

1 The origins of the Republic 1918-19

With the First World War coming to an end, the Kaiser abdicated on 9 November 1918. The war ended 2 days later on 11 November

The legacy of the First World War meant the Social Democratic Party (SPD) had to work quickly to establish order

Despite revolts by extremists and riots in the streets, Ebert and the SPD established a new government and a National Assembly

The National Assembly met in Weimar and created a constitution for the Weimar Republic

The constitution had strengths: it was democratic and was constructed so that no individual or party could hold all the power

But it was flawed. Being a coalition, it was weak in a crisis and was based on division. This later weakened the Weimar Republic.

3 The recovery of the Republic 1924-29

As finance minister, Stresemann introduced a new currency, which ended hyperinflation in the Weimar Republic and aided economic recovery in Germany

The Dawes Plan and Young Plan reduced the burden of reparations on the Weimar Republic

Under Stresemann as foreign minister, the Locarno Pact, membership of the League of Nations and Kellogg-Briand Pact marked the return of Germany as a world power, thus enabling the Weimar Republic to become a more stable state

However, not all the problems of the Weimar Republic were solved. In 1929, Stresemann died and worse still later that year a new economic crisis took place.

Topic 1 – The Weimar Republic 1918-1929

Key Terms:

Abdication Constitution

Communist Trade Unions
Electorate Civil Servant

Key Individuals

Kaiser Wilhelm II

Philip Scheidemann

Friedrich Ebert

Rosa Luxemburg

Karl Liebknecht

Wolfgang Kapp

Gustav Stresemann

2 Early challenges to the Republic

The Treaty of Versailles and the “stab in the Back” theory made the Weimar Republic unpopular after 1919

From 1919-1923, the Weimar Republic was attacked by extreme left-wing and right-wing political groups inside and outside the Reichstag

Examples of these attacks include the Spartacist Revolt and the Kapp Putsch

1923 brought new challenges for the Weimar Republic, notably the French occupation of the Ruhr and hyperinflation

Nov 9 th 1918	Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates and Germany becomes a Republic
Nov 11 th 1918	Armistice signed ending the First World War
June 1919	The Treaty of Versailles is signed
JULY 1919	The new constitution is agreed creating the Weimar Republic
Jan 1919	The Spartacist Revolt
March 1920	The Kapp Putsch
Jan 1923	French and Belgium troops invade the Ruhr
Nov 1923	End of Hyperinflation – Stresemann introduces a new currency - Rentenmark
April 1924	The Dawes Plan
Dec 1925	The Locarno Pact
Aug 1928	The Kellogg Briand Pact
Aug 1929	The Young Plan
Nov 1918	Women given the right to vote – and the right to stand in elections
1926	Fritz Lang’s film – Metropolis released

4 Changes in society 1924-29

Some improvements in the standard of living took place. However, they were fragile and helping the working class was not popular

with all Germans in the Weimar Republic

There were some improvements in the position of women in politics, at work and in leisure. However, they were limited improvements and did not please all Germans

Dramatic changes occurred in culture, particularly in art, architecture and the cinema. However these did not please all Germans

2 Early development of the Nazi Party 1920-22

Hitler joined the DAP in Sept 1919

Between 1919-1923, Hitler took control of the DAP

Hitler took over by controlling party policy, using his personal appeal, controlling party organisation, winning the leadership and using the SA

Hitler change the DAP into the NSDAP with distinctive features, such as the swastika, the straight armed salute and the SA



Key Individuals

General Ludendorff

Josef Goebbels

Paul Von Hindenburg

Franz Von Papen

Key Terms:

Propaganda Chancellor

Nationalism Reichstag

Socialism Mein Kampf

Paramilitary force

Putsch Wall St Crash

Real Wages

3 The Munich Putsch and the lean years 1923-29

Hitler launched the Munich Putsch in an attempt to take control of Germany

The Munich Putsch failed, but in some ways Hitler and the Nazis benefited

Hitler relaunched the party in 1925 had set out his ideas in Mein-Kampf

Hitler reformed the central and national organisation of the Nazi party

Hitler strengthened his control over the party and over the SA

By 1928, the Nazis had little influence in the Reichstag

SEP 1919	Hitler joins the German Workers Party (DAP)
FEB 1920	The DAP is renamed the National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP)
FEB 1921	The Nazis release the 25 Point Programme
JULY 1921	Hitler becomes leader of the Nazis Party
NOV 1923	The Munich Putsch
FEB 1924	Hitler is sent to prison
DEC 1924	Hitler writes Mein Kampf
FEB 1926	Hitler re-launches the Nazi Party at the Bamberg Conference
MAY 1928	The Nazis secure 12 seats in the Reichstag
OCT 1929	The Wall Street Crash takes place in America
SEP 1930	Unemployment at 3million and Nazis get 106 seats in the Reichstag
JULY 1932	Unemployment reaches 6 million and Nazis secure 230 seats in the Reichstag
JAN 1933	Hitler is appointed Chancellor

3 The growth in support for the Nazis -1929-32

By the start of 1929, the Nazi Party had little political power in Germany

However, by 1932 they had 230 seats in the German Reichstag

A key factor was the economic crisis caused by the Wall Street Crash

The economic crisis included a banking collapse, a fall in industrial output, rising unemployment and falling wages

The Weimar Government failed to solve these problems

As a result support grew for extremist parties like the Communist Party and the Nazi Party

Support for the Nazis came from several different sections of German society

Topic 2 – Hitler’s Rise to power 1919-1933

5 How Hitler became Chancellor 1932-33

By the start of 1932, Hitler still had little political power. However in Jan 1933 he was appointed Chancellor of the Weimar Republic

One reason was Hitler’s success in the Presidential elections of the 1932. Another reason was the success of the NSDAP in the Reichstag elections of the 1932

A further reason was that conservative politicians such as von Schleicher and Von Papen plotted to remove Chancellor Bruning and reduce the power of the Reichstag

Von Schleicher and von Papen both thought that they could include Hitler and the Nazis in their government and then control them.

