

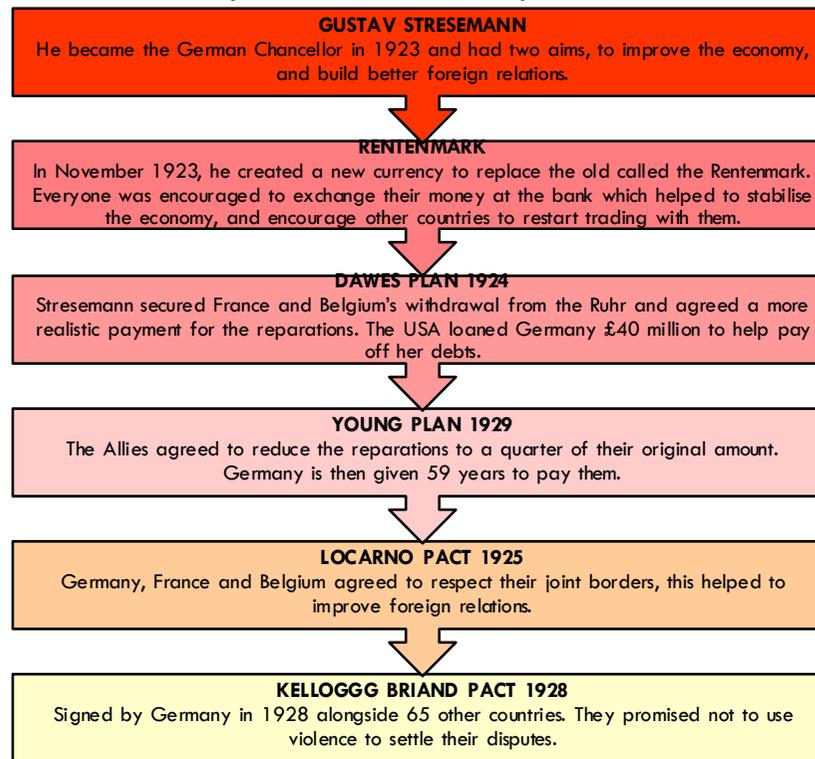
WEIMAR GERMANY

Knowledge organiser

The Weimar Republic faced challenges to its early years from 1919-1924. It experienced a period of recovery in the years 1924-29, during which there were important changes in society.



Recovery of the Weimar Republic, 1923-29



Challenges to the Weimar Republic

TREATY OF VERSAILLES

The terms of the treaty were severe. Article 238 said they had to take the blame for the war, their army was limited and they had to pay back £6.6 million in reparations. The German People felt as though they had been stabbed in the back.

SPARTACIST UPRISING

This was an uprising from the extreme Left, who wanted a Communist revolution and to get rid of the Weimar Government. Led by Liebknecht and Luxemburg, they tried to take over Berlin by taking key buildings and newspapers. It failed as the Freikorps suppressed the rebellion.

KAPP PUTSCH

Rebellion from the right. It was led by Wolfgang Kapp and the Freikorps. They wanted to create a right wing government. The Freikorps marched to Berlin to overthrow the Weimar government but the German workers opposed this. Berlin was paralysed and Kapp gave up.

INVASION OF THE RUHR

By 1923, Germany could not pay the reparations to France. France and Belgium decided to take Germany's resources instead so they occupied the Ruhr, the richest part of Germany. It gave them access to Germany's iron and coal reserves. The German workers strike in protest.

