



Germany 1919-1991



**From September
2024**



45 min exam

5 questions

- 1) Describe the ... (5 marks)**
- 2) How far did ...change in Germany between ...? (6)**
- 3) Arrange the ...in order of their significance in ... Germany after the ... Explain your choices. (9)**
- 4) Explain why ...different for ... Germans after ... (8)**
- 5) How important was ...in Hitler`s ...between ...? (12)**



Germany 1919–1991

UNIT OVERVIEW



Pages 4-10

Pages 13-19

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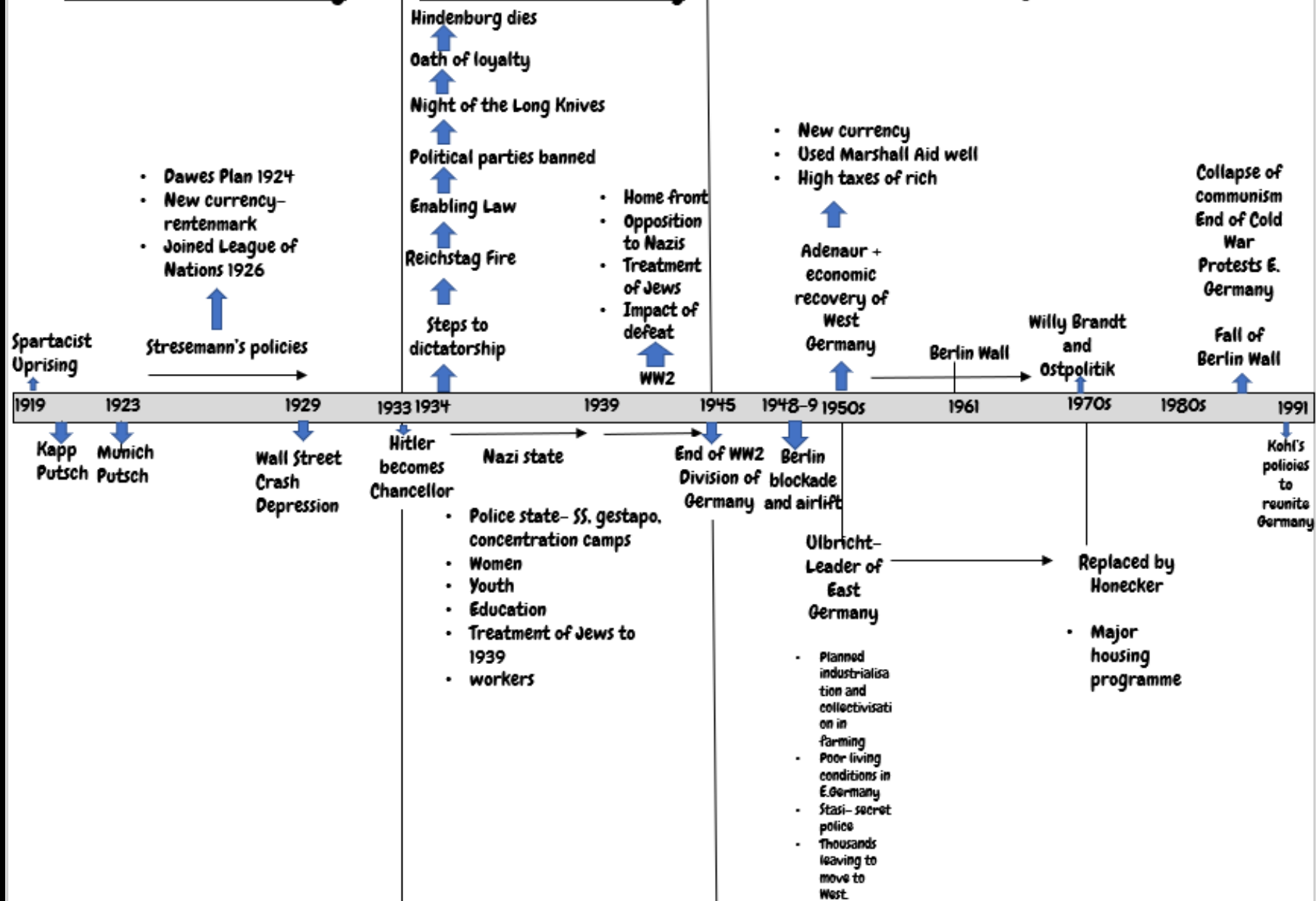
Pages 51-55

KA 1: How successful was the Weimar Government in dealing with Germany's problems between 1919 and 1933?					
Impact of WWI Treaty of Versailles					
Opposition to Weimar Gov't					
Stresemann's political and economic reforms. Improved foreign relations					
KA 2: How did the Nazis take total control of Germany by 1934?					
Why did the Nazi party gain support and how did Hitler become Chancellor?					
How did Hitler become a dictator?					
How did the Nazis maintain control – Police State and propaganda					
KA 3: How were the lives of the German people affected by Nazi rule between 1933 and 1939?					
Economic control: control of workers;					
The treatment of women: children and education					
The treatment of Jewish people up to 1939					
KA 4: Why did life change for the German people during the Second World War?					
What was life like on the Home Front in Germany during WWII					
How much opposition was there to the Nazis?					
The treatment of Jewish people between 1939 and 1945					
The impact of defeat on Germany					
KA 5 and KA 6 – East and West Germany from 1945					
The division of Germany. The emergence of the two Germanies.					
The Berlin Blockade and Airlift					
Economic Miracle in the West. Control and repression in the East.					
The separation of Germany by 1961					
The significance of the Berlin Wall					
Military alliances – NATO & Warsaw Pact. Brandt and Ostpolitik					
KA 7: What factors led to the reunification of Germany in 1990?					
The collapse of communism in Eastern Europe – Gorbachev. The end of the Cold War.					
1989 The fall of the Berlin Wall and Reunification					
The role of Helmut Kohl					

KQ1- Weimar Germany

KQ2,3,4- Nazi Germany

KQ5,6,7- Germany after 1945



Key Qu- 1

How successful were the Weimar government in dealing with Germany's problems between 1919-1933?

You need to know about:

- Impact of WW1 p4
- Terms of the Treaty of Versailles p4
- The Weimar Republic p5
- Opposition to the Republic p6
- Economic/political/foreign reform under Stresemann p7-8

KEY VOCAB: *History*



Impact of WW1 on Germany

- Naval mutiny at Kiel and violent protests over Germany led to Kaiser's abdication.
- The Kaiser's government had collapsed. Republic now set up.
- Over 2 million Germans had died.
- Germany was close to bankruptcy.
- Serious food shortages.
- Serious political divisions between left and right



The new Weimar Republic

The new government decided to hold elections for a new Reichstag in January 1919. This was a time of serious violence on the streets of Berlin; there was an attempted communist uprising, inspired by the Russian revolution. It was decided, as a result, that it would be safer for the new Reichstag to meet in the city of Weimar. This city therefore gave its name to the new government of Germany, even after the Reichstag had returned to Berlin. The new constitution was created by August 1919 and was called the Weimar constitution. It made Germany one of the most advanced democratic countries in the world. Afterwards Germany's new government was known as the Weimar Republic.

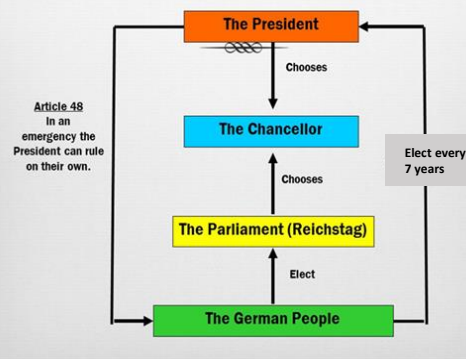
3 political ideas affected Germany after 1918



Communism believed that: workers should control businesses and government using violence and revolution if necessary. Communist groups had different names in different countries in Russia, they were called Bolsheviks.

Nationalists believed that Germany needed a strong leader to return Germany to the powerful position it had before world War One. They hated Democracy and the Weimar Republic, they believed it made Germany weak.

The Constitution of the Weimar Republic



Strengths	Weaknesses
All Germans had equal rights, including the right to vote.	In 1919 the Republic had many enemies. It was not sensible to give equal rights to those who wished to destroy it.
Proportional representation made sure that political parties were allocated seats in Parliament in proportion to the number of votes they got. This was fair.	Proportional representation encouraged lots of small parties which each got a small number of MPs. No one party could get a majority, so governments had to be coalitions. There could never be a strong government.
A strong president was necessary to keep control over the government and to protect the country in a crisis.	The president had too much power. It was possible he could turn himself into a dictator.
Each state had its own traditions. It was right they should keep some control over their own affairs.	The states could be hostile to the national government, and even try to overthrow it.

The 1919 elections in Germany revealed a divided society with several political parties:

German Communist Party: Skipped the election, advocating for revolution and criticizing other parties as too moderate.

Social Democratic Party: Largest party, supported by the working class and trade unions, promoting socialism and reform.

Independent Socialists: Split from the Social Democrats due to WWI opposition, many later joined the Communist Party.

Centre Party: Based on Roman Catholicism, supported the republic but often clashed with socialist ideas.

Democratic Party: Supported by the middle class, favored moderate reforms.

National and People's Parties: Opposed the Weimar Republic, pro-monarchy, anti-socialist, and anti-communist, backed by wealthy landowners and industrialists.

Government Coalition: Formed by Social Democrats, Centre Party, and Democratic Party due to no party having a majority.

Challenges: Faced violent protests from political extremes, an unpopular Treaty of Versailles, and a severe economic crisis.

PARTY	NUMBER OF SEATS	NUMBER OF VOTES	% VOTES
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (Socialists)	163	11.5 million	38
CENTRE PARTY	91	6 million	20
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	75	5.5 million	19
NATIONAL PARTY	44	3 million	10
INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST PARTY	22	2.25 million	8
GERMAN PEOPLE'S PARTY	19	1 million	4
COMMUNIST PARTY	0	0	0

The January 1919 elections to the Reichstag

1066

1500

1750

1900

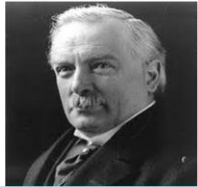
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Treaty of Versailles (28 June 1919)

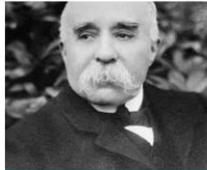
The Big Three after WW1- who decided the Treaty of Versailles?

David Lloyd George- UK



Believed in a just peace. Didn't want Germany punished too severely

Georges Clemenceau- France



Believed in a harsh peace as most of the fighting took place in France.

Woodrow Wilson- USA



Believed in a fair treaty so that Germany was not punished too harshly



Map of Versailles Treaty

War Guilt clause 231: Germany accepted **blame** for 'causing all the loss and damage' of the war.

Army: 100,000/no submarines/no aeroplanes/6 battleships/No military allowed in Rhineland. Allies to occupy West bank of the Rhineland for 15 years.

Reparations: £6,600 million – in yearly payments as compensation, extended by the Young Plan 1929

Germany lost land- Alsace-Lorraine to France/Saar to France (15 years)/West Prussia and Upper Silesia to Poland/Danzig a 'free city'/German colonies became 'mandates' of the League of Nations. Lost 10% population, 13% territory (including valuable coal, iron and steel production)

League of Nations set up.

Extra points- forbidden to unite with Austria. Estonia/Latvia and Lithuania to be independent states.

Effects of Treaty

Humiliation

Anger at war-guilt clause

Revenge

Germany an outcast nation

Anger of loss of land

No defence

Political impact of Treaty of Versailles

- New republic blamed for signing the humiliating 'Treaty'. Couldn't shake off '**stab in the back**' propaganda from right-wing groups.
- Creation of Poland was seen as a deliberate attempt to separate Germany and weaken it.
- Germans felt bitter resentment to new republic. Army leaders blamed the government '**November Criminals**' for signing **armistice**.
- Waves of protest followed

Although the Treaty of Versailles was harsh, it could have been even tougher on Germany. Clemenceau wanted more severe terms, including permanent loss of territories like the Rhineland and Saarland. Alsace-Lorraine, if given the right to self-determination, likely would not have chosen to remain with Germany. In Allenstein, the population voted to stay part of Germany, and this was accepted at Versailles.

Leader	Country	Views on Peace Settlement
President Woodrow Wilson	USA	Wanted a moderate peace settlement but had to consider allies' views.
Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau	France	Sought revenge and wanted to ensure France would never again be threatened by Germany.
Prime Minister David Lloyd George	UK	Sympathetic to Wilson's lenient treaty hopes but promised in 1918 election to make Germany pay for the war.

Context	
German Government	Not allowed to participate in negotiations, presented with a dictated peace (Diktat), had to accept terms or risk war.
German Reaction	Felt betrayed as peace terms did not align with Wilson's Fourteen Points, especially the right to self-determination.

President Wilson's Fourteen Points were a set of principles to guide peace negotiations, eg No secret treaties, Free trade, create a League of Nations. Some of Wilson's Fourteen points were agreed, but the Treaty of Versailles differed from his vision. Many historians argue the harshness of the Treaty contributed to the economic and political instability in Germany which later facilitated the rise of Hitler.

Economic impact of the Treaty of Versailles

- Germany was left with a huge debt at the end of the First World War.
- The Treaty of Versailles affected Germany's industrial output, as it lost many valuable areas where iron and coal were mined.
- This made recovery and the payment of reparations even more difficult.
- The government chose to borrow money instead of raising taxes to pay for the war.
- This led to the printing of more banknotes, causing the currency to decline in value.
- Inflation occurred as wages increased and prices rose, resulting in the devaluation of money.
- The Allies required Germany to pay reparations of 132 billion marks or £6.6 million, payable in annual instalments.
- Confidence in the German currency decreased as other countries doubted Germany's ability to repay its debts.
- When the German government failed to make a reparations payment in 1922, it was not surprising to many.

NEED TO PAY
REPARATIONS
+
NO MONEY TO
PAY WITH
=
PRINT MONEY
MONEY LOSES
VALUE

HYPERINFLATION



Invasion of the Ruhr 1922 / 23

- France **invaded** the industrial area of the Germany called the Ruhr in **retaliation** for the **inability of Germany to pay the reparations** in 1922 as they had missed a payment.
- They would seize the money in terms of goods, resources and machinery instead.
- The Weimar Government ordered **passive resistance** and the **German workers went on strike**. This meant that the French could not gain any raw materials as payment for the reparations but also that the Germans lost a huge amount of their profits as the area did not make a goods to sell. As the workers went on strike they had to be paid by the government which meant printing more and more money. The result was hyperinflation.
- The French killed over 100 passive resisters and expelled 100,000 protestors out of the Ruhr region.



The Ruhr



Ruhr Crisis

made

Hyperinflation

worse

Hyperinflation 1923

The sudden **flood of paper money** into the economy combined with a **weak economy** ruined by the war resulted in **hyperinflation**

Prices ran out of control - eg a loaf of bread, which cost 250 marks in January 1923 had risen to 200,000 million marks in November 1923. German's currency became **worthless**.

- Some people used **money as fuel**. People collected their **wages in suitcases**.
- **Pensioners on fixed incomes and people with savings were the most badly hit**. One woman sold her house with the intention of using the money to live on. A few weeks later, the money wasn't even enough to buy a loaf of bread.

But remember:

- **Some people made fortunes during the crisis**. One man borrowed money to buy a herd of cattle, but soon after paid back his loan by selling one cow.
- There was a thriving **black market** during this period for products in **foreign currencies** such as US Dollars which were not affected by inflation.
- Landowners benefitted as the price of land kept up with prices





OPPOSITION TO THE WEIMAR GOVERNMENT

SPARTACIST UPRISING 1919

(LEFT WING- COMMUNISTS)

- In Jan 1919, 50,000 Spartacists rebelled in Berlin, led by the Communists Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht and tried to set up a Soviet form of government.
- The rebellion was put down quickly by the army and the Freikorps in bitter street fighting and both sides suffered losses.
- Uprising badly planned. Leaders captured and shot.
- A further communist uprising in Berlin in 1920 was destroyed by the Freikorps.



KAPP PUTSCH 1920 (RIGHT WING-NATIONALISTS)

- 12,000 Freikorps (ex-army) led by Wolfgang Kapp marched on Berlin because the government ordered the break up of the Freikorps.
- Weimar government fled but the putsch did not have support. Berlin workers went on strike. After 4 days the government returned.
- The leniency with which those involved in the Kapp Putsch were punished and the lack of full support from the army were important signs of weakness in the new republic.

Who was Hitler?

- **Early Life:** Adolf Hitler, son of an Austrian customs official, faced poverty and hardship in pre-war Vienna after failing to train as an artist.
- **World War I Experience:** Serving in the German army, he won the Iron Cross for bravery and was later selected for an anti-communist propaganda unit due to his persuasive speaking.
- **Political Involvement:** In 1919, he joined the German Workers' Party (later the Nazi Party), took control in 1921, and aimed to overturn the Treaty of Versailles and unite German-speaking people. The party was racist and anti-Semitic.
- **Formation of the SA:** Under Hitler's leadership, the Nazi Party formed a paramilitary unit, the SA (Brownshirts), led by Hermann Goering, to protect Nazi meetings and disrupt those of opponents, gaining a reputation for violence.



Source 3: Nazi Stormtroopers outside Munich City Hall, November 1923

The Nazis Party and the MUNICH PUTSCH

1923- (RIGHT WING-NATIONALISTS)

What happened?

