Weimar Republic: Emergence of the Democratic Republic

- On 2 October 1918 – The Reichstag told the German people that they could not win the war. Many Germans saw this as a shock.
- The Kiel Mutiny (Nov 1918) triggered mutiny in the navy and sparked revolution across Germany as workers took on this example. The Workers and Soldiers Council was set up who supported socialism, democracy and the removal of the Kaiser.
- The Allies refused to concede peace until Germany had a working democracy.
- The state of Bavarian declared independence under socialist Kurt Eisner on 8th Nov 1918. Bavaria is one example of Germany’s civil unrest and dissolution in the govt.
- 9 Nov – Kaiser agreed the military was no longer at his command and abdicated. Chancellor Prince Max also resigned and handed power to Freidrich Ebert and his Social Democratic Party (SPD).
- Ebert wanted to restore order but the extremist left-wing Spartacists wanted a Russian model revolution. The Spartacist Uprising in 1919 by the Spartacus League urged counter-revolution through the ideas of Marxism and wanted Ebert’s government overthrown. Formed the Communist Party of Germany.
- 9 Nov – Ebert and Groener (commander of the Army) agreed to a pact, which secured the support of the army from extremist attacks to the government.
- To restore order, irregular volunteer companies known as the Freikorps were established to remove all communist threats.
- In February 1919, Kurt Eisner was assassinated and communists declared Bavaria a communist state. Revolts later followed with communists and Freikoprs which ended any communist revolution.
- The 1919 Elections outcome saw the declaration of the Weimar Republic with a large majority supported democracy. SPD held majority of seats (165). A coalition govt. was formed between the SPD, Centre Party and German Democratic Party.
- “The Weimar Republic, born of defeat and little popular support of the German people, could hardly have had a more stormy beginning.” (Cornwell)
- Ebert became the first German president with Scheidermann as chancellor. Despite his win, Ebert was unhappy as he wanted a constitutional monarchy to be formed.
- Weimar Republic Political Parties (Extremist Left to Extremist Right):
  - Social Democratic Party (SPD) – socialists who were pro-republican and democratic. Wanted social reform and had supported form workers and unions.
  - Independent Socialist Democratic Party (ISPD) – radical socialists who wanted to change the structure of German society.
  - Communist Party of Germany (KPD) – opposed to the republic and democracy.
  - German Democratic Party (DDP) – liberal middle-class who supported the republic.
  - Centre Party (Zenrum) – pro-democratic who supported Catholic values.
  - German People’s Party (DVP) – anti-socialist who supported laissez faire theory.
  - German National People’s Party (DNVP) – anti-republican but anti-Marxist.
  - National Socialist German Worker’s Party (NSDAP/NAZI) – extremist radicals who opposed the republic, democracy and socialism.
- German constitution was proclaimed in 1919, most democratic constitutions ever written but it did have some defects:
  - Article 22 allowed Proportional Representation allowed small parties to run in the Reichstag. This caused frequent elections, political instability and coalition govt.
  - “More or less impossible to obtain a majority in the Reichstag.” (Geary)
  - Article 48 allowed the President to rule by decree with emergency powers.
Modern History – HSC Nazi Germany Topic

Weimar Republic: Impact of the Treaty of Versailles

- The TOV was expected to be along the lines of Wilson’s 14 Points and be a diktat (imposed peace). Germany could not comment and France had almost free reign on the terms imposed from the TOV
- The Provisions had a dramatic impact on the representation of Germany:
  - Military – Reduced Army of 100,000, no heavy artillery, no air force, majority of navy ships decommissioned
  - Territorial – Alsace-Lorraine lost to France, SARR placed under international control, other land lost to neighbouring countries, Rhineland demilitarised, Austria independent and was forbidden with any union with Austria
  - Colonial – Germany deemed ‘colonially unworthy’ and lost all colonies
  - Reparations of US$ 32 million to be paid
  - War Guilt – Germany was blamed for the war under Clause 231
- The reaction by many Germans was anger as it caused long-term legacy and humiliation
- Despite Scheidermann and the WR refusing to accept the provisions, they had to face reality and Germany signed the treaty on the 28th June 1919
- The signing placed great blame on the WR and democracy, naming them the ‘November Criminals’ and that Germany was ‘stabbed in the back’. Weakened faith many had in WR
- “The Allies were much to blame for the Republic’s downfall because the terms of the Treaty placed the government in an intolerable position” (Snyder)
Weimar Republic: Political, Economic and Social Issues (1919-1923)

