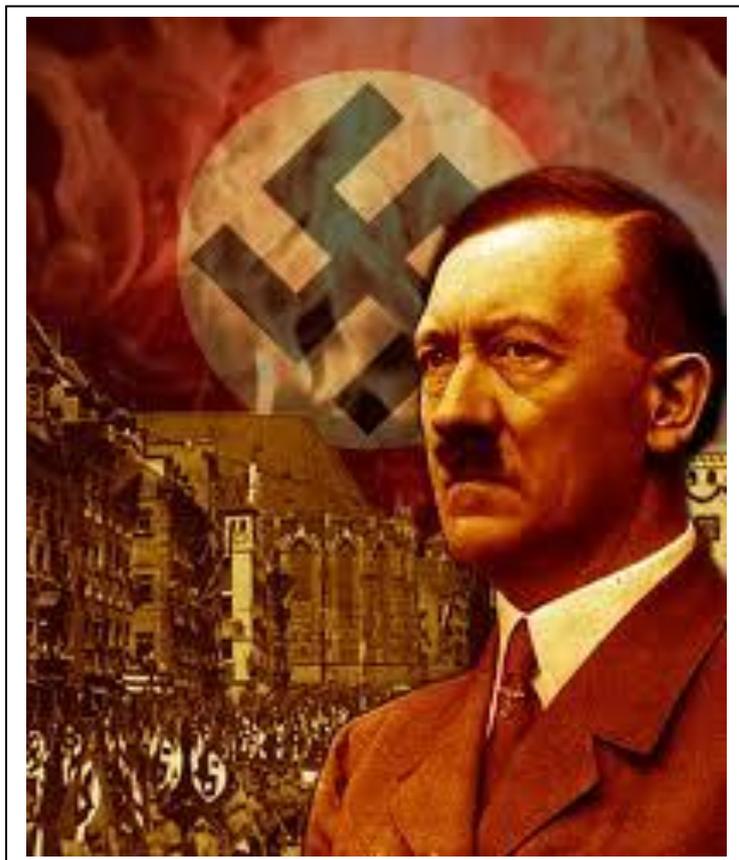


WJEC GCSE History

Paper 1

Germany 1918-45

Revision Booklet



Germany - 1919-1933: Weimar Republic*

*Weimar is the town the politicians met in and a Republic is a country without a King or Queen



The end of WWI - November 1918

- Germany was in a very poor state: the blockade of Germany had led to a lack of food and supplies. People were starving. **Riots** were breaking out. The navy had mutinied (rebelled) against **the Kaiser** (king of Germany).
- The Kaiser realised the situation was hopeless and **abdicated** (quit his job) in October 1918. Germany was left without a leader and in a mess.
- The biggest political party in Germany was the **Social Democrats**. Their leader, **Friedrich Ebert**, took on the job of running Germany. He tried to improve people's lives by giving them better working conditions and freedom of speech.
- Ebert and his government signed the armistice and withdrew from Germany from WW1 in November 1918.

The Weimar Constitution

- The Social Democrats won the January 1919 elections. They held the first meeting of their new government in a town called Weimar - and got the nickname "The Weimar Government".
- **Their first job was to write a new constitution (set of rules) for Germany.**
- Their new rules included:
 1. everyone over the age of 20 could vote, people voted for MPs who would sit in the Reichstag, the Reichstag would suggest and vote on new laws,
 2. the Chancellor would be head of the Reichstag and would be voted for every 4 years,
 3. There would be a President who would choose the Chancellor and keep control of the army and he would be voted for every 7 years.
 4. Germany would use a system called **Proportional Representation**; this means each political party would get a fair share of the seats in the Reichstag - if a party won 10% of the votes they would get 10% of the seats.
 5. **Proportional Representation seemed fair but had lots of problems**; there was so many parties in the Reichstag that no party ever had a majority (over 50% of the seats) so they couldn't pass laws by themselves. This meant parties had to make deals with each other and this slowed the whole process down. **It also helps Hitler get into power later.**

Strengths of the Weimar Constitution	Weaknesses of the Weimar Constitution
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Very fair, particularly the voting➤ Allowed lots of people to have their say➤ State governments would ensure local issues were addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Proportional Representation meant that there were loads of different parties in the Reichstag - it was difficult to get them to agree on anything

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wouldn't allow one person to take over - the Chancellor and President balanced each other ➤ A poor Chancellor or President would only be around for a limited time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Article 48 could be abused so that the President stopped listening to the Reichstag ➤ State governments could pass laws that went against what the Reichstag wanted
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Not everybody was happy with Germany being a democratic country and they didn't like the way Weimar Germany was being run by Ebert.

The Spartacist Revolution January 1919



- In January 1919, the **German communist party (the Spartacists)** decided that they wanted to take over Germany from Ebert.
- They started a revolution attempt on 6th January. It was not successful. In a week,

Ebert with the help of his Freikorps (ex-WWI soldiers paid to help the government keep order) had stopped the rebellion and killed many communists. The Spartacist leaders, **Rosa Luxemburg** and **Karl Liebknecht**, were murdered.



- It was helpful for Ebert that the Spartacists were no longer a threat. However, he had to rely on the Freikorps to keep order - that made him look weak to the public, and it was risky as the Freikorps could turn on him at any point.
- The German communists continued to create riots around Germany, even after the Spartacist Revolution failed. Freikorps had to be sent round to fight them and stop them.

