

AQA GCSE History Outline 2016-2018

Paper 1; Section A:

1B Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship

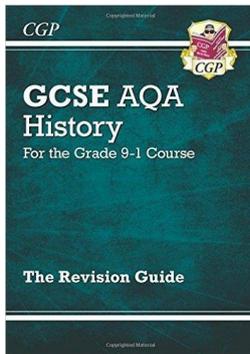
This period study focuses on the development of Germany during a turbulent half century of change. It was a period of democracy and dictatorship – the development and collapse of democracy and the rise and fall of Nazism.

Students will study the political, economic, social and cultural aspects of these two developments and the role ideas played in influencing change. They will also look at the role of key individuals and groups in shaping change and the impact the developments had on them.

Topics	I am not very confident on this topic	I can explain what it was	I can use evidence to explain why it was important	I could evaluate how important a factor it was
Part one: Germany and the growth of democracy				
Kaiser Wilhelm and the difficulties of ruling Germany				
The growth of parliamentary government				
The influence of Prussian militarism				
Industrialisation of Germany				
Social reform and the growth of socialism				
The domestic importance of the Navy Laws				
Impact of the First World War: war weariness, economic problems; defeat; the end of the monarchy				
Post-war problems including reparations, the occupation of the Ruhr and hyperinflation.				
Weimar democracy and the Constitution				
Political change and unrest, 1919–1923, including Spartacists, Kapp Putsch and the Munich Putsch				
the extent of recovery during the Stresemann era (1924–1929): economic developments including the new currency, Dawes Plan and the Young Plan;				
The impact of international agreements on recovery;				
Weimar culture and the Golden Age				
Part two: Germany and the Depression				
The impact of the Depression				
The growth in support for the Nazis including the role of the SA; Hitler's appeal (1928–1932)				
The failure of Weimar democracy: election results; the role of Papen and Hindenburg and Hitler's appointment as Chancellor				
The establishment of Hitler's dictatorship: the Reichstag Fire; the Enabling Act; elimination of political opposition; trade unions; Rohm and the Night of the Long Knives; Hitler becomes Führer.				

Part three: The experiences of Germans under the Nazis				
Control: Goebbels, the use of propaganda and censorship; Nazi culture				
Control: repression and the police state and the roles of Himmler, the SS and Gestapo;				
Opposition and resistance to the Nazis, including White Rose group, Swing Youth, Edelweiss Pirates and July 1944 bomb plot.				
Economic changes: benefits and drawbacks; employment; public works programmes; self-sufficiency				
The impact of war on the economy and the German people: rearmament; bombing, rationing, labour shortages, refugees. Social policy and practice and their impact on women, young people and youth groups; education				
Control of churches and religion				
Aryan ideas, racial policy and persecution; the Final Solution				

Revision Guides



New GCSE History AQA Revision Guide - for the Grade 9-1 Course
by CGP Books £6.53 approx

https://www.amazon.co.uk/New-GCSE-History-Revision-Guide/dp/1782946047/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1482242919&sr=8-1-fkmr0&keywords=AQA+GCSE+History+revision+1890-1945+Germany



Oxford AQA History for GCSE: Germany 1890-1945: Democracy and
by Aaron Wilkes £11.99

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Oxford-AQA-History-GCSE-Dictatorship/dp/0198370105/ref=sr_1_fkmr1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1482243088&sr=8-3-fkmr1&keywords=AQA+GCSE+History+revision+1890-1945+Germany

Revision Websites

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/mwh/germany/>

<http://www.iohndclare.net/Weimar1.htm>

Ideas for Revision Tasks

Create a poster showing the reasons why Hitler became Dictator of Germany	Create an acrostic for Propaganda in Nazi Germany	Create a puppet show showing the story of Hitler's rise to power	Write a diary entry for a Jew in Nazi Germany	Make a timeline for the persecution for the Jews in Germany
Create a poster supporting the idea that Hitler came to power through luck	Create a quiz about everything we have learned so far on Germany	Write a script for a play about life in Hitler's Germany	Write a poem about the Reichstag Fire	Draw up a table showing how both skill and luck led to the rise of the Nazis
Create a poster opposing the Nazis	Write a textbook page with activities about Terror in Nazi Germany	Write a Newspaper report about how Stresemann solved many of the problems in Nazi Germany	Write a story about a rebel in Nazi Germany	Create a diamond 9 showing the main reasons why Hitler came to power
Create a mind map explaining why terror was so effective in Nazi Germany	Create a Haiku about opposition to the Nazis	Write a newspaper report about Kristallnacht	Design a monument to Gustav Stresemann	Design a questionnaire about the impact of the Great Depression
Create a mind map showing the different types of propaganda used in Nazi Germany	Design and make a board game about control in Nazi Germany	Write a newspaper report complaining about the Nazi government	Write a song about Gustav Stresemann	Write an essay about the reasons why Hitler came to power

