

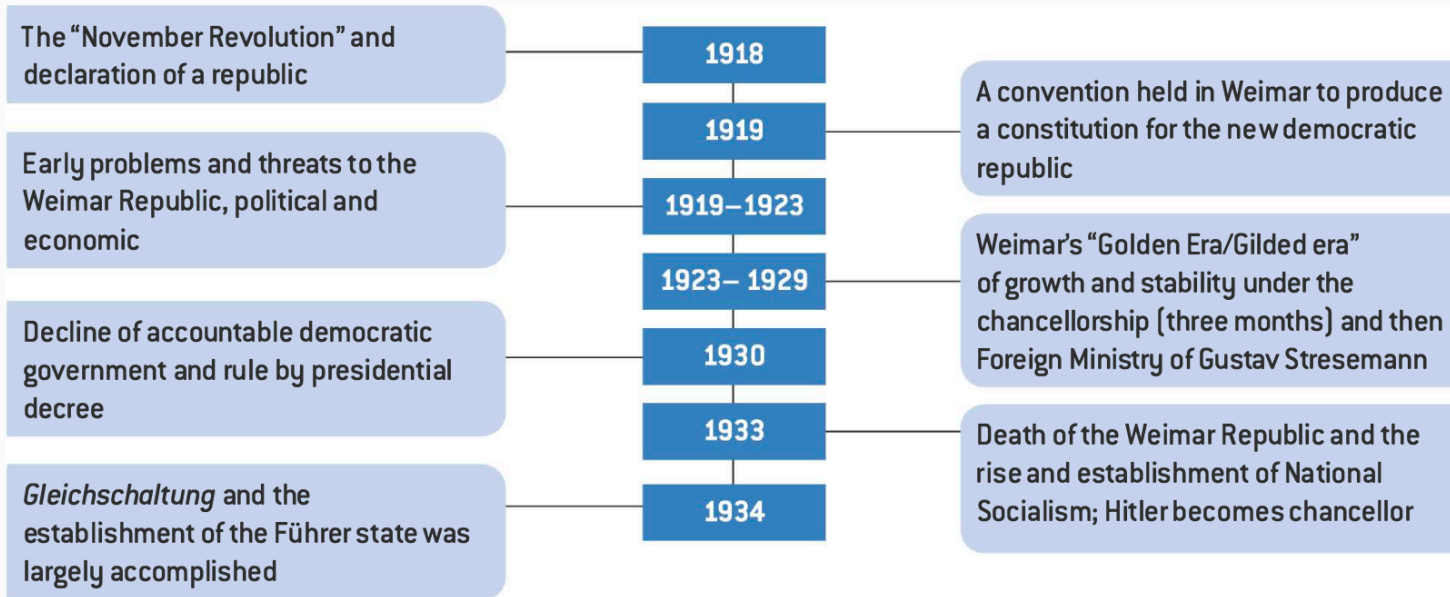
TOPIC 10: Authoritarian States (20th century)

Authoritarian States

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CHAPTER 1 & 2: Emergence & Consolidation of Nazi Party (1919-1934)

Timeline



Source: Oxford IB Diploma Programme: Authoritarian States Course Companion

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Conditions in which the authoritarian state emerged

- 1 A discredited parliamentary system that, due to instability and policy errors, produced a high level of disillusionment and frustration
- 2 The dislocation produced by the First World War of 1914–1918 and the subsequent Paris Peace Settlement, which produced **revisionism**, nationalism, and **revanchism**
- 3 Economic crises that produced social and economic conditions causing panic among the population, that is, political extremism resulting from economic instability
- 4 Fear of the Left, which was increased by the existence of the new Soviet state and the growth of socialist/communist movements in western Europe
- 5 The collaboration/capitulation of the existing political establishment or institutions – when **vested interests** underestimated the Fascists/ Nazis in a tragedy of miscalculation
- 6 Semi-legal assumption of power, despite subsequent fascist/Nazi claims of a “seizure of power”

Weimar foundered, not because of any major change in Nazi policy (which remained remarkably consistent) but because of:

- the collaboration of elites that sought to use Hitler against a perceived greater threat (communism)
- the failure of parties on the Left to combine in the interests of self-preservation against an ideological enemy
- the reorganization of the Nazi movement in its expansion from a South German regional organization to a national one by 1929, which allowed it to exploit opportunities with the onset of the depression
- the propaganda campaign waged by the Nazis to promote National Socialism and portray Hitler as the saviour of Germany in its time of trouble.

Source: Oxford IB Diploma Programme: Authoritarian States Course Companion

Reasons for rise of authoritarian state (Hitler’s Germany)

People would turn to the Nazi’s because...

Theme	Point	Evidence (P)	Evidence (CP)
Weakness of the political system	New concept of Democracy appeared weak, ineffective & chaotic – the change in democratic system was caused by a “revolution from above”; while this did not necessarily mean that the system was	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportional representation gave a voice to all parties on the political spectrum – including extremist groups. • Up to 1930 there were 20 different coalition governments - Reichstag seen as a house of squabbling politicians -> growing desire for an authoritarian government. • Great depression (1929-1932) – 6M unemployed; 1/3 decrease in workforce; 	<p>Stresemann era (1923-29)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtaining loans from the US and Stresemann’s successes in foreign policy gave the appearance of a stable democracy • Grand coalition: relatively stable and intact. • Improvement in social and economic problems – decrease in civil unrest/political violence • Coined the “golden twenties” – growing economy and a decrease in civil unrest

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	<p>doomed to failure, it provided a fragile base for development, especially combined with the fact the democratic government became linked, in the eyes of many, to the betrayal, defeat, and national humiliation of Versailles in 1919</p>	<p>18 000 farmers bankrupt; 42% drop in industrial production, agricultural prices collapsed; 50 000 businesses bankrupt -> failure of Weimar republic to solve the crisis -> Political disunity - coalition governments and the Reichstag became extremely disunited. Stresemann's 'Grand Coalition' was collapsing – divided – better chance for extremist parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • led to exaggerated fears and irrational beliefs – people turned to extremist parties <p>-> article 48 (granted the German President the power to rule by decree in times of emergency) – President passed 100 laws but Reichstag only passed 29 – weak and 'corrupted' – proved authoritative government would be more effective and efficient</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Stresemann era helped remove the reservoir of misery from which opponents of democracy drew their inspiration and support <p>CP To write in evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hindenburg was "old school" – he slowly saw the beginning of the process where power was shifting to favour the president • Sympathy for right wing: Left-wing traitors were given an average of 15 years prison sentence whereas right-wing criminals were only given 4 years e.g. Hitler after the Munich Putsch • 0 out of 354 right-wing murderers were given death sentences • 10 out of 22 left-wing murderers were given death sentences
	<p>Many Germans still resented the "November criminals"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stab in the back, "November Criminals" etc. remained common political terms - despite the successes of the Stresemann era. • Germany had no tradition of democracy (been forced upon them) - traditionalists/elites yearned for a return to an authoritarian system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Treaty of Locarno & 'Locarno Spring' Oct 1925-> Germany had 'reversed' some parts of TOV, been admitted into the international "club" and had guaranteed its own borders safety