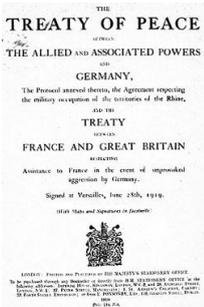
Other opposition to the Weimar Government

- The right wing also hated the Social Democrats. The **Freikorps** themselves went against Ebert in **1920** when they supported Wolfgang Kapp in his attempt to take over the country (**Kapp Putsch**).
- It was only because of the workers in Berlin going on strike and refusing to help the Freikorps, that the Putsch failed.



- Over 200 people connected to the Weimar Government were assassinated between 1919 and 1923. The most famous was **Walther Rathenau**, the politician who had been involved with the armistice and the Treaty of Versailles. These assassinations showed how much people disliked their new government and also made people feel that they were doing a bad job as they weren't stopping violence on the streets.

The Treaty of Versailles - June 1919



- This is the peace Treaty Germany had to sign after World War One. The government had no choice but to sign the treaty; if they didn't sign the war would continue and Germany would lose.
- The Main terms can be summed up as **BRAT**
- **Blame** - Germany had to accept responsibility for starting the war and causing all the damage. This is called the War Guilt clause.
- **Reparations** - Germany had to pay £6.6 billion to pay to repair the damage caused by the war.

- **Armed Forces** - the Germany army was reduced to 100,000 men, and they couldn't have any tanks, submarines or planes. The Rhineland (an area of Germany that borders France) was also demilitarised so no German troops could go there.
- **Territory** - Germany lost 13% of their land and 12.5% of their population. They also lost all their colonies so they no longer had an empire. Germany was also forbidden to join with Austria. Some of the land they lost was industrial land with coal mines etc on; this meant they lost a way to produce income for Germany.
- The Germans were outraged. They called the Treaty a "**diktat**" (dictated peace) and accused the Weimar Government of "**stabbing them in the back**" by agreeing to such harsh terms. People began to look to other politicians to rule Germany better than the Social Democrats.



The beginnings of the Nazi Party

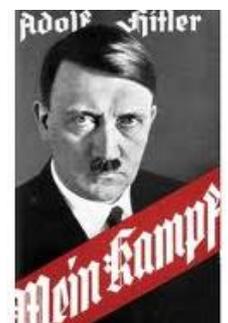
- **Anton Drexler** had a party called the German Workers Party.
- **Hitler** joined this in 1920 as he agreed with what the party was saying about getting rid of the Treaty of Versailles.
- Hitler soon became its leader. He re-named it the **National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP/Nazi Party)**.
- He gave the party a new flag and a new private army to protect it (**the SA/Brownshirts**).



- The party was small and would meet in beer houses. It began to attract attention because of Hitler's powerful speeches, especially his rants against the Treaty of Versailles. The SA would also beat up opponents, especially the communists.

1923 - The Invasion of the Ruhr, Hyperinflation and the Munich Putsch

- Germany paid her first reparation payment in 1921 but couldn't afford the 1922 payment.
- **France** and **Belgium** decided to invade Germany in January 1923 and take the payment by force. They invaded the Ruhr, Germany's main industrial area, to take goods, such as coal.
- The Germans reacted with **passive resistance**. They went on strike and refused to make the goods that the French and Belgians wanted. They sabotaged factories and flooded mines.
- The French and Belgians reacted with violence: shooting some Germans and expelling some others.
- The Weimar Government supported the strikers by printing more money to pay them so that they could afford to keep striking.
- Too many notes in the economy meant that prices went out of control. **November 1923 was the worst month: bread cost 201,000,000,000 marks.**
- People had to carry their wages home in wheelbarrows. Prices went up so fast that a day's wages would just buy a cup of coffee the next day. The middle classes and the elderly suffered badly as their savings and pensions were wiped out. This was called **hyperinflation**.
- Hitler chose **November 1923** as the moment to attempt his **Munich Putsch** (putsch = **take power by force**). He thought people were so fed up of their situation that they would support another leader.
- On the evening of 8th November 1923, Hitler and 600 Nazis seized a beer hall where a meeting between the Bavarian leaders was taking place. Hitler and his men arrested the three leaders (von Kahr, von Seisser and Von Lossow). He made them swear their support for Hitler's takeover before locking them in a room.
- The three men escaped and called the police, who went after Hitler and arrested him. The Putsch was easily stopped.
- Hitler got very useful **publicity from his trial**, and Hitler's name was known all over Germany.
- Whilst Hitler was in prison he wrote **Mein Kampf**, in which he explained all his ideas for Germany.
- Hitler also changed his **strategy**; he decided it would be best to get power by winning votes, rather than taking power by force.
- **Hyperinflation** ended in November/December 1923 as Stresemann introduced the **Rentensmark**, and signed the **Dawes Plan**, which meant America lent Germany money to help rebuild industry so they could pay the reparations.



1924-9 - The Economic Boom of the Stresemann Years

- **Gustav Stresemann** was **Germany's Chancellor in 1923-4** and her Foreign Secretary after that.
- He helped Germany get back on her feet
 - *Economic measures* - replaced the old currency with the Rentenmark, the Dawes Plan 1924 (800,000,000 mark loan from the USA), the Young Plan 1929 (reduced Reparations payments by 67%)
- This increased the amount of money and foreign goods in Germany. People had more money to spend and the standard of living rose.
- This was an age of cinema, clubs, sex, modern art and architecture, industry, radios, cars. Many urban people loved it; many rural people deeply disapproved.
- On the surface, Germany was doing well. Underneath, there were problems: Germany was dependent on foreign loans and not making enough of her own money yet to stay afloat.



