**Germany, 1919-45 – Timeline**

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| **KEY EVENT** | **IMAGE/ SOURCE** | **KEY POINTS** | **IMPORTANCE** | **CONTEXT/ LINK TO OTHER EVENTS** | **SOURCE ANALYSIS INFER/ SNAPCAT** |
| **Abdication of the Kaiser (German Revolution)**  **9th November 1918** | *Front page of New York Times, 10th Nov. 1918* | - Kaiser Wilhelm II had ruled since 1888. He was a strong, autocratic leader  - By August 1918 after 4 years of war Germany faced defeat, its army retreating and its people starving  - The Allies would only make peace with Germany if it became more democratic – they had to get rid of the Kaiser and setting up a new government  - There were violent uprisings against the Kaiser throughout Germany – he was forced to flee to Holland | - Germany was in a weak position and the new government had no choice but to sign the armistice  - The Allies are in control by demanding the Kaiser is removed thus putting Germany in a weak negotiating position  - German economy is in ruins and people are starving causing much unrest thoughout Germany |  |  |
| **The Council of People’s Representa-tives set up**  **10th November 1918** | *Postcard produced in November 1918 showing the six members of the Council* | - Germany becomes a Republic with a new Chancellor, Fredrich Ebert who was the leader of the Social Democrat Party  - The council was set up as a temporary government and controlled Germany until elections could be held in January 1919  - The Council signed the Armistice to end the war and later became known as the ‘November Criminals’  -Agreed to work with the army to keep the communists from taking control of Germany | - The new democracy is able to end the war and begin to develop their new constitution without a monarchy  - There is much unrest in Germany and extreme views are popular.  - Left Wing – Sparticists (Communists)  - Right Wing – those loyal to the kaiser – prefer an autocracy (1 leader)  - The council is moderate and manages to keep control of the country. |  |  |
| **Armistice Signed**  **11th November 1918** | *Painting depicting the signatories of the Armistice in the railway carriage. Unknown Artist* | - On 11th Nov. Ebert’s representative, Matthais Erzberger, signed the armistice (Ceasefire to end the war)  - This formal agreement was signed in a railway carriage between Germany and the Allies, ending the first world war  - This was the first major decision of the new government and was not liked by the army or right-wing because they felt that by signing the armistice the politicians had ‘stabbed them in the back’ | - The Germans were in a weak position and needed to sign the armistice in order to prevent an allied occupation of Germany.  - Unfortunately the Army leadership and the right wing did not agree with this perception and believed the new government had betrayed Germany – this becomes a key focal point for the Nazis hatred of the Weimar Republic |  |  |
| **Spartacist Uprising**  **January 1919** | *A Spartacist poster from 1919 - the people slaying the 3-headed moster: army, big business and landowners* | - Extreme Left-wing Communists, inspired by the Russian Revolution in 1917 - Led by Rosa Luxemburg& Karl Liebknecht  - Did not believe Ebert would represent the interests of German workers  - Some members staged an uprising on 5th January 1919, seizing a government bulding but it was poorly organised and received little support thouhgout Berlin  - Ebert asks the Freikorps (ex-soldiers) to quash the uprising – they arrested the 2 leaders who were murdered | - Highlighted the instability in Germany  - The uprising left the new Republic dependent on the Army to crush any other revolts  - The government had to promise the Army that they would not change the leadership of the Army – this left many loyal to the Kaiser in positions of power in Germany. |  |  |
| **Formation of the Weimar Republic**  **January to July 1919** | *From ‘The Coming of the Third Reich’ by Richard J. Evans 2004*  *‘..Ebert wanted parliamentary democracy… Many ordinary electors in Germany saw voting for the three moderate democratic parties as the best way to prevent the creation of a communist revolution* | - New elections in January 1919 elected members to the Reichstag – known as the National Assembly  - First task was to create a new consitiution – had to meet in Weimar because of the unrest in Berlin  - Ebert became the first President of the Republic after the elections  - Appointed civil servants to keep the day to day running of the country going  - Reassured the Army Generals that the army would not be reformed  -Reassured leaders of industry that they would not confiscate land or factories  - Got support from trade unions | - People have the power  -First time for people to have a say in government – not autocratic  - Whos in-charge? Does it make them look weak - they had to form the constitution in Weimar not Berlin  - Extreme parties are not engaged in this process  Moderate views – but still trying to appeal to all sectors of society |  |  |
| **Weimar Constitution** | *Taken from A modern textbook- unknown*  *‘ The Constitution was a brave attempt to set up a domestic government...All Germans had equal rights, including the vote. Political parties were given seats in proportion to the number of votes they got. This was fair.’* | - Head of State – President – elected directly by the people every 7 years – chose the chancellor and commander in chief  - Government – ministers who run the country  - Chancellor – runs the Reichstag  - Cabinet – worked with Chancellor to  make important decisions  - Reichstag – directly elected by the people every 4 years to vote on laws etc  - Reichstrat – regional representatives elected every 4 years to promote their local interests  Electorate – all men and women over 20  Article 48 – In an emergency the President can make all the decisions and laws to protect Germany | WEAKNESS  - Back up plan with Article 48 – undermines democracy because it goes back to an autocracy or a dictator  - Pure proportional representation – means small parties that have to compromise greatly on laws and decisions – this didn’t allow policies that were best for Germany  - formed in division and violence – the people wanted a full German Revolution rather than the Weimar Republic  STRENGTH  - Equal  -Accountability – each house was accountable to the other bodies  - Lots of different parties therefore lots of different opinions could be represented |  |  |
