

Revision Guide

The Development of Germany: 1919 – 1991

What do I need to revise?

Topic 1: POLITICAL CHANGES	I have studied this	I have made revision notes	I am confident in my knowledge
<p>How successful was the Weimar republic in dealing with Germany's problems after 1919?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Weimar Republic</i> • <i>The Treaty of Versailles</i> • <i>Opposition to Weimar Republic</i> • <i>Economic problems in the 1920s</i> • <i>Munich Putsch - 1923</i> • <i>The 'Golden Years' of Stresemann</i> <p>How did the Nazis take control of Germany?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reasons for Hitler's rise to power</i> • <i>Ways in which Hitler turned Germany into a dictatorship</i> • <i>Methods of political control; the Police State</i> <p>What were the main developments in Germany's political and economic life after 1945?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The impact of World War II on the government of Germany: Yalta; Potsdam; the division of Germany</i> • <i>East and West Germany: the different political systems, the difference in economic development; the ECSC and EEC</i> • <i>The reunification of German: reasons for unification, the role of Helmut Kohl, the fall of the Berlin Wall</i> 			

Topic 2: SOCIAL CHANGES	I have studied this	I have made revision notes	I am confident in my knowledge
<p>How did life change in the Weimar period?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the occupation of the Ruhr, hyperinflation and its impact, economic reform under Stresemann; the onset of the depression and its impact</i> <p>How were the lives of Germans affected by Nazi rule?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nazi policies towards employment, women, children, religion, the Jews</i> • <i>Life during World War II</i> • <i>Opposition to the Nazis during the war</i> • <i>The 'Final Solution'</i> <p>How significantly did life change for the German people after 1945?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Life at the end of the war</i> • <i>The Berlin Airlift</i> • <i>Adenauer's economic miracle and its effects</i> • <i>Life in East and West Germany (the Berlin Wall)</i> • <i>Life after the collapse of the Wall</i> 			
Topic 2: FOREIGN POLICY	I have studied this	I have made revision notes	I am confident in my knowledge
<p><i>The treatment of Germany at the Peace Conference, the impact of the Treaty of Versailles</i></p> <p><i>Stresemann: The Locarno Treaty, the League of Nations, the Kellogg-Briand Pact</i></p> <p><i>Hitler's challenge to the peace of Europe: rearmament, Rhineland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland</i></p> <p><i>The main turning points for Germany during WWII ; reasons for defeat</i></p> <p><i>Yalta and Potsdam</i></p> <p><i>The Cold War:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>the Berlin Blockade and Airlift</i> ▪ <i>the Berlin Wall and its significance</i> ▪ <i>NATO and the Warsaw Pact</i> <p><i>Co-operation and reconciliation:</i></p> <p><i>moves towards European partnership; the impact of reunification</i></p>			

TOPIC ONE: POLITICS

Germany after World War One – 1919-1933 – THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC

What was the impact of WWI on the German government?

By 1918 the Germans were slowly losing the war and many soldiers began to want peace. There was talk of a **German Revolution** to overthrow the **Kaiser**.

November 1918 – **Kaiser Wilhelm** was forced to **abdicate** (leave the throne)

A new government is created – the Weimar **Government**; though many other people also disliked them too.

Kaiser Wilhelm abdicated in 1918

The WW1 peace treaty was signed at Versailles Palace in France.



Problems with the Weimar Government

Their first job was to **surrender** from the War. This made them look weak and some people called them the **November Criminals** for betraying their own people (many Germans thought the war could still be fought).

There were lots of uprisings and riots around the country (e.g. the **Spartacist Uprising**) by other groups who wanted power. Germany nearly fell into **civil war** and the new government found it difficult to keep control.

The government was made up of **lots of small political parties**. This meant **coalition** governments were frequent which slowed down decision making as deals had to be struck between different parties.

The Weimar Republic

Germany's first ever **democracy**.

All people (including women), over 20, could **vote**.

The head of the state was called the President. He could with **Emergency Powers** if necessary.

Parties were elected through **Proportional Representation**. This led to lots of small political parties who would have to join together to form a coalition government.

The Weimar government was Germany's first **democracy**. Their first leader was **Ebert**



Definition: Coalition governments

When 2 or more political parties make a deal to join together and make compromises to try to run the country. Sometimes they work, but sometimes they don't.

Terms of the Treaty of Versailles

The Weimar Government signed the Treaty in 1919.

Germany had to:

Take the blame for the war (**The War Guilt clause**)

Lose 13% of its valuable land and colonies e.g. the **Rhineland**.

Reduce its army to **100,000 men**

Pay **reparations of £6 billion** to France and the UK



The Treaty was seen as a terrible **humiliation** and it made the government seem more unpopular. There were riots in the streets and **public protests**. The government who signed it were called the **November Criminals**.

Problems of the Weimar Republic in the 1920s.

Occupation of the Ruhr – 1923

An economic crisis was developing in Germany.

The Germans were not keeping up with their reparation payments so the French decided to invade an area of their land – **the Ruhr** – which was Germany's **largest industrial area**.

The **French soldiers** ordered the Germans to work in the factories and produce resources which the French would take (e.g. coal and steel)

The government ordered the German workers to go on **strike** instead. They said the French had no right to come into their land.

German production slowed down even further.

Hyperinflation

The government decided to solve their debt crisis by printing more money, but this led to **hyperinflation**.

Hyperinflation – where the value of money becomes worthless because there is so much of it in the economy.

E.g. In 1923 a loaf of bread cost 250 marks. A few months later it cost 201 billion marks. Printing more money doesn't make people rich, it just makes prices go up!

People's **life savings** became worthless.

Wages did not increase as quickly as the **cost of living** did. **Hunger** became common as people couldn't afford food.



