

# Germany 1919-1991: How successful was the Weimar Government in dealing with Germany's problems between 1919 and 1933?

## Timeline / Chronology

1918	End of First World War / W.R. set up
1919	Spartacists Revolt (January) Treaty of Versailles (June)
1920	Kapp Putsch
1923	Munich Putsch / Invasion of the Ruhr Stresemann becomes Chancellor
1924	Stresemann resigns as Chancellor and becomes Foreign Minister
1925	Locarno Pact
1926	Germany was allowed to join the League of Nations
1928	Kellogg-Briand Pact signed with 60 other countries. All countries declared that countries would not go to war against each other.
1929	Germany out-paced Britain and France in industrial production Wall street Crash

## Key ideas

### Weimar Constitution

- Men & women over 20 could vote
- The Chancellor was appointed by the President
- The President was elected by the people. He had control of the Armed Forces and could dismiss Parliament.

### Stabbed in the back

The German people felt like they had been stabbed in the back when the Weimar Republic agreed to the surrender of WW1 / Treaty of Versailles.

## Key events

### Treaty of Versailles

- War Guilt
- Reparations of £6600
- Land (territorial) losses
- Loss of military

### Munich Putsch

In 1923 the Nazis seized power in Munich. The SA burst in on a meeting of the Bavarian government and Hitler declared himself leader. The next day Hitler was arrested by armed police and put on trial for treason.

### Invasion of the Ruhr

The Germans stopped reparation payments and in January 1923 France reacted by occupying the Ruhr Valley, a rich industrial area. The German government ordered the workers out on strike. To pay them, more money was printed. The effect was dramatic as money became worthless in a period of hyperinflation.

### The Golden Years

Stresemann introduced Rentenmark / Controlled inflation / Reduced unemployment / Restarted reparations / Negotiated Dawes / Young Plan

## Key Quotes

"The economic position is only flourishing on the surface. Germany is in fact dancing on a volcano. If the short-term credits are called in, a large section of our economy would collapse." Gustav Stresemann

## Key People

Gustav Stresemann / Friedrich Ebert  
Rosa Luxemburg / Karl Liebknecht  
Wolfgang Kapp

## Key Vocabulary

### November Criminals

The politicians of the Weimar Republic who signed the Armistice.

### The Weimar Republic

Germany's new government 1918-1933

### Proportional Representation

W.R.'s voting system. Each party received seats in direct proportion to the number of people who voted for that party.

### Coalition Government

Multiple political parties rule instead of one party.

### Spartacists

An extreme left wing political group who opposed the WR and revolted in Berlin in January 1919

### Article 48

Used in times of emergency, the President could spend democracy and rule by decree.

### Freikorps

Soldiers returning from war recruited by the WR. They were violent thugs who put down revolts using violence.

### Reichstag

The name of the German Parliament building and the name of the German Parliament..

### Kapp Putsch

Wolfgang Kapp was a right wing extremist who called for a general strike of workers in the gas, water, electrical and transport industries.

### Hyperinflation

When the prices of goods and services rise more than 50 percent a month.

# Germany 1919-1991: How did the Nazis take total control of Germany by 1934? 1. Rise to Power

## Timeline / Chronology

1921	Hitler became leader of the Nazi Party
1924	March—The Nazis only gained 32 seats in the election.  December—They only had 12 seats
1929	Wall Street Crash
1930	The Nazis had 107 seats
1932	Hitler challenged Hindenburg for Presidency. And lost by 5 million.  Nazis won 230 seats in the election
1933	January—Hitler became Chancellor of Germany

## Key ideas

### The Nazi Party

Originally called the German Workers Party, the Nazis were a far right group with an emphasis on discipline and loyalty to the leader. The Nazis wanted to show they believed in strong family values.

### Stormtroopers / SA

A brown-shirted paramilitary organisation made up of ex-soldiers and members of the Freikorps. They intimidated opponents of the Nazis especially the Communists.

### Hitler's appeal

He promised the working class and farmers aid. He promised to protect German businesses from the evils of communism. He promised women an important role in portraying family values.

## Key Vocabulary

### Mein Kampf

Hitler's book (My Struggle) which outlined many of his ideas. It was written when Hitler was in prison when Hitler realised he would have to take power by the ballot and not the bullet.