| **Treaty of Versailles**  **28 June 1919** | *Front cover of the Treaty of Versaille* | - Following the armistice the Allied leaders decided the terms of peace without German input  - Peace treaty was signed in the Palace of Versailles in Paris  -Peace was popular with the Germans but they were shocked by the terms of the treaty  L – Land – lost Alsace-Lorraine and the  Saar to France; Eupen and Malmedy  to Belgium, Posen and West Prussia  to Poland; lost 13% of European land  and all overseas colonies  A – Army – limited to 100 000 troops, no  Heavy artillery, navy limited to 6  battleships, 6 cruisers, 12 destroyers  No submarines, No air force,  Rhineland between France and  Germany was demilitarised  M – Money - £6.6 billion reparations to be  paid to the allies  B – Blame - Germany had to accept all  responsibility for Starting the War | - Germans believed the ToV was too harsh, France thought it didn’t go far enough and Britain wanted it to be fair to some extent – Germany was humiliated by the ToV  - Hitler used this Treaty to futher Nazi aims and show how Germany had been stabbed in the back by the Weimar Politicians  -Hitler believed it was a diktat – enforced not discussed  -Germany is the outcast from International Politics – to weaken Germany  -Peace treaty is meant to avoid future conflict | Harshness of ToV was linked to the start of WWII  Hitler wanted to overthrough the ToV  Stresemann works within the framework of the ToV so therefore is accepted back into the International community |  |
| **Dolchstoss (stab in the back) Theory**  **The Diktat (dictated peace)** | *An illustration from a 1919 Austrian postcard showing a caricatured Jew stabbing the German Army in the back with a dagger* | - **Dolchstoss** - Belief put forward by leading members of the German army, and later supported by Hitler and the Nazis  - The belief was that the German Army had been on the verge of winning the war when they were betrayed by the politicians of the new republic who agreed to the armistice. Although untrue the theory was believed by many Germans who refused to accept that Germany had been defeated.  - **Diktat** – The Allies refused to allow any German representative to negotiate the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. The treaty was imposed on Germany (dictated peace)– never agreed – The Germans were bitterly opposed to the treaty terms and asked for concessions – All were refused. | - **Dolchstross** - This belief meant that the Republic was unpopular with many, paticularly ex-soldiers and those with right-wing views from the start.  - Opponents of the Weimar Republic blamed the politicians for Germanys defeat rather than the Army Generals. This weakened support for the Weimar Republic – the politicians signing the armistice were called the November Criminals  - The **Diktat** created great animosity within Germany who felt humilitated by the ToV – Hitler refused to accept the terms of the ToV and the ripping up of the treaty became one of the key policies of the Nazis |  |  |
| **Hitler joins the German Workers Party**  **19th September 1919** | *Logo of the German Workers Party* | - Hitler was badly gassed in the War and was in hospital when the armistice was signed in November 1918.  -He returned to Munich after the war, very bitter about the defeat of Germany – he blamed the weimar government, the communists and the Jews for the loss  - He was still employed by the army and was asked to keep a check upon extremist groups in Munich  - In September 1919 Hitler attends the small extremist group ‘German Workers Party’ led by Anton Drexler – it had only 6 committee members Within a week he joined the party becoming its 7th committee member – he was impressed with their ideas but also felt he could become a leader of the small party  - February 1920 he was put incharge of propaganda and within a few weeks held a meeting with almost 2000 people  At this meeting Hitler announces the party’s new name: The National Socialist German Workers’ Party (NSDAP) or Nazis | - Hitler’s hatred of the armistice and ToV convince him the Weimar Republic is weak.  - He develops strong extreme views which he is able to bring to the DAP creating the Nazi 25 point programme  - Hitler shows a real talent for public speaking and attracted many to the party, helping it to grow rapidly in a short time |  |  |
| **Nazi 25 Point Programme**  **Originally produced in Feb 1920** | *Extracts from the 25 Point Programme*  *1) We demand the union of all Germans in a Greater Germany*  *2) We demand equality of rights for the German people in the dealings with other nations*  *4) Only those of German blood… aremembers of the nation. No Jew may be a member of the nation*  *22) We demand… the creation of a people’s army.* | The Nazi party 25 point programme was kept vague and deliberately designed to appeal to as many groups as possible:  - Nationalism – promise to destroy the ToV and reintroduce rearmament  - Socialism – appealed to the workers – offering shares in companies and sharing land to benefit everyone.  Anti-Semitism – hatred of the Jews appealed to those Germans who needed a scapegoat for Germany’s defeat in the war and those who were resentful of Jewish wealth  - Anti-communist – appealed to the middle classes and big business who were fearful of a communist revolution like in Russia | - Becomes the foundation of Nazi policy when Hitler seizes power in 1933  - It gives us a clear insight into the ideas of the Nazi Party  - Gives us details of Nazi beliefs  - It shows us how the Nazi party would focus on particular issues that would appeal to certain groups – often changing the focus of meetings dependant on the audience |  |  |