- By 1923 the occupation of the Ruhr and the hyperinflation had created a crisis atmosphere in Germany.
- Hitler believed the moment was right to attempt to seize power by launching a revolution in Bavaria, in its capital Munich.
- Hitler was supported by General Ludendorff, one of Germany's war heroes, and on 8 November 1923 Hitler and the SA surprised a meeting of the Bavarian government in Munich by striding into the meeting, firing a pistol into the ceiling and bullying the Bavarian leaders into joining what Hitler called 'a national revolution'.
- The attempted putsch quickly lost support in Munich and a march headed by Hitler and Ludendorff was fired on by police: 16 people were killed. Hitler and Ludendorff were put on trial for treason.
- The trial was an opportunity for Hitler to make himself well known throughout Germany by making long speeches which were then reported in newspapers. The trial proved to be a superb propaganda platform for Hitler.
- In the end Ludendorff was acquitted, much to his disgust, and Hitler was given the comparatively light sentence of 5 years' imprisonment. In Landsberg prison, Hitler used the opportunity to write his book *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle) which set out his main ideas.
- His good behaviour in prison persuaded the Bavarian government to release him after only nine months. Hitler now had to rethink his strategy to gain power; he realised after the experience in Munich he could not just rely on violence to obtain it.

FREIKORPS= ex-soldiers

Economic and Political reform under Stresemann



Gustav Stresemann
Chancellor 1923
Foreign minister 1924-29

Although Germany's economy was in a desperate state in 1923, it started to recover in the next few years mainly due to the policies of Gustav Stresemann. He became Chancellor of Germany for a few months in 1923 and was Foreign Minister until 1929. So successful were his policies that this period is often known as the 'the Golden Years of the Weimar Republic'.

The crisis of 1923 was ended by the actions of a new government led by Gustav Stresemann who became **Chancellor of Germany for a few months in 1923** and **Foreign Minister until 1929**. His term of office as Chancellor is often known as Stresemann's 'hundred days' when he took decisive action:

THE ECONOMY- SUCCESSES

- 1923-CALLED OFF PASSIVE RESISTANCE IN RUHR AND GOT WORKERS BACK TO WORK AND THE FRENCH AND BELGIANS TO LEAVE
- 1923-CALLED IN WORTHLESS MARKS AND BURNT THEM. NEW CURRENCY CALLED THE Rentenmark- THIS ENDED HYPERINFLATION. THIS WAS BACKED NOT BY GOLD (AS GERMANY DID NOT HAVE IT) BUT BY A MORTGAGE ON ALL INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL LAND.
- 1924- NEGOTIATED TO RECEIVE AMERICAN LOANS UNDER THE **DAWES PLAN**, 800 MILLION MARKS. THIS REORGANISED REPARATION PAYMENTS ON ABILITY TO PAY.
- RENEGOTIATED REPARATIONS PAYMENTS- 1929 YOUNG PLAN- REDUCED PAYMENTS BY TWO-THIRDS AND NOW OVER 59 YEARS
- BY 1927 GERMAN INDUSTRY SEEMED TO HAVE RECOVERED WELL. NEW FACTORIES BEING BUILT.
- 1928 ACHIEVED THE SAME LEVELS OF PRODUCTION AS BEFORE THE WAR AND BECAME THE WORLDS SECOND GREATEST INDUSTRIAL POWER
- WAGES ROSE. HIGHER STANDARDS OF LIVING
- REPARATIONS WERE BEING PAID
- EXPORTS WERE ON THE INCREASE
- GOVERNMENT WAS EVEN ABLE TO INCREASE WELFARE BENEFITS AND WAGES FOR STATE EMPLOYEES
- WHEN MONEY WAS NEEDED HE INTRODUCED CUTS IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING, INCREASED TAXES, LOWERED WAGES WHICH INCREASED GOVERNMENT REVENUE.
- SECURED \$3,000M OF US INVESTMENT IN THE FORM OF LOANS TO BANKS AND BUSINESSES
- DECREASED UNEMPLOYMENT

THE ECONOMY- FAILURES

- THE BOOM WAS PRECARIOUS, IF US LOANS WERE RECALLED IT WOULD CAUSE RUIN
- PEASANT FARMERS WERE OVER PRODUCING
- MANY SMALL BUSINESSES BECAME DISILLUSIONED
- SMALL SHOPKEEPERS SAW THEIR BUSINESSES THREATENED BY LARGE DEPARTMENT STORES



POLITICS- SUCCESSES

- BECAME MORE STABLE. COALITION GOVERNMENTS LASTED LONGER.
- NO ATTEMPTED REVOLUTIONS AFTER 1923
- PARTIES THAT SUPPORTED THE REPUBLIC DID WELL AT ELECTIONS

POLITICS- FAILURES

- BOTH THE NAZIS AND COMMUNISTS WERE BUILDING UP THEIR PARTY ORGANISATIONS
- DURING THESE STABLE YEARS THERE WERE STILL FOUR CHANCELLORS AND IT WAS ONLY THE INFLUENCE OF PARTY LEADERS WHICH HELD PARTY COALITIONS TOGETHER
- WORRIINGLY 30% OF THE VOTE WENT TO PARTIES OPPOSED TO THE REPUBLIC
- RIGHT WING PARTIES WERE QUIET RATHER THAN DESTROYED
- PARTIES LIKE THE NAZIS MADE THEMSELVES MORE RESPECTABLE
- HINDENBURG WAS ELECTED AS PRESIDENT IN 1925, HE OPPOSED DEMOCRACY AND EVEN WROTE TO THE KAISER IN EXILE FOR APPROVAL BEFORE TAKING UP THE POST!

Improved foreign relations under Stresemann



Gustav Stresemann
Chancellor 1923
Foreign minister 1924-29

When a new government was formed in November 1923 Stresemann remained Foreign Minister. Stresemann's aims were:

- to make Germany a great power;
- to reduce the burdens of the Treaty of Versailles, especially the occupation of German land by foreign troops, the recovery of lost territory and the removal of the war guilt clause;
- to find a solution to the issue of reparations payments;
- to make Germany a member of the League of Nations.

FOREIGN POLICY -SUCCESSES

- STRESEMANN'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS WERE IN FOREIGN POLICY
- 1922 SIGNED THE TREATY OF RAPALLO WITH THE SOVIET UNION (USSR). AGREED TO COOPERATE. REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT CONSIDERING HOW MUCH THE USSR DISLIKED THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC.
- REPAIRED RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AFTER THE RUHR CRISIS 1923 THROUGH THE DAWES PLAN. IT WAS AGREED THAT IN FUTURE GERMANY WOULD NOT REPAY IN REPARATIONS MORE THAN IT COULD AFFORD. IN ADDITION, LOANS, MOSTLY FROM THE USA, WOULD GENERATE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN GERMANY AND BACK UP ITS CURRENCY, SO THAT REPARATIONS COULD BE MADE REGULARLY. THE FRENCH ALSO AGREED TO LEAVE THE RUHR.
- THE LOCARNO AGREEMENT OF 1925 ENSURED THAT FRANCE, GERMANY, AND BELGIUM, WITH GUARANTEES FROM BRITAIN AND ITALY, WOULD NOT GO TO WAR OVER GERMANY'S WESTERN BORDERS, SECURING THE RHINELAND'S STATUS. THE AGREEMENT DID NOT COVER GERMANY'S EASTERN FRONT BUT MARKED GERMANY'S ACCEPTANCE AS A PARTNER IN ADDRESSING POST-VERSAILLES ISSUES AND REDUCED SUSPICION FROM THE TREATY OF RAPALLO.
- 1926 GERMANY WAS ACCEPTED INTO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS- STRESEMANN WAS GIVEN NOBEL PEACE PRIZE
- 1928- KELLOGG-BRIAND PACT- RENOUNCED WAR AS A MEANS TO SETTLE DISPUTES- GERMANY SIGNED UP TO THIS- MORE SYMBOLIC THAN REAL.
- 1929- DAWES PLAN REPLACED BY YOUNG PLAN. REPARATIONS REDUCED BY TWO-THIRDS AND SPREAD OVER 59 YEARS. FRANCE AND BRITAIN AGREED TO MOVE THEIR TROOPS OUT OF RHINELAND. STRESEMANN DIED BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS WERE FINISHED.

FOREIGN POLICY -FAILURES

- NATIONALISTS ATTACKED STRESEMANN FOR SIGNING LOCARNO, SEEING IT AS AN ACCEPTANCE OF THE TREATY
- COMMUNISTS ALSO ATTACKED LOCARNO SEEING IT AS A PLOT AGAINST THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN THE USSR.

How far did the economy recover under Stresemann?

Outstanding contribution from Stresemann- ended hyperinflation, ended Ruhr Crisis, negotiated reparations payments

However- recovery was based on growing dependency of US loans- \$3,000m + Dawes/Young Plan for reparations

Economic recovery brought stability to Germany- extremist groups were not a threat in this period

Stresemann's efforts to improve foreign relation shows that European hostility was easing towards Germany- leading to increase in foreign trade

Willingness of European countries to reduce reparations payments and allow Germany into the League of nations benefitted Germany

Period was known as the 'Golden Age'

KEY QUESTION 1- How successful were the Weimar government in dealing with Germany’s problems between 1919-1933?

Key words/phrases

Weimar – name given to the new gov’t formed in 1918

Constitution -

Reichstag –

Chancellor –

Ebert –

Coalition -

What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Weimar constitution?

Strengths	Weaknesses

Spartacist Uprising 1919

- 1. Who led the revolt?
- 2. How was it stopped?

Describe how the First World war changed Germany

What was Article 48?



Kapp Putsch 1920

- 1. Who led the revolt?
- 2. How was it stopped?
- 3. What does this suggest about support for the Weimar gov’t?

Terms of the Treaty of Versailles

W

A

R

G

L

E

Munich (Beer Hall) Putsch 1923

- 1. When did the Putsch take place?
- 2. Where?
- 3. What happened?



Munich (Beer Hall) Putsch 1923

How far was the Putsch a success or failure for the Nazis?

Success	Failure

KEY QUESTION 1- How successful were the Weimar government in dealing with Germany's problems between 1919-1933?

Key words/phrases

Ruhr -
Passive resistance –
Hyperinflation -
Stresemann –
Rentenmark –
Foreign policy -

Describe the Ruhr Crisis



Hyperinflation 1923

List 3 key aspects of hyperinflation

-
-

How much did a loaf of bread cost in Nov 1923?

Who was most badly hit by hyperinflation and why?

Who benefitted during hyperinflation?

Who became President in 1925?



What two political roles were held by Stresemann?

-
-

List 3 improvements in the economy as a result of Stresemann's policies

1. What did Stresemann do to solve Hyperinflation?
2. How did he sort out the situation in the Ruhr?
3. What did he do about the Reparations payments?
4. How successful was Stresemann?



Stresemann and Foreign Policy

List the key features of the Locarno Treaty

When was Germany accepted into League of Nations?

Who disliked Stresemann's policies?

Why?

Key Qu- 2

The Rise of the Nazi Party and the consolidation of power 1933-34. How did the Nazis take control of power by 1934?

You need to know about:

- Reasons for Nazi support p13
- Hitler as Chancellor p14
- Steps to dictatorship p15-16
- Creation of police state p17-18

KEY VOCAB: *History*



IMPACT OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION ON GERMANY 1929-33

In October 1929, the **Wall Street Stock Exchange** crash triggered a global economic crisis. Inflated share values in the USA led to American investors losing \$400 million in a month. Germany, dependent on American loans, was severely impacted as these loans dried up, leading to declining exports and widespread unemployment. Bank failures in Austria and Germany in 1931 worsened the situation, hurting farmers and causing economic distress.

The Great Depression had a severe impact on Germany, causing:

- 1) Unemployment to soar from 900,000 in 1929 to nearly 6 million by 1932, leading to widespread poverty.
- 2) Middle-class savings to be wiped out due to bank failures.
- 3) Many people to become homeless due to inability to pay mortgages or rent.
- 4) The Brüning government cut expenditures eg reducing benefits for the poor. Also, raised taxes
- 5) Growth of extreme political parties like the Nazis and Communists, and the decline of democracy as Brüning increasingly relied on presidential emergency decrees to govern (Article 48) to pass laws as they did not have a majority. By having regular elections it allowed the Nazis to gain seats rapidly.



Remember this from the USA revision guide?

Rise of the Nazi Party 1924-29

Why did support increase for the Nazis?

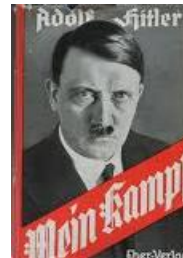
After his release from prison Adolf Hitler had to re-establish control over the Nazi Party and reorganise his party's structure:

- Hitler was recognised as undisputed party leader who required complete obedience to his orders.
- The Nazi Party was reorganised on a regional basis with each branch (Gau) placed under the control of a party leader (Gauleiter).
- The Hitler Youth movement was set up in 1926 to attract support from the young.
- The SA was reorganised and a smaller unit, the SS, was introduced to provide personal protection for Hitler.
- An able propagandist, Joseph Goebbels, was made Gauleiter of Berlin, an important development.
- The Nazis made a huge effort to improve their performance in elections, although street violence, organised by the SA, was still common.

In spite of all this effort, the performance of the Nazi Party in elections can only be described as disappointing. The party only won 19 seats in the Reichstag election in December 1924 and 17 in 1928.

The Wall Street Crash and subsequent Depression along with the failures of Brüning's government to deal with the Depression contributed to a rapid rise in Nazi popularity and the Communists. In 1930 the Communist Party won 77 seats and the Nazis 107. In July 1932 the Communists won 89 seats and the Nazis 230. By July 1932, therefore, the Nazi Party was the single largest party in the Reichstag.

BUT WHY DID PEOPLE VOTE FOR THE NAZIS?



Reichstag

Brüning= Chancellor of Germany during the Depression

1066

1500

1750

1900

2000

HITLER'S LEADERSHIP

His speeches and personality gained the Nazis lots of support. He came across as somebody who could solve the problems. He was a powerful and inspiring speaker. His ability to hold an audience, seize opportunities and exploits difficulties of the Weimar governments was key. He toured the country by car and aeroplane so he could speak in person.

RESENTFUL GERMANS

Big gains made with Germans who resented the unpopular Versailles settlement, suffered hyperinflation 1923, the depression. Enough to make Nazis largest single party by 1932.

NAZI TACTICS

Nazis used threats and violence to intimidate political opponents and voters. SA would deliberately stir up trouble to make the government look weak but the Nazis would look strong amidst the chaos.

- Disrupt meetings
- Intimidate opponents
- Clashed with the Communists to show they could deal with the threat

PROMISES

Hitler promised to:

- Destroy the treaty
- Build up the army
- Make Germany great again
- Provide jobs

Rise of the Nazi Party 1929-33

NAZI PROPAGANDA:

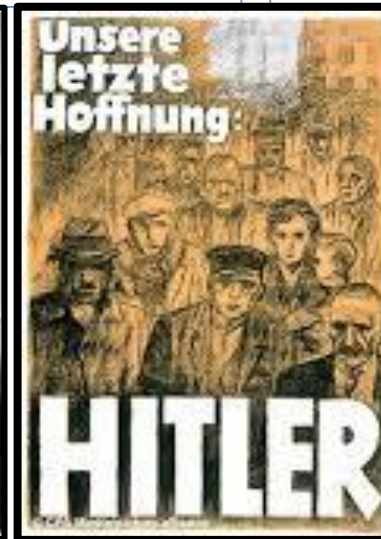
- **Targeted Messaging:** Tailored messages addressed various societal concerns like unemployment and national pride, resonating with diverse groups.
- **Use of Modern Media:** Extensive use of films, radio, posters, rallies and newspapers ensured wide dissemination.
- **Simple and Repetitive:** Propaganda was designed to be memorable and repetitive, reinforcing Nazi ideology.
- **Emotional Appeal:** Exploited fears, hopes, and prejudices, creating urgency and rallying support. Promised to protect industrialists and middle classes. Idea of Volksgemeinschaft (people's community).
- **Scapegoating:** Blamed Jews and minorities for Germany's problems, uniting many Germans.
- **Control of Information:** Controlled media and suppressed dissenting voices to ensure only the Nazi perspective was heard.
- **Symbolism and Rituals:** Used powerful symbols and grandiose rituals to create unity and belonging. Eg Swastika
- **Charismatic Leadership:** Hitler's oratory skills and presence mobilized large audiences.
- **Crisis Exploitation:** Exploited Weimar Republic's instability, promising order and prosperity.
- **Youth Indoctrination:** Organizations like Hitler Youth indoctrinated young people, ensuring long-term loyalty.

DIVIDED OPPOSITION

The Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party were hopelessly divided because of earlier events. Together they outnumbered the Nazis in the November 1932 elections 241 to 196, but they would not cooperate with each other.

WEAKNESSES OF THE WEIMAR GOVERNMENT

Government failed to deal with the effects of the Wall Street Crash and Depression. They raised taxes and reduced unemployment benefit at a time when the Germans needed support the most. Coalitions were not effective and the emergency decree was constantly being used.



How did Hitler become Chancellor in 1933?



President Hindenburg made Brüning the Chancellor.



Brüning found it difficult to get support. Nobody would form a coalition with him. Hindenburg used his emergency powers to keep him as Chancellor, even though people had not voted for him

Hitler was gaining popularity at this time



As the Depression got worse, Brüning got more unpopular. In May 1932 he resigned.

July election – the Nazis got their most ever seats in the Reichstag



Hitler demanded to be Chancellor

Hindenburg despised Hitler.

