**Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939**

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| **Key Topic One**  **The Weimar Republic 1918-29** | **Key Topic Two**  **Hitler’s Rise to Power, 1919-33** |
| * 1. **The origins of the Republic, 1918-19** * **Unknown.jpeg**WW1 had a terrible impact on Germany- blockade, feelings of defeat, lack of food etc * German revolution- abdication of the Kaiser and creation of a republic. * The Weimar constitution had a number of strengths such as both men and women could vote. * There were also weakness such as many small parties would win seats which led to no majority in the Reichstag. | **2.1 Early development of the Nazi Party, 1920-22**   * As part of his work for the army after WW1 Adolf Hitler attended meetings of the German Workers’ Party. * Hitler joined the party and within 2 years had taken control. He created a 25-point programme. * Hitler was a popular leader and worked hard to reorganise the party. * The SA played an important role in the early party, they looked strong and organised. |
| * 1. **Early challenges to the Republic, 1919-23** * The Weimar government was unpopular, it was linked to defeat and the peace treaty, the Treaty of Versailles. * The treaty meant Germany lost colonies, had to pay reparations and had limits on the armed forces. * In January 1919, the Spartacist uprising (left wing) tried to seize Germany, it was crushed by the Freicorps. * In 1920 the Kapp Putsch (right wing) tried to seize power, the rebellion failed. * Political violence was almost constant- 1919-23. * 1923 saw the French occupation of the Ruhr due to missed reparations payments and hyperinflation. | * 1. **The Munich Putsch and lean years, 1923-29** * In 1923 Hitler tried to seize power in Germany. * Long term causes- WW1 and consequences, Weimar * Medium term- influenced by Italian fascists * Short term- hyperinflation * The putsch was a failure and Hitler was imprisoned. The Nazi party was banned. The party lost support. * In prison Hitler wrote Mein Kampf, clarifying his ideas. * The party was again reorganised- headquarters were set up, the SS were strengthened and a national system of organisation was created. * Bamberg Conference (1926)- confirmed Hitler as leader. |
| * 1. **The recovery of the Republic, 1924-29** * In August 1923 Stresemann was appointed Chancellor. * A period of economic recovery began * The Rentenmark was a new currency which people trusted and so it stabilised the economy. * The Dawes Plan (1924) temporarily reduced payments and provided US loans to support the economy. * The Young Plan (1929) reduced the amount of reparations and extended the amount of time to pay. There were drawbacks but 85% supported it. * The Locarno Pact, joining The League of Nations and the Kellogg-Briand Pact were foreign policy successes. | **2.3 Growth in Nazi support, 1929-32**   * Stresemann died in October 1929 * In October 1929, the American stock market collapsed (Wall Street Crash) causing a worldwide depression. * The effects on Germany were devastated- businesses closed and unemployment soared. The Weimar government seemed unable to act. * This economic crisis made people turn to extremist groups like the Nazis to solve the problem. * The Nazis appealed to many groups in society such as farmers and industrialists by having policies that had mass appeal. |
| * 1. **Changes in Society, 1924-29** * Living standards suffered as a result of the economic problems * There were some gradual improvements after 1924 including lower unemployment, less working hours, better houses and education. * Women’s lives changed- they had the vote, new rights and more access to professional jobs. * There were cultural changes; Bauhaus movement in art, cinema, architecture. * **Unknown.jpeg**Some were opposed to these cultural changes and thought Germany should remain traditional. | **2.4 How Hitler became Chancellor, 1932-33**   * **I**n the early 1930s there were a number of elections for both president and chancellor. * 30 May 1932: Von Papen became chancellor. He and Von Schleicher thought they could control Hitler and the Nazis. * In July 1932, there were further elections and campaigning caused violence on the streets. The Nazis won the largest share of the votes. * President Hindenburg refused to make Hitler Chancellor and elections were called for November. He hoped the Nazis would lose support. * In the elections the Nazis were still the largest party and with civil unrest looming, Hitler was made chancellor in January 1933. |