PAPER 1: Knowledge Organiser: Germany, 1890-1945

Part 1: The growth of democracy, 1890-1929 **Key words (underlined)**

Key Dates	
1871	The German Empire was created. Before 1871, Germany was made up of lots of independent states– one of these was Prussia.
1888	Wilhelm II became Kaiser (Emperor). He was also King of Prussia.
1898	Naval race: Germany began to expand its navy to compete with Britain's navy.
1914	World War I started
1918	November- Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated. World War I ended. Germany became a Republic.
1919	January– Spartacist Uprising. June– Treaty of Versailles signed.
1920	February– Founding of Nazi Party. March– Kapp Putsch.
1923	January– French and Belgian troops invaded German industrial area of the Ruhr. Hyperinflation made money worthless. November– Munich Putsch.
1924	August– Dawes Plan: US loans money to Germany.
1926	January– Germany joined the League of Nations.
1929	February– Young Plan was proposed. October– Wall Street Crash, leading to the Great Depression.

Government under Kaiser Wilhelm II	
Constitution	Set of rules by which a country is governed. The German constitution made the Kaiser the most powerful figure in government.
Kaiser	Kaiser (Emperor) held ultimate power. He could dismiss the Chancellor and dissolve (close down) the Reichstag. The Kaiser was the supreme commander of the army. He made all decisions that related to the army, navy and foreign policy.
Chancellor	Chancellor (like a Prime Minister) ran the government and proposed new laws. He had more influence than the Reichstag. He did not need the support of the Reichstag to stay in power. He only needed the support of the Kaiser.
Reichstag	This was the German parliament. Its members were elected by all men over 25. Members of parliament passed or rejected laws. They could not put forward their own laws and had no say in who became Chancellor or other ministers of government.
Prussian army	Played an important role in Germany's unification (1871). Wilhelm was strongly influenced by army generals and officers. He adopted a system of militarism. This meant strengthening Germany's military (e.g. army and navy).

Problems for	Kaiser Wilhelm II and his government
Industrialisation (build up of industry)	German industry expanded massively between 1890-1914. Production of iron and coal doubled. By 1914 Germany produced two-thirds of Europe's steel. It was also successful in new industries (chemical and electrical). As a result of industrialisation, the population in Germany's cities grew. The working class expanded, which challenged the upper class.
Working class	Many workers in new factories were unhappy because wages were low, working conditions poor, and food was expensive.
Trade unions	More and more working class people joined trade unions and organised strikes in the hope this would force the Kaiser and his government to improve their conditions.
Socialism	Many ordinary workers voted for a new political party called the Social Democratic Party (SPD). They believed in socialism– the idea that power and wealth should be shared equally among the people. This challenged the influence of the upper class, including the Kaiser. One in three Germans voted for the SPD by 1912. The SPD hoped the Kaiser would share some of his power, and allow the Reichstag to introduce laws to improve workers' rights and conditions.
Radical socialism	There were some socialists who took a more extreme view. They wanted to rebel against the Kaiser's rule, start a socialist revolution, take over the country, and allow cities and towns to be governed by councils of workers.

Wilhelm tried to divert attention away from Socialism:

- The Kaiser tried to reduce discontent among the working class. His government introduced some limited social reforms, e.g. in 1891 the Workers' Protection Act was introduced to improve safety in the workplace.
- In 1897, the Kaiser adopted a foreign policy called *Weltpolitik* (world policy). This focused on expanding German territory and the size of the navy.
- The Kaiser hoped this would distract attention from socialism and increase support for the monarchy and military.
- In 1898, the first Navy Law was passed. Its eventual aim was to build up Germany's navy to rival Great Britain's. It increased Germany's fleet to include 19 battleships.
- Despite the Kaiser's best efforts, by 1912 the SPD was the largest party in the Reichstag. The Kaiser had managed to keep his power, but the growth of the SPD showed an increasing desire for democracy.

Impact of World War I on the German people.

Soldiers: Men between 17 and 60 years conscripted. Soldiers worn down by terrible conditions in the trenches, bombs, poisonous gas and machine gun fire. War dead totalled 1.8 million. Millions more suffered permanent disabilities, both physical and mental.

Home Front: Very cold winter of 1916-17 led to terrible shortages of food and fuel. It was nicknamed the 'turnip winter'. Number of civilian deaths from starvation and hypothermia increased from 120,000 in 1916 to 290,000 in 1918. In 1918 Europe was hit by the 'Spanish flu', which caused over a million deaths in Germany.

