

## Key issue 1: The Establishment & early years of the Weimar Republic

### KEY WORDS

- **Kaiser**- German word for emperor.
- **Abdication**- renouncing a position or power or authority
- **Chancellor**- the head of the government
- **Reichstag**- the elected assembly or parliament of Germany. This is the building where the assembly meet (bit like our House of Parliament).
- **Social Democrat**- a left wing political movement. They also campaign for political reforms for all men and adults e.g. all able to vote.
- **Constitution**- the written set of rules of how a country is governed. Laws can only be passed as long as they do not conflict with the constitution.
- **Proportional representation**- a system of elections in which parties are allocated seats in parliament according to the proportion of votes they get.
- **Democracy**- a political system where citizens of the country are able to elect their chosen government, usually through an electoral process.
- **Democratic Republic**: A system of running the country in which people have the vote for the government they want.
- **Freikorps**- parliamentary groups of nationalists. They were anti-republican and made up of ex-soldiers. They formed after November 1918.
- **Communism**- A left wing political view of a party. They believe in state ownership and equal distribution of wealth.
- **Autocracy**- a political system in which a single figure possesses unrestrained power.
- **Inflation**- when the prices of good rise
- **Hyperinflation**- Rapid increase of money
- **Armistice**- Agreement to stop fighting
- **November Criminals**- Weimar politicians blamed for the stabbing them in the back by signing the Treaty of Versailles.
- **Article 48**- Gave the President emergency powers in times of a crisis
- **Coalition**- When a group of 2 or more political parties form a government together
- **Extremists**- Groups that believe in violent & radical ideas.
- **Spartacists**- Revolutionary Communist who wanted Germany to be run.
- **Putsch**- A violent attempt to overthrow the government.
- **Treaty of Versailles**- A treaty that outlined what would happen to Germany at the end of the war
- **Article 231**- War guilt Clause of Treaty of Versailles
- **Diktat**- Dictated peace
- **Dolschstoss**- Stab in the back
- **Passive resistance**: Protesting against the government or laws by using non-violent acts.

### Essay Question

***'The impact of the Treaty of Versailles on the new Weimar Republic between 1919 and 1924 was more damaging economically than politically.'***

***Assess the validity of this view.***

### KEY INDIVIDUALS AND KEY GROUPS

- Kaiser Wilhelm II:** Emperor of Germany, King of Prussia and Supreme commander of the German Army 1888 - 1918
- 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, then the first chancellor and later President of Germany of the Weimar Republic.
- Freikorps**- Ex- soldiers of the German army.
- Wolfgang Kapp**- Leader of the Freikorps and Berlin politician
- Rosa Luxemburg/Karl Liebknecht**- Leader of the Spartacists
- Spartacists**- Communists, who wanted Germany to be run by the working classes
- 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.
- 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 of Germany

### Source Question

*Comrades! The events of the last few days have brought a bitter awakening from our dreams. The motto of the Revolution of 9 November was the idea of the unity of the various socialist movements. But the bourgeoisie believed that, by the means of the so-called socialist government, they would be able to control the proletarian masses and strangle the socialist revolution. These illusions have now been banished into nothingness. The masses have come to realise that what has been pasted together and called a socialist government is nothing but a government representing the bourgeois counter-revolution, and that whoever continues to tolerate such a state of affairs is working against the proletariat and against socialism!*

From a speech by Rosa Luxemburg to the Founding Congress of the Communist Party of Germany (formerly the Spartacus League), 31 December 1918.

**With reference to this source and your understanding of the historical context, assess the extent of support for the new Republic of 1918**

# Key Events Timeline

**KEY:**

**Social**

**Political**

**Economical**

**Foreign**

**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 it's 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.

**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.

**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.

**Treaty of Berlin** outlined that Germany would remain neutral if the USSR (1922)

**Treaty of Rapallo**-restored relationship with Germany & Russia (1922)

**Kapp Putsch**-attempted putsch by freikorps. Army refused to support the government. Putsch failed when workers went on strike. (March 1920)

**Ruhr invasion**- French & Belgium troops invade the Ruhr over reparation payments. (January 1923)

**Dawes Plan** introduced to ease reparation payments (April 1924)

1916

1917

1918

1919

1920

1922

1924

**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.

**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.

Spartacist uprising-crushed by freikorps- (January 1919).