### Twenty Five Point Programme

Nazi programme of ideas including having a Germany filled with people only with German blood and the union of all Germans in a Greater Germany.

### Gauleiter

Party Leader in charge of an area in Germany.

## Key Quotes

"If you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed." Adolf Hitler

## Key People

Adolf Hitler  
Josef Goebbels  
President Hindenburg  
Franz von Papen  
Ernst Rohm

## Key events

### Wall Street Crash / Depression

The USA called in their loans, German businesses went bankrupt and unemployment peaked at 6 million. The Depression led to the collapse of democracy. Article 48 was triggered in 1929 as the government were unstable and no good. With no jobs or food support for the Nazis and Communists grew.

### Hitler became Chancellor

In the Reichstag elections of 1932 Hitler and the Nazis gained 230 seats and became the biggest party in the Reichstag. Hindenburg disliked Hitler but agreed to make him Chancellor in a deal only if Franz von Papen was Vice Chancellor.

# Germany 1919-1991: How did the Nazis take total control of Germany by 1934? 2. Consolidation of Power 1933-1934

## Timeline / Chronology

Feb 33	Reichstag Fire
Feb 33	Emergency Decree 'Decree for the Protection of the People and the State.'
5 March 33	March elections
March 33	Enabling Act
March 33	Germany becomes a One Party state
July 1934	Night of the Long Knives
August 34	President Hindenburg died Hitler becomes Fuhrer Army swears oath of loyalty to Hitler

## Key Quotes

"A lie told once remains a lie but a lie told a thousand times becomes the truth" Josef Goebbels

## Key People

Herman Goring  
Heinrich Himmler  
Josef Goebbels

## Key events

### Reichstag Fire

Hitler blamed the Communists for the Reichstag building burning down. Dutch Communist Marinus Van der Lubbe was found at the scene and was forced to confess. Hitler argued that the fire was the signal for a Communist uprising and got Hindenburg to use Article 48.

### March elections

Won by the Nazis but they failed to gain a majority.

### The Enabling Act

This allowed the Nazi government to introduce its own laws without consulting the Reichstag.

### Night of the Long Knives

Hitler wanted to get rid of Ernst Rohm who wanted the SA to become even more important in the Nazi state. However to Hitler, the SA had served its purpose and he wanted the army to trust him. In June 1934 the SS rounded up 'suspected traitors' to the Nazis. Several hundreds including Rohm were killed in the Night of the Long Knives.

### Hitler becomes Fuhrer

After Hindenburg died and the army swore an oath of loyalty to Hitler made himself Fuhrer of Germany.

## Key Vocabulary

### Gestapo

Secret Police force set up by Herman Goring. They dealt ruthlessly with any opposition.

### SS / Protection Squad

The main security force under the leadership of Heinrich Himmler.

### Rallies

Mass gatherings of Nazis to pledge and show their support to Hitler.

### Decree for the Protection of the People and the State

An emergency decree made using Article 48. The police could arrest and imprison anyone without a trial. Left wing newspapers were banned and political meetings were restricted.

## Key ideas

### Propaganda

This was used to indoctrinate the German people by controlling radio stations, the film industry and other media.

### The Police State

The SS carried out terror campaigns and the Gestapo could arrest people without evidence.

# Germany 1919-1991: How were the lives of the German people affected by Nazi rule between 1933 and 1939?

## Timeline / Chronology

1933	Trade Unions were abolished Boycott of Jewish shops
1935	Jews banned from public places Nuremberg Laws
1936	Compulsory to join Hitler Youth
1938	Kristallnacht

## Key Quotes

"He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future." Adolf Hitler

"The Fuhrer is always right. I sense it." Robert Ley

## Key events

### The Law for the Encouragement of Marriage 1933

Newly married couples qualified for a 1000 mark loan which would be reduced by 25% for each child born. Birth control was banned and infertile couples were forced to divorce.

### Kristallnacht

Hitler ordered the SA to unleash a campaign of terror against the Jews. In November 1938 Synagogues were burned down and 8000 shops and homes were looted. Over 100 Jews were killed and 30,000 were arrested and sent to concentration camps.

## Key ideas

### Brot und Arbeit (Bread and Work)

The Nazis reduced unemployment by setting up the National Labour Service, introducing rearmament and construction. Women and Jews were made to leave their jobs and did not appear on the unemployment figures.