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	<p>Evaluation</p> <p>Ritter argues that the problem with the Weimar Republic was not that it lacked democracy but rather had too much democracy. Ritter argues that the democratic republic left the German state open to being hijacked by the appeals of rabble-rousing extremists.</p>					
<p>Impact of WW1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Social impacts:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> <p>The terms of TOV led to poor standard of living of the citizens, resulting in their unhappiness towards the TOV and the government – the dislocation produced by the First World War of 1914-1918 and the subsequent Paris Peace settlement produced revisionism, nationalism, and revanchism</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turnip Winter & Allied blockade of Germany <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor harvest (1916-17) • severe food shortages and famine (many died due to starvation/diseases) • 750k - 1M Germans died • Spanish Flu epidemic – 300k Germans died • Reparations - £6.6 billion (+famines +returning veterans) - add to German's already weak economy from the war • Industrial output fell by over 40% (bet. 1914-1918) • War costed - \$40 billion, national income reduce by 2/3 </td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> <p>Stresemann era (1923-29)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtaining loans from the US and Stresemann's successes in foreign policy gave the appearance of a stable democracy • Grand coalition: relatively stable and intact. • Improvement in social and economic problems – decrease in civil unrest/political violence • Coined the “golden twenties” – growing economy and a decrease in civil unrest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The economic turmoil of the early 1920s was also caused by the German government's decision to pursue passive resistance during the Ruhr occupation (1923) • The global great depression of 1929 was triggered by the Wall Street crash, not directly by the TOV • This suggests that economic hardship was a product of international economic instability and domestic policy choices, not just the TOV • The yearly reparations were only 2 percent of Germany's GDP → suggests that it was feasible for Germany to pay </td> </tr> </table>			<p>The terms of TOV led to poor standard of living of the citizens, resulting in their unhappiness towards the TOV and the government – the dislocation produced by the First World War of 1914-1918 and the subsequent Paris Peace settlement produced revisionism, nationalism, and revanchism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turnip Winter & Allied blockade of Germany <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor harvest (1916-17) • severe food shortages and famine (many died due to starvation/diseases) • 750k - 1M Germans died • Spanish Flu epidemic – 300k Germans died • Reparations - £6.6 billion (+famines +returning veterans) - add to German's already weak economy from the war • Industrial output fell by over 40% (bet. 1914-1918) • War costed - \$40 billion, national income reduce by 2/3 	<p>Stresemann era (1923-29)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtaining loans from the US and Stresemann's successes in foreign policy gave the appearance of a stable democracy • Grand coalition: relatively stable and intact. • Improvement in social and economic problems – decrease in civil unrest/political violence • Coined the “golden twenties” – growing economy and a decrease in civil unrest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The economic turmoil of the early 1920s was also caused by the German government's decision to pursue passive resistance during the Ruhr occupation (1923) • The global great depression of 1929 was triggered by the Wall Street crash, not directly by the TOV • This suggests that economic hardship was a product of international economic instability and domestic policy choices, not just the TOV • The yearly reparations were only 2 percent of Germany's GDP → suggests that it was feasible for Germany to pay
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The young plan 1929: Reparation amount reduced significantly and removed possibility of sanctions on Germany should it not pay
<p>The terms of the TOV led to depleted morale and humiliation of German citizens, which resulted in their yearn for Germany to return to the victorious pre-war state.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War Guilt – clause 231 – gov. accepted blame – anger from Germans (unfairly treated) – thought they were winning (nationalism and propaganda during WW1 – e.g. the Ludendorff Offensive 1918) / Hyperinflation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “November criminals” • “Stab-in-the-back myth” • Shameful ‘diktat’ of Versailles • Deep humiliation, severely wounded German nationalistic and militaristic pride and self-image – felt weak now <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Army reduced to 100,000 etc. (esp. de-militarization of Rhineland) • Loss of territory • LoN - German not invited • 3 million Germans, 15% men killed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Cultural renaissance” in Germany • Fashion for young women <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main drivers of the yearning to return to the pre-war state was because of domestic beliefs of betrayal, economic collapse (also caused by other factors mentioned earlier) , and the failures of the Weimar democracy, rather than the treaty’s terms alone 	
Economic impacts:			
<p>Economic problems caused by the war (Large sums of money and resources was put into the war)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War costed - \$40 billion, national income reduce by 2/3 • War debt - £2.2 billion • Industrial output fell by over 40% (1914 – 1918) • Financial collapse – collapse of business/banks etc = declining value of German currency and loss of savings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US money flooded into Germany -> in the form of business investments; new factories built/machines bought etc. • created new currency, Rentenmark – ‘start afresh’ • Guaranteed German repayments via US loans 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Famine – due to poor harvests (worsened by allied blockade) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Young plan, 1929 -> reparations amount reduced significantly
	<p>Terms of the TOV further weakened the German economy which was already affected due to the war</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reparations - £6.6 billion, £5M per year (+famines +returning veterans) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resulted in high inflation = high cost of living • No trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of territory (The Saar, Sudetenland, 'Polish Corridor' etc) - severely hindered production • Allies Blockade (1914-19) - no imports/exports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The money was not that much – each annual payment was around 2% of Germany's GDP
<p>Political impacts:</p>			
	<p>New concept of Democracy of the Weimar republic appeared politically weak, ineffective & chaotic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural diff. of gov. compared to before – traditionalists & elites yearned for return to authoritarian system • Structural weakness - PR system • Political instability (1919-23) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spartacist uprising • The Kapp Putsch • The Munich Putsch • Stab in the back, "November Criminals" from beginning • Large amounts of Germans who were anti-Weimar 	<p>Stresemann era (1923-29)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtaining loans from the US and Stresemann's successes in foreign policy gave the appearance of a stable democracy • Grand coalition: relatively stable and intact. • Improvement in social and economic problems – decrease in civil unrest/political violence • Coined the "golden twenties" – growing economy and a decrease in civil unrest <p>To write in evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coalition was already showing signs of weakness – Hindenburg was "old school" and slowly saw the beginning of the process where power was shifting to the favour of the president • There was growing sympathy for the right wing: e.g. left-wing traitors given an average of 15-year prison traitors where right-wing traitors were given an average of only 4 years

