

# Knowledge Organiser: Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39

## KT1: The Weimar Republic, 1918-29

The Weimar Republic	
1	This was the name given to Germany after the Kaiser had abdicated in November 1918. This was a time of despair and hope for Germany. At first, the country faced lots of chaos but under Gustav Stresemann, there was some stability.
Key events	
2	<b>1918</b> World War One ended. The Kaiser abdicated and Germany became a country without a monarch (a Republic).
3	<b>1919 January</b> Spartacist Uprising
4	<b>1919 June</b> Signing of the Treaty of Versailles
5	<b>1919 August</b> Weimar Constitution finalised
6	<b>1920</b> Kapp Putsch
7	<b>1923</b> French occupation of the Ruhr and hyperinflation
8	<b>1924</b> Dawes Plan
9	<b>1925</b> Locarno Pact
10	<b>1926</b> Germany joins League of Nations
11	<b>1928</b> Kellogg Briand Pact
12	<b>1929</b> Young Plan
Key Concepts	
13	<b>The Weimar Republic</b> faced much opposition, It was disliked by the left wing who wanted Germany to be like Communist Russia and it was disliked by the right wing who wanted the monarchy back.
14	<b>The Treaty of Versailles</b> caused many problems for Germany. The German people disliked the politicians for signing it and it caused political problems and economic problems.
15	<b>Gustav Stresemann</b> helped to bring about recovery in Germany after 1924. He solved economic problems by making friends with other countries. However, historians have very different views about the extent of this recovery.
16	<b>The Golden Age</b> was the period from 1924-29 and it saw significant changes in culture, the standard of living and the position of women.

Key Words		
17	<b>Abdication</b>	When a monarch leaves the throne
18	<b>Republic</b>	A country without a King or a Queen
19	<b>Ebert</b>	The first President of the Republic
20	<b>Stresemann</b>	The Chancellor of Germany from the Summer of 1923
21	<b>Article 48</b>	The President could use this to ignore the Reichstag and rule as he saw fit
22	<b>Kaiser</b>	King
23	<b>Armistice</b>	An agreement to end war
24	<b>Weimar</b>	The new government could not meet in Berlin as it was so dangerous, so they met here instead
25	<b>Constitution</b>	This is an agreement about how the country would be ruled
26	<b>Reichstag</b>	German parliament
27	<b>Gewaltfrieden</b>	An enforced peace
28	<b>Freikorps</b>	Ex military soldiers who wanted to overthrow the Republic
29	<b>Rentenmark</b>	The currency of Germany after November 1923
30	<b>Hyperinflation</b>	When money loses its value
31	<b>Dawes Plan</b>	An agreement where the USA would lend Germany money
32	<b>Young Plan</b>	This lowered the reparations payment and gave Germany longer to pay
33	<b>Treaty of Versailles</b>	This decided how Germany was going to be treated after WW1
34	<b>Locarno Pact</b>	An agreement on borders signed by Britain, France, Italy and Belgium
35	<b>Kellogg Briand Pact</b>	65 countries including Germany agreed to resolve conflict peacefully
36	<b>Coalition</b>	A government of two or more political parties

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### KT2: Hitler's Rise to Power, 1919-33