Rebellions

Communists tried to take over in the Spartacist Rising – 1919 – led by Rosa Luxemburg

Kapp Putsch – rebellion led by Freikorps (ex army)

Munich Putsch – Hitler

All quashed BUT showed that the Weimar Republic was fragile and open to attack.



MUNICH PUTSCH

1923 – Hitler tried to seize power. Marched on the Munich Beer Hall. FAILED because he did not have the support of the army and it was easily quashed by the government. Hitler spent 9 months in prison and the Nazi party was temporarily banned. However, it was a turning point for the Nazis. Hitler wrote **Mein Kampf** (autobiography) in jail and used the time to gain support for his ideas and reorganise the party.

The Weimar Golden Years (1925 – 1929)

The Stresemann Years:

A popular foreign minister called **Gustav Stresemann** helped the Weimar Republic to recover.

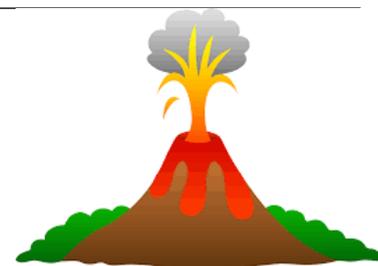
He created a new currency called the **Rentenmark** – ending hyperinflation.

He helped get Germany loans from the USA – this was called the **DAWES PLAN**. The Americans agreed to lend the Germans **800 million gold marks**. The **YOUNG PLAN** signed afterwards reduced the reparations they had to pay and gave the USA longer to pay them.

Life in Weimar Germany improved. People enjoyed good social lives, listening to jazz music and drinking in night clubs. Art and literature also became very popular, which showed the people must have more free time and money disposable income to enjoy life.

But Stresemann knew Weimar Germany was still vulnerable. He said, “**We are dancing on the top of a volcano and no-one realises**”

SHORT TERM ANSWERS – America were too reliant on loans from the USA



In 1929, the Wall Street Crash in the USA destroyed the German recovery. The volcano erupted - Stresemann was right!!!!

ESSAY PLAN:

How successful was the Weimar Republic in dealing with Germany's problems after 1919?

ON THE SURFACE – EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL!

Stresemann became Chancellor 1923

Undid passive resistance in the **Ruhr**

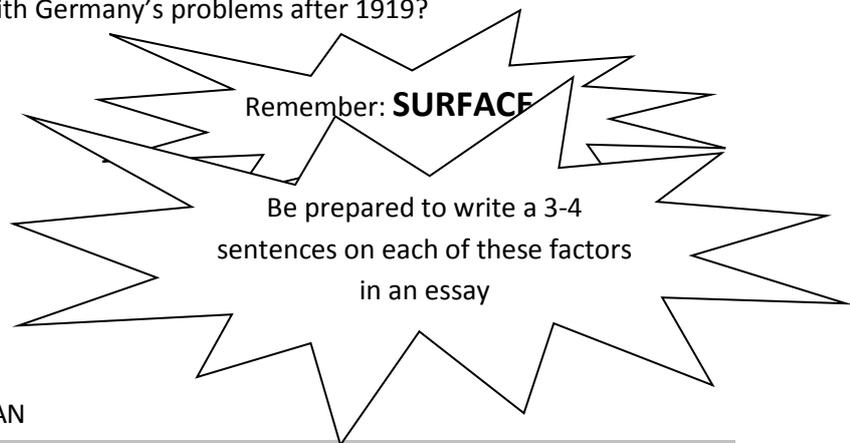
Rentmark

Foreign policy (League of Nations Kellog Briand Pact)

Art and literature

Created homes and jobs with money from DAWES PLAN

Everything relied too heavily on AMERICAN LOANS! Short term. 'Dancing on a Volcano'. This was proven when the Wall Street Crash occurred and Germany were plunged into financial crisis.



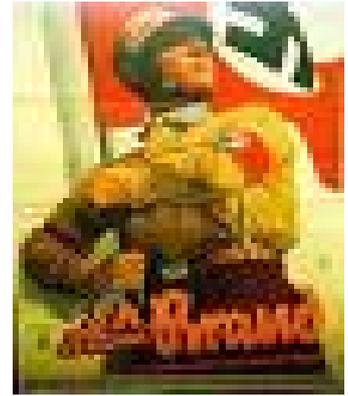
Write descriptions of these **key words** and test yourself on them!

Weimar Republic	
Proportional Representation	
November Criminals	
Treaty of Versailles	
War Guilt Clause	
Reparations	
Ruhr	
Hyperinflation	
Spartacist Uprising	
Munich Putsch	
Gustav Stresemann	
Dawes Plan	
Young Plan	

1933 – 1945 THE NAZIS CONTROL GERMANY

Adolf Hitler joined Nazi Party in 1919. By 1921 he had become leader.

Swastika = symbol of Nazi Party



Hitler's main ideas (written in Mein Kampf)

Create People's Community for all people of German blood.

Overturn the Treaty of Versailles - make Germany strong again.

Remove Jews and Communists from German society.

Achieve Lebensraum – invade Eastern Europe to create more space for Germans.

1929 – 1933: The Great Depression and the rise of the Nazis

1928 Nazis have 8 seats in the Reichstag

1933 The Nazis have 288 seats in the Reichstag

What caused this change?

**1929 –
Wall Street Crash**



After the Wall Street Crash Germany fell into the **Great Depression**

The Americans recalled their loans agreed as part of the Dawes Plan.

Thousands of businesses shut down.

Unemployment rose to 6 million by 1933

Hunger increased as people could not afford to buy food.

The governments could not keep control – there was a new election every year!

People turned to the Nazi Party who offered "**Work and Bread**" if they got to power.

Hitler and Goebbels used propaganda to position Hitler as "Our last hope"

The Depression made the Weimar governments look weak and ineffective.

How did the Nazis get into power???

Remember “Limp Paper”

LONG-TERM BITTERNESS -

Deep anger about Treaty of Versailles in Germany meant many people supported Hitler’s ideas.

INEFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT

Weaknesses in the Constitution crippled the government. Proportional Representation made decision-making difficult. In fact, there were many people in Germany who *wanted* a return to dictatorship. There was no one who was prepared or able to fight to stop Hitler.

MONEY

The financial support of wealthy businessmen (e.g. Henry Ford) gave Hitler the money to run his propaganda and election campaigns.

PROPAGANDA

Nazi propaganda persuaded the German masses to believe that Hitler was their last hope – the only person able to make Germany great again. (See box below)

PROGRAMME

Hitler promised everybody something, so they supported him. Changed the message according to the group they were talking to. Was willing to

ATTACKS ON OTHER PARTIES

The Stormtroopers (SA) attacked Jews, Communists and people who opposed Hitler. Many opponents kept quiet simply because they were scared of being murdered

PERSONAL QUALITIES

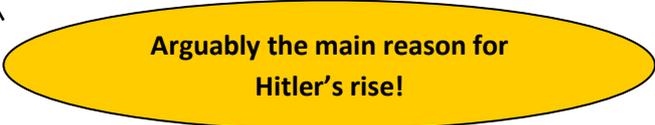
Hitler was a brilliant speaker. He was a good organiser and politician. His self-belief persuaded people to believe in him. He had put together the party’s 25- point programme.

ECONOMIC DEPRESSION – SHORT TERM REASON

After the Wall Street Crash in 1929, the USA recalled its loans. Unemployment grew; people were starving on the streets. People looked for extreme solutions and someone to blame – Hitler offered them both. Germans turned to Nazism because they were desperate.

RECRUITED BY HINDENBERG – SHORT TERM REASON

Hindenburg realised Hitler was popular. He made him Chancellor in a coalition government believing that he control him.



**Arguably the main reason for
Hitler’s rise!**

How did the Nazis use propaganda?

❖ Propaganda = persuading people around to your point of view

Posters, leaflets, radio broadcasts spread Nazi messages. Held marches and rallies. Later on, school text books rewritten to spread Nazi ideas. Anti-Nazi books and newspapers banned. Cinemas carried propaganda films. During the war propaganda was used to persuade people it was going well for the Germans, even though it wasn't.

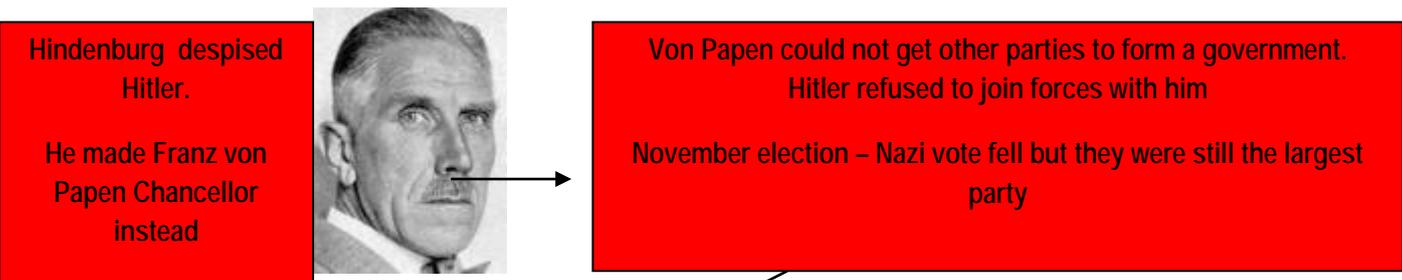
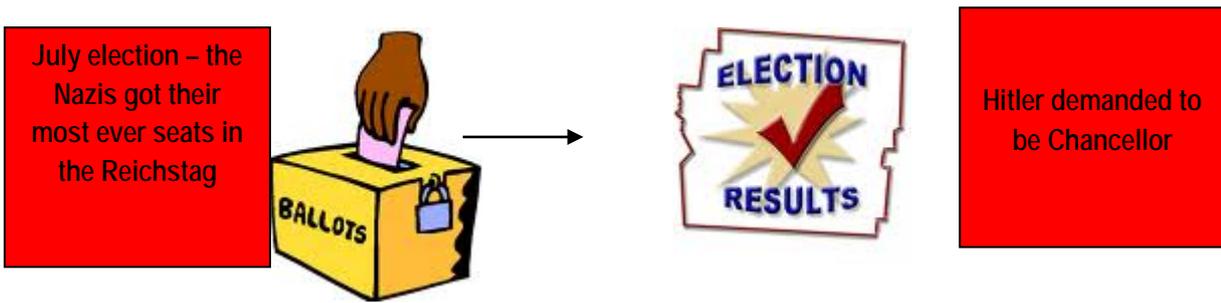
Joseph Goebbels
Minister for Propaganda



Why was Hitler recruited by Hindenberg?

By 1932, Hitler had the biggest Party in the Reichstag but President Hindenberg would not make him Chancellor as Hitler planned to destroy democracy.

This is what happened:



Hitler did a deal with von Papen. He persuaded Hindenburg to let Hitler be Chancellor. Von Papen would be vice-Chancellor. 3 Nazis would be given posts in the government.
Hindenburg agreed, believing he could control Hitler. Big mistake!



Hitler did not take power in the end: he was given it.

How did the Nazis consolidate their power? (*Make it stronger!*)

1933-Hitler Chancellor but his hold on power was fragile. There were only 2 other Nazis in the Cabinet! He had to make his position stronger. A series of events led Hitler on the path to becoming **dictator** of Germany. The first of these was...

**Dictator = a ruler
who has absolute
power**

#1 The Reichstag Fire

- Feb 1933 Reichstag Building (German Parliament) set on fire
- Dutch Communist called Van Der Lubbe found in the building and charged with starting fire (after being tortured by Gestapo)
- Hitler seized his opportunity! He arrested and imprisoned 400 Communist leaders. Banned them from the Reichstag,
- He persuaded President Hindenberg to pass the **Enabling Act**. This meant he did not have to ask the Reichstag's permission to pass laws.



