

THE RISE TO POWER OF ADOLF HITLER

How to use this booklet:

- This is a **summary of the narrative of Hitler's Rise to Power** to help you fill in any gaps.
- You should use this as a prompt and support with your class notes and textbook.
- As you work through the booklet, you should be seeking to use the information to support your own analysis.
- The details on the Golden Age of Weimar etc here are primarily of relevance to Paper 3 students.

a) Build your analysis:

Remember this equation when revising the rise to power of any of the leaders:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{CHARISMA / APPEAL OF LEADER (personal qualities, ideology, party strengths)} \\
 + \\
 \text{RIGHT CONTEXT (economic, political, social, cultural challenges facing a country that explain the} \\
 \text{appeal of the charisma)} \\
 + \\
 \text{WEAKNESS OF THE OPPOSITION (existing government, alternative groups seeking power – e.g. for} \\
 \text{Hitler the long term issues of Weimar and the backstairs intrigue explain why the existing} \\
 \text{government fell, but you need to do more to explain why it was Hitler and not the communists who} \\
 \text{replaced them)} \\
 = \\
 \text{RISE TO POWER}
 \end{array}$$

b) Types of questions:

Questions will often pick one of the areas above, or a component of them, as the statement to be challenged in the question. By keeping this three part thematic approach clear in your mind you will be able to frame an analytical response to any question that requires this challenge or that is evaluative.

c) In your revision, complete a table using this structure:

Theme	Analysis (Long / short term is a useful split within each section)	Evidence
Context		
- Economic		
- Social/cultural		
- Political/WW1		

THE RISE TO POWER OF ADOLF HITLER

Weakness of Opposition		
- Existing government		
- Rivals		
Charisma		
- Of the leader		
- Of the organisation		
- Appeal of Ideology		

d) Now start to identify links and connections between them. This will develop your analysis.

*e.g. The political crisis of the Spartacist revolt led to the permanent alienation of the communists from the socialists (**political context**) – therefore the left was always divided against Hitler, which became significant in 1933 (**weakness of rival groups**).*

c) Consider the historiography to help you identify a clear line of argument and structure.

Key interpretations of Hitler's Rise to Power:

1. If you think that the rise to power of Hitler is actually really not that surprising as he fits in with the broader history of Germany, dating back to the authoritarian Kaisers (i.e. the long term political context) & war of 1871. Other factors were important, but mainly as catalysts, then you would be agreeing with writers such as William Shirer and AJP Taylor. You would also see the Weimar Republic, rather than the Nazis, as the brief aberration in German history.
2. If you believe the context of the problems and misinterpretations of the specific events of the 1920s and 1930s were key, then you would be agreeing with Karl Barcher. The unique economic pressures, applied on top of the longer term political weakness make democracy very unappealing.
3. If you emphasise the charisma theme as being the most significant, then you would be in line with the arguments of Ian Kershaw and Alan Bullock. However, you would also be clear in your interpretation of charisma as being a two way street – i.e. Hitler's message appeals only when the context is right (when things are going well in the 1920s, Hitler's views and personality are considered quite comical by many).

1.) The German Revolution: 29th Oct – 11th Nov 1918

Who?	Causes	What happened?	Consequences
<p>Germany led by Kaiser Wilhelm II</p> <p>The Social Democrat Party (SPD) led by Friedrich Ebert.</p>	<p>The War situation had changed: Germany was close to defeat by Autumn 1918. The German 'Spring Offensive' of March 1918 had failed. In July, the Allies counter-attacked across the Western Front, driving the Germans back towards Germany. 2 million German soldiers had died since 1914 and morale was at breaking point.</p> <p>Hardship within Germany. The Allied naval blockade had limited the imports of basic supplies. Food shortages led to the deaths of 424,000 civilians and a further 200,000 died from an outbreak of deadly influenza in August 1918. The pressure for political change was growing.</p> <p>Russian Revolution of November 1917 had increased the pressure for change, particular from Communist groups.</p>	<p>On 29th October, German sailors at the naval base of <i>Wilhelmshaven</i> refused to follow orders to set sail in one last suicidal attack on the British navy.</p> <p>By 4th November, the <i>mutiny had spread to Kiel naval base</i> where 40,000 sailors and dockers set up a workers' and soldiers' council and took over the dockyard. Similar revolts took place across Germany in towns like Hamburg, Bremen and Lubeck.</p> <p>On 7th November, in the state of Bavaria, thousands of workers led by Kurt Eisner, marched on Munich and <i>overthrew the Bavarian monarchy of King Ludwig III</i> and set-up a free-state and republic.</p> <p>On 9th November, due to pressure from his own ministers and the Allies who said they would only negotiate with 'representatives of the people', <i>Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated</i>, fleeing to Holland. The Social Democrat Party (SPD) formed a new temporary government led by Friedrich Ebert, who became the new Chancellor.</p>	<p>Short-Term: On 11th November, the new government agreed an <i>armistice</i> with the Allies, ending WW1. Germany had to withdraw from all land won in the war, pull troops back 30 miles inside its border with France, surrender its munitions and put its navy under Allied control.</p> <p>Medium-Term: Terms of the armistice were not popular and <i>economic suffering continued</i>, mainly due to the Allied Naval Blockade of Germany which continued until June 1919. This also resulted in <i>political turmoil</i> throughout the winter of 1918-19.</p> <p>Medium-Term: The Revolution and abdication of the Kaiser eventually led to the <i>formation of a new German State</i> and democratic system – the <i>Weimar Republic</i>.</p> <p>Long-Term: the new government would <i>continually suffer from criticism and protest</i> for forcing the Kaiser to abdicate (November Criminals) and agreeing to end the war prematurely.</p>



