

Life in Germany 1890-1945

Key Ideas

Contents Page

<u>TOPIC</u>	PAGE
Things you should know – key questions	4-6
<u>1. Germany 1890-1918 - Answers</u>	7-10
Kaiser Wilhelm and the difficulties of ruling Germany	
The growth of parliamentary government	
The influence of Prussian militarism	
Industrialisation	
Social reform and the growth of socialism	
Navy Laws	
Impact of the First World War	
<u>2. Germany 1918 – 1923 - Answers</u>	11-16
The constitution	
The Treaty of Versailles	
Early opposition	
The invasion of the Ruhr	
Hyperinflation	
The Munich Putsch	
<u>3. Germany 1924- 1929 - Answers</u>	17-20
Government action under Stresemann	
Did Germany recover?	
The re-organisation of the Nazi Party	
Reasons for limited support for the Nazi Party	
Was the Nazi Party a dying cause?	
<u>4. Germany 1929-1932 - Answers</u>	21-25
The effects of the Wall Street Crash	
The reasons for the rise of the Nazi party	
Who supported them and why?	
<u>5. Germany January 1933 – August 1934 - Answers</u>	26-31
Hitler as chancellor 1933	
The Reichstag Fire	
The Enabling Law	
Getting rid of opposition	
The Night of the Long Knives	
Hitler becomes Fuhrer for life (dictator)	

6. Germany 1934 – 1945 – Answers

32-57

Maintaining the dictatorship – Nazi methods of control

Opposition to the Nazi regime

Women in the Third Reich

Young people in the Third Reich

The church and religion during the Third Reich

Economic changes in Nazi Germany

Persecution in Nazi Germany – the treatment of minority groups

Effects of WW2 on ordinary Germans

THE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW – KEY QUESTIONS

Topic 1 - Germany 1918 – 1923

Question	Page	Revised	Know
A. What difficulties did Kaiser Wilhelm face?	8		
B. How did Parliamentary government grow?	8		
C. Why was Prussia so important?	8		
D. How did Germany industrialise?	8		
E. How did society change?	9		
F. What was the impact of the Navy Laws?	9		
G. How did WWI change Germany?	10		

Topic 2 - Germany 1918 – 1923

Question	Page	Revised	Know
A. What were the terms of the Weimar Republic's constitution?	12		
B. How did the terms of the constitution make the Weimar Republic vulnerable?	12		
C. How did the public react to the Weimar Republic surrendering from the war?	12		
D. What were the terms of the Treaty of Versailles?	12		
E. How did the Treaty of Versailles weaken Germany/why was it unpopular?	13		
F. Why did the Treaty of Versailles cause problems for the Weimar Republic?	13		
G. What early opposition was there to the Weimar Republic?	14		
H. What was the invasion of the Ruhr?	15		
I. What impact did the invasion of the Ruhr have on the Weimar Republic?	15		
J. What was hyperinflation?	15		
K. What were the effects of hyperinflation?	15		
L. What was the Munich putsch and why did it happen in 1923?	16		
M. Why didn't the Munich Putsch succeed?	16		
N. Was the Munich Putsch a total failure?	16		

Topic 3 - Germany 1924-1929

THE GOLDEN TWENTIES

Question	Page	Revised	Know
A. What were the problems facing the government in 1923?	18		
B. What action was taken by the government to overcome these problems?	18		
C. Did Germany recover between 1924 and 1929?	19		
D. How did the Nazi Party try to increase its support between 1924 and 1929?	19		
E. Why did the Nazi Party fail to increase their support between 1924 and 1929?	20		
F. Was the Nazi Party a dying cause in 1929 (before the Wall Street Crash)?	20		

Topic 4 - Germany 1929 – 1933
THE WALL STREET CRASH AND THE RISE OF THE NAZI PARTY

Question	Page	Revised	Know
A. What effect did the Wall Street Crash have on Germany?	22		
B. Why was there increased support for the Nazis after the Wall Street Crash?	23-24		
C. How did their support grow?	23-24		
D. Who supported the Nazi Party at this time and why?	24-25		

Topic 5 - Germany January 1933 – August 1934
FROM CHANCELLOR TO FUHRER

Question	Page	Revised	Know
A. Why was Hitler appointed chancellor in January 1933?	27		
B. How much power did Hitler have as chancellor?	27		
C. What was the Reichstag Fire?	27		
D. How did the Reichstag Fire increase Hitler's power?	28		
E. What was the outcome of the March election?	29		
F. What was the Enabling Law and how did it get passed?	29		
G. How did the Enabling Law increase Hitler's power/get rid of opposition?	29		
H. How was the Enabling Law used to get rid of opposition?	30		
I. What was the Night of the Long Knives?	30		
J. Why did the Night of the Long Knives happen?	30		
K. How did the Night of the Long Knives increase Hitler's power?	31		
L. What were the final events leading to a Nazi dictatorship?	31		

Topic 6 - Germany 1934 - 1945
LIVING IN THE THIRD REICH

Question	Page	Revised	Know
A. How did Hitler and the Nazis maintain control of the Third Reich?	33		
B. How did Hitler and the Nazis use fear/terror to control Germany?	33		
C. How did the Nazis use indoctrination/propaganda to control Germany?	34		
D. Why was there limited opposition to the Nazi regime?	35		
E. What opposition was there to the Nazi regime and how were they dealt with?	35-37		
F. How much of a threat was opposition to the Nazi regime?	38		
G. What was life like for women before the Third Reich?	39		
H. How did women's lives change during the Third Reich?	39		
I. Why did the Nazis introduce these policies with regards to women?	40		
J. How successful were Nazi policies with regard to women?	40		
K. What were the aims of Nazi policies regarding young people?	41		
L. What policies were introduced by the Nazis with regard to young people?	41-43		
M. How successful were Nazi policies in relation to young people?	44		
N. How did war affect policies towards women and the young?	44		
O. What were the main issues between religion and the Nazi regime?	45		
P. How did Hitler and the Nazis deal with the church in the Third Reich?	45-46		
Q. How effective was Nazi policy regarding religion and the church?	46		
R. What were the aims of Nazi economic policy?	47		
S. What economic policies were introduced by the Nazis?	47-48		
T. How successful were Nazi economic policies?	49		
U. How were minority groups persecuted in Germany?	50-51		
V. How did the treatment of the Jews escalate after war broke out in 1939?	51-52		
W. Why did the Holocaust happen?	53-54		
X. How/Why were the Nazis able to persecute/execute the Jews?	54-56		

TOPIC 1

Germany 1890-1918

THE ANSWERS

A. WHAT DIFFICULTIES DID KAISER WILHELM FACE?

In 1871 a new Germany was formed and all the small states that existed became under the control of one Emperor – Otto Von Bismarck. Wilhelm however was so jealous that he removed him from power in 1888. The ruler had absolute power over government decisions.



When he became Kaiser, Britain was the world's most powerful country; it had the largest empire and dominated world trade. Britain also had a navy that was twice the size of its two closest rivals added together.

Kaiser Wilhelm's aim = to give Germany a 'place in the sun'. He wanted to be in the international limelight and make Germany the most powerful country. He saw himself as the leader of Germany's army and the founder of a great navy.

B. HOW DID PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT GROW?

Germany had become a federated state in 1870 and directly after had its first federal elections in which all men over 25 could vote. As the people of Germany grew used to the idea that their views should be heard they began to vote in increasing numbers. By the last election in 1918 85% of people voted, an increase of 30% from the first election and a much higher percentage than those who vote in modern day Britain.

C. WHY WAS PRUSSIA SO IMPORTANT

Germany and Prussia had originally fought for control of Germany in 1866 as to the two most powerful countries. Prussia had won this battle and became the most important state in the German Republic. Otto Van Bismarck the leader of the Prussians defeated Napoleon and gained legendary status. From here the Prussians felt they should control Germany, the capital of Germany was Berlin which was also in Prussia. Prussians felt special. Many Prussians encouraged Wilhelm's want for a 'place in the sun'.

D. HOW DID GERMANY INDUSTRIALISE?

Domestic policy - Industrialisation

- Wilhelm handpicked his advisors and chancellors
- Kaiser stayed in charge of the military not the Chancellor
- Kaiser based his ideas on the 'New Course' in Germany.
- He focused heavily on **industrialisation**. Kaiser expanded the railways around Germany and made it easy to travel from place to place and increased the standard of living. In 1890 the population of Germany rose from 50 million to 65 million BUT it also left a large group of working class out.

E. HOW DID SOCIETY CHANGE?

Domestic policy – The rise of Socialism

Due to the change in living and working conditions, the Kaiser had to deal with the rise of socialism.

- ✚ In 1888 the Social Democratic Party controlled 20% of the votes but by 1914 they were the largest party in the Reichstag.
- ✚ This rise made it difficult for the Kaiser as many Germans were being protected by Trade Unions which made it difficult for Kaiser Wilhelm who wanted quick industrialisation.



Domestic policy – Social Laws

- The Kaiser also created **social laws** in the 1890's to help the standard of living in Germany.
- The Prostitution Law – 1890
- The Education Law – 1890
- The Great Army Law – 1893
- To expand his empire, he increased the sale tax instead of taxing the rich. This of course upset lots of people and people started turning to their trade unions (to protect their working rights).
- To help – Wilhelm tried to get the citizens support by stopping them from going to their trade unions. The **Workplace Laws in 1891** stated:
 - ✚ Sunday work was prohibited
 - ✚ Employment under the age of 13 was prohibited
 - ✚ Women were not allowed to work for more than 11 hours a day
 - ✚ Industrial courts were set up to stop arguments.

F. WHAT WAS THE IMPACT OF THE NAVY LAWS?

Domestic Policy - Navy League

- In 1898 Tirpitz established the Navy League, an organisation with supporting members which gave him popular when expanding the navy – it argued that the expansion was a patriotic national symbol of Germany's new status in the world
- With the backing of leading industrialists it gained a membership of over a million, and strengthened Tirpitz's position in his handling of the Reichstag.
- When he presented the Naval Bills of 1898 and 1900 they were both passed with substantial majorities.

Domestic Policy - Navy Laws

- **1898** - First German Naval Law, a construction programme to enable the new German Navy to oppose the French and Russian Navies. Nineteen battleships, 8 armoured cruisers, 12 large and 30 light cruisers to be completed by 1904.
- **1900** - Second German Naval Law to challenge Royal Navy. Fleet to be doubled to 38 battleships, 20 armoured cruisers and 38 light cruisers.

G. HOW DID WWI CHANGE GERMANY?

Impact of WWI on Germany

- The policy of 'Unrestricted Submarine Warfare' that was used during the war meant that Germany received few goods from abroad as Britain was trying to starve them out of the war
- National income was about one-third of what it had been in 1913
- The war left 600,000 widows and 2 million children without fathers.
- There were huge gaps between the rich and poor
- A flu epidemic was sweeping through the country affecting people that were already weakened by war rations.
- Kaiser Wilhelm abdicated which left Germany's government unstable.
- Huge numbers of men were conscripted during the First World War in Germany and, as more were called up each year, this left the country short of male labour.
- It was the women upon whom Germany relied to cover the labour shortage, creating an income for families and to stabilise employment. Women increasingly found themselves being treated as inferior to the men they worked alongside and those away fighting. Many employers made it clear that once the war ended their jobs would not be safe and would be re-opened to the men that had left them behind. In the First World War, however, women found it difficult to fit in as part of a working team. They also faced the problem of poor pay, with wages so low that many could not afford to feed their families.
- Many teachers were conscripted into the army, so young people started leaving school at an earlier age because often schools did not have the facilities to carry on with their education.
- The food that was available to civilians was expensive too, with wages often not high enough for families to afford a proper diet.
- By 1916 soap, fat, cheese, butter and eggs were unavailable, while coal, shoes and textiles were scarce. With food prices getting higher and higher, the government implemented maximum prices on certain products, including sugar and potatoes
- The *Turnip Winter* occurred during the winter of 1916-1917 in Germany. Continually poor weather conditions led to a diminished harvest, most notably in cereal productions. Additionally, an Allied blockade first instituted in 1914 contributed to reduced food supplies from Central Powers by over 50 percent. In response, the German government initiated a food rationing campaign. In the summer of 1917, the food allocated only offered 1,560 calories daily diet.
- The revolution in Russia in which the people overthrew the Tsar led many Germans to believe this would be a solution to their issues. The sailors especially listened to this message and in November 1918 a revolt by German sailors led to the end of WWII.



