

What was Germany like before WW1?

1870

Before 1870 there was no such country as Germany, instead it was a group of small areas that were linked together as they spoke the same language (German). **Prussia** was the biggest area and the King of Prussia wanted to join the areas to make them stronger. France was next to these states who wanted unification. The states joined together in 1871 and they took a valuable area of land called Alsace Lorraine off France.

Germany after 1871

- Germany's industrial development at this time was probably the fastest in the world. Between 1880 and 1910, Germany's coal production grew 4X and other industries such as steel grew rapidly.
- By 1913 Germany was producing more iron and steel and nearly as much coal as Britain.

Government

- In **1888 Wilhelm II became Germany's Kaiser** (king). The Kaiser had spent most of his youth in the army and dreamed of creating an army and navy to rival any other in the world.
- The Kaiser introduced laws, selected people for important government jobs, declared war and made peace. He only allowed the **Reichstag** (Parliament) to change laws occasionally. The Kaiser was in complete control and extremely powerful (**a dictator**).



Germany's Empire

Germany's empire was small compared to Britain and France. However, Germany started to build up its army and navy to try to take over more land. In the 1880's Germany claimed several areas in Africa and the Far East. The Kaiser was determined that Germany should continue to build an empire, (**Weltpolitik**) and by the beginning of 1900's Germany was known for having the finest army in the world.



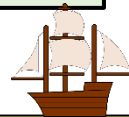
Germany's Relationships with other Countries

Britain was worried about the growing strength of Germany. Germany wanted an empire. Britain was the leading power at the time and they wanted to remain unchallenged. France was worried about Germany as they did not want to lose any more land. Russia also did not want to lose land and was very weak at this time.

Navy Laws

The Kaiser wanted a large navy of powerful battleships. He thought it would help Germany take over more countries and protect countries already in the German Empire. A series of Naval Laws were introduced between 1898 and 1912. It saw the German navy rapidly increase in size and huge sums of money were spent to achieve this. It was led by **Tirpitz**.

- 1898: First Naval Law** - Germany to build 7 new battleships. I would take the German navy to 19 in total.
- 1900 - Second Naval law** - to double the size of the navy to 38 ships.



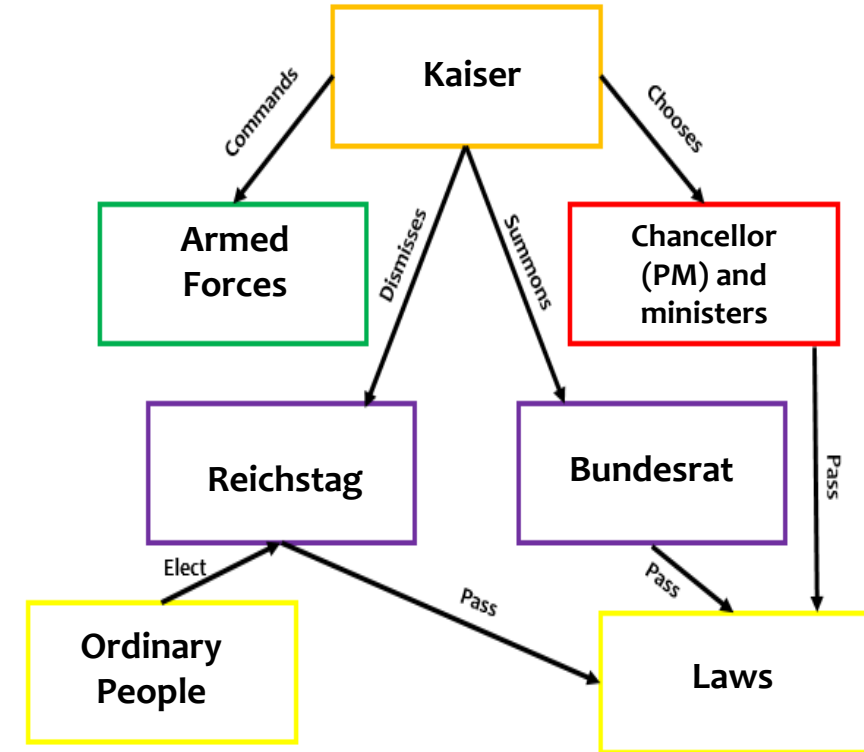
Germany's Issues

German landowners, businessmen and factory owners became very rich as Germany began to grow. However, many of the workers in the new factories, mines and workshops were unhappy because their wages and working conditions were not improving. More and more people were joining **trade unions** so that more strikes could be organised - this could force the Kaiser to make changes. Some groups started to form that wanted to challenge the Kaiser.

Growth in Socialism

Many workers voted for a new party, **Social Democratic Party (SPD)**. They believed in **socialism** - the idea that power and wealth should be shared equally among the people. They wanted to improve working conditions for workers. The rise in their popularity was a challenge to the Kaiser.

Structure of Germany



What was the impact of WW1 on Germany?

In August 1914 WW1 began. Over the next 4 years, other countries joined in. When war first broke out, it had been very popular in Germany. Young, patriotic Germans thought the war would end quickly. Instead, soldiers were worn down by bombs, poisonous gas and machine gun fire; ordinary Germans suffered too.

Blockade

People in Germany soon started to suffer during the war, when the British used their large navy to stop supply ships getting into Germany. As a result, there were terrible shortages of food, medicines and clothing. In 1915, 500 women gathered in front of the German parliament buildings and said that they wanted their men back from the trenches.

By 1918, Germany was close to collapse - The German people were so short of food. On the battlefields Germany was close to defeat. Workers in towns went on strike. The Kaiser abdicated on the 9th November 1918.

Ebert (leader of the SPD - the largest party in Germany) took the Kaiser's place on a temporary basis. He ended the war on the 11th November 1918.



Germany had borrowed money from abroad (the USA, for example) to pay for the war. This would need paying back.



Germany had lent some of its own money to its allies. Would they ever get this back?



The war left 60,000 war widows and two million children without fathers. War pensions would cost the government a fortune in the future.



Impact of the war on Germany by 1918

Germany was virtually bankrupt

German factories were exhausted by the war. They had been producing guns, bullets and shells, not goods to sell abroad and make money.



The war had divided German society further

Some factory owners made a fortune during the war, while German workers had restrictions placed on their wages.



Women worked in the factories during the war. Some Germans thought this damaged traditional family values.



Germany had become more politically unstable

Before the war, Germany had been a stable, rich nation. Now there was mutiny and revolution.