1929 - The economic Bust and the Wall Street Crash

- In 1929, the USA's economy collapsed. They recalled all their loans. Germany's money stopped and they spiralled into Depression.
- Unemployment rocketed. It peaked at 6,000,000.
- People lost their homes and had to live on the streets, scavenging on rubbish tips for food.
- The Weimar Government dealt with it poorly - they refused to print more money but raised taxes and cut wages instead. This increased people's suffering.
- Violence began to break out again as people got desperate. The Weimar Government failed to deal with it.



The Changes to the Nazi Party: 1924-1929

- Whilst Hitler was in prison the Party had been banned but operated in secret.
- In February 1924 the ban on the Party was lifted and the Nazi Party was relaunched and Hitler slowly began to take control again.
- At the Bamberg party Conference in 1926 Hitler strengthened his position as leader. Hitler created the **SS (Blackshirts)** as his private bodyguards, Hitler also set up the **Hitler Youth** to rival other youth groups.
- In 1928 Hitler decided to target rural voters, as well as urban voters.
- In 1925 the Nazi Party had 27,000 members by 1928 this had increased to 100,000.
- However the Nazis only won 12 seats in the 1928 election, so Hitler appointed **Goebbels as Party Propaganda Leader**.

1929-33 - The increased popularity of the Nazis and Hitler becoming Chancellor

Why did people vote for the Nazis?

1. The Great Depression

- The Wall St Crash in America had a big impact on the economy in Germany.
- The loans from America as part of the Dawes Plan were withdrawn.
- **Unemployment** in Germany reached **6 million** people, this meant 40% of the workforce were without a job.
- The Nazis promised '**Work and Bread**' - this meant they were going to provide jobs for people so they could look after their families.
- The Nazis offered a simple promise that appealed to the people.
- The Nazis tried to appeal to workers who would otherwise vote for the Communist Party.



2. The Nazis use of Propaganda

- The Nazis put Josef Goebbels in charge of propaganda.
- He made sure that their message was clear, simple and easy to understand.
- The Nazis owned 120 daily or weekly newspapers which were read by hundreds of thousands of people and constantly put across a positive message about the Nazis.
- Hitler also made speeches on the radio and at mass rallies.

3. The role of the SA

- The Weimar Government appeared to be disorganised and were unable to solve the problems in Germany. **President Hindenburg** had to start running Germany using **Article 48 (emergency powers)** which was unpopular.
- In comparison the Nazis appeared as very organised, particularly the SA as they marched in their smart uniforms through the towns and the cities.
- The organisation of the SA and the Nazis encouraged more people to vote for the Nazis.
- The SA also had another role; **they were a violent group that would beat up opposition to the Nazis such as Communists.**
- There were countless battles between the SA and the Red Front Fighters (the Communist private army). Hitler was trying to show the German people that the Communists were violent and the SA could deal with them.

4. Hitler's promises

- Hitler made promises that appealed to people.
- He promised to get rid of the Treaty of Versailles (which made Germany look weak), solve Germany's problems and provide jobs.

The Election Results

- During the 1930s (the Great Depression years) the Nazi votes rose.
- Election results:
 - 1928: 12 seats.
 - 1930: 107 seats.
 - July 1932: 230 seats (the Nazis were the largest political party, 37%, but they did not have a majority in the Reichstag).
 - Nov 1932: 196 seats (The SA's campaign of violence began to have a negative impact and the vote reduced to 33%).

How did Hitler become Chancellor? (Political Scheming)

- **It is the President's role to choose the Chancellor of Germany.**
- Hitler asked to be Chancellor but Hindenburg (the President) refused as he didn't trust Hitler.
- Hindenburg chose **von Papen** to be the Chancellor. However as he was not the leader of the largest party he found it very difficult to run the country, as he couldn't pass laws without a majority. He decided to hold another election in November 1932.
- However von Papen could still not get a majority in the Reichstag.
- Hindenburg then chose **von Schleicher** as the next Chancellor, after he convinced Hindenburg that the country was moving towards Civil War. However he couldn't get a majority in the Reichstag either. Hindenburg had to keep ruling with Article 48.
- Von Papen was determined to regain power and so he met with Hitler in early January 1933. They decided that von Papen would help Hitler become Chancellor if Hitler made von Papen vice Chancellor. **This is called political scheming.**
- Von Papen convinced Hindenburg that he could control Hitler.
- **Eventually, Hindenburg had no options left and made Hitler Chancellor on 30th January 1933.**

The Temporary Triangle, January 1933



Nazi Germany - 1933-45

1933-4 - Hitler's consolidation of his power and his rise to become Führer (supreme leader)

- Hitler was now the Chancellor of Germany, and was the leader of the largest political Party in Germany.
- However Hitler **and the Nazi Party did not have a majority in the Reichstag**. That meant Hitler still needed the support of other political parties to pass laws; he couldn't do what he wanted.
- **Hitler decided to call another election for March 1933**. He hoped he would get a majority this time.