TOPIC 2

Germany 1918 – 1923

THE ANSWERS

TOPIC 2 – GERMANY 1918 -1923

A. WHAT WERE THE TERMS OF THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC'S CONSTITUTION?

- All people over the age of 20 could vote
- The Bill of Rights meant that all people had freedom of speech
- Proportional Representation – meant seats in the Reichstag were given based on the number of votes a party received
- A president was elected every 7 years
- The president chose the chancellor (prime minister)
- Article 48 enabled the president to use emergency powers – didn't have to consult the Reichstag

B. HOW DID THE TERMS OF THE CONSTITUTION MAKE THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC VULNERABLE?

Term	How it made them vulnerable
Bill of Rights	People could form political parties, speak out against the government publicly – 'The November Criminals' and 'stab in the back' theory
Proportional Representation	Lots of parties in the Reichstag No one party had the majority Difficult to pass laws Had to form coalitions Coalitions wouldn't compromise and this caused conflict/lack of decision making It enabled smaller, more extremist parties to gain seats
Article 48	Meant that it was possible to rule as a dictatorship

C. HOW DID THE PUBLIC REACT TO THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC SURRENDERING FROM THE WAR?

- Surrendered on 11th November 1918
- This was 2 days after they came to power
- People felt they had given up too easily and that Germany could have won the war
- They were nicknamed 'The November Criminals' for robbing Germany of their success
- They were said to have 'stabbed the army in the back' by surrendering

D. WHAT WERE THE TERMS OF THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES?

- War guilt clause
- Reparations Bill (cost of damages) set at £6.6 billion
- German army was reduced to 100,000 men
- German tanks, submarines and aircraft were scrapped
- Navy reduced to 6 ships
- Allied troops (French and British) were stationed in the Rhineland (the border between Germany and France)
- German land and colonies were taken and divided between the allies
- League of Nations was set up – Germany couldn't join

E. HOW DID THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES WEAKEN GERMANY/WHY WAS IT UNPOPULAR?

- Forced upon them, they had no say or choice because they surrendered
- Known as 'DIKTAT' or dictated peace
- Weakened them economically – lost land meant lost income, reparations bill meant huge debt
- Made them vulnerable – limited military meant limited defence, vulnerable as allied army on their borders (Rhineland)
- Made them look aggressive – caused the war
- Isolated them from Europe – couldn't join League of Nations
- Seemed hugely unfair for one country alone to pay the price for a world war
- Seemed hugely unfair that Germany lost so much
- Seemed unfair that the allies could keep their armed forces whilst Germany was left defenceless
- Many felt that the treaty was the result of the government surrendering – something they believed should not have happened in the first place

F. WHY DID THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC?

- German public further angered as felt that the government should never have surrendered or signed the treaty
- They had no money to govern effectively
- They were a new and inexperienced government dealing with an angry public and a defeated country
- The 'stab in the back' theory was reinforced
- Soldiers were unemployed and angry with the government
- Many members of the Nazi Party's SA/Brownshirts were ex-soldiers – they joined the party because they promised to scrap the treaty



TOPIC 2 – GERMANY 1918 -1923

G. WHAT EARLY OPPOSITION WAS THERE TO THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC?

Attack	Details	Importance
The Spartacist Uprising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 1919 • Extreme left wing group • Wanted a communist government • Felt that the Weimar Republic wasn't democratic enough • The government ordered the army and the Freikorps to crush them • The leaders were executed 	<p>Shown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the government had opposition • That they could stop/put down attacks • That the army and Freikorps would support them as agreed in the Ebert-Groener agreement
The Kapp Putsch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 1920 • Led by Wolfgang Kapp, a strong Nationalist and leader of the Freikorps • Wanted to overthrow the government • Wanted to set up an extreme right wing government • Used the Freikorps in the attack • The army wouldn't step in when asked to do so by the government • Workers in Berlin went on strike • The putsch failed 	<p>Shown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the government had opposition • That they couldn't rely on the Freikorps or the army • The army would not always uphold the Ebert-Groener agreement • They did have public support still – as seen by the strike • They were not totally unpopular • Attempts to overthrow them didn't work
The Nazi Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formed in 1919 • Hitler joined in 1920 • Their 25 point programme outlined their beliefs including: • Democracy created weak government • Wanted a strong, authoritative government (dictatorship) • Wanted to restore Germany to its former glory by scrapping the treaty, reclaiming land lost and taking over parts of Eastern Europe to expand Germany • Had own 'armed guard' – the SA • The SA was made up ex-soldiers • They intimidated opposition 	<p>Shown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of the Bill of Rights • The government had opposition • The impact of the Treaty as soldiers joined opposition groups (formed the SA) • Why Hitler and the Nazis became popular later on as their ideas were appealing

TOPIC 2 – GERMANY 1918 -1923

H. WHAT WAS THE INVASION OF THE RUHR?

- January 1923, French and Belgian troops invaded the Ruhr – an industrial area in Germany
- Germany had missed a reparations payment in 1922
- They invaded to take what was owed to them in raw materials and goods
- The government instructed the workers in the Ruhr to go on strike
- Some took more direct action – set factories on fire and flooded mines
- There were clashes between the French and the strikers
- The French forced a number of German people to leave the Ruhr

I. WHAT IMPACT DID THE INVASION HAVE?

- It showed how vulnerable the country was to invasion
- It highlighted how the Treaty of Versailles had left them in a vulnerable position
- However, it united the German people against a common enemy
- It led to increased support for the government initially as they supported the strikers and continued to pay them
- Economically, it was disastrous however. The strike meant that production in the Ruhr fell so Germany had less goods to sell
- The government decided to print more money to pay the strikers. This contributed to hyperinflation

J. WHAT WAS HYPERINFLATION?

- The government had repeatedly printed more money since 1918 in order to:
 - i. Pay for the war between 1914 and 1918
 - ii. Deal with the war debt after the war
 - iii. Compensate for the loss of money in the Ruhr
 - iv. Pay the workers in the Ruhr who were on strike
- As they printed more money, it lost its value
- Shops and suppliers put up prices and so people had to be paid more
- This led to further printing of money and hyperinflation occurred
- Food prices rose and the value of money fell

K. WHAT WERE THE EFFECTS OF HYPERINFLATION?

Negative effects for many	Positive effects for some
The value of the currency fell and food prices rose	Farmers profited as food prices rose
Pensioners found their pensions were worthless	Businessmen could pay off loans and wipe out their debts
People's savings lost their value	The more wealthy could pay off mortgages and property ownership increase
Wages couldn't keep up with the rate of inflation – some people couldn't afford basics such as bread	
People lost faith in the government who they felt had caused this situation	

TOPIC 2 – GERMANY 1918 -1923

L. WHAT WAS THE MUNICH PUTSCH AND WHY DID IT HAPPEN IN 1923?

- An attempt to overthrow the government on 9th November 1923
- Led by Hitler and members of the Nazi Party who wanted to ‘make Germany strong again’
- Chose 1923 because:

Reason	Explanation
The people were unhappy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effects of hyperinflation meant people were unhappy • Believed he would get support from them as a result
The government was distracted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The invasion of the Ruhr and hyperinflation meant the government was distracted
Hitler believed the party was ready	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It had 50,000 supporters and its own private army • He was friends with General Ludendorff and believed this would give him the support of the army
The influence of Mussolini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The success of the ‘March on Rome’ in Italy made Hitler believe he could do the same in Germany

M. WHY DIDN'T THE PUTSCH SUCCEED?

- Hitler too impulsive and behaved irrationally – held gun to Kahr’s head - lost him support
- The leaders of the Nazi Party were too divided, some did not like the level of violence
- Kahr called the police
- Rather than gaining the support of the 50,000 members of the party, only around 3,000 supported the putsch
- The Weimar Republic was not as weak as he thought – put down the putsch using the police and the Freikorps
- The putsch was too disorganised and rushed

N. WAS THE MUNICH PUTSCH A TOTAL FAILURE?

Failure	Not a Failure
Didn't overthrow the government and didn't come to power for another 10 years	Gained publicity – front page news
Hitler arrested and put in prison for 5 years	Wrote book ‘Mein Kampf’ - further publicity
Showed the party was divided	Hitler was publicly seen to be charismatic and intriguing
Members of his own party had turned on him – Kahr	Won the trust of the authorities and was let out of jail after 9 months
Gave the party an aggressive image and made Hitler seem unstable	Hitler matured, failure taught him a lesson and he rethought how to come to power
Only gained around 3,000 supporters not 50,000 expecting	Hitler reformed the Nazi Party and became its only leader
Nazi party was banned and Hitler was banned from public speaking until 1927	Hitler and the party became more organised and focused once they reformed

TOPIC 3

Germany

1924 – 1929

THE GOLDEN
TWENTIES

THE ANSWERS

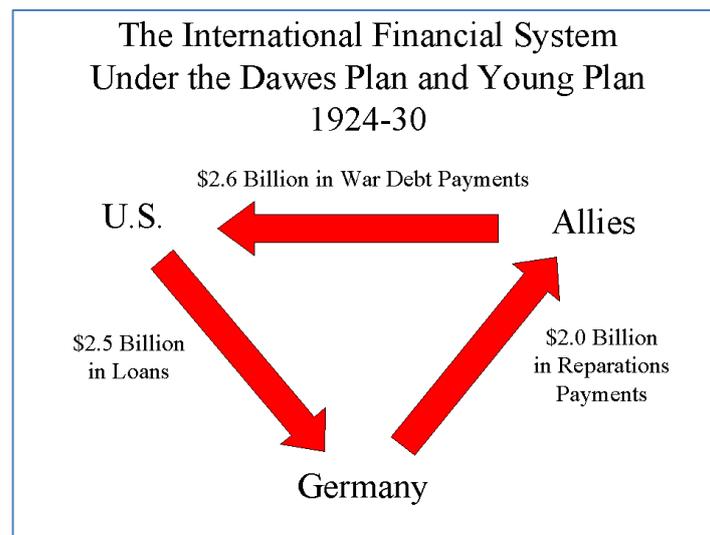
TOPIC 3 – GERMANY 1924-1929
THE GOLDEN TWENTIES

A. WHAT WERE THE PROBLEMS FACING THE GOVERNMENT IN 1923?

- The currency was worthless
- The government was unpopular
- The French were invading the Ruhr
- Germany had a huge reparations bill to pay and the economy was weak
- Germany were isolated and unpopular with the rest of Europe

B. WHAT ACTION WAS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO OVERCOME THESE PROBLEMS?

Problem	Solution
The currency was worthless	The old currency was scrapped A new currency, the 'Rentenmark' was introduced
The government was unpopular	Stresemann was appointed as a figure head who people trusted to solve Germany's problems
The French were invading the Ruhr	Stresemann called off 'passive resistance' and the Dawes Plan 1924
The huge reparations bill/weak economy	The Dawes plan 1924 Agreement to extend Germany's payment time for reparations, as well as a loan of 800 million marks to Germany. The government used this to pay reparations, reinvest in businesses and build railways and factories The Young Plan 1929 This was an extension of the Dawes Plan
Germany's isolation in Europe	The Locarno Treaties 1925 with France – agreed boundaries Joined the League of Nations in 1926 The Kellogg-Briand Pact in 1928 – Germany agreed to solve future disputes by peaceful means



TOPIC 3 – GERMANY 1924-1929
THE GOLDEN TWENTIES

C. DID GERMANY RECOVER BETWEEN 1924 AND 1929?

Yes	No
The new Rentenmark stabilised the German currency	Many people could not forget the loss of savings caused by hyperinflation
US loans were reinvested in the economy this led to the growth of German industry	Germany was too dependent on foreign loans
By 1928 industrial production was at the same level as it had been before the war. Between 1925 & 1929, German exports rose by 40%	Stresemann stated that 'The economic position is only flourishing on the surface. Germany is in fact dancing on a volcano' – He knew that if the loans were recalled, Germany's economy would collapse
Industrial recovery brought more employment/jobs for workers	Nationalists felt that the loans and payment of reparations were an admission of war guilt – they resented this
In nearly every town new factories, roads and railways were built. Nearly 3 million homes were also built	Proportional Representation meant that coalition governments were still necessary. They often couldn't agree and collapsed (1926 – flag)
Hourly wage rates increased	Food prices fell and farmers lost money
Public facilities such as parks, schools and sports facilities were built throughout Germany	Growth in industry began to slow down after 1927
Welfare provision such as pensions increased	Unemployment never went below 1.3 million
There was a renewed faith in the government and Stresemann was a popular leader	The government still had a huge reparations bill to pay
There was little support for extremist parties at this time – the Nazis only had 12 seats	Many felt that Stresemann could have done more to regain Germany's land and colonies
Relations with other European countries improved following the various treaties signed and the repayment of reparations	The Nazi Party was reformed and was more organised and determined than ever
Increased trust in Germany and as such allied troops left the Rhineland	Hindenburg was elected president in 1925. He disliked the Weimar Republic