Kaiser Wilhelm II 1871-1941



Friedrich Ebert 1871-1925



2.) The Weimar Constitution: Feb - Aug 1919

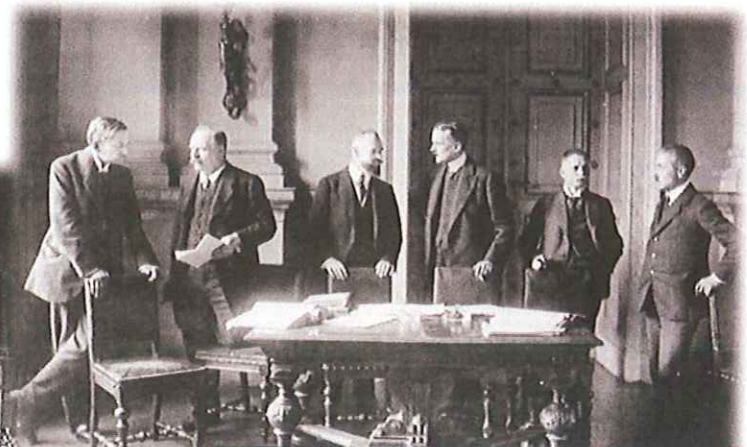
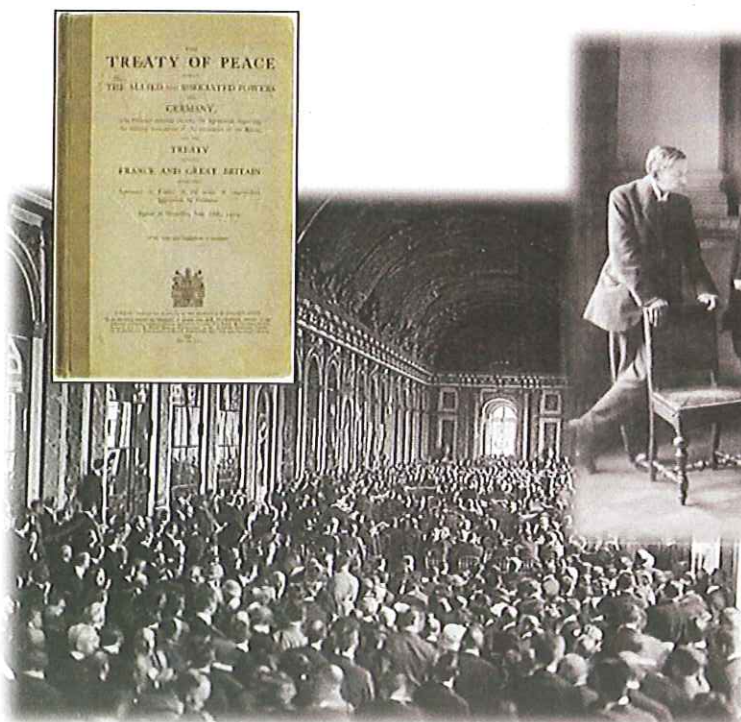
Causes	Terms	Strengths/Weaknesses	Consequence
<p>The temporary government of 'the Council of People's Deputies' was not a long-term solution to the problem of government so they organised elections for a National Assembly on 19th Jan 1919. This met in February to create a new constitution.</p> <p>They gathered in the National Theatre in the town of Weimar, in the state of Thuringia on 6th Feb due to the Spartacist Uprising in Berlin.</p> <p>The Constitution was drafted by the lawyer and liberal politician Hugo Preuss. The Constitution was signed into law by President Ebert on 11th August 1919.</p>	<p>Local government was run by 18 regions of Germany which kept local parliaments. Central government given more power.</p> <p>Reichstag became dominant house of the new German parliament and controlled taxation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of Reichstag elected every 4 years. All men and women over 20 years could vote. Proportional Representation was used for elections. <p>The Reichrat became the upper house of the German parliament.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members were sent by each local region. Could delay laws unless overruled by 2/3 majority of the Reichstag. <p>The chancellor was the head of the government who chose ministers and ran the country. Needed majority support in Reichstag to pass laws.</p> <p>The President was head of state and directly elected every 7 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President took no part in day-to-day government. Chose the chancellor Could dismiss the Reichstag, call new election and control the army. Under Article 48, he could suspend the constitution and pass laws by decree. 	<p>Strengths</p> <p>Made Germany more democratic than it had been under the Kaiser. More people voted and there was a general election every 4 years.</p> <p>Also introduced checks and balances to make government fairer. Two houses in the new parliament: the power of the Reichstag was limited by the power of the Reichrat. Power was also shared between the Chancellor and the President. No single group all person had all the power.</p> <p>Weaknesses</p> <p>Proportional Representation meant that even a party with a small number of votes gained seats in the Reichstag, increasing instability of government. To get majority support for new laws, chancellors needed coalitions of several parties. Parties often couldn't agree.</p> <p>Balance of powers in constitution meant that strong, decisive government by the chancellor was very difficult in times of crisis.</p>	<p>Short-Term: Friedrich Ebert was elected as the first President of the Weimar Republic.</p> <p>Long-Term: Extremist parties didn't support the constitution and moderate Germans feared it was too weak, leading to the growth in popularity of extremist parties like the Communists or far-right.</p> <p>Long-Term: Chancellors often had to ask the President to suspend the constitution under Article 48 whenever compromise broke down. This gave the impression that the new constitution didn't really work and was weak – further increasing political instability.</p> <p>Long-Term: Proportional Representation meant that even small political parties could have a say in government. This weakened the support for moderate centre-parties like the SPD as people had too much voting choice.</p>