1. The Reichstag Fire

- One week before the election on **February 27th 1933**, the Reichstag building was set on fire.
- It is not known for definite who started the fire (people think it was the Nazis), but the Nazis arrested **Marinus van der Lubbe, a Dutch Communist**.
- Hitler and the Nazis then claimed that the Communists were about to stage a takeover of Germany.
- Hitler then persuaded Hindenburg to sign the 'Decree for the Protection of the People and State'. This allowed the Nazis to imprison large numbers of their political opponents, mainly the Communists. The Communist and Socialists newspapers were also banned.
- This helped the Nazis as their main rivals found it difficult to campaign in the week before the election and lots of Germans were worried about voting for the Communists.
- At the election the Nazis increased their vote to **288 seats (44%)**; but they **still didn't have a majority in the Reichstag**.



2. The Enabling Law

- Hitler formed a coalition with the Nationalist Party so that he had a majority in the Reichstag and could start to get things done.
- On **23rd March 1933** Hitler passed the Enabling Bill. He had used some underhand tactics to do this;
 - Communists Party members couldn't vote
 - Anybody who was absent was counted as present and voting in favour of the Bill
 - The SA intimidated members as they entered the Reichstag

- Hitler made promises to the Catholics (such as no interference with Catholic schools) so that they would vote in his favour
- Due to all of these tactics Hitler was able to pass the **Enabling Act**. This meant he could make laws without consulting the Reichstag for the next 4 years. The Act enabled Hitler to turn Germany into a dictatorship.
- With the power of the Enabling Act, Hitler then:
 - Banned opposing parties and put leaders in concentration camps.
 - Banned Trade Unions.
 - Put Nazis in charge of all state governments.
 - Used fear and intimidation to make sure people didn't challenge the Nazis.

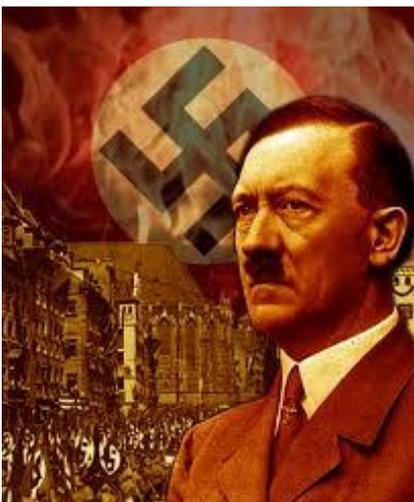
3. The Night of the Long Knives

- Hitler had now increased his control over Germany, so he turned his attention to the threats from within his own Party.
- The SA, under their leader **Röhm**, became a threat due to their numbers and military training. **Röhm** also wanted the SA to join with the army as Hitler had previously promised, but this scared Hitler.
- On the 30th June 1934 Hitler had **Röhm and 400 leaders of the SA shot by members of the SS** (the Blackshirts; Hitler's private bodyguards). This was called the **Night of the Long Knives**.
- Hitler also used the opportunity to get rid of other enemies such as von Schleicher.
- Hitler told the German people that he had protected them from a takeover.



4. The Death of President Hindenburg

- Hindenburg died in August 1934 (he was old and frail).
- Hitler then combined the role of Chancellor and President to make himself **Führer**, which means **Supreme Leader**. Nobody could stop him due to the Enabling Law.
- Hitler then made the army swear an oath of loyalty to him, rather than the country.

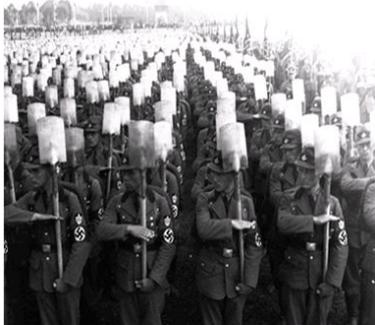


Hitler was now in total control over Germany; he had turned the country into a dictatorship by legal means.

How did Nazi economic and social policy affect life in Nazi Germany?

1933-39 - How the Nazis changed the lives of workers

- The German economy was still suffering badly from the Depression, but Hitler knew he had to deliver his promise of 'work and bread'; he needed to create jobs.
- **Unemployment was tackled by creating massive public works programmes such as the building of the autobahns (motorways).** Millions of men were given jobs through this, although they were paid poorly.



- Men aged 18-25 were made to join the **RAD (Reich Labour Service)** for 6 months. They did hard manual labour such as tree felling and ditch digging. They had to wear Nazi uniform and lived in camps.
- All workers joined the **DAF (German Labour Front)** which controlled the workers and settled disputes between them and their employers. It persuaded employers to improve working

conditions in factories.

- The **KDF (Strength through Joy)** organisation was set up to organise the leisure time of the workers, providing them with cheap theatre tickets, cruises, skiing holidays and saving up for VW Beetles. This encouraged them to work harder.
- **From 1935 German men began to be conscripted into the army and more and more factories were set up for arms production.** These both created jobs. Germany tried to achieve autarky (self-sufficiency) so that they could keep fighting when other countries stopped trading with them.
- Women and Jews were sacked from their jobs which created jobs for the men. This was known as invisible unemployment as they were not counted in the unemployment figures.
- **When Hitler came to power there were 6 million people unemployed, by 1938 that had reduced to 0.5 million.** For this reason many people supported Hitler and the Nazis; they made life better.
- The government took control of prices, wages, profits and imports which stopped big businesses from running their affairs in their own way.
- Jewish small businesses were closed down allowing other German small businesses to flourish.
- Farmers were given help in paying off loans but were given quotas for production to meet which limited their freedom.