D. HOW DID THE NAZI PARTY (NSDAP) TRY TO INCREASE ITS SUPPORT BETWEEN 1924 AND 1929?

- Change of tactic – would come to power by being voted in
- Change of image – more controlled and responsible. Emphasis was placed on order and discipline rather than violence and intimidation.
- The work of the SA (Brownshirts) changed to reflect this – wardens at rallies etc
- The SS (Blackshirts) were set up in 1925 as Hitler's personal guard. They were trained and disciplined and gave a more respectable image to the Brownshirts
- Joseph Goebbels was placed in charge of propaganda
- Nazi newspapers and rallies (military style parades) spread Nazi views to the public
- Evening classes were run to train party members public-speaking skills
- They targeted vulnerable groups who disliked the republic, such as farmers
- They also targeted other groups to broaden their support base – youth movements were set up as were the Students' League, the Teachers' League and the Women's league

TOPIC 3 – GERMANY 1924-1929
THE GOLDEN TWENTIES

E. WHY DID THE NAZI PARTY FAIL TO INCREASE THEIR SUPPORT BETWEEN 1924 AND 1929?

- In 1924 the Nazis had 32 seats in the Reichstag. By 1928 this had decreased to 12 seats
- In the 1928 election, only 3% of Germans actually voted for them
- **They lacked the support of the working class:** Many working class people preferred to vote for other parties such as the Communists. Since the working class were the largest group of voters, the Nazis could not get power in the country without them
- **Hitler was banned from public speaking:** His charismatic speeches were one of the main reasons that people supported the party – the fact that he could not speak in public following the Munich Putsch, meant that he was unable to get his views across to the public and could not persuade/manipulate more people to support the party
- **The country was doing well; it was a time of prosperity (see previous page):** The success of the Weimar Republic and Stresemann meant that many people liked the existing government. Voting for a largely unknown extreme party was pointless
- **Nazi ideas were too extreme: it took time to change the image of the party** after years of aggression by the SA and the Munich Putsch. Some of the beliefs of the party were too extreme, such as anti-Semitic ideas, invading other countries and using violence to control the country. This put people off.

F. WAS THE NAZI PARTY A DYING CAUSE IN 1929 (BEFORE THE WALL STREET CRASH)?

“Nazism appears to be a dying cause.....Now that the country’s outlook is bright it is dying away. One scarcely hears of Hitler except as the butt of jokes” William Shirer – an American journalist

Was a dying cause	Wasn’t a dying cause
Only had 12 seats and 3% of the vote in 1928	They were creating a new image and a new support base amongst the population – women, young, farmers
Did not have the support of the working class	They were becoming more respectable and credible – the SS, limited violence
Attempts to win support clearly had not worked (seats dropped from 32 to 12)	The recovery was insecure and the German economy was vulnerable
There was increased faith in the republic	The government’s popularity relied on the success of the time. Another crisis would change this
Gustav Stresemann was popular, people weren’t looking for another leader	The party was organised and determined. They were willing to wait
The country was flourishing. People didn’t want to change that	They had an established propaganda campaign which could be used when another crisis hit

TOPIC 4

Germany

1929 – 1933

THE WALL STREET

CRASH AND THE RISE

OF THE NAZIS

THE ANSWERS

TOPIC 4 – GERMANY 1929 - 1933
THE WALL STREET CRASH AND THE RISE OF THE NAZIS

- A. What effect did the Wall Street Crash have on Germany?
- B. Why was there increased support for the Nazis after the Wall Street Crash?
- C. How did their support grow?

11.3 Increasing support for the Nazi Party

Effects of the Wall Street Crash and the Great Depression

The German economy was dependent on loans from America. In 1929, the American stock market, known as 'Wall Street', crashed. It led to a worldwide economic collapse and the period of history known as the Great Depression. This soon affected Germany.

- US banks started to **recall their loans**. German companies were unable to pay.
- Many German firms went **bankrupt**. Millions lost their jobs.
- With more unemployment came **less demand** for food and goods, sinking Germany deeper into depression.
- By 1932, **unemployment** in Germany had **reached 6 million**.

The Weimar Government appeared to stumble aimlessly through this crisis, not knowing what to do. It was scared of a repeat of the hyper-inflation of 1923, so did not want to spend money it did not have on solving unemployment.

This helped the Nazi Party because ...

The German people blamed the Weimar Republic for the Great Depression and for high unemployment, and became less supportive as unemployment and poverty grew. They started to turn to more extremist political parties, such as the Nazis.

Nazi promises

Hitler and the Nazis promised to:

- solve the economic crisis and get people back to work
- destroy the Treaty of Versailles
- restore the power of the army
- make Germany powerful again
- be strong leaders of the country.

These were almost exactly the same things they had been saying in the 1920s. The difference was that the chaos and despair of the depression years meant that many ordinary Germans had lost faith in democratic political parties. German people now wanted to hear these messages.

Fear of communism

As their lives became more difficult, more workers started to support the Communist Party. However, this terrified many German businessmen and farmers, because they had seen communism in action in the Soviet Union where the government had taken over land and wealth from big industries and farmers.

The middle class, the businessmen and the farmers didn't want the Communist Party to get into power, so they turned to the Nazis because of their anti-communist stance. Rich businessmen gave them money for campaigning.

Hitler's leadership

Hitler was a charismatic and influential public speaker who was able to get across Nazi ideas and make the German people believe what he was saying. He was also surrounded by a team of very loyal and effective leaders.

Hitler's speeches gained a great deal of support for the Nazis.

Nazi propaganda

- Joseph Goebbels was in charge of Nazi propaganda. He used the **latest technology** – film, loudspeakers and slide shows.
- In 1932, Hitler **travelled around Germany by plane** so that he could talk to as many people as possible.
- **Mass rallies** made people feel proud to be German and added a sense of order and discipline.
- **Posters** were used effectively to spread Nazi ideas.

This propaganda got the Nazi message across to people very effectively. It increased support for the Nazis.



Local organisations

By 1929, the Nazis had well over 100,000 members, and local parties all over Germany. They were well organised.

- Local leaders ran **public meetings**. The Nazi Party provided carefully trained speakers.
- Local parties **helped the unemployed** by providing soup kitchens and shelters or recruiting them into the local SA.
- The **Hitler Youth** (see page 125) from 1922 provided activities.
- The SA even gained a reputation for being **disciplined young men** (not the threatening thugs of the 1920s).

This helped the Nazi Party because ...

At a time when the national government seemed incompetent or ineffective these local measures impressed many ordinary Germans and increased support for the Nazis. The apparent discipline of the SA was attractive when there was so much violence around the election meetings of 1930 and 1932 – even though the SA often stirred up the violence in the first place!

Weak opposition

There were two natural opponents to the Nazis: the Social Democrats (who were the largest party) and the Communists.

- Neither party took the Nazis seriously and were more concerned with battling each other.
- Voters did not trust the Social Democrats (the ruling party) because they didn't seem to know what to do.

Weak opposition meant that the Nazis' policies were not challenged or questioned. The opposition offered nothing new while the Nazis did.

Political problems

- The most successful Weimar politician of the 1920s, Stresemann, died of a stroke in 1929, just days before the Wall Street Crash.
- The democratic ideals of the Weimar constitution caused problems. No party had a majority and there was a series of weak, short-lived governments.
- Some of the measures taken by the government actually made the depression worse. For example it cut pay and benefits for government employees, leading to poverty.
- Because of the weak government, President Hindenburg used Article 48 of the constitution to rule by decree (without getting laws approved by the Reichstag).

The weak government made the Nazi message of strong government more attractive. In fact some people say that Hindenburg's ruling by decree had ended democracy in the Weimar Republic already. And remember some people had never forgiven the Weimar Government for the Treaty of Versailles, the 'stab in the back', reparations and hyper-inflation.

The political deal

Following the June 1932 elections, the Nazis were the largest party in the Reichstag, but they did not have an overall majority. No other party wanted to work with them. President Hindenburg had to appoint a Chancellor. He did not want Hitler so he appointed his friend von Papen. But the Reichstag did not support von Papen!

So the result was **stalemate**, and another election in November 1932. The Nazis lost seats but were still the biggest party. This time Hitler did a deal with von Papen, who persuaded Hindenburg to appoint Hitler as Chancellor and himself as Vice Chancellor. Von Papen thought he could control Hitler. How wrong he was!

Who supported the Nazis?

Hitler found something to appeal to all sections of German society. One historian has argued that Hitler won support because of 'negative cohesion'.

38

The countryside

It was in the rural areas of Germany that Nazism first became popular in the 1920s. Agricultural prices slumped even further after the Wall Street Crash.



The upper classes

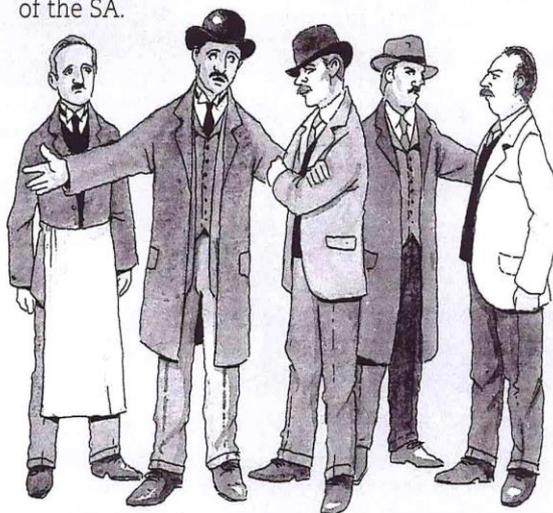
These were wealthy landowners or business people who felt especially threatened by the possibility of a communist takeover. The Nazis, with their promises to destroy communism and support big business, were the lesser of two evils. As early as 1929 Alfred Hugenburg, leader of the German Nationalist Party and a wealthy newspaper owner, worked with Hitler in attacking the Young Plan. He gave the Nazis access to his media empire, especially his cinemas. Big business gave funds to support the Nazi Party.



In other words, people were not attracted by Nazi ideas and promises, but shared Nazi fears and dislikes, for example of communism.

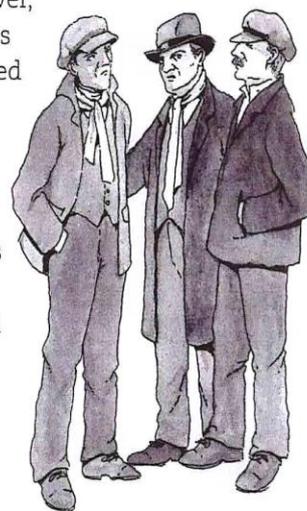
The middle classes

The middle classes of shopkeepers, civil servants, professionals and teachers were afraid of communism on the one side and big business or capitalism on the other. The Nazis promised to protect them from both. They were also alarmed at increasing disorder and violence and were impressed by the discipline of the SA.



The working classes

Workers in the cities did not vote for the Nazis in large numbers, preferring the communists. However, outside the big cities most workers worked for small family firms. They did not belong to unions and were attracted by Hitler's promises of more rights for working people and better jobs.



1.3: Increasing support for the Nazi Party, 1925–1932

Women

Hitler was very keen to win the votes of women and they were especially targeted in Nazi poster campaigns. He promised to make the family more important and give women a special place in their role as mothers and wives.



The young

Many strong supporters were young people. Over 40 per cent of those that joined before 1933 had been born between 1904 and 1913. They were attracted by Nazi ideals, the discipline of the SA and the threat of unemployment.



Activities

- 5 'Negative cohesion' was the main reason for increased Nazi support in the years 1929–1932.' From the evidence, how far do you agree or disagree with this view?
- In your answer:
- Explain the meaning of 'negative cohesion' and give examples.
 - Describe positive reasons for support for the Nazi Party.
 - Decide to what extent you agree or disagree with this statement, and explain why.
- 6 'If Nazi Party support was a mile wide, it was at critical points an inch thick.' Discuss.