- The TOV had placed a major political and economic issue for the WR as it created a barrier making it harder for the country to recover
- The Army still held their loyalty to the Weimar Republic and Ebert as the Army preferred democracy rather than socialism
- Kapp Putsch 1920 – The Ehrhardt Freikorps refused to disband and marched into Berlin. The Army refused to participate as they would fire on fellow soldiers as the govt. had no choice but flee Berlin as military leaders took hold of Berlin and declared a new govt. under radical right-wing politician, Wolfgang Kapp
- The Kapp Putsch showed the importance of the German Army and the weakness of the WR. It’s also first attempt on the govt. from the right-wing (known as White Terror). The Putsch eventually failed as workers went on strike and the legal government returned
- Hans von Seeckt was commander of the Army who believed the army was an important asset to the loyalty of Germany and to overcome restrictions of the TOV
- Following the Kapp Putsch, a new coalition government was formed with the SPD, DDP and Centre Party. Wirth became the chancellor and believed in a policy of fulfilment where Germany should fulfil all provisions of the TOV in order to re-negotiate the terms
- There was great opposition for this policy from right wing parties and the army
- 1922 – German’s foreign minister was assassinated as he supported the Policy
- By 1923, Germany’s economy was weak and could not produce the reparation payments by the due date. In response, French/Belgium troops occupied the Ruhr, Germany’s most important industrial sector. Govt. declared passive resistance as Germans in the Ruhr refused to cooperate with allies through strikes and sabotaging equipment
- With industry at a halt, Germany’s economy suffered massive downturn. Govt. attempted to fix this by printing more money that later sparked inflation
- With no solutions to stop inflation, German faced a period of hyperinflation by June 1923 as the Germany Mark became worthless and the Reichsbank collapsed with the Govt.
- Hyperinflation was mostly suffered on middle/working class with fixed incomes but industrialists gained the most as foreign investment made enormous profits
- By August, Ebert called Stresemann to form a new coalition government. Streesman became chancellor in September 1923 and made up a new coalition was made up of the SPD, DDP and DVP
- Stresemann first step was to end passive resistance and give into the French/Belgium. This angered nationalists but proved successful as French/Belgium withdrew from the Ruhr, restarting the industrial sector
- Stresemann then passed through emergency powers the stopping of printing money and the introduction of the new German mark in 1924 as well as introducing new taxes, cutting government expenditure and balancing the country’s budget
- 2nd Nov 1923 – SPD withdrew from coalition government and Stresemann resigned
Weimar Republic: Political, Economic and Social Issues (1924-1929)

- Stresemann moved down to foreign minister we he set realistic goals using diplomacy
- 1925 – Stresemann with French Foreign Minister Aristide Briand formed the Treaty of Locarno with France, Belgium, Britain and Italy. German was now seen as equal in European affairs as the treaty gave security to all sides
- 1926 – Germany was admitted into the League of Nations showing reconciliation
- Stresemann with Charles Dawes formed the Dawes Plan fixing German’s reparations payments and acquiring loans from the US. Placed Germany’s economic into a boom with living standards increasing. Stresemann died in October 1929
- Germany also boomed in social and culture life, making Berlin a centrepiece in entertainment in the world (i.e. Cabaret)
- Despite this boom period, Germany was living of foreign debt and any stoppage of loans would collapse German’s economy “If the short-term loans are called in by America, most of our economy will collapse” (Stresemann).
- Unemployment was rising (1.5 million by 1929) and rural Germans still lived in poverty
- Failed Domestic Policy led to political instability, workers rights restricted
- Germany was turning into a Sozialstatt (Welfare State)
- Feb 1925 – Ebert died and was replaced by anti-republican Hindenburg
Weimar Republic: Collapse of the Weimar Republic 1929-1933