### The German Labour Front (DAF)

DAF took the place of trade unions—it increased production because strikes were forbidden. It controlled workers, they could not negotiate better wages or leave their jobs without the permission of the Labour Front. The DAF also set up 'Beauty of Labour' and 'Strength Through Joy' which helped to persuade workers that life was better under the Nazis.

### Women

They were seen as incapable of logical thought which is why women were banned from being judges. They were told how to dress and how to act. Women were ordered to leave the workplace and were banned from being doctors, lecturers and teachers.

### Youth

The Nazis wanted to indoctrinate the young and train them to be loyal. Children were encouraged to tell on non Nazi teachers, Lessons began and ended with a Nazi salute. The Nazi curriculum changed and was different for boys and girls. Important subjects were History, Biology, Eugenics and P.E.

### Jews

Hitler persecuted Jews because he blamed them for Germany's problems. When he first took control in 1933 the Nazis passed laws restricting Jews from taking jobs and being in public places. In addition Jews were forbidden to marry no Jews.

## Key Vocabulary

### National Labour Service

Provided jobs for men between 18 and 25 on public work schemes.

### Motherhood Cross

Given to women who had 4, 6 and 8 children.

### Strength Through Joy

Organised cheap leisure activities as rewards for workers. E.G. holidays and theatre tickets

### Beauty of Labour

Promoted better working conditions at the workplace e.g. fixing health and safety concerns, providing hot meals.

### Hitler Youth

Encouraged boys to become the ideal Nazis. Life was exciting in the Hitler Youth, it was also disciplined with severe and physical training. Boys were trained to march 50 miles on minimal rations. There were opposition to the Hitler Youth from the Edelweiss Pirates and the Swing Kids.

## Key People

Adolf Hitler  
Robert Ley  
Baldur von Schirach  
Gurtrud Scholz-Klink

# Germany 1919-1991: Why did life change for the German people during the Second World War? 1. War

## Timeline / Chronology

1939	War began
1941	Final Solution
Jan 1943	Women were obliged to start war work
Feb 1943	Defeat at Stalingrad / Total War
May 1945	Germany surrendered and war ended

## Key Quotes

"Do you want total war?" Joseph Goebbels

## Key ideas

### Women

Although the Nazis believed women were needed in the home they also needed to recruit them into industry to take the jobs that male soldiers had left behind. By January 1943 women were obliged to do war work.

### Propaganda

Propaganda was crucial during war to maintain morale and ensure support for the war. In the early years, propaganda portrayed the Germans as smashing the Allies to pieces. Later on propaganda was used to spread the message of 'Total War' and was used to keep German support.

## Key Vocabulary

### Total War

Everyone and every available object is used for war.

### Autarky

Hitler's policy to make Germany self-sufficient in food and supplies so that there would be no shortages in the war.

## Key People

Adolf Hitler / Joseph Goebbels  
Martin Niemoller / Dieter Bonhoeffer

## Key events

**Victorious Homefront** Early Nazi victories from 1939-1941 meant that the Homefront was flooded with raw materials, land, slave workers and life continued as if there was no war. There were no food shortages thanks to rationing and Hitler's Autarky policy. The Hitler Youth recycled clothes, metal and books within communities. Germans were more healthy than before the war!

**Total War** Germany started to lose the war after defeats in Russia in 1942. The population was told to prepare for total war and that sacrifices would have to be made. Goebbels stepped up his propaganda campaign and asked for sacrifices. German factories were forced to work longer hours and food rations were cut. Women were increasingly drafted into factories to keep up production.

Bombing raids on German cities after 1942 meant civilians were also targeted. Round the clock bombing reduced cities and boats to ruins.

**Opposition during the War** Germans faced opposition from young people, religious groups and the military. Youth groups such as the Edelweiss Pirates refused to conform, Religious people such as Martin Niemoller set up break away churches and the military tried to assassinate Hitler with the July 1944 bomb plot. Overall opposition to the Nazis failed to stop Hitler.