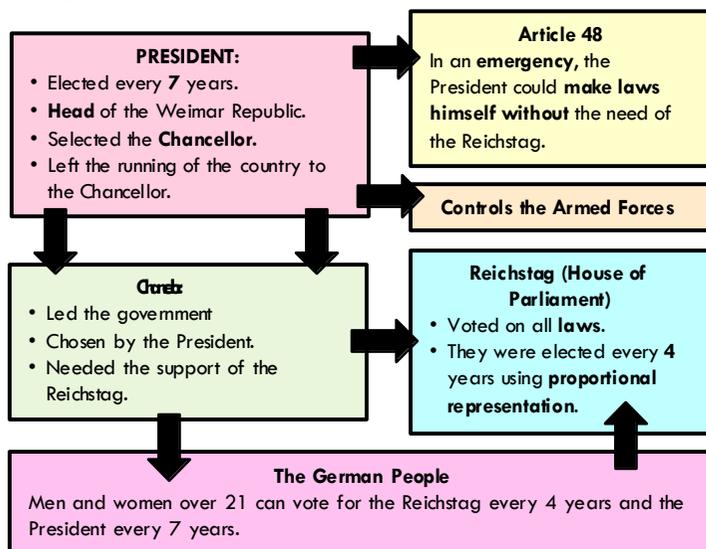
HYPERINFLATION

Germany tried to solve her debt problems by printing more money, but this plunged the economy into hyperinflation. This is when the value of money decreases so drastically, and the value of goods increases. By 1923 even basic necessities were hard to get hold of. The German people were struggling.

KEY EVENTS

- 1918 November: World War One ended. The Kaiser abdicated and Germany became a republic.
- 1919 January: The Spartacist Uprising led by the Communists in Germany against the newly formed Weimar Republic.
- 1919 June: The Treaty of Versailles is signed, leading many Germans to resent the government.
- 1919 August: The Weimar Constitution is approved.
- 1920 March: The Kapp Putsch starts, aiming to put Wolfgang Kapp, a right wing nationalist, in power.
- 1923 January: The French occupation of the Ruhr begins, leading to hyperinflation across Germany.
- 1924: The Dawes Plan
- 1925: The Locarno Pact
- 1926: Germany joins the League of Nations
- 1928: Kellogg Briand Pact is signed
- 1929: Young Plan agreed

Weimar constitution



Weimar culture and society

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>WOMEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D Now enjoyed equal rights in voting, marriage and work D Enjoyed social freedom (fashion, smoking and drinking) D Only 36% worked and wages were less than men D 3000 female doctors by 1930 and 112 elected to the Reichstag | <p>STANDARD OF LIVING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D Wages increased by 10% D Working hours dropped D New housing – 2 million were built D 60% less homelessness D Benefits for unemployment, war veterans and single mothers at 60 marks a week | <p>CULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D Germany becomes the culture capital D There was no censorship under the Weimar government D Freedom of speech was encouraged D New architecture – Bauhaus- and art – modernism – were introduced D Golden age of German cinema. |
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RISE TO POWER

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Key Dates

Topic 2

KEY EVENTS

- September 1919: Hitler joins the DAP – a right wing political group
- February 1920: The DAP is renamed the NSDAP, the National Socialist German Workers Party.
- February 1920: The Nazis published their 25 point programme outlining their road to a stronger Germany
- July 1921: Hitler becomes the leader of the NSDAP
- November 1921: The SA are set up
- November 1923: The Munich Putsch is organised, but it fails.
- February 1924: Hitler is imprisoned for his role in the Putsch but only serves 10 months
- December 1924: Hitler releases Mein Kampf
- May 1928: The Nazis get 12 seats in the general election
- October 1929: Wall Street Crash leads to the Great Depression
- September 1930: Unemployment reaches 3 million, the Nazis get 106 seats in the election.
- April 1932: Hitler comes runner up in the Presidential election. With 13.4 million votes
- July 1932: Unemployment reaches 6 million, the Nazis get 230 seats in the Reichstag
- January 1933: Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany

The Munich putsch

HITLER TRIED TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT IN THE MUNICH PUTSCH

- In November 1923, the Nazis marched on Munich.
- Hitlers soldiers occupied a beer hall in the Bavarian city of Munich where local government leaders were meeting.
- He announced that the revolution had begun

WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE MUNICH PUTSCH?

- The next day Hitler marched into Munich supported by his Storm Troopers (SA)
- The news of the revolt had leaked to the police, who were waiting for them.
- The police fired on the rebels and the revolt collapsed.

HITLER WAS IMPRISONED AND WROTE MEIN KAMPF

- He wrote a book in prison called Mein Kampf (my struggle) describing his beliefs and ambitions
- The Nazi party was banned, but it was removed in January 1925.
- Hitler became supreme leader and changed tactics from violence to politics.

HITLER CHANGES TACTICS IN 1926

- Hitler has a conference with the Nazi Leaders in Bamberg.
- At the conference, he makes it clear that the party would only follow his agenda.
- The party was however not very popular during the 1920s, as there was relative security within Germany thanks to Stresemann.