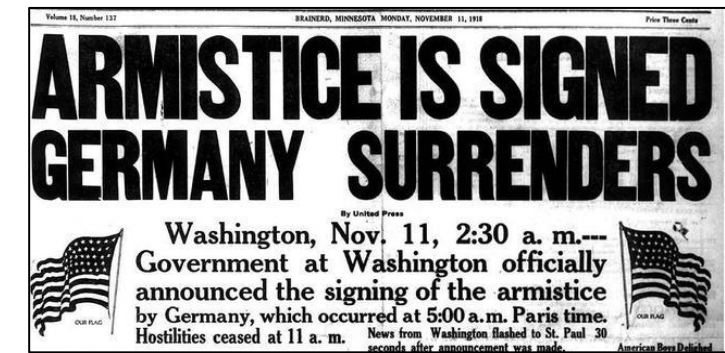
Many ex-soldiers and civilians felt Germany could have won the war. They felt they had been betrayed by the politicians (the 'November Criminals') who had ended it, and refused to support them.



End of the War

The new Weimar Government signed the **armistice** (an agreement to end the war). This came as a shock to many Germans as they believed that they were winning the war. They felt that they had been **stabbed in the back** and nicknamed the government the '**November criminals**.'

This meant that the government was always going to find it difficult to rule.



What was the Weimar Republic?

In 1919, Germany's politicians drew up the Weimar Constitution, which were a set of rules for how Germany would be run. It was a far more democratic system.

All Germans were given equal rights - including the right to vote. All women over the age of 20 were given the vote.



However, the new system had weaknesses:

- **Proportional representation** where political parties have a fair share of votes/seats in government compared to vote e.g. 33% = 33 seats. However, there were too many parties (29) which meant it was hard to get the majority. Therefore parties had to work together (coalitions) which was difficult when they do not get along!
- Some people liked the way the Kaiser ruled Germany.
- **Article 48** gave the President too much power (could pass laws in crisis) this was not democratic
- The President was the most powerful, Chancellor ran country



Challenges to the Government

The Spartacists 1919 (Challenge from the left)

A communist group led by **Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht**. Rosa Luxemburg had been put in prison because of her opposition to the First World War. She supported the Russian revolution and with Karl Liebknecht, set up the Spartacist league (Which later became the German Communist party). They did not trust the new government. The **Spartacists** thought that they would not improve the lives of working people. They wanted a full scale communist revolution, like the Russian Revolution of 1917.

In January 1919, workers were protesting throughout Germany. The Spartacists tried to turn this into a revolution. In Berlin they took over the government's newspaper and telegraph headquarters. They hoped protestors would join them and take over other buildings, but this did not happen. The government ordered the army to stop the uprising. The army was helped by units of the **Freikorps**. These units were made up of ex soldiers who were anti-communist. In the fighting that followed over 100 workers were killed. The uprising was badly planned. The Spartacists did not get support from other left-wing groups. Rosa Luxemburg was captured by the Freikorps and was shot. Her body was dumped in a Berlin canal. Karl Liebknecht was also murdered. Without their main leaders the Spartacists struggled.

Kapp Putsch 1920 (Challenge from the right)

Led by **Wolfgang Kapp using the Freikorps**. Wolfgang Kapp had worked with Admiral Von Tirpitz during the war. In 1918, he was elected to the Reichstag, where he campaigned to bring back the monarchy.

In 1920, The Weimar government made it clear that it would reduce the size of the army and disband the Freikorps. The government had little need for the Freikorps now and left-wing groups had been crushed. The leader of the Berlin Freikorps refused to disband and a plan was drawn up to seize control of Berlin and form a new, right-wing government led by Wolfgang Kapp.

Around 12,000 Freikorps marched to Berlin. The army was asked to stop the Putsch but the commander-in-chief refused to give the order to fire on former soldiers. The government was forced to flee to Stuttgart. The Freikorps put forward Kapp as the new leader of Germany.

The leaders of the Weimar Government and the trade unions called on the people of Berlin not to support the Putsch and asked them to go on strike. The Freikorps failed to win popular support, and strikes and protests made it impossible for Kapp to rule. After four days, Kapp fled from Berlin and Ebert's Weimar government returned.



The President (Head of State)

- Elected every seven years
- Controlled army, navy and air force
- Stayed out of day-to-day running of the country; however, in a crisis, he could rule on his own without getting the support of

the Reichstag by issuing special emergency decrees (laws) known as **Article 48**



The Chancellor (Prime Minister)

- Chosen by the President (usually from the political party with most votes at an election)
- Responsible for day-to-day running of the country, such as law and order, taxation, schooling, health care

- Must have the support of at least half the MPs/politicians in the Reichstag to introduce new laws



The Reichstag

- Discussed and introduced laws
- Members of the Reichstag (MPs) were elected every four years
- The voting system used was called proportional representation. This meant that the number of MPs each political party had in the Reichstag was based on the number of votes they had. For example, if a party won ten per cent of the votes, it was given ten per cent of the seats



The German people (the electorate)

- All men and women over the age of 20 could vote
- They elected the President and the politicians in the Reichstag
- The constitution guaranteed them basic freedoms, such as free speech



Treaty of Versailles



Treaty of Versailles was signed in **1919**. The Weimar were forced to accept Treaty of Versailles, they call it the 'Diktat.' There were three leaders that created the Treaty: Woodrow Wilson (USA) who was more lenient as he wanted to prevent future wars – America only joined the war in 1917 so less affected, George Clemenceau (France) who wanted to cripple Germany as they had the most damage caused by the war and David Lloyd George (Britain) wanted compensation but to continue trade with Germany.

Treaty of Versailles

Land – Lost 10% of its land and 12.5% of its population. This lost of land had important raw materials, such as coal. Germany was split in two – this was to give Poland access to the sea.

German troops were not allowed in the Rhineland (demilitarized zone). This was to make France feel safe from a German attack. All Germany's overseas colonies were taken away.

Army – The army was reduced to 100,000 men. They were allowed 15,000 sailors, 6 battleships, no submarines, tanks or airforce.

Money – Germany had to pay £6.6 billion in reparations. Most of the money would go to France and Belgium.

Blame – In the 'War guilt' clause, Germany was blamed for the war. Germany had to accept 'sole responsibility' for starting the war. (Article 231)



Problems in 1923

Invasion of the Ruhr

Germany struggled to keep up with the reparation payments to the Allies. In 1922, Germany announced that it could not afford to pay reparations for the next 3 years. France did not believe this and was determined to make Germany pay. In 1923, 60,000 French and Belgian troops marched into the Ruhr, an important industrial area of Germany. They seized control of all mines, factories and railways. The German government told workers not to co-operate with the French. All workers went on strike (**Passive Resistance**).