He made Franz von Papen Chancellor instead



Von Papen could not get other parties to form a government. Hitler refused to join forces with him

November election – Nazi vote fell but they were still the largest party



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!

power

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

Hitler's position was now very strong and he challenged President Hindenburg in the 1932 presidential election, coming a respectable second with 13,400,000 votes to Hindenburg's 19,400,000 votes.

As leader of the single largest party in the Reichstag Adolf Hitler had made an enormous political comeback in less than nine years.

Election Date	Votes (%)	Seats
September 1930	18.3%	107
July 1932	37.3%	230
November 1932	33.1%	196
March 1933	43.9%	288

This table shows the increasing support for the Nazi Party over these crucial election periods.

IMPORTANT- As Nazi support increased as unemployment increased

EXAM ADVICE

You need to be able to explain why Nazi support increased in this period.

The exam board might ask for a range of reasons or choose reasons that you need to consider. Make sure you know the **impact of the Depression (p14)** as this is critical to the rise of the Nazis.

How did the Nazis establish a dictatorship by 1934?

1933 election campaigning

The 1933 election campaign was marked by violence and Nazi use of government power to hinder opponents. Communists were restricted from demonstrating and publishing newspapers. The SA terrorized left-wing opponents, and Hermann Goering, controlling most police forces, drafted 50,000 SA members as additional officers. With over 2 million Brownshirts in 1933, violence and intimidation of Nazi opponents were widespread.

STEP 1: Reichstag Fire Feb 1933

- The most spectacular event of the election campaign, however, came on 27 February when the Reichstag building in Berlin caught fire and was severely damaged.
- The Nazis claimed that Marinus van der Lubbe, a Dutch communist, was responsible.
- Hitler seized the chance to blame all left wingers for the fire and persuaded President Hindenburg to issue an emergency decree which suspended basic rights such as freedom of speech, prevented the Communist Party from campaigning, closed the Social Democratic Party's newspapers and gave the police (now controlled by the Nazis) the right to arrest anyone without a fixed trial.
- Once again the emergency decree element of the Weimar constitution played a key role in undermining the rule of law and the chances of fair and free elections.



MARCH ELECTIONS

The voting on 5 March 1933 gave the following results:

	Votes	Seats
Communist Party	4.8 million	81
Social Democratic Party	7.2 million	120
Centre Party	5.5 million	92
National Party	3.1 million	52
Nazi Party	17.3 million	288
Others	1.4 million	14

Although the Nazis were clearly the largest party, the campaign of intimidation and violence plus all the emergency measures still had not given Hitler the decisive outright majority he wanted.

Hitler, however, had two advantages:

- He used the emergency decrees to ban the elected Communist Party members from taking their seats in the Reichstag.
- He made a deal with the Centre Party and the National Party to gain a working majority in the Reichstag. The Centre Party was afraid that unless it made a deal with Hitler, the Catholics in Germany would be threatened by the Nazis.

STEP 2: Enabling Act March 1933

- Hitler now used this majority to make the Reichstag pass a new law, the Enabling Act, which would give him the power to make laws without the approval of the Reichstag for four years.
- The SA and SS were on hand to ensure that Reichstag members voted Hitler's way in their temporary building, the Kroll Opera House.
- The Enabling Act was passed by 441 votes to 94 in March 1933.
- From now on Hitler and his ministers could rule by decree, using President Hindenburg as a rubber stamp.
- The experiment with democracy in Germany was over: Hitler was to use his emergency powers in the next few months to crush opposition to his rule and to ensure that Germany became a one-party state. Although the vote in the Kroll Opera House was technically legal, in reality violence, intimidation and rule by emergency decree had destroyed the Weimar constitution.



Arguably this was the critical event during this period. It gave Hitler absolute power to make laws, which enabled him to destroy all opposition to his rule. **This removed the Reichstag as a source of opposition. It also marks the end of the Weimar Republic and democracy. Germany is now a dictatorship.**

In May 1933- Hitler banned trade unions.

In July 1933- all political parties were banned- Germany was a one-party state.

How did the Nazis establish a dictatorship by 1934?



STEP 3: Night of the Long Knives June 1934

- The SA had played a major role in the Nazi climb to power. Its leader Ernst Röhm wanted to make more of the socialist part of the Nazi Party's programme by nationalising Germany's industries.
- Hitler had never been very interested in this and now that he was in power he was suspicious of the power and influence of the SA. He was also worried that Röhm had plans to merge the German army with the SA.
- Not surprisingly the German generals were anxious to get rid of the SA, and Hitler had already decided that he needed the support of the army more than he needed the support of the SA.
- Some of Hitler's closest allies, Hermann Goering and Heinrich Himmler, the leader of the SS, were also very jealous of Röhm's influence and persuaded Hitler that the SA needed to be destroyed.
- On the night of 30 June 1934, on Hitler's instructions, the SS moved swiftly against the leaders of the SA. Hundreds were murdered, including Ernst Röhm, in a brutal attack. Hitler took the opportunity to remove other potential rivals like General Schleicher, who was also murdered. That night became known as 'The Night of the Long Knives'.
- The Brownshirts or SA were now replaced by Himmler's SS, which became even more powerful. The army was also pleased at the outcome of 'The Night of the Long Knives' and supported Hitler.
- The events of 30 June 1934 sent shock waves around the world; it was now realised that the ruthless new leadership of Germany had no qualms about murdering its opponents.



This destroyed all opposition to Hitler within the Nazi Party and gave power to the brutal SS. It also showed the rest of the world what a tyrant Hitler was. The army were pleased with the removal of the SA. **This removed any internal Nazi Party opposition to Hitler.**

British cartoon by David Low, 1934



They salute with both hands, now!

STEP 4: Hitler becomes Fuhrer August 1934

A few months after this, in August 1934, **the elderly President Hindenburg died**. Hitler had a law passed which made him not only Chancellor but also President in the new single position of Führer (leader). This allowed him to become supreme commander of the armed forces. On 19 August all members of the armed forces had to swear a personal oath of allegiance to Hitler as Führer. All government officials soon had to do so as well. Hitler was to rule simply by issuing Führer decrees: Germany was now a total dictatorship.

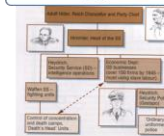


This formally made Hitler the absolute ruler of Germany. **This neutralised any sources of opposition to Hitler within the army.**

Gleichschaltung

- Means 'coordination'
- The concentration of power in Berlin was in the hands of the Nazi party:
- Regional governments abolished except in Prussia
- All political parties banned except Nazis
- Trade unions banned
- Loyal Nazis in position of power
- Boys pressurised into joining Hitler Youth
- Similar organisations for girls, young men 18-25, industrial workers and farmers set up.

SS



What were they?

- Protection squad. Black uniform.
- Had to be Aryan. High standards to join- tooth fillings were banned from 1936.
- Trained to be ruthless and loyal to Hitler. Arrest people without trial.

Gestapo

What were they?

- Secret police. Tap telephones, open mail and collect information from huge network of informers.
- Arrested people without trial, tortured them and imprisoned them in concentration camps.

Ordinary police- carried on with regular work but all bosses were Nazis. Courts also under Nazi control. Offences carrying the death penalty included telling an anti-Nazi joke to listening to foreign radio.

Creation of the police state

Concentration camps

What were they?

- First set up in 1933, political opponents were sent here.
- Initially held for short periods of time. By 1939 they were run by a section of the SS called 'Death Head Units' as hard labour camps.
- The camps held Jews, Communists, Socialists, trade unionists, church leaders and anyone who criticised the Nazis.



What were they?

- Nazis had a strong local structure. Every town was divided into 'blocks'. The Block Warden visited each home in the block every week, collecting donations to the Nazi Party and checking on everyone.
- The Block Warden would write a report.

Informers



Himmler

How did the Nazis establish a dictatorship by 1934?

Propaganda and Censorship

Propaganda

Josef Goebbels, Minister of Propaganda, used propaganda to brainwash Germany. Propaganda focused on; the greatness of Germany, the Fuhrer cult, the Aryan Race and attacking Germany's enemy's (communism and Jews)

Goebbels controlled all newspapers.

Anti-Nazi papers were shutdown, negative news was censored.

The Nazis produced over 1000 films and ones like *The Eternal Jew* encouraged anti-Jewish feelings



The Nazis controlled all music, books and plays. It had to be pro-German



Goebbels controlled all stations and cheap 'people's receivers' were made so 70% of homes had one. Hitler's speeches were common. Loudspeakers were put up in streets so all could listen

Hitler used the 1936 Olympics for propaganda purposes.

Over 17 million German men were conscripted into the German armed forces during the Second World War and fought a huge Allied coalition with determination and loyalty to the German state – some measure of the success of Nazi propaganda and leadership.



Joseph Goebbels- Minister for Propaganda

Censorship

The Nazis censored everything – all anti-Nazi ideas were banned. The Nazis controlled what people read, saw and heard – it was part of their indoctrination



1,600 newspapers were shut down

During WW2, only positive news stories were shown to show Nazi successes.

In 1933, 20,000 Jewish books were burnt

Writers, film makers and artists could only produce pro-Nazi arts

Jazz music was banned

Telling an Anti-Nazi joke was a crime, leading to a fine or imprisonment.



Nuremberg rallies held in Aug every year. Create a sense of power and unity. Large celebrations would take place



www.alamy.com - BHD8HT

Think about how important the use of propaganda was for Hitler and the Nazis consolidating their control



KEY QUESTION 2- The Rise of the Nazi Party and the consolidation of power 1933-34. How did the Nazis take control of power by 1934?

Key words/phrases
Chancellor –
Propaganda –
Consolidation –
Police State –



Creation of the Police State

Describe features of the Gestapo

-
-
-

Describe features of the SS

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-
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Describe features of the concentration camps

-
-
-

Describe features of the informers

-
-
-

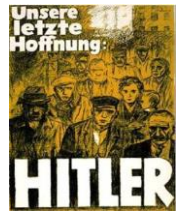


Hitler – Chancellor

1. When did Hitler become Chancellor?
2. How did propaganda and promises help the Nazis gain votes & Hitler to chancellor?
3. Describe how Nazi tactics were a factor in Hitler’s rise to power
4. How did Hitler’s speeches help?
5. How did the Great Depression help Hitler become Chancellor?
6. Draw a cartoon strip/flow chart showing the political deals made between Hindenburg, Papen, Schleicher and Hitler.

What were the Nazis doing between 1924 - 1930

Hitler leader of the party
Hitler Youth set up in 1926
SA and SS established
Regional branches organised
Propaganda
BUT…still not popular!



How was propaganda and censorship used from 1933?

What was the most important reason for Hitler becoming Chancellor and why?

Steps to creating a Nazi Dictatorship

For each event add notes: Who? What? Where? When? Why? and how did it help Hitler's consolidation of power?



Which factor was the most important and why?

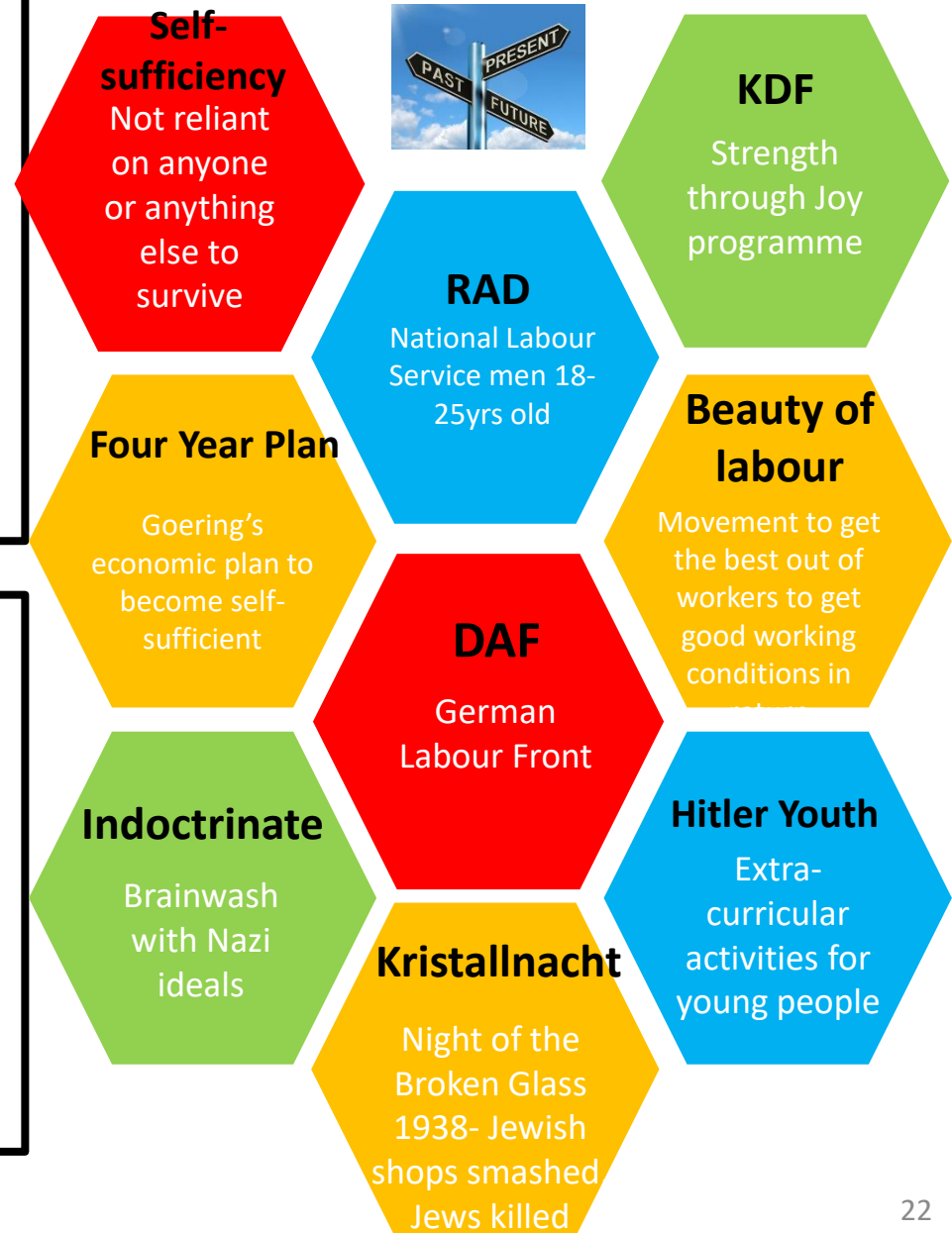
Key Qu- 3

KEY VOCAB: *History*

How were the lives of German people affected by Nazi Rule between 1933-39?

You need to know about:

- Economic control p22
- Control of the workers p23
- Treatment of women p24
- Children and education p25
- Treatment of Jews up to 1939 p26



Nazi economy 1933-39

When the Nazis gained power they had no detailed plans for Germany's economic problems. Indeed Hitler was never much interested in economics and left it to others to work out the details of what he wanted. Hjalmar Schacht, the president of the Reichsbank, was given the task of controlling the economy from 1934. He was a skilled financial expert and had some success in meeting Hitler's policy demands.

3 economic aims:

1

Reduce unemployment

2

Make Germany economically **self-sufficient**, so it did not have to rely on any other countries

3

Build up Germany army, navy and air force

How did Schacht try to achieve the aims?

Programmes included **job creation schemes** (similar to the New Deal in the USA). These programmes included building the first **motorways (or autobahns)**, many of which were deliberately built towards the borders of France, Belgium and Poland and used by tanks at the start of WW2.

National Labour Service (RAD) all men aged 18 – 25 had to do 6 months national labour such as digging ditches, planting trees. They were given 'pocket money' food and lodging.

The Nazis had also destroyed the trade union movement which was replaced by a **Nazi-controlled German Labour Front (DAF)** headed by Dr Ley. This made sure not only that workers were disciplined but also that wages were kept low.

These programmes included conservation, house building, railway extensions and the building of the Reich Chancellery in Berlin. Conscription into the army and public works programmes was introduced.

After 1936, the **second 4 year Plan** was overseen by Goering, it emphasised **manufacturing weapons, heavy industry and autarky (self-sufficiency)**. This plan was not successful as by 1939 Germany was still importing 1/3 of raw materials.

Economic policy was so successful that from 1932 – 1938 unemployment went from 5 ½ million to a situation where Germany was short of workers.

There were large reductions in unemployment under Nazi rule:

Year	Number of unemployed
1932	5.6 million
1933	3.7 million
1934	2.3 million
1935	2.1 million
1936	1.6 million
1937	0.9 million
1938	0.2 million

This reduced unemployment was achieved by:

Spending money on public works such as building houses, schools, hospitals and motorways (Autobahnen). The National Labour Service provided jobs on public works for men aged between 18 and 25 on very low pay. From 1935 it was compulsory for all men aged 18–25 to serve in the National Labour Service for six months.

Conscripting hundreds of thousands of young Germans into the armed services.

Manipulating the figures so that unemployed Jewish people were not counted; neither were women who were forced to leave their jobs. Part-time workers were counted as fully employed.

Drafting hundreds of thousands of workers into factories to produce weapons of war, aircraft, guns and tanks. Preparations for war drove the Nazi's economic policy.

The reduction in unemployment and increase in productivity was not accompanied by a rise in the standard of living of the workers. In fact prices went up, as did the hours of work. Wages struggled to keep up with prices and as a percentage of national income they actually declined. This meant that workers had less money to spend:

	INDEX OF WAGES (1936 = 100)	WHOLESALE PRICES (1913 = 100)	WAGES AS A PERCENTAGE OF NATIONAL INCOME
1928	125	140	62
1933	88	93.3	63
1936	100	104.1	59
1938	106	105.8	57

Nazi control of German workers

There was an almost total absence of strikes in Nazi Germany. Trade unions had been banned in 1933 and were replaced by the German Labour Front (DAF) headed by Dr Ley. This had total control over industrial workers, not only setting levels of pay but also regulating working hours. All workers had to join the German Labour Front and there were penalties for workers who disobeyed its orders.