In 1919-20, the Nazi Party was set up and in the Munich Putsch of 1923, Hitler unsuccessfully tried to seize power by force. There was limited backing for the Nazis during the years 1924-28. The Wall Street Crash and depression of 1929 helped the party gain support. Political developments in 1932 led to Hitler becoming chancellor in 1933.



EARLY STAGES OF THE NAZI PARTY

- D Hitler began his political career in the German Workers Party in January 1919. The German Workers Party began to rely on him to get new party members. Un 1920, the party was rebranded as the National Socialist German Workers Party
- D In February 1920, the Nazi Party promoted its policies in the 25 point programme: the Treaty of Versailles should be abolished. All German speakers should be united. Only people with German Blood can be classed as citizens. Jews are not allowed to be German
- D In 1921, Hitler founded his own party militia called the SA (the storm troopers). They carried out violent anti-Semitic attacks and intimidated rival political groups.



GOEBBELS

- He was made head of Nazi propaganda
- He believed in appealing to people's feelings in order to get them to support the party
- He oversaw huge propaganda campaigns with posters, leaflets, radio and organised rallies.

Roles in the NSDAP

THE SA

- Hitler kept control of his own party using 'stormtroopers' or SA led by Ernst Rohm
- They were ex soldiers who were paid by the Nazis
- They controlled crowds at meetings and removed opposition
- They made the NSDAP look strong and official



Support for the Nazis in the 1920s

Under Stresemann, Germany had a better international status and had a stronger economy. Both of these factors limited the support for Hitler and the NSDAP as people realised they did not need extreme solutions to their problems. In 1925, Paul Von Hindenburg became the president. He was an ex WW1 war hero and general. Having him in charge further boosted the support for the Weimar Republic and cut support for parties trying to get rid of it, such as the NSDAP. In 1929, America plunged into severe economic depression with the Wall Street Crash, and dragged Germany down with it. This then meant that people turned back to the NSDAP as the Weimar government did not act quickly enough.

Hitler becomes chancellor

JANUARY 1932

There are 6 million unemployed. Hitler uses the depression to promise better things, and people are desperate for a solution so they look to his more extreme ideas.

APRIL 1932

Hitler stands against Hindenburg for presidency. He loses, as Hindenburg is still a highly respected army veteran with a good reputation in the job.

JULY 1932

The Nazis were the largest part in the Reichstag with 230 seats. They do not have a majority but can operate with more power.

NOVEMBER 1932

The Nazis loose seats in this election, but they still remain the largest party in the Reichstag. This is a loss for Hitler however.

JANUARY 1933

Hitler is offered the Chancellorship in January 1933. Von Papen was made Vice Chancellor. Von Papen argued that they could control Hitler and use him as a puppet to get what they wanted out of the government. They were very wrong. Hitler therefore became Chancellor with the aid of political alliances which would eventually backfire on those within the deal.

NAZI CONTROL

Knowledge organiser

Key Dates

Topic 3

KEY EVENTS

- February 1933: Reichstag Fire. Parliament burns down and Hindenburg passes the Reichstag fire decree.
- March 1933: the Reichstag passes the Enabling Act – Hitler can now pass any law without the permission of the government
- May 1933: Hitler bans trade unions. These are to be replaced by the German labour front.
- June 1933: Concordat signed with the Pope. Rome would not oppose Nazis if the Catholic church was left alone.
- July 1933: Hitler bans all the political parties apart from the Nazis.
- June 1924: Night of the Long Knives – Hitler eliminates threat from the SA.
- August 1934: Hindenburg dies. Hitler combines roles of President and chancellor and takes the title of Fuhrer (leader) of Germany
- August 1934: German army swears allegiance to Hitler
- August 1936: Berlin Olympics begins
- 1938: Over the course of the year, Hitler removes 16 army generals from their positions.

From January 1933 to August 1934, the Nazis secured control of all aspects of the German state. Hitler then consolidated his dictatorship through setting up a police state and using propaganda and censorship.



Controlling religion

CATHOLICS

In July 1933, an agreement was signed between the Pope and the Nazi government. Hitler promised to not interfere with the Catholic Church if the church agreed to stay out of German politics. The Catholic Church was now banned from speaking out against the Nazi party, but Hitler soon broke his side of the deal.



PROTESTANTS

The Protestant Church was reorganised and fell under Nazi control. In 1936 all Protestant Churches were merged to form the Reich Church. The Reich Church replaced the symbol of a cross with the Nazi Swastika, and the Bible was replaced by Mein Kampf. Only Nazis could give sermons and the Church suspended non-Aryan ministers.

