

## Kaiser Wilhelm II and the First World War

### KEY WORDS

**Prussia:** Former Kingdom in Northern Europe and the dominant state of the German Empire stretching from France and the Baltic Sea to Poland.

**Militarism:** Belief that a country should maintain a strong armed force and be prepared to use it aggressively.

**Kaiserreich:** A state being ruled by the Kaiser with very little input from anyone else. The Kaiser had final say on what happened in their country.

**Weltpolitik:** In English means World Policy. The Kaiser built up his army, navy and wanted to grow his Empire. He wanted to turn Germany into a world power.

**A place in the sun:** The Kaiser wanted to grow his Empire, he started in sunny countries like on the continent of Africa.

**Industrialisation:** A process by which a country transforms from mainly an agricultural society to one based on manufacturing and factories.

**Agriculture:** Farming.

**Manufacture:** Make and create goods.

**Trade Union:** Association of workers formed to protect their interests.

**Socialism:** A system of government which supports democracy and greater government involvement in the economy and society.

**Nationalism:** Identifies with ones own nation and supports the interest of its country. Wants the country to be politically independent from other countries and powerful.

**Economy:** The state of a country or region in terms of the production and consumption of goods and services and the supply of money.

**Patriotic:** Supporting your country, especially against its enemies.

**Mutiny:** Rebellion by soldiers or sailors who refuse to take orders.

**Abdicate:** Give up the throne of a country.

**November Criminals:** A nickname given to the German politicians, Jews and Communists who were said to have ended WW1 and signed the hated Treaty of Versailles.

**Democratic Republic / Democracy:** A system of running a country in which people have the right to vote for the government they want.

### Bullet Point Question (12 marks)

- 1) Which of the following was the more important reason why WW1 impacted on Germany.

- Mutiny and Revolution
- The money Germany had borrowed?

Explain your answer with reference to both reasons.

**Interpretation B:** A portrait of the Kaiser commissioned in 1908

### Describe Question (4 marks)

- 1) Describe two problems faced by Kaiser Wilhelm II's governments in ruling Germany up to 1914
- 2) Describe two aims of the Kaiser up to 1914.

### KEY INDIVIDUALS AND KEY GROUPS

**Kaiser Wilhelm II:** Emperor of Germany, King of Prussia and Supreme commander of the German Army 1888 - 1918

**Kaiser Friedrich III:** AKA 'Fritz' was the Kaisers Father, Emperor of Germany and King of Prussia for only 99 days 9<sup>th</sup> March 1888- 15<sup>th</sup> June 1888.

**Princess Royal Victoria:** Kaisers Wilhelm II mother. She was the first daughter of Queen Victoria I of Britain and Prince Albert of Copenhagen.

**Queen Victoria I:** Queen of Great Britain 1837 -1901. Kaiser Wilhelm II, King George V and Tsar Nicholas II were her Grandchildren. The Kaiser loved his Grandmother dearly.

**King George V:** King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, and Emperor of India 1910 – 1936.

**Tsar Nicholas II:** Leader of Russia 1894 – 1917, Kaiser Wilhelm II's cousin.

**General Erich Ludendorff:** Was a top German military commander in the latter stages of World War I.

**Paul Von Hindenburg:** Was the German general and statesman who commanded the Imperial German army during WW1 and later became the President of Germany 1925-1933.

**Friedrich Ebert:** Was the leader of the SPD, temporary leader of Germany at the end of WW1 and later President of Germany 1919-1925.

**Social Democratic Party (SPD):** One of the largest political parties in Germany. A left wing party that grew under the rule of Kaiser Wilhelm II. It was a party that supported more rights for workers and looking after communities.

**Bunderstrat:** A group made up of German state representatives who supported the Kaiser (unlike the Reichstag).

**Reichstag:** The main elected German Parliament who were politicians voted in by the German people. They often challenged the Kaiser.



**Interpretation C:** A British cartoon of the Kaiser in 1914.

### In what ways question (8 marks)

- 1) In what ways were the lives of people in Germany affected by the First World War?
- 2) In what ways were the lives of German people affected by industrialisation?

### 3 PART: Interpretation Question

#### Part 1 (4 marks)

How does Interpretation C differ from interpretation B about how Kaiser Wilhelm I was viewed by others.

#### Part 2 (4 marks)

Why might the authors of Interpretation B and C have a different interpretation about the Kaiser?

#### Part 3 (8 marks)

Which interpretation do you find more convincing about Kaiser Wilhelm II?

# Key Events Timeline

**KEY:**

Social

Political

Economical

## The Unification of Germany (1871)

Prussia was the most powerful Germanic state.

1870

1880

## The SPD is created (1883)

It grew stronger and gained more followers when Kaiser Wilhelm II was in power.

**Kaiser Wilhelm II becomes Emperor of Germany (1888)**

## The Naval Race begins (1898)

Germany begins to expand its Navy, building ships to compete with Britain. The Kaiser had a love of war ships because of his love of the British Navy and wanted one for himself. This was also part of his 'Weltpolitik'.

1890

## Naval Laws introduced (1898 -1912)

To get money to expand their navy Germany created Naval Law and borrowed money from allies and America. The Naval Laws saw Germany raise taxes. This would leave Germany in 490 billion gold marks.

1900

## Germany dominated Europe's industry (1913)

Germany was producing more iron and steel as Britain and equal the amount of coal. Its electrical and chemical industries dominated Europe.