Enabling Act:

Opposition politicians were arrested and imprisoned.

SA could ransack homes of opponents.

Enemies of Nazis could be executed.

Workers could no longer join trade unions

#2 – The Night of the Long Knives



SA were getting too powerful and Ernst Rohm (leader) was disliked by other leading Nazis.

Rohm wanted the SA to take control of the army and Hitler was worried that Rohm would try to take over. The army were very suspicious of Rohm.

Many SA men were thugs and Hitler was having trouble controlling them.

June 1934 – Hitler ordered **SS** to arrest SA leaders. Rohm was shot, many others were killed.

The SS were Hitler's personal bodyguards. Led by Himmler. Wore all black uniform. Himmler personally vetted all applicants to make sure that all were good 'Aryan' types. After Night of Long Knives, Hitler used SS to control Germany.

#3 Hindenburg dies

1934 – Just weeks after Night of Long Knives, President Hindenburg died.

Hitler declared himself **President** AND **Chancellor**. He called this role the **Fuhrer** (leader)

Now he was not only Chancellor but Head of State and Commander of the Army.

Every soldier swore an oath of personal loyalty to Hitler.

Final step in Hitler's consolidation of power.

How did the Nazis control Germany?

The SS was the most powerful organisation in Germany and was essential for Hitler to be able to control the German people. Hitler made Germany a **Police State**

Revision tip: FENDO

F: Fire in the Reichstag

E: Enabling Act

N: Night of the Long Knives

D: Death of Hindenburg

O: Oath of the army



Police, courts and prisons all controlled by Nazis.

Informers - block warden in every area. Reported people who suspected were disloyal e.g. not flying Nazi flag, not donating to the party

Gestapo - secret police . Tapped telephones, intercepted mail throughout Germany. GESTAPO were most feared organisation in Germany. Could report people for independent thinking ie. Not flying Nazi flag or telling Hitler jokes.

Concentration camps - First people sent there were trade unionists and Communists. Opponents of Nazis were sent there for 're-education' – questioning and torturing to teach them a lesson.

Incentives for loyal Nazis. Created more jobs, cheap holidays for Aryans (Strength Through Joy scheme)

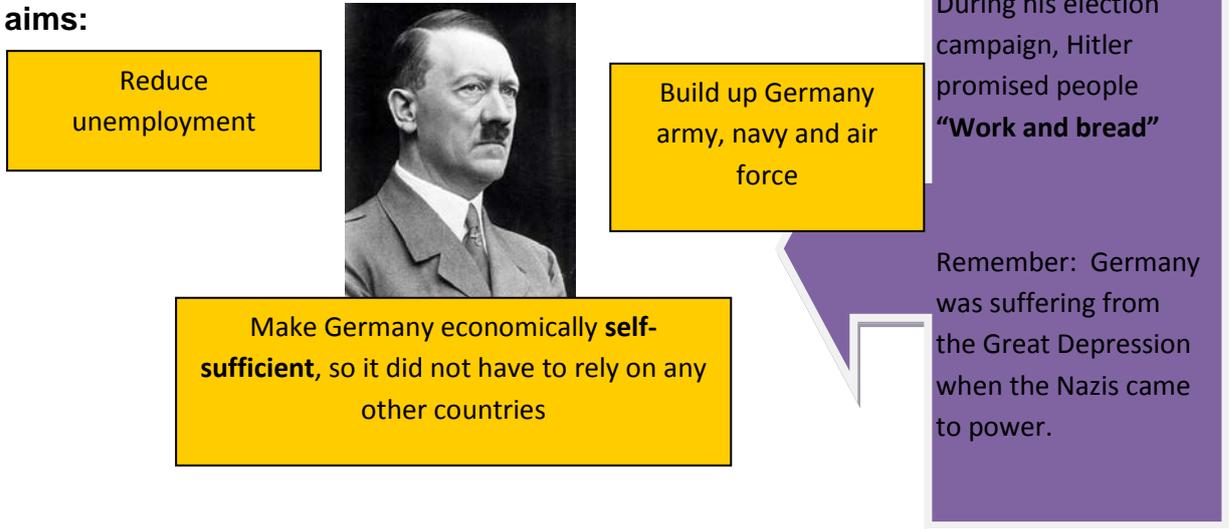
Gleichschaltung (Control of State Services) Nazified all government jobs in the country. Local councillors, teachers, doctors, nurses and the police and other government workers had to swear allegiance to the Nazis.

Propaganda/ censorship – banned all other newspapers; book burning; censored news reports

Economic Policy

Hitler wanted Germany to regain the land lost in 1919 and to dominate Europe. TO do this, he knew Germany had to recover its economic strength:

Hitler's aims:



How did they plan to do it?

- Goering's "Four-Year Plan" – aim was to prepare for war within 4 years and make Germany **self-sufficient**.
- Increased production of raw materials needed for **rearmament** e.g. coal, iron, oil.
- Trade agreements were made with individual countries.

**Rebuilding
the German
army**

DAF: (German labour front)

- Organisation to control workers. Workers HAD to join. Made them work building new motorways, schools, hospitals etc

Strength through Joy (KDF):

- Organised leisure time of workers e.g. cheap theatre trips, cruises, holidays etc.
- Used for propaganda for the Nazis

Jews obviously not welcome

After 1945 (post WWII)

- By 1945 – Nazi administration could not cope with the destruction of Germany
- Government plans were in chaos
- Ration cards no longer honoured – people relied on Black Market for food
- Allied and Russian troops entered Germany in April 1945. Met with little resistance.
- May – Hitler, Goebbels and other Nazi leaders commit suicide.

