime:

* Hitler banned all Trade Unions on 2 May 1933. Their offices were closed, their money confiscated, and their leaders put in prison.
* Communists were put into concentration camps or killed.
* Many Protestant pastors such as Dietrich Bonhoffer were persecuted and executed.
* Each block of flats had a 'staircase ruler' who reported grumblers to the police ‐ they were arrested and either murdered, or sent to concentration camps.
* Children were encouraged to report their parents to the Gestapo if they criticized Hitler or the Nazi party.

**But remember that:**

* Many Germans welcomed this because it brought political stability after the Weimar years.

### 6 *Untermensch*

The Nazi regime despised many groups which it thought were racially or socially inferior (*untermensch* = subhuman) ‐ people they called the 'germs of destruction'. Groups which were persecuted and killed included:

* Jews, such as Anne Frank, whom the Germans systematically persecuted, were forced into walled ghettos, put into concentration camps, and used for medical experiments. In the end the Nazis devised the Final Solution of genocide ‐ it was the Holocaust.
* Gypsies were treated almost as badly as the Jews ‐ 85% of Germany's gypsies were killed.  Black people were sterilized and killed.
* 5000 mentally disabled babies were killed 1939‐45.
* 72,000 mentally ill patients were killed 1939‐41.
* Physically disabled people and families with hereditary illness were sometimes sterilized. 300,000 men and women were sterilized 1934‐45.
* Some deaf people were sterilised and put to death.
* Beggars, homosexuals, prostitutes, alcoholics, pacifists, hooligans and criminals were also regarded as anti‐social, and they were put in concentration camps.

**But note that:**

* Many Germans approved of this ‐ or at least turned a blind eye. 'Gestapo‐terror was everywhere. Anyone who spoke up was killed or put into a concentration camp. You should not forget also that MANY GERMANS HID JEWS.
* Another point you should not forget is, people could not see pictures like the one below. All they could see was Nazi propaganda which of course had an influence on the people's minds.

**Source F**

Children in concentration camps who had been used for medical experiments.

## Summary

The key here is to understand that the Nazi state affected different people in different ways. For the majority of people, in fact, life was good ‐ that is why they turned a blind eye to the fact that ‐ for groups which were not accepted by the Nazi state ‐ life was horrific.

# Revision Task

Listen to the following podcasts to review the knowledge you have revised above. **http://www.mrallsophistory.com/podcasts/nazilife.mp3 http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/audio/history/d4\_nazi\_germany.mp3**

**Create a memory map to show how:**

1. Women and young people were affected by Nazi policies. Try to use pictures and diagrams to help you remember and include pros and cons.
2. Opposition worked and was affected in Nazi Germany. Find evidence for the following statements: *‘The Nazis used violence as a punishment to suppress opposition to them.’ ‘The Nazis used brutal methods of punishment to squash any opposition,’ ‘Some opposition groups publicly criticised the*

*Nazis.’ ‘ Some opposition groups were active for long periods of time.’*

 Key words

**Anti‐semitism‐** Hatred of the Jews.

**Aryan –** Nazi term for a non‐Jewish German, for someone of supposedly ‘pure’ Germanic stock. Correctly used, the term Aryan means a member of the peoples who speak an Indo‐European language.

**Censorship –** examination by authority (e.g. state) of books, newspapers, plays, broadcasts, films, etc. Also, the suppression of anything considered irreligious, obscene or against the state. Under the Kaiser, censorship had been strict; the Weimar government was liberal, allowing artists free expression; the Nazis censored every aspect of German life on a scale never known before.

**Chancellor** – in Germany, the chief minister in the government.

**Constitution** – the rules by which a state is governed.

**Demobilise** – to disband troops, particularly after a war.

**Dictatorship** – one‐party state, governed by an absolute ruler; the opposite to democracy, where the people choose the government and opposing views are tolerated.

**Elite** – a select, privileged group.

**Euthanasia** – the bringing about of death to relieve suffering. The Nazis secretly carried out a policy of compulsory ‘euthanasia’, by cruel and in humane methods, to kill mentally and physically handicapped people.

**Fuhrer** – Leader; the title adopted by Adolf Hitler.

**Genocide** – deliberate extermination of a whole race or nation.

**Gleichschaltung** – co‐ordination. The Nazis used the word for their policy of controlling all organisations, at every level of society.

**Hyperinflation** – rapidly accelerating inflation where prices rise ten – or even a hundred‐fold in a single month.

**Kaiser** – the German emperor.

**Lebensraum** – living space. The ‘need’ of the German people for living space was Hitler’s justification for his conquest of other countries.