## The First World War Began (1914)

Tension in Europe had been building for some time. Austria- Hungary declared war on Serbia and as their allies Germany joined too, declaring war on Russia and France.

1910

1915

## Women protest WW1 (1915)

500 women gathered in front of the German parliament (the Reichstag) building and demanded that they wanted their men back.

## German Workers protest WW1 (1916)

10,000 workers assembled in Berlin, the capital to shout, 'Down with war. Down with the Government'. The police came in quickly to make arrests and calm the situation.

1916

## Turnip Winter and Deadly Flu epidemic (1916-1917)

The British naval blockade was preventing people in Germany from getting any food. People starting starving and dying. In desperation they ate crows, horses and turnips. As well as this a flu epidemic broke too. It spread rapidly and killed many because people were too weak and vulnerable to fight off the disease.

## Ludendorff told German leaders they would never win the war (October 1918)

The Ludendorff Spring Offensive had failed, Germany had exhausted its options. Ludendorff suggested that if the Kaiser made Germany a democratic state, Britain, France and America would treat Germany fairly. The Kaiser transferred some power to the Reichstag, and allowed main political parties to form a new government. He hoped that this would also appease the German people, it did not.

1918

1917

## Mutiny in Germany (28<sup>th</sup> October 1918)

Sailors in Kiel refused to follow orders and attack British ships. News of their mutiny spread and other ports started to refuse orders. Soldiers sent to deal with the mutiny joined the protests. They took over towns and set up councils. The Kaiser had lost control and his army Generals refused to follow him.

1919

## Friedrich Ebert was made the leader of Germany (9<sup>th</sup> November 1918)

Ebert became the temporary leader of Germany and promised to hold elections as soon as the time was right.

**Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates (9<sup>th</sup> November 1918)**  
The Kaiser was forced to abdicate and had to flee to Holland to live the rest of his life for his own protection.

## The Treaty of Versailles (28<sup>th</sup> June 1919)

The BIG 3 and other country leaders came together to create a treaty full of terms for Germany to abide by. It was signed in Versailles on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1919. Germany took the blame for the whole of WW1.

## WW1 ended (11<sup>th</sup> November 1918)

In a train carriage German politicians and representatives of the Allies met in a railway carriage. Germany signed the armistice and the first world war ended at 11am on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

1920

## Ebert, Stresemann and The Weimar Republic

### KEY WORDS

**Armistice:** An agreement, or truce to stop fighting.

**Democratic Republic:** A system of running the country in which people have the vote for the government they want.

**Communism:** A political system where all property is owned by the government; people are equal and they are paid by the government according to their needs.

**Weimar Republic:** Was the name given to Germany's democratic system between 1919 and 1933.

**Reparations:** Payments made by Germany to some of the winning nations of the First World War for the damage done by the fighting.

**Diktat:** A nickname given by many Germans to the hated Treaty of Versailles; translated as 'dictated peace'.

**Article 48:** Part of the Weimar Constitution that gave the President the right to rule in a time of crisis without requiring the support of the Reichstag.

**Proportional Representation:** A political system in which the number of politicians for a particular party is in proportion with the number of votes they win; it can lead to lots of small parties gaining seats and an unstable government.

**Constitution:** A document that states how a country should be run.

**Majority:** Over half the votes or politicians in a parliament.

**Left- Wing:** A political belief that promotes equality, high taxation for the rich, and the redistribution of wealth.

**Right- Wing:** A political belief that suggests that social orders and hierarchies are natural, they believe in tradition.

**Fascist:** Is a far right wing movement that believes in an authoritarian, national approach with a dictator in power.

**Hyperinflation:** A sudden, dramatic rise in prices and decrease in the value of money.

**Passive resistance:** Protesting against the government or laws by using non-violent acts.

**Putsch:** An attempt to seize power or take control using force.

**Swastika:** Is the crooked cross symbol adopted by the Nazi Party as their emblem.

**Rentenmark:** Germany's currency that was introduced in 1924.

**Dawes Plan:** An agreement between the USA and European countries, allowing for US loans to be given to European countries (especially Germany) in order for them to build factories and roads, and stimulate economy.

**Young Plan:** An agreement to reduce reparations, made in 1929 between Germany and the countries they owed money to after the First World War.

**Depression:** A time during the 1930's when many banks and businesses failed and millions lost their jobs.

**Interpretation A:** The caption for this 1924 poster asks, 'Who in the war stabbed the German army in the back?' It accuses German politicians of doing this.



**Interpretation B:** Adapted from a book by historians Sally Marks called The Illusion of Peace: International Relations in Europe 1918-1933, written in 1976.

### Describe Question (4 marks)

- 1) Describe two threats to Weimar Germany
- 2) Describe two problems faced by the German government in dealing with hyperinflation.

### Bullet Point Question (12 marks)

1) Which of the following was the more important reason why the Weimar Republic was in danger in the years 1919–1923:

- Economic problems
- Political unrest?

Explain your answer with reference to both reasons.

### KEY INDIVIDUALS AND KEY GROUPS

**Friedrich Ebert:** Was the leader of the SPD, temporary leader of Germany at the end of WW1 and later President of Germany 1919-1925.

**Social Democratic Party (SPD):** One of the largest political parties in Germany. A left wing party that grew under the rule of Kaiser Wilhelm II. It was a party that supported more rights for workers and looking after communities.

**Spartacus League (Spartacists):** A group of German communists who wanted a revolution similar to the one that had taken place in Russia in 1917.