- Why did it collapse?
  - Germany never had a true understanding of a democratic revolution
  - Democracy was always overshadowed by nationalism with very little experience
  - The German people mostly blamed their defeat on the republic
  - German constitution had many faults (Proportional Representation, Article 48)
  - The Republic was disliked by the civil service, the judiciary and the educational system who were all conservatives. The upper class also disliked the republic
  - Many hardships were blamed on the republic (Hyperinflation and Depression)
  - Only 2 Parties supported the republic (SPD and Centre Party)

- How did it collapse?
  - During 1929 – the govt. was coalition of the SPD, DDP and Centre under Chancellor Hermann Muller
  - Coalition were disputed over payments to the unemployed as the SPD wanted to maintain relief payments to keep the support of the working class. DDP and Centre opposed this and the govt. became divided and fell on the 27th Mar. 1930
  - Hindenburg was pressured by the Army General Schledicher who wanted to form an authoritarian state. With his advice, Hindenburg, using Article 48 started Presidential Rule, marking the end of Parliamentary Rule and appointed Bruning as the new chancellor. Used Article 48 66 times in office
  - Bruning worsened German’s economic condition by cutting expenditure and raising taxes. Despite the strong opposition, Article 48 ensured that his economic policy was passed. Bruning also asked for new elections in September
  - Nazis saw this election as an opportunity to project themselves as a party of Acton. Nazis won 107 seats from the 12 won in 1928. NSDAP 3rd largest party.
  - Despite Nazi success, Bruning still stayed in power due to SPD support and implemented his economic policy. This worsened the economy as the Reichsbank collapsed, food prices increased and unemployment reached 4.6mil
  - 1932 Presidential Elections saw Hindenburg, Hitler and 2 other candidates in the running for President. Despite Hitler’s popularity, Hindenburg remained in power at 53%, Hitler at 36.8%
  - After regaining power, Hindenburg & Schleicher removed Bruning for his failure at economic reform and his plan to unsettle the army by banning the SA/SS
  - Schledicher requested that Hindenburg appoint Franz von Papen as chancellor. Despite his low support, this was just another example of Presidential Rule
  - 1932 Elections saw violent classes between Nazis and commos. NSDAP got 37.4% of votes and now the largest political party, more than the SPD
  - Hitler demanded the chancellorship but Hindenburg disliked Hitler and offered Hitler a position of vice-chancellor. Hitler rejected the offer
  - Von Papen still was chancellor and ran Germany using Article 48
  - Another election called by Reichstag. Nazis did not want an election and vote declined to 32% (but still largest party). Communists increased from 89 to 100
  - 2nd Dec. 1932 – with no support, Von Papen was removed and instead of Hitler, Hindenburg appointed Schleidcher as chancellor
  - Schleidcher tried to offer Strasser leader of NSDAP in Reichstag vice-chancellor. Hitler was furious and made all Nazis sera an oath of allegiance to him.
  - Von Papen worked with Hitler to overthrow Schleidcher
  - Schleidcher was dismissed and Hitler became chancellor on 30th January 1933, made von Papen vice Chancellor
  - Alan Bullock stressed the importance of Hitler's personality and the role of this personality over structural weaknesses
  - J. P Taylor blamed the economic crisis for the rise of the Nazis, claiming that the 'depression put the wind into Hitler's sails.' The economic crisis undermined a sound constitution
  - Ian Kershaw stresses the structural weaknesses of the govt., the socio-economic dislocation and the continuing power of the conservative elites
# Weimar Republic: Impact of the Great Depression on Germany “Final Straw”

- The Great Depression (Oct 1929) caused a great negative impact upon Germany
- Before 1928, Germany was experiencing a boom period through foreign loans
- Early economic problems began in 1928 with declines in foreign investment and rising interest rates. By 1929, 1.5 million were unemployed
- By late 1932, 6 million were unemployed. It was ensured that the WR would collapse
- The Reichstag adopted a deflationary policy to cut expenditure but this caused tax increases, cuts on welfare and a greater impact of the Depression onto Germany
- Most Germans were living without food and shelter (social impact)
- Greatest impact was that the support for the WR was lost and that extremist parties experienced a much greater popularity
- Mason, “the Great Depression, more than any other even, tipped the scales against the survival of the Weimar Republic and German democracy…a trigger for the revitalisation of extreme movements.”
Rise of the Nazi Party: Rise of the NSDAP from 1923