| **Kapp Putsch**  **March 1920** | *Photograph of the Kapp Putsch 1920 – unknown photographer* | - The Freikorps (the private volunteer army used by Ebert to defeat the Spartacists) were furious with the ToV – when the treaty came into force in January 1920 the Freikorps had to be disbanded.  - The Freikorps, led by a right-wing extremist Dr Wolfgang Kapp, attempted to take control of Berlin  - The Weimar Government fled to Dresden but called upon the left wing Trade Unonists to go on strike and paralyse Berlin by cutting off gas, electricity, food and coal supplies  - Ebert called on the army to put down the Putsch but the vast majority of the army refused to move against Kapp / Freikorps  However, the general strike caused chaos in Berlin and Kapp was forced to flee | - The Kapp Putsch highlights the political unrest in Germany in the early period of the Weimar Republic. For the second time in a year the government had to leave the capital.  - The Kapp Putsch highlighted the fact that Eberts reliance on the army was misguided as they had not supported the government but sympathised with Kapp  - The failure of the putsch because of the general strike showed how the Weimar government had started to win the support of German workers – this strategy may have informed the policy of passive resistance in 1923. |  |  |
| **Hitler becomes leader of the NSDAP**  **July**  **1921** | *Painting by Herman Hoyer entitled ‘In the beginning there was the word’ and shows Hitler addressing his party in 1921* | - Hitler’s personal appeal as a great orator (public speaker) attracted much support to the NSDAP - he would draw his audience in and became the star speaker of the party.  - As membership grew there became little doubt that the new members were Hitler’s followers rather than party members  - Hitler began to introduce changes to the party in 1920 as Drexlers right-hand man, these changes improved organisation, clarified policies and improved propaganda  - In July 1921 Hitler forced a leadership contest and defeated Drexler  - Hitler surrounds himself with carefully selected supporters who would bring their skills to the party – Rudolf Hess, Hermann Goering, Ernst Rohm  - Hitler also makes powerful friends for the party like General Ludendorff  - In August Hitler forms the SA - a paramilitary force to protect the Nazi Party | - Hitlers personality and speaking skills are impressive, drawing people in with his passion  - Hitler shows how he can manipulate a situation to gain power  - Hitlers henchmen are put into positions of power within the party laying the groundwork for the future  - The introduction of the SA provides the Nazis with protection against opposition |  |  |
| **French occupation of the Ruhr**  **January 1923** | *A poster from Germany in 1923. The Figure represents France. The caption reads ‘Hands off the Ruhr’* | - Germany is bankrupt from the war – its gold reserve is gone and the reparations payments of the ToV make things even worse  - When Germany fail to make the reparation payments the French sent troops into the Ruhr, confiscating raw materials, manufactured goods and machinery  - The German government urge the people to follow the policy of PASSIVE RESISTANCE – workers went on strike or go slows and sabotaged machinery.  - The French arrested those obstructing them, bringing in their own workers  - German people resented the French occupation but also the Weimar Government for failing to stand up to the French  - Occupation crippled Germany’s economy | - The inability to pay reparations breaks the ToV and this affects Germany’s already humiliated position in the International community  - The German people are suffering and are angry by the actions of the French – this occupation increases the bad feelings about the ToV and allows the Nazis to gain support – however it united geman peopleagainst the French invaders  - Weimar government temporarily popular as it stands up to France  - Passive Resistance does frustrate the French occupation but it also cripples the German Economy plunging them into hyperinflation – this problem makes value of money worthless in Germany |  |  |
| **Hyperinflation**  **1923** | *A photograph taken in Germany in 1923 – Children stacking bank notes* | - When a government prints too much paper money – there is too much money in circulation therefore it losed its value rapidly – this causes prices to shoot up.  -As things become more expensive, for the people and the government, they print even more money  - Caused by the need for money to pay for WW1 and reparations after ToV – French occupaton of the Ruhr – passive resistance makes the need for more money even worse  - Effects of hyperinflation:  - The rich with land and possessions were little affected  - Some businessmen saw their debts cleared and were able to buy up smaller companies going out of business – others lost customers and could afford to pay for goods to sell – went out of business  - Fixed income – salaries and pensions became worthless as prices rose but wages/pension stayed the same  - Farmers – benefitted from the rise in food prices when the industry was not doing well  - Workers – employed people saw wages increase but so did prices, many lost their jobs as businesses closed  - Middle Class – lost savings, many lost their businesses or jobs as businesses closed | - Hyperinflation hit people who relied on their savings, because they became worthless  - Pensioners on fixed incomes found that it bought them less and less  - People who relied on wages also suffered, as wages rose slower than prices  - In late 1923, the price of food rose so much that some employers had to pay employees twice a day so they could shop earlier in the day before prices rose again.  Hyperinflation benefitted some people – farmers; people with loans and morgages who could pay them off quickly; rent became cheaper; some businesses could pay off loans and purchase bankrupt businesses  People were unhappy with the Weimar Republic because of these hardships and extreme groups saw the potential of undermining the republic with a coup. |  |  |