**Freikorps (Free Corps):** A right-wing paramilitary group that was active in the early years of the Weimar Republic.

**Wolfgang Kapp:** Was a Prussian civil servant and journalist, a strict nationalist and led the Kapp Putsch.

**Nazi Party (National Socialist German Workers Party):** A right-wing political party, originally known as the German Workers Party up until 1919. Adolf Hitler became the leader of the party and led the Munch Putsch.

**Gustav Stresemann:** A member of Germany's parliament since 1907, he was briefly Chancellor in 1923 and became Foreign minister in 1924 -1929. He was involved in the Dawes and Young plan in 1923.

**Adolf Hitler:** Leader of the Nazi Party, eventually Chancellor of Germany in 1933 and then Der Fuhrer in 1934.

**Marlene Dietrich:** One of the most famous German actresses during German's Golden Age in the 1920's.

**Otto Dix:** One of the most famous German artists during Germany's Golden age in the 1920's.

**League of Nations:** The first world organisation made up of a variety of governments whose mission was world peace.

**Stormtroopers (SA):** Hitler's brown shirted supporters who were employed to beat up opponents and guard meetings.

**Red Rising:** Left-wing voters' revolt in March 1920, in the Ruhr region of Germany.

### KEY WORDS

**Avant-Garde:** New and experimental ideas and methods in art, music or literature.

**Bauhaus:** A school of design originating in Weimar Germany, which focused on modern, simple and practical designs, rather than the more elaborate, 'fancy' designs of long ago.

**Culture:** The values, morals, traditions and attitudes of a group or society; it relates to the music and films people watch and listen to, the art they create, the buildings they design and the behaviour they display.

**Radical:** A very different or extreme idea or approach.

**Subversion:** When anyone tries to destroy or damage a system or a government.

**Putsch:** an armed uprising against the government .

"The Treaty of Versailles is severe, but it is amazing it is not more so. Thanks to Wilson's insistence, Germany lost remarkably little territory, considering how thoroughly it had lost the war. True, the colonies were gone, but the European losses were relatively few. The real difficulty was not that the treaty was exceptionally severe, but that the Germans thought it was, and in time persuaded others it was."

### In what ways question (8 marks)

1) In what ways were the lives of Germans affected by hyperinflation? Explain your answer.

### 3 PART: Interpretation Question

#### Part 1 (4 marks)

How does Interpretation B differ from interpretation A about the terms of the Treaty of Versailles?

#### Part 2 (4 marks)

Why might the authors of Interpretation A and B have a different interpretation about the treaty?

#### Part 3 (8 marks)

Which interpretation do you find more convincing about the impact of the Treaty of Versailles?

# Key Events Timeline

**KEY:**

Social

Political

Economical

**Hitler discovered the German workers party (May 1919)**

**The Treaty of Versailles was signed (28<sup>th</sup> June 1919)**  
Ebert's government had to sign the T of V. It weakened the government because its opponents always blamed it for the problems caused by the treaty. Germany's pride was damaged as it also had to take fault for the war. German people resented that.

**Friedrich Ebert was made the leader of Germany (9<sup>th</sup> November 1918)**  
Ebert became the temporary leader of Germany and promised to hold elections as soon as the time was right.

**Weimar Constitution was Established (August 1919)**  
It was very democratic minus Article 48.

**The New Weimar Government met for the first time (11<sup>th</sup> February 1919)**

**Hitler set up the Hitler Youth Organisation (1922)**

**American Jazz music comes to Germany (January 1920)**

**No political party ever won more than half the votes in any election (1919-1933)**

**The Growth of the Nazi Party (1920 -1923)**  
It had 3000 members in 1920. 5000 members in 1921 and was a minor party in 1923.

**Occupation of the Ruhr (January 1923)**  
France and Belgium occupied the Ruhr region in Germany when Germany couldn't pay their reparations. The invaders took over coal mines, steel works and factories. France intended to force Germany to pay up or work under French control. The Germans were in no position to fight back. They did not have the military strength and the Ruhr was in the Rhineland, the demilitarised area of Germany. Instead, German workers in the Ruhr put up resistance and refused to cooperate with the French and Belgian invaders. They went on strike. With industrial production in the Ruhr at a standstill, Germany was producing almost nothing and not making money.

**Hyperinflation (January 1923)**  
The German government printed more money to pay the strikers in the Ruhr. The economy collapsed and hyperinflation (a rapid rise in the level of prices and goods and services) hit Germany. Almost overnight the life savings of many Germans became worthless and they were forced to sell their valuables to buy food. Some workers were paid twice a day and could spend their wages instantly, but people who were paid monthly or depended on savings suffered because these could not keep up with price rises.

**Mein Kampf was published (18<sup>th</sup> July 1925)**  
Hitler wrote his book about Anti-Semitic views whilst in prison. It became very popular and was a piece of propaganda for Nazi views.

**The percentage of votes for the Nazis decrease (1924- 1928)**  
Nazis had 5% of the votes in 1924, they were very bitter towards the Weimar Government because they signed the Treaty of Versailles. By 1928 the Nazis only received 2% of votes because Germany was more financial stable and enjoying the Golden Age.

**Germany joins the League of Nations (9<sup>th</sup> January 1926)**  
It was a peacemaking organisation they originally weren't allowed to join. It restored Germany as a 'great power' and boosted Germany's pride.

