#### The German Revolution:

# Effects of the First World War:

- The treaty of Brest-Litovsk gave Germany 1/4th of Russia's best land and 3/4th of its iron ore.
- By 1918, Germany was only producing 50% of the milk and 60% of butter and meat which had been produced before the war
- National income post war was 1/3rd of what it had been in 1913
- Industrial production was 2/3rd of what it had been in 1913
- 600,000 widows, 2 million children without fathers; 3/4 million Germans died from hunger, disease
- 1/3rd of state budget was being spent on pensions
- 10 Nov- Kaiser Wilhelm fled into exile in Holland
- 11 Nov 1918- armistice was agreed

#### The communist threat:

- 5 Jan 1919- Spartacists captured headquarters of the government's newspaper and telegraph bureau.
- 10 Jan 1919- Freikorps took over Spartacists' headquarters
- 15 Jan 1919- Spartacists crushed
- 100 Spartacists killed compared to 13 Friekorps
- 1920- 2000 casualties in Ruhr clash between Freikorps and communists

# The Treaty Of Versailles:

- Treaty of Versailles signed on 28 June 1919
- Reparations: £6,600 million
- Treaty took away 10% of Germany's industry and 15% of its agricultural land, 13% of total land
- Air force, submarines, tanks, heavy artillery were banned
- Army- 100,000 soldiers, no conscription; Navy- 15,000 sailors, 6 battleships
- West Prussia, Polish Corridor, and part of Upper Silesia given to Poland
- Eupen and Malmedy given to Belgium
- Northern Schleswig given to Denmark
- Danzig became a free city under the League of Nations
- Memel was taken by Lithuania from the League in 1923
- Saarland- Taken by the League for 15 years until a plebiscite would be held

#### **Political Instability:**

- March 1920- Freikorps units led by Wolfgang Kapp march into Berlin, declaring new government
- Summer of 1922- German foreign minister Walther Rathenau was murdered
- Over 376 political murders in the span of 6 months

# The Weimar Republic:

#### **Constitution:**

- All Germans above age 20 could vote
- The president was elected by the people every 7 years
- Through Article 48, the President could rule by decree in case of an emergency

### The crises of 1923:

- £50 million was paid as reparations in 1921, but not in 1922
- Jan 1923- French and Belgian troops entered the Ruhr
- French killed over 100 workers and over 100,000 protesters were expelled from the region
- By printing worthless marks, Germany was able to pay debts of over £2200 million
- 1922: \$1=400DM Nov 1923: \$1= 130,000 million DM
- 1918: 1 loaf of bread= 0.63 marks
   Nov 1923: 1 loaf of bread= 201,000,000,000 million marks
- Middle class savings that could have bought a house in 1921 could not by a loaf of bread in 1923
- August 1923- Gustav Stresemann became Chancellor
- October 1923- Old currency scrapped, temporary currency rentenmark was introduced
- November 1923- German government agreed to resume reparation payment
- April 1924- Dawes Plan

# Period of Recovery 1924-1929:

# Economy:

- Dawes Plan lent Germany 800 million marks
- 1928 Industrial production surpassed pre war levels
- In 1929, farmers' earnings were just over half of the national average.
- 1928 Germany regained its status as world's 2nd largest industrial power.
- 6% of the working population were unemployed by 1928.
- Value of land in Berlin rose by 700%

### Political:

- 25 separate governments in 14 years.
- 1925 Hindenburg was elected president.
- 1928 election first time since 1923 that SPD joined the coalition committed to the republic.
- By 1928, moderate parties had 136 more seats than radical parties.

- Nazis gained less than 3% of the vote in 1928.
- 30% of the vote regularly went to parties opposed to the republic.

### Foreign Policy:

- 1925 Stresemann signed the Locarno Treaties.
- 1926 Germany accepted into the League of Nations.
- 1929 Young Plan reduced reparation amount to \$ 437 million.

# Weimar culture:

- Artists adopted the approach of "Neue Sachlichkeit" to objectively paint the reality of everyday life.
- Otto Dix and George Grosz used the style which criticised life in Weimar Germany.