Summary

- There was little support for the Nazi Party in the years 1924–1929. Nevertheless, Hitler reorganised the Party to make it more effective in fighting for seats in the Reichstag.
- The depression that began in 1929 brought high unemployment and increasing dissatisfaction with the Weimar Republic.
- Hitler and the Nazis won support because of Hitler's personal appeal and clever use of propaganda.
- The Nazis were supported by several groups, especially big business (which feared a communist takeover).

39

1925

Hitler released from prison

1928

Nazis win twelve seats in Reichstag elections

1929

Wall Street Crash

1930

Nazis win 105 seats in Reichstag elections

1932

Unemployment reaches 6 million
Nazis become the largest party in the Reichstag

1933

January: Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany

TOPIC 5
Germany
January 1933-
August 1934

FROM CHANCELLOR
TO FUHRER

THE ANSWERS

TOPIC 5 – GERMANY JANUARY 1933- AUGUST 1934
FROM CHANCELLOR TO FUHRER

A. WHY WAS HITLER APPOINTED CHANCELLOR IN JANUARY 1933?

- The three chancellors before him (Bruning, Papen and Schleicher) had not been able to solve the crisis caused by the Great Depression
- People voted for him and he was the leader of the largest party in the Reichstag
- Hitler and the Nazi Party had universal appeal and were popular with all groups in Germany. Having him as chancellor would strengthen support for the government
- President Hindenburg's advisor, Papen convinced him that Hitler was not a real threat and stated that 'In two months we'll have pushed Hitler into a corner so hard that he will be squeaking'
- They believed that Hitler could be controlled like a 'chancellor in chains'
- The government was worried that civil war would break out if they didn't do something to stop the crisis in Germany
- They feared the communists would become more popular and take control
- They felt that it was better to keep Hitler close so that they could keep an eye on his actions

B. HOW MUCH POWER DID HITLER HAVE AS CHANCELLOR?

- Not as much as he would have liked
- Hindenburg could sack him as chancellor if he wished
- Hindenburg didn't fully trust Hitler
- The Nazis were the most popular party in the Reichstag but they didn't have the 2/3 majority that they needed to pass laws
- They had many opponents who could jeopardise their position of power – the communists, trade unions, other political parties, the army
- HOWEVER, Hindenburg was 84 years old and was in ill health
- Hitler now had legitimate access to government media resources such as national radio and press
- The party also now had legitimate access to the police force and the freikorps
- His appointment as chancellor made him seem even more credible as a leader

C. WHAT WAS THE REICHSTAG FIRE?

- Hitler had arranged another election for March 1933 to try and increase the number of seats that the Nazis had in the Reichstag
- On 27th February 1933, the Reichstag building was burned down
- A Dutch communist called Marius Van Der Lubbe was arrested, put on trial and found guilty for starting the fire
- Hitler claimed that the fire was part of a communist conspiracy to overthrow the government
- 4,000 communists were arrested
- Hitler persuaded Hindenburg to pass an emergency decree using Article 48 called the 'Law for the Protection of the State and the People'
- This law gave the government powers to search homes, political offices, confiscate property and detain people without trial if they were suspected of being part of the conspiracy

TOPIC 5 – GERMANY JANUARY 1933- AUGUST 1934
FROM CHANCELLOR TO FUHRER



**The Reich will never be destroyed
if you are united and loyal."**

D. HOW DID THE REICHSTAG FIRE INCREASE HITLER'S POWER?

Increased Nazi Power	However....
Hitler used the fire as an opportunity to undermine the Communist Party (KPD) who were portrayed as 'enemies of the government' and arrested at random	The Communist party still won 81 seats in the election – they were still popular with some groups
Hitler appeared as 'a saviour' who was actively putting down a terrorist threat	The Nazi Party still did not have the 2/3 majority that they needed or even half the seats in the Reichstag – 288 seats out of a possible 647
Wealthy businessmen were pleased that the Nazis were weakening the communists and supported them further	Hindenburg could still sack Hitler as chancellor
Hitler was able to discredit the communists (make them look bad) and undermine their election campaign before the March election took place	Opposition parties still remained popular – there were over 4 other major parties who had more seats combined than the Nazis
In the March election, the Nazis won more seats than ever before. With 288 seats they were by far the largest party in the Reichstag	
Hitler had been able to persuade Hindenburg to rule by decree, showing he could manipulate him	

TOPIC 5 – GERMANY JANUARY 1933- AUGUST 1934
FROM CHANCELLOR TO FUHRER

E. WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME OF THE MARCH ELECTION

- **Nazi Party** – 288 seats
- **SDP (Social Democrats)** – 120 seats
- **Communist Party** – 81 seats
- **Centre Party** – 74 seats
- **Nationalist Party** – 52 seats
- **Other parties** – 32 seats

F. WHAT WAS THE ENABLING LAW AND HOW DID IT GET PASSED?

- The Enabling Act was passed in March 1933
- The act gave Hitler and the Nazi Party the authority to pass laws for four years without the consent of the Reichstag
- The act was passed by 444 votes to 91
- **HOW DID HE GET IT PASSED?**
 - Hitler claimed that this was the only way to deal with the crisis in Germany as well as the communist threat that now existed
 - In a state of emergency he stated that he needed to act quickly and effectively
 - The law was officially called 'The Law for Removing the Distress of the People and the Reich' giving the impression it was for the benefit of Germany
 - He banned the communists from taking up the 81 seats they gained in the election – used the Reichstag fire to justify this
 - He persuaded the Nationalist Party to support the bill
 - He promised the Centre Party that he would support the interests of the Catholic Church
 - SA men surrounded the building and the voters when the Reichstag met to vote on the act which intimidated many into voting in favour of the law

G. HOW DID THE ENABLING LAW INCREASE HITLER AND THE NAZIS POWER?

- Hitler now essentially had the powers of a dictator
- He had been given these powers legally
- Hitler could use these powers to get rid of all opposition
- Only Hindenburg could stop him now though at 84 years old he was becoming increasingly aged and frail
- In fact by July 1933, just over 3 months after the law was passed, the Nazi Party were the only political party allowed in Germany

TOPIC 5 – GERMANY JANUARY 1933- AUGUST 1934
FROM CHANCELLOR TO FUHRER

H. HOW WAS THE ENABLING LAW USED TO GET RID OF OPPOSITION?

- In March 1933 all state parliaments (local government) were shut down and replaced with Nazi state governors
- In May 1933, the Nazis broke into trade union offices and arrested the leading officials. Trade unions were banned meaning that workers no longer had support to fight against unfair work conditions. This pleased businessmen who no longer had to battle with resistant workers and led to them supporting the Nazi Party even more
- In May 1933, the Nazis shut down the SDP and the Communist Party, took their funds and sent the leaders to concentration camps
- In July 1933, Hitler introduced a law stating that the Nazi Party was the only party allowed in Germany

Hindenburg still stood in his way in terms of a complete dictatorship and some of the leaders of his own SA also posed a threat. He was not a full dictator YET!

I. WHAT WAS THE NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES?

- On 30th June 1934, Hitler arranged a meeting with Rohm and 100 other SA leaders in Bavaria.
- On arrival the SA leaders were arrested by heavily armed members of the SS and taken to Munich where they were shot.
- Hitler used this opportunity to get rid of any individual who was a threat to his power and over the next few days a purge took place. Individuals such as Strasser and Schleicher were also killed at this time as a result.

J. WHY DID THE NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES HAPPEN?

- Rohm as the leader of the SA was a genuine threat to Hitler's position as leader
- Rohm was the commander of a very large organisation of nearly 2 million men, whose members were increasingly violent and out of control at a time when Hitler was trying to follow a policy of legality
- Rohm wanted to merge the SA with the German army and place himself as the overall army leader. This would alienate army leaders who Hitler needed on his side if he wanted to achieve a dictatorship
- Rohm wanted more socialist policies introduced and this worried many industrialists who were important supporters of the Nazi Party
- Rohm often spoke negatively about Hitler and referred to him as 'a swine'
- Other leading & influential Nazi leaders also wanted a limitation to Rohm's power. Himmler as leader of the more respected SS wanted to take over the SA and Goring felt that the violence of the SA was an embarrassment.

TOPIC 5 – GERMANY JANUARY 1933- AUGUST 1934
FROM CHANCELLOR TO FUHRER

K. HOW DID THE NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES HELP TO INCREASE NAZI POWER?

- It enabled Hitler to remove possible rivals to his position of power
- It ensured that Hitler had the support of influential people and organisations. It appeared to everyone that Hitler had got rid of a threat to the country and had successfully put down a 'second revolution' and an SA take over.
- The army saw this as a sign of his integrity and swore an oath of loyalty to him in August 1934.
- Industrialists saw it as an attack against the socialist elements of the party and continued to offer financial support to the party.
- The SS and Himmler now took control of the entire military and police element of the Nazi regime giving a sense and image of more order and discipline to the party
- The SA were not highly respected and many were fearful of them. Hitler was praised and rewarded for the Night of the Long Knives by people who felt that he had saved them (& Germany) from a potential threat. This was the second time that he appeared as their saviour – he had done the same following the apparent terrorist attack by the communists during the Reichstag Fire in February 1933.

L. WHAT WERE THE FINAL EVENTS LEADING TO A NAZI DICTATORSHIP?

- In August 1934, President Hindenburg died
- Within hours, Hitler declared himself 'Führer for life' – overall leader of Germany
- The Third Reich and a Nazi dictatorship had officially begun



TOPIC 6

Life in Nazi Germany

Living in the Third Reich

THE ANSWERS

Maintaining the Dictatorship – Nazi Methods of Control

A. HOW DID HITLER AND THE NAZIS MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE THIRD REICH?

- Hitler and the Nazis used two main methods to maintain their control over Germany:
 - Fear and terror
 - Indoctrination (brainwashing)

B. HOW DID HITLER AND THE NAZIS USE FEAR/TERROR TO CONTROL GERMANY?

- In order to maintain their authority over the German people, the Nazis set up a carefully organised police state
- A police state is a state/country in which the police have absolute power to arrest and punish anyone who does not follow the ideals of the state.
- The SS, originally Hitler’s personal bodyguard, were given absolute power over those who did not follow Nazi ideals. By 1939 there were 240,000 members of the SS
- A leading Nazi, Himmler was placed in charge of the police state
- Throughout the Third Reich, the number of crimes punishable by death rose from 3 in 1933 to 46 ten years later. These crimes included listening to foreign radio stations and telling anti-Nazi jokes
- Concentration camps were set up. They were used for questioning, torture and ‘re-education’. Prisoners were used as hard labour and treated with great brutality. Many died
- People placed in concentration camps included members of opposition parties (communists, SPD), Jews, gypsies, homosexuals, religious groups who opposed the Nazis (Catholic and Protestant priests)

The SS: Short for *Schutzstaffel* (protection squad), these fanatical Nazis were Hitler’s personal bodyguard. They could arrest people without trial and search their houses. They hunted down any opposition to Nazi rule and ruthlessly destroyed it. The SS had two subdivisions:

- The *Waffen SS* were elite soldiers who followed the regular German army into battle.
- The Death’s Head Unit were responsible for running the concentration camps.

The Gestapo: These were the Nazi secret police and they kept a watch on the citizens of Germany. They used methods such as phone tapping and collecting information from informants. Anybody seen to be anti-Nazi was targeted and could be imprisoned, tortured or even sent to a concentration camp without trial.

The police: Under the Nazis, the police continued with their normal routines. The difference was that the Nazis controlled them. Many high-ranking policemen were Nazis and so the police spent much of the time helping informants and ignored crimes committed by the Nazis.

Concentration camps: The first camps were set up after the Nazis got into power to hold political opponents of the party. These camps only held prisoners for a short period of time. The prisoners were questioned, tortured or forced to work. By the late 1930s the camps had evolved into much more deadly places. The SS Death’s Head Unit forced prisoners to work for Nazi-owned businesses making goods such as weapons. The concentration camps now housed a more diverse mix of prisoners including Jews, communists and whoever else dared criticise the Nazis.

Local wardens: Each town was divided into blocks, and each block had a warden who would write reports on the people who lived there. They would watch out for people who did not seem to participate in pro-Nazi celebrations. Their reports would go to the Gestapo and could decide whether a person got a job or was arrested for being anti-Nazi.

The courts: All judges had to take the pledge of loyalty to Hitler and become Nazi Party members. This made having a fair trial impossible. New Nazi laws, often punishable by death, were enforced.