Hitler's Rise to Power	
1	Hitler sets up the Nazi Party in 1920 and becomes Chancellor in January 1933. This happens for a variety of reasons – Hitler's strengths, inbuilt problems of the Weimar Republic, and the weaknesses of others.
Key events	
2	<b>1919</b> Hitler joins the German Worker's Party
3	<b>1920</b> Hitler sets up the Nazi Party
4	<b>1921</b> Hitler introduces the SA
5	<b>1923</b> The Munich Putsch
6	<b>1925</b> Mein Kampf published
7	<b>1926</b> Bamberg Conference
8	<b>1928</b> Nazis win 12 seats in Reichstag
9	<b>1929</b> Death of Stresemann and Wall Street Crash
10	<b>1930</b> Nazis win 107 seats in Reichstag
11	<b>1932 July</b> Nazis win 230 seats in Reichstag
12	<b>1932 November</b> Nazis win 196 seats in Reichstag
13	<b>1933 January</b> Hitler becomes Chancellor
Key Concepts	
14	<b>The Munich Putsch</b> is a significant event. Although a failure, Hitler gained publicity, he wrote Mein Kampf and he realised that if he was to win power, he needed to do this by votes and not by force.
15	<b>Stable Stresemann</b> caused problems for the popularity of the Nazi Party. When times were good, voters were not attracted to the Nazi policies.
16	<b>The Wall Street Crash</b> was a major turning point in the fortunes of the Nazi Party. The Nazi message did not change but people were now prepared to hear it.
17	<b>The Backstairs Intrigue</b> - At a time when Nazi popularity at the polls was decreasing, Hitler was handed power by political elites who feared a Communist take over and Civil War.

Key Words		
18	<b>NSDAP</b>	The Nazis
19	<b>Iron Cross Award</b>	Given for bravery in war
20	<b>Volk</b>	The notion of pure German people
21	<b>25 Point Programme</b>	The political manifesto of the Nazi Party
22	<b>Volkischer Beobachter</b>	People's Observer, a Nazi newspaper
23	<b>Fuhrerprinzip</b>	Belief that one person should run a Party
24	<b>Swastika</b>	Emblem of the Nazi Party
25	<b>SA or Sturmabteilung</b>	Private army of the Nazi Party headed by Himmler
26	<b>Aryan</b>	Pure German people
27	<b>Anti-Semitism</b>	Hatred of the Jewish people
28	<b>Mein Kampf</b>	Hitler's autobiography
29	<b>Putsch</b>	An attempt to get power illegally
30	<b>Blood Martyrs</b>	16 Nazis who died at the Munich Putsch
31	<b>Gaue</b>	Local party branches
32	<b>SS or Schutzstaffel</b>	Hitler's bodyguards
33	<b>KPD</b>	German Communist Party
34	<b>Propaganda</b>	Goebbels attempted to make people think in a certain way
35	<b>Hindenburg</b>	The President of the Republic from 1925 to 1934
36	<b>Roter Frontkampferbund</b>	The Communist's own private army

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### KT3: Nazi Control and Dictatorship

Nazi Control and Dictatorship	
1	This was a time when Hitler formed a legal dictatorship and put in place methods of propaganda and censorship to persuade and encourage all Germany people to support Nazi ideals.
Key events	
2	<b>1933 January</b> Hitler becomes Chancellor
3	<b>1933 February</b> Reichstag Fire
4	<b>1933 March</b> Nazis win 288 seats
5	<b>1933 March</b> Enabling Act passed
6	<b>1933 July</b> Nazis become the only legal party in Germany
7	<b>1934 June</b> Night of the Long Knives
8	<b>1934 August</b> President Hindenburg dies
9	<b>1934 August</b> Hitler combines the post of Chancellor and President and becomes Fuhrer
10	<b>1934 August</b> German army swears allegiance to Hitler
11	<b>1938</b> Over the course of the year, Hitler removes 16 army generals from their positions
Key Concepts	
12	<b>Removal</b> – From 1933 to 1934, Hitler removed all opposition and established himself as Fuhrer.
13	<b>Control</b> – There was an attempt to control and influence attitudes. This was done by propaganda and terror.
14	<b>Opposition</b> – The youth and the churches opposed the regime.