The workers that went on strike received no money from the German government. To support their families. This cost the government a lot of money. To make matters worse, no money was coming from the Ruhr. The government ran short of money so decided to print more money to pay workers and pay its debts. The more it printed the less it was worth. Prices rose at an incredible rate. (**Hyperinflation**). By 1923, \$1 was worth 200 billion marks.

By November 1923 the German mark was worthless.



Winners of Hyperinflation

- People in debt found it easier to pay off their loans.
- Businessmen found it easier to pay back money they had borrowed.

Losers of Hyperinflation

- People with savings.
- Pensioners were badly hit.
- Workers found that their wage increases did not keep up with the rising prices.



Munich Putsch

The Nazis party (led by Adolf **Hitler**) and **General Ludendorff** (a popular WW1 hero). The Nazis had 55,000 members and their own private army called the SA. Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party believed that democracy only led to weak government. Instead they thought that there should be one political party, with one leader.

The Nazis planned to take over the government and set up General Ludendorff as leader of Germany. They started in Munich. Hitler and 6000 of his SA burst into a meeting where the leader of Bavaria (Kahr) was speaking. They forced Kahr to promise to support their plan.

The **Putsch** had not been properly planned. Kahr was allowed to leave the meeting, and the following day, he withdrew his support. The German government responded quickly. They ordered the army to crush the revolt. When armed Nazis marched to a military base in Munich they were met by armed police and soldiers. In the fighting that followed 14 Nazis were killed. The leaders of the putsch were arrested and Hitler was sent to prison for 5 years. He was released after 9 months.



However, the trial had given Hitler a platform to speak. Whilst in prison he wrote Mein Kampf which set out all of Hitler's policies. He had decided to change tactics as he realized that he needed to be voted into power not use violence.



Stresemann 1923 - 1929



Introduce new currency (Rentenmark)	Stresemann replaced the old currency with a new currency called the Rentenmark . One Rentenmark replaced 1000 billion marks. Old notes were recalled and burned. The new currency was quickly accepted by the German people. Inflation was brought under control. However the German people never forgot hyperinflation. People who lost their savings were not compensated. They felt cheated and they blamed the Weimar Republic.
Persuade French to leave the Ruhr	Stresemann called off passive resistance because it had not forced the French to withdraw from the Ruhr and it had created serious economic problems. He promised to keep up reparation payments to France. The French left the Ruhr. However this was a very unpopular policy in Germany, especially among right-wing extremist parties. They claimed that it was a sign of weak government, that Stresemann had 'given in' to the French.
Improve Germany's relationship with other countries 	Stresemann decided to co-operate with other countries in Europe. In 1925, Stresemann signed the Locarno Pact with Britain, France, Belgium and Italy. They promised not to invade one another. In 1926, Germany joined the League of Nations . It was given 'great power' status, which meant that it had a say in major decisions made. In 1926, Stresemann was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1928, Germany and 64 other countries signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact . It agreed that international disputes should be settled 'by peaceful means' and armies should only be used for self-defence. However some Germans thought that Stresemann was weak. By saying that Germany would not try to regain the land it had lost in the Versailles Treaty, he had once again 'given in' to France. Some army generals believed that Stresemann should have built up the army instead and used force to regain the lost land.
Pay Reparations 	Stresemann promised to pay reparations. The Dawes Plan (1924) gave Germany longer to pay. In 1929, The Young Plan lowered the amount Germany had to pay from £6600 million to under £2000 million. However the plans were hated by many Germans who thought that Germany should not pay reparations at all. There were protests from right-wing politicians. Even under the Young Plan, Germany would be paying reparations until 1988.
Rebuild the Economy 	Stresemann organised loans from the USA as part of the Dawes Plan (1924). These loans gave a massive boost to the German economy. The German government improved housing, hospitals, schools and roads. Loans were made to German firms. Many US firms set up factories in Germany. Pensions and wages rose. Exports increased and, by 1928, Germany was the world's second strongest industrial power (behind the USA). The government increased welfare benefits and wages for state employees. However, the German economy depended on the USA. Problems in the USA would cause massive problems in Germany. Wages did not rise for everyone. Farmers got poorer because food prices stayed low. Many farmers supported extreme groups, such as the Nazis, who promised to help them. Unemployment remained around 1 million. From 1928, it started to rise. Rich people in Germany had to pay more tax. They complained that the government was spending too much money on the poor and the unemployed.

Germany's Golden Age



Cinema

The Weimar period was a golden age for the German film industry. Films made by German directors such as Fritz Lang was the first vampire horror movie. Actresses like Marlene Dietrich became very popular, playing strong and glamorous female characters.

Architecture

The German architects produced a new style of architecture called the **Bauhaus** style. Bauhaus architects made use of modern materials like steel and plate glass to design new and exciting houses, apartments, galleries and shops. However, some Germans did not like this new style. They wanted to keep with the traditional, elaborately decorated stone buildings of the Kaiser's Germany.



Literature

Writers produced books with strong anti-war messages. Remarque's popular book, All Quiet on the Western Front, was a powerful description of the horrors of the First World War. The novel was made into a successful film. However some writers were very critical of the new Weimar government and produced work that glorified the experiences of the First World War.



Nightlife

Going to clubs became a major pastime. By 1927, there were 900 dance bands in Berlin. Censorship was removed so people could say what they wanted. There was an atmosphere of freedom and experimentation. However some Germans were shocked by the club scene in Berlin. They thought that Weimar culture represented a moral decline and that things had gone too far.



Art

Painters also portrayed powerful political messages through their art. Paintings showed the inequality between rich and poor in Germany at the time. However Hitler thought that the 'modern' art produced during the 1920s was not supporting Germany. He wanted Germany looking strong.

How did Hitler become Chancellor in January 1933?

Great Depression



In 1929 there was almost no chance the Nazis would get into power (3% of the vote). The Wall Street Crash was a huge turning point in Nazi fortunes, it was the most important reason why the Nazis finally got into power in 1933.

Wall Street crash and the Great Depression

The Wall Street Crash in 1929, started in the USA when the banks collapsed, causing the Great Depression. The USA asked for the Dawes Loans back, which caused serious economic problems for Germany. Industrial production fell by 40% by 1932. Businesses began to collapse, trade stopped, banks collapsed and unemployment rose. Unemployment rose from 1.3m in 1929, to **6m by 1932**.

By January 1933, 40% of factory workers were out of work and for those who had jobs, wages had fallen by around 70% of 1928 levels.

Appeal of the Nazis

The Nazis continued to repeat their core beliefs that the Treaty of Versailles was a crime to Germany, that Jews should be blamed for the economic problems, and that Germany should be reborn as a great and powerful country. Germans were now desperate and wanted to believe them.

