Knowledge organiser: Nazi Control and Dictatorship, 1933-39

In 1933 Hitler became chancellor of Germany and by 1934 he had declared himself Führer - the leader of Germany. Hitler eliminated all sources of opposition, both within the Nazi Party and in Germany.

Chronology: what happened on these dates?

February, 1933	The Reichstag building was set on fire. Marinus van der Lubbe, a Dutch Communist, was found at the scene.
March, 1933	Hitler passed the Enabling Act. This would give him full powers for the next four years.
May, 1933	All trade unions were banned and the Nazis became the only legal party.
June, 1934	The Night of the Long Knives, which was the purging of Hitler's political and military rivals
August, 1934	Hitler combined the posts of Chancellor and President, and assumed the title of Führer. The German army swore allegiance to Hitler.

Summarise your learning

Topic 1: The creation of a dictatorship and the police state, 1933-34	Hitler and the Nazis secured control of all aspects of the German state. By August 1934, Hitler had combined the posts of Chancellor and President. The banning of political parties, the control of the media, trade unions and police ensured that there was little or no opposition to the Nazi regime.
Topic 2: Controlling and influencing attitudes	The Nazi dictatorship was based on fear – make people too frightened to actively oppose the Nazi state. This was achieved through the establishment of a police state, Nazi control of the law courts and the setting up of concentration camps. Also, Hitler was determined to reduce the influence of the German Catholic and Protestant Churches.
Topic 3: Opposition, resistance and conformity in Nazi Germany	The Nazis restricted challenges to their power by means of *Gleichschaltung*, the use of the Gestapo, SS and SD and laws such as the banning of political parties and trade unions. Many Germans feared the Nazis, so they silently accepted Nazi policies. There was some opposition to the Nazi regime from the young, the Church and the army, but they were never enough to threaten the regime.

Who or what were these people/events?

Schutzstaffel (SS)	Originally the Nazi paramilitary organisation that acted as Hitler's bodyguard, they became the most powerful troops in the Third Reich and carried out the Final Solution.
Sicherheitsdienst (SD)	'Security service', the intelligence agency of the Nazis.
Gestapo	Official secret police of the Nazi regime.
Josef Goebbels	Minister of propaganda for the German Third Reich.
Edelweiss Pirates	Groups of youths who opposed the military discipline of the Nazi youth groups and the lack of freedom.
The Swing Youth	They took part in activities that were frowned on by the Nazis – American clothes, films and music.
Martin Niemöller	Leader of the Confessional Church, which followed tradition German Protestantism. He established the Pastors' Emergency League to oppose Nazi control of the Church.

Vocabulary: define these words.

Gleichschaltung	Bringing people into an identical way of thinking and behaving
Trade Unions	Organisations set up to protect and improve the rights of workers
Concentration camp	Prison for political prisoners and enemies of the state, placed there without trial
Dictatorship	A country or government in which absolute power is exercised by a dictator
Third Reich	Nazi name for Germany. Means 'Third Empire'
Censorship	Controlling what is produced and suppressing anything considered to be against the state
Propaganda	Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view
Indoctrination	Converting people to your ideas using education and propaganda
German Faith Movement	Sought to move Germany away from Christianity. It put forward the Nazi idea of 'blood and soil'
Concordat	An agreement between the Pope and a government concerning the legal status of the Roman Catholic Church within that government's territory