

Weimar Republic 1918-29

Key dates and events in History

9 Nov 1918 – Kaiser abdicates.
10 Nov 1918 – Kaiser escapes to Holland.
11 Nov 1918 – End of First World War.
Jan 1919 – Spartacist Revolt (Communist – took over newspaper and telegraph offices. Put down by the Freikorps).
June 1919 – Treaty of Versailles signed.
March 1920 – Kapp Putsch - Freikorps marched on Berlin. General strike organised by workers. Kapp could not rule and fled.
Jan 1923 – Ruhr Crisis – French troops invade causing German workers to strike leading to Weimar Government printing more money.
Nov 1923 – Hyperinflation – German Mark is worthless.
Aug 1924 – Dawes Plan agreed – US loans and reparations repayments dealt with.
1925 – Locarno Pact – Germany agreed to borders as set out in the Treaty of Versailles.
1926 – Invited to join the League of Nations.
1929 – Kellogg-Briand Pact – 62 nations agreed to solve issues without war.
1929 - Young Plan – Further reduction in reparations repayments and reduce the reparations.



Key concepts

First World War – 2 million German dead, 150 billion marks debt.
Reichstag – The German elected central Parliament.
Reichsrat – The German elected regional Parliament.
Weimar Government – The party in control of Germany through elections.
Weimar Republic – Germany no longer led by monarch and everyone over 20 had vote.
Weimar constitution – Rules by which the German Government had to follow.
President – Head of Weimar Republic.
Chancellor – Head of Government of Weimar Republic.
Treaty of Versailles – Allies forced Germany to sign (Diktat) Treaty which made Germany accept Blame (Article 231 – War Guilt Clause), pay Reparations (£6,600 million), reduced Armed forces (100 thousand soldiers etc) and give up Territory (13% of territory in Europe as well as colonies) (BRAT).
November criminals – New German leaders because they signed the Treaty of Versailles.
Stab in the Back theory (Dolchstoß) – German people believed their army had never been defeated and had been betrayed by the politicians.
Freikorps – Ex soldiers who refused to give up their weapons and uniforms (unofficial army).
Rentenmark – New currency issued in 1923 based on property rather than gold reserves.
League of Nations – A council of nations who joined together to stop war from happening in the future.
Golden Age – 1924-29 – Art, cinema and architecture challenged traditional styles, showing cultural change.
Standard of living – increased after 1924 as working hours decreased, benefits were paid and 101 thousand homes were built.

Key People

Kaiser Willhelm II – Emperor of Germany.
Frederich Ebert –
Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht – Leaders of the Spartacist uprising (executed).
Dr Wolfgang Kapp – Right wing leader of the Kapp Putsch.
Gustav Stresemann – Chancellor in 1923, instrumental in recovery during Weimar period. Died in 1929 a few weeks before the Wall St Crash.

Hitler's rise 1919-33

Key dates and events in History

1919 – Anton Drexler sets up German Workers' Party.
1919 - Hitler joins DAP to spy on them.
1920 – Hitler becomes second in command name changed to NSDAP (NAZI).
July, 1921 – H becomes leader of NSDAP.
Aug, 1921 – SA formed.
8 Nov, 1923 – H with 600 SA forces Bavarian government to support him during the Beer Hall Putsch.
9 Nov, 1923 – MUNICH PUTSCH - H gathers with 1,000 SA marches on Munich and declares himself President of Germany.
11 Nov, 1923 – Arrested – sentenced to 5 years but spends only 9 months.
1925 – SS (Schutzstaffel) set up controlled all of Germany's police and security.
1926 Bamberg Party Conference – H set up the Gaue system and the Hitler Youth.
Oct 1929 – Wall St Crash – Led to cancellation of the Dawes Plan, raising of taxes and around 3 million people losing their jobs.
1931 – SD set up (Security Service).
April 1932 – **Election** - no party has majority.
May 1932 – Von Hind re-elected President, H increases vote promising “work and bread”. Brüning resigns as Chancellor. Von Papen takes over.
July 1932 – **Election** - NAZI vote increase 18% to 38%. H demands to be Chancellor (Hind refuses).
Nov 1932 – **Election** – Von Schleicher warns Hin that if Von Papen stays as Chanc. There will be Civil War.
Dec – Von Schleicher becomes Chanc.
Jan 1933 – Von Schleicher does not have NAZI support. Persuade Hind to form military dictatorship. Hind refuses. Von P persuades Von Hind to appoint H as Chanc.



Key concepts

25 Point programme – Get rid of TOV, nationalise industry, build up Germany's armed forces, expand German territory (Lebensraum), only German races could be members of the nation.
Mussolini – Italian fascist dictator who H modelled himself on.
Sturmabteilung (SA) - Brown shirts under Ernst Rohm. Protected H and disrupted political opponents.
Munich Putsch – H attempted to overthrow the Weimar Government in 1923.
Hitler's trial – gave him a platform to persuade people to follow the NSDAP.
Mein Kampf – the book H wrote in prison.
Gauleiter – the NAZI heads of local branches of the NSDAP.
Aryan – Blond haired, blue eyed, athletic – master race to the NAZIs.
Anschluss – Joining of Germany and Austria under, banned under the Treaty of Versailles.
Lebensraum – The NAZIs promised to gain more living space for Germans.