TERROR

TOPIC 6 – LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY
LIVING IN THE THIRD REICH

C. HOW DID HITLER/THE NAZIS USE INDOCTRINATION TO CONTROL GERMANY?

- Hitler also controlled the people of Germany through persuasion and manipulation
- Censorship and propaganda were used to control what people thought and to 'persuade' them to follow Nazi ideas
- Hitler appointed Joseph Goebbels as Minister of Enlightenment and Propaganda. This meant that Goebbels controlled the press, radio, publishing and film
- Radio was controlled and all radios were designed to have a short range so that they couldn't pick up foreign stations
- Radio broadcasts were made in factories, cafes, restaurants and even schools. Loudspeakers were erected in the streets to relay Nazi messages
- No book could be published without Goebbels' permission
- Goebbels ordered the public burning of those books that disagreed with Nazi views

Radio: Radio stations came under the control of the Nazis who were able to decide what should be broadcast. Speeches by Hitler were broadcast while other programmes were censored. The Nazis also mass produced radios and sold them cheaply in order to get their message across to the masses. By 1939, 70 per cent of Germans owned a radio.

Films: Feature films were strictly controlled by the Nazis. Major propaganda films were specifically made by the Nazis to show their views, including the **anti-Semitic** movie *The Eternal Jew*.

Books: When the Nazis came to power, they immediately began destroying books they felt were anti-Nazi, such as those written by Jews or communists. They did this by organising mass book burnings. Any new book that was published had to be censored by the Ministry of Propaganda run by Goebbels.

Newspapers: Goebbels closed down any newspapers that did not support the Nazis. He controlled what was printed by sending out daily instructions telling them what stories to include and what angle the writers should take. He also banned Jews from working in or owning a newspaper.

PROPAGANDA

Posters: Anti-Semitic images and images of Hitler and Aryan families (see page 127) were displayed in towns and cities all over Germany. Their purpose was to pass on Nazi messages to as many people as possible.

Rallies: The Nazis organised special events to demonstrate to the people and the world how organised and controlled they were. They were often held in huge stadiums and around 100,000 people were involved. The Germans also hosted the Berlin Olympics in 1936 in which Germany won most of the medals. The event was filmed and shown all round the country.

TOPIC 6 – LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY
LIVING IN THE THIRD REICH

D. WHY WAS THERE LIMITED OPPOSITION TO THE NAZI REGIME?

- All political opponents to the Nazi regime had been put in concentration camps by July 1933.
- Any threats within the party had been eliminated during the ‘Night of the Long Knives’
- The Nazi police state meant that any further opposition was dealt with quickly and effectively.
- The Nazis had an effective network of informants, local wardens, the police and the Gestapo. This meant that very few people were willing or able to speak out against the Nazi regime without getting caught.
- The use of propaganda and censorship meant that the public were indoctrinated into believing that Hitler and the Nazi Party were the best thing for Germany
- Support for the Nazi party was also strong because they fulfilled their promises. Between 1933 and 1939 they reduced unemployment from 6 million to 0.5 million. They also started to re-arm Germany showing their disregard for the much hated Treaty of Versailles

E. WHAT OPPOSITION WAS THERE TO THE NAZI REGIME, WHAT DID THEY DO AND HOW WERE THEY DEALT WITH BY THE REGIME?

Opposition Group	How they opposed the regime	How they were dealt with
Edelweiss Pirates (Youth)	<p>By the end of the 1930s and number of youth gangs emerged who opposed the Nazi regime. The Edelweiss Pirates were one of them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They used the edelweiss flower as their emblem • They wore checked shirts and dark trousers • At weekends they would go on hikes, meet other youth groups and beat up the Hitler Youth whilst they were on patrols • They sung anti-Nazi songs • During the Second World War they gathered up the propaganda leaflets dropped by allied bombers and posted them through people’s doors • They also provided shelter for deserters from the armed forces • In 1944 the Pirates killed the head of the Cologne Gestapo 	<p>Many of the ‘Pirates’ were sent to concentration camps</p> <p>Following the murder of the Gestapo head in 1944, 12 members of the group were arrested and publically hanged as an example to others who thought about opposing the regime</p>

TOPIC 6 – LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY
LIVING IN THE THIRD REICH

Opposition Group	How they opposed the regime	How they were dealt with
<p>The White Rose Group (Youth/Students)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This group was set up at Munich University in 1941 by student Hans Scholl, his sister Sophie Scholl and Professor Kurt Uber • Hans Scholl was a medical student who had served on the frontline during the Second World War and who had seen the atrocities that were carried out against the Jews by the Nazi regime • Hans and Sophie wanted to publicise the atrocities to encourage others in Germany to turn against Hitler and the Nazis • They wrote a number of pamphlets outlining how the Jews were being treated and left them in public places, on people’s doorsteps or postboxes • They also used anti-Nazi graffiti to get their message across • They famously stated ‘We will not be silent...The White Rose will not leave you in peace’ 	<p>Hans and Sophie Scholl were seen distributing the pamphlets by a caretaker at Munich university</p> <p>He reported this to the Gestapo</p> <p>Both Hans and Sophie were arrested and tortured. Sophie had her leg broken during the Nazi interrogation</p> <p>Both were beheaded and the remainder of the White Rose Group left the organisation</p>
<p>Ludwig Niemoller Church Opposition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niemoller was a pastor in the German Protestant Church • He originally supported the Nazi regime and welcomed Hitler’s appointment to chancellor in 1933, believing that he would restore the greatness of Germany and reverse the Treaty of Versailles. He also disliked the communists • His views changed when the Nazis took over the protestant church and replaced it with the Reich Church • Niemoller believed that the Reich Church was more about Hitler and the Nazi party than Christianity and God • In 1934, he established the German Confessional Church – a direct opponent to the Reich Church • Niemoller openly spoke out against the Nazi regime 	<p>Niemoller was arrested, put on trial and placed in a concentration camp as a ‘personal prisoner of the Fuhrer’</p> <p>Niemoller survived the next seven years and was still alive when the concentration camps were liberated in 1945</p>

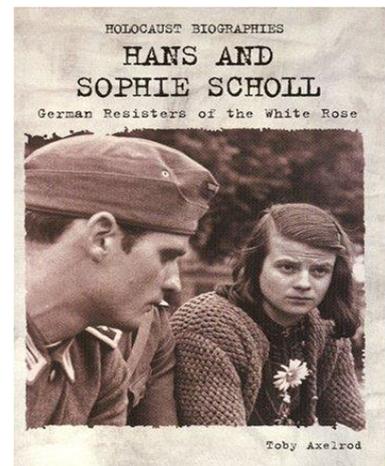
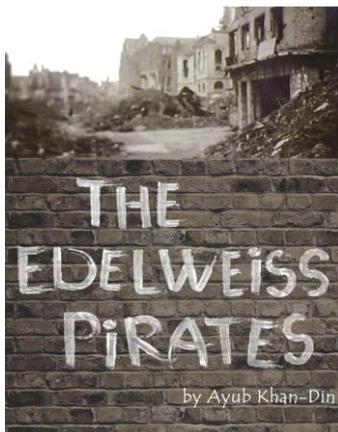
TOPIC 6 – LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY
LIVING IN THE THIRD REICH

Opposition Group	How they opposed the regime	How they were dealt with
Dietrich Bonhoeffer (church opposition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonhoeffer was a church leader who in 1934 helped Niemoller set up the Confessional Church • He objected to Nazi racism and felt that churchmen should be free to preach against the Nazis publically if they wished • He openly spoke out about the Nazis mistreatment of the Jews • In 1939, he joined the Abwehr, a group who were working to overthrow Hitler • He helped to set up 'Operation 7' which assisted a small number of Jews in an escape to Switzerland 	<p>In 1937, the Gestapo banned Bonhoeffer from preaching</p> <p>In October 1942, he was arrested by the Gestapo for plotting against Hitler. He served two years in solitary confinement before being transferred to a concentration camp</p> <p>In 1945, just before the camp was liberated, Bonhoeffer was sentenced to death and executed by the SS.</p>
The July Bomb Plot and Operation Valkyrie (Army opposition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The army were a major threat to the Nazi regime. • At the start of the Second World War in 1939, the army had supported the regime because Germany was winning the war • As the war went on and Germany started to lose battles however, the army turned against the Nazis • Count von Stauffenberg had been badly wounded during the war, in 1942, losing his left eye, right arm and two fingers on his left hand • He was appalled by the brutality of the SS and the failure of the Nazi regime to win the war • Supported by General Ludwig Beck, Stauffenberg planned to assassinate Hitler • He devised 'Operation Valkyrie' which took place in July 1944. This involved placing a briefcase containing a bomb under a table near to Hitler during a military conference in East Prussia • The bomb went off however, the heavy table saved Hitler's life. He was cut and deafened but very much alive 	<p>Hitler responded brutally to this attack.</p> <p>5,746 people were executed for their involvement in the plot, including Stauffenberg and Beck.</p> <p>19 generals and 27 colonels were amongst those whom Hitler executed.</p>

TOPIC 6 – LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY
LIVING IN THE THIRD REICH

F. HOW MUCH OF A THREAT WAS OPPOSITION TO THE NAZI REGIME?

- Opposition to the Third Reich was generally weakened by the popularity of the Nazi regime. The German population did not want a return to the chaos and crisis of Germany under the Weimar Republic and they felt that Hitler was helping to get the country back on track. Those that opposed the regime were therefore in the minority
- The organisation of the police state and the harsh treatment of opponents (as seen in all of the examples of opposition groups) was an effective warning to others and made them reluctant to oppose the regime
- The organisation of the police state – with its effective network of informants, local wardens, police and the Gestapo meant that it was difficult for opposition to exist in secret (as seen with Hans and Sophie Scholl who were reported by the university caretaker)
- HOWEVER, some opposition was not entirely weak. The Edelweiss Pirates for example were able to carry out anti-Nazi operations between 1938 and 1944 without being stopped
- Church opposition was also quite strong. Priests in concentration camps were seen as martyrs and church leaders were often applauded when in public
- More than 6,000 pastors joined the Confessional Church compared to 2,000 who joined the Reich church



*First they came for the communists,
and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a communist.*

*Then they came for the trade unionists,
and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a trade unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews,
and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Jew.*

*Then they came for the Catholics,
and I didn't speak out because I was Protestant.*

*Then they came for me
and there was no one left to speak out for me.*

- Martin Niemöller

TOPIC 6 – LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY
LIVING IN THE THIRD REICH

G. WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE FOR WOMEN BEFORE THE THIRD REICH?

- Before the Nazi dictatorship began, women had a lot of freedom and there was greater equality than in any other European country
- From 1919, women over the age of 20 were given the right to vote and by 1933 nearly 10% of Reichstag members were women
- Young women enjoyed greater social freedom than ever before. They were allowed to go out without a chaperone (someone to escort them) and smoked and drank in public places
- There were major changes in their appearance. They wore short skirts, make-up and had their hair cut short
- There was rapid progress in female employment. Many women began careers in the professions, especially teaching. In some careers, women also received the same pay as men

H. HOW DID WOMEN'S LIVES CHANGE DURING THE NAZI REGIME/THE THIRD REICH?

- The Nazis believed that women should return to their traditional role as homemakers and mothers, they did not believe women should work, wear make up, socialise at night or wear make up
- The Nazi slogan 'Kinder, Kirche, Kuche' (Children, Church, Cooking) summed up the role that they felt women should have in Germany
- From 1933 onwards, women were encouraged to give up their jobs, get married and have large families. Women doctors, civil servants and teachers were forced to give up their jobs
- Girls were discouraged from going to higher education, so that they would not have the qualifications for professional careers
- In 1933 the Law for the Encouragement of Marriage was introduced. This provided young couples with a loan when they married, providing the woman left her job
- The Nazis also encouraged women and couples to have large numbers of children. For each child, up to four children, couples were allowed to keep $\frac{1}{4}$ of the marriage loan
- Abortion was banned and birth control clinics were closed down
- The government used propaganda campaigns to celebrate the role of mothers and maternity benefits were increased
- On Hitler's mother's birthday medals were given to women with larger families – Gold for 8 or more children, silver for 6 or more and bronze for 5 children
- A new national organisation was set up called, The German Women's Enterprise. They organised 'Mother's Schools' to train women in household skills and ran courses, lectures and radio programmes on being a housewife and a mother.
- Women's appearance was also changed during the Third Reich. Women were expected to have broad hips for childbearing, wear traditional clothes and have long hair tied back. Trousers, make up, smoking and alcohol were forbidden
- Slimming was frowned upon as it was seen as bad for women's health and childbearing

TOPIC 6 – LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY
LIVING IN THE THIRD REICH