| **Munich Putsch**  **8th/9th November 1923** | *An announcement made on 9thNovember 1923 by Gustav von Kahr, leader of the state government of Bavaria.*  *The deception and treachery of ambitious rebels have changed a peaceful meeting… into scenes of disgusting violence. The declarations of support, forced from [us] at the point of the gun, are null and void. The NSDAP and the troops who have gathered to support them are banned* | - Putsch – a military takeover  Events of the Munich Putsch  -8th Nov - Hitler and SA burst into a beer hall where Van Kahr (Bavarian government Leader)was holding a meeting  - Hitler announces he is taking over the Bavarian Government and tries to persuade them to join him – when General Ludendorff arrives they agree and are released– although one of them informs the police about the Putsch.  -9th Nov – Hitler and Ludendorff with 3000 supporters march through Berlin but are faced by the armed police.  -16 marchers and 3 police are killed – Hitler is arrested and Ludendorff hands himself in  - Hitler was arrested on 11th November and put on trial for hs part in the uprising | - the Putsch itself is a humiliating disaster but it has far reaching consequences – Hitler re-evaluates the way to gain power and decided to work within the system rather than force a take-over – he writes mein kampf whilst in Jail  Hitler’s trial is a propaganda success and he gets great publicity from it  - Highlights the problems with discontent and extremism in Germany – yet another attempted coup – however the Weimar Government deal with this problem swiftly  - Shows the Nazi party is ready to seize power and its membership has grown to 50000, had its own private army and was supported by the German Army |  |  |
| **Stresemann introduces a new currency – Rentenmark**  **November 1923** | *The new Rentenmark was valued at 1 Rentenmark to One Trillion old marks* | - Stresemann dealt with hyperinflation by introducing a temporary currency called ‘rentenmark’  - Issued in limited numbers and had its value based not on gold reserves but on a mortgage of German industrial and agricultural resources.  - German people showed confidence in new currency- the following year the reichsmark was introduced backed by gold reserves | - This stabilised the German Economy by restoring the value of the mark  - Greatly reduced inflation and people could afford to eat and keep warm again  - Many lost money with the new currency as they were not given compensation for what they had lost with hyperinflation - this led to many hating the Weimar Government even more |  |  |
| **Hitler put on trial after Munich Putsch**  **Feb 1924** | *A photo of the defiant defendants in the Putsch Trial – includes Hitler, Ludendorff and Rohm* | -Accused of high treason Hitler turned his trial into a propaganda success.  - He admitted to starting the putsch but said it was not high treason to act against the government who had signed the ToV  - Newspapers all over Germany and the world reported his speech especially the assertion that his uprising was to overthrow the government who had betrayed the German people  -The maximun sentence for high treason was execution the minimum sentence 5yrs – Hitler was given the minimum and Ludendorff got off completely  - Imprisoned in Landsberg prison, but lived in comfort – writing his autobiography – Mein Kampf  – after 9 months Hitler was freed  - Nazi party was banned as a result of the putsch whilst Hitler was in Jail | - Hitler changes the focus of the party – he realised that to take control by force was difficult so he needed to destroy the Weimar government from within – he begins to focus on gaining political power to seize control instead.  - In the short term the Putsch could be seen as a complete and humiliating failure – Hitler failed to win the support of the Bavarian Government, he had to run away from a gun battle and was arrested and imprisoned. The Nazi party was banned  -However, in the long term the Putsch and subsequent trial were successful – Hitler used his trial as a propaganda tool and gained much support. He was able to reflect and re-organise the Nazi party to gain political power and he was able to undermine the Weimar Government |  |  |
| **Stresemann’s ‘Golden Years’**  **Dawes Plan**  **1924** | *The Dawes committee chaired by Charles G. Dawes – April 8th 1924* | - Stresemann greatly improved relations with Britain and France when he ended passive resistance and was able to improve Germany’s standing within the World  - The Dawes Plan was negotiated between USA and Germany but was supported by Britain and France.  -It reorganised Germany’s reparation payments – these were not only reduced but were also more sensibly staged to match Germany’s capacity to pay.  - Payments would start at £50 million and increase to £150 million over a 5-year period thereafter payments would be linked to Germany’s ability to pay  - Furthermore the Dawes plan included a US Loan of 800 million gold marks to Germany. Over the following 6 years Germany borrowed about $3 000 million from US banks | - Stresemann was a very good speaker and administrator but following his introduction of the rentenmark to stabalise the Germany economy he lost support in the Reichstag and resigned as Chancellor – He became Foreign Sectretary until his death in 1929  - Germany could now pay her reparations payments so the French withdrew from the Ruhr  - Germany could rebuild its economy and generate growth to improve living standards withing Germany  - Nationalists dispised the Dawes Plan calling it ‘a second Versailles’  - They resented the Dawes plan because it gave partial control of Germany’s railways and banks to the Allies, moreover it was an admission that Germany was to blame for the war |  |  |