Women: Women worked in factories, replacing men who had joined armed forces. The chance for better pay in armament factories. By October 1918 over a third of the total workforce was female. Women became more political, for example joining the SPD and trade unions. In 1915, 500 women gathered in front of the Reichstag and protested for the war to end.

Economy: German economy was ruined by the war. Factories had been producing guns, bullets and shells, not goods to sell abroad and making money. Germany had borrowed money from abroad (for example the USA) to pay for the war. This would need paying back. In 1916 10,000 workers assembled in Berlin and demanded an end to the war.

Rebellion: From October 1918 sailors in the German navy refused to follow orders because they no longer wanted to fight. Workers in the towns supported them and took part in huge strikes. In just six days, workers' and soldiers' councils were set up and governed towns and cities all over Germany, such as Munich. In November 1918 a huge protest was held in Berlin. Members of the SPD called for the Kaiser's resignation and a democracy. The country was in chaos and there was little the Kaiser could do.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: Germany. Part 1: The growth of democracy, 1890-1929

Key words (underlined)

Timeline:	The establishment of the Weimar Republic
October 1918	German Generals told politicians they could never win the war.
9 November	Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated and left Germany, never to return. Germany became a Republic. Friedrich Ebert, the leader of Germany's largest political party (the SPD), was put in charge of a temporary government. One of the first actions he took was to sign an armistice to end the war. Ebert promised to hold democratic elections.
11 November	Germany surrendered. The First World War ended.
19 January 1919	Ebert held the democratic elections he had promised. His own party, the left-wing SPD, won the most votes and Ebert became the new German President.
11 February	In the small German town of Weimar, Ebert and other newly elected politicians met to create a new constitution for Germany. This was the start of the Weimar Republic.

Government	of the Weimar Republic
Democracy	A system of running a country in which all adults have the right to vote for the government they want
Republic	A country run by a parliament with no monarch
Constitution	The rules by which a country is governed.
President	Head of State. Elected every seven years. Chose the Chancellor. Controlled army, navy and air force. Could dissolve the Reichstag and call new elections. Article 48 gave him emergency powers to suspend the constitution and pass laws without the Reichstag.
Chancellor	Like the Prime Minister. Chosen by President (usually from the political party with the most votes in an election). Must have the support of at least half the politicians in the Reichstag to introduce new laws. Responsible for day-to-day running of government.
Reichstag	Parliament. Discussed and introduced laws. Members of the Reichstag elected every four years by men and women aged 20. Voting system used was called Proportional Representation (PR)= parties got the same proportion of seats as their proportion of votes. E.g. if a party won 10% of the votes, it was given 10% of seats in parliament
Weaknesses	PR meant even parties with a very small number of votes got into the Reichstag. This meant it was difficult to make decisions because there were so many parties, and they all had different points of view. Article 48 meant the President had too much power. This power was only supposed to be used in an emergency, but became a useful way of getting around disagreements in the Reichstag. This undermined democracy.

Post-war	economic problems
Reparations	In accepting blame for starting the war in the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was expected to pay for all the damage caused by it. Germany was forced to pay £6.6 billion in reparations. The Germany economy was already in tatters.
Occupation of the Ruhr	By 1923, Germany could no longer meet the reparation payments. France and Belgium decided to take resources instead, so occupied the Ruhr– the richest industrial part of Germany. This gave them access to Germany's iron and coal reserves. German government ordered workers in the Ruhr not to fight, but strike and not help the soldiers (passive resistance). French and Belgian soldiers killed 100 workers and 150,000 were thrown out of their homes.
Hyperinflation	German economy was devastated again. German government tried to solve debt problem by printing more money, but this plunged the economy into hyperinflation (prices spiralled out of control as money lost its value). In December 1921, a loaf of bread cost four marks. By November 1923, it cost 201 billion marks!

Political opposition to the Weimar Republic, 1919-23

January 1919: Group of communists (left-wing) called the Spartacus League tried to take over Berlin, Germany's capital. Thousands took to the streets, firing guns and trying to take over important buildings. This became known as the Spartacist Uprising.

Ebert sent 2000 ex-soldiers, known as the Free Corps, to attack the Spartacists. After three days of brutal street fighting, the Free Corps recaptured buildings. A hundred Spartacists were killed. Luxemburg and Liebknecht, the Spartacist leaders, were arrested and brutally murdered by the Free Corps. The Spartacist Uprising was over.

March 1920: Some of the Free Corps took part in the Kapp Putsch ('Putsch' means rebellion)- led by Wolfgang Kapp. They took over Berlin. Kapp wanted to create a new right-wing government. He aimed to take over the whole country, make the army strong again, and then recover the lands Germany had lost in the Treaty of Versailles.