Failure of the Weimar Government

The Weimar government couldn't seem to agree on how to help the unemployed and get Germany out of the Depression. They even passed a law to take land from the rich to give to the poor. This forced **Bruning** (the Chancellor) to resign.

For many ordinary Germans the democratic system of Weimar Germany was just not working. Some people, who had always tried hard to support the key principles of democracy, were drawn towards political parties with more extreme ideas about how to run a country.

Appeal of Hitler

Hitler himself had a lot to do with his increasing popularity. He had a charismatic personality, and could make people believe that he could be trusted to make Germany a great nation. As a powerful and inspiring speaker, he was able to fill his audiences with hope. His speeches were heard on **radios** - cheap. He wrote **Mein Kampf** - this had his important policies in. **Destroy Treaty of Versailles, make Germany strong, remove Communism.**

Fear of Communism

Middle and upper class Germans, particularly businessmen and landowners, were frightened of German Communists. They didn't want to lose the wealth and position in society that they had worked hard to build. Farmers were worried they would lose land. Communists didn't believe in religion either, so this worried churchgoers too. From the start, Hitler said he would fight communism. He sent his own private army, the **stormtroopers** (SA), to fight with communist gangs. Hitler gained support from the German middle and upper classes because he promised to deal with the communist threat.

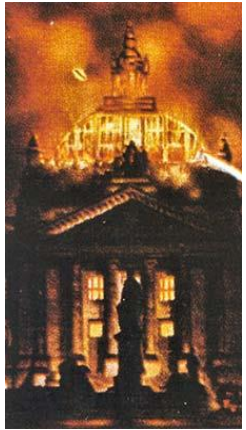
Nazi Party Methods and Tactics

- Nazi policies were outlined in the **25 point programme**. They promised to solve Germany's economic problems, ignore the Treaty of Versailles, build up an army and make Germany strong again. Their promises were designed to appeal to everyone, from businessmen, farmers and housewives. The Nazis promised the farmers a fair price for their food and a market place to sell it.
- There were over 100,000 men in the **SA** by 1931, growing to 400,000 by 1932. The SA protected Hitler's meetings and tried to influence voters at elections. They looked capable of bringing law and order to Germany.
- The Nazi Party made use of propaganda (Goebbels) through new media like radio broadcasts and cinema news reports. They also bought newspapers and printed millions of leaflets and posters to persuade and influence Germans to their ways of thinking.
- After the Depression hit Germany in the 1930's, the Nazis appeared the most organized and disciplined group in the country - a party that might restore the nation's greatness.

Political Deal

In 1932 the Nazis won 37% of the vote. However, **Hindenburg** did not want Hitler to become Chancellor. Instead he made Von Papen chancellor - but he faced problems as he did not have the support. **Von Schleicher** then became Chancellor but he also did not have enough support. Hindenburg had little choice and on 30th January 1933, Hitler was appointed as Chancellor. Hindenburg tried to limit Hitler's power by appointing Von Papen as Vice Chancellor and restricting the number of fellow Nazis that Hitler was allowed in the cabinet to two. Hindenburg and his closest advisers thought they would be able to control him.

How did Hitler become a Dictator?



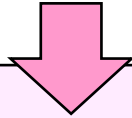
Reichstag Fire 27th February 1933

Reichstag (Government) is burnt down and is blamed on communists as **Van Der Lubbe** is found at scene. This was another gift to Hitler, who claimed it was a national crisis and went to Hindenburg for an Emergency decree.

Emergency decree (Article 48)

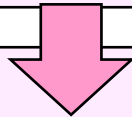
Hitler was given 'Emergency powers' by Hindenburg to deal with the situation:

- He had the power to ban opposition meetings and newspapers, imprison anyone without trial. The Nazis took over the police, set up Gestapo.
- Germany became a 'police state'
- Hitler arrested 4000 communists, shut down their newspapers and kill 51 'opponents'



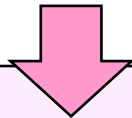
Election 5th March 1933

The Nazis used the police and the SA to put pressure on their political opponents. More than 50 opponents of the Nazis were killed and many more were injured. The Nazis used radio to broadcast their anti - Communist message. This helped the Nazis achieve their best ever election result, with 44% of the vote.



The Enabling Law 24th March 1933

Hitler wanted an **Enabling Law**. This law would give Hitler the power to pass laws without going through the Reichstag or the President. It would place all of the power in his hands. In order to achieve this he needed to get 2/3 of the Reichstag support. The Communists were banned from voting. The Centre Party were persuaded to vote in favour of the law as Hitler promised to protect the Catholic Church. It was passed by 444 votes to 94.



Trade Unions and Political parties are banned May - July 1933

- **Trade Union** offices were taken over and union leaders arrested. All trade unions were merged into one organisation the new German Labour Front (DAF). The DAF controlled by the Nazis. Workers could not strike.
- All parties were banned which meant no - one could challenge the Nazis.



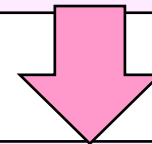
The Night of the Long Knives 29th - 30th June 1934

By 1934 Hitler had become concerned at the increasing power of the SA. It had over 3 million members and wanted to take control of the army. The leader of the SA, **Ernst Rohm**, was a close friend of Hitler's. However, Hitler thought that Rohm was a potential rival.



Hitler had another reason for attacking the SA. He needed to reassure the army. The army was smaller than the SA but it was well - trained and disciplined. It was the only organisation that had the power to overthrow Hitler. Army leaders feared being taken over by the SA and resented the violence they used. The army was supported by powerful businessmen who wanted Hitler to expand the army and buy new weapons.

On the Night of the Long Knives, SA leaders were dragged from their beds by the **SS**, taken to Nazi headquarters and shot dead. Rohm too was arrested. When he refused to commit suicide, he was shot in prison. The Night of the Long knives sent a warning to the rest of Germany about how ruthless Hitler was in his pursuit for power.



Death of Hindenburg 2nd August 1934

When **Hindenburg** died, Hitler made himself President as well as Chancellor. He was now the undisputed head of the government and took the title **Fuhrer** (Supreme Leader). The army took an oath of personal loyalty to Hitler. Hitler was now in charge of the armed forces.



How Effectively did Nazis Control Germany: Terror?



Hitler did not rule Germany on his own. At the centre of the terror network was **Himmler**.



Informers

The Nazi Party had a strong local structure. Every town was divided into small units, called blocks. The Block Warden, a local Nazi, visited every home in the block each week, collecting donations to the Nazi Party and checking up on everyone. The **Block Warden** wrote a report on everyone in their block. This report could affect whether or not you got a job.