Write descriptions of these **key words** and test yourself on them!

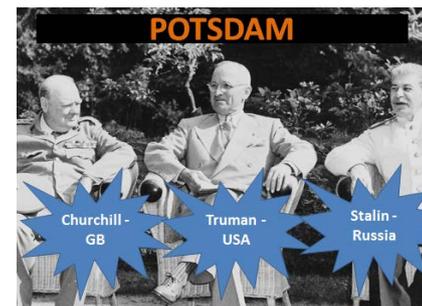
Great Depression	
SA (stormtroopers)	
SS	
Propaganda	
Hindenberg	
Von Papen	
Reichstag Fire	
Enabling Act	
Gestapo	
Concentration Camps	
Gleichschaltung	
Four Year Plan	

Yalta and Potsdam – Conferences to decide the fate of Germany after WWII

Yalta - February 1945: Germany was not yet defeated, so, although there were tensions about Poland, the big three - Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill - managed to agree to **split Germany** into four zones of occupation, and to allow **free elections** in Eastern European countries. Russia was invited to join the United Nations, and Russia promised to join the war against Japan when Germany was defeated.



Potsdam - July 1945: Germany had been defeated, Roosevelt had died and Churchill had lost the 1945 election - so there were **open disagreements**. Russia and France were allowed to take reparations from their zones. Truman came away angry about the size of reparations and the fact that a communist government was being set up in Poland. Truman did not tell Stalin that he had the atomic bomb.



Division of Germany:

Berlin also divided into 4 separately but lay in heart of Russian sector, which was to create problems later.

West Germany	East Germany (Russian Zone)
Official name: Federal Republic of Germany Main leader: Konrad Adenaur	<u>Official name:</u> German Democratic Republic <u>Main leaders:</u> 1949-62 – Walter Ulbricht 1960s-89 – Erich Honecker
Democracy	Dictatorship
A new policy required a 5% vote for a political party to be represented in the Bundestag (the Parliament in order to prevent any small extremist parties from gaining representation too easily – this is how the Nazis had brought down the Weimar Republic)	Communist Party ruled, Some other political parties were permitted but the communists held all the power.
Member of Nato – treaty with USA and other western powers to defend each other in case of an attack	Member of Warsaw Pact – treaty with USSR and other communist powers to defend each other in case of an attack
Benefited from Marshall Plan (USA sent massive economic aid to Europe democracies to help rebuild. Billions of dollars were spent to help countries recover quickly and to reduce the influence of Communism.	Russia refused aid of Marshall Plan and East Germany was not completely rebuilt.
Adenaur's economic miracle! 1945: 80% of Germany's economy was destroyed. By 1960, Germany was wealthier than Britain. <u>The economic miracle was achieved by:</u> Introducing a new currency – the Deutschemmark – which ended the black market Getting rid of price controls on goods Cutting taxes so people had more money to spend The USA lent the FRG billions of dollars (Marshall Plan) The West Germans worked hard and invested in high quality products (BMW)	The state controlled the economy, worker's wages, and the supplies that were made. Food shortages – oranges and bananas were considered a luxury!
Member of ECSC – European Coal and Steel Community . Created a common market to trade coal and steel. Brought European states closer together. Also joined EEC – European Economic Community . Also known as the Common Market . Aimed to bring peace to western Europe and have common economic policies.	Many E Germanys crossed over to W Germany and were allowed to proclaim themselves refugees. 2.6 million out of 17.5 million residents of East Germany had crossed over by 1961. This caused labour shortages in East Germany and also the further degradation of an already failing East German economy.
Free speech, freedom of movement	Free speech not tolerated. Artistic and intellectual freedom was strongly controlled. Stasi – secret police. (Similar to the Gestapo) arrested anyone who opposed the party.
1949 – the Allies united West Germany into the BDR	1949 – the Russians set up the DDR

Berlin Blockade - 1948

By 1948 the Russians decided that they wanted all of Berlin under their control. Russia exploited the fact that Berlin was in their sector and isolated Berlin from American soldiers and supplies.



The Berlin Blockade began in mid 1948 - Russian forces surrounded West Berlin to make Allied soldiers there surrender from starvation.

The Soviets sealed off railroads and highways to the Western sector of Berlin, cutting it off from rest of Germany. The Allies started Berlin Airlift on June 21, 1948, in order to provide West Berlin with food and fuel. Cargo planes dropped food, fuel, and other supplies into West Germany 24 hours a day.

Russia said that the reason for the blockade was that they were doing extensive roadwork (this didn't fool anyone). Russia then said that Berlin was rightfully theirs.

Russia saw that the Allies did not intend to surrender so they offered the citizens of West Berlin food on the condition that they came over to the Russian side. The West Berliners decided that they would rather starve than be under Russian authority.

Berlin Wall – 1961

In 1958, East Germany began to again block immigration to West Germany by establishing barbed wire fences and patrols along the whole border between East and West Germany.

In 1961, Berlin, the last place through which immigrants could leave East Germany, was blocked off by the Berlin Wall, at which more than 80 persons were shot while trying to escape East Germany.



Reunification

In 1989 Germany was **reunified** (united into one country). There were several reasons for this:

1. The continuing decline in the East German economy since the end of the 1970s.
2. **Mikhail Gorbachev**, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the **Soviet Union**, introduced more openness into Russian society in the mid-1980s.
3. Many people were dissatisfied with the Communist regime and the economic and social conditions there (which led to demonstrations at the end of the 1980s).



4. The historical turning point came when Hungary opened its border with Austria in August 1989. It was now easy for East Germans to go to the West. It was also clear that Communist East Germany was only able to continue to exist behind strong, secure borders and walls. The Berlin Wall thus fell on November 9, 1989.