**Treaty of Versailles (TOV)** is signed (June 1919)

New Weimar constitution set up (August 1919)

1921

1923

Hyperinflation causes social & economic problems (June 1923)

Hitler & the Nazis attempt to seize power in the Beer Hall Putsch in Munich (November 1923)

## Key issue 2: The ‘Golden Age’ of the Weimar Republic, 1924-28

### KEY WORDS

**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.  
**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.  
**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.  
**Locarno Treaty-** Treaty with France and Belgium, Great Britain and Italy. Borders stay the same- friendship improved.  
**League of Nation-** first worldwide intergovernmental organisation whose principal mission was to maintain world peace.  
**Kellogg Briand Pact-** 64 countries agreed to keep their armies for self - all future disagreements by ‘peaceful means’  
**Young Plan-** Reparations reduced from £6 billion to \$1.85 billion. Given longer to pay 59 years.  
**Foreign policies-** Plans made with other countries  
**Economic policies-** Plans made to do with money/jobs  
**Social polices-** Plans made to do with living/working conditions  
**German National Socilaist Workers’ Party (NSDAP)-** The Nazi Party  
**KPD-** Communist Party  
**Centre Party-** Represented the interest of the Catholic Church  
**DDP-** German Democratic Party- a liberal pro republican part  
**Rapollo Treaty-** allowed Germany to rebuild aircraft in the USSR- rebuilt relations with Germany & the USSR

### Essay Question

**‘Stresemann’s foreign policy had done little to improve Germany’s international position by 1929.’ Assess the validity of this view.**

### KEY INDIVIDUALS AND KEY GROUPS

**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. 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.  
**Charles Dawes-** US Vice President- helped to set up the Dawes Plan  
**George Grosz-** Artist/member of the Communist Party- showed impact of war- criticised government  
**Otto Dix-** Painter  
**Walter Gropius -** Founder of the Bauhaus movement/architect  
**Fritz Lang-** Film producer  
**Marlene Dietrich-** Actress  
**Arthur Moeller/Oswald Spengles-** Political writers and critics of German democracy & Weimar Republic  
**Erich Remarque-** Anti- War writer- wrote ‘All quiet on the Western Front.’  
**Hjalmar Schact-** Reich Currency Commissioner.

### Source Question

*If we compare the present position with that of four years ago, we see a very great advance in regard to the economic development of the country as a whole. The standard of living of the masses of the people has risen, and in the case of the great part of the working class has again reached or surpassed the pre-war level.*

From a report of the Commissioner of the Reichsbank, 1928.

**With reference to this source and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of this source when looking at the success of economic recovery in the late 1920s.**

# Key Events Timeline

**KEY:**

Social

Political

Economical

Foreign

**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. German people once again had jobs and wages to spend.

1924- Public Assistance system

**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.

Stresemann died of a stroke. (1929)

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

The Rentenmark replaced the Reichmark in order to stabilise the economy (1924)

Frederick Ebert dies (1925)

**Hindenburg became president (February 1925)**

**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.

**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 end of Allied occupation**

1924

1924

1928

1929

1930

1925

1926

**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.

**Germany joins the League of Nations (9th 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.

**Kellogg Briand Pact signed 1928- 64 countries agreed to keep their armies for self - all future disagreements by 'peaceful means' .**

**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.

**Mein Kampf was published (18th 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 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 reveled in the new freedom- particularly in cities such as Berlin. Clubs and cinemas thrived. German art and architecture became internationally famous.



## Key issue 3: The collapse of democracy, 1928-33

### 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.

### Source Question

*If Your Excellency! We believe it is necessary to create a government independent of the parliamentary parties. The outcome of the Reichstag elections of 6 November has demonstrated that the present cabinet has failed to find sufficient support among the German people. We declare ourselves to be free from any specific party-political interests. But we recognise in the nationalist movement, which is sweeping through our people, the beginning of an era of rebirth for the German economy, which can only be achieved by overcoming class conflict. The transfer of responsibility for leading a Presidential cabinet to the leader of the largest nationalist group would sweep millions of people, who at present still stand on the sidelines, into active participation.*

*Adapted from a letter sent by industrialists to President Hindenburg in November 1932, signed by Bosch, Schacht, Thyssen, Krupp and twenty others.*

With reference to this source and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of this source in explaining why Hitler was appointed Chancellor in January 1933?

### 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 Munich 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 Germany's 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.

### Essay Question

***“The key reason for Hitler becoming Chancellor in 1933 was Brüning's failures in the years 1930 to 1932.” Assess the validity of this view.***

# 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

## Key issue 4: The Nazi dictatorship, 1933-39

### 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: Schutzaffel (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.