Police and Courts

The ordinary police continued with their regular work, but their bosses were all Nazis. This meant that the police became part of the network of informers, collecting information on everyone, whilst ignoring crimes committed by Nazis. The Courts were under Nazi control as well, Nazis were appointed as judges. The death penalty went up from 3 in 1933 to 46 by 1943. These included listening to foreign radio stations; telling an anti - Nazis joke; having a sexual relationship with a Jew.



The Gestapo

This was the state secret police. They could tap telephones, open mail and collect information from a huge network of informers. Informers reported on local people who they believed were anti Nazi. The Gestapo arrested people without trial, tortured them and imprisoned them in concentration camps.



The SS

SS which means protection squad. The black uniformed SS was originally Hitler's personal bodyguard. Himmler built it up and by 1939 it had 240,000 members. All recruits had to be recognisably 'Aryan' - blonde, blue eyed and physically fit. Himmler imposed high physical standards: even having a filled tooth was enough to disqualify you. Himmler trained the SS to be ruthless and fiercely loyal to Hitler. They could arrest people without trial and could search houses.

Concentration Camps

As soon as the Nazi Party came to power the SS arrested many Nazis opponents and put them in temporary prisons. Then special concentration camps were constructed, usually in remote rural areas. At first, inmates were held in the camps for short periods of questioning, torture, hard labour and forced instruction in Nazi ideas. By the late 1930s concentration camps were being run by a section of the SS called Death's Head units, as forced labour camps. Some prisoners were used to work for Nazi - owned businesses. Himmler controlled over 150 companies who used slave labour to make all kinds of goods, including weapons. The camps held; Jews, Communists, Socialists, church leaders - anyone who criticised the Nazis.

Opposition to the Nazis

Political Challenges

All opposition parties and trade unions were banned by July 1933. Their offices were raided and closed. Thousands of Socialists were arrested and put in concentration camps. This would scare people into joining the Nazis. However, there were 400 strikes between 1933 - 1935. Gestapo arrested people involved. Many Communist meetings were held underground and occasionally leaflets were handed out.

Religion

Church opposition did not go very far. Martin **Niemoller** created the Confessional Church. The Nazis had set up a 'Reich Church' in which leaders had to swear loyalty to Hitler. Many refused and by 1934, 6000 had joined the **Confessional Church**. Neimoller was arrested and sent to a concentration camp. Bonhoeffer also told people to stand up to the Nazis and that religion and politics were not separate.

Army



In 1943 when it looked like the Nazis were losing the war some members of the army turned on Hitler. **Stauffenberg** planted a bomb at a meeting he knew Hitler would be attending. 4 people were killed - but not Hitler. All the plotters were rounded up (5,000) and executed. (This is known as the **July Bomb Plot 1944**)

Young

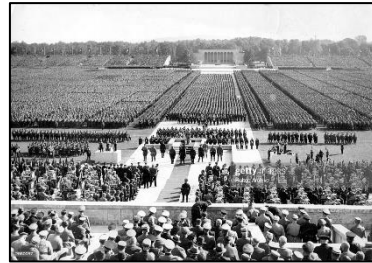
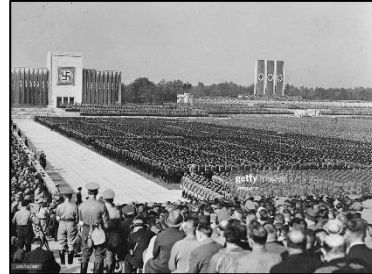
The **White Rose group** were disgusted at the lack of opposition to the Nazis and their persecution of the Jews. Hans and Sophie leaders of the movement they spread anti - Nazis messages through handing out leaflets, putting up posters and writing graffiti on walls. Hans and Sophie were arrested and tortured before being executed.

How Effectively did Nazis Control Germany: Propaganda?

Nazi propaganda was organised by **Goebbels**. The Nazis used the latest technology - loudspeakers, slide shows and films to spread their messages. The Nazis used mass rallies (Nuremberg rallies) and marches to give the impression of discipline and order. They also used powerful propaganda posters with simple slogans.

Rallies

The Nazis held huge rallies that presented an image of order and control. At **Nuremberg**, Nazi rallies were attended by hundreds of thousands of people. (Started 1935) Goebbels and Albert Speer stage-managed these rallies to give a dramatic impression of overwhelming power and unity. Searchlights, uniforms, music, torchlight parades, flags and symbols created an impressive scene. The rallies gave people the sense of belonging to a powerful movement that was achieving great things. Goebbels described how rallies changed a person from 'a little worm into a large dragon.' The rallies were so well attended that it seemed as if every German enthusiastically supported the Nazi's. Films of the rallies were shown in cinemas across the country.



Newspapers

The Nazis took over many newspapers. By 1939, they owned two thirds of all German newspapers. Jewish people were banned from owning or working for newspapers. Strict controls were placed over newspapers. If they did not print what Goebbels wanted, they were closed down. They were not allowed to criticise the Nazis. Goebbels' ministry of propaganda sent out daily instructions to all newspapers telling them what to print, what kind of pictures to publish and what angle they should take on the news. Newspapers praised Hitler and Nazi achievements. There were also negative stories about Nazi opponents and Jewish people. Display boards were set up in public places so that everyone could read these newspapers.



Films

The cinema was very popular in the 1930's. Goebbels controlled all of the films made in Germany. Some openly pro-Nazi films were made on Goebbels' orders and scripts were carefully checked by his ministry. Most films were adventure stories, comedies or love stories, but there was always a newsreel film showed before the main film. The **newsreels** were made by Goebbels' film makers and were full of news of Hitler's great achievements. Some Germans tried to avoid these newsreels by arriving at the cinema late.



Radio

Goebbels took over control of all radio broadcasting. He regarded it as the most important medium for spreading propaganda. Regular programmes included Hitler's speeches, German music and German history. Those caught listening to foreign radio stations such as the BBC faced the death penalty.

Cheap radios were made so that as many Germans as possible could listen to Nazi propaganda. By 1939, 70 per cent of Germans owned a radio. Loud speakers were set up in public squares, bars and cafes all over Germany and people were encouraged to listen to important radio programmes and announcements.

Books

The Nazis organised official book burnings. In 1933 Berlin students burnt 20,000 books. By burning books the Nazis were trying to stop German people from reading and thinking beyond Nazi message. All books had to be censored and checked by Goebbels ministry. Nothing could be published without their permission. Goebbels encouraged books about the glory of war while anti war novels were banned. Writers who criticised he Nazis were not allowed to publish their ideas.