- **DAF – German Labour Front** led by **Robert Ley** replaced Trade Unions. All workers had to join and it gave some 'benefits' to workers. DAF had total control over industrial workers- setting levels of pay but working hours too. As a result working hours increased and pay remained low. All workers had to join or face penalties. Prices went up in this period and wages did not.
- As unemployment fell, the Nazis became popular with sections of industrial workers, but many still held Communist ideas. It was, however, impossible to voice this in public for fear of arrest and imprisonment.
- The Nazis believed that workers were a vital element in rebuilding Germany and were a key part of the 'People's Community' (Volksgemeinschaft). He believed men and women should equally work hard in their roles to achieve this.
- The created many incentives to encourage workers to be productive (as well as the threat of arrest etc).
- Propaganda praised workers and linked their achievement to the success of Hitler.
- **Strength Through Joy** (KdF) gave incentives such as cheap theatre tickets, cut price cruises, sporting clubs and attendance at sports events.
- **The Beauty of Labour (SdA)** movement encouraged workers to do their very best – work hard for the good of the country. The movement also provided better working conditions – lunch canteens, washroom facilities, even a laundry in some factories so you could do your washing. It should be remembered, however, that many firms were expected to make these improvements at the expense of its workers who had to do the painting, cleaning and building after normal working hours and for no additional reward. Threats of dismissal or the concentration camp faced those who did not help.
- **Volkswagen scheme**- workers pay a small amount of wages each week to pay for their own car. But no cars were delivered as factories changed to the war effort.

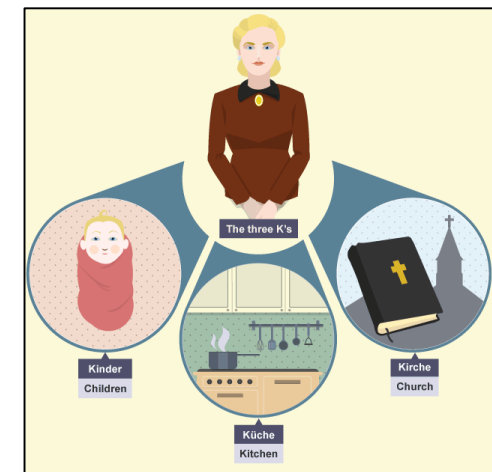


Was life better for workers? – Attitudes in Germany varied	
YES	NO
Small businesses benefited. Nazis banned new department stores from opening which reduced competition.	RAD: unpopular because of low wages.
Some farmers had their debts written off. All benefited from an increase in food prices	Many farmers resented the government meddling in their affairs.
Big businesses benefited from massive rearmament programme. Huge profits were made.	
DAF: For many, this was a lifeline. Allowed them to feed and clothe their families once more.	Workers were working longer hours. Trade unions banned
"Strength through Joy" and "Beauty of Labour" campaigns set up.	Not everyone could afford the 'People's Car'
Remember: Life certainly not better for women and Jewish workers!	
Women encouraged to stay at home and not to work.	
Many Jews sacked from their jobs.	
Nazis reduced unemployment from 6 million in 1933 – just over 100,000	
BUT THESE FIGURES ARE MISLEADING	
SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS COULD NOT REGISTER AS UNEMPLOYED!	
WOMEN AND JEWS WERE NOT INCLUDED ON THE UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES!	

Women in Nazi Germany

Despite German women gaining the vote after the First World War, most political parties in the Weimar Republic agreed that the main role of a woman was at home, looking after the family. Hitler and the Nazis strongly agreed with this. In a speech to Nazi women in 1934, Hitler said that the woman's world was 'her husband, her family, her children and her home'.

- Women were expected to play a **supporting role** within a family unit.
- They were thought by the Nazis and wives and mothers of the 'political soldiers' the Nazis were training.
- Hitler said in 1934 that the woman's world was 'her husband, her family, her children and her home'. 3 K's- Children, Church, Kitchen.
- They were expected to **dress traditionally** – long hair, traditional clothing styles and no make up.
- Nazi women's organisations **rewarded women with medals for having families of 4 or more** (Gold medal for 8, Silver for 6, Bronze for 4. If you had 10 then Hitler would be Godfather to your 10th child) and the government gave women **tax breaks**.
- **Education** other than that which supported a domestic role was **not encouraged beyond 16**.
- **Many intelligent, educated, urban living women found this new situation stifling and lacking in opportunities**. If women were employed by the state – **women doctors, civil servants and teachers were sacked from their jobs**. Women were dismissed from the professions and banned from serving as judges on the grounds that they lacked logical thought.
- **The Law for the Encouragement of marriage 1933 meant newly married couples were given an interest free loan of 1000 marks if the woman gave up her job. The loan would be reduced by 25% for each child born.**
- **From 1933-39 the number of births per 1000 women rose from 58.9 to 84.8.**
- Taking women out of employment certainly reduced the unemployment figures and was an important part of Hitler's economic policies. This may have had a temporary effect in reducing unemployment but the number of working women had actually increased by 1938. The onset of war in 1939 created a renewed demand for women workers, so much so that their wage rates started to increase.
- Birth control was banned and infertile couples were forced to divorce
- While many women accepted the changes those who opposed the Nazis were sent to female prison camps;





Young people in Nazi Germany

EDUCATION

New curriculum:

- Maths questions promoted messages of war and getting rid of minorities
- History focused on the Nazi Party
- Geography focused on the "Greater Germany"
- Biology focused on recognising the Aryan race

New resources

- History books were rewritten without German defeats
- Story books were written warning children of the dangers of the Jews.

Boys were educated to be soldiers, girls educated to be mothers.

They had separate timetables.

Lots of PE lessons for everyone to keep everyone fit and healthy for their new roles.

Teachers had to join the Nazi Teachers' Association or lose their jobs.

Jewish pupils were persecuted in lessons. They had to leave German schools in 1938.

Lessons would start with a salute.

The Nazis also started schools intended to train future Nazi leaders. There were several:

Napolas	For boys aged 10-18 who were entering the armed forces, especially the <i>Waffen-SS</i> .
Adolf Hitler Schools	Intended to train the future members of the Nazi government.
The Ordensburg or Order Castles	Named after fortresses built by the Teutonic Knights. The entry qualification was six years' attendance at an Adolf Hitler School, plus state labour service and Nazi Party work. A finishing school for young Nazis in their twenties.

Standards of education in all three categories proved inadequate compared with the established state grammar schools. The numbers involved were very small and confidential Ministry of Education reports revealed that achievements were disappointing.

HITLER YOUTH

Hitler wanted to *indoctrinate* young people to become perfect Nazis. Hitler Youth set up in 1925.

The Hitler Youth Movements:

-Deutsches Jungvolk (German young people) boys 10-14. Hitler Jugend (Hitler Youth) from age 14. League of German maidens for girls.

Boys trained to be soldiers: marching, camping, weapons training, fitness training.

-Girls trained to be good mothers: domestic training, fitness training.

-Both groups trained in utter loyalty to Hitler: listening to *Mein Kampf*, saluting the swastika, singing Nazi songs, reporting on "anti-Nazi" activities in their families and neighbourhoods.

Membership of the Hitler Youth became compulsory in 1936. By 1939 there were 7,000,000 members; about 1,000,000 refused.

Some young people chose to join anti-Nazi groups like the Swing Movement and the Edelweiss Pirates.





Nazi treatment of Jews 1933-39



Hitler's anti-Semitism (hatred of the Jews) was extreme. He and his fellow Nazis saw the Jews as not merely an inferior race but a major threat to Germany and part of a world conspiracy to destroy Germany. In Hitler's mind the Jews were responsible for Germany's defeat in 1918, for communism, for the failure of the Weimar Republic and all the political ideas Hitler detested, like democracy, pacifism and international cooperation.

Stage 1- Piecemeal discrimination 1933-35

The SA had always targeted Jews and after Hitler came to power in 1933 it organised, on Hitler's orders, a boycott of Jewish shops and businesses.

A law passed on 7 April 1933 also banned Jews from having jobs in the civil service, the universities, the teaching profession and the judiciary.

However, after this initial outburst of Nazi anti-Semitic behaviour, Hitler became more cautious because:

- The violence of the SA created bad publicity for the Nazis abroad.
- The main priority to start with was to help the economy recover and the boycott of Jewish businesses threatened the rather fragile recovery in 1933.
- President Hindenburg was opposed to anti-Semitic policies. As a result Hitler bided his time and ended the boycott temporarily

Stage 2- Systematic discrimination 1935-39

By 1935, Hindenburg had died making Hitler's position stronger. The SA had been destroyed in the Night of the Long Knives so less chance of bad publicity. Anti-Semitic propaganda had been successful in German society 1934-5.

As a result **the Nuremberg Laws were passed in September 1935**. These laws were a concerted attempt to isolate Germany's Jews:

- Jews were deprived of German citizenship (the right to vote, healthcare, welfare, etc.).
- Marriages between Jews and non-Jews were banned and made a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment.

Boycotts of Jewish shops, now organised by the SS, became more common, as did anti-Semitic road signs on the outskirts of towns and villages, usually displaying the message, 'Jews are not wanted here'. There was a further attack on Jewish communities when Hermann Goering implemented the Four Year Plan for the German economy. All properties worth more than 5,000 marks owned by Jews had to be registered and could not be sold without permission. All Jews were ordered to add a name 'Israel' or 'Sarah' to their current name by 1 January 1939.

Kristallnacht Nov 1938 (Night of the Broken Glass)-

- Jewish student killed a Nazi in Paris after the deportation of his parents from Germany.
- Nazis used this as an excuse to attack Germany's Jews. At least 7,500 Jewish shops were destroyed, 191 synagogues were burned. Death toll in the hundreds with 30,000 Jewish men arrested and sent to concentration camps.
- Jews were fined 1 billion marks as punishment. **Further laws banned Jews from going to cinemas, theatres and swimming pools. Jewish children excluded from schools and universities.** Removal of Jews from economic life continued- not allowed to work. In next 12 months 115,000 Jews fled Germany.
- Fierce reaction to Kristallnacht abroad. True nature of the Nazis had been revealed. In Jan 1939 Hitler said if war broke out it would lead to the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe.



Further legislation followed the Nuremberg Laws:

1936

October: Jewish teachers are banned from working in state schools.

1938

July: Jewish doctors are banned from treating non-Jewish patients.

August: All Jewish men are forced to change their first name to Israel and all women to Sara.

October: All Jewish owned property must be given away to non-Jews.

October: All Jewish passports must be stamped with the letter 'J'.

KEY QUESTION 3- How were the lives of German people affected by Nazi Rule between 1933-39?

Key words/phrases
Autarky -
RAD –
Volksgemeinschaft –
Motherhood Cross (Mutterkreuz) –

- Nazi *economic* policy
- Who was responsible for the Nazi economic policy?
 - Describe the National Labour Service (RAD)
 - How were men recruited into RAD?
 - List four types of public works completed by this programme.
 -
 -
 -
 -
 - Goering oversaw the second 4 year plan but what did it focus on?
 - What impact did this have on unemployment in Germany?



Nazi *social* policy - Workers
What Nazi organisation replaced Trade Unions?

- All workers had to join and received benefits...
List the benefits from
- A) KDF Strength Through Joy
- -
 -
 -
- B) Beauty of Labour
- -
 -
 -



Was life better for workers under the Nazis?

Yes

NO

Nazi *social* policy –
Women & the family

What role were women expected to take?

How were women rewarded for motherhood?

What state jobs were women sacked from?

How far was this change accepted by women?

Describe the Nazi idea of ‘family’

What rules about marriage were introduced by the Nuremberg Laws of 1935?

What incentives were there for couples to marry?

KEY QUESTION 3- How were the lives of German people affected by Nazi Rule between 1933-39?



‘The whole purpose of education is to create Nazis.’
*Statement from the Nazi Minister of Education
(Bernhard Rust) in 1934.*



Nazi treatment of Jewish people up to 1939

Key word : Define
Anti-Semitism –
Boycott –

Young People in Nazi Germany (Boys)

List 4 activities young people (boys) would have been doing on youth camps.

-
-
-
-

Choose 2 and explain why these activities were considered important.



Describe what boys were taught in school and explain why.

Young People in Nazi Germany (Girls)

What was the name of the Nazi youth organisation for girls?

List 4 activities young people (girls) would have been doing on youth camps.

-
-
-
-

Choose 2 and explain why these activities were considered important.

Describe what girls were taught in school and explain why.

What did Hitler order German people to boycott in 1933 (he was criticised and disliked by Hindenburg for doing this so?

In 1933 what types of jobs and professions were Jewish people banned from?

List the 3 main aspects of the Nuremberg Laws of 1935 which impacted Jewish people.

-
-
-

Describe what happened on Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass) on 9th November 1938.

What name were all Jewish people ordered to add to their names by 1st January 1939.

What were the main features of Nazi education?

Key Qu- 4

Why did life change for the German people during the Second World War?

You need to know about:

- Changing conditions on Home Front p30-31
- Opposition to Nazis p32
- Treatment of Jews 1939-45 p33
- Impact of defeat p34-35

KEY VOCAB: *History*



Changing conditions on the Home Front 1939-45

BACKGROUND TO WW2

- September 1939 when Germany made an agreement with the Soviet Union to divide up Poland.
- When the German Army failed to withdraw from Poland, Britain and France declared war.
- 1940 saw the German Army capture Denmark and Norway in the east, the Netherlands, Belgium and France in the West with ease using their new military tactic of blitzkrieg – a devastating combined air and tank attack against which Britain and France had no defence.
- By the summer of 1940 only Britain remained at war with Germany.
- 1941 was a turning point in the war. Germany invaded the Soviet Union in the summer, but after early success found it difficult to fight through the Russian winter and faced increasingly stiff resistance.
- There were also serious setbacks in North Africa where the British Army was being reinforced by newly-arrived troops from the USA.
- After this Germany was constantly on the defensive, losing ground in the Soviet Union, being pushed out of North Africa, being attacked through Italy and from a new Allied front opened upon D-Day in 1944 in northern France.
- By early 1945 the Soviet Army had entered Germany from the east and the other Allied forces had entered Germany from the West. The remnants of the German Army and the Volksturm (People's Home Guard) failed to hold back this invasion.
- Hitler killed himself on 30th April 1945 and the unconditional surrender of the German armed forces was signed on 7th May 1945.

Main events 1939-42

1939- Sept- Nazi Germany made agreement with Soviet Union to divide Poland in half. France and Britain declared war.

1940- Germany captured Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, Belgium and France.

1941- Germany invaded the Soviet Union.

1942- setbacks in North Africa as Britain had reinforcements from USA

Home Front 1939-42

- Early successes made the Germans feel patriotic about war.
- Children were evacuated in 1940 but started returning soon after as they thought Britain would surrender.
- Recycling campaigns to get people supporting the war effort eg 1.5m fur items and 67 woollen clothing given to troops during the Russian winter.
- Rationing of food, soap and textiles began in 1939. Shoes were also severely rationed: work shoes were only to be worn at work and there were regular checks on homes by Nazi officials to confiscate extra shoes.
- Diet throughout the war- bland and boring- rye bread, potatoes and vegetables. Fresh food difficult to get hold of. Flowers from parks and gardens were used in salads and acorns used to make coffee.
- From 1942 rationing more severe as farmers struggled to feed population.
- 50% of German workers were in war production by 1940. Numbers of women increased.



Main events 1942-45

1943- Germany lost the Battle of Stalingrad and now on the defensive

1944- Allied invasion in northern France- D-Day

1945- Soviet Union had entered Germany. Hitler killed himself in April. Germany surrendered.

Home Front 1942-45

1942- Allied bombing campaign on cities like Cologne, Essen and Bremen. These 'thousand bomber' attacks caused widespread destruction.

1943- RAF and USA significantly bombed the industrial Ruhr region impacted on war production.

July- RAF targeted Hamburg creating a firestorm killing 45,000 people, 900,000 fled in panic. Nazis realised psychological impact it was having on civilians. Goebbels flew over Germany to boost morale to encourage the idea of 'Total War'.

1944- Allies switch raids to Berlin which might have been a mistake as German war production recovered.

End of the Second World War

- British and American bombers reduced German cities to rubble in 'round the clock' carpet bombing. Ruhr was devastated again but Feb 1945 Dresden had a death toll of 25,000.
- When the Allies moved into Germany in 1945 Hitler was forced to create Volksturm made up of old men and boys to defend Germany's towns and cities. They were poorly equipped and badly trained.
- Soviet Union began its final assault on Berlin in April 1945. City was surrounded.
- Hitler committed suicide.
- Germany surrendered initially to Britain, France and USA. There was a delay with the final surrender as they refused to surrender to the Soviet army.
- 500,000 German civilians had been killed.



Opposition to the Nazis during WW2 1939-45

Despite the power and influence of the Nazi propaganda machine and the apparatus of the police state, there was limited and unsuccessful resistance to the Nazi regime. It should not be forgotten that over 14,000 Germans were sentenced to death in the courts for political offences and thousands more political opponents ended up in concentration camps.



Edelweiss Pirates

- Young girls and boys.
- Anti-Hitler Youth
- Some even sheltered army deserters and attacked Nazi officials and Hitler Youth members.
- Many leaders of this group were arrested and hanged publicly in 1944.