1933-39 - How the Nazis changed the lives of women



- Women lost lots of the freedoms they had gained in the Weimar period.
- Women were expected to stay at home and be housewives and mothers. Many women were forced to leave their jobs.
- The role of women can be summed up in the 3Ks; Kinder, Küche, Kirche which means children, cooking and church.
- The Nazis encouraged women to have large families to increase the birth rate and to ensure the future of the master race. Medals were awarded for women who had large numbers of children.
- People were encouraged to get married and have children by being offered marriage loans which were reduced each time a child was born. They were lent 1,000 marks when they were married and allowed to keep 250 for each child.
- Women were discouraged from wearing make-up, smoking and dieting.
- Lebensborns were also set up where women could 'donate' a baby to the Führer by becoming pregnant by racially pure SS men.

1933-9 - How the Nazis changed the lives of young people

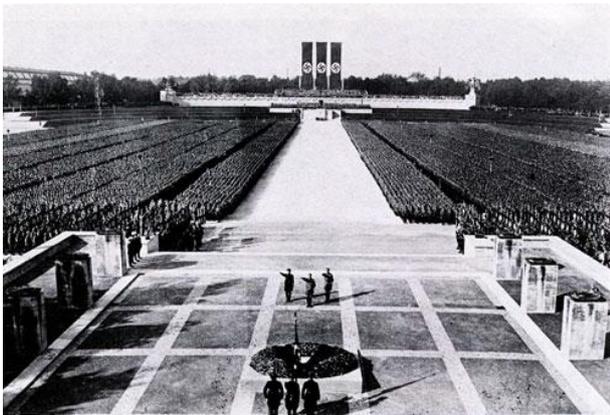
- Hitler wanted to *indoctrinate (brainwash)* young people to become perfect Nazis. He did this in two ways: **the Hitler Youth Movements** and through **Education**.
- The Hitler Youth Movements:
 - 4 different groups, 2 for girls, 2 for boys.
 - Boys trained to be soldiers: marching, camping, weapons training, fitness training.
 - Girls trained to be good mothers: domestic training, fitness training.
 - Both groups trained in utter loyalty to Hitler: listening to *Mein Kampf*, saluting the swastika, singing Nazi songs, reporting on "anti-Nazi" activities in their families and neighbourhoods.
- Education:
 - New curriculum. Maths questions promoted messages of war and getting rid of minorities, History focused on the Nazi Party, Geography focused on the "Greater Germany", Biology focused on recognising the Aryan race. Eugenics was introduced which was race studies.
 - New resources: History books were rewritten without German defeats, Story books were written warning children of the dangers of the Jews.
 - Boys were educated to be soldiers, girls educated to be mothers. They had separate timetables.



- Lots of PE lessons for everyone to keep everyone fit and healthy for their new roles.
- Teachers had to join the Nazi Teachers' Association or lose their jobs.
- Jewish pupils were persecuted in lessons, by students and teachers. They had to leave German schools in 1938.
- **Membership of the Hitler Youth became compulsory in 1939.** About 7,500,000 children were members; about 1,000,000 refused.
- Some young people chose to join anti-Nazi groups like the Swing Movement and the Edelweiss Pirates.

Propaganda - Keeping people supporting the Nazis

- Hitler set up the cult of the Führer, presenting himself as the greatest saviour of Germany. His image was used very carefully - he was only ever shown serving Germany.
- **Goebbels** (Hitler's Propaganda Minister) made sure that people were bombarded with information to keep them loyal to the Nazis.
- Posters, pictures, art exhibitions and films were all made to show how great the Nazis were.
- Hitler's **speeches** were regularly broadcast on the **radio** to remind people of how much the Nazis were improving their lives. Cheap radios were sold to people and connected up to loudspeakers so that everyone could hear.



- The newspapers were banned from printing anything that hadn't been checked by the Nazis first (**censorship**).
- Great **rallies** were held, such as those at Nuremberg, to show people how organised and powerful the Party was.
- In 1936, Hitler used the **Olympic**

Games to showcase to the world how efficient, modern and advanced the German nation was.

Terror / Intimidation - Keeping people supporting the Nazis



- The concentration camps were used to imprison anyone who went against the Nazi state. These were run by the **SS**. In the camps, people were expected to work to benefit Germany. They were often worked to death with very long hours and insufficient rations.
- The **Gestapo** (secret police) would go round checking that people were being loyal to the Nazis. People who weren't

would often be taken off in the middle of the night for torture or to be taken to a camp.

- The **legal system** also helped to control Nazi Germany. All **judges had to become members of the Nationalist Socialist League for the Maintenance of Law**; this meant they had to be members of the Nazi Party who would uphold Nazi views in the law courts. Judges knew that the Minister of Justice would check if they had been lenient and sometimes Hitler would alter sentences if he thought they were too soft.
- Germany was subdivided into tiny blocks of about 30-40 houses. Each block would have a Nazi living there who would keep an eye on all the families and report to the police and the Gestapo if they noticed anti-Nazi behaviour.
- Children in the Hitler Youth were expected to spy on their parents and neighbours.
- **People were too scared to go against the Nazis.**

Nazi Racial Policy - 1933-1945

- The Nazis believed that the Aryans were the master race.
- Hitler wanted to keep the master race pure. This meant Aryans and non-Aryans should not have children.
- Hitler wanted a pure Aryan state. He was going to achieve this by:
 - Selective breeding
 - Destroying the Jews
- Hitler and the Nazis believed that Jews were inferior, who could be blamed for all of Germany's problems such as the Treaty of Versailles, hyperinflation and the Great Depression. They were being used as scapegoats.