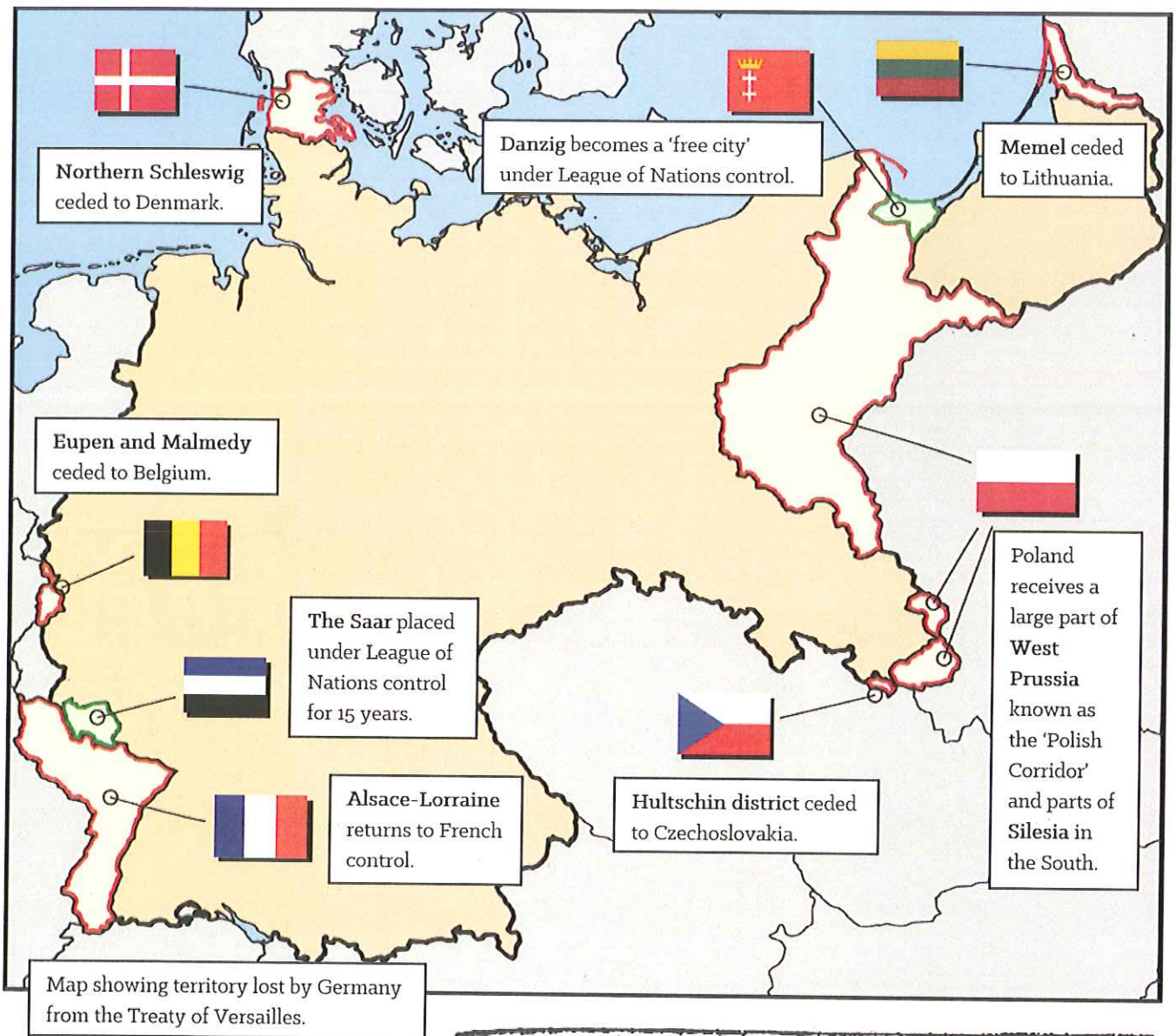
Hugo Preuss 1860-1925

3.) The Treaty of Versailles: 28th June 1919

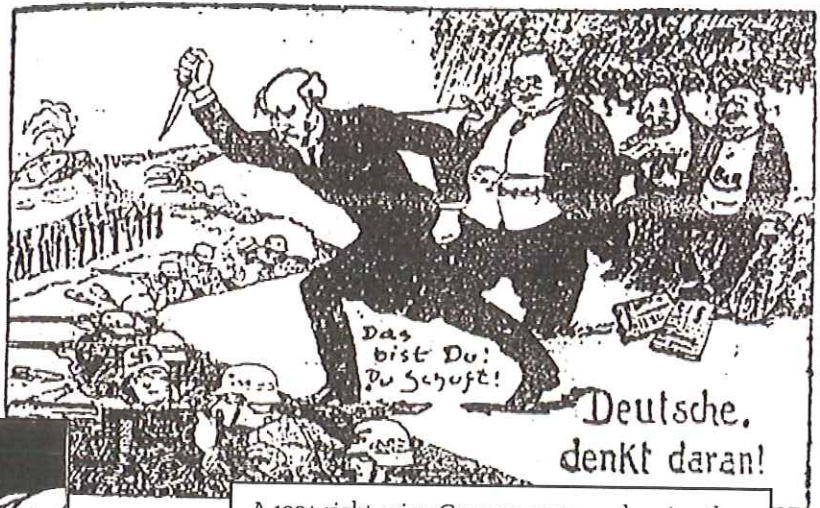
Who?	Causes	Terms	Consequences
<p>UK led by David Lloyd George</p> <p>France led by Georges Clemenceau</p> <p>USA led by Woodrow Wilson</p> <p>Italy led by Vittorio Orlando</p>	<p>The Allied victors of WW1 met at The Paris Peace Conference of 18th January 1919 – 21st January 1920 to decide the fate of Germany. The Treaty of Versailles was the result of these negotiations and was shaped mainly by the French <u>desire to punish Germany.</u></p>	<p>War Guilt – Article 231 became known as the 'War Guilt Clause' as Germany had to accept blame for starting the war.</p> <p>Reparations – Germany had to pay reparations to the Allies. They were fixed in 1921 at 136,000 million marks or £6600 million.</p> <p>Colonies – German lost all its 11 colonies in Africa and the Far East and were given as 'mandates' for the Allies to look after.</p> <p>Military – German army limited to 100,000, Navy limited to 6 battleships, 6 Cruisers, 12 destroyers and 12 torpedo boats. No submarines allowed. No airforce allowed. Rhineland was demilitarised.</p> <p>Land – Alsace and Lorraine lost to France, Eupen Malmedy lost to Belgium, Posen and West Prussia lost to Poland, Plebiscites had to take place in Upper Silesia which voted to become part of Poland and Northern Schleswig which went to Denmark. Port of Danzig became international city. Germany lost 13% of land it total and 50% of iron reserves and 15% of its coal reserves.</p>	<p>Stirred up political protest - Germany was given 15 days to sign the Treaty and was allowed no say in its final provisions. The Treaty became known as the 'diktat' as Germany had no choice but to sign. This angered many political groups in Germany.</p> <p>Weakened the popularity of the Weimar Republic – many people believed the army had not been defeated and could have fought on so they blamed the Weimar Politicians for signing the Treaty. The army had been 'stabbed in the back' (Dolchstoss) by the 'November Criminals'.</p> <p>Harmed Germany's economy – the extraordinarily high reparations figure put a huge burden on the German economy. Germany's ability to pay this back was further hampered by its loss of resource rich lands which led to high inflation.</p>



German delegates in Versailles: Professor Dr. Walther Schücking, Reichspostminister Johannes Giesberts, Justice Minister Dr. Otto Landsberg, Foreign Minister Ulrich Graf von Brockdorff-Rantzau, Prussian State President Robert Leinert, and financial advisor Dr. Carl Melchior.



An Austrian illustration from 1919 showing the German Army being 'stabbed in the back' by a caricatured Jew. Along with Weimar Politicians, Socialists and Communists, Jews were also blamed for Germany's defeat in the First World War.



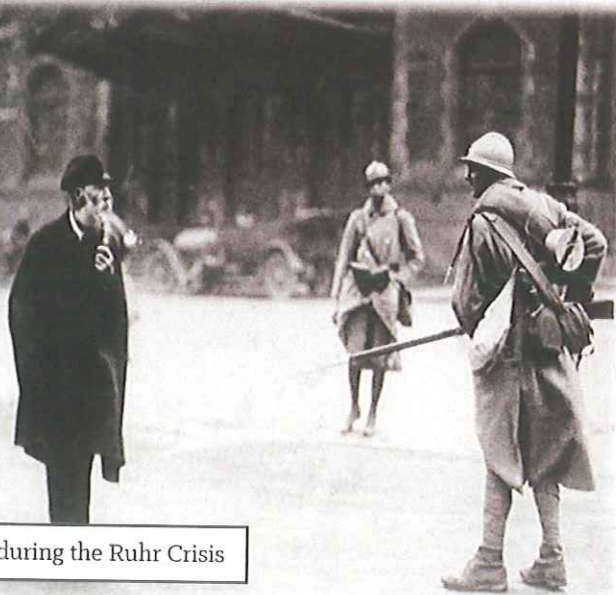
A 1924 right-wing German cartoon showing the SPD politician Philipp Scheidemann who proclaimed the Weimar Republic and its second Chancellor, Matthias Erzberger, who signed the armistice with the Allies ending WW1. Both are show 'stabbing the German Army in the back'.

4.) The Ruhr Crisis and Hyperinflation: 1918 – 1923

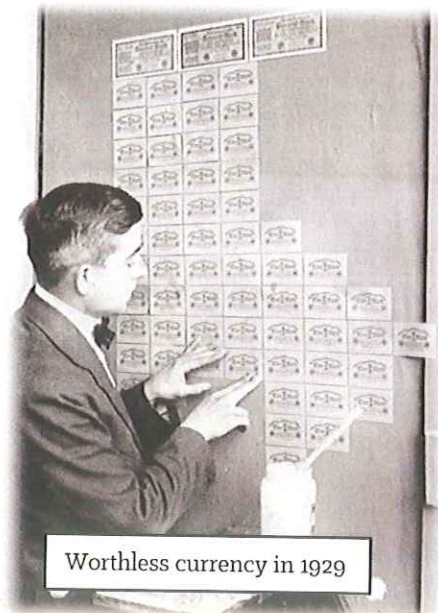
Causes	What happened?	Consequences
<p>The German government was bankrupt as its reserves of gold had all been spent in the war.</p> <p>The Treaty of Versailles made things worse by depriving Germany of resource-rich areas like the coalfields of Silesia.</p> <p>Reparations repayments further harmed the German economy.</p> <p>By 1923, Germany couldn't afford the repayments.</p>	<p>In retaliation for the failure to repay reparations, the French and Belgians sent 750,000 troops into the German industrial area of the Ruhr. They confiscated raw materials, manufactured goods and industrial machinery.</p> <p>The German government urged passive resistance and workers went on strike. 80% of German coal and iron was based in the Ruhr, so whilst the occupation did the French little good, Germany was crippled. The disruption increased Germany's debts, unemployment and the shortage of goods.</p> <p>Shortages meant that the price of things went up (inflation). The government needed money to pay debts but unemployment and failing factories meant their received less money from taxes. The government responded by just printing money, using over 300 paper mills and 2000 printing shops in 1923!</p> <p>Printing money just made inflation worse. More money was then printed and a vicious circle had been created and hyperinflation caused bread to rise from 1 mark in 1919 to 100,000 marks in 1923.</p> <p>Thing only improved when Gustav Stresemann was appointed Chancellor in September 1923. By November, he cancelled the old mark and issued a new currency – the Rentenmark. This stabilised the economy.</p>	<p>Benefits</p> <p>Farmers profited from rising food prices and some businesses were able to pay off loans, as the loans lost value. Others were able to buy up smaller, failing businesses very cheaply.</p> <p>Costs</p> <p>Everyone suffered from shortages – German marks became worthless compared to foreign currency. Foreign suppliers refused to accept marks for goods, so imports dried up and food shortages got worse!</p> <p>Difficult to buy what was needed – people had to carry wheelbarrows full of money. Workers were paid twice a day so they could rush out and buy goods before prices rose further. Some resorted to trading goods instead of money.</p> <p>Savings wiped out – those with savings, insurance policies and pensions were hit hardest as saving became worthless. Those affected were mainly middle class.</p>