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

**Gertrud Scholtz Klank:** 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.

**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.

**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.

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

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

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

The Warsaw Ghetto uprising lasted 43 days. (1943)

Reich Food Estate set up (September 1933)

Bauhaus movement closed down (1933)

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

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

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

Hitler and the Pope signed the Concordat (1933)

15% of university lecturers and professors were replaced, 1/2 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)

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

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

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

Around 3800km of highway had been built (1938)

WW2 started (1939)

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)

1930

1934

1938

1942

1945

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

1932

Hjalmar Schacht appointed the Minister of Economics (1933)

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

1936

Berlin Olympics (1936)

Goering made the Minister of Economics (1936)

Kristallnacht (9th November 1938)

1940

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

1944

Treblinka Uprising (1943)

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

Hitler set up the Hitler Youth Organisation (1922)

Hitler banned all trade unions (2nd May 1933)

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

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

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

Hitler Youth was made compulsory (1939)

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

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)

**Source Question**

From a speech by Robert Ley, leader of the German Labour Front, to the annual meeting of the 'Strength Through Joy' organisation, on the anniversary of its establishment, November 1934.  
 It was the Führer who, as usual, set the tone. He said, "I want every worker to be guaranteed sufficient vacation time and I want all his free time to be genuinely relaxing". This will of the Führer was like a sacred command. This is why we have undertaken a systematic organisation of workers into the Labour Front. The essence of life cannot be reduced to a simple matter of bread and butter or to one of wage issues. We have learned, rather, that life is a sum of many things – participation in culture, taking in the sights of splendour that our Fatherland has to offer, the design of the workplace, keeping the body physically fit, awakening folkloric customs, traditions, and sensibilities. Never before in history has an upheaval of this overwhelming magnitude been achieved and yet this is the miracle of what we have done. And so it is, that after not even two years in existence, Strength Through Joy is a resounding success.  
 With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying Nazi policies towards the workers in the years 1933 to 1939.

**Essay Question**

**'Nazi terror created a totalitarian State in Germany in the years 1933 to 1939.'**  
 Assess the validity of this view.

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

The July Bomb Plot (AKA Operation Valkyrie (1942)





## Key issue 5: The racial State

### KEY WORDS

- **Untermenschen**- less than human
- **Aryan race**- belief that the Germans were the master race
- **Roma- travelers**- groups of people who have come from Central and Eastern Europe.
- **Volksmeinschaft** -People's community
- **A socials** -those who did not conform to Nazi norms, including Beddoes, prostitutes and pass office, but also the mentally, and physically disabled
- **Lebensraum**- living space
- **Boycott**- Withdrawing from taking part
- **Nuremberg Laws**: A series of laws aimed at excluding German Jews from Reich citizenship and stopping them marrying or having sexual relations with persons or 'German or related blood.
- **Anschluss** – The takeover of Austria, by Germany in March 1938
- **Reichkristallnacht**- Night of the broken glass
- **Pogroms**- An organised massacre of an ethnic group
- **Kindertransport**- an operation to evacuate Jewish children from Nazi-controlled areas of Europe to the United Kingdom between 1938 and 1940.
- **Madagascar plan**- a plan to forcibly relocate the Jewish population of Europe to the island of Madagascar
- **Ghettos**- the Jewish quarter in a city/Areas were members of a particular racial group are forced (or in some cases choose) to live.
- **Euthanasia**: Deliberately killing a person.
- **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.
- **Master Race**: An elite race of people, to which Hitler believed the Germans belonged.
- **Death Camps**: Extermination camps where prisoners, mainly Jews, were put to death.
- **Eugenics**- the belief that a race or group of people could be genetically improved through selection
- **Mischlinge**- someone who was believed to be half- breeds (half Jew/half aryan)

### KEY INDIVIDUALS AND KEY GROUPS

- **Einsatzgruppen**: SS mobile death squads responsible for the murder of those thought to be racial or political enemies
- **Jews**: Jewish people who follow the religion of Judaism. Their were around 500,000 Jews in Germany when the Nazis came to power.
- **Religious sects**- A group that have different religious beliefs to the main body
- **Joseph Goebbels**- Propaganda minister
- **Heinrich Himmler**- Senior member of the SS- was in charge of overseeing the 'Final Solution.'
- **Adolf Eichmann**- Senior member of the SS- oversaw the mass deportation of Jews to ghettos & concentration camps.
- **Reinhard Heydrich**- SS member in charge of the Gestapo
- **Central Office for the Jewish Emigration**- head office that dealt with Jewish emigration from 1933 onwards. 150,000 Jews were deported, but they had to pay a large "tax" before they could leave.