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Social division	<p>Political instability led to opposing views on governance of the country (in terms of ideology)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stab in the back, “November Criminals” etc remained common political terms • Political instability led to social groups attempts to overthrow gov. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spartacist uprising • The Kapp Putsch • The Munich Putsch • Stresemann era – ‘Crisis of National Identity’ – German betraying its traditional values 	<p>Stresemann era (1923-29)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtaining loans from the US and Stresemann’s successes in foreign policy gave the appearance of a stable democracy • Grand coalition: relatively stable and intact. • Improvement in social and economic problems – decrease in civil unrest/political violence • Coined the “golden twenties” – growing economy and a decrease in civil unrest <p>• Socialist reforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workers: maximum 48-hour workweek, restrictions on night work, more holidays, health insurance extensions, unemployment benefits - Welfare bureaus and social services for veterans, war widows, orphans - Child protection institutes, education for all children - Progressive tax reforms - New laws to protect tenants from landlords - Jewish intellectuals and creatives were among the prominent figures of Weimar culture e.g. Albert Einstein <p>CP To write in evaluation</p>
	<p>Weakness of government led to anger and resentment amongst citizens, leading to social divide. (People yearn for the nationalistic Germany to be back)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyperinflation (sparked by Ruhr Crisis) – collapse of German currency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obliterated pensions, mortgages and saving accounts • collapse of economy • -> anger against gov. and France, stab in back myth, ‘November criminals’, ‘diktat of Versailles 	
	<p>Weakness of opposition (Communists – KPD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KPD unwilling to reunite with other left-wing parties (SPD) – no united front against Nazi – weaker and less votes • Hitler absorbed other RW groups • LW parties disunited and quarreled from within 	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People were still resentful of their monetary losses from the collapse of the economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Had fresh memories of WW1 and the period of instability and hyperinflation after
Economic factors	Economic devastation due to WW1 and worsened during TOV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War costed - \$40 billion, national income reduce by 2/3 • War debt - £2.2 billion • Industrial output fell by over 40% (1914 – 1918) • Financial collapse – collapse of business/banks etc.= declining value of German currency and loss of savings • Famine – due to poor harvests (worsened by allied blockade) • Reparations - £6.6 billion, £5M per year (+famines +returning veterans) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resulted in high inflation = high cost of living • No trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of territory (The Saar, Sudetenland, 'Polish Corridor' etc) - severely hindered production • Allies Blockade (1914-19) - no imports/exports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US money flooded into Germany -> in the form of business investments; new factories built/machines bought etc. • created new currency, Rentenmark – 'start afresh' • Guaranteed German repayments via US loans • The Young plan, 1929 -> reparations amount reduced significantly <p>CP To write in evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German economy had become overly dependent on American loans • In 1928: unemployment still as high as 1.8 million • Industry did not recover to 1914 levels until 1930s • Obliterated pensions, mortgages and saving accounts not recovered
	Further worsen of the economic crisis when German was unable to pay reparations + great depression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyperinflation (sparked by Ruhr Crisis) – collapse of German currency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obliterated pensions, mortgages and saving accounts • By November 1923, 1 US dollar= 4.2 trillion German marks → barter economy emerged • collapse of economy • Great depression (1929-1932) – 6M unemployed; 1/3 decrease in workforce; 	

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		<p>18 000 farmers bankrupt; 42% drop in industrial production, agricultural prices collapsed; 50 000 businesses bankrupt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • led to exaggerated fears and irrational beliefs – people turned to extremist parties • Anti-republican elements mobilized against the parliamentary system, which appeared unable to deal with the catastrophe that enveloped the nation <p>Not under impact of war (econ)</p>	
Appeal of ideology & persuasion	Historical and cultural context of Germany at that period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany had a proud, militaristic history – ‘born’ from war, growing power with strong leaders based on militarism • Expanding German nationalism • Authoritarian leadership and governance – Otto Van Bismarck(iron chancellor, hero), Kaiser & rich noble elites (Wilhelm II and Junkers) <p>-> many Germans were nationalistic and militaristic</p>	<p>Stresemann era (1923-29)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtaining loans from the US and Stresemann’s successes in foreign policy gave the appearance of a stable democracy • Grand coalition: relatively stable and intact. • Improvement in social and economic problems – decrease in civil unrest/political violence • Coined the “golden twenties” – growing economy and a decrease in civil unrest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socialist reforms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workers: maximum 48-hour workweek, restrictions on night work, more holidays, health insurance extensions, unemployment benefits - Welfare bureaus and social services for veterans, war widows, orphans
	Weakness of political system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportional representation gave a voice to all parties on the political spectrum – including extremist groups. • Up to 1930 there were 20 different coalition governments - Reichstag seen as a house of squabbling politicians -> growing desire for an authoritarian government -> greater appeal towards Nazi ideology 	

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	<p>Extreme situations allowed the extreme ideology of Nazi Germany to gain support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great depression 1929 led to unemployment and poor standards of living -> further amplified the inability of the Weimar government – citizens were desperate and turned to Nazi who promised that they could make a change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child protection institutes, education for all children - Progressive tax reforms - New laws to protect tenants from landlords - Jewish intellectuals and creatives were among the prominent figures of Weimar culture e.g. Albert Einstein
<p>Use of propaganda to appeal to citizens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use local insiders/notable people to get support by focusing on local issues & continued with consistent ideological message • 1932 Presidential election <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New media (e.g. radio), flew over Germany to attend meetings and rallies “Hitler über Deutschland” 		
<p>Gaining support with people who share same ideology as him. Or oppose an opposition party(e.g. communists)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from ruling elite/ establishment – fear communism if Weimar collapsed their business will suffer 		
<p>Evaluation Frank McDonough states that though the Nazis did profit from the overheated political atmosphere created by the economic depression, the unemployed also voted for the SPD and KPD. To simply see the increase in Nazi support as a one-off 'bitterness' vote seems simplistic. A great deal of credit must therefore be given to Hitler and the efficient Nazi Party propaganda machine in persuading voters to see the Nazis as the major outlet for their frustration.</p> <p>Frank McDonough argues that the key reason diverse groups supported Nazism was not primarily because of its opposition to the Treaty of Versailles or anti-Semitism, but was due to Hitler's powerful utopian promise to end class-based politics and replace them with a popular ethnically united folk community.</p>			