- Hitler after serving in WW1, joined the German Workers Party in Bavaria in 1919
- Hitler completely changed the structure and ideology of the Party, renaming the small party as the National Socialist German Worker’s Party with Hitler as the figurehead
- At the origins of the Nazi Movement, the NSDAP formed its ideology through 25 Points
- By 1923, the NSDAP had 70 000 members, with 15 000 of them in the party’s military wing the Strum-Abteilung (SA) formed in 1921 from ex-Freikorps under Ernest Rohm
- In 1923, Berlin was incapable of holding onto power in Bavaria and the NSDAP under Hitler attempted to seize power (Munich Putsch). On the 8th Nov. 1923, heavily armed SA men encircled Gustav von Kahr (prime minister) and declared a nationalist government
- By the next day, it was clear that the Munich Putsch had failed as authority’s regained power of the Odensplatz. Hitler was charged with reason and sentenced for 5 years
- The importance of the Munich Putsch to Hitler was 3 main factors:
  - Hitler could only achieve power legally and not through force
  - Hitler needed nationwide recognition so that his ideology can be noticed
  - Hitler could never hold power without the support of the military
- During his imprisonment, Hitler wrote Mein Kampf, a very controversial look at the whole of Nazi ideology and Hitler’s world view. Mein Kampf was simple propaganda and explored main key elements of Nazism:
  - Nationalism – Hitler explored that Germany had lost its traditional greatness and determined to create a Greater Germany made up of radically pure Germans
  - Anti Semitism – Hitler believed in the Aryan (master) race and saw the maintaining of the purity of the race. Hitler saw Jews who threatened racial purity
  - Darwinism – Hitler believed that the Strong will prevail over the weak and Germans would be superior to other inferior races (i.e. Jews, communists)
  - Democracy – Hitler saw the WR as the “greatest miscarriage of the twentieth century” and believes that its leaders had betrayed Germany
  - Leadership Principle (Fuherprinzip) – Hitler looked at the concept of a leader who ruled absolutely without restraint who would be the total focus of loyalty to Germany
  - Propaganda – Hitler believed that effective propaganda used simple concepts and repetition in order for success and support
  - Quest for Living Space (Lebensraum) – Hitler believed that the greatness of the German people needed territory in order to expand. Hitler focused on Eastern Europe expansion with the ultimate aim of destruction of the Soviet Union
- Following Hitler’s release after 8 months, Germany was faced economic stability and membership dropped from the NSDAP
- Hitler began reorganising the party in a number of ways:
  - Hitler began to set up party branches in small towns + large cities
  - Formed new groups for different geographic segments (i.e. Hitler Youth in 1926)
  - Increase use in propaganda and in particular parades and marches
- Hitler’s reorganisation proved successful as membership grew from 27 000 in 1925 to 178 000 by 1928
- In the 1928 Election, NSDAP won only 12 seats as democracy was still supportive
- July 1929 – NSDAP alliance with Hugenberg, leader of DNVP which allowed greater experience in propaganda through free resources to promote their party
- With the effects of the Great Depression, NSDAP focused on the weaknesses of the WR the divided political parties, threat of communism, and the social and economic with consequences of the Depression
- With numerous attempts at President (1932) and Chancellor (1932 2 times), Hitler finally received the support of the people and was voted Chancellor in 1933
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Rise of the Nazi Party: Hitler’s Accession to Power

- Hitler and German industrialists
  - German industrialists had never supported the WR but neither the Nazis
  - It was until Nov 1932 where German industrialists preferred the Nazi movement over the fall of von Papen and the appointment of Schlieicher who may have established a link with workers and military

- Hitler and Schlieicher
  - Over numerous occasions, Hitler was refused for the role of Chancellor and instead offered the position of Vice-Chancellor (which he refused)
  - In an attempt to split the Nazis, he offered Strasser (head of NSDAP in Reichstag) the position of vice-chancellor. Hitler was furious and forbade any deals with Schleicher and ordered all Nazis in the Reichstag take an oath of loyalty to him personally. Strasser was accused of treason and resigned