# Nazi rise to power:

- September 1919 Hitler joins the German Worker's Party.
- Feb 1920 Hitler helped draft the 25 point programme.
- 1920 Party renamed to NSDAP or Nazis.
- 1921 Hitler becomes leader of the party.
- By 1922 the Nazi party had over 3000 members.

# Munich Putsch:

- 8th November 1923 Hitler hijacked a local government meeting and coerced Kahr and Ludendorff into supporting him.
- 9th Nov 1923 March on Munich.
- 16 Nazis died and 3 policemen.
- Feb 1924 Hitler's trial.
- Hitler's sentenced to 5 years imprisonment but served only 9 months.
- Nazis won 32 seats in the May election under a different name.
- 7 months later another election Nazis get 14 seats.
- Nazi party relaunched on 27th Feb 1925.
- 35% of German population lived in rural areas.
- 1925 Hitler enlarged the SA of which 55% came from the unemployed.
- 1928 change of policy directed towards the middle class and farmers.
- Membership rose to over 100,000 by 1928.
- Nazi meeting attendance in Northeim increased from 15 to 80.

### The Depression:

- October 1929 Wall Street crash.
- 1933 over ½ of all Germans between 16 30 years were unemployed.
- Over 6 million are unemployed.
- 40% of all factory workers are unemployed.
- Nazi party 12 seats in 1928 rose to 230 in July 1932.
- Hitler ran for president in 1932 but failed.
- Communist Party seats increased from 54 in 1938 to 89 in July 1932.
- Nov 1932 elections Nazis lost more than 2 million votes/38 seats in the Reichstag.

# Hitler becomes Chancellor:

- 3rd Dec 1932 Hindenburg appoints von Schleicher as Chancellor.
- 4th Jan 1933 Von Papen privately agrees to work with Hitler.
- 22nd Jan 1933 Hindenburg refused to make Hitler Chancellor.
- 28th Jan 1933 Von Schleicher resigns.
- 30th Jan 1933 Hindenburg appoints Hitler Chancellor and von Papen Vice Chancellor.

# Consolidation of power:

### Reichstag Fire:

- 4th Feb 1933 Hitler gets Hindenburg to pass a decree to ensure free and peaceful elections.
- Election meetings had to be notified to the police 48 hours in advance.
- 17th Feb 1933 Goering tells police force that nationalists/SA meetings were not to be impeded.
- 22nd Feb 1933 Goering appoints SA members as auxiliary police officers.
- 27th Feb 1933 Reichstag fire, 4000 Communist leaders arrested and imprisoned.
- 28th Feb 1933 Law for the Protection of People and State passed giving Hitler emergency powers.
- Well over 25000 people were taken to local prisons and concentration camps after the Reichstag fire.
- 57 Communist members of the Reichstag or local state assemblies were executed in official camps.
- 5th March 1933 Nazis get 288 seats, 44% of the vote.
- 13th March 1933 Goebbels appointed head of the Ministry for Propaganda.

# **Enabling Act:**

• 24th March 1933 - Enabling act is passed, 444 votes to 94.

- 7th April 1933 Civil service administration, court, and education purged of Jews and other Nazi
  opponents.
- 2nd May 1933 Trade unions are banned.
- 9th June 1933 Employment law: Major programme of public works to create jobs implemented.
- 14th July 1933 Law against the formation of new parties.
- Jan 1934 All state governments taken over except Prussia.

# Night of the Long Knives:

- By 1934 SA had over 2 million members.
- 30th June 1934 Night of the Long Knives.
- Over 400 SA leaders and other opposition including von Schleicher were executed.
- 2nd August 1934 Hindenburg dies, army pledges loyalty to Hitler, Hitler becomes Fuhrer.

#### SS:

- Established in 1925.
- Jan 1929 Himmler appointed head of the SS, SS had 280 men.
- Jan 1933 SS strength grows to 52000.
- Late 1931 Himmler established the SS Race and Settlement Office to determine whether people were "German" or not.
- 1934 SS department SD is established to "research the Jewish question".
- Late 1934 Himmler and Heydrich centralised regional German political police forming Gestapo.
- December 1935 SS established the Lebensborn Society.
- Summer 1936 Himmler is appointed Reichsfuher SS and Chief of German police. Himmler appoints
   Heydrich Chief of Security Police main office.
- 1939 Himmler establishes Waffen SS, an armed SS force that took part in most military campaigns of the war.
- 1939 Virtually all police leadership roles held by SS.
- 20th Jan 1942 Final Solution announced unauthorised.