Ebert and the rest of the government fled from Berlin. However, Kapp did not have the support of the workers and they went on strike, resulting in no gas, water, electricity, or trains. Kapp was forced to give up and fled abroad. Ebert and his government returned to Berlin.

November 1923: Hyperinflation was at its peak and there were food riots. Germans were angry at French and Belgian invasion of the Ruhr. When the government stopped resisting by ending the strike in 1923 discontent increased.

The right-wing Nazis took over a beer hall in the Bavarian city of Munich where local government leaders were meeting. This was known as the Munich Putsch. Hitler announced he was taking over Bavaria, and then he would march to the German capital of Berlin and take over the whole country.

The next day Hitler marched into Munich supported by his private army, the Stormtroopers (SA). But news of the revolt had been leaked to the police, who were waiting for Hitler. The police fired on the rebels and the revolt collapsed. Hitler was sent to prison for just five years (he could have been executed for such a serious crime). Other Nazis got away with equally light sentences.

Recovery? (1924-29)

Stresemann: Chancellor between August and November 1923. He made important changes to help Germany to recover from its economic crisis. E.g. He ended the strike in the Ruhr. But some of his decisions made him very unpopular and so he was only Chancellor for 102 days! He is best known for his work as Foreign Minister from 1924-29.

Rentenmark: In 1924, Stresemann replaced the worthless German Mark with the Rentenmark to stabilise Germany's currency. Hyperinflation ended.

Dawes Plan (1924): Stresemann secured France and Belgium's withdrawal from the Ruhr and agreed more realistic payment dates for reparations. The USA lent Germany £40 million. This helped to pay reparations and build new factories, houses, schools and roads in Germany. But the loans made the German economy dependent on US loans.

Young Plan (1929): The Allies agreed to reduce the reparations to a quarter of the original amount, and Germany was given longer to pay them.

Locarno Pact (1925): Germany, France and Belgium agreed to respect their joint borders – even those created as a result of the Treaty of Versailles.

League of Nations: Germany was allowed to join in 1926. Germany was re-established as an international (world) power.

Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928): Germany signed this agreement along with 65 other countries. They promised not to go to war, unless to defend themselves if attacked.

Wall Street Crash (1929): There was a massive stock market crash in America which started a global economic depression. This is known as the Great Depression. The German economy suffered even more as America demanded back all the money it had lent Germany since 1924 (Dawes Plan).

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: Germany. Part 2: Germany and the Depression (1929-1934)

Key words (underlined)

Key Dates

1928	Nazi Party only won 3% of vote in the Reichstag (parliament) election
1929	Wall Street Crash led to Great Depression in Germany.
1930	Nazis gained 18% of vote in election.
1932	Six million Germans unemployed. July 1932 Nazis gained 37% of vote in election. November 1932 Nazis lost votes in election (33%), but still very popular.
1933	On 30 January Hitler was appointed Chancellor. Nazis gained 44% of vote in March election.

Impact of the Depression (Germany's problems)

Wall Street Crash	In October 1929, the Wall Street stock market in America crashed. It sparked a worldwide economic crisis, known as the Great Depression.
Depression	The Depression hit Germany hard. Americans could not afford to buy any foreign goods, including those in Germany. Soon German factories had to close down and Germans lost their jobs.
Dawes Plan	American banks demanded back all the money it had loaned Germany since 1924 in the Dawes Plan. Thousands more German businesses went bankrupt.
Unemployment	By 1932 almost 6 million people were out of work (unemployed). Many Germans became homeless and could not afford to buy food.
Weimar government	The Weimar government failed to deal with the problems of the Depression. The government actually made things worse, for example it reduced unemployment benefit when growing numbers of unemployed needed all the help they could get.
President Hindenburg	President Hindenburg used Article 48 (emergency powers) of the Weimar Constitution to rule Germany without consulting the Reichstag.
Extremist parties	Many Germans turned away from the moderate Weimar politicians and now looked towards extremist parties who promised radical solutions to Germany's problems. This included the Communists and Nazi Party.
Communist Party	Communism increased in influence. The communists promised to represent workers' needs and make German society more fair. They gained a lot of support from unemployed Germans in the Depression.
Nazi Party	Nazi support grew even more rapidly than the Communists. The Nazis extreme ideas about how to run Germany appealed to young people, unemployed and even businessmen.
Election results	In the 1930 election, Nazi support increased from 3% to 18% of the vote. By July 1932 the Nazis were the most popular party with 14 million votes, which was about 37% of the vote. The Nazis became the largest party in the Reichstag.