Gustav Stresemann
1878-1929



French soldiers during the Ruhr Crisis



Worthless currency in 1929

5.) Spartacist Uprising and Kapp Putsch: 1918-1923

Causes	What happened?	Consequences
<p>Right-wing Parties – resented that the ‘November Criminals’; hated and feared the communists, wanted to reverse Versailles, reinstate the Kaiser, boost the army and return Germany to its former strength. Had the support of the military, judiciary and civil service.</p> <p>Left-wing Parties – like the Communists (KPD) wanted a socialist revolution like in Russia; thought that Weimar gave too little power to the workers; wanted government by Soviet councils, wanted to abolish the land-owning classes and the army.</p> <p>Unpopularity of new Weimar Government – Between 1918-23, German people hated the Weimar leaders’ decision to admit defeat in 1918, hated the Versailles Treaty for its guilt placed on Germany and hated the hardships caused by unemployment and inflation. Everyone blamed the government and looked to more extreme methods to replace it.</p> <p>Private Armies – many political parties had their own private armies which caused political activity to become violent. There were 376 political murders between 1919-22, mostly of left-wing or moderate politicians. Not a single right-wing murderer was convicted, angering the left-wing.</p>	<p>Spartacist Uprising</p> <p>On 6th January 1919, 100,000 communists demonstrated in Berlin and took over key buildings such as newspaper offices. The communists were inspired by the Spartacist League led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg.</p> <p>Chancellor Ebert and his defence minister, Gustav Noske, persuaded the 250,000 strong Freikorps (demobilised soldiers who had refused to give back their weapons) to put down the Spartacist uprisings. Thousands of communists were arrested or killed, mostly in Berlin. Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht were arrested on 15th January and were murdered by the Freikorps. The threat from the left was over.</p> <p>Kapp Putsch</p> <p>In March 1920, elements of the Freikorps and military supporters of Dr. Wolfgang Kapp marched on Berlin to overthrow the Weimar Republic and bring back the Kaiser. On the evening of 12th March, they took over the government quarter of the city. President Ebert and the government fled to Dresden on 13th March, urging German workers not to co-operate but go on strike.</p> <p>Up to 12 million workers responded to the call and refused to work. The gas, electricity, water and transport all stopped in Berlin. Kapp realised he could not govern and fled to Sweden.</p>	<p>Government popularity and authority was weakened – the government had not been able to govern on its own authority. It relied on workers’ strikes and the Freikorps to defeat political opponents. In the following elections of 6th June 1920, the SPD (Ebert’s Party) fell by over half compared to the January 1919 elections.</p> <p>Extremist Parties gathered strength – the two uprisings proved that the government was weak and those who have the most military power could eventually win. This increased unrest throughout Germany, leading to the Munich Putsch in 1923.</p>



Rosa Luxemburg 1871-1919

Karl Liebknecht 1871-1919

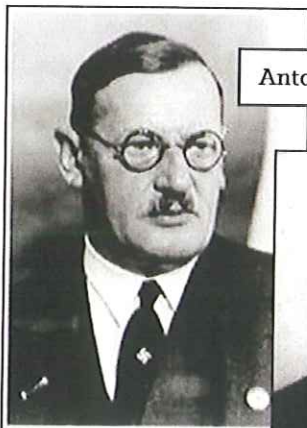
Wolfgang Kapp 1858-1922

6.) The Stresemann Era: 1924-1929

Policy	Causes	What happened?	Consequences
<p>The Rentenmark</p> <p>Oct 1923</p>	<p>The biggest problem Germany faced in 1923 was hyperinflation caused by the Ruhr Crisis. Something had to be done to stabilise the economy.</p>	<p>Old currency was abolished and a new, temporary currency was introduced, the Rentenmark. New notes were trusted because the government promised to exchange them for shares in land or industry if the currency failed.</p> <p>In Aug 1924, the Rentenmark was replaced by a new permanent currency called the Reichsmark. A new independent national bank, the Reichsbank, was also created to control the currency.</p>	<p>Confidence in the currency, banking system and economy was restored. Deposits in German banks rose from 900m marks at the start of 1924 to 4,900 marks at the end of 1926.</p>
<p>The Dawes Plan</p> <p>April 1924</p>	<p>Reparations payments were set so high that Germany had been unable to pay in 1923, leading to the Ruhr Crisis. The Allies needed to be persuaded to reduce them to a sensible level. Allied troops were still occupying the Ruhr and needed to be removed.</p>	<p><u>Stresemann and the Allies agreed to:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Reduce annual payments to an affordable level. 2.) The USA promised to provide \$800 million in loans to German Industry to promote economic growth. 3.) The Ruhr area would be evacuated by Allied occupation troops as soon as reparations payments restarted. 	<p>Short-Term Economic Benefits – the German economy recovered and received increased foreign investment and loans. Coal output rose from 275 million tons in 1924 to 350 million tons in 1929. Manufactured goods sales doubled 1923-29 and unemployment fell in 1928 to its lowest for 10 years.</p> <p>Long-Term Economic Problems – the Plan made the German economy dependent on the US economy which suffered greatly during the 1929 Great Depression.</p>
<p>The Locarno Pact</p> <p>October 1925</p>	<p>Germany was treated unfairly by the Allies and Stresemann needed some success in international diplomacy to appease German demands.</p>	<p>Germany signed the Locarno agreement with Britain, France, Italy and Belgium. Germany agreed to keep to its new 1919 border with France and Belgium. In return, the Allies agreed to remove their troops from the Rhineland and discuss German entry to the League of Nations.</p>	<p>Germany treated as an equal – the 'spirit of Locarno' improved relations in Europe in the 1925-1930 period, encouraging foreign investment to German.</p>
<p>The League of Nations</p> <p>1926</p>	<p>Germany was excluded from joining the League of Nations when it was created by the ToV in 1919. The Locarno Pact paved the way for Germany's remittance.</p>	<p>Stresemann persuaded the League to accept Germany as a member in 1926 and Germany even gained a place on the League's Council. Hitler would eventually leave the League in October 1933.</p>	<p>Germany was trusted again and treated as an equal in world affairs, helping Germany's ability to gain financial and diplomatic help from the Allied powers.</p>
<p>Kellogg-Briand Pact</p> <p>August 1928</p>	<p>Stresemann was keen to prove Germany's commitment to international peace, some say as a way to persuade the Allies to drop the terms of the ToV.</p>	<p>Germany was one of 65 countries to sign the Kellogg-Briand Pact – an international agreement by which states promised not to use war to achieve their foreign policy aims.</p>	<p>This also showed that Germany had become a respectable member of the international community which led to the international community's willingness to sign the Young Plan of 1929.</p>
<p>The Young Plan</p> <p>August 1929</p>	<p>Success in foreign policy eventually led to success in economic policy.</p>	<p>The Young Plan cut reparations payments from £6.6 billion to £2 billion, with 59 more years to pay.</p>	<p>The Plan strengthened the Weimar Republic by easing the burden of reparations payments however Germans like Adolf Hitler criticised Stresemann for 'passing on the penalty to the unborn'.</p>

