

Key Vocabulary...	
Kaiser	The German word for Emperor and the Head of State of Germany between 1871 and 1918.
Dictatorship	A system of government in which one person has absolute power to make all decisions.
Left-Wing	Political ideas which are focussed around lots of government intervention, especially in helping poorer people.
Right-Wing	Political ideas which are focussed less government intervention, and the right to freely trade to make money.
Reichstag	The elected parliament of Germany, containing representatives from across the country.
Chancellor	The leader of the German Government responsible for day-to-day running of the country.
Hyperinflation	Prices of goods rise so fast that money becomes worthless.
Democracy	The idea that a nation should choose its own leaders.

Timeline		
German Unification	1871	Germany becomes one nation instead of many smaller states under the leadership of Prussia.
Wilhelm II becomes Kaiser	1888	The 29-year-old grandson of Queen Victoria, Wilhelm becomes the leader of Germany.
First Navy Law	1898	The Kaiser begins to spend huge amounts of money to build a large German Navy.
World War One	1914	Germany is in a state of total war against Britain, France and Russia.
Spartacist Uprising	1919	Extreme left-wing socialists attempt to overthrow the government.
The Treaty of Versailles	1919	The defeated Germany is forced to accept harsh terms for peace after losing WWI.
The Kapp Putsch	1920	A group of Freikorps led by Wolfgang Kapp attempt to overthrow the government.
France and Belgium invade the Ruhr	1923	France and Belgium try to make Germany pay reparations and this leads to hyperinflation.
The Munich Putsch	1923	Unhappy with the German Government, Adolf Hitler tries to overthrow it and fails.
Dawes Plan	1924	USA lends money to Germany.
Locarno Pact	1925	Germany makes a series of deals with the other Great Powers.
Germany joins the League of Nations	1926	Germany is finally allowed to join the League and become respected as a nation.

Important People	
Kaiser Wilhelm II	Ruled Germany from 1888-1918 when he abdicated.
Friedrich Ebert	Leader of the German Socialist Party (SPD), the largest party in the German Reichstag.
Gustav Stresemann	Served as German Foreign Minister from 1924-9. Solved lots of problems including hyperinflation.
Adolf Hitler	Fought in WWI for Germany and then took control of the German Workers' Party and tried to take over Munich in 1923.

What changed over the period?

Germany began the period as monarchy, with the Kaiser in overall control he could choose not to listen to the Reichstag, who were the elected representatives of the people. The First World War exhausted German industry and the German people and the Kaiser's reign did not survive. He abdicated meaning that he gave up his power. Germany then experimented with true democracy but there were huge social and economic problems to overcome.

- Always Remember...**
- Germany was industrialising fast before WWI, this meant that she was very quickly building factories, producing goods and as a result many people moved from the countryside to the cities to find jobs.
 - The First World War caused huge social and economic problems.
 - There was a huge amount of political violence in the early 1920s, such as the Spartacist Uprising, the Kapp Putsch and the Munich Putsch.

Exam questions

Describe two problems the Kaiser faced before 1914. (4)

In what ways did WWI affect the lives of the German people? (8)

Which of the following posed a greater threat to the Weimar Republic? (12)

- Political violence
- Economic problems.

Key Vocabulary...

Depression	A period of economic problems where there is a drop in industrial production and businesses struggle.
Dictatorship	A system of government in which one person has absolute power to make all decisions.
Left-Wing	Political ideas which are focussed around lots of government intervention, especially in helping poorer people.
Right-Wing	Political ideas which are focussed less government intervention, and the right to freely trade to make money.
Reichstag	The elected parliament of Germany, containing representatives from across the country.
Chancellor	The leader of the German Government responsible for day-to-day running of the country.
Proportional Representation	A system of elections which results in weak governments in which many parties must work together.
Unemployment	The amount of people in an area who do not have a job.

Timeline

The Wall Street Crash	1929	A financial collapse in the USA which caused a depression in most of the world.
Huge increases in support for the Nazis	1929-32	Membership of the Nazi party increased by millions in this period.
Four Chancellors in 12 months	1932	The government was paralysed as four chancellors came and went.
Hitler appointed Chancellor	1933	In January, President Hindenberg appointed Hitler as Chancellor.
The Reichstag Fire	1933	In February, the Reichstag building burned down and a communist was blamed.
Hitler eliminates his political opposition	1933-34	Hitler uses his power to destroy the German communist party as well as other opposite groups.
Death of President Hindenberg	1934	Paul von Hindenberg died, allowing Hitler to declare himself dictator of Germany.
Night of the Long Knives	1934	Hitler sends the SS to kill or imprison the leaders of the SA.