| **Stresemann’s ‘Golden Years’**  **The Locarno Pact 1925** | *Photo:* From left to right, [Gustav Stresemann](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gustav_Stresemann), [Austen Chamberlain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austen_Chamberlain) and [Aristide Briand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristide_Briand) during the Locarno negotiations | -Signed by Stresemann on 1st Dec.1925  - A treaty between Germany, France, Belgium and backed by Britain and Italy.  - Unlike Versailles, it was agreed by Germany, on equal terms with the other main powers – it was not imposed upon them  - Germany accepted its new 1919 border with France, and France promised peace with Germany  -Germany and the allies agree that the Rhineland would be permanently demilitarised (free of troops)  - The five powers agreed to open talks about German membership of the League of Nations | - Stresemann saw this as a triumph because it made war in Europe less likely – He was given the Nobel Peace Prize in 1926  - Germany had also been treated as an equal – increased the prestige of the Weimar Republic  - Increased support for the moderate parties of the Weimar Republic  - Some extreme parties resented the pact as it reaffirmed the borders set by the ToV. |  |  |
| **The formation of the SS schutzstaffel**  **1925** | **Himmler in early SS uniform, with rank of Oberführer** | - Hitler strengthened the paramilitary forces of the Nazi Party in 1925 when he set up the new SS ‘protection squad’  - Hitler was worried about the growing strength of the SA and Rohm’s influence – whilst Hitler was in Jail many of the SA became loyal to Rohm not Hitler. – Hitler relaced Rohm as the head of the SA (Rohm returns in 1930)  - The SS is a smaller group, specially selected, who were Hitlers personal bodyguards  - The first leader, Julius Schreck was quickly replaced by Heinrich Himmler  - Himmler expanded the SS to 3000 by 1930 | - They were famous and feared throughout Germany because they were the elite paramilitary force  - Hitler felt more confident of his control after the SS were set up along with the removal of Rohm as leader of the SA he felt more secure in his position as leader of the Nazis  - The SS were loyal to Hitler not to the party therefore they would always do his bidding  - Their menacng black uniforms were introduce in 1932 and the SS controlled the Gestapo and concentration camps in Nazi Germany |  |  |
| **The Bamberg Conference**  **Early 1926** | *Extract taken from* [*www.historylearningsite.co.uk*](http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk) *updated August 2016*  *Hitler was becoming concerned that the* [*Nazi Party*](http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/Nazi%20Germany.htm)*was splitting in two ideologically and wanted the issue resolved as soon as possible… He believed that the party could only go down one road and the conference at Bamberg was called to resolve the issue once and for all…* | - By early 1926, the local power of the Gauleiters (local Nazi leaders) was creating a split in the Nazi Party  - Activists like Strasser and Goebbels (North) wanted to focus on the Socialist part of National Socialism(benefits for workers and attacked bif business) but others, like Hitler (South), wanted a strong Nationalist focus (A strong Germany and action against Jews)  - Hitler called a national conference at Bamberg in Bavaria  - Strasser was not allowed to speak but Hitler made his own views clear – made the socialists sound like the communist enemies  - Hitler managed to win Goebbels over to his side – becomes one of Hitlers key henchmen | Impacy of the Bamberg Conference  - Hitler now fully controls the party, any opposition to his leadership was silenced  - Goebbels is promoted within the party to Gauleiter of Berlin  - Although Strasser pledges his loyalty to Hitler he is killed in 1934 – Night of the Long Knives  - The ‘socialist’ principle of the Nazi Party is weakened  - Hitler is given more freedom and power to adopt any policy he likes |  |  |
| **Stresemann’s ‘Golden Years’**  **Germany joins the League of Nations**  **1926** | *Extract from Stresemann’s speech on Germany’s entry into the League of Nations, 1926*  *‘… the League is the product of the treaties of 1919. Many disputes have arisen between the League and Germany because of these treaties. I hope that our co-operation with the League will make it easier in future to discuss these questions.’* | - At the end of WWI, the Allies formed the League of Nations – a new international body in which powerful countries discussed ways f solving the world’s problems without resorting to war – Germany was excluded  - In september 1926, Stresemann convinces the other great powers to accept Germany’s membership  - Germany was given a place on the most important council – this was a boost to the moderate parties in Germany as it improved the reputation of the Weimar Republic.  - However, to some politicians, the League of Nations was a symbol of the hated ToV and they wanted nothing to do with it | - Raised the profile of Germany in the Internatonal Community giving them status as a Great Power  - Extreme parties were left on the outskirts of politics as the moderate parties were able to show the success of the Weimar Republic  - Economic and political stability was maintained because Germany was able to trade more closely with other nations and now had a ‘seat at the table’ |  |  |
| **Stresemann’s ‘Golden Years’**  **Kellogg-Briand Pact**  **1928** | *'Another Blindfold Test.' 1928 newspaper cartoon commenting on the likely success of the Kellogg-Briand anti-war pact.* | -In August 1928, Germany along with 64 other countries signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact.  This pact promised that states would not use war to achieve foreign policy aims.  - It was the work of a French and a US Foreign minister so was named after them.  The USA was not in the League of Nations and saw this as a way they could assist peace.  - In contrast to the ToV, it showed that Germany was now included amongst the main powers not dictated to by them.  - Many did not like the pact as it did nothing to remove the impositions of the ToV | - It showed Germany had a role in International politics and was involved in world affairs again on an equal footing  - It was a sign that the Weimar Republic was a stable and respected state  - Was a boost to the prestige of the Weimar Republic in the eyes of the public  - It increased the confidence in moderate political parties and ensured the politically extreme parties were sidelined.  - People trusted the Moderate parties to make Germany strong again |  |  |