**Holocaust** After Kristallnacht the Nazis started sending Jews to ghettos and then onto concentration camps. In 1941 the Nazis sent out Einsatzgruppen to shoot Jews dead in Russia. In 1942 at the Wannsee Conference the Nazis set out the details for the Final Solution to exterminate all Jews in death camps. They decided on gassing Jews in camps such as Auschwitz and Treblinka. The Holocaust saw 6 million Jews had been shot, gassed or worked to death.

## Germany 1919-1991: Why did life change for the German people during the Second World War? 2. 1945-1949

### Timeline / Chronology

Feb 1945	Yalta Conference
May 1945	End of Second World War
July 1945	Potsdam Conference
Nov 1945 - Oct 1946	The Nuremberg trials
1947	The Truman Doctrine
1949	Two separate Germanys were formed

### Key Quotes

““We have to get tough with the Russians. They don't know how to behave. They are like bulls in a china shop. They are only 25 years old. We are over 100 and the British are centuries older. We have got to teach them how to behave.”  
President Truman

### Key People

President Truman  
President Roosevelt  
Joseph Stalin  
Winston Churchill

### Key ideas

#### Denazification

This policy was created to remove all traces of the Nazi regime from German society, culture, press, economy, judiciary and politics. Suspected Nazis were investigated and all traces of Nazi Germany were removed .

#### Truman Doctrine

President Truman was determined to do all he could to eradicate communism. The Truman Doctrine stated that it would halt the spread of communism especially in Eastern Europe. This was followed up by Marshall Aid to fund the doctrine.

### Key Vocabulary

#### Marshall Aid

This was the money lent by the USA to Eastern European countries as part of the Marshall plan.

#### Capitalism

A political system under which businesses are owned privately and people are able to make a profit.

### Key events

Yalta Britain, Russia and the USA met before war ended to decide how to deal with Germany. They agreed that once war was over Germany would be split into 4 zones and Berlin would be split into 4 zones. Nazi war criminals would be hunted down and tried for war crimes and countries liberated after Nazi occupation would choose their own governments.

Potsdam This took place two months after war ended and most of Yalta's decisions were put into place. Germany and Berlin were split into 4 zones. Germany was demilitarised. Democracy was re-established in Germany and Germany had to pay reparations. The Nazi Party were banned, leading Nazis were put on trial at Nuremberg and Germany was de-nazified.

Nuremberg Trials Leading members of Nazis were put on trial for war crimes. 200 Nazis were tried and 142 were found guilty. 24 received death sentences and 20 were given lifetime imprisonment. 98 were given prison sentences 4 committed suicide during the trials. Baldur von Schirach (Hitler Youth) was given 20 years, Himmler committed suicide after capture and Robert Ley (DAF) committed suicide whilst awaiting trial.

# Germany 1919-1991: Why were conditions in West and East Germany different after 1949?

## Timeline / Chronology

1949	West and East Germany were formed
1949–63	Konrad Adenauer was Chancellor of Germany
1950s	Adenauer's economic miracle
1952	Wealthy Germans had to pay 50% tax
1953	France, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and West Germany formed the ECSC
1953	Treaty of Rome
1960s	Decline in industrial output and a rise in unemployment

## Key ideas

### Adenauer's aims

1. Repair the physical damage done to Germany
2. Transform Germany into a respected nation
3. Instil a moral rebirth after the brutality of Nazism

### Luxurious life?

During Adenauer's economic miracle, West Germans had money to spend. Demand was high for Leica cameras, VW and Mercedes-Benz cars. Unemployment dropped from 9% to 0.4% and foreign workers were brought in to help rebuild the economy.

## Key Vocabulary

### FDR / Federal Republic of Germany

West Germany

### Länder

Provinces / areas of West Germany

### Economic miracle

Boom and expansion in West German industry helped by Adenauer's policies.

### Baader-Meinhof gang

West German far right extremist group

### Treaty of Rome

This treaty established the EEC between France, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and West Germany.

### ECSC / European Coal and Steel Community

Bring together Coal and Iron Ore (needed to make steel) between countries without paying customs duties.

### EEC / European Economic Community

The aim of the EEC was to remove trade barriers between European countries.

## Key Quotes

"We all live under the same sky, but we don't all have the same horizon." Konrad Adenauer

## Key People

Konrad Adenauer  
Ludwig Erhard

## Key events

**FDR Constitution** Military occupation was removed from West Germany but not West Berlin. The new capital was Bonn where the Federal Parliament would meet. The President was elected for five years and could only stand once. The President did NOT control the armed forces and had no powers to declare a state emergency or appoint or dismiss chancellors. The key political figure was the chancellor who was elected by the Bundestag.