### **Concentration Camps:**

- 1934 Himmler secures control over a centralised concentration camp system.
- 1933 Dachau was the first concentration camp established.
- After 1934, all concentration camps were controlled by SS Death's-Head units.

- Number of concentration camps grew from 4 in 1937 to 30 main camps and 100's of sub camps in 1944.
- Before 1938 Prisoners were political opponents with few Roma, Jehova's witnesses, homosexuals,
   repeat criminal offenders, asocials. Jews remained a minority.
- SS founded a number of companies to produce construction materials and equipment.
- In 1938 Massive round up of "work shy" to increase population for forced labour.
- April 1942 Nov 1923 Most concentration camp members were Jews.
- Einsatzgruppen was responsible for mass murder of Jews, Roma, disabled, Soviet officials.

#### Nazis and Churches:

- In 1933 nearly all Germans were Christians.
- 1933 ½ Roman Catholics (45 million), ¾ Protestants (22 million), 500,000 Jews, 25,000 Jehovah's witnesses.
- 1939 2 million Roman Catholics, 43 million Protestants, 5 million Neo-Pagan, 300,000 Jewish.
- In 1936, priests accompanied troops as they re-entered the Rhineland.
- 23 March 1936- Hitler calls Christianity 'the unshakable foundation of the moral life of the people'.
- June 1933 Catholic church signed Concordat with Hitler where he promised not to interfere with Catholic messages, schools, youth groups, etc.
- In 1933 Hitler merged 28 regional Protestant churches into one Reich church with pro-Nazi Reich Bishop Ludwig Muller.
- 1935 Ministry for church affairs established to control churches, undermine influence of religion.
- 1935 Gestapo arrested 700 Protestant ministers who opposed the Nazis.
- 1936 Campaigns pressurised children not to attend church schools or youth movements.
- 1936 Hundreds of Catholic priests and nuns taken to court and charged with various offences.
- 1938 Priests were stopped from teaching religious classes.
- 1939 All remaining church schools abolished.
- 1939 Majority of 3 million Nazis identified as Chirstians and paid church taxes.
- Most Jehova's witnesses ended up in concentration camps and 1/3rd of them died.

# Martin Niemoller:

- Most prominent critic among church leaders.
- Formed the confessional church in 1934 to oppose Hitler's Reich Church.
- 1938 Sent to concentration camp Dachau.

#### Paul Schneider:

- Pastor who criticised Nazis.
- 1934 Warned not to make anti-Nazi speeches.
- 1937 Sent to Buchenwald, executed in 1939.

# Cardinal Galen:

- Attacked Nazi policies from 1934.
- 1941 Revealed and campaigned against the euthanasia programme.
- 3 Catholic priests were executed for distributing Galen's speeches.

# Heinrich Grueber:

- 1936 Pastor Grueber formed a secret organisation to protect Jews by forging passports.
- 1940 Sent to Dachau.
- Pastor Zwanziger smuggled 56 people out in Feb 1940 alone.

#### Nazi Control of Germany:

#### Gaining control in Northeim:

- In Northeim, no political arrests after 1935.
- The Nazis had a 15:5 majority on the Northeim local council.
- 27th June 1933 SPD banned across Germany.
- During the seizure of power in Northeim, 22 people were arrested, 7 taken to local concentration camps.
- Gleichschaltung (coordination): 4 Northeim sports clubs were merged and led by Hermann Denzler, head of SA in Northeim.
- By Autumn 1933, all Northeim organisations were Nazi run.
- In 6 months, there were 100's of events.
- 1st April 1933 Nazis announced boycott of all Jewish businesses.
- 26th May 1933 Book burning day.
- June 1933 More than 500 registered unemployed.
- 450 people were employed in July to repair roads, tidy up woods and forests.
- 24th July local Nazi leader Ernst Girmann announced unemployment had been eliminated in Northeim.
- Local Nazi party strength grew from 300 to 1200 between Jan and May 1933.

#### Persecution of Minorities:

# Against homosexuality:

- Books by gay authors were banned.
- 100,000 gay people arrested, 50,000 sent to prison.