5. **Helmut Kohl** – leader of West Germany introduced a '10 point plan' to unify the East and West. The first free elections in 40 years gave only 16% of the vote to the former Communist party. The East German parliament decided in 1990 to join the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) and East Germany thus ceased to exist.



Write descriptions of these **key words** and test yourself on them!

Yalta and Potsdam	
Adenaur	
Ulbricht	
Marshall Plan	
Deutschemark	
ECSC	
EEC	
Stasi	
BDR	
DDR	
Berlin Blockade	
Berlin Airlift	
Berlin Wall	
Helmut Kohl	
reunification	

TOPIC TWO: SOCIAL

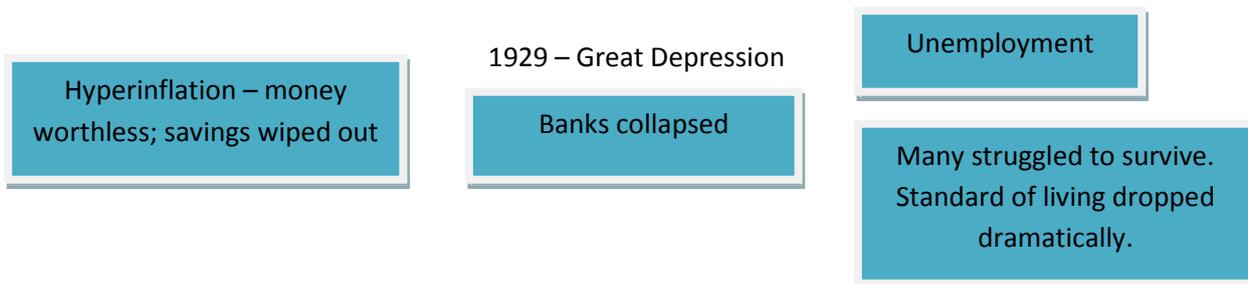
Changes in the lives of the German people since 1919

1919 – 1933 – Weimar Republic



Recovery under Stresemann after 1923 -

- Dawes Plan – money for new houses, roads, railways and factories
- Huge improvement in living standards
- Cultural life flourished – art and literature, singers like Marlene Dietrich
- “Golden Age”



1933 – 1939

Life under the Nazis (Before the war)

Social life	No freedom of speech; Gestapo ; social lives tightly controlled. Propaganda and censorship. No other political parties allowed; not allowed to speak out against government. Could be sent to concentration camp for re-education .
Work	Created jobs – building roads, motorways, schools etc. Unemployment fell. BUT Jews and Communists sacked and not included on the unemployment figures.
Women	'Children, Cooking, Church'. Many professionals (teachers, doctors) sacked. Motherhood seen as their most important role. Financial rewards for having children.
Children	Boys – Hitler Youth . Preparation for the army. Girls – BDM . Preparation for motherhood. Brainwashed in schools with Nazi ideas. Jewish children singled out and humiliated.
Untermensch (Undesirables)	Jews, gypsies, homosexuals. Discriminated against. Nuremburg Laws – Jews forbidden to marry or be classed as German citizens. Night of Broken Glass (Kristallnacht) – 1938 – violence against synagogues and the Jewish community
Religion	Concordat – signed with Pope. Catholic church would stay out of politics and vice versa. Protestant churches taken over and formed into the Reich Church . Swastika instead of crucifix; Mein Kampf instead of Bible. Statues of Hitler and German soldiers.

1939 – 1945

The effects of WWII on Germany

First year of war – went unbelievably well for the Germans. Little changed on the Home Front (in Germany). **Rationing** introduced but most Germans actually ate better.

1941 – Germans invaded Russia. Tide turns! First **air raids**. Many cities destroyed (Berlin, Dresden). Many civilians killed.



Policy towards **women** changed: Nazis tried to increase the birth rate, but without much success. Encouraged women to go out to work, but without much success. The propaganda of the 1930s had been a success. Women wanted to stay at home. Therefore, a new propaganda campaign had to be organised.

Most opposition was unsuccessful. The Nazis still had support and most were too scared of the consequences to oppose them.

Opposition to the Nazis grows. Many resistance groups spring up e.g. **Edelweiss Pirates** (young people who refused to join Hitler Youth and spread anti-Nazi propaganda). **White Rose Group** – led by Sophie Scholl. Tortured and hanged by Nazis for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets.

Church leaders spoke out – **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** – helped Jews to escape. Executed by Nazis in a concentration camp.

July Bomb Plot 1944 – plan by army leaders to kill Hitler towards end of war. He was hurt in the explosion but failed. Leaders of plot arrested and executed.

How Jews were treated during the war years

As Germany invaded Poland in 1939, three million Jews came under Germany's control.

Ghettos were developed in Poland. Jews weren't allowed to leave a part of the city – soldiers and barbed wire prevented them. Around 500,000 died as a result of disease and starvation. The Jewish population was increasing, and the Nazis used them to work in factories.

Special operation squads

As Germany went into Russia in June 1941, even more Jews came under the Nazis' control. One of the sections of the SS, called the **Einsatzgruppen**, was used to gather Jews, shoot them and throw them into mass graves. Around 750,000 were killed in this way. In the eyes of the Nazis, this process was too slow for them to be able to deal with the number of Jews they had under their control.

The Final Solution

1941 – Decision made to exterminate the Jewish population. Gas chambers were constructed in the concentration camps such as **Treblinka** and **Auschwitz**. The Nazis killed 6 million Jews – this was **the Holocaust**. The gas used in the chambers was called **Zyklon B**.

After 1945

Life in post-war Germany

After the war ended on 8 May 1945, much of Berlin was nothing but rubble: 600,000 apartments were destroyed, and only 2.8 million of the city's original population of 4.3 million still lived in the city. The war was over. But at an appalling cost in human lives and after years of unimaginable suffering for millions of people.