### Source Question

**From the recollection of a Lithuanian policeman involved with the Einzatgruppen in 1941. This was a recorded in an interview for a sound archive after 1945, it was later published in a book.**

When the Jews were gathered in this large area, they were taken to the pits in which they were laid down and shot. Some soldiers stood on the banks to shoot, others took the Jews to the pits. We shot them once they had climbed down and lay down, then others would lie on top of the dead and we them and so on. If someone said, 'I cannot shoot', the Germans ordered, 'Get in line with the others', and that's it. We felt bad and cursed them. We were given Russian guns and rifles. The clothes of the Jews were burnt. They were all shot, mostly in the chest or the head. It could be a thousand or just one or two hundred.

**With reference to this source and your understanding of the historical context, assess the extent of support for the new Republic of 1918**

### Essay Question

***To what extent was Josef Goebbels responsible for Reichkristallnacht?  
Assess the validity of this view.***

# Key Events Timeline

**KEY:**

Social

Political

Economical

Foreign

**Mass round up of beggars- sent to concentration camps**

**April 1933**  
Restricted the number of Jewish children that could attend state schools & universities. Boycott of Jewish shops . Civil Service laws introduced which sacked Jews from Civil Service jobs.

**September 1935**  
Nuremberg Laws passed. These included:  
**Law for the Protection of German Blood & Honour**- this outlaws marriage or sexual relations between Aryans and non Aryans.  
**Half Jews (mischlinge)** had to serve in law ranks.  
**Reich Citizenship Law**- Jews & other non Aryans were no longer classed as German citizens.

**April 1938**  
Decree of Registration of Jewish Property- Jews had to register property & businesses. This led to these property being confiscated by the state later on.

**July 1938**  
Jewish doctors, dentists and lawyers were forbidden to work or treat Aryans.

**August 1938**  
Jewish women had to put the name 'Sarah' as their middle name and males had to use 'Israel.'

**Euthanasia programme started 1939**  
Targeted towards mentally and physically disabled children. The T4 programme was responsible for the murder of 5000 children in special hospitals where they were either starved to death or given lethal injections.

**December 1941**  
Jews ordered to wear the Star of David

**July 1941**  
Einsatzgruppen ordered to kill Jews & Communists in the Soviet Union

**June 1941**  
German invasion of the Soviet Union

**1941-** Euthanasia programme halted after protests from the Roman Catholic Cardinal Galen.

**1945- End of the war**  
11 million killed in the Holocaust- 6 million of them were Jews.

1933

1934

1935

1937

1939

1941

1943

1945

**July 1933**  
Law for the Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Diseases- compulsory sterilization of 'inferior' groups- anyone with schizophrenia, disability, epilepsy, alcoholic, Roma (Gypsies), "asocial elements," and Afro-Germans. Compulsory abortion put into affect

**October 1933**  
The Reich Press Law- introduced strict censorship & control of the press.

**November 1933**  
Religious sects like Mormons, Jews, Christian Scientist, 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists banned.

1936

**1936-** An 'asocial colony set up in Hashude in northern Germany to 're-educate' asocials.

1938

**September 1938**  
Jews were banned from attending public places such as theatres, cinemas and concerts

**Between 1938-39**  
Jewish children sent to Britain on the Kindertransport

**October 1938**  
Jews had to have the letter J on their passport to identify them

**November 1938**  
Jews could no longer claim state welfare benefits.

**November 1938**  
Reichkristallnacht- destroying of Jewish shops, homes, businesses and synagogues.

1940

**1940- Madagascar Plan**  
Plan was to resettle 4 million Jews to Madagascar

**February 1940**  
First ghetto set up

**October 1940**  
Warsaw ghetto set up

1942

1944

## Key issue 6: The impact of war

### KEY WORDS

- **Autarky**- Being economically independent and self sufficient.
- **Reichswehr**- The German army
- **Total War**- when a state mobilises its entire population & materials to support the war effort.
- **Volksmeinschaft**- people's community
- **Rationing**- allow someone to have only a certain amount of food & clothing.
- **Propaganda**- information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.
- **Indoctrination**- process of teaching a person or group to accept a set of beliefs uncritically.
- **Pearl Harbour**- US naval base near Honolulu, Hawaii that was attacked by Japan
- **Hitler myth**- symbolized Hitler as a god like favour which was promoted with the use of propaganda.
- **D-day**- the day (6 June 1944) in the Second World War on which Allied forces invaded northern France by means of beach landings in Normandy.
- **Conscription**- compulsory enlistment for state service, typically into the armed forces.
- **Volksturm**- Home guard
- **Fuhrer** –leader of Germany
- **Patriotic**- having or expressing devotion to and vigorous support for one's country.
- **Armaments**- military weapons and equipment.
- **Stalingrad**- One of the most decisive battles on the Eastern Front in the Second World War where the Russian army defeated the German army.
- **POW**- Prisoners of war
- **Wansee Conference**- high-ranking Nazi Party and German government officials gathered to discuss and coordinate the implementation of the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question."
- **Death march**- when Jews were forced to march to their death
- **Nazi- Soviet Pact**- pact formed in 1939 between the USSR & Germany- it included a 10-year non-aggression pact between Germany and the Soviet Union. It also included provisions for economic cooperation and territorial expansion