# Against mentally handicapped:

- Euthanasia programme started in 1939.
- 5000 babies and children killed between 1939 1945.
- 72000 mentally ill were gassed between 1939 1941.

# **Against Gypsies:**

- 1938 'Struggle Against the Gypsy Plague'. All Gypsies had to be registered.
- 1935 Marriage between Gypsies and Aryans was banned.
- During the Final Solution 500,000 European Gypsies were sent to labour or death camps.

#### Other Measures:

- July 1933 Sterilisation Law.
- 320,000 and 350,000 men and women sterilised between 1934 1945.
- September 1933 Massive round up of tramps and beggars.
- 1936 'Work shy' sent to concentration camps.
- 1938 11000 beggars, tramps, Gypsies rounded up and many were sent to Buchenwald camp.

### Anti Semitism:

- 1st April 1933 Official one day boycott of Jewish businesses (largely a failure).
- 1934 Anti Jewish propaganda increased.
- May 1935 Jews forbidden to join the army.
- Sept 1935 Nuremberg Laws prevent marriage between Aryans and Jews. Jews became subjects rather than citizens, losing certain rights.
- 1936 Olympic games. Lull in anti-Jewish propaganda.
- Sept 1937 More Jewish businesses confiscated.
- April 1938 Jews had to register their property, making it easier for it to be taken away.
- June July 1938 Jewish doctors, dentists, lawyers forbidden to treat Aryans.

October 1938 - Jews had to have a red 'J' stamped on passports.

## Kristallnacht:

- Nov 1938 A young Jew killed a German diplomat in Paris.
- 9th 10th Nov 1938 Kristallnacht.
- 91 Jews murdered, 100's of Synagogues burned, 20000 Jews taken to concentration camps
- 12th Nov 1938 Nazis fined Jews 1 billion Reichsmarks for Kristallnacht damages.
- 15th Nov 1938 Jewish pupils only allowed to attend Jewish schools.
- Dec 1938 Remaining Jewish businesses confiscated.
- Jan 1939 All Jews had to add new first names 'Sarah' for women and 'Israel' for men.
- 12th March 1939 30000 Jewish men and boys sent to concentration camps.

#### **Final Solution:**

- Jan 1932 Nazis met at Wannsee Berlin to discuss the Final Solution.
- 6 million Jews sent to labour or death camps and killed.
- 1 in 5 Poles died in fighting or German racial policies.
- In Poland there were 28 groups of Jewish fighters.
- In the Warsaw Ghetto, 15000 people held out against Nazi forces for 4 weeks.
- End of Jan 1941 500,000 Jews had been shot.

#### Nazi Economy:

# Workers:

- Most working class had not supported the Nazis before 1933.
- The average work week increased from 43 hours in 1933 to 47 hours in 1939.
- Income increased by 25% between 1933-1939.
- DAF (German Labour Front) run by Dr. Robert Ley was a compulsory organisation that prevented strikes and prevented workers from moving to better paid jobs.
- The DAF created work in building autobahns, hospitals, and schools.
- The organisation Beauty of Labour existed to persuade employees to improve factory conditions.
- Strength through Joy organised activities and holidays for workers.
- Reich Labour Service (RAD) 6 month work service for 18 25 yr old men.
- RAD daily wage was not enough to buy a beer.
- By late 1930's, the standard of living was lower than what it had been before the Depression.

### **Small Businesses:**

- Jewish businesses were shut down.
- Laws were passed to ban new department stores and stop existing ones from growing. However,
   competing large department stores were still not closed.
- Laws were passed to enable craftsmen to control their trade.
- The number of self-employed craftsmen fell from 1.65 million to 1.5 million between 1936-1939.
- 1933 1937 The value of their trade nearly doubled.
- 20% of small businesses closed.

# Farmers:

- Sept 1933 Reich Food Estate set up under Richard Darre.
- The Reich Food Estate set up central boards to buy from farmers and distribute produce.
- Farmers were given guaranteed markets and guaranteed prices.
- Reich Entailed Farm Law (1933) Land could not be sold or mortgaged. This led to rural depopulation at a rate of 3% per year in the 1930's.
- Agricultural prices rose by 20%.
- It was ordered that each hen had to lay 65 eggs per year (farmers viewed this as controlling).
- Agricultural labour shortage by 1939.