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	<p>This utopian promise obtained support from the middle class and working class as majority of the Germans felt that Marxism and the democratic government could not provide stability or hope in the midst of the Great Depression.</p>		
<p>Force & Coercion</p>	<p>The Nazi Party use force to eliminate other parties and oppositions to reduce competition and rise to power</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SA: (“Brown shirts”) a party militia/private army who attacked other parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • beat up/threw out hecklers at Nazi events; provoked clashes with other parties’ militia; street violence to intimidate people to vote for Nazis or create perception that Weimar was unstable/weak • Political policy – gain control of Germany through force (‘Putsch or Coup) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -> The Munich ‘Beerhall’ Putsch, 1923 -> *Reichstag Fire 27 Feb 1933 – able to arrest the communists, diminish their existence in the government -> *General election 5 Mar 1933 – arrested the 81 Communist deputies- prevent them from getting votes in the election and ensuring Nazi gets the majority -> Enabling Act 23 March 1933 – remaining opponents forced away from Reichstag – Hitler became legal dictator -> *Political parties banned 14 July 1933 – leader put into prison 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leftists still resisted silently (KPD & SPD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KPD: Leaflets, the issuing of underground newspapers, the raising of red banners, and the continued circulation of the official Party newspaper – attempt to gain support by spreading ideology amidst of crackdown • CP under evaluation: No serious consideration given to an armed insurrection – minimal influence and ineffective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ By 1944, remnants of KPD domestic resistance swept up • SPD: distributed news-sheets and anti-Nazi leaflets • CP: little to no influence

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	<p>The Nazi Party use force to consolidate power and become an authoritative state</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Local government & police – Nazis took control, set up the Gestapo • *Trade unions banned 2 May 1933 – replaced by German Labour Front – prevent strikes • Army – had the force to topple Hitler – made to swear a personal oath to Hitler and Nazi • Führer 19 Aug 1934 – merge president and chancellor • *Night of the long knives 30 June 1934 – Rohm leader of SA threatened Hitler’s leadership • *Legal system – Judges take loyalty oath to Nazi • During the enabling act, the Nazis intimidated many of the SPD deputies from attending the meeting in Kroll Opera house • The fact that the SPD leader attended the meeting with a concealed cyanide capsule in case he were to be arrested and tortured for his opposition, revealed the level of brutalization political and parliamentary life had reached 	
<p>Role of Hitler</p>	<p>Militaristic background of Hitler appealed to nationalistic and traditionalistic Germans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War veteran -> Injured twice and won the Iron Cross for bravery (similar to previous Germany leaders portrayed as strong leader) 	
	<p>Hitler’s oratory skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attracted ex-soldiers/’cultural Germans’ drawn to nationalistic ideals, men 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hitler on trial – allowed to speak and share his political views – shared same view with many judges 	
	<p>Hitler is cunning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reichstag Fire 27 Feb 1933 – able to arrest the communists, prevent them from getting votes in the election and ensuring Nazi gets the majority • There is little doubt that Marinus van der Lubbe was responsible for the fire but whether he was acting alone, was a victim of national socialist subterfuge, or part of a larger communist conspiracy remains unclear • Hitler used the excuse that Germany was endangered by a communist coup that Hitler persuaded Hindenburg to issue an emergency decree that suspended basic rights • “bought” the support of catholic parties – offered zentrum/bvp guarantees for the protection of rights of the catholic church <p><u>Demonization</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jews, Marxist threats posed by the KPD, the November criminals and Weimar traitors – these groups were identified as hate symbols and used to rally support from different groups within the German population <p><u>Pragmatism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His willingness to adapt to circumstances, and play down parts of the original Nazi program – e.g. abandoning the anti-capitalist stance and cooperating 	

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		<p>with industrialists and businessmen such as Hugenburg</p> <p><u>Opportunism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The great depression put wind into the sails of national socialism • Hitler took advantage of the Reichstag fire <p><u>Abuse of the democratic system</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of Hitler as a chancellor by Hindenburg: perfectly legal according to the provisions of the constitution • Passing of the enabling bill by more than the required two-thirds majority 	
	<p>Propaganda</p>	<p>Joseph Goebbels, minister of propaganda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nazi established monopoly over all media, eliminated all materials hostile to the spirit of national socialism • Cheap radios were mass produced, by 1939 about 70% of German households possessed a radio that was manufactured to block foreign broadcasts • Reporters and editors had to prove their racial and political loyalty • Purges of Jewish producers, actors, and film music composers • Museums and galleries were subject to raids by Nazi officials to remove anything considered not in the spirit of national socialism <p>RESULT: The manufactured cult of the Fuhrer, became even stronger as the</p>	

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		<p>state monopoly of the media worked ceaselessly to promote adulation of the leader and his role in the national salvation of Germany</p>	
	<p>Evaluation Historian Lawrence Rees argues that not everyone felt Hitler's charismatic connection, and many people who heard him speak thought he was an idiot. Hitler was only seen as charismatic by a small group of fanatics, so much so that in the 1928 election, the Nazis garnered only 2.6% of the vote. It was the change in the economic situation after 1929 that led many Germans to connect with Hitler and see him as the bringer of salvation.</p>		
<p>Role of the Nazi Party</p>	<p>The Nazi party regroups and reorganizes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - work within the constitution to capture power legally through elections - dismantle the state and set up his fascist state from within 	<p><u>Improve party structure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nazi party was split up into sections called Gaue; each section was led by Gauleiters who were appointed by Hitler and tasked with promoting the party within their regions • Hitler appointed administrative work to his officials • Gregor Strasser gave the party efficient recruitment and organizational structures <p><u>Becoming legit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from the ruling elite: the Nazis partnered with big businesses, e.g. Alfred Hugenberg who was a prominent businessman with a media empire • Held mass rallies and introduced Nazi rituals • Gradual fading away of competitor nationalist groups as Hitler became the face of German nationalists; other groups got absorbed into the Nazis <p><u>Flexible political strategy</u></p>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintained anti-TOV, antisemitic sentiments that broadly appealed to a wide range of Germans • Appealed to the middle class in rural and smaller towns who were badly affected by the 1920s • Grassroot support: formed organisations for youths, women, students • 1926: 35,000 members; 178,000 in 1929 	
	<p>Evaluation</p> <p>There were many other prominent Nazis who played different roles in the Nazi party. • It can be argued that Nazi's appeal was due to the contributions of Joseph Goebbels and his propaganda techniques. • In addition, the SA who was led by Rohm gave the Germans the impression that Nazis were disciplined and that they would offer a firm government to restore Germany to law and order.</p>		
Fear of communism	<p>During the 1932 presidential election, Hitler gained support of the ruling elite and Catholic churches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ruling elite feared communism and a collapsing Weimar democracy, so many industrialists bankrolled the Nazis e.g. Hjalmar Schacht, Head of the Reichsbank, and many foreign firms – Henry Ford, Union Banking Corporation, WA Harriman and Co, Irene du Pont, head of the American firm General Motors • Catholic churches and its political representatives (Political Catholicism) feared the rise of KPD (communist party) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • willing to pass the Enabling act to suppress communists • Hitler's signing of Concordat with church – Hitler does not interfere with Church affairs, church abstain from interference in politics 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• representative who negotiated with Hitler was an admirer of his anti-Marxist beliefs	
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Hitler's legal rise to power

Jan 30, 1933 – Hitler appointed Chancellor by Hindenburg (legal appointment).