| **Stresemann’s ‘Golden Years’**  **The Young Plan**  **1929** | *Extract taken from* [*www.historylearningsite.co.uk*](http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk) *updated August 2016*  *The Young Plan further reduced reparations to 112 billion Gold Marks – then equal to about $8 billion. The money was set to be paid over 59 years with the equivalent of $473 million paid each year.* | - Created 5 years after the Dawes Plan it made futher progress with Germany’s payment of reparations.  - The plan was put forward by a committee in August 1929, set up by the an American banker called Owen Young  - The Young Plan reduced the total reparations debt from £6.6 billion to £2 billion. Moreover, Germany was given a further 59 years to pay  - The annual payments were now £50 million per year  - The payments would now stretch out until 1988  - Lower repartations payments allowed the government to lower taxes on ordinary German people  - Linked to this plan, the French finally agreed to leave the Rhineland in 1930 | - Hitler was incensed – he declared that extending the length of payments was ‘passing on the penalty to the unborn’  - Lower taxes boosted German Industry and created more jobs  - Higher employment increased spending power boosting the economy thus increasing industry and employment again – a ‘virtuous cycle’ of economic growth  -Confidence in the Weimar Republic grew within Germany – political extremism remained on the edges of power  - Most Germans saw the Young plan as a success – A referendum, held in 1929, resulted in 35 millon Germans voting in favour of the plan – about 85% of the share of the vote |  |  |
| **Stresemann’s ‘Golden Years’**  **1924-29**  **Changes in Standards of living** | *Extract from ‘History Teachers’ Association Modern History Guide (2007)*  *‘Working people actually improved their situation with better real wages, unemployment insurance and lower working hours. What this did, however, was to alienate other groups such as big business… and the lower middle classes, who saw their own position threatened by a system which seemed to favour the working class.’* | -Living standards suffered as a result of the economic problems between 1918 and 1923  - Stresemann’s strategy had been to remove the grievances and hardships of the German people, to cut support for extreme parties and improve Germany’s world status – he achieved all of this  - Unemployment reduced from 2 million in 1926 to 1.3 million in 1928 – Unemployment and sickness benefits were introduced – emploees payed 3% of their salary to fund this.  -Wages and working conditions improved – real wages increased by 25% from 1925 to 1928. Average weekly working hours fell from 50hrs per week to 46hrs per week  - Housing improved – In 1923 there was a shortage of 1 million homes by 1928 over 100 000 new homes had been built by private companies or housing associations with incentives to build from government – still a shortfall but the problem was eased  - War veretans or their widows were given pensions  - Education imporvements meant more young people’s aspirations were met. Numbers of students attending higher education increased by 40 000 during this time. | - German people had more confidence in the Weimar Republic and most were happy with their living standards during the period 1924-29  - Improved social conditions through higher wages, more free time, better education and nicer homes gave people a rosy view of the Weimar Republic  - However, these improved social conditions were fragile – employment remained insecure and the loss of savings during 1923 still caused hardship to many  - Unfortunately, different groups within society felt alienated by the social changes – business owners resented the loss of power and profit, lower middle classes saw their status in society threatened by a more affluent working class - These living standards reduced support for the extreme political parties like Nazis  - Improved school buildings, public facilities, railways and roads improved living standards for most Germans  - The Growth in industry started to slow in 1927 and was a factor in the need to arrange the Young Plan – when the Wall street crash occurred it was disasterous for the German economy |  |  |
| **Stresemann’s ‘Golden Years’**  **1924-29**  **Women in Weimar Republic** | *Jeanne Mammen - 1920's - Metropolis Berlin - Weimar Women - Art Deco* | - Women in Politics – women given the vote by the Weimar Government. Women could also stand for elections. During the Weimar Republic era 90% of women voted and by 1932 112 women served in the Reichstag.  - Women had equal rights in marriage  - Women in Work – By the end of WWI 75% of women were employed in Germany. By 1925 the number of women in work dropped to 36% - similar to pre-war levels. Women were generally paid 33% less than men; they were expected to give up work when married; few women entered high-status professions. And many blamed women for the economic instability in Germany because they upset the labour market. However, there was a boom in retail and office roles for women; much progress made in education and medicine. –  - Women at leisure – Young, unmarried women living in cities found great independence in the 1920’s. These ‘new women’ bought more clothes, went out more, wore short hair, make-up, morejewellery and more revealing clothes. They smoked and drank and went out unaccompanied – seemed less interestied in marriage and famlies and took advantage of liberal sexual attitudes | - Women had new freedoms which they had not experienced before – many traditional Germans saw this as a weakening of German values  - The limited changes to womens work did stir up negative feelings – In indusrty, Trade Unions were male dominated, opposing equal rights for women – they were especially hostile to married women who continued to work  - Images of ‘new women’ were common in advertisements but were not popular withall German’s – many believed they threatened the traditional aspects of society such as motherhood, family and good housekeeping – evidence for this was found in the reducing birth-rates and increase in divorces  - People felt these limited improvements for women were a source of worry to many people in Weimar Germany:  - some women felt liberated by new opportunities whilst others were daunted by the challenge  - some men accepted the changing role of women whilst others thought the changes were inappropriate – women should focus on being wives and mothers |  |  |
| **Stresemann’s ‘Golden Years’**  **1924-29**  **Changes in Culture** | *Peter Gay (1968) A study of German culture between the two wars,* | A variety of factors led to an upsurge in cultural experimentations in Weimar Germany:  - New Objectivism – the idea that the Arts should not show a romantic view of the world but a realistic one, including poverty  - Modernism – the Arts should embrace the future, seeing beauty in new technology  - Expressionism – The Arts should reflect the thoughts and feelings of the artist rather than showing things as they really look  - The Weimar Government and the Bauhaus movement helped these new ideas to spread throughout Germany  Art – often expressionist versions of scenes  Architecture – influenced by Bauhaus school of design – stressed the beauty of technology, simple lines and careful craftmanship  - Cinema – Films became popular and the Weimar Government helped fund some of these films | - Many people felt liberated by the changes in culture – particularly nmarried women and homosexuals or transsexuals.  - Many of these changes brought the Weimar Governemt under attack from the left and right wing – Left wing felt the money spent on these extravigant items should be spent on workers; Right wing believed the changes undermined traditional German values |  |  |
| **Rise of the NSDAP (Nazi Party) / Role of the SA**  **1924-29** | *Nazi Propaganda poster for the SA 1920s* | -Nazi party grew form 24 seats is the Reichstag in 1924 to 107 seats in 1930. Although during the 1928 elections (height of the Golden Years) the number of seats fell to 12.  - Membership of the Nazi party increased to 100 000 by 1928  - Propaganda was a key reason for this as there was a misleading spread of ideas from the Nazis during this time – especially Hitlers Trial, Mein Kampf, Party Rallies and Gobbels skllful exploitation of newspapers and posters  - The Nazis were reorganised in 1924 by Hitler and following the Bamberg conference in 1926 Hitler was able to take absolute control.  - The SA was strengthened with more young men encouraged to join. The image of the organisation was changed, placing the emphasis on discipline and order rather than violence and intimidation  - Rohm was removed from leading the SA in 1925 because Hitler didn’t trust him to stay loyal to him. He returned to lead the SA in 1930 just after the Wall Street Crash.  The Sa were important to Hitler during this period as they protected Nazi speakers and delivered Nazi propaganda into people homes – although his trust remained with the SS. | - Early Nazi supportors were young (either ex-soldiers or those too young to have fought in WWI); Middle Classes who had lost many savings due to hyperinflation and they blamed the Weimar Government for this; farmers who were badly affected by falling food prices; skilled workers who saw the improvement of the lower working class as an insult to them  - The Golden Years were difficult for extreme parties as the majority of people supported the moderate partes in government.  - Hitlers popularity after his trial led to a growth in the number of seats in the Reichstag – 24 in 1924 however this reduced as Weimar seemed to be doing well – the key factor that led to growth in the number of seats the Nazis received was the effect of the Wall Street Crash on Germany  - The SA was important to Hitler but was not trusted by him and this can be seen in the purge of leaders in 1934 in the ;’Night of the Long Knives’ |  |  |
| **Wall Street Crash/**  **Great Depression**  **1929** | *A table showing the rise in unemployment in Germany from 1928-33* | -In October 1929 disaster struck the New York stock exchange on Wall Street.  - The value of shares collapsed and many US businesses were ruined. The American banks had no option but to recall all loans to Germany and demand the repayment of existing loans  - Many German businesses were forced to close. They were heavily dependent on USA loans. TO make matters worse the German Government increased their taxes in order to pay for helping the rapidly increasing numbers of unemployed.  - Due to the problems created by the Wall Street Crash, Germany entered ‘The Great Depression’  - German workers and farm labourers lost their jobs. By 1932, 6 million were out of work, including 40% of factory workers. At the same time the government cut unemployment benefit to save money – many families suffered terrible poverty  -Germany young people were badly affected with half of all 16-30 year olds out of work.  - Most people blamed the Weimar Republic for allowing the German Economy to become so dependent on US loans  - The Government were also blamed for failng to deal with unemployment | The Great Depression had 3 main effects:  - The depression made life a great struggle for people – many businesses went bancrupt, those that survived saw their profits drop. Farmers struggled and many went out of business. Unemployment grew to 6 mllion – many were left homeless and hungry  - People thought the government was not doing enough to help – The government couldn’t agree on how to respond to the depression, for a long time they did nothing. They government was worried about causing hyperinflation like in 1924 so were not prepared to put increased currency into Germany or spend more money to help improve the economy.  - All this uncertainty led to a rise in extreme parties because people were angry with the current state of affairs and demanded change – The moderate parties running the Weimar Republic looked weak and powerless and the extreme parties exploited this  - Poverty and unemployment had a significant impact on how people voted – both the communist party and the Nazis grew in number and increased their share of the votes in the Reichstag |  |  |