Key People

Anton Drexler – Leader of the NSDAP in 1920.
Adolf Hitler – Became leader of the NSDAP in 1920.
Ernst Rohm – Head of the SA.
Joseph Goebbels – Nazi chief of propaganda.
Ludendorff – Army general; who supported H.
Paul Von Hindenburg – President of the Weimar Republic.
Heinrich Brüning – The Chancellor.
Himmler – In charge of the SS and SD.

Nazi control and dictatorship, 1933-39

Key dates and events in History

27 Feb 1933 – Reichstag Fire. 4 thousand communists arrested.

28 Feb 1933 – Emergency Decree – Restricted human rights.

March 1933 – Election – NAZI achieve 2/3 seats (no communists allowed in Reichstag). H able to change constitution.

Emergency Decree

March 1933 – Enabling Act passed.

March 1933 – Local Government closed down.

April 1933 – Gestapo set up.

May 1933 – Trade Unions replaced by German Labour Front.

May 1933 – Communists banned.

July 1933 – Other political parties banned.

July 1933 – Concordat signed with the Catholic Church.

September 1933 – Reich Chamber of Culture set up.

1933 – First concentration camp built in Dachau.

June 1934 – Night of the long Knives.

Aug 1934 – Von Hindenburg dies. Law is passed combing the positions of President and Chancellor into one – The Fuhrer. Army swear an oath of allegiance to H not to Germany.

1936 – Reich Church starts.

Key concepts

Reichstag – German Parliament.

Enabling Act – Allowed H to suggest new laws, cabinet (leaders of the Reichstag could pass them. NAZIS won the vote for this 444 to 94. Reichstag effectively voted itself out of existence.

Night of the Long Knives – Rohm and around 100 leaders of the SA were arrested and executed giving H the power to assimilate the SA.

Concentration camps – Isolated camps where political prisoners and undesirable were forced to complete hard labour

Untermenschen – Undesirables (Jews / Gypsies / Slavs / prostitutes / homosexuals).

The Church – Most people in Germany were religious and the Catholic and Protestant church threatened H's power. He made deals with the Catholic church and created his own Protestant church (Reich church).

Reich Church – About 2,000 Protestant churches who supported NAZIs under Ludwig Muller.

Concordat – Agreement between NAZIS and Catholic (Pope) church that neither would interfere with each other's power.

Propaganda - Reich Chamber of Culture set up by Goebbels which controlled radio, cinema, etc.

Confessional Church – Founded in 1934 opposed NAZIs. Many members arrested and sent to concentration camps.

Edelweiss Pirates – Working class youth movement, listened to American music, sang songs against the Hitler Youth. Had 2 thousand members in 1939.

Swing Youth – Wealthy and Middle Class youth movement. Very similar to Edelweiss Pirates.



Key People

Marinus Van Der Lubbe – Dutch communist accused of burning down the Reichstag.

Goering – Set up the Gestapo.

Heydrich – In charge of the Gestapo and SD.

Pastor Martin Niemoller – Clergy member of the Confessional Church.

Life in Nazi Germany, 1933-39

1933 – The Marriage Law Marriage loans offered to married couples to encourage marriage.
1933 – Sterilisation laws – sterilised 320,000 women with ‘mental deficiency’.
1933 – Bernhard Rust takes over education.
1933 – Autobahn building begins (3 thousand km by 1938).
April 1935 – Boycott of Jewish shops.
September 1935 – Nuremberg Laws passed.
1935 – Marriage Health Law – stopped designed to keep the racial purity of women when marrying.
1935 – Reich Labour Service introduced.
1935 – Conscription reintroduced – army grew from 100,000 in 1933 to 1.4 million in 1939.
1936 – Berlin Olympic Games – Massive propaganda win for Nazis.
1937 – Teachers had to swear oath of loyalty to Hitler and join the Nazi Teachers’ league.
1938 – Jewish children expelled from schools.
9 Nov 1938 – Kristallnacht – 100 Jews killed, 20 thousand sent to concentration camps, 191 synagogues destroyed, 7,5 thousand business destroyed.

NAZI women – Expected not to work but look after the home. Family was important (Kinder, kuche, kirche). Cross of German mothers for those who gave birth (bronze 4-5, silver 6-7, gold 8 or more).
Nazi education – taught NAZI view of history, lessons were designed to indoctrinate.
Hitler Youth – All boys 16-18. Becomes compulsory from 1936. By 1929 there are 7 million members. Training for military service.
League of German Maidens – Prepared girls for life of motherhood.
Reich Labour service – Compulsory for all man 18-25 to serve 6 months. Low pay, military drill and wore uniforms.
Strength through joy – tried to improve leisure time of German workers. Organised sporting events, cheap holidays and cultural trips.
Beauty of labour – Improved working conditions of German workers.
Wages increased by about 15% from 1932 to 1938, cost of living rose due to reduction in agricultural production and average working hours went up to 47 hours per week.
Nuremberg Laws – Only those with German blood could be German citizens - Jews lost rights as citizens.

