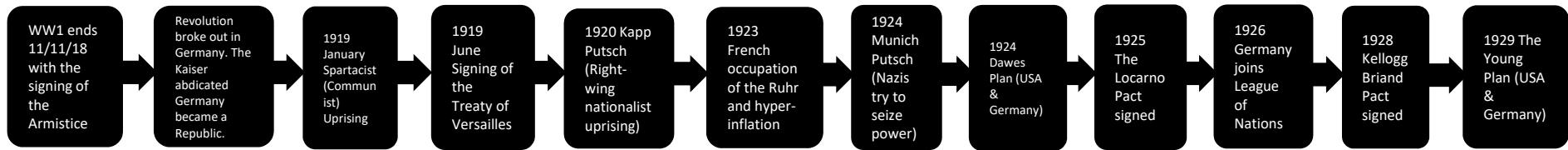


The Weimar Republic, 1918-29.



What do I need to know? Origins of the Weimar Republic

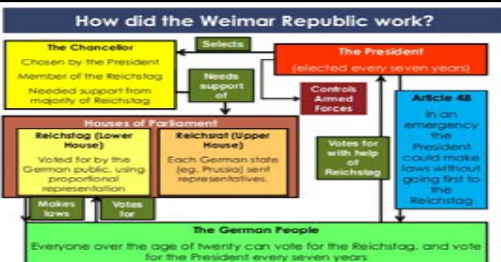
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| | The Kaiser abdicates in October 1918 & WW1 ends on 11th November 1918 when the Armistice is signed . 2 million German troops died, Government debt increased from 50 billion marks to 150 billion marks. Revolts were breaking out on the streets. Soldiers and workers councils were set up in local areas to undermine the Kaiser. Germany was on the verge of a revolution. |
| | Oct 1918, Fredrich Ebert became the first president and declared Germany a republic. A Council of people's Representatives was formed as a temporary measure whilst a new democratic constitution is drawn up. Germany a democracy for the first time, however despite this there are significant weaknesses with the new constitution! |
| | January 1919 election - no party had a direct majority. A coalition was formed with the Social Democratic Party SPD, the Catholic Centre Party (ZP) and the German Democratic Party (DDP) with Ebert as President. A coalition meant that there were some weaknesses to the government. |

What do I need to know? – Problems facing the new democratic government

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| | The Treaty of Versailles was harsh on Germany and forced them to sign the War Guilt Clause, lost 13% of its land (10% of its population) and all of its colonies, army limited to 100,000 men, had to pay back £6.6 billion in reparations, and was forbidden to unite with Austria |
| | German reaction to the treaty: Anger & Humiliation. The German people felt the new government had stabbed them in the back (Dolchstoß) because they signed the ToV. They called the government the November Criminals . |
| | Political opposition to the Weimar Government 1. The Spartacists , in January 1919, inspired by the left-wing Bolshevik revolution in Russia, set up the Communist Party and tried to overthrow the government. This was put down by the Reichswehr (Army) & the Berlin Freikorps (Armed right-wing militia) 2. The Kapp Putsch (right-wing) was attempted in March 1920. Ebert wanted to disband the Freikorps so they joined with the Reichswehr in Berlin. Led by Wolfgang Kapp they seized Berlin. Ebert asked Trade Unionists & Civil Servants not to support it, and the Putsch collapsed. |
| | Problems of 1923 When Germany couldn't pay their reparations, the French invaded the Ruhr to take goods for themselves. The Germans went on strike & sabotaged their work , setting factories alight and breaking pumps. This meant that production from the Rhineland was very slow, making Germany poorer. The government printed more money to pay the strikers and their reparations which, coupled with the slow production in the Ruhr, led to hyperinflation where the currency became virtually worthless. |