Swing Kids

- Middle-class youths
- Wanted to dance and listen to swing music which was banned under Nazis
- Rebelled by listening to Jazz, being friends with Jews.

White Rose Group

- Students at University of Munich
- Led by Hans and Sophie Scholl
- 1943 led a demonstration against the Nazis in Munich.
- Arrested by Gestapo for giving out anti-Nazi leaflets
- Tortured and hanged

Opposition from the church- Dietrich Bonhoeffer



At a time when many Church leaders in Germany actively supported or at best failed to oppose Nazis, Bonhoeffer's Christian faith led him to act against the Nazis, resulting in his death in a concentration camp a few days before the defeat of Germany.

Bonhoeffer was placed in solitary confinement, given stinking blankets, with no soap and water or clean clothes. The guards were forbidden to talk to him and he was fed on dry bread thrown onto the cell floor through a slit in the door.

Some Protestants tried to oppose the Nazis. **Martin Niemöller** set up the **Confessional Church**. He was sent to a concentration camp for 7 years and kept in solitary confinement.



There was little effective opposition from the church.

Opposition from Military

Potentially, however, the most serious opposition could have come from within Germany's armed forces. The relationship between the senior officers and Adolf Hitler was complicated. Although many regarded him as an upstart, they were grateful to him for the elimination of the SA in 1934 and most were enthusiastic supporters of Hitler's policy of rearmament and reversal of the Treaty of Versailles. Army officers were also bound by an oath of obedience to the Führer, an oath required from 1934. To break the oath was a matter of honour and most senior officers had scruples about doing so, although later few had moral scruples about involvement in Nazi war crimes.

1943- Army Group Centre in Russia put bombs on Hitler's aircraft but they failed to detonate.

July 1944- a planned coup in Berlin once Hitler's death announced. **Claus von Stauffenberg** carried the bomb in a briefcase and placed it on the floor while he left to make a phone-call. The bomb exploded killing four men in the hut. Hitler's right arm was badly injured but he **survived** the bomb blast. Hitler's revenge swift- 200 members of plot executed. Many hanged slowly from meat hooks with piano wire and filmed for Hitler to watch over again.



Kreisau Circle

The Kreisau Circle was an extensive resistance network of paramilitary fighters and informants in Germany.

In 1943 they managed to partially infiltrate the SS Paranormal military headquarters Stauffenberg in the July bomb plot 1944 was a member of the Kreisau circle.

Red Orchestra

- A small group of people who opposed the Nazis, about 100 in number. In Berlin.
- Often couples (man and wife team e.g Mildred and Arvid Harnack) but 40% of the group were intellectual women
- They operated from around 1933 but after 1942 their opposition was sought out by the Nazis and many of the leaders were executed
- Gathered intelligence, recorded Nazi war crimes, produced and distributed leaflets with a strong anti-Nazi message
- The Nazis believed they were a Communist group which, because their activities were so secret even the Allied Secret service believed the same and after the war labelled survivors as Cold War spies.



Treatment of Jews during WW2 1939-45

When Poland was invaded in 1939, Hitler had agreed to the formation of special action squads (Einsatzgruppen) made up of SS and police units who would follow the advancing German armies and take responsibility for security in the newly captured areas. In practice, this meant the murder of senior Polish officers, Polish clergy as well as Polish Jews. Thousands were executed in a matter of weeks and, although some German army officers protested, the majority either assisted or looked the other way.

Stage 3: 1939 – 41 Ghettos

When World War Two started Jewish people in land taken over by the Nazis became targets. **Einsatzgruppen** were set up to follow the German army into new territory to kill Polish Jews, clergy and officials.

There was mass transportation of Jews into **Ghettos** – small areas of towns and cities. All Jewish people from that town and the surrounding countryside were forced to live there in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. Conditions became so bad that disease and epidemics spread quickly.

Nazis then used these conditions as propaganda by filming them to show that Jewish people were in the eyes of the Nazis '**untermensch**' (sub-human).



Stage 4: 1941 – 45 The Holocaust (called the 'Final Solution' by the Nazis).

The **invasion of the USSR 1941** led to a change in policy. Mass killings of Jews, irrespective of age and sex, took place in the wake of the advancing German armies. In September 1941 in the Babi Yar ravine, just outside the city of Kiev, 33,771 Jewish men, women and children were shot dead and covered in quicklime by the local Einsatzgruppen.

In Jan 1942 there was a **meeting at Wannsee** in Germany between senior SS officers. Little evidence of the discussions they had there survive, but the decision was taken to carry out the 'Holocaust' or 'Final Solution to the Jewish Question'. 6 death camps were set up in Poland- Auschwitz-Birkenau was the biggest.

This led to the killing of 6 million Jewish people by 1945 and approximately 1 million others – political opponents, Prisoners of War, Roma people, homosexuals and religious opponents, such as Jehovah's Witnesses.

Concentration camps had existed since 1933, but only after 1941 were **death camps** used to murder systematically Jewish people. After experiments with several methods, gassing was the system adopted.

The camps where most Jews were killed were at Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, Sobibor, Belzec, Chelmno and Majdanek. One extermination camp at Birkenau may have been responsible for 1.1 million Jewish deaths. In all it has been estimated that 6 million European Jews were murdered. This horrific genocide is known as 'the Holocaust'.

Arrival at the camps: Jewish people divided into who was fit to work and who was not. Those fit to work were forced to work hard in workshops, factories, farms, producing food and weapons for Germany while being fed as little as possible. They died from starvation, diseases and cruel medical experiments by Nazi doctors. Those not fit to work were sent to the gas chambers to be killed. Most gas chambers looked like showers, so many Jewish people did not know what was happening until the poisonous gases were in the air. Their bodies were burned in ovens or dumped in mass graves.

The Holocaust ended when invading Russian soldiers from the East and American / British soldiers from the West discovered the camps which had been abandoned as they advanced with many inmates alive or dead left behind.



Wannsee





Impact of defeat 1945-6



	Historical knowledge	What impact did this have? (How did it affect Germany?)
Lives of German people (inc death toll)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.6 million died 11 m homeless refugees- many moving from Nazi occupied Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Condition of bombed cities was appalling, sub-standard housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor diet leading to starvation as German people were reliant on food supplies from Allied armies. Daily calorie intake reduced from 2000 to 1412 in 1945-6. Also impacted by high inflation and a shortage of most products.
Punishment of Germany by the Allies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allies (Br, Fr, USA and USSR) decided to punish Germany by being: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> demilitarised- have its army taken away Denazified- all Nazis removed from positions of power and where possible punished for their role in the war and re-educate the German people Democratised- to have an elected government Allies could not agree on whether Germany pay reparations. USA, Br and Fr did not think Ger should pay whereas USSR did. Major Nazi war criminals were out on trial at Nuremberg in 1946: 12 were sentenced to death, 7 to long term imprisonment. Trials of Nazi guards and army officers continued for many years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indecision by the Allies led to out of control inflation which ruined the Germans meaning they were unable to afford products to live.
De-industrialisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allies began destroying all trace of heavy industry so that they could not make future armaments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led to large scale unemployment, also when other industries like chemical and electrical were destroyed. Supply of food dried and there was no prospect of Germany paying back reparations.
Denazification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was the process of removing Nazis from positions of power and re-educating the German people. The Nazi Party were made illegal. All Nazi propaganda removed from German schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allies investigated over 6m Germans but they realised so many Germans were compromised by their links to the Nazis there was no hope in rebuilding the economy, police etc unless former Nazis were employed. By 1947 denazification had slowed down and by 1951 it was abandoned.

KEY QUESTION 4- Life in Germany during the Second World War (1939-45)

Key words/phrases

Blitzkrieg –

Volksturm –

Total War -

Rationing

What key items were rationed?

-
-
-

Describe the way life changed during WWII Home Front

a) Rationing

a) Bombed cities

How did WW2 end?

Opposition

Describe how Martin Neßmüller and Dietrich Bonhoeffer opposed the Nazis.

What was the White Rose movement?

How did the Swing Youth oppose the Nazis?

Who were the Edelweiss Pirates and how did they oppose the Nazis?

The July Bomb Plot 1944. Answer the 5Ws – Who, What, Where, When, Why?



KEY QUESTION 4- Life in Germany during the Second World War (1939-45)	
<p>Key words/phrases</p> <p>Einsatzgruppen –</p> <p>Ghetto –</p> <p>Untermensch -</p>	<p>The impact of defeat</p> <p>When did the Nazis surrender to the Allies?</p> <p>Describe the social, economic and political situation in Germany at the end of the war?</p> <p>What was de-nazification’?</p> <p>Where were the key Nazi war criminals put on trial in 1946?</p>
<p>What were conditions like in Ghettos?</p> <p>What was the ‘Final Solution’?</p> <p>What is the name given to the horrific genocide of Jewish people?</p> <p>Which other groups in society were persecuted by the Nazis?</p>	

Key Questions 5 and 6

East and West Germany after 1945

KEY VOCAB: *History*

You need to know about:

- Division of Germany and Emergence of two Germanies p39
- Berlin Blockade and airlift p50
- Economic recovery of West Germany p40-41
- Control and repression in the East p42-43
- Separation of Germany by 1961 p44
- p48-9
- Significance of Berlin Wall p51
- Military alliances p52
- Brandt and Ostpolitik p53

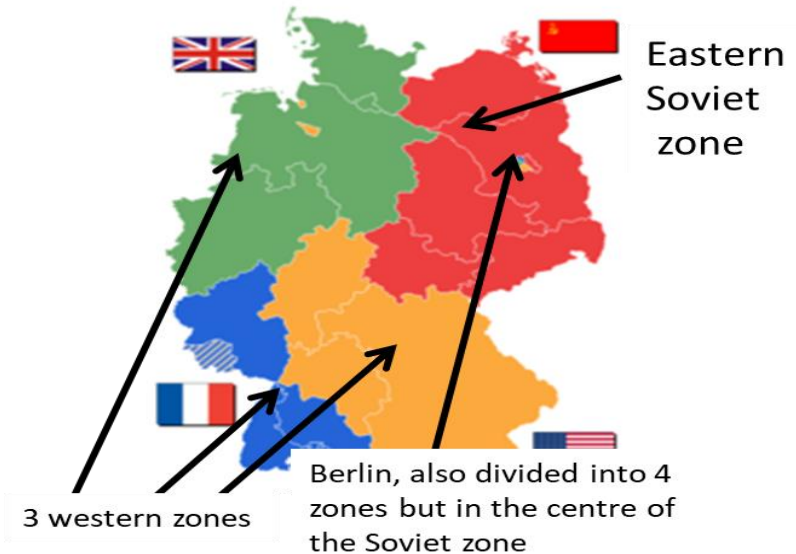


Division of Germany 1945

By the spring of 1945 it was clear that Germany would be defeated and the Allied powers had to decide what would happen to Germany after the war. In February 1945 the leaders of the USA (Roosevelt), USSR (Stalin) and Britain (Churchill) met in a conference at Yalta to decide. They then met again at Potsdam in July 1945 after Germany had surrendered. This is what they decided:

Comparison of Yalta and Potsdam

Yalta Feb 1945	Potsdam July-Aug 1945
	
Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin	Attlee, Truman and Stalin
Germany to be split into four zones .	Arguments about the details of the boundaries between the zones.
Germany will pay reparations .	Disagreements about the amount of reparations Russia wanted to take. It was agreed that Russia could take whatever it wanted from the Soviet zone, and 10 per cent of the industrial equipment of the western zones, but Britain and the US thought this was too much.
A government of 'national unity' to be set up in Poland, comprising both communists and non-communists.	Truman was angry because Stalin had arrested the non-communist leaders of Poland.
Free elections in the countries of eastern Europe. This part of the agreement was called the Declaration of Liberated Europe .	America and Britain were alarmed because communists were coming to power in the countries of Eastern Europe.
Russia would help against Japan when Germany was defeated.	Truman dropped the atomic bomb so that Japan would surrender before Russian troops could go into Japan. America had the bomb in July 1945, but Truman did not tell Stalin about it. When he saw how he had been tricked, Stalin was furious.



- After World War 2, America, Britain, France and the Soviet Union could not agree on how to govern Germany.
- The four countries argued over money and investment and this time of great tension between them was known as the Cold War. Germany became two countries in 1949.
- The 3 Western Zones became West Germany - the **Federal Republic of Germany** - die Bundesrepublik Deutschland (**FRG**).
- The Soviet Zone in the East became the East Germany - the **German Democratic Republic** - die Deutsche Demokratische Republik (**GDR**).
- West Germany was a democracy similar to the UK. East Germany was a Communist country like the Soviet Union and other 'Eastern Bloc' countries

West Germany (FRG)

Official Name: Federal Republic of Germany.
Allies united their zones in 1949 to create the FDR.

Key Leaders: Konrad Adenaur 1949 – 1963. Willy Brandt 1969-74, Helmut Kohl 1982-1998

- Marshall Plan:** Benefited from Marshall Aid, billions of Dollars were given to help with economic recovery in European democracies and prevent possible turn to Communism.

1945 80% of Germany's economy destroyed but by 1960 West Germany was wealthier than Britain.

- Introduction of the Deutschmark – a new currency which ended the Black Market.
- Getting rid of price control on goods
- Cutting taxes
- Marshall Aid lent FRG billions of dollars
- Worked hard and invested in high quality products – e.g BMW



Became a member of the EEC – Common Market.
The aim was to bring peace and common economic policies between European countries

Individual Rights: Freedom of speech and movement.

Emergence of two Germanies after 1949

East Germany (GDR)

East Germany (The German Democratic Republic)

Meanwhile, the USSR made arrangements for its zone in the east to become a separate country which was called the German Democratic Republic (GDR). The USSR set up a one-party communist state there in 1949, led by Walter Ulbricht leader of the Socialist Unity Party (SED). This party was made up of German communists of the KPD who had been imprisoned by the Nazis and released by the Allies, as well as communists who had returned from exile in the Soviet Union. East Berlin was the new capital.

There were regular elections to the East German parliament, the **Volkskammer**, and SED candidates regularly won 99% of the votes. All government decisions were taken by the SED's central committee, the **Politburo**. Local government was brought under direct control of the central government by abolishing the 5 Länder and replacing them with 14 districts, known as **Bezirke**.

Opponents of the new government were arrested and imprisoned. Old Nazi concentration camps were brought back into use for political prisoners. It has been estimated that at this time 120,000 people were put into these camps, over a third of whom died.

Two very different political systems had been set up in the divided Germany: a communist, one-party state in the East (GDR), and a federal, democratic state with an elected Chancellor, President and Parliament in the west (FRG).



DICTATORSHIP



Official Name: German Democratic Republic

Leaders: 1949 – 1971 Walter Ulbricht

1971 – 1989 Erich Honecker

Political System: Dictatorship.

Some other political parties allowed but the Communist Party held all the power.

Relationship with other countries: Member of Warsaw Pact (Treaty with USSR and other Communist powers to defend each other if attacked)

Marshall Plan: Refused to accept Marshall Aid. East Germany never fully rebuilt.

Economy: State controlled the economy, set worker's wages and controlled supplies so food shortages were common, for example bananas and oranges were luxuries.

Trade: Many East Germans crossed to the West and proclaimed themselves refugees. By 1961 of the 17.5 million residents in East Germany, 2.6 had moved to west Germany taking their trade skills with them. This had a serious impact on the East German economy and was one of the reasons why the wall in Berlin was built and movements eventually restricted.

Individual Rights: Free speech was not tolerated and arts etc were strictly controlled.

The **Stasi** secret police arrested anyone who opposed the regime.



The Berlin blockade and airlift 1948-9

Tensions between the Western Allies and the USSR increased after WWII as the USSR dominated Eastern Europe and installed communist governments without free elections, which Stalin viewed as necessary for Soviet security. In 1946, Churchill famously described an "Iron Curtain" dividing Europe, symbolizing Soviet control over Eastern Europe. By 1948, most Eastern European countries were under communist regimes, except for Yugoslavia, which remained independent. Distrust deepened with the Western Allies' possession of atomic weapons and disagreements over Germany's future. The U.S. responded with the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan to contain Soviet influence, leading to heightened Cold War tensions, particularly in Berlin.

The Berlin Blockade 1948

Stalin's fears about the Marshall Plan and about the Allied decision to introduce a new currency in the western zones prompted his decision to blockade Berlin.

Stalin retaliated by cutting off all roads and trains into W Berlin for 11 months in 1948. He hoped to force the US, Britain and France out of the city.

However he underestimated the determination of Truman and his allies to keep an Allied presence in Berlin.

The Berlin Airlift

The Allies organised an airlift to supply West Berliners with food, fuel and other essential supplies for the population of 2.4 million. A flight left bases in West Germany **every 30 seconds to Berlin**. The worst moment for the west Berliners came in January 1949 when supplies of coal were down to one week and food to three weeks.

West Berliners had to suffer near-famine conditions but most were not tempted into the eastern zone with promises of food and fuel. In the end only 2 per cent of the population of west Berlin was tempted to leave.

But the supplies kept coming: 278,000 flights in all, carrying 2.3 million tons of supplies at a cost of more than \$200 million. Tens of thousands of Berliners helped to build a new airport at Tegel to reduce congestion at the other two Berlin airports.

West Berliners came under great pressure to become part of a single city communist government. Instead a clear majority supported the airlift and the city council moved to West Berlin. Many students and teachers from Berlin University in the eastern zone set up the new Free University in West Berlin.