Key Words		
15	<b>Marinus van der Lubbe</b>	The Reichstag Fire was blamed on this Communist
16	<b>Enabling Act</b>	Gave the Nazis full power for the next 4 years
17	<b>Gleichschaltung</b>	Hitler's attempt to bring German society into line with Nazi philosophy
18	<b>German Labour Front (DAF)</b>	Set up to replace Trade Unions
19	<b>Dachau</b>	First concentration camp
20	<b>Centralisation</b>	Germany had been divided into districts called Lander. Now Germany was run from Berlin alone
21	<b>Purge</b>	To get rid of opposition
22	<b>Gestapo</b>	Secret police headed by Goering.
23	<b>Night of the Long Knives</b>	Removal on internal and external opposition
24	<b>Sicherheitsdienst (SD)</b>	The intelligence body of the Nazi Party
25	<b>Concordat</b>	In July 1933 the Pope agreed to stay out of political matters if the Nazis did not interfere with Catholic affairs
26	<b>Eidelweiss Pirates and Swing Youth</b>	Groups who apposed the Hitler Youth
27	<b>Confessional Church</b>	Followed traditional German Protestantism and refused to allow the Nazification of religion. Led by Pastor Martin Niemoller
28	<b>Mit Brennender Sorge (With Burning Concern)</b>	The Pope wrote to priests in Germany about his concerns over the Nazi attempts to control religion

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### KT4: Life in Nazi Germany, 1933-39

<b>Life in Nazi Germany</b>	
1	The lives of German citizens were changed after Hitler's appointment as Chancellor. For some, life was better under the Nazis but for others, it was much worse.
<b>Key events</b>	
2	<b>1933</b> Boycott of Jewish shops and businesses. Law for the Encouragement of Marriage. Sterilisation Law passed.
3	<b>1935</b> The Nuremberg Laws were passed.
4	<b>1935</b> Conscription introduced.
5	<b>1936</b> Membership of the Hitler Youth made compulsory.
6	<b>1938</b> Jewish children were not allowed to attend German schools. Lebensborn programme introduced. Kristallnacht.
7	<b>1939</b> The euthanasia campaign began. Designated Jewish ghettos established.
<b>Key Concepts</b>	
9	<b>Anti-Semitism</b> – Persecution of the Jews grew continuously after 1933.
10	<b>Young</b> – The Nazis placed much emphasis on controlling the young as only then could they secure a 'thousand year Reich'. Youth organisations and education indoctrinated the German youth.
11	<b>Women</b> – The Nazis had traditional family values but even these were tested by the needs of war and the desire to ensure a growing Aryan population.
12	<b>Living Standards</b> – The Nazis did reduce unemployment but they did this by banning Jews and women from the workplace and by putting Germany on a war footing. Workers had limited rights.

<b>Key Words</b>		
13	<b>Kinder, Kuche, Kirche</b>	Children, Kitchen, Church. This summed up the Nazi ideal of womanhood
14	<b>The Motherhood Cross Award</b>	Given to women for large families
15	<b>Lebensborn</b>	Where unmarried women were impregnated by SS men.
16	<b>Napola</b>	Schools intended to train the future leaders of Germany
17	<b>Nazi Teachers League</b>	All teachers had to swear an oath of loyalty to the Nazis
18	<b>Reich Labour Service</b>	A scheme to provide young men with manual labour jobs
19	<b>Invisible unemployment</b>	The Nazi unemployment figures did not include women, Jews, opponent and unmarried men under 25
20	<b>Autobahn</b>	Motorway
21	<b>Rearmament</b>	Building up the armed forces   readiness for war
22	<b>Volksgemeinschaft</b>	The Nazi community
23	<b>Strength Through Joy</b>	An attempt to improve the leisure time of German workers
24	<b>Beauty of Labour</b>	Tried to improve working conditions of German workers.
25	<b>Volkswagon</b>	People's car
26	<b>Eintopf</b>	A one pot dish
27	<b>Herrenvolk</b>	The master race or the Aryans
28	<b>Nuremberg Laws</b>	Jews were stripped of their citizenship rights and marriage between Jews and no Jews was forbidden
29	<b>Kristallnacht (Night of the Broken Glass)</b>	A Nazi sponsored event against the Jewish community