**Stresemann died of a stroke. (1929)**

**The Wall Street Crash (October 1929)**  
The US economy collapsed, the result was that the loans from the USA dried up and America had to recall their loans.. It caused a global depression.

**The Rentenmark was replaced by the Reichmark (1924)**

**Hitler is released from prison after Munich Putsch and his trial (December 1924)**  
Hitler decided the Nazis could only get in power if they gained the vote.

1920

1924

1928

**The Spartacist League Revolt (6<sup>th</sup> January 1919)**  
The Spartacists were Communists who wanted to copy what Communists had achieved in Russia in 1917. They tried to seize control, helped by some soldiers, sailors and factory workers. Their leaders were killed.

**Friedrich Ebert held elections (Late January 1919)**  
As promised at the end of WW1 Ebert held elections so that Germany could vote for who they wanted to rule Germany. The SPD won and Ebert become the President of Germany.

**There were 350 political murders in Germany after the signing of the Treaty of Versailles (1919-1922)**

**The Nazi Party was founded (February 1920)**  
Hitler became the leader, designed the new flag with the swastika and changing the name.

**Kapp Putsch (March 1920)**  
Dr. Wolfgang Kapp led a march in Berlin of 5000 Freikorps (ex-soldiers). They wanted to make Germany powerful again with something like an old dictatorship style of government. The putsch was defeated by the workers who declared a general strike.

**The amount of reparations that were to be paid were finalised (1921)**  
By 1921, Germany was faced with the final bill for reparations. It totalled £6,600,000 (132 billion gold marks) to be paid in regular instalments. Reparations were also to be paid in goods as well as money so that France received 5000 trains, 150,000 railway wagons, 10,000 lorries and 140,000 cows.

1922

**Munich Putsch (8<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> November 1923)**  
Hitler, leader of the Nazi Party, had support in Bavaria. At a meeting in a beer hall, Hitler announced that he and his supports were going to seize power and marched towards the government building. The putsch was quickly defeated. Hitler arrested, put on trial and sent to prison for 5 years.

**The Dawes Plan (1924)**  
It was named after the American Charles Dawes, he organised the loans to help bring economic stability to Europe. Germany borrowed money off the USA to pay reparations and rebuild Germany. Germany started to recover. German people once again had jobs and wages to spend.

**Locarno Pact (5<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> October 1925)**  
Germany accepted the terms of the Versailles Treaty as they affected Western Europe, for example he accepted that the Rhineland was to be demilitarised permanently. At the same time the French and Belgians agreed not to invade German territory again.

1926

**Hindenburg became president (February 1925)**

**The Young Plan (February 1929)**  
Reparation payments were reduced to £2.2 billion and Germany was given longer to pay.

1930

**The Great Depression takes over Germany (1930)**  
The Depression had huge impact on Germans because Germany depended on loans from the USA and because it all still owed reparations to the Allies. German business could not pay back the recalled loans so went bankrupt. Millions of Germans lost their jobs. There were 6 million unemployed by late 1932. The mood of optimism in Germany disappeared.

**The Golden Age (Throughout the 1920's)**  
Under the Kaiser there had been strict censorship. When censorship was removed under the Weimar government, painters, writers, musicians and architects revelled in the new freedom- particularly in cities such as Berlin. Clubs and cinemas thrived. German art and architecture became internationally famous.

## Hitler and the Rise of the Nazis

### KEY WORDS

- Propaganda:** The systematic spreading of ideas and information in order to influence the peoples' thinking and actions, often through the use of media such as posters, film, radio and newspaper.
- Tactics:** An action or strategy carefully planned to achieve a specific end.
- Extremists:** A person or group who hold extreme political or religious views, especially one who advocates illegal, violent, or other extreme action.
- LIMP PAPER:** Long- Term Bitterness, Ineffective Constitution, Money, Propaganda, Personal Qualities of Hitler, Programme, Economic Depression, Recruited by Hindenburg (The reasons why Hitler gained power).
- Programme:** A set of aims, measures or activities with a particular long-term aim.
- Economic:** The state of a country or region in terms of the production and consumption of goods and services and the supply of money.
- Ineffective:** Not working as required.
- Recruited:** Employ or enroll someone to help do a job.
- Coalition:** A government where two or more political parties combine to rule.
- Mass rally:** A huge meeting of people, united for a common cause or occasion.
- Cabinet:** The group or committee of senior politicians responsible for controlling government policy.
- Dictator:** A ruler with total control over how a country is governed.
- Concentration Camp:** A camp in which people are held under harsh conditions and without the freedoms of the rest of society.
- Trade Unions:** An association of workers formed to protect their interests.
- Der Fuhrer:** The supreme leader of a country, the title adopted by Adolf Hitler.
- Police State:** A country controlled by a political police force; the government has strict controls over the peoples' lives especially by means of a secret police force.
- Gleichschaltung:** In English means co-ordination, making sure that the whole country is run the same economically, socially and politically.
- Consolidation:** The action or process of making something stronger or more solid. Getting and keeping something.