1933-39 - How the Nazis changed the lives of minorities

- The Nazis believed in Aryan superiority. Anyone who didn't fit in with their idea of a top class human being had to be removed from society.
- Vagrants and the **homeless** were taken to camps to be re-educated and taught how to work so that they could become useful German citizens.
- **Homosexuals** were sent to concentration camps.
- **Blacks** and the mentally ill were sterilised so that they couldn't reproduce or killed.
- **Gypsies** were sent to concentration camps and later (during WWII) exterminated with the **Jews**. - These groups were known as **Utenmensch**.

1933-39 - The treatment of the Jews

- Jews suffered badly in Nazi Germany and the longer the Nazis were in power the worse the treatment became.
- Key moments of persecution were
 - 1933: the SA organised boycotts of Jewish shops and businesses.

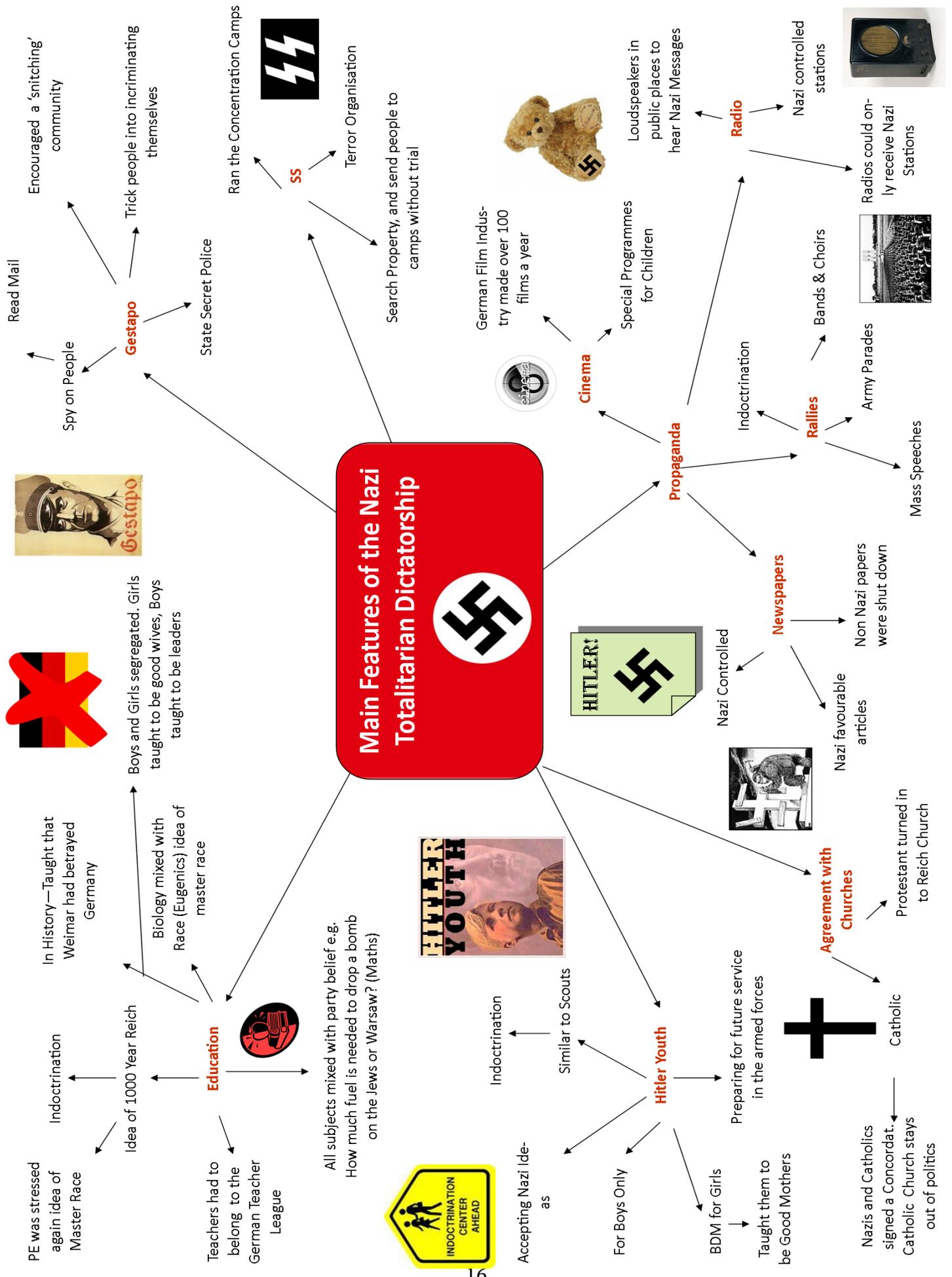
- 1934: Jews were banned from public places such as parks and swimming pools.
- 1935: the **Nuremberg Laws**. This took away their German citizenship and banned them from marrying or having sex with Germans
- 1938: **Kristallnacht**. This was a physical attack on Jewish businesses, homes and synagogues, causing colossal damage and killing 100 people. The event was supposed to be a spontaneous attack by the German people after a Jew shot a Nazi official in Paris, however it is more likely to be a planned by the attack by the Nazis. Many Jews were arrested and taken to concentration camps. The survivors were given a 1 billion Reichsmark bill to clear up the mess. After Kristallnacht Jewish children were also banned from German schools.