There was a general fear that civil war might break out if Germany could not find a strong government with widespread popular support. President Hindenburg resisted the idea of Hitler as Chancellor but eventually agreed

1 The creation of a dictatorship

The Reichstag Fire gave Hitler the opportunity to begin creating a dictatorship in Germany

After the fire there were open attacks on communists and the Nazis gained more seats in the Reichstag.

The Enabling Act changed Germany's constitution. It gave much more power to Hitler. As Chancellor, he and his Cabinet could pass laws without the support of the Reichstag. The Night of the Long Knives which saw many of the senior officers in the SA killed, enabled Hitler to strengthen his control of the Nazi Party.

After the death of Hindenburg, Hitler moved to take power. On 19th August, the Weimar Republic formally ended.

Key Individuals

- Hermann Goering
- Van der Lubbe
- Ernst Rohm
- Hindenburg
- Heinrich Himmler
- Reinhard Heydrich
- Roland Freisler
- Joseph Goebbels
- Martin Niemoller

2 The Police State

Nazi Germany was a police state controlled by the SS, SD and Gestapo

From 1933 concentration camps were also used to deal with undesirables such as political opponents of Nazism

The legal systems was Nazified – it was made to work in the interests of the Nazi Party. Law courts and judges were placed under the direct control of the Nazis

Religion was also closely controlled although there was some resistance to this from both Catholics and Protestants.

Topic 3 – Nazi control and dictatorship



1933-1939

3 Controlling and influencing attitudes

In Nazi Germany, censorship and propaganda were used to control and influence attitudes

Joseph Goebbels, head of the Ministry of People's Enlightenment and Propaganda, was the co-ordinator of Nazi censorship and propaganda

Nazi control and influence of attitudes was exerted using the media, rallies and sport, including the Olympic Games.

The Nazis also exerted control over the Arts including art, architecture, literature and film.

Key Terms:

- Censorship
- Propaganda

4 Opposition, resistance and conformity

Most Germans supported Hitler and the Nazis or at least conformed to Nazi expectations

Resistance and opposition were limited because of Nazi propaganda and the Nazi Police State, which prevented criticism of the Nazis, and because of Nazi successes in areas such as foreign policy and employment

However there was some resistance and opposition

Opposition came from elements amongst political groups, trade unions, the army, the Churches and youth groups

Some Church leaders opposed the Nazis, but they were in a minority and were punished

27 th Feb 1933	Reichstag Fire
March 1933	Elections to the Reichstag
24 th March 1933	The Enabling Act
May 1933	Trade Unions and striking banned
July 1933	All other political parties except the Nazis are banned
Jan 1934	Regional Lander Parliaments replaced by 18 Governors
June 1934	The Night of the Long Knives
2 nd August 1934	Death of Hindenburg – Hitler took over supreme power
19 th August 1934	Plebiscite confirmed Hitler as Fuhrer (90%) – voting to bring in the 3 rd Reich
1931	The SD set up by Himmler
1933	The Gestapo set up by Goering and first concentration camp at Dachau set up by Himmler
1934	People's Court set up by Hitler
July 1933	Hitler's Concordat with the Pope
1936	The Berlin Summer Olympics

1 Nazi policies towards women

The Nazis believed that women should adopt a modest, traditional appearance, leave professional jobs to men and make marriage and motherhood their duty to the state

The Nazis used propaganda and policies to try and put their beliefs into practice.

The Nazis had several policies to encourage marriage and childbirth. These included the Law for the Encouragement of Marriage, changes to divorce law, the Mother's Cross and Lebensborn

The Nazis had several policies to reduce numbers of women in the workforce. These included banning women from some jobs and discouraging women from going to university.

Nazi policies towards women convinced some Germans and had some impact, but were only effective to a limited or temporary degree

3 Employment and living standards

Reducing unemployment was a priority for Hitler for political and economic reasons. The Nazis used a variety of methods to reduce unemployment. These included the National Labour Service, the autobahn project and re-armament. As well as official unemployment levels, Nazi Germany also had "invisible unemployment". There were many changes to the standard of living of workers in Nazi Germany. These included changes to unemployment, wages, prices and consumption of luxuries. The Labour Front, including Strength through Joy and the Beauty of Labour, also affected the standard of living of German workers.

2 Nazi policies towards the young

The Nazis believed that young Germans should be brought up to be useful Germans and supporters of Nazi ideas.

They believed that boys and girls should be brought up to be different

Nazi youth groups, such as the Hitler Youth and the League of German Maidens, were organised to create strong, healthy Germans and supporters of Nazi ideas.

Schools in Nazi Germany were organised to create useful German adults and Nazi supporters

The Nazis shaped the development of young Germans by controlling teachers and the curriculum

Topic 4 – Life in Nazi Germany 1933-1939



1933	Law for the Encouragement of Marriage 1933 and women banned from professional posts
1935	Lebensborn programme started by Himmler
1936	Women banned from being judges, lawyers or serving on a jury
1937	Girls Grammar schools abolished
1933	All Youth groups banned apart from the Hitler Youth
Jan 1934	Regional Lander Parliaments replaced by 18 Governors
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Key Terms:

Eugenics

Lebensborn

4 The persecution of minorities

Treatment of minority groups was shaped by eugenics, racial hygiene and anti-Semitism

The Slavs, gypsies, homosexuals and people with disabilities were all mistreated

Nazi persecution of Jews began in 1933, became worse in 1935, with Nuremberg Laws and then became worse still from 1938 after Kristallnacht.