- Hitler and Von Papen
  - After von Papen was removed from chancellor in December 1932, he met secretly with Hitler to overthrow Schliedicher
  - The plan was that Hitler would be chancellor, von Papen vice-chancellor, 3/11 cabinet posts would be NSDAP and the rest under conservative supporters under von Papen

- Hitler and Hindenburg
  - Hindenburg disliked Hitler and believed that von Papen had control over Hitler
Rise of the Nazi Party: Initial Consolidation of Nazi Power 1933-1934

- With Hitler as chancellor legally, Von Papen and Hindenburg both underestimated that a Nazi revolution was to take place
- Hitler wanted dominate control over Germany but in doing this he needed the backing of the constitution to work in his favour
- Hitler 1st step was to call elections to build up a massive support and strength his position
- 1933 Election – NSDAP 288 seats, larger majority of seats than last election
- Nazis still used relevant use of propaganda to project the govt. as a sense of community
- Nazi’s also used terror through the SS (Schutzstaffel) under Hendrich Himmler and the Gestapo (secret police) to eliminate any threats and other opposition to the Nazis
- The Reichstag fire on 27th Feb. 1933 was used by the Nazis to attack the communists
- The Reichstag fire also enabled the passing of the decree, For the Protection of People and State to be passed under Article 48 allowing the suspension of basic rights
- To celebrate the opening of the new Reichstag building in March 1933 (The Day of Potsdam), the Nazis used this day with Goebbels to symbolise the greatness of the Nazi party, hence just another Nazi publicity stunt
- The Enabling Act was the major change to the German government towards Hitler’s benefit. Passed in March 1933 with a 2/3 majority (but the communists), Hitler could pass laws without the Reichstag. Germany was now a dictatorship, a near Totalitarianism state which was under the cover of legality
- With the Reichstag powerless, the Nazis began to pass laws which allowed greater control on the German people:
  - Law for the Restoration for the Professional Civic Service in April 1933 removed Jews with adequate qualifications from the civil service
  - The granting of the May Day Holiday in March 1933 allowed support from the workers and the formation of the German Labour Front, abolishing all unions
  - Law for the Co-Ordination of the States in April 1933 made all legislation only pass from Berlin, therefore banning all state parliaments
  - With no power in the Reichstag, all parties but the NSDAP were wither banned or resigned altogether
  - The called election in November 1933 was another publicity stunt and illustrated Nazi control as the NSDAP won every seat in the Reichstag
- The SA became a major threat in 1934 as its 3 million force was larger than the army
- Hitler also wanted the confidence from the Army but the SA was out of control
- The SA leader Ernest Rohm led an unstable force and wanted the SA the main military force, there were even some rumour of a socialist revolution
- Hitler with the SS on the 30th June 1934 arrested and shot hundreds of SA men including Rohm leading to 200 murders. With the SA threat removed, this helped strengthened Hitler’s Power to win the loyalty of the army
- On 2nd August 1934, Hindenburg died and the Nazis merged the chancellery with the President. Hitler was now the head of Germany and made the army swear an oath of loyalty to him personally. Hitler was now the dictator of Germany
- Alan Bullock: “Hitler did not seize power; he was jobbed into office by backstairs intrigue. Far from being inevitable, Hitler's success owed much to luck and even more to the bad judgement of his political opponents and rivals.”
- Ian Kershaw: “There was no inevitability about Hitler's accession to power… In fact, political miscalculation by those with regular access to the corridors of power rather than any actions on the party of the Nazi leader played a larger role in placing him in the Chancellor's seat”
Nazism in Power: Hitler’s Role in the Nazi State