7.) Creation of the Nazi Party: 1919-1923

Causes	How did Hitler help the party grow?	Consequences
<p>During WW1, Adolf Hitler had been a corporal in the German army and had been awarded the Iron Cross.</p> <p>After the war, Hitler worked for the Army, spying on political groups in Munich. One was the German Workers' Party (DAP) which was founded by Anton Drexler on 9th January 1919. He joined the party in Sep 1919.</p> <p>The DAP was angry about: communists and socialists for bringing down the Kaiser; Weimer politicians for signing the ToV; the weakness of Democracy and the Jews who they blamed for weakening the economy. In this sense, the creation of the Nazi Party was a response to the problems in Germany caused by the German revolution.</p>	<p>By 1920, Hitler was working as Drexler's right-hand man and in February 1920, the two men revealed the new 25-Point Programme of the DAP.</p> <p>It called for 1.) Scrapping the ToV; 2.) Expanding Germany's borders to give its people lebensraum (more land to live in); 3.) Depriving Jews of German citizenship.</p> <p>Membership of the DAP grew in the 1919-23 period as people became dissatisfied with the Weimar Republic. They were also attracted by Hitler who was an energetic and passionate speaker. Membership grew to about 1100 in June 1920.</p> <p>On 7th August 1920, Hitler suggested the DAP change its name to the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP or Nazi Party). He adopted the swastika emblem and its members began to use the raised arm salute. Membership grew to 3000 during 1920 and the party was able to a newspaper – the <i>Volkischer Beobachter</i> for 180,000 marks.</p> <p>He also gathered around him loyal party leaders: Ernst Rohm, a scar-faced soldier; Hermann Goering, hero of the German Air Force; Rudolf Hess, wealthy academic and Hitler's deputy; Julius Streicher, founder of the Nazi paper, <i>Der Sturmer</i>.</p> <p>By mid-1921, Hitler pushed Drexler aside and became party Fuhrer (leader). In 1921 he also created the Sturmabteilung (SA) or storm troopers. These were the parties' private army recruited from demobilised soldiers. In 1923 he created the Stosstrupp or Shock Troop of trusted SA members as his own private bodyguard.</p>	<p>As the popularity of the party grew, Hitler attracted powerful friends such as General Ludendorff, leader of the German Army during the First World War.</p> <p>As the party grew in size and influence, they were able to take advantage of events in the 1920-23 period, especially the dissatisfaction generated by the Ruhr Crisis.</p>



Anton Drexler 1884-1942



Adolf Hitler 1889-1945



8.) The Munich Putsch: November 1923

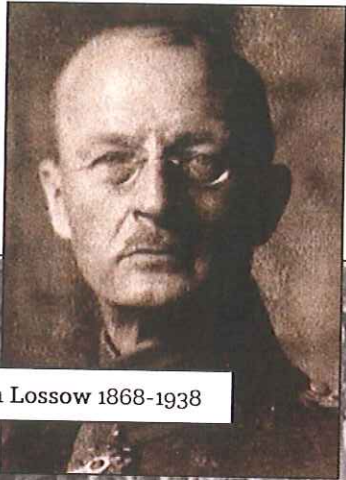
Who?	Causes	What happened?	Consequences
<p>NSDAP led by Adolf Hitler</p> <p>Erich Ludendorff, ex-army general and NSDAP supporter</p> <p>Gustav Ritter von Kahr, leader of the Bavarian government</p> <p>Hans Ritter von Seisser, head of Bavarian police</p> <p>General Otto von Lossow, head of the army in Bavaria</p>	<p>Hyperinflation was serious affecting German people. The French occupation of the Ruhr was also a source of anger and shame. Hitler wanted to exploit this discontent.</p> <p>By Nov 1923, membership of the NSDAP had grown to 55,000. He felt strong enough to make a challenge nationally.</p> <p>Hitler sensed that the new government of Gustav Stresemann would soon solve the economic problems. Time was running out before the unrest died down.</p> <p>Stresemann's government had also started a crackdown on extremist groups. Time was running out for the NSDAP.</p> <p>Benito Mussolini's successful 'march on Rome' (Italy) in October 1922 had inspired Hitler to take direct action.</p> <p>At the height of the Ruhr Crisis, Von Kahr had banned NSDAP meetings from taking place in Sep 1923. Hitler felt he was being controlled and was under pressure to act and assert his leadership.</p>	<p>On the evening of 8th November 1923, there was a meeting of 3000 officials of the Bavarian government in the Burgerbrau Keller Beer Hall, Munich. The three main speakers were von Kahr, von Seisser and von Lossow.</p> <p>Hitler had secretly surrounded the meeting with 600 SA storm troopers and a machine gun was set-up in the hall. Hitler appeared brandishing a gun and firing it into the ceiling announcing: '<i>The national revolution has broken out! The hall is filled with 600 men. Nobody is allowed to leave.</i>' He claimed that after taking control of Munich, he would march against the government itself in Berlin. He was supported by Erich von Ludendorff, a national hero to some.</p> <p>Kahr, Seisser and Lossow were taken off into a side room at gunpoint where they reluctantly agree to support the uprising. However at 10.30pm, Hitler left the hall and Ludendorff allowed von Kahr and his associates to leave. This was a mistake. Von Kahr <i>et al.</i> had changed their minds and now opposed Hitler.</p> <p>The 2000 strong SA was suddenly outnumbered by the Bavarian police and army.</p> <p>Hitler sent 3000 supporters and SA to capture key buildings around the town. He then marched on the town centre (Residenzstrasse), supported by Ludendorff, the SA and his supporters. However they were met by 100 state police soldiers who opened fire on them, killing 16 Nazis with Hitler and Goering being injured.</p> <p>Ludendorff was arrested and the others fled. Hitler hid in the attic of a friend's house but was later arrested as well.</p>	<p>Short-Term – Bad!</p> <p>Hitler and three other leaders of the Putsch (Ludendorff, Rohm and Dr. Wilhelm Frick) stood trial. Hitler was found guilty of treason and sentenced to five years in Landsberg Castle prison – the minimum sentence. Ludendorff was acquitted and the others released almost immediately. Goering, Ernst Hanfstaengl and Rudolf Hess fled to Austria!</p> <p>Nazi party headquarter were raided and its newspaper, the <i>Volkischer Beobachter</i> (The People's Observer) and the party itself was banned until 1925.</p> <p>Long-Term – Good!</p> <p>Hitler used the trial to get national publicity for his views. Every word he spoke was reported in national papers the next day. The judges were impressed and he actually only served 9 months and was fined only 500 Reichmarks.</p> <p>As a result of the publicity, the NSDAP won its first seats in the Reichstage – 32 seats in the 1924 election. It was a propaganda victory for the NSDAP.</p> <p>Hitler used his time in jail to write his autobiography – <i>Mein Kampf</i> (my struggle). Hitler formed his political ideas which became a guide for the party. It focused on the need for one all-powerful leader to guide the party – the Fuhrer Principle</p> <p>Hitler also changed his approach to political change. He realised that direct action wouldn't work and decided to win power through the ballot box – the Reichstag Principle.</p>



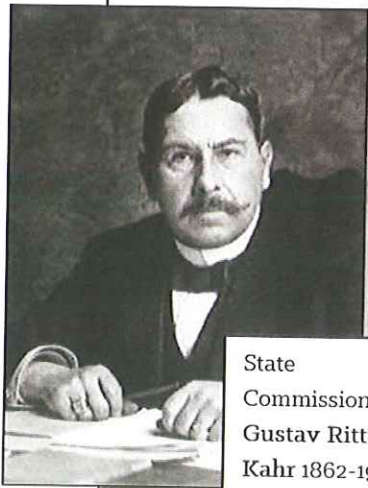
Some of the defendants at the Munich Putsch trial. From left: Heinz Pernet, Friedrich Weber, Wilhelm Frick, Hermann Kiebel, Erich Ludendorff, Adolf Hitler, Wilhelm Bruckner, Ernst Rohm and Adolf Wagner.



Head of Bavarian State Police
Hans Ritter von Seisser 1874-1973



Generalmajor Otto von Lossow 1868-1938



State
Commissioner
Gustav Ritter von
Kahr 1862-1934



The Marienplatz in Munich during the Munich Putsch.