Conservative elites (Papen, Hugenberg) think they can control him.

Feb 27, 1933 – Reichstag Fire. Nazis exploit it to pass emergency decrees suspending civil liberties (Reichstag Fire Decree).

March 5, 1933 elections – Nazis win **43.9%** (not a majority, but largest party).

March 23, 1933 – Enabling Act passed.

- Gave Hitler power to make laws without Reichstag approval.
- Effectively destroyed parliamentary democracy → legal dictatorship.

July 1933 – Nazis declared the **only legal party** in Germany.

Aug 2, 1934 – Death of President Hindenburg.

- Hitler merges offices of **Chancellor + President = Führer**.
- Oath of loyalty sworn to Hitler personally.
- His rise to total power now complete.

Historiography:

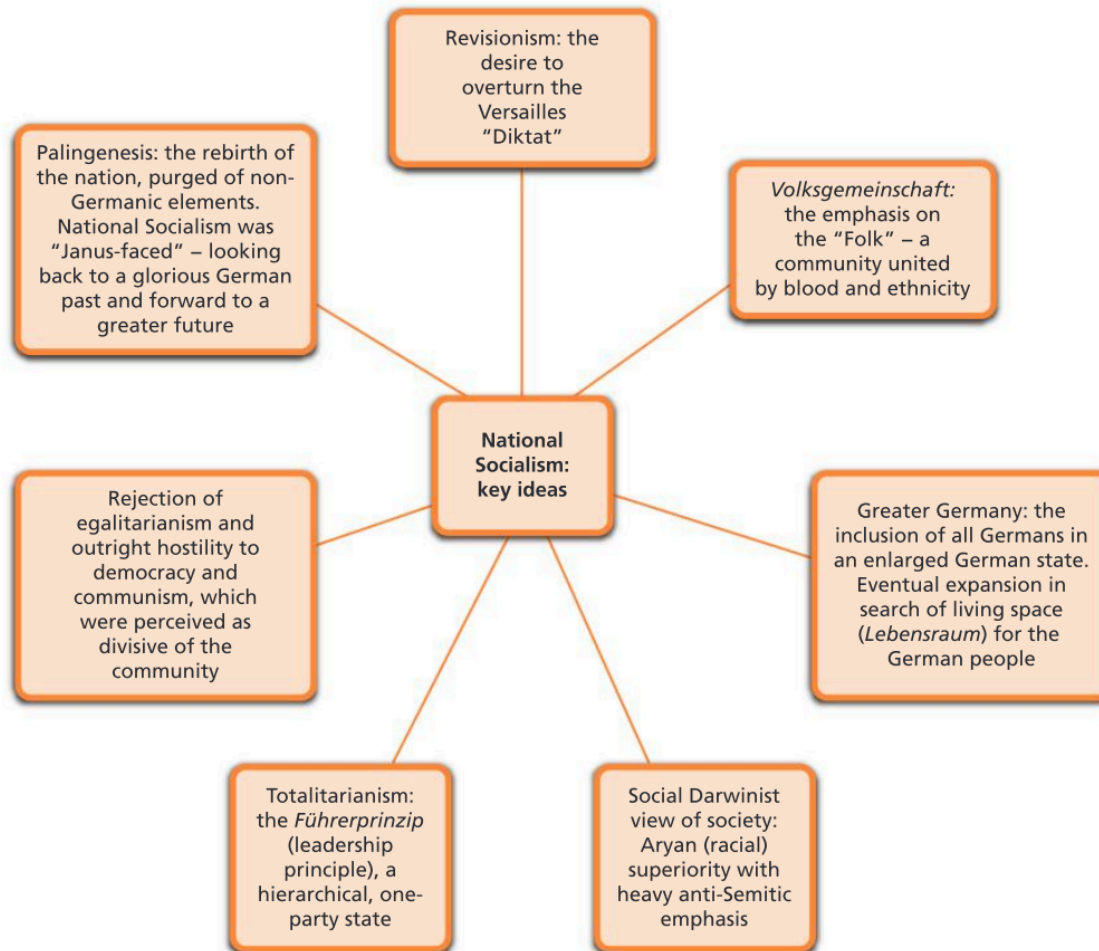
Peter Gay wrote, “Germans had little practice in politics... When the democratic Weimar constitution opened the door to real politics, the Germans stood at the door, gaping, like peasants bidden to a palace”

Frank McDonough claimed, Hitler's “utopian dream could only have prospered in the dark of a very black night” – the achievements of the Golden Era of Weimar from 1924-1929 deprived extremism of the opportunity to flourish

• Anschluss with Austria

• Hitler by 1939 had presided over: restoration of the rich industrial Saarland to Germany, restoration of military sovereignty, recovery of the Rhineland, Anschluss with Austria

CHAPTER 3: Maintenance of Power and AIMS AND RESULTS OF POLICIES in Nazi Germany 1934-45



▲ The ideas of National Socialism

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Hitler's NSDAP ideology	
Foreign policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of TOV • Lebensraum: territory and colonies for Germany via Eastern expansion • Unification of all Germans to form "Greater Germany" • Abolition of the Freikorps and formation of a national army
Social policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volksgemeinschaft – a united national community • Herrenvolk – superiority of Aryan master race • Judenfrei – translates to "free of jews" • Secular state – antisemitic, anti-capitalist, anti- Marxist, anti-liberal
Political policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Führerprinzip – translates to "leader principle" – Hitler as sole leader of the party and he alone decides their policies and strategies • Gleichschaltung – strong central government with ultimate authority over all government agencies
Economic policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationalisation: transfer of a major industry from private to state ownership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - state to share profits of the land, land to be taken away without compensation • State capitalism: a capitalist system where the economy is organized and managed via state-owned enterprises • Autarky – economic self sufficiency

DOMESTIC POLICIES (YOUTH AND EDUCATION) – AIMS AND IMPACT		
Factor	AIMS & IMPACT	COUNTER
The education system	<p>AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to produce loyal Nazis, obedient citizens, future soldiers and future mothers, all shaped by Nazi racial ideology. - To create a racially pure VOLKSGEMEINSCHAFT <p>This was achieved by indoctrinating the youth in Nazi ideology.</p> <p>Schools and universities were cleansed of teachers that were unsympathetic to the regime or Jewish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers had to be part of the National Socialist Teacher's League to teach → so that they would be 	<p>However, Hitler failed to turn ALL young Germans into genuinely committed Nazis. As "loyalty" was based on pressure, compulsion and surveillance rather than sincere belief, it resulted in resistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1936 Hitler Youth Law and the 1939 Youth Service Regulation made membership effectively compulsory, implying the regime could not rely on voluntary devotion alone. - Hitler also failed in the aim of producing ideal future mothers in the simple Nazi sense of women staying in the home and raising racially valuable children. Nazi propaganda glorified motherhood,