Important People

Adolf Hitler	An extreme German nationalist who led the Nazi party and was dictator of Germany from 1934 until 1945.
Ernst Rohm	Leader of the SA or Sturmabteilung, a private army who were part of the Nazi party.
Marinus van der Lubbe	A Dutch communist who was blamed for the Reichstag fire, allowing Hitler to hunt down many German communists.
Paul von Hindenberg	A famous German general who became President of Germany until his death in 1934.

What changed over the period?

By the late 1920s Germany was recovering from WWI and employment, living standards and cultural achievements were on the rise. The Wall Street Crash in the USA in 1929 caused global financial problems and Germany was one of the hardest hit, due to her reliance on American loans. With huge unemployment and a government in crisis, the German people started to support more extreme political parties in order to try to fix the problems, such as the communists and the Nazi parties.

Always Remember...

- Germany was improving financially by the late 1920s.
- The Wall Street Crash was in 1929, and was unrelated to hyperinflation in 1923.
- Gustav Stresemann died in 1929.
- Hitler used his army of thugs, the SA as well as his private bodyguard, the SS to destroy opposition groups like the KPD.
- Many people, such as farmers and businessmen voted for the Nazis because they were scared of communism.

Exam questions

Describe two problems faced by the Weimar Republic 1929-1932. (4)
In what ways did the Reichstag Fire enable Hitler to come to power? (8)
Which of the following was more important in Hitler becoming Chancellor? (12)

- Appeal of Hitler
- Wall Street Crash

Remember that there are also 3 interpretation questions on the Germany exam paper - Find examples of these at [AQA | Subjects | History](#)

Key Vocabulary...

Economics	The study of the production of wealth and the exchange of goods of services.
Autarky	Hitler's economic plan for self-sufficiency, where Germany would produce everything it needed.
Rationing	The control of how much food and resources are allowed per person - normally during war time.
Hitler Youth	An organisation for teenage boys in Germany where they would learn the kind of skills soldiers need.
League of German Maidens	An organisation for teenage girls in Germany where they would learn housewife and motherhood skills.
Holocaust	The systematic destruction of the European Jews by the Nazis during the 1930s and 1940s.
Final Solution	Another term for the Holocaust as the Nazis considered the Holocaust to be the 'solution' to the 'Jewish problem'.
Anti-Semitism	Prejudice and discrimination against Jewish people.

Timeline

Night of the Long Knives	1934	Hitler uses the SS to kill or imprison the leaders of the SA, consolidating his hold on Germany.
Berlin Olympics	1936	Nazi Germany hosts the Berlin Olympics, the world sees the Nazis as restoring German pride.
Membership of BDM becomes compulsory	1936	All Germany girls must now join the League of German maidens to learn to be wives and mothers.
Kristallnacht	1938	November - Jewish homes and business are burned and over 300 Jews are killed.
Start of WWII	1939	Germany invades Poland which causes France and Britain to declare war on Germany.
Wannsee Conference	1942	Extermination of the Jews is planned by a group of top Nazis.
Hitler commits suicide.	1945	Knowing the Red Army is approaching, Hitler kills himself.
Surrender of Germany in WWII	1945	Germany surrenders to the Allies.

Important People

Adolf Hitler	Dictator of Germany from 1934 until his suicide in 1945.
Hermann Goering	Nazi Minister of Economics from 1936 onwards. Responsible for the Four Year Plan.
Albert Speer	Nazi minister of armaments and responsible for organising Germany for total war.
Joseph Goebbels	Nazi Minister of Propaganda and believed that propaganda was essential for a well-organised society.
Heinrich Himmler	Head of the SS and the person responsible for organising the 'Final Solution', the Nazi plan to eliminate the Jews.

What changed over the period?

Hitler became Chancellor in 1933 and was able to declare himself 'Der Fuhrer', supreme leader of Germany by August 1934. The Weimar Constitution and German democracy was no more. Hitler immediately started to reorganise Germany for war. He prepared young boys to be soldiers and young girls to be mothers to yet more soldiers. His economic plans were designed to make Germany self-sufficient so that the supply problems of WWI would not cause the same problems again. In addition to all of this, Hitler proceeded on his racial 'purification' of Germany by first discriminating against and then exterminating the Jews. However, Germany was defeated in WWII ending these plans.

Always Remember...

- Nazi policies were always working towards the conquest of new lands. Hitler said the Germans required more lebensraum, or living space.
- Nazi ideologies were always going to clash with Christianity, the Nazis did a deal of non-interference with the Catholic Church and attempted to control the protestant churches.
- The Nazis had traditional ideals about the role of women in society and thought they should not work, but should only be concerned with excelling at the roles of wife and mother.

Exam questions

Describe two ways the Nazis persecuted minorities in Germany in the 1930s. (4)
In what ways did the lives of young people change in Nazi Germany? (8)
Which of the following was the most effective method used to control the German people? (12)

- Propaganda
- State terror

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