Germany in 1890

- Before 1870 Germany did not exist – a small collection of states were loosely linked by a common language and culture – the largest was **Prussia** who wanted to unite all of these states to become more powerful.
- By 1871 Prussia was **unified** and the new nation of Germany was formed and the King of Prussia became the new German Emperor – the **Kaiser**.
- The country shared a belief in **Militarism** (to have a strong army) and the Kaiser was it's supreme commander.
- In 1888 Wilhelm became Kaiser – he wanted to make Germany as great as Britain with a big army and empire. He began **industrialisation** (building up Germany's industries and factories).
- By 1913 Germany was producing as much coal and steel as Britain and most of Europe's electrical goods and chemicals.

Was Kaiser Wilhelm Autocratic?

His position was that of a constitutional monarch – a King with a government. He was Head of State, but he could not send instructions to the Reichstag (Parliament), nor declare war, nor raise taxes, nor make laws. Instead Germany had an elected Parliament with a Chancellor (something like a Prime Minister but not a President) and a series of local government organisations, like councils. However, the Kaiser chose what the Reichstag debated and he also chose who should be Chancellor. The Army was under the control of the Imperial High Command which advised the Kaiser. A similar structure existed for the Imperial Navy.

Kaiser Wilhelm II was regarded by most Germans as a father figure although he was quite young when he ascended the throne in 1888, at the age of 29. However, the high regard that most people had for his late father, the first Kaiser of the new Germany, meant that he followed a difficult act, so to speak. People wanted him to be a modernising influence in social and national affairs.

Almost immediately in his reign, the Chancellor Bismarck introduced legislation to limit trade unions and to prevent the formation of anything like a socialist movement, and certainly not a socialist party. After some months of debate in the Reichstag, and with the Kaiser, Bismarck was dismissed. This was seen by most Germans as a positive move away from Prussian militarism and towards a more modern social structure, similar to other European monarchies. Wilhelm seemed to have a more conciliatory attitude towards working people and their difficulties, he wanted to bring people together. In particular, he took sides with miners during a serious strike in 1889. He approved social security legislation, medical aid arrangements and a retirement pension scheme that was far ahead of anything else in Europe at the time.

Then things began to change. Wilhelm seemed to become more reactionary and conservative in his approach to social problems and towards Germany's place in the world. Wilhelm wanted Germany to have "a place in the sun", he wanted it to be great and establish colonies around the world by taking over other countries such as those held by the United Kingdom and France. Also, he promoted (could not order) a massive expansion of the German military, especially the navy.

At that point, the German people viewed him with pride as a builder of a German Empire, but also with some fear and trepidation as a King trying to be a dictator. As the century came to an end, he was promoting increasing expenditure on military expansion at the expense of social spending and community improvement. He was refusing to sign laws to improve everyday life, but willingly signing off massive spending on ships and guns.

Industrialisation & Socialisation

- **Industrialisation** = growth in the amount of factories
- The amount of factories and industry grew quickly under Kaiser Wilhelm II. For example, in 1880 Germany had only been making half the amount of steel Britain had, but by 1914 it was producing twice as much as Britain. Germany was also making one-third of the world's electrical goods and its telephone system was more advanced than any other country. The engineering company's like Bosch and Siemens were known worldwide and Germany was trading with lots of other countries.
- The population grew from just over 40million in 1871 to nearly 68 million in 1914 – this meant that there were more workers to work in the factories.
- Kaiser Wilhelm II and the rich people of Germany were very happy at the growth in industry and factories as it meant Germany was making more money and was becoming a very rich country. Kaiser Wilhelm II started spending this money on the army and navy – building lots of new weapons and ships.
- The business and factory owners became very rich and powerful and they did not want to lose their money or power. However, many of the workers in the factories were becoming unhappy as they weren't paid a lot and they had to work long hours in horrible conditions as the factories were unsafe. Lots of workers joined trade unions and organised strikes and protests to try and change things.
- Many workers joined a new political party called the **Social Democratic Party (SPD)** who believed in socialism.
- **Socialism** = the wealth of a country should be spread equally among the people, not kept by the rich.
- The SPD hoped the Kaiser might share some of his power to let the Reichstag/parliament make some more decisions and give more money to the people and improving the rights and wages of the workers. Some Socialists wanted to rebel against the Kaiser and start revolution to take over Germany. Therefore, the rise in socialism was a big problem for the Kaiser as his rich businessmen friends did not want to lose money but the Kaiser faced a rebellion by the workers and could lose his job as Kaiser.