### KEY INDIVIDUALS

- Nazi Party (National Socialist German Workers Party):** A right-wing political party, originally known as the German Workers Party up until 1919. Adolf Hitler became the leader of the party and led the Munch Putsch.
- Adolf Hitler:** Leader of the Nazi Party, eventually Chancellor of Germany in 1933 and then Der Fuhrer in 1934.
- Paul Von Hindenburg:** Was the German general and statesman who commanded the Imperial German army during WW1 and later became the President of Germany 1925-1933.
- Heinrich Brüning:** Was a German Central Party politician and academic. Chancellor of Germany , 1930-1932.
- Social Democratic Party (SPD):** One of the largest political parties in Germany. A left wing party that grew under the rule of Kaiser Wilhelm II. It was a party that supported more rights for workers and looking after communities.
- The Centre Party (Zentrum):** A Catholic political party in Germany, originally influential during the Kaiserreich and the Weimar Republic. They were among the parties who voted for the Enabling Act that granted power to Hitler's government.
- Franz Von Papen:** Was a conservative politician, Chancellor of Germany in 1932 and vice chancellor under Hitler in 1933-1934.
- Kurt Von Schleicher:** Was a German general and the last Chancellor of Germany during the Weimar Republic. A rival for power to Hitler and was murdered by the SS during the Night of the Long Knives in 1934.
- Marinus Van Der Lubbe:** Was the young communist who was tried, convicted and executed for the Reichstag fire on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 1933.
- Gestapo:** Were part of the SS and Nazi Germany's secret police force, created by Herman Goering in 1933 and controlled by Heinrich Himmler.
- Joseph Goebbels:** A Nazi Party politician who was the Minister for Propaganda. He coordinated Kristallnacht.
- Ernst Röhm:** He was a German military officer and an early member of the Nazi Party. Also head of the SA.
- Heinrich Himmler:** He was a leading member of the Nazi Party and commander of the SS. He oversaw all the extermination and concentration camps as well as the Einsatzgruppen.
- Herman Goering:** He was a leading member of the Nazi Party , was a WW1 veteran and the original leader of the Gestapo before Himmler. He was made the economics minister in 1939 and was a part of Germanys 4 year plan.
- Storm troopers (SA):** Hitler's brown shirted supporters who were employed to beat up opponents and guard meetings.
- Schutzstaffel (SS):** originally formed as a squad of elite bodyguards for Hitler, they later ran the concentration and death camps.
- Reichsbanner:** An organization formed by members of the Social Democratic Party, the German Centre party, and German Democratic Party in 1924; its goal was to defend parliamentary democracy. They were prepared to use violence and often clashed with Nazi Stormtroopers and members of the Communist Party.

**Interpretation B:** From a TV interview in the 1970's with Heipke Remer, a former member of the League of German Maidens, a youth group.

### 3 PART: Interpretation Question

#### Part 1 (4 marks)

How does Interpretation B differ from interpretation C about why Germans supported Hitler?

#### Part 2 (4 marks)

Why might the authors of Interpretation B and C have a different interpretation about supporting Hitler?

#### Part 3 (8 marks)

Which interpretation do you find more convincing about why Germans supported Hitler?

"People were enthusiastic and accepted events because they had got work and bread again. Even we children were able to meet and be friends in the Hitler Youth when we previously had not been able to understand each other, and had been against one another because our parents held different political views."

"When Hitler came I regarded him as just one of the many political idiots which were springing up all over the place as far back as I could remember in recent times, and I did not take him seriously. With time, however, I gradually – but very gradually. At the beginning I did not believe such mad ideas could find any support in Germany."

**Interpretation C:** From the same TV interview in the 1970's, this time was Sigund Weltlinger, a former member of Berlin Jewish Council set up by the Nazis in April 1933.

### In what ways question (8 marks)

1) In what ways were the lives of Germans affected by the Depression? Explain your answer.

### Describe Question (4 marks)

1) Describe two consequences of the Night of the Long Knives.

### Bullet Point Question (12 marks)

Which of the following was the more important reason why the Nazis became more popular:

- Fear of communism
- the appeal of Hitler and the Nazi Party?

Explain your answer with reference to both reasons.

# Key Events Timeline

**KEY:**

Social

Political

Economical

## The Great Depression takes over Germany (1930)

The Depression had huge impact on Germans because Germany depended on loans from the USA and because it all still owed reparations to the Allies. German business could not pay back the recalled loans so went bankrupt. Millions of Germans lost their jobs. There were 6 million unemployed by late 1932. The mood of optimism in Germany disappeared.

The Nazis were the 8<sup>th</sup> most popular political party with 800,000 votes (1928)

1930

## Brüning resigned as Chancellor (July 1932)

Brüning was an unpopular Chancellor and lost the support of the Reichstag, unfortunately he was the Chancellor when the Great Depression hit Germany. Hindenburg decided to appoint Von Papen as Chancellor even though Hitler now led the largest party in the Reichstag. He felt Hitler would misuse his power. Von Papen also had little support.

## Von Papen called an election (November 1932)

The Nazis votes fell 37.3 per cent to 33.1 per cent. But they were still the biggest party. Von Papen did not have a majority in the Reichstag to support him, so resigned in December 1932.

## Von Schleicher was appointed Chancellor (December 1932)

Hindenburg still did not want to give Hitler the role of Chancellor so appointed Schleicher. He too had no support in the Reichstag and was unpopular. He offered Hitler a position in the government and said that he could be in charge of defense. Hitler refused. Hindenburg became irritated with Schleicher and asked him to resign.

1932

'Our Last Hope: Hitler' poster was created to appeal to different groups in German society (1932)

The Nazis were the most popular party recording nearly 14 million votes (July 1932)

## Different Political Groups fought (1932)

There were dozens of bomb plots, street fights and murders as different political groups fought each other.

## Hitler asked Hindenburg to pass the 'Protection Law' (28<sup>th</sup> February 1933)

Hitler claimed that Reichstag Fire was a communist plot and that he needed the power to deal with Germany's problems.