- Hitler was known as Fuhrer und Reichskanzler (Fuhrer and Reich Chancellor)
- Hitler’s Fuhrerprinzip (leader principle) stated that an powerful leader would replace democracy with an authoritarian state
- Hitler’s role was to be someone apart from all social classes to lead the German people
- Hitler, with the help of Goebbels changed how he was seen Hitler
- Goebbels established the Fuhrer Myth were Hitler was portrayed as a national leader, chosen by faith.
- Goebbels focused on themes with a natural appeal in his propaganda to the middle-class and see Hitler as putting people before himself
- Goebbels focussed on German traditional leaders (such as Fredrick the Great) as well as nationalist ideas and the failings of the WR
- The style of government in Nazi Germany focused on all major issues to be dealt with Hitler. Hitler could only be accessed by high-ranking govt. officials making it harder to get access to Hitler
- Hitler’s Gauleiters, old comrades of the Nazi movement had easier access to Hitler from old time close relationships
- Hitler was not interested in domestic policy, nor did he attend govt. often. Hitler rarely was involved in decision making but he was mainly focused on foreign policy
- “He was seen as strong, uncompromising, and ruthless. He embodied the triumph of true Germanic values – courage, manliness, integrity, loyalty, devotion to the cause over decadence, corruption and effeminate weakness of Weimar society.” (Kershaw)

Nazism in Power: Nazism as Totalitarianism

- Totalitarianism – A system of government where all power and state affairs are under the control of one party, led by a charismatic leader, which tolerates no opposition
- There is some debate by historians on wether the Nazi state was totalitarian:
  - Internationalists agree that:
    - Hitler was the master of Germany who his ideas were never challenged
    - Hitler had a world View
    - Hitler was a historical figure who shaped events
    - Hitler had complete control over the government
  - However, Structuralist’s refer that:
    - Hitler’s government was chaotic and polycratic
    - Hitler only worried about prestige and personal authority
    - Hitler had little to no say on domestic policy, rarely speaking in government
    - Nazism became a movement that could not tolerate stability
    - Nazism was nothing like Stalin’s Russia
- Kershaw only saw Hitler as weak if he could not:
  - Protect his image
  - Have his decisions ignored
  - His freedom was prevented
- Despite this, Nazis used violence against all political opposition
### Nazism in Power: Role of Propaganda, Terror and Repression, SA/SS, Opposition

- **Propaganda and Censorship:**
  - Joseph Goebbels was head of Ministry for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda in 1933.
  - Propaganda was an essential part of Nazi repression where there could be no opposition.
    - “The essence of propaganda consists in winning people over to an idea so sincerely, so vitally, that in the end they succumb to it utterly and can never escape from it” (Goebbels).
  - All media was under Nazi censorship, all journalists had to be Nazi registered.
  - The People’s Radio was cheap and affordable but also used for indirect propaganda, broadcasting Hitler speeches and Nazi rallies.
  - The Reich Chamber of Culture controlled all cinema, music and art.
  - All Literature was censored. All Jewish books were burnt.
  - All Films had to be approved by the Reich Motion Picture law.
  - Film was used as a means of propaganda, Goebbels focused on indirect propaganda as the first propaganda film was ineffective (i.e. stories of heroic Germans).

- **Terror and Repression (SA/SS):**
  - The SS were a loyal and elite security force under Henrich Himmler to protect Hitler.
  - By 1935 the SS had 200,000 men, Entry into the SS was strictly controlled.
  - SS carried out police functions, deportations and enslaved foreign labour.
  - SS Killing Forces (Einsatzgruppen) were in charge of the murder of opponents.
  - The Gestapo (secret police) were a division of the SS formed in 1933 for internal security and investigating and suppressing all anti-state activities.
  - The Gestapo through Nazi propaganda were seen as a ruthlessness force that could detach all opposition. But in reality, Historian Gallately describes how by 1939, the Gestapo had 45,000 whereas the German population was 69 million.
  - Most Gestapo cases (60-90%) were started by denunciations (i.e. citizen inquires).
  - “The third Reich underwent subjugation of authority” (Kershaw).

- **Opposition:**
  - With all political parities banned, there was very little opposition due to repression.
  - However, some groups did opposed Nazism:
    - Trade Unions and Communists.
    - Army (before 1939).
    - Youth groups (Edelweiss Pirates, Swing Movement, White Rose).
    - Churches.
    - Some individuals working with the Nazi party (i.e. planned assassinations).
Nazism in Power: Social and Cultural Life, Role of Hitler Youth, Women, Religion