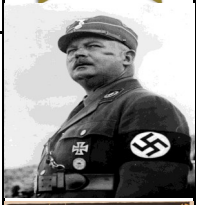
Rise of Hitler (Hitler and the Nazis actions)



- **Hitler** was able to exploit the Depression and the failure of the Weimar government to increase his popularity.
- He was an effective speaker and was able to fill his audiences with hope.
- Hitler blamed the Jews, communists, Weimar politicians and the Treaty of Versailles for Germany's problems. Jews and communists were used as scapegoats that gave Germans someone to blame for Germany's problems (even though it was not really their fault!)
- Support for the Nazis increased as Hitler also promised to provide "work and bread."
- Hitler promised to make Germany a great and powerful country. He came across as a strong leader and Germany's saviour.



- **Fear of communism** led businessmen and farmers to support the Nazis.
- In 1917, there had been a communist revolution in Russia, and the Communist Party took over all businesses and farms.
- There had been attempts by German communists to take over Germany after World War I.
- Hitler promised to fight communism. This gained him the support of businessmen and farmers who did not want to lose their wealth.



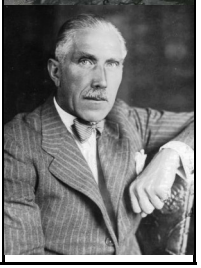
- **The Stormtroopers (SA, Brownshirts)** were Hitler's private army.
- There were 400,000 men in the SA by 1932.
- The SA gave the Nazi Party a military feel, which made it seem organised and disciplined.
- The SA protected Hitler's meetings.
- Many Germans welcomed the fact that Hitler used the SA to fight communist gangs.
- The SA smashed up communist election meetings and rallies. This made it very difficult for the Communists to run effective election campaigns.



- **Nazi propaganda, campaigning and use of technology** made the Nazis appear organised, disciplined and modern.
- The Nazis used new media like radio broadcasts and cinema news reports.
- The Nazis also bought newspapers and printed millions of leaflets and posters.
- Hitler took part in huge parades and mass rallies where he could speak to thousands of people at one time.
- Joseph Goebbels, in charge of Nazi propaganda from 1928, organised a campaign to fly Hitler to rallies all over Germany by aeroplane. This was called 'Hitler over Germany.'



- After the Reichstag election of July 1932 the Nazis were the largest party in the Reichstag.
- Hitler demanded the post of Chancellor from **President Hindenburg.** But Hindenburg did not trust Hitler and refused to make him Chancellor.
- Instead, Hindenburg used his emergency powers to appoint a politician from the Centre Party, **Franz von Papen**.
- However, Papen got little support in the Reichstag and he was forced to resign.
- Hindenburg then made one of his advisers, Kurt von Schleicher, Chancellor.
- Schleicher failed to get support in the Reichstag and within a month was forced to resign.
- Hindenburg realised he needed a Chancellor who actually had support in the Reichstag.
- In January 1933 Hindenburg invited Hitler to become Chancellor. Hindenburg continued to distrust Hitler.
- Hindenburg persuaded Hitler to accept **Papen** as Vice Chancellor and filled the government with Papen's supporters. There were only two other Nazis in the government.
- In this way Hindenburg and Papen expected to be able to control Hitler.

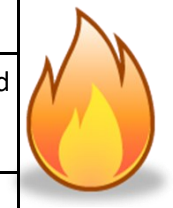


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The establishment of Hitler's dictatorship

Dictator: ruler with total control over how a country is governed.