Creation of a dictatorship

REICHSTAG FIRE AND ELECTION

On 27th March the Reichstag building was set on fire. A Dutch communist Van Der Lubbe, was caught red handed in the burning building. Days later in the election 44% of the population voted for the Nazis, who won 288 seats in the Reichstag – still not an overall majority.

THE ENABLING ACT

With the communist deputies banned and the SA intimidating all the remaining non-Nazi deputies, the Reichstag voted by the required two thirds majority to give Hitler the right to make laws without the Reichstag's approval for four years.

NAZIS IN GOVERNMENT

Hitler then put all officials in charge of the civil service, courts and education. Anyone else in these positions were removed.

TRADE UNIONS

Any trade unions were banned. Instead. German workers were now expected to join the new German Labour Front (DAF)

POLITICAL PARTIES

All other political parties were banned, only the Nazi party were allowed to exist.

NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES

Many members of the SA, including its leader Ernst Rohm, were demanding that the Nazi party carry out its socialist agenda and that the SA take over the army. Hitler could not afford to annoy businessmen or the army, so the SS (Hitler's personal bodyguards) murdered 400 members of the SA, including Rohm.

HITLER BECOMES FUHRER

When Hindenburg died, Hitler declared himself jointly president, chancellor and head of the army. Members of the armed forces had to swear a personal oath of allegiance not to Germany, but the Hitler.

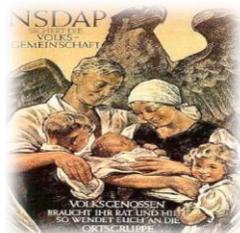
THE NAZI POLICE STATE

- D The SS replaced the SA, and were put in charge of all police and security services .
- D The SD were the security force for the Nazi Party to monitor its opponents. They kept details of everyone it suspected of opposing the Nazi Party or the German government at home or abroad.
- D The Gestapo was Hitler's non-uniformed secret police force. Their job was to identify anyone who criticised or opposed the Nazi government.
- D The Gestapo were officially given permission to use torture when questioning suspects or gaining confessions.

Controlling the people

PROPAGANDA

The aim was to control the way the people thought. Propaganda means spreading information that influences how people think and behave. Joseph Goebbels was in overall charge of the Nazi propaganda machine.



ARTISTIC WORKS

Goebbels founded the Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda in 1933. It had departments for music, theatre, film and literature and the radio. All artists, writers, journalists and musicians had to register.



CENSORSHIP OF THE PRESS

All newspapers were controlled by the government and could only print stories favourable to the Nazi regime.



CONTROL OF THE RADIO

People's radios were sold very cheaply so that most Germans could afford. All radio output was controlled by Goebbels' ministry through the Reich Broadcasting Corporation.



MASS RALLIES

These public displays of support from Nazism involved music, speeches and demonstrations of German strength. The biggest one was held each year in August in Nuremberg



USE OF SPORTS EVENTS

Berlin hosted the Olympics in 1936, which the Nazis used as an opportunity to showcase the success of the regime and to demonstrate the superiority of the Aryan race.



LIFE IN GERMANY

Knowledge organiser

The lives of German citizens were drastically by Nazi policies. Policies were introduced for the youth, women and men. There was also the introduction of racial policies against minority groups such as gypsies, Jews, Slavs, homosexuals and people with disabilities.

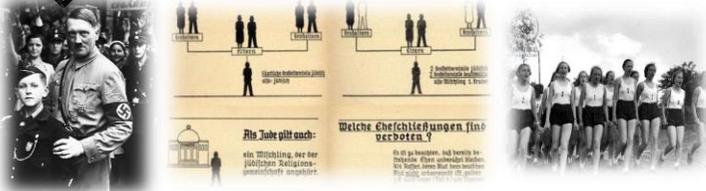


Key Dates

Topic 4

KEY EVENTS

- 1935: The Nuremberg Laws are put into place, limiting the rights of Jewish people in Germany
- 1935: Lebensborn was implemented, meaning German women could 'donate' their bodies to reproduce with Aryan SS men.
- 1936: The Reich Church was created, replacing the Protestant church with Nazi memorabilia.
- 1937: Attendance at the Hitler youth became compulsory, meaning that they were being prepared for their Nazi futures
- 1938: Kristalnacht begun, with the Nazi's attacking Jewish homes and places of work.
- November 1938: 20,000 Jewish people were sent to Concentration camps
- 1939: WW2 begins as Germany invades Poland



NUREMBURG LAWS

1. The Reich Law on Citizenship:

- D Only those of German blood could be a German citizen.
- D Jews lost the rights of citizens such as the vote and holding a German passport.