| **Rise in support for KPD**  **1929-32** | *KPD election poster, 1932* | - The Great Depression meant that people abandoned the moderate parties and began looking at more extreme solutions to problems  - The Communist party grew from 54 seats in the Reichstag in 1928 to 89 seats in 1932  - By 1932 the KPD had 1 million more voters than in 1928 and by 1932 the KPD was the largest communist party outside Soviet Union  - HPD was very popuar with the working classes because of high unemployment and falling wages – many saw them as the only ones who would defend their jobs and pay | - The nazi party grew at a faster rate than the communist party because the middle classes were worried about a communist revolution so were reluctant to vote for them. They feared they would lose their lands and businesses under a communist government  - This fear of communsim drove many of the middle classes to vote for the Nazis and Hitler and Goebbels were excellent at exploiting this fear |  |  |
| **Rise in support for NSDAP**  **1929-32** | *From ‘Adolf Hitler’ by John Toland (1976)*  *In 1930, he was offering something new to Germans – unity. He welcomed all. There was no class distinction; the only demand was to follow him in his fight against Jews and Reds, in his struggle for Lebensraum and the glory and good of Germany.* | - The Nazis exploited the economic and political problems of the Weimar Republic through skillful propaganda, the appeal of Hitler and the activities of the SA  - Hitler was viewed as a superman – the campaign focused on his personality and skills, especially as a great orator. Hitler provided the people of Germany with a Scapegoat whom they could blame for all their problems. He also altered policies dependant on support for the idea – some less popular ideas they just avoided discussing in detail  - The work of the SA had both positive and negative effects on support levels  +ve - SA numbers increased to 600 000 – many of whom had been unemployed.  +ve - SA parades showed order and discipline at a time when German society was in chaos  -ve – SA used intimidation to gain support, they would frequently attack opposition groups and disrupt meetings – they were seen as thugs  - Nazi Propaganda was masterful – led by Goebbels. Used posters, parades and marches, rallies, radio and newspapers to promote Nazi ideas and policies – much more focused than any other party. | - Hitler used propaganda of the ‘stab in the back’ myth to ensure that people blamed the weimar politicians and the jews for Gernamy’s problems  Support for the Nazis came from numerous people –  - The countryside – farmlabourers were struggling for work because food prices slumped closing many farms. Hitler promised to protect Farmers land from communists and improve prices for goods  - Middle Classes – were afraid of communism on one side and big business on the other – the Nazis promised to protect them from both.  - Upper Classes – Felt very threatened by a communist takeover and frustrated by the lack of progress made in the reichstag. Many provided funds to the Nazi party  - Women – promised family and education of childdren would be important  - Young – Over 40% of Nazi members who had joined before 1933 were young – attracted by the promise of employment and nazi ideals |  |  |
| **Political developments in 1932**  **Hindenburg/ Bruning/ von Schleicher/ von Papen** | *An American cartoon, early 1933.*  *http://94.56.20.46/learnpremium/learnpremium/histor~00/keystage4/german~00/hitler~00/hitler~01/govern~00/govern~00.jpg* | -March 1932 – Hitler challenges Hindenburg for President – loses but gains improved reputation  - May 32 – Bruning loses support in Reichstag can not pass laws without Hindenburg using Article 48. Bruning sacked as chancellor  - May 32 – Von Papen appointed chancellor but was also dependent on article 48 to pass laws  - July 32 – Elections – Von Papen hopes to gain more support in the Reichstag but the Nazis make gains (230 seats) – Hitler demands the chancellorship but Hindenburg refuses  - July to Nov 32 – Von Papen government rules but loses a vote of no confidence and new elections are called  - Nov. Elections – both von Papen and Hitler lose seats, Von Papen asks Hindenburg to rule by Presidential Decree (using article 48)  - Dec 32 – Von Schleicher is appointed Chanc.  - Jan 33 – Von Papen is furious wih von Schliecher and secretly negociates with Hitler  28th Jan – Von Schleicher resigns  30th Jan – Hitler becomes Chancellor | - The political instability and turmoil in the Reichstag allows the Nazis to take control of the Reichstag  - People vote for the Nazis because the moderate parties are not able to pass any laws in the Reichstag and so are using article 48 to pass any laws – this is significant as it means the use of the Article is no longer as a last resort  - Political manuveoring allows Hitler to take the advantage – The established politicians – Hindenburg and von Papen believe they can control Hitler as a puppet in government – however, this proves to be an inaccurate assumption. Von Papen had said: In 2 months we will have pushed Hitler into a corner so that he squeaks!’  - Hitler swiftly moves to take full control of Germany after his appointment to Chancellor and within months he declares himself the Furher. |  |  |