- Ration cards no longer honoured
- Major cities destroyed by bombing
- Most Nazis and supporters had left

Division of Germany: Remember when looking at how life changed it was very different for people in the **east** and the **west**. Started **denazification** (getting rid of any trace of the Nazis in Germany)

East	West
	Berlin airlift – food rationed; supplies could not get in; had to be dropped by air; coal and fuel rationed. Had to chop down trees for fuel and hunt in rubbish bins for food. Near starvation.
Monitored by the Stasi – 91,000 employees. Kept files on citizens. No freedom of speech or expression. Not allowed to travel to the west. Many died trying to cross the wall.	Freedom of speech and movement
Few luxuries – oranges and bananas considered such. Long queues for food. Many shortages. Could not get ‘western’ brands e.g. Levis unless on black market .Lack of money; no private ownership; the state shared the wealth	Adenauer's economic miracle and its effects (see above)
Constant political propaganda – TV, textbooks, radio	
☺ Full employment; childcare subsidised by the state	
☺ Cheap housing – high rise flats.	



The collapse of the wall 1989

8th Nov 1989

ICONIC MOMENT

GDR press conference said the borders were open. Crowds tried to push through and the guards let them pass. Friends and families re united after 28 years.

Life after the collapse of the wall:

what changed?

The bill for reunification was calculated this year at more than £1.6trillion – and rising. That cost has been borne by every German taxpayer and many others in the EU. It has paid for new roads and the demolition of old factories in the decrepit east. It has built new houses, hotels, hospitals, schools, bridges, farm buildings and power plants, and renovated grand old palaces and castles the communists allowed to fall into disrepair.

As a result of improvements the average life expectancy for women has gone up from 77 to 83 and for men from 69 to 77 in the old east.

The economic strength of East Germany remains two thirds of that of the west and parity in all things will still take many years to achieve. A study released in August showed poverty and joblessness was still more higher in the east. East Berliners still feel and act differently to their western counterparts.

Write descriptions of these **key words** and test yourself on them!

denazification	
hyperinflation	
Untermensch	
Einsatzgruppen	
July Bomb Plot	
Edelweiss Pirates	
Concentration camp	
The Final Solution	
The Holocaust	
denazification	

TOPIC THREE: FOREIGN POLICY

1919 – Treaty of Versailles. Humiliating; shameful. War Guilt Clause; Germany only allowed 100,000 men in army. No navy. Territory reduced; overseas colonies taken away e.g. Alsace-Lorraine given to France.

1923 – 1929 Improvements under Stresemann.

Locarno Treaty – Germany would accept the borders drawn up by the Treaty of Versailles and all countries agreed to avoid war.

Dawes Plan/Young Plan (see previous notes)

League of Nations – joined world organisation; showed Germany was a world power again

Kellogg-Briand Pact – main powers agree not to use war as a means of solving conflict

RUHR

Ger could not keep up with reparations payments. French marched into Ruhr (area rich in coal and iron ore). Germans responded with **passive resistance** – refused to work for the French. This had a terrible effect on the German economy. Stresemann called this policy off.

1923 – 1929

1933 – Hitler becomes Chancellor

Hitler challenges the peace of Europe

Steps to War:



1. CONSCRIPTION and RE-ARMAMENT

Hitler began to build up his armed forces. In 1935 he introduced conscription (calling up men to the army). This broke the Treaty of Versailles, but Britain and France let him get away with it.

2. RHINELAND

Hitler invaded the Rhineland on 7 March 1936. This broke the Treaty of Versailles. It was a bluff – the German army had only 22,000 soldiers and had orders to retreat if they met any resistance. But once again, Britain and France did nothing (believed in appeasement – give Hitler a little of what he wants in order to avoid another war. Many thought T of V was too harsh and Hitler was entitled to this land).

3. AUSTRIA

In 1938, Hitler took over Austria. First, Hitler encouraged the Austrian Nazis to demand union with Germany. Then Hitler invaded Austria (11 March 1938). This broke the Treaty of Versailles, but Britain and France did nothing.

4. MUNICH

In 1938, Hitler tried to take over the Sudetenland. First, Hitler encouraged the Sudeten Nazis to demand union with Germany. Then, Hitler made plans to invade Czechoslovakia. Neville Chamberlain appeased Hitler. In the **Munich Agreement**, on 29 September 1938, Britain and France gave Hitler the Sudetenland.

5. CZECHOSLOVAKIA

March 1939. , Hitler's troops marched into the rest of Czechoslovakia. This, for most British people, was the time when they realised that the only thing that would stop Hitler was a war.

6. USSR/NAZI PACT

In summer 1939, Hitler began to unfold his plan to take over Poland. Chamberlain promised the Poles that Britain would support them if Germany attacked Poland. In August 1939, Hitler made a secret treaty with Russia. He thought this would stop Britain & France helping Poland.

8. POLAND

In April 1939, Chamberlain announced the 'Polish Guarantee' - a promise to defend Poland if Hitler invaded (this was the event which ended appeasement). On 1 September 1939, Hitler invaded Poland. On 3 September 1939, Chamberlain declared war on Germany.

1923 – 1929

Turning Points during the War

Life in the early years, 1939–41

The initial effect

This was the successful period of the war for Germany:

Military success – the Blitzkrieg tactics pushed the army forward to Poland in 1939, and across western Europe to France by 1940

No effect on civilian population; life continued as normal. Germany took resources back to their own country from those that they had taken over. Food rationing – but people actually ate better than before the war.



1941 – Germany
invaded Russia



June 1941: the start of the Barbarossa campaign - the attack on Russia. German soldiers were not prepared for the ferocity of the Russians and the freezing winter conditions.

The turning point came in 1942 with Germany's defeat in Stalingrad. This was a shock for the people of Germany, as the war propaganda had said that they were winning.