Music

Jazz music had been very popular during the Weimar period, however, the Nazis banned it as they seen it as 'black' music, originating from people they believed were racially inferior. They promoted German folk music and marching songs. They also encouraged people to listen to German composers such as Mozart, Beethoven and Bach.

Art

Hitler disliked the modern art producing during the Weimar period. He thought that much of it was unpatriotic. In 1936 the Nazis burned 5000 paintings they disapproved of. Hitler wanted art to glorify the 'master-race'. The Nazis encouraged paintings and sculptures that showed heroic military figures or images of the ideas 'Aryan' family - with women as housewives and mothers. In 1937, the Nazis opened the house of German art. This only showed art that the Nazis approved of.



Sport - Olympics

The Nazis held the **Olympics in 1936**. The Nazis used the games to improve the reputation of Germany abroad (modern, civilised), show the Aryan race was superior and increase German national pride. Goebbels built a brand new stadium and made full use of the latest technology. He brought television cameras for the first time. Many visitors were impressed with the Games and with the modern facilities. However, there was a heavy presence of army and SS soldiers. Germany topped the table winning 33 gold medals. However, the star of the games, Jesse Owens, a black American athlete, who won 4 gold medals was not allowed to receive them.

How Effectively did Nazis Control Germany: Propaganda?

Women



The Nazis were very old fashioned in their attitude to women. They wanted women to be mothers not workers. These are some of the methods they used to try to achieve this:

- All women employed by the state - doctors, civil servants and many teachers were sacked.
- **Loans** were offered to encourage them to get married. They received 1000 marks, or about a half year's pay. The more children they had, the less they had to pay back. If they had four children they paid nothing back. But there was one condition: the woman had to leave her job.
- **Medals** were awarded for having children: gold for 8, silver for 6 and bronze for 4. However, not everyone was allowed to have children. It was compulsory for women with inherited diseases or weaknesses such as colour blindness to be sterilised.

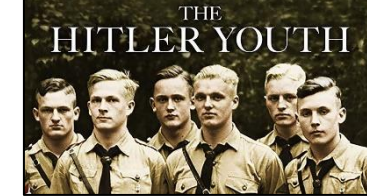


The Nazis tried to persuade women to follow their ideals by using massive amounts of propaganda such as leaflets and posters. Women were urged to follow the Three K's '**Kinder, Kirche, Kuche.**' (Children, church and cooking).

The Nazis wanted women to wear simple rather than fashionable clothes. Wearing trousers or high heels, using make up or smoking in public were all frowned upon. The Nazis wanted women to be strong and solid in order to have lots of babies. Nazis banned contraception and abortions. The Nazis set up the **Lebensborn** movement as an attempt to increase the birth rate. An estimated 8000 children were born in Germany as a result of this. The Nazis promoted their views on women through the **German Women's League**. This group of adult women travelled around giving advice on cooking and childcare. However, women who could pass on hereditary illnesses were sterilized. In addition, women had to go back into factories during WW2 when the men went off fighting.



Young People



The Hitler Youth was a successful movement even before the Nazis came to power, with 30% of all young Germans already members. Once they were in power, membership became hard to avoid, with over 80% of young Germans joining by 1939.

Boys joined the German Young People at the age of 10. At the age 14 they became members of the Hitler Youth. They spent their time doing physical activities such as hiking, running and jumping. They were also expected to listen to talks on Nazi political ideas and German history. To become a member of the Hitler Youth boys had to run 60 meters in 12 seconds, jump 2.75 metres, throw a ball 25 metres, complete a one and a half day cross country march, do close combat exercises, jump out of a first floor window wearing full army battledress and answer questions on Nazi ideas and history. One of the key aims of the Hitler Youth was to prepare boys for a life in the army by producing fit, fearless and loyal young soldiers.

League of German Maidens

Girls joined the Young Girls at the age 10. From the age 14 they were encouraged to join the League of German Maidens. For girls the emphasis was on keeping fit and home building. To become members girls had to run 60 metres in 14 seconds, throw a ball 12 metres, complete somersaults, a tightrope walk and 2 hour march or 100 metre swim and know how to make a bed. For girls the aim of the Hitler Youth was to prepare them for motherhood and marriage. Both the boys and girls swore loyalty to Hitler.

The whole curriculum was used to teach what the Nazis wanted young people to think. Teachers who refused to teach these things were sacked.

PE: Boxing was compulsory for boys. Girls were taught home making and childcare
History: Taught about the unfair Treaty of Versailles, the wickedness of Jews and Communists

Biology: Pupils were instructed on the Nazi racial ideas of the superiority of the Aryan race.

Eugenics: Learning about the Aryan Race



Edelweiss Pirates

The Edelweiss Pirates were not an organised movement. It was a name used to classify all teenage anti Nazi youth groups in German cities. These rebel teenage youth groups had many similarities. They were not political opponents of the Nazis but they were determined to resist the Nazis controlling their lives. Groups tended to be made up of boys and girls aged between 14 and 17. The Pirates sang songs that made fun of Germany and they mocked the Hitler Youth. In response the Nazis rounded up members of the Pirates and 12 were publicly hanged in November 1944.



How Effectively did Nazis Control Germany: Economy?



When Hitler came into power in 1933 the depression was coming to an end but there was still 5 million unemployed. He appointed **Dr Schacht** (1934 - 36) as minister of the economy. He introduced a 'New Plan.' It had three objectives:

1. **Reduced unemployment**
2. **Building up armaments**
3. **Make Germany Self Sufficient** (does not need any goods from other countries)

How did the Nazis solve the problem of unemployment?

Workers

The National Labour Service (RAD)

All men aged 18 - 25 had to spend 6 months in the RAD. They planted forests, mended hedges and dug drainage ditches on farms. Men in the RAD had to wear uniforms and live in camps, but they were given a free meal. They were paid only pocket money, but at least it was a job. In June 1933 the Nazis ordered the creation of a new network of **autobahns** (motorways) to link Germany's major towns and cities. It gave work to nearly 100,000 people. A huge number of schools and hospitals were also built in these public work schemes.



German Labour Front (DAF)

This was an organization was run by **Robert Ley** and replaced Trade Unions. It promised to protect the rights of workers and improve their working conditions. They introduced schemes such as Strength through Joy, Beauty of Labour and Volkswagen Beetle.

However, the DAF kept strict control of workers. They could not strike for better pay and conditions. In some areas they were stopped from moving to places for better paid jobs. Wages were low.

How were workers treated?

Beauty of Labour - This improved working conditions in factories. It introduced features not seen in many workplaces before, such as washing facilities and low - cost canteens.

'Strength through Joy', (KDF) they also managed to arranged activities for workers and their families. These included holidays, film shows, concerts and sporting fixtures.