## Hitler called another election hoping for a large victory (February 1933)

He now had greater influence over newspapers and radios and thought he could use propaganda to get the majority he wanted in the Reichstag. The election was to be in the March.

## New decree, 'Protection of the People and State' (March 1933)

The 'Protection Law' was an emergency decree that gave the police extra powers to arrest people without a trial and to ban meetings. It also banned leading Communist parties from taking part in the election campaign. 4000 Communists were arrested and anti-Communist propaganda was increased.

## The Nazis won the election (5<sup>th</sup> March 1933)

Nazis got their best results ever with 288 seats, it still wasn't the majority.

1933

## Hitler was appointed Chancellor (30<sup>th</sup> January 1933)

Hindenburg and von Papen met with other leading right wing politicians and army leaders to discuss the political crisis. Von Papen persuaded Hindenburg to appoint Hitler as Chancellor with himself as Vice-Chancellor and a majority of non-Nazis in government. They thought that they could control Hitler this way. Hindenburg had very little choice so did so.

## The Reichstag Fire (27<sup>th</sup> February 1933)

A week before the election the Reichstag caught on fire. It was said that a young Communist called Marinus Van der Lubbe started the fire. He was arrested. The Nazis used the fire to blame the Communists and put people off voting left, however some believe the Nazis started the fire themselves for the propaganda.

## Gleichschaltung – Co-ordination (7<sup>th</sup> April 1933)

Hitler used the Enabling act to put the Nazis in charge of local governments councils and police. The Nazis, they rounded up political opponents and put them in concentration camps. As well as this, the Nazis took control of the media such as; newspapers and radio stations, burnt all Jewish and un-German books and encouraged anti-Semitism. Anyone who went against the Nazis would be terrorised.

## Removing of the opposition – Trade unions (2<sup>nd</sup> May 1933)

Hitler banned all trade unions, took away their money and threw their leaders in jail. All workers had to join the new Nazi controlled German Labour Front.

## Removing of the opposition – Political Parties (14<sup>th</sup> July 1933)

The only political party that was allowed was the Nazis. The 'Law Against the Formation of New Parties' stated that anyone that tried to create a party would be imprisoned for 3 years. Germany was now a one party state.

## Enabling Act (23<sup>rd</sup> March 1933)

The Enabling Act gave Hitler the power to pass laws for four years without consulting the Reichstag. This was just like power Article 48 gave the President. The Reichstag approved the Act by a huge majority after Hitler intimidated its members using the SA and the SS.

## Hitler became Der Führer, Hindenburg died and the Oath of Loyalty (2<sup>nd</sup> August 1934)

President Hindenburg died aged 84. Hitler declared himself President in addition to being Chancellor. The army swore an oath of loyalty to Hitler. Hitler was now the Supreme Leader (Der Führer).

1934

## Night of the Long Knives (30<sup>th</sup> June 1934)

The SA had been the basis of the Nazi success since the 1920s, particularly by intimidating opponents. It had grown massively to 2.5 million members. It was now seen as an unruly mob and a threat to Hitler's control. It was also a rival to the army, which had only 100,000 soldiers. In the Night of the Long Knives, SA leaders including Ernst Röhm were killed. The SA continued to exist but were much less important. Many members moved to the army of the SS. The SS came under the direct control of Hitler as his private army.

## KEY WORDS

**Work and Bread:** Hitler promised work and bread to the German people during the Economic depression when they were struggling to get jobs and provide for their families.

**National Labour Service (RAD -Reichsarbeitsdienst):** Men aged between 18-25 had to spend 6 months in RAD building Autobahns, schools, hospitals. They wore uniform, barely got paid and lived in camps. Unemployment dropped.

**Autobahns:** High speed motorways built by Nazi Germany in the 1930's to create jobs.

**Rearmament:** Building weapons and forces. It was used as a means to fight unemployment in the 1930's.

**Conscription:** A system where people are forced to join the army or navy.

**Economics:** The state of a country or region in terms of the production and consumption of goods and services and the supply of money.

**Four Year Plan:** An attempt by the Nazis to increase agriculture and industrial production, regulate imports and exports, and achieve self-sufficiency in the production of raw materials.

**Autarky:** In English means self-sufficient. A country wants to produce things for itself without importing it from elsewhere.

**Beauty of Labour (SDA – Schönheit der Arbeit):** Improved working conditions, canteens were cheaper and there were better washing facilities.

**Strength Through Joy (KDF- Kraft Durch Freud):** Gave cheap theatre and cinema tickets to workers, organized courses, trips and events. Workers were also offered cut-price cruises on the latest luxury liners.

**Volkswagen (VW):** In English, 'The Peoples car'. Thousands of workers saved 5 marks a week in a state scheme to buy a VW Beetle. It was a symbol of prosperous new Germany. No workers received their car as production was halted for WW2.

**Rationed:** When certain foods, goods and fuel that are in short supply are spread more equally among people, by giving people a fixed amount.

**Total War:** Full-scale war where any weapons can be used and where usual rules of war are ignored.

**Refugee:** A person who has moved from their home usually as it is unsafe and is travelling to, or has arrived, at another place.

**Kinder, Kirche and Küche:** Translates in English to, 'Children, Church and Cooking'. Nazi policy towards women.

**Armament:** Making or equipping the military with weapons and equipment.

**Napolas (National Political Institutes of Education):** Children identified as future Nazi leaders were sent to these schools.