Preparing for Total War

It was therefore clear that the war wasn't going in Germany's favour. Every aspect of Germany's economy and society was contributing to the war campaign. As a result, there were no:

- professional sports
- magazines
- sweet shops.
-

There was no shop opened that didn't help with the war effort. Exchange centres were opened and more women were working in the factories. Working hours increased. Food shortages. Black market flourished. Large cities (Dresden, Hamburg, Berlin) destroyed by allied bombs. Approx 50% of bombs fell on residential areas. Support for the Nazis started to weaken.

REASONS FOR GERMANY'S DEFEAT:

- 1) Fighting a war on two fronts – **Operation Barbarossa** (invasion of Russia) split the army in two
- 2) Russian winter – underestimated harsh conditions. Had no winter uniforms; frost hampered the use of tanks and artillery
- 3) Stalingrad – single largest and bloodiest battle in the history of warfare. Destroyed the German army. Over a million casualties.
- 4) USA – joined war in 1941. Gave the Allies a fresh push of supplies and manpower
- 5) Hitler made himself **commander-in-chief** of army; did not listen to generals; did not allow his army to retreat and regroup.



Germany after The War

May 1945 – Germany defeated

Yalta, Potsdam (see above). Germany divided into four sectors.

1948 – **Berlin Blockade**



The Berlin Blockade and Airlift

In 1947 the Americans introduced a new currency into West Berlin and it rapidly improved the standard of living when compared to those in the East.

Stalin retaliated by cutting off all roads and trains into W Berlin for 10 months in 1948. He hoped to force the US, Britain and France out of the city.

So the allies did the **Berlin Airlift**

Thousands of tonnes of food, clothes, coal, medicine and even a dog for a blind man dropped onto West Berlin!

Stalin re-opened the roads in 1949.

The effects of the Berlin Blockade

The USSR lost the first “battle” of the cold war.

The tactics of the Americans and British mean that it appeared they were standing up for freedom, without using violence.

The relationship between the communists and the capitalist governments became more tense and the 4 zones disappeared into 2 separate countries.

The West joined the capitalist allies: NATO

The East joined the communist countries: the Warsaw Pact.

Official country names

West Germany – Federal Republic of Germany

East Germany – The German Democratic Republic



The Berlin Wall:

Built in: 1961

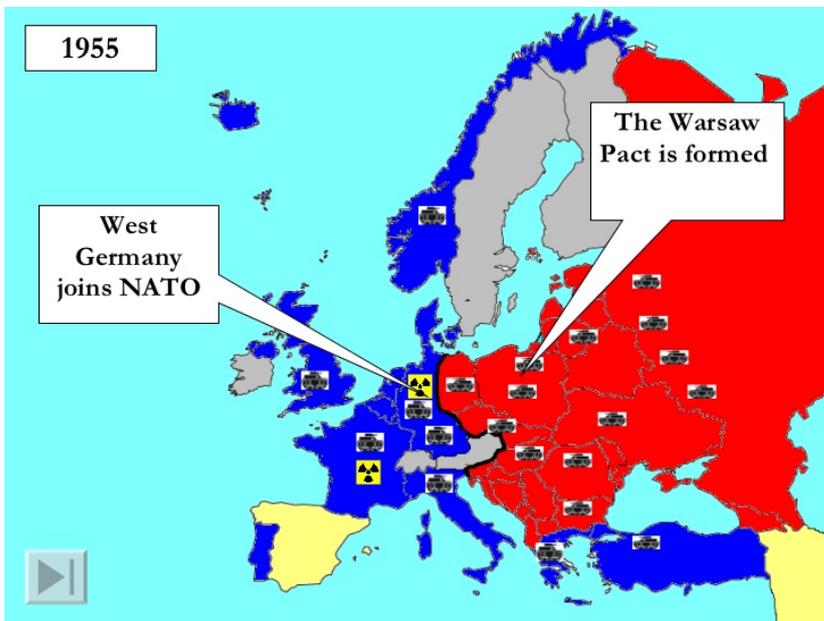
Lasted: 28 years

Ordered by: Khrushchev, the Soviet leader

Built because: Thousands of educated and skilled workers left East Berlin and the GDR in search of a better life by going through West Berlin. So, a wall was built through the middle of the city, splitting friends and families.

False propaganda: The leaders of the GDR said that they built the wall because there were lots of US spies entering the GDR through West Germany.





1949 - USA and 11 other Western nations (inc W Germany) formed the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**. The Soviet Union and other Communist nations in Eastern Europe founded a rival alliance, **the Warsaw Pact**, in 1955.

Mikhail Gorbachev

1985 – leader of Soviet Union

Realised that old Soviet ways were holding back the economy of the USSR and other eastern bloc countries

Glasnost – policy to give Soviet citizens greater opportunity to voice discontent with the government

Sinatra Doctrine. – allowed Eastern Bloc governments to make their own decisions.

Hungary - opened a border to Austria. East Germans realised that this was a way to escape to the West through!

East German protests

Started off small in the **churches**; **students** joined in. Call for reform in the east.

REASONS FOR THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

People Power – Nov 1989

East German official announced on radio that free travel would be allowed. This was broadcast across the world but there was some confusion as to what it mean because of the language barrier. Many ordinary Germans rushed ot the wall.

Ronald Reagan – US President

1987 – “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”

First free elections in 40 years gave only 16% of the vote to the former Communist party. The East German parliament (Volkskammer) decided in 1990 to join the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) and East Germany thus ceased to exist. 31st August 1990 – Unification Treaty signed and the GDR disappeared.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany became the leader of the whole of Germany.

Germany had a full nation-wide elections for the first time since 1932.

Write descriptions of these **key words** and test yourself on them!

Locarno Treaty	
Kellog-Briand Pact	
Rearmament	
Appeasement	
Munich Agreement	
Stalingrad	
Berlin Airlift	
Kruschev	
Berlin Wall	
Nato	
Warsaw Pact	
Gorbachev	
reunification	