**Plebiscite** – a vote by all the people on an important issue: for example, a change to the constitution.

**Putsch** – sudden armed uprising, a political revolt.

**Reich** – the German empire.

**Reichstag** – the German Parliament.

**Reparations** – compensation for war damage demanded by the Allied powers after Germany’s defeat in the First World War.

**SA** – Abbreviation for *Sturm‐Abteilung*.

**SS** – Abbreviation for *Schutz‐Staffel*, ‘protection squad’. Originally the private bodyguard for Hitler and other Nazi leaders, the SS later became the main instrument of terror in Nazi Germany.

**Totalitarian** – a state in which every aspect of people’s lives is controlled and monitored by those in power.

**Volk** – people; in particular, the German people.

**Wall Street Crash** – In 1929, share prices fell disastrously on the New York stock exchange (known as Wall

Street from its location). It was followed by a worldwide economic collapse and the Depression of the 1930s.

Test your knowledge

Once you have revised try this test without notes or do it in parts once you have revised a section. To make sure you feel confident try the test three times. After each test go back and revise the sections you were less sure of. Then try again and see if you can get all of the answers correct.

The human brain retains information in the long term if you keep seeing it, writing it and saying it so try to write all of these out on cards with the answers on the back and keep going over them 10‐15minutes each day – this will ensure they stick in your brain.

|  |
| --- |
| 1. What impact did the Allied naval blockade have on Germany?  |
| 2. When was the Kiel mutiny which precipitated Germany’s defeat in World War I?  |
| 3. When and where was the Weimar Republic declared?  |
| 4. Who became President of the Weimar Republic in 1919?  |
| 5. List FIVE differences in the Constitution, 1914 versus 1919.  |
| 6. What was the Reichstag?  |
| 7. What did the Weimar’s Bill of Rights promise? |
| 8. Name FIVE problems the Weimar government faced, 1919‐1923  |
| 9. Which article of the Constitution gave emergency powers to the President? |
| 10. What is ‘proportional voting’ and how did it damage the Weimar Republic?  |
| 11. Who was leader of the army in the 1920s, and how did he damage the Republic?  |
| 12. Who led the Spartacist Revolt in 1919?  |
| 13. Where did a Communist ‘People’s Government’ come to power in 1919?  |
| 14. What Communist group rebelled in the Ruhr in 1920?  |
| 15. Who led a Freikorps brigade to rebel against the Versailles Treaty, March 1920? |
| 16. Which SPD foreign minister was assassinated in 1922, and why?  |
| 17. Why did many right‐wing troublemakers get away with their crimes?  |
| 18. Where did the French invade in January 1923?  |
| 19. What was ‘hyperinflation’, and what caused it? |
| 20. What did Bruno Buchrucker do?  |
| 21. Who founded the Nazi party?  |
| 22. Which FOUR groups of people did Hitler blame for Germany’s problems?  |
| 23. Give SEVEN causes of the Weimar government’s problems  |
| 24. How many of the 25‐points of the programme of the Nazi Party can you remember?  |
| 25. What were the FOUR principles of *Mein Kampf*? |
| 26. Who were the thugs of the Nazi party who terrorised opponents? |
| 27. Which FIVE groups supplied most supporters of the Nazis?  |
| 28. Give FIVE causesof the Munich Putsch |
| 29. Which right‐wing group rebelled in Berlin in 1923? |
| 30. What three Bavarian leaders did Hitler try to get to join the Munich Putsch? |
| 31. List FOUR results of the Munich Putsch  |
| 32. Suggest FOUR reasons the Weimar republic survived  |
| 33. List SIX things Stresemann achieved  |
| 34. For what were the following famous: Gropius, Marlene Dietrich, Otto Dix and Erich Maria Remarque?  |
| 35. What modern film was set in 1930 Berlin?  |
| 36. Explain FIVE ways Hitler reorganised the Nazi Party, 1924–1928.  |
| 37. How did Hitler appeal to German businessmen?  |
| 38. Name FOUR German firms or individuals who financed Hitler.  |
| 39. Name TWO non‐German firms or individuals who financed Hitler. |
| 40. Who drew the Nazi posters?  |
| 41. What were the NINE reasons Hitler came to power in 1933. |
| 42. How many unemployed were there in Germany in 1928 and in 1932?  |
| 43. How many seats did the Nazi party have in the Reichstag in 1928 and in 1933? |
| 44. Suggest FOUR personal qualities which helped Hitler come to power.  |
| 45. What caused the economic depression in 1929?  |
| 46. Who was Chancellor in 1932?  |
| 47. Who was President in 1932?  |
| 48. What date did Hitler become Chancellor? |
| 49. List the EIGHT steps by which Hitler turned his position as Chancellor into that of Fuhrer?  |
| 50. List SEVEN ways the Nazis kept control of the German people?  |
| 51. List SIX German social groups affected by the Nazi regime.  |