What I need to know? – The “Golden Age” Weimar Germany

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| | In 1923 Gustav Stresemann was briefly Chancellor, then Foreign Minister, and is largely credited with the economic recovery of Germany. The Dawes Plan changed the reparations schedule to something which was more manageable. It also meant that French troops would leave the Ruhr. The Rentenmark was the new currency, issued in limited amounts to stabilise the economy. Once it worked for a year, it was converted to the Reichsmark, based on gold reserves. The Young Plan was developed by US banker, Young. He reduced the reparations figure and extended the time the Germans had to pay it. |
| | Foreign Recovery: The Locarno Pact, 1925 helped German relations with France, Britain, Belgium & Italy by agreeing borders. As a result The League of Nations agreed to admit Germany in 1926. The Kellogg-Briand Pact was signed in 1928, along with 64 other countries. It said they could have armies for self-defence and would resolve disagreements peacefully. |
| | Changes in Society: Wages had increased by over 10% by 1928. Although this helped the working class, the middle classes had been bankrupted by hyperinflation. Unemployment amongst the middle class increased. More houses were being built: 2million + between 1924-1931, which reduced homelessness. Women were given the vote and could work in a variety of areas: teaching, civil service etc. Art, architecture, literature and theatre began to change and become more rich & diverse. |



If you want to find out more check out the following links or scan the QR codes on your phone or tablet.



READ

<http://www.historyhome.co.uk/eur/ope/weimar.htm>



WATCH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTRrRZKCAz8>

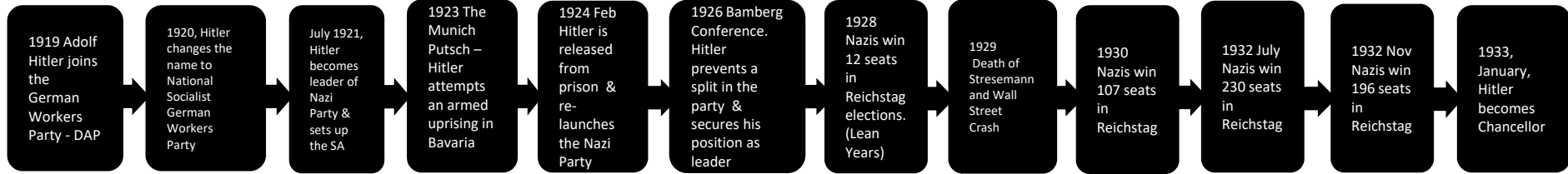


LISTEN



<https://www.mrallsophistry.com/revision/weimar-germany-1919-1929.html>



Hitler's Rise to Power, 1919-33





What do I need to know? Hitler's early life



| | |
|---|--|
|  | Hitler b. 1889 in Austria. His father died in 1903, his mother in 1907. He failed to get into Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. He made a living by painting postcards whilst sleeping rough. Starts developing anti-Semitic views. |
|  | He joined the German Army, winning the Iron Cross twice. By the end of WWI, he was temporarily blinded by a gas attack. After the war he acted as a political spy for the Army |




What do I need to know? – The Growth of the NSDAP 1919- 1924

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|  | Hitler joined the DAP, led by Anton Drexler, After 1920 'National Socialist' was added to the party's name & Hitler and Drexler wrote the Twenty-Five Point Plan, containing ideas about nationalism, pure German blood and anti-Semitism. Membership to the party continued to grow with Hitler as leader |
|  | The Munich Putsch: 1923 he attempted to seize political power from the Bavarian government, (Kahr, Lossow & Seisser) before marching on Berlin and seizing power from the Weimar government. The Munich Putsch failed & Hitler ended up in Landsberg Prison in 1924 for 9 months. He used his trial to gain political celebrity and whilst in prison reached two turning points: 1) he needed to gain power legally and 2) he wrote Mein Kampf which went on to be the Nazi "Bible". |





What I need to know? – The Lean Years 1924-28

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|  | The government lifted its' ban on the Nazi Party and Hitler reorganised the party into Gaue's run by a Gauleiter he trusted. |
|  | At the Bamberg Conference in 1926 , he convinced other potential leaders, Strasser & Goebbels, that he was the right man for the job. By 1928 the Nazi Party had over 100,000 members but only 12 seats in the Reichstag. It was progress...but not enough. |




What I need to know? The Impact of the Wall Street Crash, 1929

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|  | Unemployment: In 1929 the Wall Street Crash caused America to recall their loans from the Dawes Plan. The Great Depression caused massive unemployment in Germany. |
|  | Increased Taxes: At the same time, Stresemann died & Germans lost hope. In 1930 the new Chancellor Brüning introduced a 2.5% wage cut & increased taxes to attempt to balance the books. He was nicknamed the 'Hunger Chancellor'. By 1932, unemployment exceeded 6 million. |
|  | Political Instability: In order to get laws passed, Hindenburg used Article 48 and began to use the Reichstag less and less – undermining democracy |
|  | Political Violence: This time period saw a rise in violence and the Nazi Party began making small political gains. At this time, the German Communist Party (KPD) was also growing in strength & aimed for political success, rather than revolution. |