## **Big Businesses:**

- 1934-1938 Average salary rose by 70%.
- Profits increased by 50%.
- Government demanded that industries produce certain goods.
- Government controlled prices, wages, profits, and imports.

# New Plan:

- Introduced by Hjalmar Shacht in 1934.
- Imports were limited.
- Trade agreements were made, for instance, with Hungary in 1934 as butter, oil, fodder, and raw materials were given to Germany in return for industrial products.
- Government spending was channeled into a wide range of industries.
  - o In 1934, 3.5 billion Reichsmarks spent on construction.

- o 3 billion spent on rearmament.
- 1.5 billion spent on transportation.
- 2.5 billion spent on work creation.
- Unemployment was reduced by work creation projects for which 500 million Reichsmarks had been set aside by Schleicher.
- 38000 men working on autobahns in 1935.
- 38% reduction in unemployment by 1935.
- Conscription reintroduced in 1935.
- Jews, political opponents, women were removed from jobs.
- The new plan was successful between 1934 and 1936.
- The world economy began recovering from 1933 onwards.
- 1932 5.6 million unemployed, 1935 2 million unemployed, 1939 100,000 registered unemployed.

# 4 Year Plan:

- Introduced by Goering to prepare Germany for war in 1936.
- Increased production of raw materials.
- Produced synthetic alternatives to various products known as ersatz.
- Reduce imports further not successful as Germany was still importing 5.4 billion Reichsmarks of products in 1938 and Germany was dependent on imports for ½ rd of its raw materials by 1939.
- Tighten control on prices and wages.
- Use forced labour if necessary.
- Build new industrial plants such as the Hermann Goering works which mined expensive, low quality
   iron ore while better quality ore could have been imported more cheaply from Sweden.
- Expenditure on rearmament rose to around 17 billion Reichsmarks in 1938.

#### **Policies Towards Women:**

### Pre-War:

- 1934 Gertrude Scholtz-Klink made Head of the Women's Bureau.
- By 1933 100,000 women teachers, 13,000 women musicians, 3000 women doctors. 1/10th of the Reichstag were women.
- 1900 over 2 million live births per year, 1933 under 1 million.
- Marriage load taken up by 800,000 women who agreed not to take a job. Introduced in June 1933, gave 1,000 marks.

- 1933 1936 Birth rate increased by 30%. 15 per 1000 in 1933 to 20 per 1000 in 1939.
- Gold 'Honour Cross of the German mother' 8 children, Silver 6 children, Bronze 4 children.
- 15% of teachers, all women doctors and civil service workers were sacked.
- Marriage loan of 1938 made divorce easier.
- Abortion made illegal in 1933.
- Number of marriages increased by over 200,000.
- By 1939 there were fewer women working than in Weimar Germany but due to labour shortages 50% more women worked in industry.
- Birth rate was still lower in 1939 than in the early 1920's.
- Number of women in employment rose by 2.4 million between 1933 1939.

## Post-war:

- In 1943, Nazis tried to mobilise all women except those with young children.
- 3 million women aged 17 to 45 were called to work, yet only 1 million took up jobs.
- Rudolf Hess, deputy leader of the Nazi party wrote in the Berliner Morgenpost in December 1939 that 'during a war the highest service a woman may perform for the continuation of the nation is to bear racially healthy children'.
- In 1944 the age limit for compulsory labour for women was raised to 50.

#### Youth:

#### Hitler Youth:

- By 1939 82% of boys and girls belonged to Hitler youth.
- By 1936 6 million members.
- Girls joined the League of German maidens.
- Boys were made to do physical exercise and train for war.
- Girls were made to learn domestic tasks.

#### Schools:

- 97% of teachers joined the Nazi Teachers' Association.
- 15% of school time was given to physical education.
- By 1937, religious studies could be dropped.
- Leadership schools 'Napolas' controlled by SS educated future leaders of Government and army.
- Anti-Semitism in schools, Jews banned from Aryan schools in 1938

### Impact of the Second World War:

#### 1939-1941

- 1939 41 the war goes well for Germany.
- Food rationing introduced in September 1939.
- 453 gms of meat, 2.2 kg bread, 340 gm butter, 340 gm sugar, 453 gm of Ersatz coffee made of barley and acorns.
- 2 out of 5 Germans ate better than before the war because of rationing.
- Clothes rationing introduced.