**Adenauer's economic miracle** Factories were rebuilt with the latest technology so could produce top of the range goods quickly. Ludwig Erhard encouraged economic development, West Germany received \$1300 million of Marshall Aid. The Korean War gave the economy a massive boost making weapons and trade unions discouraged strikes which helped produce more and thus stabilise the economy. The Deutschmark currency was introduced and new social welfare was introduced for the unemployed, old, young and sick.

**Righting the wrongs** Adenauer tried to bring in his moral rebirth. German Jews were paid reparations to rebuild their lives and Adenauer vowed that Germany should never forget the atrocities.

**Unrest in the 1970s** Neo-Nazi parties experienced some victories in local government elections. The National Democratic Party was anti-American, anti-Russian and hostile to foreign immigrant workers. Students also protested in the 1970s against the Vietnam War and the Baader Meinhof gang were associated with terrorism. In the mid 1970s unemployment rose to 1 million as did inflation and strikes.

# Germany 1919-1991: Why were conditions in West and East Germany different after 1949?

## Timeline / Chronology

1949	West and East Germany were formed  Walter Ulbricht became General Secretary
1961	Berlin Wall built
1971	Erich Honecker took over from Walter Ulbricht as General Secretary
1972	The state was the sole employer

## Key Quotes

"Nobody intends to put up a wall!"  
Walter Ulbricht, Leader of the GDR, June 15, 1961 – 2 months before the Berlin Wall was erected.

"The penalties for being an accessory to the attempt to flee the [GDR] were greater than the crime of trying to flee itself."  
Anna Funder

## Key People

Walter Ulbrecht  
  
Josef Satlin  
  
Nikita Khrushchev

## Key events

### GDR rule

The GDR was controlled by Russia. Communists were appointed to local offices and a Soviet style system was introduced. Banks, factories and farms were reorganised. People who opposed the communists were arrested and imprisoned. Walter Ulbricht became the first General Secretary. The Unity Party was the only party allowed. East Berlin was the capital of East Germany.

### Industrial Problems in East Germany

East Germany only had 30% of the industrial capacity that west Germany did and was very short of raw materials. Skilled workers from the East left to go and find better paid work in the West. This was known as the 'brain drain'. Unlike West Germany, East Germany still had to pay reparations to Russia. Poor wages led to strikes and unrest—in response the government put down strikes violently and increased work quotas. East Germany did experience social and economic development during this period but it was always repressed by Russia and the Unity party.

### Living in the GDR

Life was difficult due to poor pay and increased working quotas. Border guards and machine-gun posts made escaping to the West almost impossible. The Unity Party put down any social unrest and people who tried to cross over into West Berlin were shot. East Germans could only visit other communist countries and many were completely cut off from their friends and relations who were in West Germany.

## Key Vocabulary

### GDR / German Democratic Republic

East Germany

### Brain drain

3.5 million skilled workers in the East leaving to go to the West for better pay and a better life.

### Stasi

East German secret police

### Eastern Bloc

The countries in Eastern Europe who were communist and controlled by the USSR.

## Key ideas

### Berlin Wall

This was put up to stop the brain drain in East Germany. It cut families and friends off from each other. Anybody who tried to escape was shot.

### Consumer Socialism

By 1970 unemployment had drastically reduced in East Germany and the GDR was the most prosperous country in the whole Eastern bloc.

# Germany 1919-1991: How did relations between the two Germanies change between 1949 and 1991?

## Timeline / Chronology

1947	Truman Doctrine
1948	Trizonia was formed New currency for Germany Marshall Aid given out
1948-49	Berlin Blockade and Airlift
1955	Formation of NATO
1961	Berlin Wall built
1969	Ostpolitik begins

## Key Quotes

"It often takes more courage to change one's opinion than to keep it." Willy Brandt

"Berlin is the testicles of the West, every time I want the West to scream, I squeeze on Berlin."  
Nikita Khrushchev, 1962.