I. WHY DID THE NAZIS INTRODUCE THESE POLICIES?

- Hitler believed that women and the traditional role of mother and wife were highly important in ensuring the stability of Germany
- Hitler respected the role of mother and argued that it was just as important that women raised children and looked after the home as it was that men went to work and earned a living
- Hitler also knew that by removing women from the workplace he could solve the unemployment problem
- The Nazis were determined to increase the birth rate as they felt that an increased population would strengthen the Third Reich
- The Nazis believed that women played a key role in raising children to be obedient to the dictatorship. They were particularly important in raising future Nazi soldiers, who were ready and willing to fight for Germany

J. HOW SUCCESSFUL WERE NAZI POLICIES WITH REGARD TO WOMEN? DID THEY ACHIEVE NAZI AIMS?

SUCCESSSES

- ✓ In the first few years the number of married women in employment decreased as women followed the Nazi ideal and left their jobs
- ✓ The number of marriages also increased as did the birth rate
- ✓ The German Women's Enterprise Organisation had 6 million members showing how popular it was
- ✓ Women liked the new level of respect given to their traditional role and felt that whilst their role was different, they were in the eyes of the regime, equal in importance to men

LIMITATIONS/FAILINGS

- × Most couples continued to have families of two children and weren't persuaded to have more, even with the awards system that Hitler had set up
- × The number of women in employment increased significantly in 1939, with just over 7 million women in the workplace (compared to under 5 million in 1933)
- × 35% of married women had a job in 1939
- × When the Nazis began to re arm Germany, they suffered from a shortage of labour in their armaments factories. This led in 1937, to Hitler announcing that women could work, even if they had taken out a marriage loan. This was to ensure that there were enough workers to rebuild Germany's armaments before war in 1939
- × Many employers preferred to employ women as they could pay them less than men. This meant that they often selected them over men for menial jobs



TOPIC 6 – LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY
LIVING IN THE THIRD REICH

K. WHAT WERE THE AIMS OF NAZI POLICIES REGARDING YOUNG PEOPLE?

- To control the youth of Germany to ensure that they grew up as loyal supporters of the Nazi regime
- To indoctrinate them into Nazi ideals
- To train and prepare boys and girls for their different roles in later life – boys as workers and soldiers, girls as homemakers and mothers

'My program for educating youth is hard. Weakness must be hammered away. In my castles of the Teutonic Order a youth will grow up before which the world will tremble. I want a brutal, domineering, fearless, cruel youth. Youth must be all that. It must bear pain. There must be nothing weak and gentle about it. The free, splendid beast of prey must once again flash from its eyes... That is how I will eradicate thousands of years of human domestication... That is how I will create the New Order.'

L. WHAT POLICIES WERE INTRODUCED/WHAT ACTION WAS TAKEN BY THE NAZIS WITH REGARDS TO YOUNG PEOPLE?

- In order to ensure that their aims were met with regard to young people, Hitler and the Nazis targeted the young through education and youth movements.
- This meant that the Nazi message would be delivered during the day whilst the young were at school and in the evenings and on weekends via youth movements.

EDUCATION

- The Nazi government took complete control of all aspects of education
- The Nazi Minister of Education Bernhard Rust stated that ***'The whole purpose of education is to create Nazis'***
- It became compulsory for all teachers to be members of the Nazi party and they were expected to swear an oath of loyalty to Hitler and the Nazis. This was to ensure that they delivered the Nazi message in the classroom, as wanted by the regime
- Teachers attended teachers' camps which concentrated on how to indoctrinate the young.
- All teachers were expected to join the 'Nazi Teachers' Association'
- The curriculum was re-written and organised to reflect key Nazi ideals
 - Lessons began and ended with the teachers and pupils saluting and saying 'Heil Hitler'
 - History was rewritten to glorify Germany's past and the rise of the Nazi Party. History books attacked the Treaty of Versailles and blamed the Jews for all of Germany's past problems
 - The number of PE lessons were increased to ensure that girls were fit to be mothers and boys were prepared for military service/the army. Pupils could be expelled if they failed to pass a physical exam
 - Eugenics was a new subject taught in all German schools. This taught pupils about selective breeding and the creation of a master 'Aryan race'.
 - It taught pupils that they should not marry or reproduce with what the Nazis believed to be inferior races such as the Jews

- Race Studies was also a new subject in schools. This taught pupils about the superiority of the Aryan race and the supposed inferiority of the Jewish race. Pupils were taught how to classify people into races according to certain physical characteristics
- In Geography, pupils learnt about lands that were taken from Germany in the Treaty of Versailles and what would happen if those lands were recovered
- From 1935, all textbooks had to be centrally approved by the Nazis. All textbooks were expected to reflect Nazi ideals
- School was made compulsory for all children to the age of 14
- Co-education (mixed schools) was replaced with separate schools and classes for boys and girls. This was to ensure that they were prepared for their separate, future roles as workers/soldiers or homemakers and mothers
- As well as the standard subjects of PE, eugenics, race studies, history and geography:
 - Boys were taught science, maths and military drilling
 - Schooling for boys concentrated on physical and military fitness as well as other skills to prepare them for the armed forces
 - Girls were taught needlework, music, language and homecrafts
 - Female education was designed to prepare girls for marriage and motherhood
- The Nazis also established a network of schools outside of the state system, which were to prepare future leaders of the country and/or the army
 - Adolf Hitler Schools were opened for potential future Party leaders aged 10 -18
 - National Political Educational Institutes (NPE Institutes) were also opened and run by the SS who trained future military leaders

NAZI YOUTH MOVEMENTS

- These were designed to control and indoctrinate the young in their evening, weekend and holiday leisure time
- All other youth movements, including those run by the church were closed down
- Four separate youth organisations were set up:

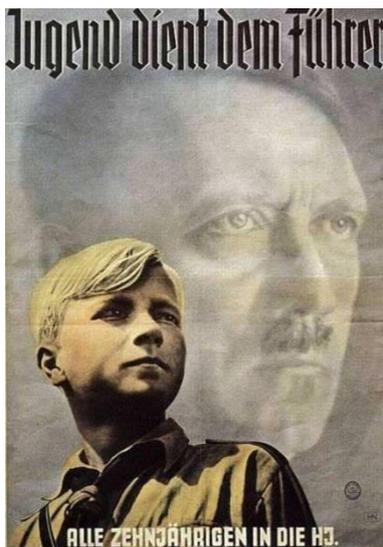


●

TOPIC 6 – LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY
LIVING IN THE THIRD REICH

- **Youth movements for boys** – were based on competition, physical fitness and military training
- Youth leaders organised hundreds of sporting contests and other activities such as hiking
- Boys were prepared for the army with frequent drilling, practice in shooting, map-reading and signalling
- There were also annual military style camps that encouraged teamwork and comradeship
- Lessons were given to reinforce Aryan superiority, the importance of the state and the Fuhrer, and other Nazi ideals
- **Youth movements for girls** – were based on preparing them for motherhood and focused on domestic skills such as how to make beds and cook
- Girls were also taught Nazi ideals and took part in physical exercise in order to strengthen them for their role as mothers

- **The Hitler Youth Law of 1936** – This made it virtually impossible for any young person to avoid joining one of the Youth Movements
- **The Hitler Youth Law of 1939** – Made membership of the Hitler Youth compulsory. All members of the Hitler Youth had to swear an oath of loyalty to Hitler



TOPIC 6 – LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY
LIVING IN THE THIRD REICH

M. HOW SUCCESSFUL WERE NAZI POLICIES IN RELATION TO YOUNG PEOPLE? DID THEY ACHIEVE NAZI AIMS?

SUCSESSES

- ✓ Membership of the Hitler Youth expanded from 5.4 million in 1936 to 8.0 million in 1939
- ✓ Many young people enjoyed the exciting and interesting activities of the Hitler Youth, such as camping and hiking
- ✓ Many also enjoyed the military aspects of the youth movement, especially the uniforms and discipline
- ✓ The Hitler Youth gave a great sense of comradeship and of belonging to something that seemed powerful
- ✓ Activities in the Hitler Youth kept lots of young people happy and physically fit

LIMITATIONS/FAILINGS

- × Around 1 in 5 Germans never joined the youth movements and by 1938 at least 3 million young people had not joined
- × Some who did join found the activities boring, especially the emphasis on military drilling
- × By the end of the 1930s, military conscription meant that there was a shortage of adult youth leaders to run the youth movements
- × Many parents found the Hitler Youth negatively affected family life as young people were told that their first allegiance and main loyalty was with Hitler, not their parents
- × The Hitler Youth Movement also encouraged them to spy on their parents and report them to the Gestapo should they question the regime
- × Young people made up numerous opposition groups to the regime – such as the Edelweiss Pirates, The White Rose Group and the Travelling Dudes

N. HOW DID WAR AFFECT POLICIES TOWARDS WOMEN AND THE YOUNG?

WOMEN

- Attitudes towards women became confused during the Second World War
- The Nazis still believed that women's primary role was in the home and that only unmarried women should be employed
- However, the needs of the war, with men fighting in the army, meant that women were increasingly needed to work in order to replace men in the workplace and ensure that munitions were produced for the war
- The focus of the NSF (National Women's Organisation) changed from 'women as mothers' to 'women as important members of the war effort'
- The NSF now focused on recruiting women to work in munitions factories, instructing women on how to feed a family on rations and assisting in the evacuation of children

YOUNG PEOPLE

- When war broke out in 1939, all members of Germany were expected to help out with the war effort and this included young people
- Many young people helped with the war effort on farms growing food
- They also helped in other areas too such as supporting with the evacuation and childcare of younger children
- They also took part in fire-fighting
- Older members of the Hitler Youth received further military training with boys as young as 13 years being used as soldiers towards the end of the war
- The Hitler Youth became compulsory and those that did not join or who opposed the Nazis were treated harshly. Opposition to the regime and the war increased amongst the young in Germany at this time.

TOPIC 6 – LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY
LIVING IN THE THIRD REICH

O. WHAT WERE THE MAIN ISSUES BETWEEN RELIGION AND THE NAZI REGIME?

- Germany was a very religious country with almost 30% of the people being part of the Catholic Church and 60% being part of the Protestant Church
- The ideas of the church were opposed to those of Nazism
 - The Nazis believed in racial superiority, the dominance of the strong over the weak and the use of violence
 - Christianity believed in the strong helping the weak, love, forgiveness, respect and tolerance
 - Nazi propaganda likened Hitler to a messiah and a God-like figure. This ran against the teachings of Christianity where false idols were frowned upon
- Hitler and the Nazis feared the power that the church had over people's beliefs and values. They also feared its ability to undermine Nazi ideas and convince the people that Nazism was wrong
- **THE CATHOLIC CHURCH** was seen as a particular threat to the Nazi regime because:
 - Catholics owed their first allegiance to the Pope rather than to Hitler and the Nazi Party
 - Catholic parents preferred to send their children to Catholic youth movements than the Hitler Youth
 - There many Catholic schools in Germany. As these were controlled by the church they were not subjected to the same level of control and propaganda that state schools were. This meant that they did not adopt the same curriculum or indoctrination that state run schools did
- **THE PROTESTANT CHURCH** was seen as a threat due to the sheer number of people who practised this faith (almost 2/3 of the German public)

P. HOW DID HITLER AND THE NAZIS DEAL WITH THE CHURCH/RELIGION IN THE THIRD REICH?

THE PROTESTANT CHURCH

- The Protestant Church was brought under Nazi control and became 'The Reich Church'
- The leader of 'The Reich Church', Bishop Ludwig Muller, was a supporter of Nazism
- Members of 'The Reich Church' called themselves 'German Christians', wore Nazi uniforms and gave the Nazi salute as they entered church
- The alter of the Reich Church displayed the Nazi symbol, the swastika and Hitler's book 'Mein Kampf' was seen as important as the bible
- The motto of 'The Reich Church' was 'The swastika on our chests and the Cross in our hearts'
- Those who opposed the development of 'The Reich Church' such as Pastor Martin Niemoller and Dietrich Bonhoeffer were arrested and placed in concentration camps

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- The Catholic Church is run by the Pope and as such it was not possible for Hitler to bring the church under Nazi control in the same way that he had the Protestant Church
- Instead Hitler decided initially to reach an agreement with the Catholic Church in order to minimise their influence against Nazi ideals
- In 1933, Hitler and the Pope signed an agreement known as a 'CONCORDAT'. This stated that Hitler would not interfere with the Catholic Church, would allow them freedom of worship and would allow Catholic youth organisations and schools to continue