What do I need to know? Growth in support for the Nazis – 1929-30

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|  | Joseph Goebbels was instrumental in securing further success for the Nazis between 1929-1930 through posters, newspapers and the radio. |
|  | Hitler took the opportunity to exploit the problems of the coalition government and presented German people with an alternative: a strong, united Nazi government. |
|  | He began to use the Jews as scapegoats for the country's problems. |
|  | 1930 election was a breakthrough - the Nazis became the second largest party in the Reichstag. During the presidential election of 1932, Hitler continued to make gains. The Nazis were funded by industrialists, through their fears of Communism. |

What do I need to know? How Hitler became Chancellor - The Backstairs Intrigue

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|  | By 1932, Brüning had lost Hindenburg's support because he had failed to improve the German economy. |
|  | 1932 July election the Nazis won 230 seats (37.4%) were now the biggest party in the Reichstag. Hitler demanded the role of Chancellor but von Papen refused to relinquish it and dissolved the Reichstag. He called for new elections in November. This time, the Nazis only secured 196 seats (33.1%). Papen resigned and was replaced by Schleicher. |
|  | Papen & Hitler began working together and convinced Hindenburg that having Hitler as Chancellor would bring stability to Germany. On 30th January 1933, Hitler was made Chancellor. |

If you want to find out more check out the following links or scan the QR codes on your phone or tablet.



READ

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/second-world-war/how-hitler-gain-power-become-dictator-fuhrer-nazi-germany/>



WATCH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VA7Ze1rqtOY>

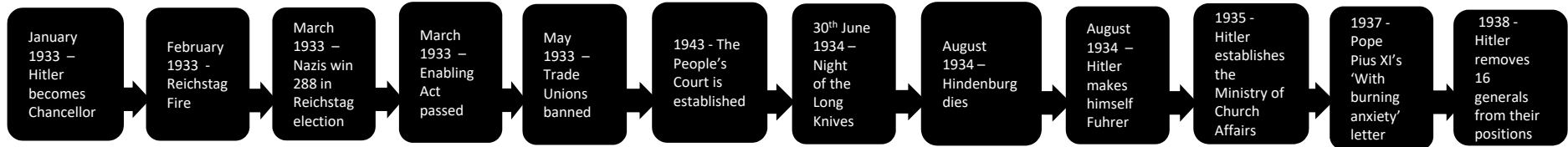


LISTEN

<https://play.acast.com/s/the-world-wars/thriseofadolfhitler>



Nazi Control and Dictatorship



| What do I need to know? How did Hitler remove opposition and create a dictatorship? | |
|---|---|
| | To achieve an overall majority called an election for 5th March 1933. |
| | Reichstag Fire – 27th February 1933: Marinus van der Lubbe (Dutch Communist) was found at the scene and arrested. Hitler claims that there is a Communist takeover and uses the Reichstag Fire Decree to suspend civil rights. Over 4000 Communists were arrested. Communist & socialist newspapers were banned. |
| | The Enabling Act – 25th March: After the election, the Nazis won 288 seats but it wasn't a majority. He formed a coalition with the National Party and had 51.9%. Hitler then forced the Enabling Act through the Reichstag on 24th March. He banned Communists from attending and said that anyone who wasn't there would count as a vote in favour. He then renewed the Enabling Act in 1937 & 1941. |
| | Removal of Opposition: Hitler wanted to bring Germany into line with Nazi ideals – Gleichschaltung . On 2nd May 1933 he banned trade unions and replaced them with the German Labour Front (DAF) . Strikes were banned and anyone breaking this law was put in the first concentration camp: Dachau . |
| | On 14th July, Hitler banned all other political parties with the Law against the Formation of Parties . In the November 1933 election, the Nazis secured 39,638,000 votes |
| | January 1934, Hitler stopped Germany being run by local governments by abolishing the Lander |