1933-9 - How the Nazis changed the Churches

- Hitler wanted to control the church as he wanted the German people to be loyal to him before anybody else including God.
- In 1933, Hitler signed the **Concordat with the Pope**. The Nazis and the Catholic Church agreed to keep out of each others' affairs.
- In 1933 the Protestant Church was reorganised into the **National Reich Church** and given new Nazi bishops. The motto of the Reich Church was 'the swastika on our chests and the cross on our hearts'. The church was Nazified - the Bible was replaced with *Mein Kampf* and the cross with the swastika.
- In 1935 the **Ministry of Churches** was set up. Church schools were abolished and the Nazis aimed to influence young people by promoting the Hitler Youth rather than the Church youth clubs.
- There were some Protestants who opposed the Nazis. In December 1933 **Pastor Martin Niemoller set up the Pastor's Emergency League**, and the following year they set up the Confessional Church, although the Nazis later banned this.
- Hitler broke his promise with the Catholic Church and began to close down catholic schools and youth groups. In 1937 the **Pope made his famous statement 'with Burning Anxiety'** in which he attacked the Nazi system for their abuse of human rights. As a result 400 Catholic Priests were arrested and sent to concentration camps.
- Hitler tried to control the church but was not able to get them rid of them completely.





Germany During the War - 1939-1947

Life in Nazi Germany during the early war years (1939-41)

- At first the war had very little impact on people living in Nazi Germany. The Blitzkrieg method brought lots of victories and there were no shortages for civilians (people living in Germany). In fact supplies increased; as the Nazis took over other countries supplies of raw materials and luxuries were sent back to Germany.
- **Rationing** was introduced in 1939 to control supplies, and this meant 2 out of 5 Germans followed a healthier diet than they had before the war.
- Although the Nazis believed that a women's place was in the home, **women were needed in industry**. By 1939 6.2 million women were working, but the Nazis found many women were reluctant to join the workforce. In January 1943 the Nazis had to conscript women into the workforce.
- Goebbels made effective use of propaganda during the war.

Life in Nazi Germany during the latter war years (1942-45)

- Germany was defeated at Stalingrad in the Soviet Union and forced to retreat; this was a turning point in the war for Germany.
- **From 1942, Germans began to experience bombing raids on their major cities, such as Dresden**, from British and American bombers. Hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed. By the end of the war 3.5 million civilians had been killed. As a result there were food shortages and rationing increased.
- **In 1943 Albert Speer became Reich Minister for Armaments and Production**. He took direct control of the war economy; civilian goods stopped being produced and all factories began to produce items needed for the war effort. As a result production increased e.g. munitions output increased by 60% between 1939 and 1944.
- In 1944, all workers had to go into armaments production. Women went back to work; their children were in day care. People had to work longer and longer hours.
- **In 1944 the Volkssturm (the People's Home Guard) was set up**. This was a people's army, made up of Hitler Youth and men who were not fit enough for the national army, which would defend German cities if they were attacked by the allies. They lacked experience, were poorly trained with few weapons and were never a serious fighting force.



How were Jewish people treated during the war years?

1. Ghettos

- The Jews were rounded up and put into ghettos, sections of cities with walls built around them.
- They were designed as holding camps so that the Jews could easily be transported to their next destination.
- Once inside the ghettos, Jews were not allowed to leave and anybody who tried to leave was shot.
- The conditions in the ghettos were terrible; there were serious food shortages as they had to survive on starvation rations, as well as fuel shortages and overcrowding. **Thousands died from cold, hunger and disease.**
- Around 55,000 Jews died in the Warsaw ghetto alone.



2. Einsatzgruppen

- As the German army invaded Russia, the 'Jewish problem' got worse as the Nazis now had more Jews under their control.
- **The Nazis organised special murder squads known as the Einsatzgruppen.** These squads followed the advancing German armies and rounded up all the Jews.
- The Jews were taken to the outskirts of villages where they were forced to dig their own graves before being shot.
- It is estimated that by 1943, 2 million Russians, mainly Jews, had been murdered in this way.



3. The Final Solution

- In the summer of 1941 a decision was taken by senior Nazis to seek a final solution to the Jewish problem.
- They were concerned as each new victory brought more and more Jews under their control and they didn't know what to do with them. They wanted a permanent solution.

- The Nazis also needed an efficient solution, shooting all the Jews was no longer an option, as there were too many Jews and it would waste bullets in the war, and take too much time.
- In January 1942 the leading Nazis met at Wannsee in Berlin and worked out the details of the 'Final Solution'. Death camps were to be built in Poland, far away from Germany.
- 6 death camps were built.
- When the Jews arrived they were split into 2 groups; those who could work and those who were to be killed immediately. The second group went straight to the gas chambers which were disguised as showers.
- By the time the camps were liberated at the end of the war, 6 million Jews had been worked to death, gassed or shot.