The **Volkswagen** (the people's car) was introduced as a luxury people could aspire to own. Many thousands of workers saved 5 marks a week in the state scheme to buy it. It became a symbol of the new Germany, even though no workers ever received a car because all car production was stopped by the war in 1939.

Army

Rearmament is when a country rebuilds its armed forces (army, navy and air force). Hitler was determined that Germany should become a great military power again, so he ordered the building of new tanks, battleships, lighter planes and guns. Thousands of jobs were created and huge government contracts made factory owners and bosses of large businesses a fortune.



Conscription

He introduced **conscription** in 1935. All men 18 - 25 were forced to join the armed forces for at least two years. The army grew within 5 years from 100,000 to 1,400,000 giving people more jobs. The need for weapons , equipment and uniforms created even more jobs. The building of the army helped national pride as Germans began to feel their country was finally over the humiliation from WW1.

Farmers



The Farmers were an important reason why the Nazis got into power. Hitler wanted to reward them. He introduced schemes to help them.

Reich Food Estate set up places where farmers could sell their food and give to people across Germany. It was a guaranteed market with good prices. However it meant that efficient farmers were held back as they had to go through the same process as less efficient farmers.

Reich Entailed Farm Law gave farmers protection as banks could not take their land if they could not pay loans. However, banks were unwilling to give loans to farmers when this law was made. It also meant that only the eldest child could inherit the farm. Younger brother and sisters got jobs in factories. It caused Rural depopulation in which 3% of farmers left farming each year for factory work.

Blood and Soil. This was the belief that peasant farmers were the basis of the German master race. Therefore the farmers must be protected.



Impact of WW2 on Germany

Dr Schacht was replaced by Goering in 1936. **Goering** introduced the '**Four Year Plan.**' This was to get the German economy ready for war.

- He needed to **increase military production** above anything else.
- Make Germany **Self Sufficient** (Schacht had failed to do this)



What happened to the Germany economy during the war?

- By 1935 with most German men in the armed forces there was a severe shortage of workers. More women had to join the labour force; women up to the age of 50 were forced into work.
- In 1939, in the early stages of the war, people were confident that the war was going well, despite rationing 2/5 Germans actually are better than before the war. However, tobacco was hard to find and people often exchanged food for cigarettes.
- In 1943 the government began preparation for '**total war**' with every part of German society gained towards the war effort. Anything that did not contribute towards the war effort was eliminated.
- In March 1943 professional sport was ended.
- In August 1943 the manufacture of civilian clothing ended.
- In concentration camps, Jews, political prisoners and prisoners of war were worked to their death to supply for the German war effort.
- By 1945 food supplies were close to running out - Goering had failed to make Germany self sufficient. Ration cards were no longer accepted. Instead people relied on the black market or on scavenging for food.
- Bad news was kept from the public by the **Nazi's strict censorship.** But soldiers home on leave told their families and many families listen secretly to BBC radio broadcasts. By 1945 the German people were in desperate state. Support for Hitler and the Nazi Party weakened. People stayed away from Nazis rallies and many refused to give the Nazi salute.



Religion

Christians are mainly split into Catholics and Protestants. There were about 20 million Catholics in Germany and 40 million Protestants.

Hitler hated Christianity. He hated its teaching of forgiveness and mercy. He hated it because it was also based on the Jewish religion. People who believed in God were less likely to worship Hitler.

Hitler did not dare shut them all down as they had such massive support among the German people. But they were a threat! Hitler therefore did his best to control them.

Catholic Church

In 1933 Hitler signed the **Concordat** with the Catholic Church. Hitler agreed to leave the Catholic Church alone and allowed it to keep control of its schools. In return the Catholic Church agreed to stay out of politics. But Hitler soon broke this agreement. Hitler felt that the German Catholics listened more to the Pope than him, so he arrested Catholic priests, closed down schools and churches. The Pope spoke out against the Nazis in 1937 telling Catholics to not follow the regime.



Protestant Church

The Nazis also hoped to bring the Protestant church under Nazi control. Hitler tried to get all of the Protestant churches to come together in one official '**Reich Church.**' The Reich Church was headed by the Protestant Bishop Muller and had the slogan 'with the swastika on our chests and the cross in our hearts.' Reich Church pastors had to swear an oath of loyalty to Hitler. Many refused and by 1934, 6000 Protestant pastors had left the Reich Church and joined a new, non- Nazi 'Confessional Church' created by **Niemoller.** The Confessional church openly criticised the Nazis. However, the Nazis struck back and arrested 800 pastors. Niemoller himself was sent to a concentration camp and the Confessional Church was banned.



German Faith Movement

Hitler also encouraged an alternative religion to Churches, the pagan German Faith Movement. This was a non - Christian Movement based on worship of the sun. The movement's flag was a golden sun on a blue background, often with a Nazi swastika attached.

How were Jewish people affected in Germany?

How did the Nazis change the lives of people who did not fit?

Hitler refer to this group as the 'Undesirables.' It consisted of:

- Those who wouldn't work - criminals, tramps, beggars, alcoholics. They were rounded up in 1933 and 500,000 of them were sent to concentration camps.
- Those who couldn't work - the physically disabled and mentally ill. About 15,000 were arrested and sent to concentration camps.
- Socialists and Communists
- Those who were not Aryans - black people, gypsies and Jews. **Anti Semitism** (Ill treatment of Jewish people)

How were Jewish people persecuted between 1933 and 1939?

Jews were blamed for the problems in Germany e.g. Treaty of Versailles and loss of the WW1. People were encouraged to hate Jews - take away the civil rights of German Jews.

Ghetto

In Poland, Jews were forced into special sections of cities called ghettos. The largest ghetto in Poland was the Warsaw ghetto. The ghetto was shut off from the rest of the city - if Jews tried to escape they were executed. It was also impossibly overcrowded. Water and power were cut off and food was very limited. People had to survive on 300 calories a day. Jews who could work were used for slave labour. Over 500,000 died in the Warsaw ghetto.

Einsatzgruppen

By the end of 1941 the German army had invaded a large part of the Soviet Union. As the German army advanced through Eastern Europe it was followed by the SS. The job of these units was to murder Communists, Jews and other people classed as undesirables. They rounded up people in towns and ordered them to the country nearby and ordered them to dig a trench. They were then shot and fell into the trench (mass grave).



Final Solution

1943 the Final solution was created. 6 special death camps were built. These were different to concentration camps as they were built to kill people on a mass scale - using gas chambers. They were built outside of Germany with good railway links. **Auschwitz** was the biggest.