**Adolf Hitler Schools:** Schools set up by the Hitler Youth Organisation. They trained children to be 'ideal Nazis', clever, tough and fiercely loyal to Hitler.

**Little Fellows:** A Nazi club for boys aged 6-10.

**Young Folk:** A Nazi club for boys aged 10-14.

**Hitler Youth:** A Nazi club for boys aged 14-18, all clubs would prepare boys for their futures as Nazi soldiers after 18 years of age.

**Young Girls:** A Nazi club for girls aged 10-14.

**League of German Girls:** A Nazi club for girls aged 14-17, all clubs would prepare girls to be the perfect Nazi housewife.

**Undesirables:** People that didn't fit in the stereotype of an Aryan. Strong and healthy a 'pure' German. Not wanted by Hitler and the Nazis.

**Assassinate:** To murder or kill an important person for political or religious reasons.

**Pacifists:** People who refuse on principle to take part in war or violence.

**Censorship:** The limiting of access to information, ideas or books in order to prevent knowledge or the freedom of thought.

**Kristallnacht:** Translates in English to, 'Night of the Broken Glass'. First violent mass demonstration against Jewish people.

**Aryan:** A person of German or Scandinavian origin, usually fair-haired and blue-eyed; the Nazis believed that Aryans were the superior to all other races. A mythical race from central Europe.

**Master Race:** An elite race of people, to which Hitler believed the Germans belonged.

**Grumbling:** The lowest form of opposition to the Nazis was moaning or 'grumbling'.

**Concordat:** Is an agreement between a state leader and a Pope that states the relationship between Catholic church and a country/ state.

**Euthanasia:** Deliberately killing a person.

**Death Camps:** Extermination camps where prisoners, mainly Jews, were put to death.

**Ghettos:** Areas where members of a particular racial group are forced (or in some cases choose) to live.

**Lebensborn:** 'Fountain of Life', a Nazi movement that tried to stop the decline in Germany's population. It encourages girls and women to reproduce for their country.

**Nuremberg Laws:** A series of laws aimed at excluding German Jews from Reich citizenship and stopping them marrying or having sexual relations with persons of 'German or related blood'.

## Life in Nazi Germany

### KEY INDIVIDUALS AND KEY GROUPS

**Hjalmar Schacht:** He was a German economist, banker, centre-right politician, and co-founder in 1918 of the German Democratic Party. He served as the Currency Commissioner and President of the Reichsbank under the Weimar Republic and was the Minister of Economics from 1934-1937.

**Herman Goering: Schutzstaffel (SS):** He was a leading member of the Nazi Party, was a WW1 veteran and the original leader of the Gestapo before Himmler. He was made the Economics Minister in 1937 and was a part of Germany's 4 year plan.

**German Labour Force (DAF – Deutsche Arbeitsfront):**

**Albert Speer:** He served as the Minister of Armaments and War Production in Nazi Germany during most of World War II.

**Hitler Youth:** It was officially set up in 1933 by Adolf Hitler, however, it originated in 1922 for educating and training male youth age 14-18 in Nazi principles.

**Nationalist Socialist Teachers League (German Teachers League):** It determined whether teachers were politically and racially suitable to educate German children under the Nazi regime.

**Albert Einstein:** Was a Jewish German born Physicist who escaped Germany when the Nazis were in power and went to America. He contributed to the Atomic Bomb which was used during WW2.

**Swing Youth:** Opposed Hitler and the Nazi's rules by listening and playing Jazz and Swing music. Nazi's opposed Jazz and swing music as it was originally created by African Americans who didn't fit into the Nazi 'ideals'.

**Edelweiss Pirates:** A youth group that refused to join the Nazi Youth. They were Anti-Nazi, so much so that they beat up Nazi officials and supported helped army deserters.

**Jews:** Jewish people who follow the religion of Judaism. There were around 500,000 Jews in Germany when the Nazis came to power.

**Nationalist Socialist Women's Organisation:** Was the women's' division of the Nazi Party.

**Gertrud Scholtz Klink:** Was a Nazi Party member and leader of the Nazi Women's' organisation.

**Pope:** The supreme leader of the Catholic Church, and sovereign of the Vatican City State. He signed and then went against the Concordat that Hitler and himself signed.

**Archbishop Galen:** A Catholic Archbishop who openly criticised the Nazi's for their use of terror tactics, euthanasia and concentration camps. The Nazi's could not kill him for his opposition because of his position in the Catholic church but did put him in house arrest until the end of the war.

**Ludwig Muller:** Was the leader of the German Christians, the church under Nazi control, he became the first Reich Bishop in September 1933.

**Einsatzgruppen:** SS mobile death squads responsible for the murder of those thought to be racial or political enemies.

**Stormtroopers (SA):** Hitler's brown shirted supporters who were employed to beat up opponents and guard meetings.

**Regular Police and Law Courts:** Were all under the control of the Nazis and could punish however they felt fit.

**White Rose Group:** An anti-Nazi youth group, made up mainly of university students.

**Hans and Sophie Scholl:** Leaders of the White Rose Group who were brother and sister, who were Munich University students. They were caught and beheaded for their crimes in 1943.

**Claus von Stauffenberg:** A German army officer from WW2 who agreed to detonate the bomb in the July Bomb Plot.

**Beck- Goerdeler group:** It was led by Ludwig Beck and Carl Goerdeler, two former Nazi army generals tried to get the British to remove Hitler and also tried to assassinate Hitler 3 times, this included the July Bomb plot.