2. The Reich Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honour

- D Jews were no longer allowed to marry or have a sexual relationship with a German citizen.
- D Jews banned from joining the German armed forces.



Persecution of minorities

CONTROLLING THE GERMAN PEOPLE

THE YOUTH

- D Youth movements helped produce committed Nazis. Hitler knew that loyalty from young people was essential if the Nazis were to remain strong.
- D Youth movements were a way of teaching children Nazi ideas
- D **Hitler youth was for boys** aged 14 and over. It became compulsory in 1936. they wore military uniforms and took part in military exercises.
- D **The League of German Maidens** were for girls, and they were trained in domestic skills such as sewing and cooking
- D Education across Germany was nazified, with all teachers joining the Nazi Teachers Association. The curriculum was altered to reflect the ideas that Aryan's were the better race and antisemitism was prominent.

WOMEN

- D The Nazis had clear ideas of what they wanted from women. They were expected to stay at home, look after the family and produce children in order to secure the future of the Aryan race.
- D Hitler wanted a high birth rate, so he introduced laws that encouraged marriage, such as giving couples loans of 1000 marks.
- D Women were also given awards called the Maiden's Cross when they had large numbers of children, and could opt to have a baby outside of marriage with an Aryan SS guard.
- D Measures were also introduced to stop women working, such as providing them with financial incentives to not work.
- D They were also expected to wear plain clothes with their hair in plaits.

KRISTALNACHT

- D Nazi officers were told to attack Jewish homes and **synagogues** but do it undercover and not in their Nazi uniform. This would make it look as if the German public had started the violence, not the Nazis.
- D Instructions were sent to local Nazis to arrest as many Jews as the prisons would take.
- 9th and 10th November**
 - D Gangs smashed and burned Jewish property and attacked Jews all over Germany. Some Germans were horrified by the attacks, others were pleased and joined in.
 - D **Official Nazi figures** listed 814 shops, 171 homes and 191 synagogues destroyed. The official figures state that 100 Jews were killed.

The consequence for the Jews

- D Goebbels **blamed the Jews** for starting the trouble who were **fined 1 billion** marks.
- D By 12th November **20,000 Jews** had been rounded up and sent to **concentration camps**.

Improvement in lifestyles

PUBLIC SERVICES

Hitler began a huge programme of public works, which included building hospitals, schools and public buildings such as the 1936 Olympic stadium. The construction of the Autobahns created work for 80,000 men.

REARMAMENT

Rearmament was responsible for the bulk of economic growth between 1933 and 1938. Rearmament started almost as soon as Hitler came to power but was announced publicly. This created millions of jobs for German workers.

NATIONAL LABOUR SERVICE

The introduction of the National Labour Service (NLS) meant all young men spent six months in the NLS and were then conscripted into the army. They were no longer counted in the unemployment figures.

INVISIBLE EMPLOYMENT

Although Germany claimed to have full employment by 1939, many groups of people were not included in the statistics, including the 1.4 million men in the army, Jews who were sacked from their jobs, women who were encouraged to leave their jobs to start families.

THE LABOUR FRONT

This was a Nazi organisation that replaced Trades Unions, which were banned. It set wages and nearly always followed the wishes of employers, rather than employees.

LABOUR SCHEMES

Strength Through Joy gave workers rewards for their work – evening classes, theatre trips, picnics and even very cheap or free holidays. Beauty of Labour helped Germans see that work was good, and to improve working conditions.

GYPSIES

They were sterilised so they could not have any children, and by 1939 35,000 were sent to concentration camps.

HOMOSEXUALS

They lost their civil rights, and were sterilised so they could not have children. 15,000 died in concentration camps.

DISABLED

350,000 were sterilised and 200,000 were euthanised – killed so that the state would not have to look after them.