## Key People

Walter Ulbricht  
Nikita Khrushchev  
Willy Brandt

## Key events

### Berlin Blockade and Berlin Airlift

Stalin felt threatened by the formation of Bizonia and then Trizonia and the introduction of the new currency. He was concerned about the threat to Soviet controlled Berlin by a prosperous West Germany. On 24th June 1948 Soviet troops cut off all road, rail and canal links between East and West Berlin. Stalin wanted to starve the West Berliners into submission. America considered using their military but wanted to avoid war so instead decided to airlift provisions to those in West Germany. By September 1948 an aircraft landed every three minutes and Stalin was powerless to stop them as shooting them down would be deemed an act of war. During the airlift over 27,000 air trips were made to drop in over 2 million tonnes of supplies.

Stalin eventually conceded and lifted the blockade in May 1949. The Blockade had worsened relations between east and West and there was no prospect of reuniting East and West. It led to the creation of the two Germanies FDR and GDR.

### Berlin Wall

The Berlin Wall was built by East Germany in response to what they saw as a threat from the West. West Germany was thriving and prosperous and millions of East Germans were leaving to go there. On 13th August 1961 a wall was built to divide East and West Berlin. The Wall separated family and friends and meant it was almost impossible for East Berliners to leave for the West. In the first year, 41 Berliners were shot trying to cross.

## Key Vocabulary

### Bizonia

Britain and USA joined their zones in Germany together.

### Trizonia

France joined Britain and France's joined zones

### NATO

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was formed by 12 Western powers in 1955. Each country promised to come to the aid of the other countries if one was attacked. NATO was formed out of fear that the Soviets would use their recently acquired atomic bomb.

## Key ideas

### Reducing Inflation

To try and reduce inflation the Western Allies introduced a new currency in June 1948.

### Ostpolitik

Willy Brandt introduced Ostpolitik in 1969 as he was convinced that East and West could be reconciled. Ostpolitik was the opening of relations with the eastern bloc and got the two countries talking to each other again.

# Germany 1919-1991: What factors led to the reunification of Germany in 1990?

## Timeline / Chronology

1969	Ostpolitik began
1972	Basic Treaty
1973	East and West Germany were allowed to join the UN
1985	Gorbachev became leader of the USSR
May 89	Hungary removed borders to Austria
Nov 89	East Germany open it's borders and allowed free travel Berlin Wall came down
July 90	East and West German economies were merged
Oct 90	Germany was reunified

## Key Quotes

"We were united not only by political respect for each other, but also by deep mutual sympathy as people." Helmut Kohl

"Mr Gorbachev, tear down this Wall!" Ronald Reagan US President about the Berlin Wall

## Key events

### Basic Treaty

Both Germanies signed this treaty in 1972 in which they agreed to develop good understanding as normal neighbours and to respect each other's own independence. This represented a thaw in the Cold War and both countries were allowed to join the United Nations. Travel within Berlin became easier and communications were improved as well as trade tripled.

### Role of Gorbachev

His policies of Perestroika and Glasnost helped to relax tension within Europe. Next he informed the leaders of East Germany that the Red Army would no longer be able to defend them to crush opposition. He also made nuclear disarmament deals with the USA which again helped thaw relations.

### The Collapse of Communism

People started to demonstrate against the communist regimes. In 1989 Hungary removed it's barriers to Austria allowing East Germans to leave and go to West Germany. With four months over 50,000 East Germans had left for West Germany forcing East Germany into action. In November 1989 the East German government announced it would open it's borders and allow free travel which lead to East Germans marching to the Berlin Wall the day after and knocking it down.

### Reunification of Germany

Germany reunified in October 1990. Before then their two economies had merged and Berlin became the capital of Germany. The first elections took place in December and Helmut Kohl won a substantial victory and became the first leader of the unified Germany.

## Key Vocabulary

### United Nations (UN)

International peace keeping organisation

### Mikhail Gorbachev

General Secretary of Communist Party in USSR in 1985

## Key ideas

### Perestroika and Glasnost

Gorbachev's policy of economic restructuring and openness which relaxed tensions between East and West.

### Helmut Kohl

He was significant in the reunification. He got on good terms with Gorbachev and came up with a 10 point plan for reunification to ensure a stable future economy. It was Kohl who proposed monetary union by merging the currencies into the deutschmark.

## Key People

Helmut Kohl

Mikhail Gorbachev