9.) Reorganising the Nazi Party: 1924-1928

Admin and Funding	SS and SA	Propaganda	Progress by 1928
<p>Hitler left prison in 1924 and re-launched the Nazi Party in February 1925.</p> <p>Hitler re-launched the Nazi Party with a focus of winning power through elections, not violence. This meant he needed better organisation and funding.</p> <p>Hitler appointed two efficient administrators to run Nazi HQ: Philipp Bouhler as secretary and Franz Schwarz as treasurer. He also divided the party into regions; appointing <i>gauleiters</i> who ran the party in each <i>gauge</i> or region.</p> <p>To fund this, Hitler befriended wealthy businessmen who shared his hatred of communism and hoped Hitler would limit the power of trade unions. By the early 1930s, the party was receiving big donations from Thyssen, Krupp and Bosch.</p>	<p>Extra funding was also used to strengthen the SA which expanded to 400,000 members by 1930. They were used to protect meetings and intimidate opponents like the communists.</p> <p>They gave the appearance of strength, order and unity to the party.</p> <p>Hitler also setup the SS (Schutzstaffel) protection squad in 1925 as his own private bodyguard. He was worried about SA who were difficult to control and who swore loyalty to Ernest Rohm, its commander.</p> <p>The SS was run at first by Julius Schreck but was replaced by Heinrich Himmler. They were known for their ruthlessness and black uniforms.</p>	<p>The use of propaganda became more important as the party hoped to increase its share of the vote. Dr. Joseph Goebbels was the Nazi Party <i>gauleiter</i> for Berlin and was a brilliant propagandist. He worked with Hitler to improve the party message.</p> <p>They created scapegoats for Germany's problems: Jews, the communists and leaders of the Weimar Republic, especially the SPD who had signed the ToV.</p> <p>Hitler was promoted in propaganda as the voice of the Nazi Party. By the 1930s, there were only 120 Nazi daily or weekly newspapers, reporting Hitler's speeches across the whole country.</p> <p>The Nazi Party also pioneered the use of radio, films and gramophone records to keep Hitler in the public eye. Hitler was famous for using aeroplanes to fly from city to city, speaking up to five times a day in some cases.</p> <p>Propaganda created the image of strength for the party. It focused on Hitler's passion, the spectacle of mass Nazi rallies and the impressive power of the SA and SS.</p>	<p>By 1928 the Nazi Party was well organised, had over 100,000 members and Hitler was a national figure.</p> <p>However there were problems. Since 1923, the economy had recovered, employment had increased and inflation had eased. People were better off and didn't want to vote for extremist parties.</p> <p>Stresemann seemed to be regaining status for Germany internationally.</p> <p>In 1925, Paul von Hindenburg, the 78-year-old ex-field marshal of the German Army, had become president; his reputation was a boost to the Weimar Republic and increased votes for moderate parties like the SPD, DDP, DVP and ZP.</p> <p>In the elections of May 1928, the Nazis won only 12 seats, were the 9th biggest party and polled only 810,000 votes (2.6%).</p>



Joseph Goebbels 1897-1945



Heinrich Himmler 1900-1945



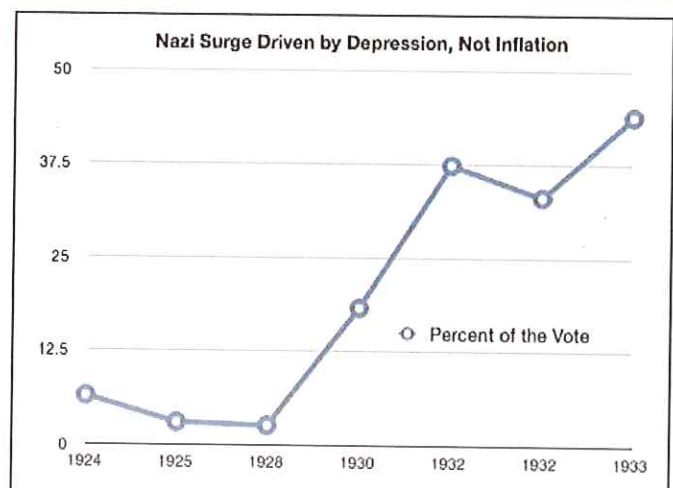
Philipp Bouhler 1899-1945



Franz Schwarz 1875-1947

10.) The Wall Street Crash: October 1929

Causes	What happened in Germany?	Consequences for Germany
<p>In October 1929, shares prices began to fall rapidly on the Wall Street stock exchange in New York, USA. Falling shares meant people's investments fell in value. Worried about losing money, people rushed to sell shares before they fell further.</p> <p>On 'Black Thursday', 24th October 1929, 13 million shares were sold.</p> <p>Panic selling sent prices even lower. Shares worth \$20,000 in the morning were worth \$1000 by the end of the day. Within a week, investors lost \$4000 million.</p> <p>American banks were headed for bankruptcy so they began to <u>call in and stop their foreign loans to banks in Germany.</u></p>	<p>Banks were major investors in shares and suffered huge losses. German banks lost so much money that people feared they couldn't pay out the money in bank accounts. People panicked and rushed to withdraw all their savings – causing banks to run out of cash.</p> <p>To make the money back, German banks recalled all their loans to German businesses. But German businesses needed the money from those loans to operate. They either had to reduce operations or close. Many businesses closed, German industrial output fell and unemployment rose.</p> <p>The worldwide depression meant that there was no market for German exports and high unemployment at home meant that there was no domestic demand for goods within Germany either. Therefore even more businesses closed, leading to higher unemployment and a vicious cycle emerged.</p>	<p>Middle classes lost savings, their businesses and their homes to the banking collapse. Workers became unemployed, further increasing the <u>welfare bill</u> for the German government.</p> <p>More unemployment and closing businesses and decreasing trade resulted in the government losing tax revenue at a blistering pace. This left the German government without money and struggling to afford reparations repayments. This was made worse by the fact that the government relied on American loans (Dawes Plan) that had now been recalled.</p> <p>From 1930-1932 the Chancellor was Heinrich Brüning who proposed to: raise taxes to pay for the cost of unemployment benefit AND reduce unemployment benefit to make payments more affordable.</p> <p>This pleased no one. Right-wing parties opposed higher taxes and left-wing parties opposed lower benefits. Brüning's coalition government collapsed and he had to rely on Presidential decree (Article 48) to govern. In 1930 only 5 decrees had to be used. In 1931 this rose to 44 and 66 in 1932. Decrees just undermined confidence in the Weimar Republic.</p> <p>Extremist parties like the Nazis and Communists benefited from public anger with the government. Many joined the private armies of political parties and violence increased across Germany.</p>



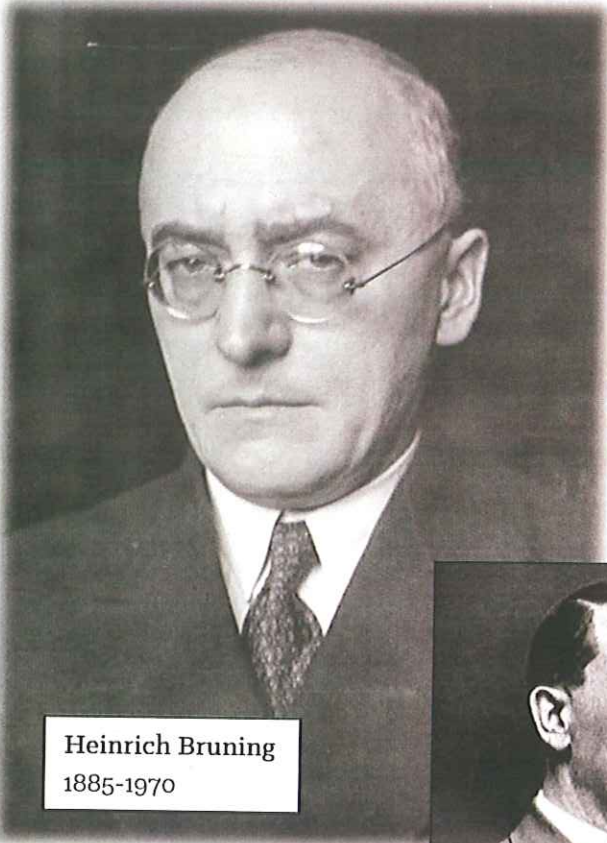
11.) Reasons for Growing Nazi Support: 1929-1932