Consequences of the Berlin Blockade

Stalin, realising that the blockade was not working and not wanting to risk a full-scale war, called it off on 12 May 1949. The results were significant not only for the German people but also for the rest of the world:

- Two separate German countries were now created.
- Berlin had become a symbol of opposition to the spread of communism.
- The USA was now committed to maintaining substantial forces in Europe.
- A 'cold war' now existed between the east and west





Economic recovery in West Germany from 1949

In June 1947 a massive boost, not only to the West German economy but also to Western Europe generally, came with the Marshall Plan. The US Secretary of State, George Marshall, announced that the wealthy USA would make funds available to all the European states to rebuild their economies.

First actions:

1.

MARSHALL PLAN



In 1947- huge boost to West Germany economy through the Marshall Plan. 1948-1952 \$1.3 billion spent on rebuilding western European economies

2.

NEW CURRENCY



The West introduced a new currency to end inflation. They introduced the Deutschmark.

AIMS

Konrad Adenauer- First Chancellor of West Germany 1949-63



- restore the West German economy and repair the damage done by war;
- work for increased independence for West Germany and end the occupation by Allied military forces;
- restore democracy and de-nazify West Germany.

Most aims were achieved:

1. 1955 Germany joined **NATO**
2. **Allied occupation** ended (Br, Fr, US troops stayed as allies on German soil)
3. New army **Bundeswehr** formed.
4. **Parliamentary democracy** worked well-even with ex-Nazis in post



What policies did West Germany use to turn the economy around?

Policy	Details of policy	Outcome
Introduce a new, West German currency in 1948 - the Deutschmark	The old German currency suffered badly from inflation - price rises that make money worth less. To fix this problem, a new currency was introduced in 1948 - the Deutschmark.	The Deutschmark proved to be a stable currency and brought an end to the post-WW2 inflation. However, it is worth noting that this was introduced by the Americans and British <u>before</u> Adenauer came to power
Accept \$1.3 billion in American aid through the Marshall Plan (1948-1952)	Between 1948 and 1952, the USA gave £1.3 billion to W. Germany to rebuild its economy. Adenauer spent it sensibly, rebuilding old industries and introducing hi-tech machinery into factories.	West Germany became one of the leading economies of the world by the 1960s. The production of cars, for example, was second only to the USA. Although growth slackened in the 1960s, it had largely recovered by the 1970s and West Germany continued to out-perform most other western economies.
Join the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)	France and Germany created the ECSC, partly to make industrial cooperation easier and partly to improve relations between the two historic enemies.	It proved an amazing success. By 1958 the trade in steel was 151 per cent above 1950 figures. The surge in economic activity helped the recovery of the West German economy in the 1950s.
Very high taxation of the rich (up to 50%)	Wealthier people were charged lots of tax. For example, from 1952 wealthier Germans were taxed at 50 per cent and the money was used to build 2 million badly needed new homes.	West Germans enjoyed an unprecedented rate of economic growth and a very high standard of living and welfare provision. However, some wealthy people complained that their taxes were too high compared to other countries.
Encourage investment and research by giving tax cuts to businesses	German firms which invested in scientific research could claim their tax back from the government. This encouraged German business to have the most up-to-date and advanced products on the market.	By the mid-1950s the Volkswagen company was producing the VW Beetle car at a price that was affordable to Germans and buyers in other countries and it had a sound reputation for reliability. Luxury goods such as Leica cameras and Mercedes-Benz cars were in high demand.

This led to.....

The industrial expansion of West Germany in the 1950s has sometimes been described as an 'economic miracle'. This was because West Germany in the 1950s experienced:

- the highest annual growth rate in western Europe;
- full employment; (by 1960 a low rate of 0.4 per cent unemployment);
- high productivity; (between 1948 and 1964 industrial production increased by 600 per cent);
- very low inflation.
- Benefitted from Marshall aid



Volkswagen cars produced at affordable prices-reliable



West Germans had a high standard of living

Luxury goods like Leica cameras and Mercedes-Benz cars were popular. All of this led to many East Germans wanting to live in West Germany.



Control and repression in East Germany

The German Democratic Republic in East Germany faced many problems. It had only one-third of the population of West Germany and its industrial output was barely 20 per cent that of West Germany. Poor living and working conditions encouraged thousands of Germans living in the GDR to move to the west. This movement made the shortage of skilled workers even worse and the economy did not prosper, especially as the USSR was still demanding reparations. Although the border was closed by the East German government in 1952, thousands still escaped through the free city of Berlin. In 1952 182,000 left for the west through that route.

The pressure on the East German government was shown in June 1953 when hundreds of thousands of workers went on strike, attacking Communist Party buildings and demanding free and secret elections. The Soviet army was called in to restore order: many thousands were arrested and it has been estimated that 125 people were killed

Although wages were increased, after this uprising the government took steps to double the size of its secret police force, the Stasi, to ensure that a similar protest would not occur.

After this the Stasi began to employ IMs (unofficial collaborators) in their efforts to spy on the East German people. By the 1980s 25% of people living in East Germany were informants for the Stasi. Between 1951 and 1989 the Stasi placed political prisoners in the Hohenschönhausen prison on the outskirts of East Berlin where West and East Germany 1949 to 1991 6 they were often tortured.

Many voted with their feet and in 1953 alone 408,000 people emigrated from East to West Germany. The one-party police state continued, with the Soviet army in reserve to ensure its safety. East Germany could not control the movement of refugees from east to west in search of higher living standards.

In the 1970s the new leader of East Germany, Erich Honecker tried to remedy some of these problems. His government did begin a major housing programme to deal with housing shortages as well as the terrible conditions that some people were living in. In 1978 he introduced a greater degree of religious toleration after reaching an agreement with the leaders of the Protestant churches. However the Stasi continued to monitor every aspect of life in East Germany

The East German government strengthened its one-party police state even more in the 1960s, becoming one of the most repressive countries in Europe. The Stasi became even more powerful.

By 1961 the East German government and the USSR decided they had to take action to prevent any more East Germans leaving through Berlin. It was decided to construct a wall through Berlin to prevent any more movement. The Berlin Wall was started in 1961 and caused tensions with the USA and the other western Allies. In the years that followed, 900 people were to die whilst trying to escape over the wall, most of them shot by East German border guards. Thousands more were arrested for trying to escape

Between 1949 and 1961 3.5 million East Germans had moved west. Compared with other east European countries, East Germany had reasonable employment and living standards, but they were a long way behind those of West Germany and the police state was very unpopular



Control and repression in East Germany

Walter Ulbricht and other German communists had travelled to eastern Germany at the end of the war to set up a communist state there. Ulbricht became leader of East Germany when the state was established in 1950.

WALTER ULBRICHT BECAME LEADER OF EAST GERMANY IN 1950.

- HE PLANNED TO BUILD SOCIALISM IN EAST GERMANY THROUGH PLANNED RAPID INDUSTRIALISATION AND THE **COLLECTIVISATION** OF FARMING JUST AS HAD BEEN DONE IN THE SOVIET UNION IN THE 1930S.
- HIS POLICIES ON FARMING, WHICH DOMINATED THE ECONOMY OF EAST GERMANY, WERE VERY UNPOPULAR AND ULTIMATELY DISASTROUS AS THEY LED TO FOOD SHORTAGES AND RATIONING.
- INDUSTRIALISATION ALSO PROVED TO BE VERY DIFFICULT AS UPPER SILESIA, THE INDUSTRIAL AREA OF EASTERN GERMANY, WAS TAKEN BY POLAND IN 1945, ALL BUSINESSES WERE STATE OWNED AND RUN BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY.
- HE ALSO SUPPORTED THE BUILDING OF THE BERLIN WALL TO PREVENT EAST GERMANY'S WORKERS FROM ESCAPING TO THE WEST. DESPITE ALL OF THIS EAST GERMANY HAD BECOME THE MOST PROSPEROUS MEMBER OF **COMECON** (THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE)
- BY THE 1960S. ULBRICHT'S REFUSAL TO SUPPORT ANY LIBERAL REFORMS MEANT REPLACED BY ERICH HONECKER IN 1971.



**Walter Ulbricht,
East German
leader**





Separation of Germany by 1961

WEST



Whilst living conditions in West Germany and West Berlin remained high in the 1950s, East Germany (GDR) faced enormous problems. It had a population of only one-third that of West Germany and its industrial output was barely 20 per cent of output in West Germany. Poor living and working conditions encouraged thousands of Germans living in the GDR to move to the west. This movement made the shortage of skilled workers even worse and the economy did not prosper, especially as the USSR was still demanding reparations. Although the border was closed by the East German government in 1952, thousands still escaped through the free city of Berlin. In 1952, 182,000 left for the west through that route.

The pressure on the East German government was shown in June 1953 when hundreds of thousands of workers went on strike, attacking Communist Party buildings and demanding free and secret elections. The Soviet army was called in to restore order: many thousands were arrested and it has been estimated that 125 people were killed. Although wages were increased after this uprising, the government took steps to double the size of its secret police force to ensure that a similar protest did not occur.

Many voted with their feet and in 1953 408,000 people emigrated from East to West Germany. The East German one-party, police state could only continue with the support of the Soviet army.

Tensions remained over the situation in Berlin for many years after the Berlin airlift. The migration of people from east to west continued: in 1958 the leader of the USSR, Nikita Khrushchev, threatened western access routes to Berlin but then backed down. Life in West and East Berlin was very different. West Berlin was a centre of consumerism – with modern, wellstocked shops, thriving cafés and restaurants, packed theatres and nightclubs.

The West German 'economic miracle' was plain for all to see. Conditions in East Berlin were very different. Whilst everyone was fed and housed and health care and free education was provided, it was nevertheless a much lower standard of living. Consumer goods such as washing machines and cars were not readily available: there were waiting lists as the East German government prioritised heavy machinery over consumer goods. The migration of people from east to west was not only politically embarrassing, it was also economically disastrous as there was a serious labour shortage. Many of those who left tended to be young and highly skilled.

The overall impression in East Berlin was one of drabness; buildings were still derelict and much war damage remained unrepaired. The tensions over the divided Berlin and the migration of people to the west boiled over into a major crisis in 1961.

EAST



STRIKE





Significance of the Berlin Wall 1961



Throughout the 1950s the government of East Germany had been trying to stop its citizens fleeing to the west. An “inner German border” between East and West Germany, fortified with high fences, watchtowers and trenches ran for 1,300 km from the early 1950s with an extra 5 km exclusion zone behind it that required special identity cards to enter. Guards were ordered to shoot anyone who was not supposed to be there. Crossing to West Germany became a crime, “flight from the Republic”, which was punished by a three year prison sentence, but it was still very easy for East German citizens to walk into West Berlin and escape to West Germany.

The government of East Germany was worried about the migration of its citizens to West Germany through Berlin attracted by the higher living standards, the “economic miracle” and political freedoms. But it was also concerned about the challenge of West Berlin to East German communism, as well as it being a base for capitalist spies. Berlin was also becoming an issue in the wider Cold War as in Vienna in 1961 Soviet leader Khrushchev had publicly declared that all of Berlin was part of East Germany and threatened military action against West Berlin. Both the East German and Soviet governments needed to be seen to be doing something about the problem of West Berlin – so they decided to build a wall around it. They called it the “anti-fascist protective wall”.

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.

The Building of the Berlin Wall in 1961

The existence of Western zones in Berlin, and the free access for Berliners allow many East Germans to defect to West Berlin.

By 1961, around 3 million people had migrated from East to West. In August 1961 the East German government, under instructions from the USSR, started to construct a wall to divide East and West Berlin. This 155 km perimeter around West Berlin was quickly built by local workers and the East German army. It was a massive stone wall, topped with barbed wire and gun positions. A second barrier created a gap between the walls that was soon nicknamed the Death Strip. There were specially constructed crossing points into East Berlin: special permits were required and could only be bought in East Germany with West German currency. The most famous was called Checkpoint Charlie, the only point at which non-Germans could cross into the east

Escape across the wall was highly dangerous. It has been estimated that nearly a hundred people were shot trying to cross into the west between 1961 and 1989, 41 in the first year. Families and friends were forced to live apart for decades. The border between the two Germanies was heavily fortified, not only in Berlin but along the whole frontier. One famous example of an attempted escape was that of Pete Lechter on 17 August 1962. He attempted to cross the wall to see his sister. As he climbed the barbed wire he was shot and fell back into the Death Strip where he slowly bled to death only 300 metres from a border post. Crowds gathered, begging the US guards to rescue him, but this would have meant violating the border and risking an international crisis. In East Germany border guards who killed people trying to escape were given financial rewards and were considered national heroes.

A tense stand-off existed between the west and the east over Berlin. President Kennedy of the USA made a famous visit to West Berlin in 1963 which may have boosted morale in West Berlin but, at the same time, the USA was powerless to remove the wall without risking a nuclear war. The wall survived for 28 years, a symbol of the cold war and the divided Germany.

However the wall did have beneficial impacts on East Germany. It slowed the exodus of people to the west and led to more acceptance of life in East Germany. Wages rose, consumer items became more readily available and more attractive careers in technical professions began to appear, as industrial and agricultural production increased.

Although President Kennedy was deeply critical of the wall, even he pointed out that ‘a wall is a lot better than a war’. For many people the Berlin Wall was seen as the iconic symbol of the Cold War.

- Tense standoff in Oct 1961 between US and Soviet troops on either side of Checkpoint Charlie. Tanks faced each other for 16 hours. Ended peacefully when Kennedy and Khrushchev agreed to withdraw tanks to reduce tension.



- The Wall was a physical symbol of the Cold War
- Because of the Wall Western powers convinced they needed more military cooperation leading to establishment of NATO
- The Wall survived 28 years.



Significance of the Berlin Wall 1961

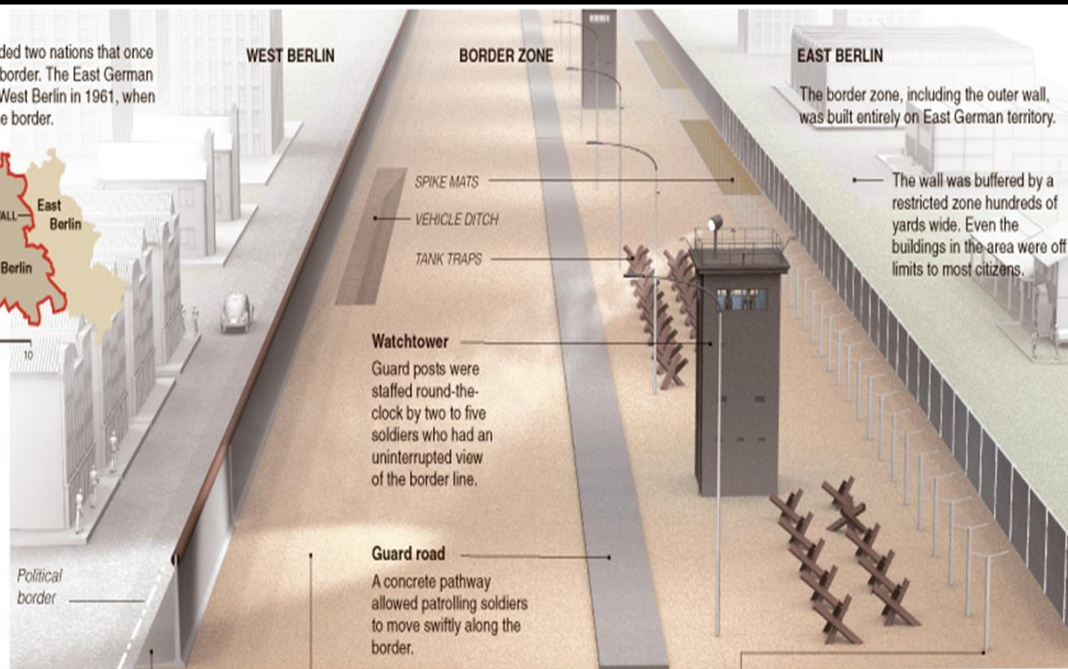
The Berlin Wall

As the Berlin Wall fell 20 years ago it melded two nations that once were separated by more than a common border. The East German authorities began blocking the access to West Berlin in 1961, when tens of thousands had already crossed the border.



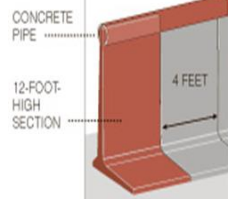
BORDER CONTROL ZONE

The width of the border zone varied from 20 feet to hundreds of feet in different locations along the border. The wall structures and other installations on the border zone had been constantly updated since 1961. At right are typical features of the border strip in Berlin in the 1980s.



Outer wall

The concrete wall was capped by a round pipe-like channel to make climbing over it more difficult. Some sections were left intentionally weak to allow East German tanks to break through in case of war.

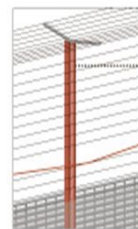


Death strip

The area between the inner and outer wall was covered with soft sand that would show footprints of escape attempts. Only the most trusted soldiers were allowed access to the area. Guards would shoot anyone trying to cross the border.

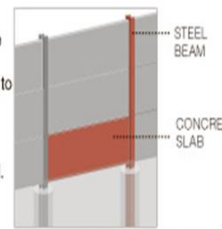
Signal fence

A signal fence with barbed wire spanned concrete posts. Anyone trying to climb the fence would press wires together, completing a circuit and tripping an alarm in a watchtower.



Rear wall

The first barrier on the east side barring entry to the border zone was a 10-foot high concrete wall.



The wall went around all of West Berlin

Military alliances

What were the military alliances after 1949?



NATO

VS

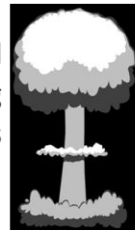
Warsaw Pact



NATO set up in 1949. Included main Western countries. The USA was very keen for West Germany to join as they saw it as the front line in the defence of western Europe from the threat of communist attack.