- Nazi society was based in Volksgemeinschaft (people’s community)
- Nazism planned to create a new society free of class division and social conflict, where all racial pure Germans can live peacefully among themselves. “One people, one country, one leader”
- Women
  - Women were placed in a lesser role than men, having fewer rights
  - Kinder, Kirche und Kuche (Children, Kitchen and Church)
  - Women had to attend household duties and produce Aryan children
  - All married women in civil services were removed by 1936
  - Women are “weaker and inferior” (Hitler)
  - Law for the Promotion of Marriage attempted to increase the birth-rate, by giving interest-free loans and rewarding the Mother Cross (Mutterkreuz) for no. of births
  - The birth-rate did reach 20.4 births/1000 by 1939 but decreased after-woods
  - Abortions were illegal and contraception banned by 1941
  - Propaganda was used to encourage motherhood
  - Lebensborn program allowed unmarried mothers to foster there children (“Giving a Child to the Fuhrer”)
- Youth Organisations
  - Hitler Youth formed in 1922 to shape the youth of the Reich to support Nazism
  - Members were engaged in physical activities, loyalty to Hitler and future roles
  - Hitler Youth had 7.2 million members by 1939
  - League of German Maidens was set up for girls to prepare for being a mother
- Education
  - Before Nazism, the WR had one of the best education systems in the world
  - Nazi control on education changed the education system to fit students for future roles and to teach Nazi ideology
  - Dr Benhard Rust was head of Science, Education and Culture in 1934
  - Genders were separated into different subjects. Boys focused on advanced and physical subjects while Girls taught basic subjects focused on domestic services
  - All reflective subjects (religion) were removed
  - All teachers had to join the National Socialist Teachers’ Alliance
  - Not all teachers joined – 32% membership in 1936
  - University enrolments dropped as free-thinking was disallowed
  - Special schools were formed for future Nazi leaders (i.e. Adolf Hitler schools)
  - Overall, education fell below world standards
- Religion
  - Hitler moved cautiously with Christian churches as Nazis had a different set of beliefs compared to Christianity and knew their influence
  - 1933 – Nazis signed a concordat with the Vatican which guaranteed the rights of the Roman Catholic church but in return could not interfere with political activity
  - Hitler violated the concordat by restricting Catholic churches and youth groups
  - Hitler had easier relations with the Protestant churches as they focused on loyalty to the nation and were not a worldwide organisation
  - 1937 – Pope Pius XI criticised the Nazi State as encyclical
  - Any religious leaders who opposed Nazism were imprisoned
- Economy
  - In 1933, 1/3 (6 million) Germans were unemployed
  - Hitler refused state-ownership like the Soviet Union
  - Nazis began new welfare measures to reduce the number of unemployment. This led to the creation of public works such as the autobahns and Volkswagen projects
  - By 1934, large public works reduced unemployment to 4 million. But Germany was facing a labour shortage due to removal of Jews and women
  - Reich Labour Service (1935) required all 18yr men to do 6 months labour service
  - Head of economy in 1934 was Hjalmar Schacht, improved economy dramatically
  - Despite recover, Hitler thought Schacht was too slow and replaced him with Goring in 1936
  - Hitler introduced his 4 year plan in 1936 calling for massive rearmament, autarky and self-sufficiency in food and raw materials. This wrecked the German economy and showed that the concerns of the Nazi Party were all that mattered
  - Two worker movements (Beautify of Labour 1933) and (Strength Through Joy 1938) were introduced to improve working conditions, and introduced leisure activities for workers
Nazism in Power: Nazi Racial Policy, Anti-Semitism, Policy and Practise to 1939