Opposition to the Nazis

- Young people opposed the Nazis:
 - The **Edelweiss Pirates**. Working class movement who beat up the Hitler Youth. They refused to join the Hitler Youth and instead met up in mixed groups to mock the Hitler Youth. During the war they distributed leaflets dropped by the allies. The Gestapo caught a group of pirates and they were publicly hanged.
 - The **Swing Youth**. Middle class movement who listened to jazz music and went clubbing. The Nazis were threatened by their activities so closed down the bars they were known to attend.
 - The **White Rose** movement. This was started by students Hans and Sophie Scholl and Professor Kurt Huber at Munich University. They spread anti-Nazi leaflets and urged Germans not to support WW2. Their activities were reported to the Gestapo by a janitor at the university and they were hanged.
- The churches opposed the Nazis:
 - **Protestants** set up the **Confessional Church** which was anti-Nazi.
 - Protestant pastors such as **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** and **Martin Niemoller** spoke out against the Nazis. Bonhoeffer was also involved in sabotage work.
 - Niemoller was arrested and sent to a concentration camp but survived.
 - Bonhoeffer was arrested in 1942 for plotting against Hitler. He died in a concentration camp in 1945.
 - **Von Galen** also spoke out against the Nazis; he gave a number of sermons attacking Nazi policies. He was arrested in 1944 and died in 1946.
- The army opposed the Nazis (July Bomb Plot):
 - Army officers became more and more critical of Hitler in 1943 as the war went very badly.
 - Two assassination attempts had been organised in 1943, but both had failed.
 - On 20th July 1944, **Count von Stauffenberg** attempted to assassinate Hitler with a bomb in a suitcase. It was called 'Operation Valkyrie'.
 - However the plot failed as somebody at the meeting moved the briefcase so it was further away from Hitler.
 - The bomb exploded killing 4 people, but Hitler survived with minor injuries.
 - Stauffenberg was arrested and his accomplice, Beck, committed suicide.
 - Hitler took revenge on all those involved in the plot, and 5,746 people were executed.



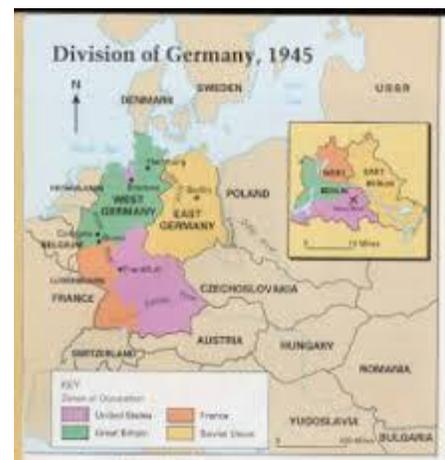
The defeat of the German army and the death of Hitler

- By the end of 1944 the German army had been pushed back out of the Soviet Union (Russia).
- During 1945 the Soviet army continued to advance and liberated the countries Germany had once occupied e.g. Hungary and Austria.
- The **Soviet army began to attack Berlin on 16th April 1945** with around 1.5 million soldiers.
- By April 24th Berlin was surrounded, and the only people left to defend it were around 100,000 men who were members of the Volkssturm or the Hitler Youth.
- On the **30th April Hitler committed suicide** in his bunker, after killing his wife Eva Braun and his dog.
- On the 1st May, Goebbels committed suicide with his wife after killing his children.
- On the 8th May Germany surrendered.



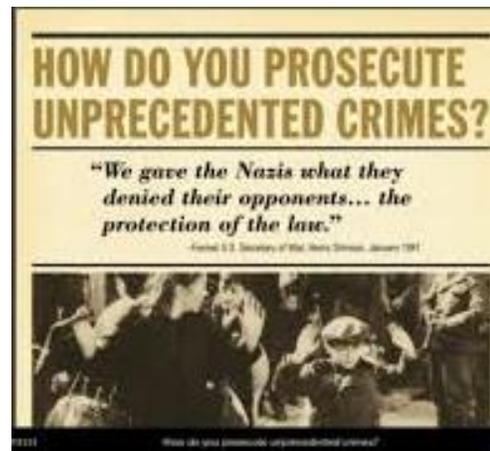
How was Germany punished by the allies?

- The Yalta Conference - February 1945
 - The allied leaders met to discuss what to do with Germany after the war.
 - They decided to divide Germany into 4 zones (US, British, French and Soviet).
 - They decided to divide Berlin into 4 zones too.
 - To hunt down and try Nazi war criminals in an international court of justice.
- The Potsdam Conference - July 1945
 - The allies agreed the following:
 - Divide Germany into the 4 zones as agreed at Yalta.
 - To demilitarise Germany.
 - To re-establish democracy in Germany.
 - To ban the Nazi party.



The Nuremberg Trials

- The allies agreed to put the leading members of the Nazi Party on trial, as war criminals.
- The trials were held at Nuremberg as it was a place that was strongly associated with the development of the Nazi party.
- The Nazis were accused of conspiring to;
 - Wage war
 - Commit crimes against peace
 - Commit crimes against humanity (including the newly defined crime of genocide)
 - Commit war crimes such as abuse and murder of prisoners
- The trials began on 21st November 1945 and ended on 1st October 1946.
- Almost 200 Nazis were tried at Nuremberg; 142 were found guilty of at least one of the charges, 4 defendants had to be removed from the trials due to illness and 4 more committed suicide.



Denazification

- Denazification was the allies' policy of removing traces of the Nazi regime from German society, culture, press, economy, education and politics.
- The following measures were introduced;
 - Wearing the German army uniform was banned
 - 2 million Nazis were forbidden to work as anything but manual labourers
 - The Nazi Party was banned in October 1945
 - Publication and dissemination of any Nazi literature was banned. Anybody found to have any of the 30,000 banned books was arrested
 - German streets were renamed.
- The allies also controlled the media to make sure that only negative messages about the Nazis were presented to the public.