| What I need to know? –How did Hitler remove opposition within the Nazi Party? | |
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| | Hitler was concerned that the SA was becoming unruly and would only answer to Rohm and not Hitler. The Army (Wehrmacht) wanted the SA to be abolished and the SS wanted to break away from its' reputation, too. |
| | There was some suggestion that Rohm was planning a coup, to make Nazi politics more socialist and support the working class. |
| | The Night of the Long Knives – 30th June 1934 Rohm and other SA leaders were shot by the SS. It is thought that around 400 people were murdered. The SA's control was reduced and Hitler secured the support of the Wehrmacht. |
| | Hindenburg died in August 1934, the army swore personal allegiance to Hitler as Fuhrer of Germany . |

| What I need to Know? Nazi Policies towards the Church | |
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| | Catholic Church – Showed allegiance to the Pope. Catholic school policies were not the same as Nazis. Hitler initially signed a concordat with Pope Pius XI and agreed to stay out of the church. Within a few months he had broken this agreement. The Pope issued a letter called 'With Burning Anxiety' to all Catholic churches in 1937 criticising the Nazi regime. |
| | Protestant church – Nazis set up the Reich's Church led by Ludwig Muller ; however many Protestants opposed the Nazis, led by Pastor Niemoller they set up the Confessional Church & the Pastor's Emergency League |

| What do I need to know? Creation of the Police State | |
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| | The Nazis quickly established control through a regime of fear. 'Some Germans Could Shout Loud' |
| | SS: The SS was led by Himmler. They showed complete obedience to Hitler. It had 250,000 members by 1939 and they were of pure Aryan descent. It was their job to remove opposition in Germany. |
| | Gestapo: The Gestapo were the secret police and their role was to imprison opposition. By 1939 it was estimated that they had arrested over 160,000 people for 'political crimes'. |
| | Concentration Camps: Initially a new prison for hard labour. It was designed to keep political opponents away from society. Mortality rates were high. |
| | SD: The role of the SD was to gather intelligence. It was run by Himmler. They were hunting out enemies of the state. |
| | Law: Some judges were removed & they had to take an oath to Hitler. People's Court tried cases of treason & gave harsh sentences. |
| | Propaganda: The Reich Chamber of Culture manipulated all aspects of German lives. It closed down non-Nazi newspapers, organised an annual rally at Nuremberg. The People's Receiver (radio) was in over 70% of German homes, allowing the Nazi message to be spread. |
| | Propaganda: All films had to be censored and had a political message. Every film was accompanied by a 45 minute Nazi newsreel. |
| | Propaganda: Posters targeted the young and had simple messages about loyalty and Aryanism. Books, plays & poems were censored. Students in Berlin burned over 20,000 books in 1933 for containing 'anti-Nazi' messages. |
| What do I need to know? Opposition to the Nazis | |
| | By 1939 over 1.3 million people had been sent to a concentration camp . In 1938, Hitler removed generals from the army who criticised him. During 1939 there were three assassination attempts on Hitler . |
| | Some of the youth opposed Nazi rule. Groups like the Edelweiss Pirates who listened to Swing music and wore American clothes. The Swing Youth were similar – girls often wore makeup and boys grew their hair long. |

If you want to find out more check out the following links or scan the QR codes on your phone or tablet.

READ
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zsvhk7h/revision/1>



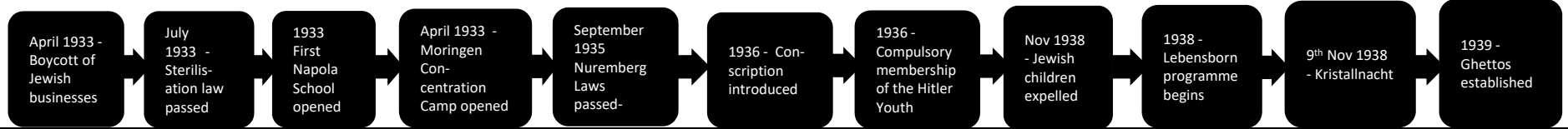
WATCH
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ob6uKPIJdu8>

LISTEN
<https://www.mrallsophistry.com/revision/the-rise-of-hitler-1929-1934-podcast.html>

<https://www.mrallsophistry.com/revision/nazi-control-of-germany.html>



Life in Nazi Germany



What do I need to know? Women – The Nazis had traditional family values & a desire to ensure a growing Aryan population.