- Nazi ideology is based around racial purity and the superior Aryan race. To protect this belief, the Nazis imposed very extreme racial polices against non-Aryans, mostly on Jews
- Nazi belief falls around Anti-Semitism and hatred of Jews, as outlined in Mein Kampf
- “The Jews are our misfortune” (Hitler)
- In 1933, 500 000 Jews were living in Germany (1%)
- By 1939, up to 400 anti-Jewish legislation was introduced by the Nazis
- Nazis adopted a 4 phase strategy on the Jews. Vilification (propaganda), Discrimination (rights), Separation (forced emigration) and Extermination (mass murders)
- Series of anti-Jewish legislation:
  - Boycott of Jewish Shops by SA (April 1933)
  - Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service expelled all Jews working in the civil service (April 1933)
  - Nuremberg Laws (Sep. 1933) forbid marriage with a Aryan German and denied Jews of citizenship and voting rights
  - Jews not allowed into the military (June 935)
  - Berlin Olympics (1936) reduced all propaganda and persecution due to world attention. Aimed to show the positives of Nazism in Germany. Publicity
  - 1937 – All Jewish passports stamped with red J and Jews needed Israel or Sarah to be adopted into their middle name
  - Anti-Jewish propaganda blamed Jews for WW1 defeat and traitors. The Eternal Jew (film-1940) and Der Sturmer (newspaper) proved effective
  - 1938 – In response to the murder of a Nazi diplomat by a Jew, Nazis launch a systematic attack on Jewish synagogues and stores known as Kristallnacht or Night of Broken Glass. Jews finned 25 million marks
  - 1938 – Jews required to register property and banned from medical practise. Jewish children expelled from school and Jews denied welfare
  - By 1939 – Jews were deported to concentration camps and ghettos in Poland

- “Nazis did not begin with intention of genocide” (Geary)
- Historian Geary argues that the “final solution” was not necessarily the ultimate outcome of the Fuhrer’s intentions. It is not clear that genocide was always intended. The actual development of policy was often a response to initiatives that had begun with Nazis lower down in the Party
Nazi Foreign Policy: Nature and Aims and Strategies to September 1939

- Hitler believed that Britain could be an ally with Germany with its naval supremacy. Hitler also believed that the French army could attack before German could fully rearm.
- Consolation 1933-1934
  - (October 1933) Germany withdraws from League of Nations & World Disarmament Conference
  - (Early 1934) Hitler spoke of peace and signed the Non-Aggression pact with Poland
  - Hitler also attempted to reunite with Austria but later back downed from opposition by Britain and France
- Challenge 1935-1937
  - (March 1935) Hitler reintroduces Conscription. No opposition from UK/France
  - (June 1935) Hitler signs a Naval Treaty with Britain ensuring that Royal Navy withdraw from Baltic Sea and German Navy won’t exceed over 35% of British
  - (1936) Hitler tests French resistance by remilitarising the Rhineland. No opposition but UK/France. Great gamble by Nazis
  - (September 1936) Hitler announces massive rearmament in 4 year plan
  - (1936) Rome-Berlin Axis formed with fascist leader, Mussolini
  - (Nov. 1937) Hossback Memorandum with German military leaders reviles Hitler’s ambitions of taking Austria and Czechoslovakia, solving Lebensraum
  - Austrian chancellor Schusnigg wanted Austria to decide on union by referendum but Hitler was furious and wanted Austrian taken by force
- Contraception 1938-1939
  - (March 1938) German troops crossed into Austria. No foreign intervention
  - Czechoslovakia with its modern army making Hitler sees this as a threat. Czechoslovakia also had 3 million Germans. Hitler planned to occupy Czechoslovakia. This did become a international problem
  - Hitler made secret plans to attack Czechoslovakia, Hitler was provoking a war
  - (Sep. 1938) Munich Conference – UK/France allowed Germany to take the Sudetenland but not to be involved in anymore occupations
  - (Mar. 1939) Germany took rest of Czechoslovakia. End of appeasement and start of aggression
  - (Mar. 1939) UK guaranteed intervention if Poland was attacked
  - (April 1939) Hitler ready to take Poland due to stranded Germans in Polish corridor but Hitler concerned of Soviet intentions
  - (Aug. 1939) Germans and Soviets sign a non-aggression pact
  - (Sep. 1939) Germans cross into Poland. UK/France gives an ultimatum to Germany to withdraw. 3 days later, UK declares war on Germany

Nazi Foreign Policy: Impact of Ideology on Nazi Foreign Policy to September 1939

- Hitler’s foreign policy was based on:
  - Securing the final destiny of Germany
  - Determination to return Germany to its position to power
  - Germany need to expand its territory in order for the people to survive (Lebensraum)
  - The TOV restrictions had to be removed
  - Germans were cut off from Germany
  - Nazism itself was a doctrine of conflict and violence and it had to reflect their foreign policy
  - Hitler’s foreign policy was national as well as radical