In **1955** West Germany joined NATO and a new German army was created (the **Bundeswehr**).

In response to West Germany joining NATO, the Soviet Union followed by creating its own military alliance of communist states in Europe in 1955 – this was called the **Warsaw Pact**. This also led to the re-militarisation of East Germany as well, with the founding of the **Nationale Volksarmee** (the National People's Army) in 1956.



By now the USSR also had atomic weapons and Europe was firmly divided into two very hostile, armed alliances. By the 1980s the USA was stationing its nuclear cruise missiles in West Germany, while the USSR was stationing its nuclear SS20 missiles in East Germany

Willy Brandt and Ostpolitik

After the building of the Berlin Wall many in W. Berlin wanted to improve relation with East Germany. Willy Brandt was foreign minister 1966 and Chancellor 1969. He came up with the policy Ostpolitik (meaning Eastern policy)

The policy

- The 1970 Moscow Treaty, a non-aggression agreement between West Germany and the USSR;
- The 1970 Warsaw Treaty, an agreement with Poland allowed Germans remaining in Poland to return to West Germany
- Brandt kneeling in homage at the memorial to Polish Jews killed by the Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto, although it was criticised by Germans who had lost their homes in Poland at the end of the war
- The 1971 Berlin Accord with the USSR, in which both sides accepted the division of Berlin as permanent;
- A Basic Treaty in 1972 between East and West Germany in which they agreed to exchange diplomatic missions, increase cross-border contacts and trade, as well as respecting each other's independence.



Results

- both countries joined the United Nations in 1973
- travel and communications were easier and trade increased throughout the 1970s
- it allowed East Germany to participate more fully in international sporting events.

Brandt won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work

Think about how relations between East and West Germany changed after 1945

What changed? In what ways? Which events were significant?

KEY QUESTION 5 and 6- West and East Germany between 1949-1991.

Who were the key leaders at the Yalta Conferences in February 1945?



What three things were decided?

-
-
-

Who replaced Churchill at the Potsdam Conference 1945?



How was Germany divided?

What was the name was given to the joining of the British and American zones in 1947?

How did Stalin react to this and the introduction of the Deutschmark?

Key words

- 'Iron Curtain' -
- 'Brain Drain' -
- Communist -
- Capitalist -
- Democracy -
- Cold War -
- Stasi -
- Détente -

Key people

- Stalin
- Adenaur
- Brandt
- Ulbricht
- Honecker
- Kohl



Marshall Plan

1. Who was George Marshall?
2. How did Stalin react to the Marshall aid?



Economic Miracle

1. Who was Chancellor of West Germany between 1949 and 1963 – accredited with economic miracle?
2. What were the four key features of the industrial expansions in West Germany in the 1950s
 -
 -
 -
 -



Control and repression in the East

How did the communists control East Germany?

KEY QUESTION 5 and 6- West and East Germany between 1949-1991.



West Germany
Political system



What was the significance of the Berlin Wall?



Ostpolitik

What was Ostpolitik?

Whose idea was it?

What did he hope to achieve?

List three ways they tried to improve relations between East and West.

-
-
-

East Germany
Political system



)

Military alliances

What was NATO?

What was the Warsaw pact?

How did it increase tensions?



Berlin blockade and airlift

When did this event happen?
What happened?

Why did Stalin take actions?

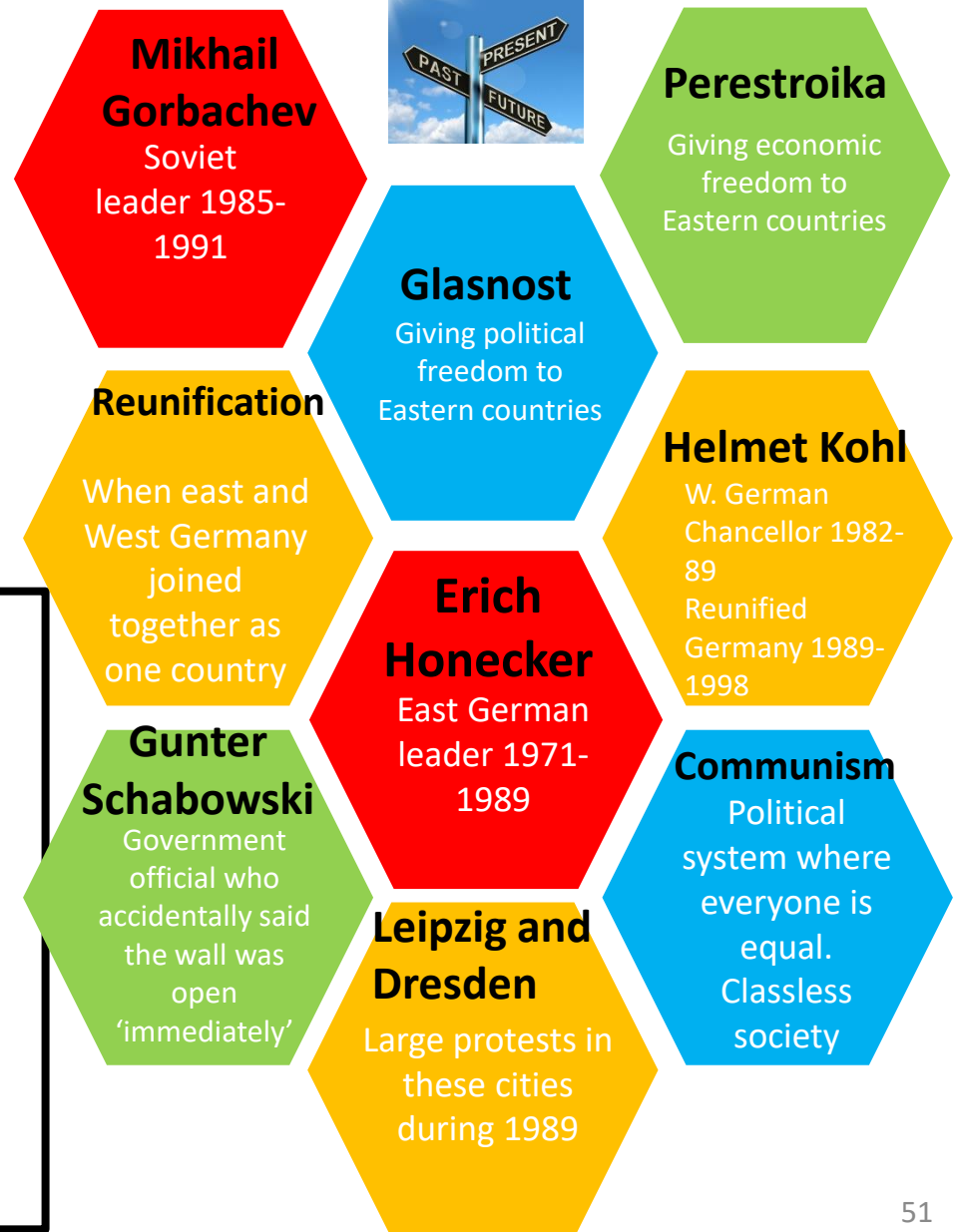
How did the allies respond?

Key Qu- 7 Cooperation and reconciliation by 1991

You need to know about:

- Collapse of communism in the East and end of Cold War p56
- Fall of the Berlin Wall p57
- The role of Helmut Kohl p58-9
- Reunification p58

KEY VOCAB: *History*



This Key Question is about looking at the reasons WHY Germany reunified as one country by 1991. You need to be able to consider all reasons and weigh up which was most significant. This is a popular question topic for the exam because it deals with the end of the Germany period.

Collapse of communism and the end of the COLD WAR



By the 1980s struggling to maintain superpower status

Could not afford nuclear arms race

Bogged down in disastrous Afghanistan War

Failures of its own technology- eg sinking of nuclear submarine K219 and fire at Chernobyl nuclear plant

Mikhail Gorbachev became Soviet leader in 1985. Introduced series of reforms to strengthen USSR.

Glasnost- political freedom

Perestroika-economic freedom

Thousands in E. Germany could now move west. By June 1989 12 per cent of E. Germans placed applications to emigrate. Hungary opened its borders in Aug 1989 which led to many fleeing to W. Germany through Austria.

In September 1989 alone, 33,000 people moved west from East Germany. This would eventually lead to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of communist rule, not just in East Germany but right across eastern Europe.



Collapse of communism in the East paved the way for change. Glasnost and perestroika created an opportunity for dialogue as Gorbachev was open to more freedoms. Withdrawal of the Red Army from European countries, unrest in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary- lack of support from USSR to act all created conditions for a reunification in Germany.

End of Cold War

Treaties in 1987 and 1991 to significantly reduce nuclear weapons, but also led to them discussing and agreeing on German unification.

Mikhail Gorbachev was clearly more interested in reforming the Soviet Union than supporting communist governments in Eastern Europe.

After the 1990 "Two Plus Four" talks (West and East Germany, with USA, USSR, Britain and France) agreed that Germany could be unified, and would remain a member of NATO and that there would be a big reduction in armed forces stationed in Germany.

By 1991 the Cold War was over. Germany was reunified under a democratic government and democratic governments were elected across the former Soviet-controlled eastern Europe. The USSR, the Soviet Union, also came to an end in December 1991 when the union was officially dissolved, breaking up into 15 new countries.

Fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of Communist rule in East Germany

Situation in East Germany in 1989

- East German economy heading for bankruptcy
- Many protests throughout East Germany after May elections.
- Honecker (E. German leader) did not reform like Soviet leader Gorbachev did in USSR.
- Hungary opened its borders with Austria in March 1989 which gave E.Germans a new route to the West.
- In April 1989 Gorbachev abandoned the Brezhnev Doctrine (USSR using force to keep control in Europe) and would not use the Soviet army to crush opposition. To save money for the Soviet economy he ordered all 200,000 Soviet troops out of E. Germany.
- Without the threat of the Soviet army attacking, many new opposition groups sprung up eg East German Social Democratic Party, 'Democratic Awakening' and Democracy Now. Protests increased.

Widescale Protests

- **On 9th October 1989** large demonstrations against the government took place first in Leipzig, then in Dresden. The protesters demanded non-violent political change. The Stasi did nothing to stop or break up these demonstrations which surprised protesters, but encouraged future protests as well. Demonstrations continued throughout East Germany and grew in size – by 23rd October there were 300,000 people on the streets of Leipzig. Protesters often chanted "We are the People" ("Wir sind das Volk") and "We are staying here" ("Wir bleiben hier").
- **On 18th October Honecker was forced to resign**, but when his replacement Egon Krenz asked the USSR for support in breaking up demonstrations he was told that East Germany was on its own. The situation got worse...
- **On 4th November 1989 the largest ever demonstration** in East Germany took place when 1 million people protested on the streets of East Berlin.
- **On 6th November 1989** half a million people marched in Leipzig demanding freedom of movement, an end to communist rule, while chanting "Germany – One Fatherland" ("Deutschland - Ein Vaterland")
- **On 9th November 1989** the East German government had no option left, without Soviet support – it opened its borders and allowed free travel. Thousands marched to the Berlin Wall and pulled it down in one of the most momentous events in post-war history. In the next few days hundreds of thousands of East Germans crossed the remains of the wall and visited the west.



9th November 1989 PRESS CONFERENCE-

Gunter Schabowski was an official on the E. German government. He didn't read the text before the press conference on 9th November and accidentally said 'immediately' when asked when the wall can come down.

What happened after the Fall of the Berlin Wall?

East German citizens who entered West Berlin and West Germany found themselves given free gifts such as beer and tickets to football matches.

In Berlin East Germans were given champagne, bananas and chocolate which most had never had before.

They also received 100 DM as "welcome money" although most who travelled west in those first few days ended up going back home to East Germany.

It is thought that 75,000 East Germans migrated to West Germany in January 1990 alone.

These large numbers encouraged both East and West Germany to cooperate in reunification as East Germany could not afford to lose more people and West Germany could not afford to accommodate them.

Egon Krenz was forced to resign on 6th December 1989 along with most of the communist members of the government. His replacement Hans Modrow formed a new government that included opposition politicians and declared on 5th February 1990 that he was in favour of German reunification.



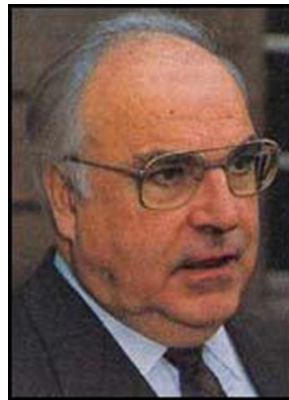
German reunification

Germans refer to the period 1989 to 1990 as “Die Wende” (literally “the change”). There were a number of important obstacles to German reunification that had to be overcome:

1. East and West Germany were completely different societies – West Germany was a capitalist democracy with a strong economy, East Germany was a communist dictatorship with a centrally planned and failing economy.
2. Germany had been at the centre of the Cold War and reunification could only happen with the agreement of the USA and USSR.
3. The leader of the main opposition party in West Germany, Oskar Lafontaine of the SPD, was opposed to rapid reunification.

WHO WAS HELMUT KOHL?

- 1982 BECAME CHANCELLOR OF WEST GERMANY
- WITH THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM IN 1989 KOHL BECAME A LEADING SUPPORTER OF THE RE-UNIFICATION OF WEST GERMANY AND EAST GERMANY.
- THIS POLICY WAS VERY POPULAR AND IN DECEMBER 1990 GERMAN ELECTIONS,
- KOHL'S CDU PARTY WERE THE LARGEST WON A 134-SEAT MAJORITY COALITION IN THE BUNDESTAG. HE THEREFORE BECAME THE FIRST CHANCELLOR OF A UNIFIED GERMANY SINCE 1945.



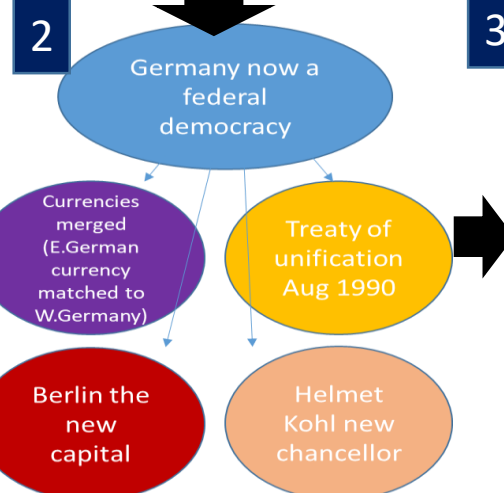
After the fall of the Berlin Wall, Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor of West Germany, seized the opportunity to lead the reunification of Germany:

On 28th November 1989 Kohl announced his ‘**10 point plan**’ to reunify Germany, a plan which he had drawn up without consulting his NATO allies. Kohl appeared to be the “Chancellor of unity” **but he faced opposition in West Germany, rejection in East Germany and scepticism from allies Mrs Thatcher the British Prime Minister and President Mitterand of France.**

After the American President George H. W. Bush had persuaded NATO and the USSR that German unification should be up to the German people **Kohl had to await the judgement of the East German people in the March 1990 elections**, their first ever fully democratic elections. **He promised them currency union, replacing the East German Ostmark with the West German Deutschmark, and if the “Alliance for Germany” won the election then East Germany would become 5 new Länder in West Germany.** They won a huge victory with 48% of the vote. Kohl's own government won 44% of the vote in the first all-German election of December 1990 and he went on to become the longest serving Chancellor since Bismarck in the 19th century.

1 In summary, Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor of West Germany, seized the opportunity to lead the reunification of Germany:

- Huge loans given to bail out East Germany.
- By March 1990, 300,000 East Germans had left for the west. At this rate the GDR had no future as a country.
- Gorbachev assured Kohl he would not oppose reunification in return for West German loans to the USSR.
- There was overwhelming support for reunification in East Germany as was shown in free elections in March 1990.
- On 2nd October 1990 after the Two Plus Four Talks (between West Germany, East Germany, USA, USSR, Britain and France) agreed to a unified Germany.



3 **big problems still existed:**

- **E.German economy needed big payouts from W. Germany to survive**
- **Huge migration from East to West led to high unemployment in W. Germany**

However, Berlin has undergone massive redevelopment since 1991. centre of creativity and music, and German



What factors led to the reunification of Germany?

Kohl's policies

- Kohl's policies were important in the reunification of Germany because he was ultimately responsible for getting the support from the USSR to agree to the reunification after the Two Plus Four Talks in 1990.

Fall of the Berlin Wall

- The fall of the Berlin Wall happened after Schabowski made the mistake at the press conference 9th Nov giving access to East Germans to cross the border.
- This led to the wall being pulled down and the symbol of the division being removed paving the way for reunification.

Mikhail Gorbachev and collapse of communism

- Gorbachev's policies of glasnost and perestroika led to increasing freedoms across Eastern Europe, in particular E. Germany.
- Led to thousands moving West by late 1980s. Gorbachev was more concerned about reforming Soviet Union.
- The collapse of communism in Soviet Union led to the breaking up of Eastern countries under their control leading to reunification becoming more likely.

Protests and anger in E. Germany

- Increasing protests in East Germany as economy heading for bankruptcy.
- Gorbachev had ordered 200,000 Soviet troops out so protests increased without being stopped.
- Oct 1989 violent protests in Leipzig and Dresden where protesters demanded political change.
- The mood in East Germany was ready for a change and reunification.