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	<p>subjected to party control, as argued by historian Lisa Pine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History was used to promote the greatness of Germany's past • Biology focused on eugenics and racial superiority, and principles of natural selection • Germanics included the study of language and literature with the aim of proving the superiority of Germans as a culture producing race as opposed to culture destroying races such as Jews 	<p>but reality pushed women into wider public and economic roles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With female employment increasing by 2.4 million between 1933 and 1939, despite Nazi pressure on women to stay home.
Youth groups	<p>Boys were prepared for war and military service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German youth for boys – camping and hiking expeditions, sport, music, attendance at rallies, military training <p>Girls were prepared for motherhood and service to the racial state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDM/ League of German maidens for girls – physical fitness and domestic science in preparation for marriage and childbearing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Groups such as the Edelweiss Pirates rejected Nazi discipline and mocked or resisted Hitler Youth culture. Even if they were not large enough to overthrow the regime, their existence shows that Nazi education and youth organizations did not fully create obedient, uniform believers. - The White Rose likewise shows that some educated German youth turned against Nazism rather than embracing it.
<p>Overall stand: Despite succeeding to a large extent in mobilizing youth, he failed to turn ALL young Germans into genuinely committed Nazis.</p>		

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ECONOMIC POLICIES – AIMS AND IMPACT		
Factor	AIMS & IMPACT	COUNTER
Employment + Economic Recovery	<p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cut unemployment and restore economic stability after the Depression, because mass joblessness had weakened support for the Weimar Republic and helped the Nazis gain support. - rearm Germany and prepare it for war (significant aim!!) - autarky, meaning greater economic self-sufficiency. Hitler did not want Germany to remain dependent on foreign imports, especially for raw materials needed in war. <p>When Hitler became chancellor in January 1933, Germany had over 6 million registered unemployed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By December 1934, this had fallen to about 2.6 million, and by the late 1930s Germany was beginning to face a labour shortage, showing how far unemployment had been reduced. - This was presented by the Nazis as proof of economic recovery <p>Much of this decline came from state-funded public works programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The regime spent heavily on projects such as road building, land improvement, and afforestation, while the Reichsautobahn became the best-known symbol of Nazi work creation. - Employment on autobahn construction reached about 120,000 workers in 1936, and by 1938 around 3,500 kilometres of highway had been completed. 	<p>Nazi claims about ending unemployment were exaggerated because the statistics were manipulated. The regime excluded several groups from the official totals, so the fall in unemployment did not reflect a fully healthy economy. Historians also point out that recovery was driven by state spending and rearmament rather than normal economic growth.</p> <p>Jews and other persecuted groups were pushed out of the labour market, not “employed”. Jews were progressively excluded from German economic life, so they disappeared from the economy rather than benefiting from recovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - by early 1939 only about 16% of Jewish breadwinners had steady employment of any kind, which shows that Nazi “success” depended partly on removing victims from the labor market altogether. The Nazis discouraged female employment, especially for married women, in order to free jobs for men and promote motherhood. - the regime encouraged marriage through loans and family subsidies, while scholarship on the 1933 marriage loan shows it required the wife to leave work. That means unemployment fell partly because women were being removed from the workforce, not because the economy had solved its structural problems. - reintroduction of compulsory military service in 1935 reduced unemployment by taking young men out of the labour market and into the armed forces. This made the statistics look better, but it was not the same as creating sustainable civilian prosperity. - Hitler’s economic policy was meant not just to recover the economy but to prepare Germany for

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These schemes gave many unemployed Germans work and helped the regime advertise itself as the force restoring national prosperity. <p>Nazis created jobs by building an economy increasingly centred on rearmament, as contended by historian Richard Overy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After 1933, Hitler rapidly expanded arms production and reintroduced conscription in 1935, which pulled many men into military service and stimulated employment in sectors such as steel, engineering, chemicals, and munitions. - Historians see the Nazi domestic economic policy as more ad hoc than a well thought out blueprint – big businesses and private enterprises were entrusted with carrying out the general aims of the German economic recovery under guidance from the Regime - Schacht’s “New Plan” used Mefo bills which were a way for the Reichsbank to covertly fund arms production – helped hide the government’s involvement in arms production, because Germany was still not strong enough to publicly challenge the TOV <p>Formation of the RAD: state labour service – service in the RAD became compulsory for German men aged between 19-25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gave Germans a sense of purpose and employment 	<p>war. The 1936 Four-Year Plan aimed to ready Germany for war within four years through rearmament and self-sufficiency. That means the economy was not being rebuilt primarily for consumer welfare, but for militarization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hitler failed to achieve autarky. despite earlier progress, Germany still faced numerous supply shortages that could not be remedied, hence historian Adam Tooze argues that the Nazi economy remained constrained by imports and raw materials.
Goring’s Four-Year plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - successes of Göring’s Four Year Plan (1936–40) were that it accelerated rearmament, expanded key war industries, and pushed Germany closer to short-term 	<p>Although the plan aimed to make both the German economy ready for war and the armed forces fully operational within four years, these objectives were not completely achieved by 1940.</p>

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	<p>war readiness, even though it did not achieve full autarky.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Richard J. Evans notes that in the early phase of the plan, output rose sharply in sectors vital for war: from 1936 to 1938, coal production increased by 18%, coke by 22%, aluminium by 70%, and petroleum by 63%. Those are important successes because these were exactly the materials Germany needed for aircraft, fuel, explosives, and heavy industry. - The Four Year Plan was explicitly designed to make the economy ready for war within four years and to ensure the armed forces were operational. In that sense, it succeeded in shifting Germany decisively toward a war economy, with state intervention directing business and resources into armaments and strategic production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Output in sectors such as aluminium, explosives, coal, and synthetic oil did rise significantly, but Germany still suffered from serious raw material and supply shortages, meaning that full autarky and full war-readiness were not reached. - Historians such as Adam Tooze argue that Germany's economy was not built for a prolonged war of attrition, which helps explain why Nazi strategy from 1939 onward emphasized rapid, decisive victories to seize resources, rather than a long conflict based on secure economic reserves. - This interpretation suggests that military aggression itself was partly driven by the weaknesses of Hitler's economic system.
<p>The Nazi wartime economy</p>	<p>AIMs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to mobilize Germany's resources for victory in war. That meant prioritizing armaments, transport, fuel, raw materials, and labor over normal consumer needs. - Hitler demanded total mobilization - to make Germany capable of fighting a longer and more intense war, even under blockade and bombing (Nazi desire for self-sufficiency) <p>Germany did achieve major increases in military production, especially under Speer. Speer managed to maintain and even raise war production despite Allied bombing, and by 1944 he controlled a vast labor force of about 14 million workers. This suggests that the wartime economy did become</p>	<p>However, the impact was limited because Germany did not begin the war with a fully centralized wartime administration. Richard Overy argues that the German war economy was only partially mobilized until 1942.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentionalists: historians who argue that Hitler encouraged deliberate chaos in the National Socialist state to create competing power centres that would allow him to be the final arbiter • Structuralists: people who stress the nature of the development of the NSDAP that moved rapidly from an opposition party to the party of administration in 1933-1934