### Essay Question

*'The German economy was adapted successfully to meet the demands of war before 1945.'*

*Assess the validity of this view.*

### KEY INDIVIDUALS AND KEY GROUPS

- **Edelweiss pirates**- groups of youths who opposed Nazi rule. The Edelweiss Pirates were primarily opposed to the way the Hitler Youth movement had taken over the lives of youths in Hitler's Germany.
- **Swing Youth**- teenagers who rebelled against the Nazis. They were typically from more wealthy families.
- **White Rose Group**- University students who opposed Nazi rule and actions particularly their treatment of Jews.
- **Bishop Von Galen**- Catholic Cardinal who spoke out against the Euthanasia programme.
- **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**- Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German pastor and theologian known for his opposition to National Socialism
- **Archbishop Frings of Cologne**- Spoke out against the killing of POWs & persecution of Jews.
- **Kreisau Circle**- Group of aristocrats lawyers, SPD politicians and churchmen who believed in personal freedom & individual rights.
- **Colonel Claus Von Stauffenburg**- army leader who attempted to kill Hitler.

### Source Question

**From the final leaflet of the White Rose movement, written after the surrender of the German Sixth Army at Stalingrad, 31 January 1943.**

Fellow Students!

Our people are deeply shaken by the fall of our men at Stalingrad. Three hundred and thirty thousand German men were senselessly and irresponsibly driven to their deaths by the brilliant strategy of our First World War corporal. Führer, we thank you! The German people are in ferment. The day of reckoning for German youth has come with the most abominable tyrant our people have ever been forced to endure. In the name of German youth, we demand Hitler's state restore our personal freedom, the most precious treasure that we have, out of which he has swindled us in the most wretched way.

The Hitler Youth and SS have tried to drug us and regiment us in the most promising years of our lives to become godless, arrogant and conscienceless exploiters and executioners.

The name of Germany will remain forever stained with shame if German youth do not finally arise, fight back and smash our tormentors. The German people look to us; the dead of Stalingrad beseech us!

**With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying resistance to the Nazis in the years 1941 to 1944.**

# Key Events Timeline

**KEY:**

Social

Political

Economical

Foreign

**1939**  
Invasion of Poland

**August 1939**  
Rationing introduced

**September- November 1939**  
Clothing rationing introduced

**1939**

**Jan 1941**- Wannsee conference held

**1941**  
Mass arrests of Swing Club members

**April 1941**  
German forces invade Yugoslavia & Greece & then pushed onto North Africa.

**June 1941**  
Invasion of the Soviet Union/end of blitzkrieg. Increased number of POWs used as slave labour

**1941**

**1943**- Age of conscription decreases to 17 from 19

**Jan 1943**  
German army defeated at Stalingrad which was a turning point for the war. Hitler myth starts to break down.

**February 1943**  
Total War is introduced by Goebbels.

**Jan 1942**- Britain forces stopped the German & Italian advances in North Africa

**April 1942**- Food rations reduced further

**1943**

**1944**  
Goebbels talks of a secret weapon to help boost morale.

**June 1944**  
D-Day landings- a second front is opened up in Western Europe.

**1945**  
Start of death marches

**1945**

**1940**

**1940**  
Bishop Galen speaks out against the Euthanasia programme.

**December 1941**  
Germany declares war on the USA after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

**1941**  
Mood in Germany dampens as the war is not going as well as they hoped & because German forces were halted outside of Moscow

**1942**

**November 1942**  
Britain defeat Germany at El Alamein

**March 1943**  
Assassination attempt on Hitler failed when a bomb was planted on his aero plane

**1944**

**July 1944**  
Another failed assassination attempt on Hitler. A bomb was placed in the headquarters by Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg. Hitler survived and the conspirators were arrested, tortured & executed. The army was put under SS control.

**1945**  
Germany is defeated & Hitler myth destroyed

**Nov 1944**  
13 leaders of the Cologne Edelweiss pirates are publicly hanged.

**1941-1943**

Albert Speer's economic miracle- Production of German aircraft increased by 200%/tank production increased by 250%