WEIMAR NAZI GERMANY

Glossary

ANSCHLUSS the annexation of Austria by Germany

ANTI-SEMITISM Hatred and persecution of the Jews

ARMISTICE The ending of hostilities in a war

ARYAN Nazi term for a non-Jewish German, someone of supposedly 'pure' German stock

CAPITALISM An economic system in which the production and distribution of goods depend on private investment.

CENSORSHIP Controlling what is produced and suppressing anything against the state.

CENTRE PARTY (ZP) A Catholic party occupying the middle ground in political views.

CIVIL RIGHTS Basic rights of citizens such as the right to vote, equal treatment under the law etc.

COALITION GOVERNMENT A government of two or more political parties.

COMMUNIST PARTY (KPD) The German Communist Party, following the ideas of Karl Marx

CONCENTRATION CAMP Prison for political prisoners and enemies of the state who are placed there without trial.

CONCORDAT An agreement between the Pope and a government concerning the legal status of the Roman Catholic Church within that government's territory.

CONSCRIPTION compulsory military service for a certain period of time.

CONSTITUTION The basic principles according to which a country is governed

DAP The German Workers party

DDP German Democratic Party, a left wing liberal party founded in 1918

DNVP The German National People's Party, the nationalist right-wing party supported by business people and landowners.

DOLCHSTOSS 'Stab in the back' theory

ENABLING ACT The law that gave Hitler the power to rule for four years without consulting the Reichstag.

EUTHANSIA bringing death to relieve suffering. The Nazis interpret this as killing anyone who was 'substandard'

FEDERAL STRUCTURE System in which power is divided between a central and regional government.

FREIKORPS Private armies set up by senior German army officers at the end of the First World War. Mainly comprised of ex-soldiers.

FUHRERPRINZIP the idea that the Nazi Party and Germany should have one leader, obeyed by all.

GERMAN LABOUR FRONT (DAF) Organisation set up by the Nazis to control German workers.

GESTAPO Official secret police of the Nazi regime

GHETTO A densely populated area of a city inhabited by the Jews

GLEICHSCHALTUNG Bringing people into an identical way of thinking and behaving

GREAT DEPRESSION Slump in the economy in the 1930s which led to high unemployment.

GYPSEY A race of people found across Europe who generally travel across the continent rather than living in one place

HEIL HITLER Form of salute to Hitler

HITLER YOUTH Organisation set up for the young in Germany to convert them to the Nazis

HYPERINFLATION Extremely high inflation, where the value of money plummets and it becomes almost worthless

INDOCTRINATION Converting people to your ideas using education and propaganda

INFORMANT Person who gives information to the authorities about other people.

KAISER The German emperor

LANDER Regional states of Germany

LEAGUE OF NATIONS The international body established after WW1 in order to maintain peace.

LEFT WING Group of politicians and parties which favour socialism

MANIFESTO A public declaration of a political party's policies.

NATIONAL SOCIALIST Member of the NSDAP

NATIONALISE To change from private ownership to state ownership

NAZI TEACHERS LEAGUE Organisation set up to control teachers and what they taught

NOVEMBER CRIMINALS Name given to the German politicians who accepted the armistice which ended the war.

PASSIVE RESISTANCE Opposition to a government, invading power, without using violence.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION The number of votes won in an election, determined the number of seats in the Reichstag.

PUTSCH Attempted takeover of the government.

REICH In German, this has many meanings – state, kingdom, empire. When used by the Nazis it tended to mean an empire of Germany.

REICHSTAG German government

REPARATIONS War damages (money) to be paid by Germany

REPUBLIC A state in which the government is carried out by the people or their elected representatives.

SA The Parliamentary 'storm troopers' of the Nazi party.

SD 'Security Service' the intelligence agency of the Nazis.

SOCIALISTS Those who believe in state ownership

SS Originally the Nazi paramilitary organisation that acted as Hitler's bodyguard, they became the most powerful troops of the Third Reich and carried out the Final Solution.

SWASTIKA Emblem of the Nazi Party; a cross with the arms bent at right angles

THIRD REICH Nazi name for Germany. Means 'Third Empire'

TRADE UNIONS Organisations set up to protect and improve the rights of workers

TREASON A crime against the state

VOLKISCH In Germany began to mean being linked to extreme German nationalism

WALL STREET CRASH 29th October 1929, when more than 16 million shares were traded in panic selling.

WEIMAR REPUBLIC The republic that existed in Germany from 1919-1933