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| | All organisations involving women are brought together under the Frauenfront which is run by Gertrude Scholtz-Klink . Women were expected to look natural, be well built, not smoke and to be mothers and housewives foremost. |
| | This was encouraged through propaganda to leave work and become housewives & mothers focusing on Kinder, Kuche, Kirche (Children Kitchen, Church) |
| | Women were forced out of jobs like teaching, doctors, lawyers & politicians. Women who didn't follow these rules were put in women's concentration camps like Moringen . |
| | Law for Encouragement of Marriage '33 encouraged women to give up work and get married by providing loans as an incentive. Abortion laws were strictly enforced & birth control clinics were closed down. |
| | Awards such as the German Mother's Honour Cross rewarded women for having large families |
| | Lebensborn (Fountain of Life) programme encouraged women to have babies with racially pure SS men – providing nursery facilities & financial incentives. |
| | Women encouraged to join the BDM (League of German Maidens) and to train as a housewife through the Reich Mother's Service . |

What I need to know? –Nazi policies towards the young

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| | The Nazis placed much emphasis on controlling the young as a way of guaranteeing future support. Youth organisations and education indoctrinated the German youth |
| | Three types of schools: The Napola - boys from 10-18 who later joined the Army. The Adolf Hitler Schools - 12-18, the elite of the Hitler Youth Ordensburgen - 20+ - graduates of Adolf Hitler Schools. Lessons were overhauled to prepare children for their future roles in life, boys to be soldiers, girls to be wives and mothers. Teachers had to join the Nazi Teachers' League . |
| | Boys, were encouraged to join the Hitler Youth (HJ) with the emphasis on fitness and military training. Girls could join the League of German Maidens (BDM) to prepare them for their future as wives & mothers. |

What I need to Know? Nazi Racial Beliefs

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| | Hitler wanted to create Volksgemeinschaft : a people's community where everyone was working together to make Germany better. |
| | He described Aryans as Herrenvolk: the Master Race . He believed they had been contaminated by sub-humans (or untermenschen). |
| | Jews and Slavs were evil & propaganda was used to spread conspiracies about them. Hitler wanted people to believe that the Jews needed to be removed from society. |

What do I need to know? Employment & Living Standards

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| | The Nazis used various methods to reduce unemployment from over 6 million to about 35,000 |
| | The Reich Labour Service – RAD (introduced from 1935) was compulsory for all men aged 18-25. |
| | Job Creation Schemes : Huge public works schemes reduced unemployment, e.g. building Autobahns (motorways) involved 125,000 men alone |
| | The Nazis started rearmament in preparation for war & introduced conscriptio . By 1939 the Army had increased to 1.4 million. They invested heavily in those industries involved in producing tanks, aircraft, warships etc providing further employment. |
| | Invisible Unemployment : Official unemployment figures did not include Jews, prisoners in concentration camps or women in those statistics so the reality was lots more unemployment. |
| | The Strength Through Joy (KdF) programme tried to improve leisure time of German workers – concerts/cruises/holidays. The Beauty of Labour scheme (SdA) improved working conditions by building pools & canteens. The Volkswagen was introduced – The People's Car. Workers could pay into a monthly fund and could eventually get a new car. |

What do I need to know? Persecution of minorities

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| | Persecution of the Jews: April 1933, Hitler organised a boycott of Jewish businesses . Nuremberg Laws, 1935 - removed citizenship from Jews meaning they had no protection from the State. 9th November 1938, the SS carried out Kristallnacht . They destroyed 7500 Jewish businesses, put 20,000 Jews in concentration camps, destroyed 191 synagogues and killed over 100 Jews. |
| | To ensure racial purity, people with disabilities were subject to enforced sterilisation , whilst the mentally ill were murdered in a euthanasia campaign . |
| | Other undesirable groups – homosexuals and Gypsies were arrested and taken to concentration camps |

If you want to find out more check out the following links or scan the QR codes on your phone or tablet.

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| READ https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zarf6f/revision/1 | | WATCH https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEyQm7ujn0 | | LISTEN https://www.mrallsophistory.com/revision/life-in-nazi-germany.html | |
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