Auschwitz

On arrival at the camp inmates walked past a Nazi doctor who indicated whether they should go left or right: left to work, right to the gas chambers. About 80% of arrivals were killed at once; those put to work normally lasted just a few months before dying of malnutrition and overwork. By the end of the war 6 million Jews had been killed as well as Gypsies, homosexuals and around 4 million Russian prisoners of war.

Jewish Resistance

Jewish Partisan Group	Jewish resistance groups took to the countryside. In Poland there were at least 28 groups of Jewish fighters. These resistance groups blew up railway lines and attacked German soldiers. During 1942 as many as 40,000 Jews escaped ghettos of Poland into the forests. They had hardly any weapons and their main source of food was what the forests could provide. The German army was forced to use large numbers of men against them.
Uprisings in the Ghettos	Armed uprisings took place in many ghettos. In 1943, in the Warsaw ghetto, 15,000 Jews armed with makeshift weapons held out for 4 weeks against fully equipped German forces. Street by street the Germans set fire to dynamited buildings until the ghetto was reduced to rubble. 7,000 Jews were killed in the fighting.
Uprising in the camps	There were also uprisings in camps. In Treblinka, in 1943, one of the prisoners managed to get into the weapons store. He handed out grenades and guns to other prisoners. The camp was set on fire: 15 guards were killed and 150 prisoners managed to escape. In Auschwitz Jews managed to blow up to of the gas chambers.

Before 1933	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nazis encouraged the boycott of Jewish - owned shops: anti - Jewish graffiti was scrawled on shop windows and members of the SA stood outside to threaten shoppers.
1933	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jewish lawyers and judges dismissed• Jews banned from all public service jobs, such as teachers and civil servants.• Non - Aryan children forbidden from playing with Aryan children
1935	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Nuremburg Laws• Jews could not be German citizens• Jews could not marry, or have sex with, non - Jews
1936	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jews were not allowed to own typewriters or bicycles• Anti - Jewish posters temporarily removed during Berlin Olympics
1938	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jews not allowed to practice as doctors• Jews not allowed to run their own businesses• Jewish children barred from state schools• Jews banned from swimming pools, cinema, theatres and concert halls• Male Jews had to add the name 'Israel' and females the name 'Sarah' to their own.• Kristallnacht - Jewish people's shops and businesses were destroyed. Violence used for the first time.
1939	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jews not allowed to work as dentists, chemists or nurses• Jews curfew: not allowed out of their homes after 8pm in winter 9pm in the summer• Jews to hand over any jewellery, gold or silver to the police

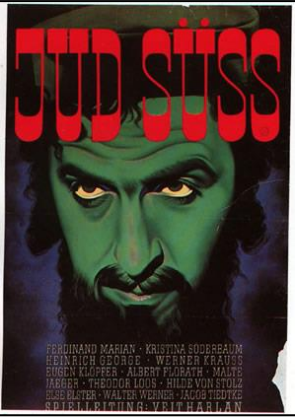
Nazis Culture



The Chamber of Culture

The Nazis set up an organization called the **Chamber of Culture**. It was led by Goebbels. All musicians, writers artists and actors had to be members of the new organization and anyone who refused would not be allowed to work. Some people such as Jews were banned from joining.

The Chamber of Culture ruled that all cultural activities such as art, theatre, music, film and literature all had to give the same 'message': that Nazi beliefs and ideas were correct and everything that Hitler did was in the best interest of the country.



Cinema

Goebbels realised how popular cinema was and how powerful it could be. Nazi supporters owned film studios, so the Nazis had a direct influence on exactly which films were made. Goebbels himself made sure he read and approved all film scripts, and all films - thrillers, comedies, factual films and dramas - had to carry a pro Nazi message. For example, German soldiers were always shown as heroes while Jews were portrayed as mean and nasty. He also made sure that a news report of Hitler's achievements was always shown before the main film in a news reel.



Music

Goebbels ruled that music should be German. Marching music, old folk songs and classical music by Bach, Beethoven, Mozart and Wagner were popular. Some music that was popular in Weimar Germany was not permitted. Jewish composers like Mahler and Mendelssohn were banned, and so was jazz music because it has its origins among the black people of America.

Theatre

Before the Nazis took over, they set up a group (Militant League of German Culture) that protested against some of the more modern plays and films they didn't approve of. For example, Jewish writer Kurt Weill's hit musical, The Threepenny Opera, came under attack. Set among a group of beggars in Victoria London, the play contained lots of jazz music. It was banned by the Nazis as soon as they took power. The Nazis ruled that plays should mainly focus on German history and politics, and allowed work of some 'older' playwrights like Goethe and Schiller to be performed.

The Nazis also shut Germany's cabaret clubs. These noisy, smoky theatre bars were places where songs about sex and politics were common.

Literature

Goebbels created a list of banned books, which were removed from libraries and book shops. They were classed as 'unGerman' all were by Jewish authors. Not surprisingly, **Mein Kampf** was the best selling book in Germany. Goebbels encouraged books about race, the glory of war, and the brilliance of the Nazis. He even wrote a book himself that show cased this.

Popular books written in Weimar Germany were banned, including Erich Remarque's anti-war novel 'All Quiet on the Western Front.' Around 2,500 writers left Germany between 1933 and 1945, including Thomas Mann, for example, a strong critic of the Nazis that had written 'Magic Mountain,' one of the best known German novels of the time.



Art

In Weimar Germany during the 1920's, art tended to show every day life and could often be classed as 'modern or abstract.' Artists like Otto Dix and George Grosz were popular. Hitler hated modern art and referred to it as 'degenerate.' (perverted). In 1936, the Nazis publically burned 5,000 paintings they disapproved of. In 1937, they put on an exhibition of unacceptable art and opened another showing their officially approved paintings. The Nazis wanted art to be simple and clearly understandable to ordinary people. It should show healthy, heroic German figures, families scenes of happy, strong 'pure' Germans and of course, lots of images of Hitler himself in heroic poses.

Design

The **Bauhaus** movement was an important architectural and design development in Weimar Germany. Bauhaus architects used new technology to design simple, practical, modern buildings and objects. Hitler did not approve of such modern design, and closed down this movement in 1933. He instead had clear ideas about the design of big, public building like libraries, government buildings and parade grounds. He favoured huge, stone structures, often copies of building from Ancient Greece or Rome.



Sports and Leisure

The **Olympic Games** were held in Berlin in 1936 and the Nazis used the opportunity to show the world how splendid Nazi Germany was. For a while anti semitic posters and newspapers were stopped. The Germans came top of the medals table. It showed how strong the German race was. The Germans also used it as a chance to show the brilliance of German technology - the most advanced 'photo-finish' equipment was in use and the main stadium contained the largest stop clock ever made.