**Kreisau Circle:** Consisted of army officers, university professors and aristocrats who were against Hitler and discussed assassinating him.

**German Christians:** A Protestant Group, largely under Nazi control.

# Key Events Timeline

**KEY:**

**Social**

**Political**

**Economical**

## Birth Rates (1900 -1933)

Birth rates decreased from over 2 million per year to under 1 million a year. The Nazis felt that the low birth rate didn't fit with their plans to expand Germany's territory and settle Germans in other areas of Germany.

## Law for the Prevention of diseased Offspring (1933)

The Nazis sterilised undesirable women.

Reich Food Estate set up (September 1933)

Bauhaus movement closed down (1933)

Ludwig Muller became the first Reich Bishop. (September 1933)

Hitler and the Pope signed the Concordat (1933)

The creation of a new network of autobahns gave 100,000 people work (June 1933)

15% of university lecturers and professors were replaced, 1/3 for racial reasons, 1/2 for political reasons. Over 3000 were dismissed. (1933-1934)

Nuremberg Laws for Jews in Germany (1935-1941)

1.7 million mothers had attended at least 1 of the motherhood courses. (by March 1939)

Around 3800km of highway had been built (1938)

WW2 started (1939)

Plans were created for 'a final solution to the Jewish Question'. (1941)

Archbishop Galen, openly criticised Nazis for their terror tactics, Euthanasia and concentration camps. (August 1941)

Hitler and the Nazis had attacked and defeated 6 European countries. (by 1940)

Albert Speer was made Armaments Minister and told to prepare for total war. (1942)

## Conscription (1935 - 1940)

18-25 year old men forced to join the armed forces for at least 2 years. Within 5 years the army grew from 100,000 to 1,400,000.

970,000 babies were born in Germany in 1933 by 1939 it had risen to 1,413,000. (1933-1939)

The Pope issued a statement where he said "with burning anxiety" that the Nazis were "hostile to Christ and his church." (1937)

The persecutions of the Jews increased during WW2 And started killing undesirables. (1939)

In WW2 women had to work in factories whilst men fought. (1939-1945)

The Warsaw Ghetto uprising lasted 43 days. (1943)

## Describe Question (4 marks)

1) Describe two ways the Nazis spread their messages.

## In what ways question (8 marks)

1) In what ways would the behaviour of ordinary Germans be affected by the police state? Explain your answer.

## Bullet Point Question (12 marks)

Which of the following was the more important reason why resistance and opposition to Hitler was not effective:

- the strength of the Nazi police state
- the weaknesses of the protesters?

Explain your answer with reference to both reasons.

1930

Time given for PE in schools trebled (the 1930's)

1934

1938

1942

1946

The Farmers were unhappy and suffering when others were doing well. (Late 1920's)

1932

Hitler set up the Hitler Youth Organisation (1922)

Hitler banned all trade unions (2nd May 1933)

Hjalmar Schacht appointed the Minister of Economics (1933)

Hitler banned all youth groups such as; cub scouts and church youth groups, except the Hitler Youth (1933)

Hitler delivered a speech outlining what the ideal teenager should look like. (1935)

1936

Berlin Olympics (1936)

A law for the 'Incorporation of German Youth', gave the Hitler Youth equal status at home and school. (1936)

Goering made the Minister of Economics (1936)

Severe food shortages in Germany. Food and clothing had to be rationed (November 1939 onward)

Kristallnacht (9th November 1938)

1940

Hitler Youth was made compulsory (1939)

Hitler's armies attacked the USSR (Russia). (1941)

Britain and America started pounding Germany with bombs. (1942)

1944

Treblinka Uprising (1943)

It was beginning to look like Germany was doomed to be defeated. (1944)

Around 7 million foreign workers had been brought in from countries that Germany had conquered to work as slave labour in factories. (1944)

The medal of motherhood (The cross of honour) was awarded, on Hitler's mothers birthday, to mothers who had given birth to a significant amount of children. (12th August 1939 - 1945)

The Wannasee Conference (1942) set up the Final Solution.

The July Bomb Plot (AKA Operation Valkyrie (1942)



## 3 PART: Interpretation Question

### Part 1 (4 marks)

How does Interpretation B differ from interpretation A about the Hitler Youth clubs?

### Part 2 (4 marks)

Why might the authors of Interpretation A and B have a different interpretation about Hitler Youth clubs?

### Part 3 (8 marks)

Which interpretation do you find more convincing about the Hitler Youth clubs?

"I remember with more pleasure the weekend outings, the hikes, sports, campfires and youth hosteling. Occasionally there would be field exercise with neighboring groups. I began to play truant from school as work for the Hitler Youth took up more and more of my time and energy. I would often leave the house at 5:00 am and only arrive at school for the second or third lesson."

**Interpretation A:** From Account Rendered by Melita Maschmann (1964). Maschmann joined the League of German Girls in March 1933. She was arrested after the war as a Nazi Party member, and was sent to prison.

**Interpretation B:** Adapted from an account by a young German, Arno Klonne, whose parents were teachers and had and had access to banned books. In his account he remembers his time in the Hitler Youth during 1940.

"When I was older, I became a Hitler Youth leader. I found the need for absolute obedience unpleasant. The Nazis preferred people not to have a mind of their own. In our troop the activities consisted almost entirely of endless military drill. Even if sport or shooting practice or a singsong was planned, we always had to drill first."