You should be able to discuss a range of these:

- Relations between the two Germanies had improved by the 1970s as part of Willy Brandt's pursuit of "Ostpolitik" and the signing of the Basic Treaty in 1972 when both agreed to develop understanding as neighbours and respect each other's independence;
- the economy of the Soviet Union was in crisis by the mid-80s and Gorbachev set out to strengthen the country through reform and his policies of "perestroika" and "glasnost" eased East-West relations;
- Cold War was nearing its end and the USA and the USSR discussed and agreed that Germany should be unified;
- March 1989 Hungary opened its borders with Austria presenting many thousands with a route to the west;
- Gorbachev announced that he would be abandoning the Brezhnev Doctrine and that he would not order the Red Army to crush any internal opposition in Eastern Europe and later withdrew Soviet troops stationed in East Germany;
- demonstrations demanding change broke out in Leipzig, Dresden and Berlin with no intervention by the Stasi;
- November 9th 1989 the East German government opened its borders allowing free travel and thousands marched to the Berlin Wall and pulled it down;
- 28th November 1989 Kohl announced his ten-point plan to reunify Germany and campaigned for reunification;
- West German government made loans to prop up the bankrupt East Germany and it was clear that with its poor economy, East Germany had no long-term future as a country;
- March 1990 the free elections in East Germany indicated support for reunification;
- June 1990 the economies of both countries were merged and in August a treaty for reunification was signed and was ratified in October;
- Helmut Kohl won a decisive victory in the election for a new German government and became Chancellor of a reunified German

Question- Explain why Germany was reunified by 1990.

[8]

8/8
mark
answer

The reunification of Germany in 1990 happened as a result of a combination of factors. Firstly, the USSR was in crisis by the late 1980s with a struggling economy and inability to financially keep up with the USA in the arms race. Gorbachev decided to reform the USSR with glasnost and perestroika which brought economic and political freedoms. This relaxed restrictions in East and West Germany by allowing travel. However, Honecker did not implement these reforms in E. Germany to the same extent and this led to a wave of protests throughout E. Germany in 1989. Alongside the E. Germany economy being on the brink of bankruptcy the E. Germans demanded change. On 4th Nov 1989 the largest protest of 1 million took place in E. Berlin. Gorbachev had removed 200,000 Soviet troops and the Stasi did not react so the protesters did not have fear of Soviet retaliation. This led to the Fall of the Berlin Wall on 9th Nov 1989. Schabowski made a mistake during the interview and said the wall was to come down 'immediately' leading to the borders being opened and thousands crossing into West Berlin. The symbol of division of the Cold War has been removed allowing reunification more possible. This is where Kohl as W. German Chancellor could really look to implement a series of measures to ensure reunification could happen. He gave huge loans to E. Germany to solve their economic issues and also negotiated with the USSR so that they would not interfere with reunification in return for loans to USSR. This culminated in the Two Plus Four talks in Oct 1990 where W and E Germany, USA, Britain, France and USSR agreed to the reunification of Germany. This formally approved the reunification and created a new Germany with Kohl as Chancellor.

KEY QUESTION 7- Cooperation and reconciliation by 1991. What factors led to the reunification of Germany in 1990?

Key words
Perestroika –
Glasnost –
Reunification –
Self – determination
'De Wende' –



Key individuals
1. Mikhail Gorbachev –leader of Soviet Union
2. Helmut Kohl – West Germany
3. Erich Honecker – East Germany

Changing relationships between USA and USSR
How did this contribute towards the collapse of East Germany?

What role did Gorbachev’s policies play?



Protests, Demonstrations and changes in the Eastern Bloc
Which country opened its border with Austria in August 1989?

How did this impact on East Germany?

How did the East German government deal with the mass protests in East Berlin and East Germany?

What was the reaction of the Soviet government?

How did this lead to the fall of the Berlin wall?

November 9th 1989

What were the immediate consequences of the fall of the wall?

KEY QUESTION 7- Cooperation and reconciliation by 1991. What factors led to the reunification of Germany in 1990?



Role of KOHL

28th November 1989 Kohl proposed 10 point plan – saw the opportunity to reunite Germany

What were the main parts of Kohl’s ten point plan?

What role did Kohl have in bringing about reunification?

Problems with reunification
1. East and West were very different societies

Problems with reunification
2. Could only happen if allies (USA, Britain) and USSR agreed

Problems with reunification
3. Opposition in West Germany from main opposition party

Reunification & Reconciliation

Problems with reunification
What was the impact of reunification on the economy in the West?

Disintegration of East Germany
Honecker resigned in October 1989.
Egon Krenz replaced him.
Soviet refused support to suppress the protests.
Mass migration – East Germans given ‘welcome money’
Krenz resigned December 1989
New government formed under Hans Modrow – in favour of reunification.

What did the free elections in East Germany held in March 1990 show?

Reunification
When was the Treaty Of Reunification signed?

Which city became the capital of the new Federal Germany?

Who became its first Chancellor?

Exam technique and model answers

Past Exam questions- Germany 1919-1991

	Q1- 5 marks	Q2- 6 marks	Q3- 9 marks	Q4- 8 marks	Q5- 12 marks
2018	KQ5- Describe the economic recovery of West Germany under Konrad Adenaur between 1949-63	KQ4- How far did the treatment of Jews change between 1939 and 1945?	KQ2-Violence, propaganda, Depression reasons for Nazis coming to power	KQ6- Explain why Berlin was a cause of tension during the Cold War	KQ1-How important was the Treaty of Versailles in causing problems for the Weimar republic in the 1920s?
2019	KQ4- Describe the main forms of opposition to Nazi rule in Germany during WW2	KQ1- How far was Stresemann responsible for the economic recovery of Germany during the Weimar period?	KQ3- Industrial workers, women, young people- who's lives affected the most	KQ7- Explain why Germany was reunified by 1990.	KQ2- How important was the Depression in increasing support for the Nazi Party in the early 1930s?
2020	KQ6- Describe the Berlin blockade and Airlift of 1948-9	KQ4- How far did life change on the Home Front for the German people during WW2?	KQ2- Reichstag fire, Enabling Act, Night of Long Knives- importance for consolidation of power	KQ3- Explain why life changed for young people in Germany between 1933 and 1939	KQ1- how important was Stresemann in the recovery of Germany in the 1920s?
2022	KQ3- Describe the status of women in Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1939	KQ5- How far did West Germany recover economically under Konrad Adenaur between 1949 and 1963?	KQ1-opposition, hyperinflation, depression- Weimar republic success in dealing with problems	KQ7- Explain why East and West Germany were reunified by 1990.	KQ2- How important was the Night of the Long Knives in the creation of the Nazi dictatorship?
2023	KQ5- Describe the work of Adenaur in the recovery of West Germany 1949-63	KQ1- How far was the Weimar government successful in dealing with its economic problems between 1923-29?	KQ3- industrial workers, children, women- extent lives were controlled	KQ6- Explain why Berlin was a cause of tension during the Cold War	KQ2- How important was the Depression in increasing support for the Nazis in the early 1930s?
2024	KQ1- Describe the work of Stresemann in the recovery of Weimar Germany after the crisis of 1923.	KQ2- How far was the Nazi Party successful in taking control of Germany between 1933-34?	KQ7- collapse of communism, Helmut Kohl, fall of Berlin Wall- significance in reunification	KQ4- Explain why living conditions on the German Home Front changed during WW2	KQ3- How important was Kristallnacht in the developing persecution of Jews in Germany 1933-39?

How do I answer Question 1 on the Germany paper?

Answer all questions.

QUESTION 1

Describe the work of Konrad Adenauer in the recovery of West Germany, 1949–1963. [5]

You need to make five key knowledge points or 2-3 detailed points

Other questions asked...

2018	KQ5- Describe the economic recovery of West Germany under Konrad Adenaur between 1949-63
2019	KQ4- Describe the main forms of opposition to Nazi rule in Germany during WW2
2020	KQ6- Describe the Berlin blockade and Airlift of 1948-9
2022	KQ3- Describe the status of women in Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1939

One way Konrad Adenaur economically recovered the West was due to him accepting the \$1.3 billion in Marshall Aid. This was given by America to the Western European countries with the fear they may turn to communism. The only requirement was the countries had to come up with a plan on how to sue it. West Germany was given Marshall aid in the form of loans, food and machinery. This was spent on economic recovery.

- Another way was through Erhard's policies. These included; good use of the Marshall Aid to rebuild old industries, higher taxation of the rich, more investment in research firms and a new currency was created. This resulted in unemployment rate at 0.4% which was very low, West Germany having the highest annual growth rate of all Western Europe and the complete end to inflation causing West Germany to fully economically recover.

- 5/5 marks

How do I answer Question 2 on the Germany paper?

QUESTION 2

How far was the Weimar government successful in dealing with its economic problems between 1923 and 1929? [6]

You need to write 3 paragraphs:

2 paragraphs showing agree/disagree explanations

Judgement- how FAR ...

Other questions asked...

2018	KQ4- How far did the treatment of Jews change between 1939 and 1945?
2019	KQ1- How far was Stresemann responsible for the economic recovery of Germany during the Weimar period?
2020	KQ4- How far did life change on the Home Front for the German people during WW2?
2022	KQ5- How far did West Germany recover economically under Konrad Adenaur between 1949 and 1963?

One reason why the Weimar government was successful was due to Gustav Stresemann, he managed to get loans to repay reparations as part of the Dawes Plan from America in 1924, as well, he managed to get the reparations payments extended and renegotiated as part of the young Plan in 1929. This led to less inflation for Germany and solving the economic problems.

- Another reason why they were successful was due to the government calling off passive resistance in the Ruhr. This meant that the workers no longer striking so didn't need to be paid for nothing. As well, a new currency was introduced called the Rentenmark which caused an end to hyperinflation. The old marks were taken in, burnt and destroyed. After the new currency was published, hyperinflation decreased leading to less unemployment, poverty and a better economy.

- Finally, however, they were not very successful in dealing with economic problems because of the Dawes Plan Stresemann agreed to. This is because when the Wall Street Crash happened in American, the loan had to be repaid. Germany didn't have the money for this so resulted in inflation, poverty, unemployment up to 6 million in 1933 and economic problems.

- 6/6 marks

How do I answer Question 3 on the Germany paper?

QUESTION 3

The Nazis aimed to control the lives of different groups in German society between 1933 and 1939. These groups included:

- industrial workers
- children and young people
- women

Arrange the groups in order of the extent to which their lives were controlled by Nazi rule between 1933 and 1939. Explain your choices. [9]

First Choice Second Choice Third Choice

You need to rank order the three choices.

Start with the group most affected.

In each paragraph-

- 1) Describe the group/event
- 2) Explain their significance
- 3) Explain it is more/less significant than the others

Other questions asked...

2018	KQ4- How far did the treatment of Jews change between 1939 and 1945?
2019	KQ1- How far was Stresemann responsible for the economic recovery of Germany during the Weimar period?
2020	KQ4- How far did life change on the Home Front for the German people during WW2?
2022	KQ5- How far did West Germany recover economically under Konrad Adenaur between 1949 and 1963?

I think the lives young people and children was most highly controlled by the Nazis. This is because, Hitler believed that indoctrinating the youth was the best way to make Germany great. In school, history books were re-written and lessons of biology focussed on identifying the Aryan race and lessons in maths included war messages. This meant their school lives were completely changes and controlled. As well, by 1939 the Hitler Youth membership was compulsory and 7.5 million were members. In this, boys were prepared to be soldiers by marching and in the league of German maidens, they were taught how to be mothers. They also had to train in full loyalty to Hitler. This shows that there lives were completely controlled and lied to by the Nazis.

- Women are less controlled by the Nazis as they were only given incentives and encouragements to change their lives and not having it forced on them. However, they still had their lives controlled as their right to vote was taken away, they were being encouraged out of professional careers (in 1933 there were 100,000 female teachers but this changed) and were told to stay at home. The Nazis believed in the 3K's (church, children, kitchen), they encouraged women to marry well and used financial incentives like loans of 1000 marks and every child born 25% didn't need to be repaid. This showed the Nazis had strong beliefs which were used to control this group of people.

- Finally, the industrial workers are the least significant as the Nazis only set up schemes to try and improve work efficiency. For example, the DAF was set up to replace trade unions and encourage workers, the Strength through Joy programme was set up to provide rewards like cheap tickets for workers. The beauty of work programme encouraged workers to work hard for your country and allowed standards in work to improve. This shows they were controlled but in a more positive aspect.

7/9

Next steps- more development within the paragraphs of why one is more/less significant that the others

How do I answer Question 4 on the Germany paper?

QUESTION 4

Explain why Berlin was a cause of tension during the Cold War.

[8]

You need to write 3 paragraphs explaining 3 reasons.

Start chronologically, so the answer flows in the correct order

In each paragraph-

- 1) Give a reason**
- 2) Give historical knowledge/context about the reason**
- 3) Link it to the question- It caused tension/change because...**

Other questions asked...

2018	KQ6- Explain why Berlin was a cause of tension during the Cold War
2019	KQ7- Explain why Germany was reunified by 1990.
2020	KQ3- Explain why life changed for young people in Germany between 1933 and 1939
2022	KQ7- Explain why East and West Germany were reunified by 1990.

One reason why Berlin was a cause of tension during the Cold War was due to the amount of people travelling from East Germany to West. East Germany had much poorer conditions than the West as they didn't economically recover. This resulted in millions moving through Berlin. It caused tension as the population of East was only 1/3 of the West and they only had 20% industrial output compared to West's. This meant that many skilled, young workers moved so the East suffered more economically.

- Another reason why was due to the Berlin blockade. This was when in 1947 Stalin closed off all the roads into West Berlin due to him disliking the new currency there. This caused mass poverty, starvation and illness as supplies couldn't get to West Berlin. Stalin also did this to try and tempt more people in the East where 'food and fuel' was provided but only 2% went. In result of this West Germany sent in thousands of tonnes of supplies by air such as food, animals and medicines by plane with one plane arriving every 30 seconds. In 1949 Stalin reopened the roads.

- Finally, Berlin was a cause of tension due to the Berlin Wall. This was built in 1961 and was due to stopping the movement of people. It was a cause of tension as it stopped freedom of movement, split families and caused the East to live in more poverty due to no economic reforms. It also was a symbol of division (Iron Curtain) which made people feel separated however was accepted by both Germany's as the best outcome and avoided war.

6/8 marks

Next steps- more development of significance of Berlin Wall in causing tensions

How do I answer Question 5 on the Germany paper?

QUESTION 5

How important was the Depression in increasing support for the Nazis in the early 1930s? [12]

[In your answer you should discuss the importance of the Depression in increasing support for the Nazis alongside other factors in order to reach a judgement.]

You need to write 3/4 paragraphs

First paragraph- about the topic in the question. Using the question above- you would explain why the Depression was important for increasing support for the Nazis

2nd/3rd paragraphs- disagree and provide other reasons

4th paragraph- judgement- answer the question- was the Depression the most important factor?

In each paragraph-

- 1) Describe the event using historical knowledge
- 2) Explain why it was important for 'X'

Other questions asked...

2018	KQ1-How important was the Treaty of Versailles in causing problems for the Weimar republic in the 1920s?
2019	KQ2- How important was the Depression in increasing support for the Nazi Party in the early 1930s?
2020	KQ1- how important was Stresemann in the recovery of Germany in the 1920s?
2022	KQ2- How important was the Night of the Long Knives in the creation of the Nazi dictatorship?

I fully agree with this statement and believe that the depression was very important in increasing support for the Nazis. This is because in 1929, when the Wall Street Crash took place in America, it resulted in the USA asking for their loans to be repaid. I know that Germany was under the Dawes Plan in 1924 which got loans from USA to pay reparations. The recalling of their loans caused mass unemployment of 6 million by 1933, poverty, famine and hyperinflation. This helped the Nazis as the simple messages they repeated were providing 'bread and work' for the German people in hell as making Germany great again. This meant that more followed the Nazis and were in support of that political party giving more votes to them.

However, I disagree with the statement because I believe that the Nazi Party's propaganda was more important than the depression in gaining support. This is because Hitler made Josef Goebbels an expert in propaganda. He controlled the many newspapers, making them publish pro- Nazi messages. As well, the Nazi party used simple, repeated messages of who was to blame, targeting the middle classes who feared communism as well as the working classes who feared unemployment.

Another factor I think was important in gaining support was the party leader- Adolf Hitler. He was very likeable and charismatic. As well, he toured the country speaking about the Nazi party and spoke often on the radio. He was a strong and powerful speaker so was seen by the people as inspiring and a great leader. These factors meant that more people believed in the Nazi party and their promises which gave them much more support.

Overall, I do think that the depression was very important in gaining support for the Nazis due to it allowed their messages to be spread and shown more. However, I believe that the contribution of factors was the main reason why they gained support such as Nazi tactics, the SA often intimidated political opponents and fear to intimidate others. This led to increasing support for the Nazis.

10/12

Next steps- more specific detailed historical knowledge

WRITING FRAME

Q1

It will ask: "Describe X..."

You should write:

- X was... (2 developed paragraphs)

It will ask: "How far did X change Y?"

You should write:

- 3 paragraphs
- Give examples of what changes took place in that time period
- + Your opinion- answer the question!

Q2

It will ask: "Arrange the developments in order of their **significance**"

You should write:

- X was most significant because...
- X is more significant than Y because...
- Y was significant because. It was not as significant as X because...
- Z was least significant compared to X and Y because...

Q3

It will ask: "Explain why..."

You should write:

Explain 3 reasons
Firstly,
Secondly,...
Lastly,...

Q4

It will ask: "How important was..."

You should write:

- Paragraph 1- AGREE with the question and give reasons
- Paragraph 2- DISAGREE with the question and give 2 alternative factors
- OVERALL, X was extremely/not very important...

Q5