Social Groups	Why they supported the Nazis?
Working-Class Support	<p>Many working people were attracted by Nazi support for traditional German values and a strong Germany. There was an economic appeal too – Nazis promised 'Work and Bread' on posters. Part of the appeal was just propaganda. The Nazis used posters which gave the impression that many workers already supported them however they never really dominated the working-class vote. When times were hard, most workers supported the communists, so Nazi working-class support was important; but it wasn't enough.</p>
Middle-Class Support	<p>The middle class contained professional people, like teachers and lawyers, business people and small farmers. They often owned land or businesses and had savings. During the Great Depression of 1929-1932, they deserted more moderate parties, like the Social Democrats (SPD) and supported the Nazis.</p> <p>Why?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many lost their companies, savings and pensions. Hitler was seen as a strong leader who could help the country recover. • The middle class were also afraid of the growing Communist Party (KPD), which wanted to abolish private ownership of land and businesses. The middle classes saw the Nazis as a strong party which could protect them from this. • There was also the view that there had been a moral decline under the Weimar Republic, including more drinking and sexual openness. The Nazis represented a return to traditional German values. This went down well with the middle classes.
Farmers	<p>The Nazis targeted farmers' votes. The Nazi policy of confiscating all private land in the original 25-point programme was changed in 1928. The new policy said that private land would only be confiscated to protect farmers from the Communist Party, which would have confiscated their land.</p>
Big Business	<p>The business classes usually supported the National Party. But this party's Reichstag seats halved from 1929-32. Big Business saw Hitler as their best chance for protection from the KPD. Their support was a boost to Nazi funds and help from powerful newspaper owners like Alfred Hugenberg brought them electoral success.</p>
Young People and Women	<p>The young were attracted by Hitler's passionate speeches, his ambitions for the future and the atmosphere of Nazi rallies. Women did not support Hitler at first as his policies limited their role to the home. However Nazi propaganda focused on women, saying NSDAP was best for their country and best for their families.</p>

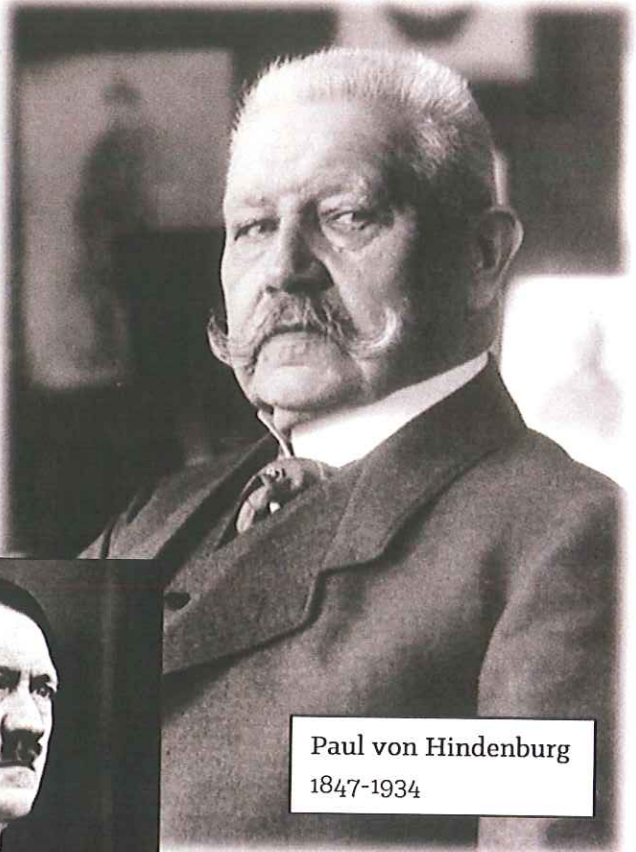


12.) How did the Nazis win power? 1932-1933

Date	Causes	Chancellor	Elections and Government	Significance
1932				
March & April	Hindenburg's seven year term as President was up. Elections took place against a backdrop of turmoil caused by the Wall Street Crash. Voters were willing to consider more extreme candidates in order to end unemployment and unrest.	Bruning	Hitler stood for President and lost to Hindenburg. In the March elections, Hindenburg polled 18 million votes, Hitler 11 million and the Communist leader, Ernst Thalmann, 5 million. As no candidate achieve 50% of vote, election were held again in April. This time, whilst Hindenburg won with 19 million votes, Hitler's share increased to 13 million whilst the Communists dropped to 4 million.	Hitler became a major political figure during the elections. People were willing to consider him as President. He was second only to Hindenburg in the public eye.
May	The socialist Chancellor Bruning used a Presidential decree to ban the SA & SS in April in an attempt to calm unrest. This angered right-wing parties. Ambitious General Kurt von Schleicher decided to remove Bruning. He organised a new coalition of right-wing parties and persuaded Hindenburg that they had a majority in the Reichstag. Bruning was sacked and replaced by ex-General Franz von Papen who Von Schleicher hoped to control from behind the scenes.	Von Papen	Nazis asked to join government coalition. Von Schleicher invited the NSDAP to join the new right-wing coalition he had formed in removing Bruning. Schleicher needed NSDAP support as they were a big party. He believed that he could control the Nazis, seeing them as 'merely children who had to be led by the hand'. Hitler agreed.	For the first time, the Nazi Party was now part of the government of Germany. This led many to view the Nazis as a credible party who could govern sensibly and work with others for the good of Germany.
July	The publicity from the Presidential campaign combined with a successful election campaign to give the Nazis 230 seats in the Reichstag, up from 107 in the Sep 1930 election. Any government coalition now needed Nazi support as they were the biggest party. This made Hitler confident enough to demand the Chancellorship from Hindenburg.	Von Papen	Reichstag election: Nazis now biggest party with 230 seats. Hitler demanded that Hindenburg sack von Papen and announce him as Chancellor, seeing as the Nazis were now the biggest party. Hindenburg rebuffed this offer, viewing Hitler as a 'jumped up corporal'.	Becoming the largest party in the Reichstag brought tremendous power to Hitler as it meant that the Nazis could bring government to a halt by refusing to cooperate.
Nov	The Nazis responded to Hindenburg's refusal by refusing to cooperate with Von Papen's government and literally walking out of Parliament at times. This left Von Papen's coalition in tatters – its biggest party was refusing to cooperate so government ground to a halt.	Von Papen	Reichstag election: Nazis still biggest party with 190 seats. Von Papen hoped that if he called fresh elections, Nazi support would decline and they would gain less seats in the Reichstag. He was wrong, whilst their seats did drop to 190, they were still the biggest party.	Von Papen had lost his last gamble – the Nazis were still the biggest party in the Reichstag and would continue with non-cooperation. Von Papen became powerless to control events and Hindenburg could not indefinitely refuse the Chancellorship to Hitler.
Dec	39 business leaders like Krupp, Siemens, Thyssen and Bosch tried to break the political deadlock by writing a letter to Hindenburg, asking him to appoint Hitler as Chancellor. They believed they could control Hitler as the Nazis relied on them for donations. Hindenburg was still opposed and appoint von Schleicher as his last remaining option.	Von Schleicher	New Chancellor. Von Schleicher as Chancellor was confident that the Nazi vote would drop saying ' <i>Herr Hitler is no longer a problem; his movement is a thing of the past.</i> ' However his main problem was that he consistently failed to get a majority coalition to work in the Reichstag. In desperation, Schleicher pleaded with Hindenburg to suspend the constitution and declare him (Schleicher) as head of a military dictatorship. Hindenburg refused. News of this leaked out and Schleicher lost any remaining support in the Reichstag.	Schleicher's failure to command a majority in the Reichstag without Nazi support (190 seats!) meant that he was always doomed to be a powerless leader. With his downfall, the only remaining popular and credible right-wing leader was Hitler. Hindenburg could no longer hold out.
1933				
Jan	Von Papen had actually been plotting with Hindenburg against Schleicher for a while, and with his downfall Von Papen believed his moment had returned. He persuaded Hindenburg to appoint Hitler as Chancellor with himself as vice-Chancellor, still thinking that Hitler could be controlled. Hindenburg reluctantly agreed – he had run out of options.	Hitler	New Chancellor. On 30 th January 1933, Hitler was legally and democratically appointed chancellor of Germany, with Hindenburg conceding. 'It is my unpleasant duty then to appoint this fellow Hitler as Chancellor'.	Appointing Hitler as Chancellor proved just how naive the German right-wing was. They underestimated Hitler due to his ex-corporal past and lack of government experience. Hitler's power was still limited as Chancellor but he was now in a position to manipulate events to his own advantage.