- In return the Pope promised that the Catholic Church would not get involved with political matters and priests would not speak out against Nazism
- Hitler still feared their influence however, and as such in 1934 he broke the agreement. He began by forcing Catholic schools to remove all Christian symbols, like the crucifix, from classrooms. He later took over the schools, placing them under state (Nazi) control
- In 1937, the Catholic Youth Movement was made illegal
- Those priests that opposed Nazi policies were arrested and sent to concentration camps. It is estimated that at least 400 Catholic priests were placed in Dachau concentration camp for speaking out against Nazi policy

Q. HOW EFFECTIVE WAS NAZI POLICY REGARDING RELIGION AND THE CHURCH

THE PROTESTANT CHURCH

- Many Protestant priests and pastors opposed Hitler and the Reich Church
- Led by Pastor Martin Niemoller, the Confessional Church was set up to uphold the Protestant faith and speak out against Nazism
- More than 6,000 pastors joined this church in comparison to the 2,000 who remained in the Reich Church
- Despite being arrested and placed in concentration camps, these pastors did not stop preaching against the Nazis and many were considered as martyrs

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Though Hitler successfully closed Catholic schools and youth groups this did not stop people from supporting the Catholic faith. Every Sunday, Catholic churches were full of worshippers
- In 1937, the Pope, Pius XI, sent a famous statement called 'With Burning Anxiety' to all Catholic priests in Germany. In this statement he spoke out about Nazism and asked all Catholic priests to share his views with their congregation
- Rather than suppressing Catholicism, Nazi policy seemed to have the opposite effect. Priests who were sent to concentration camps were seen as martyrs and church leaders were often applauded when they were seen in public



TOPIC 6 – LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY
LIVING IN THE THIRD REICH

R. WHAT WERE THE AIMS OF NAZI ECONOMIC POLICY?

- To reduce unemployment (they had promised full employment if elected in to power)
- To build up industry and make Germany more affluent
- To make Germany self-sufficient so that they would not have to rely on any other country for raw materials and other goods (known as ‘autarky’)
- To build up the arms industry to ensure that Germany was ready for war
- To ensure that the population were content and that they supported their overall aims regarding Germany and the German economy

S. WHAT POLICIES WERE INTRODUCED TO MEET THESE AIMS?

Policy	Details
The New Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced in 1933 by Schacht, who was Minister of the Economy • Limited imports into Germany • This reduced foreign competition and boosted German businesses who were the only providers of certain goods
The Four Year Plan - Rearmament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced in 1936 by Hermann Goring • Focus was to prepare Germany for war and ensure that they were ready to fight in four years’ time • Businesses were persuaded to focus on the production of armaments such as tanks, aircraft and ships, as well as essential war materials like rubber, oil and steel over everyday goods such as butter • The armed forces were expanded from 100,000 to 900,000 men • New industrial plants were set up for mining and metal works • To reduce dependence on foreign goods, synthetic goods replaced those made from raw materials (e.g coffee was made from acorns)
Job creation schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs were created in areas of public works such as road building • These schemes led to the building of 7,000km of motorways (known as ‘autobahns’) and huge public buildings such as the Olympic stadium that was used during the 1936 Olympics • The Nazis also invested in industry so that they would produce more goods and employ more workers. For example, they invested in the car industry and the production of the Volkswagen (People’s Car)
The National Labour Service (RAD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This became compulsory in 1935 • All men aged between 18-25 had to serve 6 months on projects such as building autobahns, draining marshes, tree planting and coastal wall building

TOPIC 6 – LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY
LIVING IN THE THIRD REICH

Policy	Details
Removing Jews, women and political opponents from the work place	<p>To provide work for Aryan men;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jews were forced out of their jobs especially in the professions, such as teachers, lawyers and doctors • Many women were dismissed from their jobs. Others were encouraged by the state marriage loans to give up work and get married • All opponents of the Nazi regime were arrested and placed in concentration camps. Their jobs became available as a result
Abolition of national pay rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rather than offering workers a minimum wage, wages were paid according to how much work people did
The German Labour Front	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This replaced trade unions • Membership was virtually compulsory • DAF took full responsibility for the workplace and was set up to boost productivity • It aimed to boost worker morale and would ‘suggest’ improvements to the workplace <p>DAF ran two schemes to improve working conditions and lifestyle of the workforce. Both aimed to ensure that workers were more happy at work and in turn were motivated to produce more and work harder</p> <p><u>‘Strength through Joy’ (KdF)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided workers with activities when they weren’t working • Leisure activities such as concerts, sports events, holidays and cruises were made available and were used to reward workers for their hard work <p><u>‘The Beauty of Labour’ (SdA)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aimed to improve working conditions by reducing noise levels of machines, building canteens, providing on site leisure activities such as swimming pools and sports facilities as well as better heating
Production of affordable goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To boost the morale and support of the population numerous goods were cheaply produced so that they were easily affordable • The People’s Radio for example, was sold cheaply to facilitate the spread of Nazi propaganda • The mass production of the ‘people’s car’/Volkswagen was also a priority for Hitler. The car was cheap enough for workers to afford and schemes were set up in 1938 which workers paid 5 marks a week towards the production of a car that they would later own

TOPIC 6 – LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY
LIVING IN THE THIRD REICH

T. HOW SUCCESSFUL WERE NAZI ECONOMIC POLICIES? DID THEY ACHIEVE THEIR AIMS?

SUCCESSSES

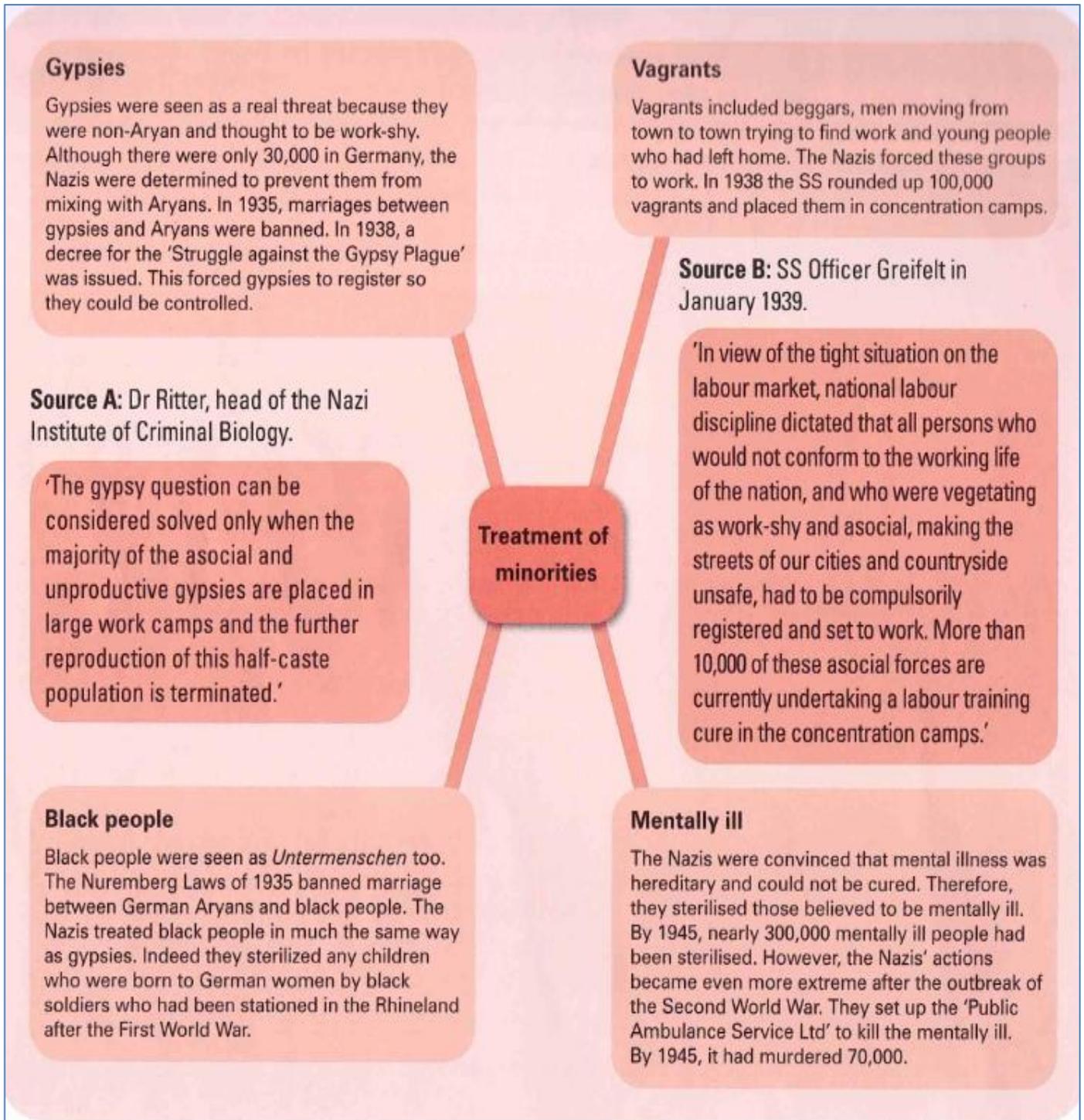
- ✓ Unemployment was reduced from 6 million in 1933 to ½ million in 1939
- ✓ The majority of German men had work
- ✓ Due to increased productivity, average weekly wages increased from 86 marks in 1932 to 109 marks by 1939
- ✓ The production of cheaper goods such as the Volkswagen and the 'People's radio' enabled more people to buy luxury goods. By 1939, 70% of German homes had a radio
- ✓ The construction of 7,000km of motorway enabled the swift transport of goods and troops (once the war began)
- ✓ The 'Strength through Joy' programme provided better leisure activities and holidays for workers and their families
- ✓ The 'Beauty of Labour' department improved working conditions
- ✓ Farmers benefitted from the reduction in imports and the Nazi guarantee of high food prices
- ✓ Businesses benefitted as they no longer had to worry about trade unions or strikes. Rearmament and government contracts resulted in the growth of big business which made larger profits. The average salary of managers increased by nearly 70% between 1934 and 1938

LIMITATIONS/FAILINGS

- × Due to the abolition of trade unions, workers had few rights in the workplace
- × The cost of living increased between 1933 and 1939 with the price of essentials such as food costing more. This cancelled out the wage rises at this time.
- × The average hours of work increased from 43 hours to 47 hours a week by 1939
- × There were food shortages as the government reduced agricultural production in order to keep up prices
- × Food shortages increased due to the Four Year Plan and the focus on expanding the military. This led to rationing of everyday goods such as butter. The government propaganda slogan of 'guns or butter?' (where people were asked to make a sacrifice for the greater good of Germany) was needed to win over public support
- × Farmers suffered from a shortage of labour as workers were attracted to the towns by work schemes such as 'Strength through Joy'
- × Only a few workers were able to take part in the more expensive leisure activities provided by the 'Strength through Joy' scheme such as holidays and cruises
- × The National Labour Front (RAD) was poorly paid and involved working long hours doing boring jobs. Many men resented this especially as it was compulsory
- × The Volkswagen scheme was a swindle/con – by the time war broke out in 1939 not a single car had been bought and none of the money spent on instalments was refunded to the people
- × Though unemployment figures went down, 'invisible unemployment' still existed. Those that were forced out of work such as Jews and women were unemployed however, they were not included in the unemployment figures as it was felt that they shouldn't work
- × Germany still relied heavily on imports from abroad despite their desire to be self-sufficient and substitute items such as 'acorn coffee' were not popular.