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	more effective and more centralized than it had been at the start of the war.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nazi failure to establish a central wartime administration from the outset hampered successful mobilization of the nation's resources and war effort <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - e.g. Fritz Todt minister of munitions had no control over the production of aircraft until 1944 e.g. the army was unwilling to sacrifice the production of vanguard technologies for the large-scale production of standardized weaponry adopted by the USA and the USSR
Overall, revisionist historian Richard Evans argues that Nazi's economic recovery was real in appearance but subordinated to militarization rather than consumer welfare.		

Culture/Arts POLICIES – AIMS AND IMPACT		
Factor	AIMS & IMPACT	COUNTER
Cultural and social policies	<p>AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to control German society and eliminate independent working-class organization - to win over workers socially and culturally, not just repress them <p>Impact</p> <p>By banning free trade unions in May 1933 and replacing them with the German Labor Front (DAF) under Robert Ley, Hitler removed a major potential source of opposition and brought workers and employers under Nazi supervision. This helped the regime weaken class conflict and tie labor more closely to Nazi goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Strength through Joy movement (Kraft durch Freude, KdF) was created as part of the DAF to provide subsidized leisure activities such as holidays, cruises, theater trips, sport, hiking, and cultural events. The purpose was to make workers feel included 	<p>The banning of trade unions meant that workers gained leisure benefits but lost genuine rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DAF was not an independent union defending wages and conditions; it was a mechanism for Nazi control. <p>Some of KdF's promises were more symbolic than real.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The KdF car savings scheme attracted about 330,000 participants, and 60,000 had fully paid by 1941, but savers never received the cars because production had been diverted to military use. - This is strong evidence that Nazi social policy often served propaganda more than workers' actual interests.

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	<p>in the Volksgemeinschaft and to show that Nazism could offer enjoyment, community, and social advancement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- These policies had a significant impact because they helped the Nazis replace independent worker institutions with state-controlled organizations.- With trade unions abolished, workers lost the right to bargain freely or organize outside Nazi structures, while the DAF became a huge labor body with around 25 million members. This gave the regime far greater social control over the workplace.- KdF also had real appeal.- It became one of the most popular Nazi organizations and offered leisure opportunities that many workers had never previously enjoyed, including seaside trips, mountain holidays, cruises, and subsidized entertainment.- By extending forms of leisure once associated with higher social classes, the regime tried to integrate workers into the Nazi national community.	
<p>Overall, Hitler utilized culture to win Germans over as a form of propaganda, however, it did not largely benefit workers at all, therefore he succeeded in control, but was less successful in creating a genuinely popular, lasting Nazi Culture.</p>		

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Policies towards Women – reaffirmation of Conservative Traditional roles				
	Aim	Method/Policy	Positive impact/successful	Negative impact/failure
S	Raise birth rate of “Aryan” children/Breed genetically pure Germans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lebensborn (“Fount of life”) – provide welfare & maternity homes to unmarried mothers, encourage anonymous births by unmarried women & mediated adoption • Government encourages premarital sex – raise manpower • Mantra for women: Kinder, Küche, Kirche (“children, kitchen, church) • BDM (Bund Deutscher Mädel) & Jungmädel – trained girls for their roles in German society: wife, mother, homemaker - Also exercise and physical training = good health = serve their people and country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birthrate rose from 1.2m (1934) to 1.4m (1939) (success) • Benefited women who holds these traditional views • Nazi women's organizations like the <i>NS-Frauenschaft</i> (Nazi Women’s League) had over 2 million members by 1938 - genuine support rather than forced participation. • Elevated social status: The <i>Mother’s Cross</i> was awarded to over 4 million women by 1939. Gold medals were given to women with eight or more children, elevating large families and giving public honour to motherhood. • Limited protest: There was no large-scale resistance to the regime’s gender roles — indicating either widespread acceptance or resignation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • women represented 15% of resistance movements – most met with arrest and execution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unhappy/anger – if you do not hold traditional views - resistance from abroad e.g. to galvanize Allied public opinion against the Nazi regime
	Opposed modern ‘American’ woman types (slim, career-driven, independent, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDM • Uni offered fewer places to women; civil service no longer employs women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary acceptance: Many women, especially rural or conservative middle-class Germans, welcomed the Nazi ideal of traditional motherhood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • women represented 15% of resistance movements – most met with arrest and execution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unhappy/anger – if you do not hold traditional views

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • child birth encouraged – through financial incentives; medals given to prolific mothers • made divorce easier to boost birth rates – end unproductive marriages • Tougher penalties on abortion and restriction of contraception information • ‘Life Springs programme’ state run brothels – Aryan women were impregnated by SS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment with existing norms: The <i>Kinder, Küche, Kirche</i> philosophy didn’t drastically upend life for many women; it formalized what was already a norm in rural and traditional communities. • Limited protest: There was no large-scale resistance to the regime’s gender roles — indicating either widespread acceptance or resignation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - resistance from abroad e.g. to galvanize Allied public opinion against the Nazi regime • Leadership roles: Women could and did rise within Nazi structures. <i>Gertrud Scholtz-Klink</i>, leader of the Nazi Women’s League, was a key figure in organising female mobilisation for war. • Participation in violence: Up to 3,700 female guards (<i>Aufseherinnen</i>) served in concentration camps such as Ravensbrück and Auschwitz. This shows that some women were not merely passive victims but played active roles in Nazi oppression.
E	Reduce unemployment and fulfill role as women (give birth etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • convincing women to give up their jobs • fewer positions provided for women to become Professionals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • generation of German women lived under Nazi regime – long term implications to career/life choices and attitudes of German people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Land Year Programme (1939)”: compulsory NS for unattached women—spend a year working on farms • 15m (51%) German women were working (6m in agriculture, 3m in industry) – much more than UK/US (UK only 41%) • war work – UK and German female participation rates nearly equal by 1944 – despite Nazi rhetoric about keeping women at home • by 1945 – ½ industrial workers in Germany were women • 400, 000 volunteered as nurses, replaced drafted men in the wartime economy • Working-class women unaffected: Policies focused on middle- and upper-class Aryan women; working-class