## 1941-1945

- Hot water allowed during two days a week, soap rationed, no toilet paper available.
- June 1941 Hitler orders invasion of Soviet Union, massive gamble.
- Germany engaged in an expensive four year battle that 'Tore the heart out of the German army'.
- Propaganda campaign caused people to donate 67 million woolen garments.
- From 1942, Albert Speer directed Germany's economy.
- Thousands of wounded Germans were brought home in hospital trains.
- Extra food rations given out on Christmas 1942 to keep up morale.
- 1942- 'Final Solution' begins.
- 1943 All non essential services suspended.
  - March 1943 Professional sport ended.
  - o August 1943 Clothing ration suspended. Manufacture of civilian clothes has ended.
- June 1943 Goebbels commissioned the film Kolberg depicting German resistance to Napoleon in 1807.
   The film cost 8.5 million marks, 187,000 soldiers were employed as extras. 6000 horses were used.
   10,000 uniforms were made for it, 100 railway trucks of salt were used to provide snow despite trucks being in short supply.
- 1944 Goebbels was appointed Reich Trustee for Total War.
- 1944 Postal services suspended, letter boxes closed.
- By May 1944 over 7 million captured foreign workers and prisoners of war were forced to work in factories or fields.
- July 1944 Allied armies started pushing back.

# **Bombing Campaigns:**

- First aid raid on Berlin August 1940,
- 1942 British Arthur 'Bomber' Harris increases bombing on industry and civilians.
- 15 doctors per 10,000 people in 1930's to 1 doctor per 10,000 in 1941.
- Population of Northeim nearly doubled as people left cities for villages and towns.
- Feb 1945 Dresten bombed, 150,000 killed, 70% of the properties in the city were destroyed.
- 800,000 civilians killed by bombing, 2697473 tonnes of bombs dropped by RAF and USAAF, 50% of the bombs fell on residential areas, 12% on factories and war industries. 3.6 million homes destroyed,
   7.5 million people homeless, 2.5 million children evacuated, 3.6 German civilians killed.
- May 1945 War has ended

# Opposition during the war:

### Youth:

# 'Swing' Movement:

- Mainly middle class teenagers.
- Accepted women and Jews.
- 'Swing clubs' sprang up in most big cities.
- Listened to Jazz, wore English style clothes.
- Hasso Schutzendorff was sent to a concentration camp in October 1942.

# Rielweiss Pirates:

- Working class teenagers aged 14 17.
- Not an organised movement, groups in different cities had different names.
- 'The Roving Dudes' Essen, 'Kittelbach Pirates' Dusseldorf, 'Navajos' Cologne.
- Sang songs like Hitler youth but changed lyrics to mock Germany.
- Beat up Hitler youth.
- December 1942 Gestapo broke up 28 groups containing 739 adolescents.
- 1944 Cologne Pirates' activities escalated sheltered army deserters, helped escaped prisoners, stole armaments, killed the head of the Cologne Gestapo.
- 12 were publicly hanged in November 1944.

# 'White Rose' Group:

- Led by Munich students.
- Distributed leaflets attacking Nazis' slaughter of Jews and Poles and urged Germans not to help the war effort.
- 1943 most leaders were executed.

# **Dietrich Bonhoeffer:**

- Early 1930s preached against Nazis.
- 1935 campaigned against Nuremberg Laws.
- 1937 Gestapo closes his training college and bans him from preaching.
- 1939 Bonhoeffer joins Abwehr, working to overthrow Hitler.
- Helped devise 'Operation 7' which helped a small number of Jews escape Germany.
- Arrested in October 1942.
- 8th April 1945 Bonhoeffer executed.

# July Bomb Plot:

- Led by General Ludwig Beck, conservative politician Dr. Carl Goerdeler, backed by Count von Stauffenberg.
- 'Operation Valkyrie' plan to use 2 bombs in a briefcase to kill Hitler.
- June 1944 von Stauffenberg appointed Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief of the Home Army.
- 20th July Plan executed at a military conference at Rastenburg but fails.
- Von Stauffenburg, Beck, and others executed.