Heinrich Brüning
1885-1970



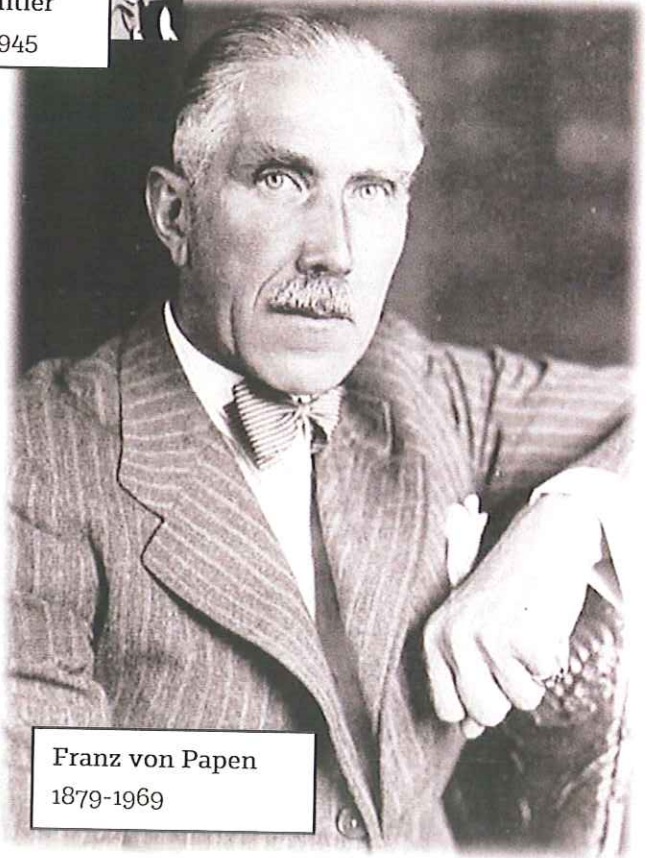
Paul von Hindenburg
1847-1934



Adolf Hitler
1889-1945

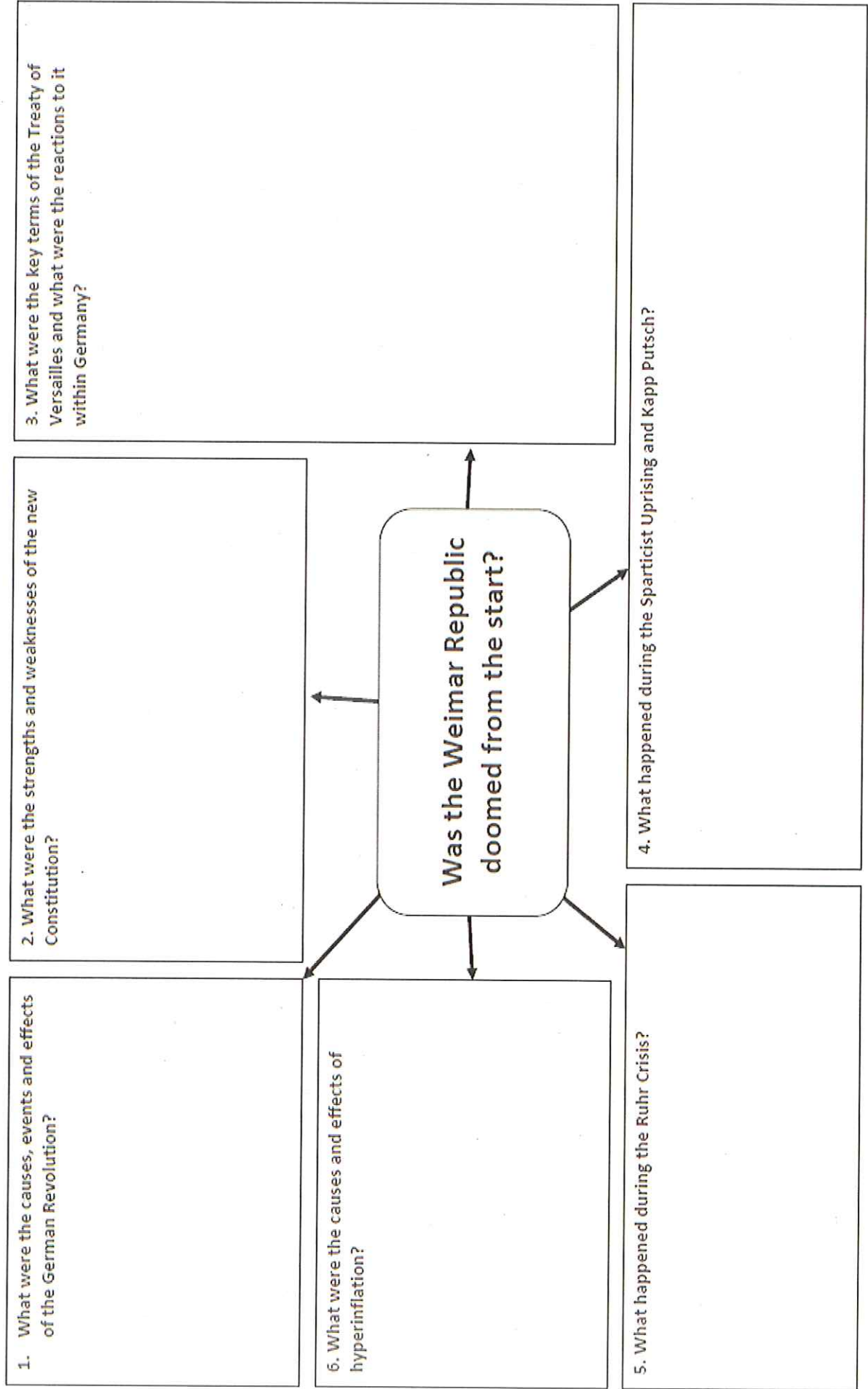


Kurt von Schleicher
1882-1934



Franz von Papen
1879-1969

IGCSE/GCSE Revision Diagrams: Germany 1918-1945



1. How did Stresemann solve the hyperinflation crisis?

2. How did the Dawes Plan improve the German economy?

6. How did signing the Kellogg-Briand Pact improve Germany's image in the world?

3. How did the Young Plan improve the German economy?

How did Germany recover under Stresemann?

5. How did signing the Locarno Treaty improve Germany's image in the world?

4. In what ways did German entry to the League of Nations improve Germany?

1. How did Hitler change the early Nazi Party 1919-1922?

2. What were the causes, events and results of the Munich Putsch?

3. How was the Nazi Party reorganised in the years 1924-1928?

6. How did the events of 1932-1933 lead to Hitler being appointed Chancellor?

How and why did Hitler become Chancellor in 1933?

5. What methods did the Nazi's use to win support between 1929-1933?

4. What was the impact of the Wall Street Crash?