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				women were always essential in agriculture, domestic service, and light industry.
P	Promote ideal of the model woman of Nazi Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Socialist Women's League (NS-Frauenschaft) – adult women' wing of the Nazi party (Oct 1931) – young women joined at 15, had 2 million members by 1938 - only admitted if "useful" like nurses or cooks - 5% in 1933 – 17% in 1937 - e.g. Gertrud Scholtz-Klink – director of this but not allowed to participate in major meetings of party, only invited to party congress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nazi women's organizations like the <i>NS-Frauenschaft</i> (Nazi Women's League) had over 2 million members by 1938, suggesting genuine support rather than forced participation. • Limited protest: There was no large-scale resistance to the regime's gender roles — indicating either widespread acceptance or resignation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • women represented 15% of resistance movements – most met with arrest and execution - Unhappy/anger – if you do not hold traditional views - resistance from abroad e.g. to galvanize Allied public opinion against the Nazi regime

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Evaluation:

Was the increase in birth rate due to Hitler's policies?

Hard for historians to assess the relative significance and whether Nazi social policies were responsible for all the demographic trends. Interpreting population statistics is difficult because it involves so many different factors – social, economic and even psychological factors. While the significant increase in German birth rates may have been marginally assisted by Hitler's financial incentives and disincentives, the rise in population and birth rates might have also been due to the end of the Depression and improvements in the economy

Was the increase in marriages due to Hitler's policies?

Some historians argue that the increase in marriage rates would almost have certainly risen anyway as the younger generation of men, which had not been decimated in WWI, grew into adulthood. Moreover, the increase in marriages might have been more due to economic optimism than government policies.

Generally, feminist historians have been highly critical of Nazi population and family policy that had reduced the status of women.

Gisela Bock viewed Nazi thinking on women as a kind of secondary racism in which women were the victims of a sexist-racist male regime that reduced women to the status of mere objects. Nevertheless, it is worth remembering that many German women at that time agreed with Hitler's traditional view of the role of the German woman as wife and mother.

Non-feminist historians have tried to highlight the positive features of Nazi policy on women. E.g. improved welfare services made life easier for women, especially in more isolated rural areas.

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Policies towards Minorities – persecution, racism and Aryan ‘Master Race’		
Aim	Method/Policy	Impact
Herrenvolk – superiority of Aryan race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Untermenschen (non-Aryans) & holocaust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sent to concentration camps. Some castrated, subjected to medical experiments or simply executed – 11m killed (genocide) in conc/work camps
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euthanasia: forced registered disabled people – taken to special hospitals for treatment; later killed by starvation, lethal injection or mobile gas vans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5,000 children, 71,000 adults killed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sterilization law (Jul 1933): those with physical/mental illness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> over 350, 000 sterilized forcibly
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-socials: homeless, prostitutes, alcoholics, gypsies – forced to wear black triangles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23% of 900, 000 Roma gypsies exterminated
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homosexuals: blamed for lowering birth rates – single men over certain age labeled homosexual - wear pink triangles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> homosexual SS officers were shot
Judenfrei— translates to “free of jews” (genocide)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> excluded from Government & professional jobs, banned from public places. Had to wear star of David; businesses were ‘Aryanised’; taken over by Germans 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nuremburg Laws – remove German citizenship from those with one or more Jewish grandparents; Jews not allowed to marry Aryans 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reich Laws – only those of German blood can be citizens, have the right to vote Law for protection of German blood and honour – forbids marriage or sexual relations between Jews and German citizens 	

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	<p>Kristallnacht (1938) – Night of Broken Glass 9th Nov 1938</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 year old Polish assassinated the German legation secretary in Paris • Qualifications of Jewish doctors cancelled, all Jewish property to be registered • forbidden to own radios, buy cakes and chocolate • no longer allowed to run businesses and shops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7000 Jewish business/buildings attacked, 100 murdered – involved ordinary citizens
	<p>1939-1945</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deportation of Jews – from Germany to ghettos in occupied territories (e.g. Poland) – used as slave labour • Final solution (Wannsee Conference Jan 1942) – exterminate the Jews en Masse using gas at concentration camps was formally adopted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • large number of Jews under nazi control due to occupation of territories • estimate population of 9m European Jews, almost 6m killed

Evaluation:

There is a long tradition of anti-Semitism in European history. It has never been just a purely German phenomenon. It was rooted in the religious hostility of Christians towards the Jews (as the murderers of Jesus) that can be traced back to medieval Europe. Jews were often used as a scapegoat for the society's problems. By 1900, a number of specifically anti-Semitic political parties were winning seats in the Reichstag and although they were comparatively few, their success shows that anti-Semitic ideas were becoming more prevalent and generally more respectable. In the late 19th century, anti-Semitism also began to be presented in a more intellectual vein by the application of the racial theories of Social Darwinism. According to such thinking, nations were like animals and only by struggling and fighting could they hope to survive. In this way, Jews were portrayed as an 'inferior' or 'parasitic' race and the German race as superior.

In 1933, although Jews comprised less than 1 per cent of the German population, they composed more than 16 per cent of lawyers, 10 per cent of doctors and 5 per cent of editors and writers. They thus became a focus of envy because they were viewed as privileged.

Intentionalist school of thought:

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Historians argue that Hitler relentlessly followed a consistent aim of exterminating the Jewish population, noting frequent references in Mein Kampf to the destruction of 'undesirable' elements. However, it should be noted that no document signed by Hitler ordering that Jews be killed has been found. Nevertheless, the Nazis tried to keep the Holocaust a secret and from 1944, deliberately destroyed much evidence of it. Numerous high-ranking Nazis said that Hitler knew about the murders and several claimed that he authorized them. The whole state was geared to enact the Fuhrer's will, so it is inconceivable that Hitler did not approve of the Holocaust and it is probable that he ordered it

Structuralist / functionalist school:

Some historians put great stress on the impact of the Second World War. Historians put forth the idea that the savage treatment of the Jews, by the war years, was largely a product of local initiatives by Nazi officials in occupied Eastern European lands, who attempted to solve the problem of the large Jewish numbers under their authority by simply liquidating the population.

WWII contributed to the Holocaust in the following ways: (i) It disrupted the Nazi government's plan for mass Jewish emigration, (ii) It brutalized people and accustomed them to killing, (iii) It intensified paranoia about the enemy within; it encouraged extremism, (iv) It removed any concern about international opinion