Prussian Militarism and Navy Laws in Germany 1890-1914

- Kaiser Wilhelm II wanted to have a powerful navy to match the huge and powerful British navy. One of Wilhelm's admirals agreed (**Admiral von Tirpitz**) who argued Germany needed large battleships to rival the British navy and if Germany had a large ship building program it would scare the British government and then the British would be more likely to let the Germans take over other smaller countries to build German colonies (new countries that Germany would own). Therefore, Admiral von Tirpitz became State Secretary of the Navy for Germany in 1897 and passed several laws called the **Navy Laws**. These new Navy Laws affected the lives of millions of Germans as well as the relationship between Britain and Germany as they **wanted to make Germany great by increasing the size of the navy**.
- The **First Navy Law** was passed in 1898 even though the Social Democratic Party (SPD) did not like it. The law allowed seven new battleships to be built in three years to add to the twelve Germany already had. It would not be as many as the British had but it was a start to the German navy becoming much stronger.
- In 1900 the **Second Navy Law** was passed and it increased the amount of battleships to 38. It was clear the Germans were not just looking to defend their coastline but were hoping to become a big naval force to rival Britain. In Germany this increase in battleships encouraged people to feel proud of Germany but also they started to fear and hate the British as they were competing with them.
- In the early 1900s **more navy laws** were passed to increase the size of the German navy, Britain was now competing with Germany to increase the size of their navy and a **naval arms race** started, as they were both racing/competing to have more weapons.
- **Kaiser Wilhelm was very enthusiastic** and thoroughly supported the increase in the German navy as he believed it would make Germany strong.

Impact of World War One

- In August 1914 Germany and Austria went to war with Britain, France, Russia and other countries.
- When war broke out it was very popular in Germany as people were patriotic and thought it would end quickly.
- Instead soldiers were worn down by bombs, poisonous gas and machine guns and ordinary Germans started to suffer too.
- The war, and therefore, Kaiser Wilhelm started to become very unpopular with the German people. The German Revolution or **October Revolution** was a rebellion (protest) of the German people at the end of the First World War that meant **Germany's government** was replaced with a **republic**. The revolution lasted from October 1918 until August 1919 when the new republic was made (a new type of government where people vote for people to be their leaders) the name of this new government was the **Weimar Republic**.
- The revolution started because Germany was losing the First World War and lots of people were unhappy in Germany because they had very little food. The first people to rebel were the German Navy because the Kaiser wanted them to fight a big battle with the British Royal Navy. The battle never took place. Instead of following the Kaiser's orders to begin to fight the British, German sailors led a rebellion in the naval ports of Wilhelmshaven on 29 October 1918, followed by the Kiel rebellion in the first days of November. These rebellions spread across Germany as the people started to rebel and ultimately led to the start of a new type of government called a republic on 9 November 1918. Shortly after, **Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated** (stood down as King) and fled the country.
- The **Social Democratic Party (SPD)** decided to start a new national assembly that would make a new government where people could vote for their leaders. They decided to call their new government the **Weimar Republic**. Elections for the new Weimar National Assembly were held on 19 January 1919. The revolution ended on 11 August 1919, when the **Weimar Constitution** (the new rules on how the government would work) started.

The new Weimar Republic

- Following **WW1** and the **October Revolution** Kaiser Wilhelm was forced to abdicate on 9 November 1918.
- **Friedrich Ebert**, SPD, announced Germany was now a **republic**, with him as President and his colleague Philipp Scheidemann as Chancellor.
- They set up the **Weimar Republic** with a new **constitution** (set of rules on how the government and country would work)
- This new constitution/rules were to make Germany the perfect democracy:
 1. A **Bill of Rights** guaranteed every German citizen freedom of speech and religion, and equality under the law.
 2. All men and women over the age of 20 were given **the vote**. This was even better than Britain where only women over 30 could vote.
 3. There was an **elected president** and an elected **Reichstag** (parliament).
 4. The **Reichstag made the laws** and appointed the government, which had to do what the Reichstag wanted.