TOPIC 6 – LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY
LIVING IN THE THIRD REICH

U. HOW WERE MINORITY GROUPS PERSECUTED IN NAZI GERMANY?



TOPIC 6 – LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY
LIVING IN THE THIRD REICH

- Hitler had made it clear in his book 'Mein Kampf' that he wanted to create a Jew free Europe.
- The treatment and persecution of the Jews got steadily worse between 1933 and 1939
- After 1939, with the outbreak of war, the treatment of the Jews escalated further and by 1941 the Nazis had moved from persecuting the Jews to exterminating them
- Approximately 6 million Jews were killed in Europe in what has become known as 'The Holocaust'

V. HOW WERE THE JEWS PERSECUTED IN NAZI GERMANY?

1933

- On 1st April 1933, Hitler ordered a boycott on Jewish shops. SA men stood outside of Jewish run businesses and turned away customers. They also smashed windows and painted the word 'Jude' (Jew) outside on doors and windows
- During the Summer, placards appeared outside of shops and cafes saying 'Jews not welcome'
- Laws were passed which meant that Jews were sacked and banned from working in education and the law
- Jewish actors and musicians were forbidden to perform in public
- Jewish and Aryan children were forbidden from playing with each other

1934

- Local councils banned Jews from public places such as parks, playing fields and swimming pools

1935

- **The Nuremberg Laws:** These laws stated that Jews could not be classed as German citizens and were to be seen as 'subjects' not German people. The laws also included the Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honour which banned marriages between Jews and Aryans and forbade sexual relations outside of marriage

1936

- The persecution of the Jews was hidden and slowed down slightly due to the Olympic games being held in Berlin. Placards 'forbidding' Jews from entering public places were taken down to avoid drawing attention to the Nazi persecution campaign whilst the games were happening

1938

- All Jewish passports were stamped with the red letter 'J'
- All Jewish men were forced to use the name 'Israel' and all women the name 'Sarah' so that they were identifiably 'different'
- Jews were banned from all theatres, concert and lecture halls, museums, amusement places and sports fields
- They were banned from being doctors, running their own business, going to state schools or universities

KRISTALLNACHT



- On 9th and 10th November 1938, the persecution of the Jews turned violent.
- Since the persecution of the Jews began, Jews in many areas had tried to resist the Nazis. All too often this led to worse treatment than before.
- In November 1938, a Jewish boy shot dead a senior Nazi official named Ernst Von Rath
- In retaliation, the SA & SS carried out a campaign of terror against the Jewish population. It started on 9th November 1938, with 'The Night of the Broken Glass', in which approximately 10,000 Jewish shopkeepers had their shop windows smashed and the contents stolen.
- During the campaign, 91 Jews were killed and 20,000 Jewish people were arrested and forced into concentration camps.
- Over 250 synagogues were set on fire or demolished.
- 815 Jewish shops were destroyed
- Finally, on 12th November 1938, the Jewish population were ordered to pay a fine of one billion marks to the government for the disorder and damage that their actions had caused!

WHY WAS KRISTALLNACHT AN IMPORTANT TURNING POINT IN THE PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS?

- It gave Hitler and Joseph Goebbels the excuse they were waiting for to escalate the persecution of the Jews.
- As no one tried to stop the events of Kristallnacht it allowed for the worsening treatment of the Jews in Germany as it showed the Nazis that they would have little opposition if they continued to terrorise the Jews in a more aggressive way
- It marked the move from less violent methods of persecution to more violent ones. Before Kristallnacht, persecution was through discriminatory laws. After Kristallnacht, violence became increasingly common resulting in the mass execution of 6 million Jews through shootings and gassing between 1941 and 1945
- The level and scale of the damage caused to the Jewish community was greater than any other policy before this date. The number of people and properties affected by Kristallnacht was higher than any action taken against the Jews up to that point and in turn it was a significant event in the persecution of German Jews

1939

- Jews were no longer allowed to own radios or buy cakes and chocolates
- A curfew was put in place which stated that Jewish people were no longer allowed outside after dark

TOPIC 6 – LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY
LIVING IN THE THIRD REICH

W. HOW DID THE TREATMENT OF THE JEWS ESCALATE AFTER WAR BROKE OUT IN 1939?

- The outbreak of war is often seen as another turning point in the worsening treatment of the Jews
- As the Nazis took over other land/countries such as Poland and Russia, more Jews came under their control. There were too many for them to control using persecution alone
- The Nazis were keen to ensure that the Jews were not a threat during this war as many felt that they were responsible for the loss of World War One
- The war also provided cover for the execution of the Jews as other countries were distracted and the chaos and destruction of war hid what was really happening

1939

- Germany invaded Poland and 3 million Polish Jews were forced into fenced off ghettos in Warsaw and Krakow
- All Polish Jews were forced to wear the Star of David on their clothing
- Conditions in the ghettos were harsh and the Nazis limited food stuffs, medical supplies and fuel to these areas
- Whilst in the ghettos, Polish Jews were used as cheap labour in factories to help with the building of armaments

1940

- The Nazis considered setting up a Jewish homeland in Madagascar and moving all Jewish people in Germany and Poland to the island. This idea was abandoned and replaced with a more 'FINAL SOLUTION' – the execution of all Jews in Nazi controlled Europe

1941

- The 'Final Solution' was ordered – a name given to the carefully planned destruction or genocide of all European Jews
- When Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941, a group known as the 'Einsatzgruppen' travelled behind the German army and shot Jewish people in the country. Their bodies were buried in mass graves that the Jews had been forced to dig themselves
- To save on ammunition, in the winter of 1941, Polish Jews were the first to be gassed, using vans and carbon monoxide

1942

- **The Wannsee Conference:** In January 1942, leading Nazi officials, architects, doctors, transport workers and engineers met to discuss how to deal with 'The Jewish Problem'. It was decided at this conference to build concentration camps designed to 'exterminate the Jews' via gas chambers
- Camps were built in Aushwitz, Sobibor, Dachau and Treblinka and train networks were set up to transport the Jews to the camps from the ghettos

1942 onwards – following the conference

- A significant number of Jews were gassed to death via gas chambers as planned at Wannsee
- A pesticide known as Zyklon B replaced carbon monoxide as the method used to poison the Jews
- Experimentation was also common with Dr Josef Mengele carrying out many experiments on children and adults in Auschwitz. Experiments included seeing how long someone could survive in sub-zero temperatures. This was designed to test war clothing for soldiers fighting in the Soviet Union

- In labour camps, 'healthier' Jews worked for the war effort. They lived on rations of food, worked long hours and were quite literally worked to death. Many died of malnutrition or exhaustion

WHY WAS THE WANNSEE CONFERENCE AN IMPORTANT TURNING POINT IN THE PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS?

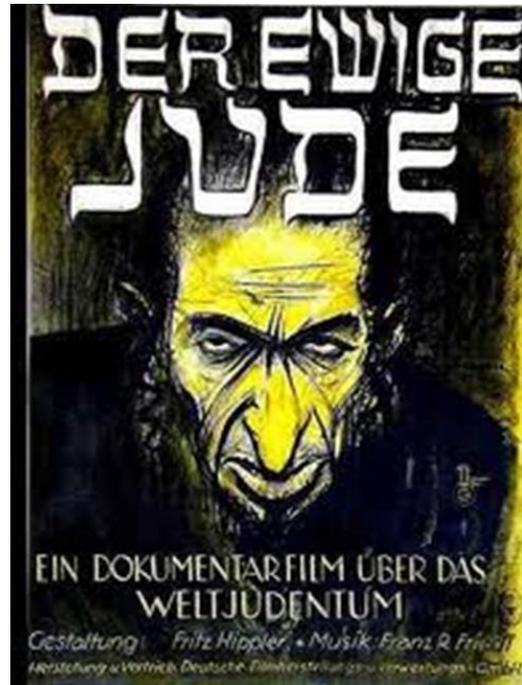
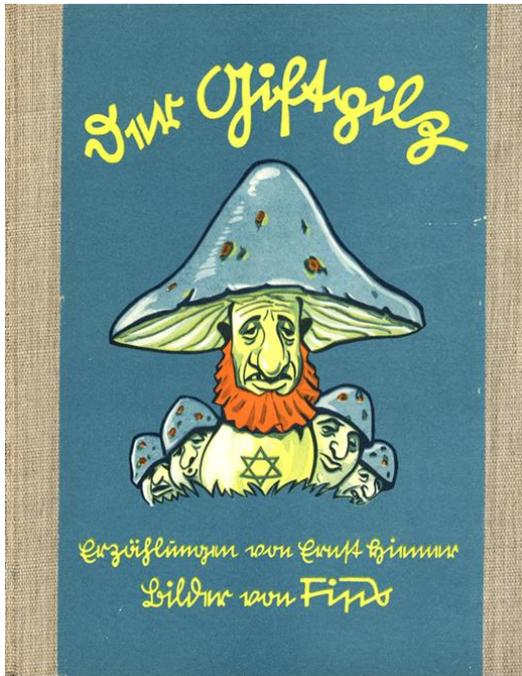
- The Wannsee conference is seen by many to have made the 'final solution' possible
- In order for the mass genocide that occurred to have been carried out, the Nazis needed the cooperation and support of doctors, architects and transport networks as well as key government leaders within the party itself
- The Wannsee Conference was about securing this support. The idea of gas chambers had already been decided upon, the conference was a case of ensuring that everyone that was needed supported the Nazi plan
- Nobody at the conference objected to the plans and as such the Wannsee Conference gave the Nazis the 'go ahead' to carry out the mass killing of the Jews
- The Wannsee Conference did not mark the beginning of the killing of Jews as this had already started with the shooting of Jews in the Soviet Union
- HOWEVER, the conference made it possible for the killing to take place on a much wider scale
- In total 4 million Jews were exterminated via gas chambers following the conference

X. WHY DID THE HOLOCAUST HAPPEN?

- **The 'master race' and social Darwinism**
 - Hitler and the Nazis wanted to create what they believed to be a 'master race' in Germany of people who were of pure Aryan descent. They believed that this race was superior to all others and stronger than any other race
 - According to the theory of social Darwinism, the development of a 'master race' involves the eradication of 'weaker races' who may threaten its superiority
 - In the minds of the Nazis to ensure the creation of a strong, powerful race, there was no place for the disabled, the mentally ill, Jews or Black people
- **Jews as scapegoats**
 - Hitler used the Jews as the scapegoat for Germany's problems after 1918, including the defeat in World War One, The Treaty of Versailles and the hyperinflation of 1923
 - By using the Jews as a scapegoat for Germany's problems, the Nazis ensured that focus was not on them for any failings in Germany
- **Antisemitism**
 - Hatred of the Jews had existed for centuries in Europe and was not created by Hitler and the Nazis and had its origins in the Christian belief that Judas (a Jew) had betrayed Jesus Christ
 - Hitler and the Nazis had grown up in a country where antisemitism existed and in turn they believed that the Jews were an inferior race who could not be trusted
- **Divide and Rule**
 - A divided population is easier to control and the Nazis wanted total control of Germany
 - The group that is not persecuted feels superior and in turn they support the regime because it makes them feel good

- **Political reasons**

- The Nazis had promised full employment to the German population during their election campaign. Removing minority groups from the workplace enabled the Nazis to fulfil this promise and provide jobs for all 'Aryan men'
- Two leading Nazi officers, Heydrich and Himmler were extreme anti-Semites. They were crucial to upholding the Nazi regime and Hitler therefore wanted to keep them happy



Y. WHY WERE THE NAZIS ABLE TO PERSECUTE THE JEWS AND OTHER MINORITY GROUPS BETWEEN 1933 AND 1945?

Reason	Explanation
Propaganda and indoctrination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This effectively turned the public against the Jews ○ The Nazis used books, posters, films and even classroom tasks to indoctrinate the German public against the Jews ○ Their propaganda portrayed the Jews as poisonous, untrustworthy, greedy, selfish and evil. They also blamed them for the defeat in World War One and the disasters that followed ○ Books such as 'The Poisonous Mushroom' were read to children and gave the message that the Jews were a poison amongst us trying to disguise themselves as normal citizens ○ The steady escalation of the persecution meant that people became acclimatised (used to) it by the time treatment became more extreme

Reason	Explanation
Terror and Fear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Nazi police state made opposition difficult and unlikely ○ Few people were willing to speak out against the treatment of the Jews due to the surveillance of the population via the gestapo and secret police. By 1939 the SS had more than 240,000 members, who all worked to uphold the regime and prevent opposition ○ Those who did oppose the treatment such as 'The White Rose Group' and Dietrich Bonhoeffer were dealt with harshly by the regime and executed
Secrecy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Nazis were not entirely open about their actions to others ○ The withdrawal of placards during the Olympics hid their actions from the rest of the world ○ The Nazis spoke in coded language when discussing the Jews, particularly regarding the 'Final Solution' and the concentration camps were hidden in areas of occupied territory
Anti-Semitism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The fact that Antisemitism existed in Germany already meant that it was easy for the Nazis to play on people's hatred ○ There were only ½ a million Jews living in Germany however, they made up 16% of lawyers and 10% of doctors. Many Germans were jealous of their success and disliked them as a result
No one stopped them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For all of the reasons above, no one stopped the Nazi persecution and execution of the Jews ○ There were many times when the public could have stood up against the Nazi treatment of the Jews (Kristallnacht, the Wannsee Conference to name just two) but they didn't – this made it possible for the Nazis to carry out this horrendous deed