Date:	Key event:	Details:
January 1933	*Hitler became Chancellor*	As Chancellor, Hitler was not in total control. Hitler owed his job to President Hindenburg who could easily replace him. The Nazis did not have a majority in the Reichstag (parliament) and so Hitler could not make any laws he wanted.
February 1933	*Hitler called a new election*	Hitler hoped to use the election to get a majority in the Reichstag. He now had greater influence over many newspapers and radio stations. He used his control of the police to intimidate voters and beat up opponents.
27 February 1933	*Reichstag Fire*	A week before the election, the Reichstag burned down. A young communist, Van der Lubbe, was arrested and blamed for the fire. Hitler claimed the fire was part of a Communist plot to take over the country.
28 February 1933	*Law for the Protection of People and the State.*	Hitler persuaded President Hindenburg to sign an emergency decree (a type of law). This allowed Communist leaders to be imprisoned without trial. Communist meetings were broken up and their newspapers closed down. The 81 Communist members of the Reichstag were banned from taking their seats.
March 1933	*March Election*	The Nazis won more seats than ever before (44% of the vote), but Hitler did not get the majority he wanted. Hitler persuaded the Nationalist Party to join the Nazis. This gave Hitler a majority in the Reichstag.
23 March 1933	*Enabling Act*	Hitler forced the Reichstag to pass the Enabling Act. This gave him the power to make laws without asking the Reichstag for four years. The Enabling Act gave Hitler the power to become a dictator.
April 1933	*Hitler immediately used new powers*	Nazis were put in charge of all local government, councils and the police. The Gestapo (secret police) was formed. The first concentration camp for political prisoners was opened in Dachau, Germany.
May	*Banned all trade unions*	By removing trade unions, Hitler had taken away a worker's way of complaining about pay and conditions.
July 1933	*Law Against the Formation of New Parties*	Hitler banned all political parties in Germany, except the Nazis. Germany was now a one-party state.
June 1934	*The Night of the Long Knives.*	The leader of the SA Ernst Rohm wanted to join the SA with the army, with both under his control. The SA was bigger than the army. There were also rumours Rohm wanted to seize power from Hitler. Hitler used the SS (the Blackshirts) to arrest and shoot leading members of the SA, including Rohm. This was the Night of the Long Knives. Hitler also used this opportunity to murder some of his political opponents, for example the former Chancellor Von Schleicher.
August 1934	*President Hindenburg died*	When Hindenburg died, Hitler immediately took over the President's job as well as remaining Chancellor. Hitler gave himself the simple title of *Der Führer* (the leader). He also made the army swear an oath of loyalty to him, and not to the country. Hitler was now a dictator with total power.









KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: Germany, Part 3: The experiences of Germans under the Nazis (1933-1945) CONTROL (i)

Key words (underlined)

Key Dates

1933	Hitler became Chancellor– had limited power.
1934	Hitler became *Der Führer* (the leader)– was a dictator.
1939	Germany invaded Poland. Britain and France declared war on Germany. World War II began.
1945	Hitler committed suicide. Germany was defeated. World War II ended.

Propaganda

Propaganda	Information that is spread by a government to influence how people think and behave. It gives only certain points of view and often leaves out important facts. The Nazis used powerful propaganda to unite and get the support of the German people.
Indoctrinate	Another word for 'brainwash'- to teach someone to accept a belief without question. People were indoctrinated to believe Hitler was a god and saviour of Germany. Jews and communists were believed to have caused Germany's problems.
Goebbels	Responsible for propaganda as the Minister of Enlightenment and Propaganda. All forms of media and culture were brought under his control.
Media	The means of communication, such as newspapers, radio and cinema, that reach or influence people widely. Nazi propaganda was often kept simple and slogans were repeated by all forms of media. A popular slogan was 'one people, one empire, one leader.'
Newspapers	Only stories that supported the Nazis were allowed to be printed. Newspapers were given detailed instructions by Goebbels about what to write. Over 1,500 newspapers were closed down by 1934.
Radio	Nazis controlled all radio stations, which were used to put across Nazi ideas. Cheap radios were made that could only tune in to Nazi controlled stations. Foreign stations could not be picked up. Loudspeakers were placed in streets, factories and cafes to air radio broadcasts.
Cinema	The German film industry made over a hundred films a year. Goebbels read and approved all film scripts. All films– thrillers, comedies, dramas and factual films – had to carry a pro-Nazi message. A news report of Hitler's achievements was always shown before the main film.
Mass rallies	The Nazis organised huge meetings where people listened to choirs, bands, speeches and watched firework displays and air shows. All were designed to show how impressive and organised the Nazis were. The most famous was the Nuremberg rally held every year.
1936 Olympic Games	The Nazis used the Olympics, held in Berlin, as a massive propaganda event to demonstrate the superiority of the Aryan race. The stadium was, at the time, the largest in the world. Germany came top of the medal table. However, to the Nazis great dismay the black athlete Jesse Owens became the star of the Games. He won four gold medals.
Censorship	When the government tightly controls what people hear, read or see. This means anything considered unsuitable for the public is removed or banned. Books written by Jews or by authors opposed to the Nazis were banned. Theatre, cinema and art were all censored in the same way.
Culture	The values, morals, traditions and attitudes of a group of society; it relates to the music and films people watch and listen to, the art they create, the buildings they design and the behaviours they display. Nazis encouraged a return to traditional German values and culture.
Chamber of Culture	Goebbels set up this Nazi organisation that all musicians, writers, artists and actors had to be members of. Anyone who refused would not be allowed to work. Some people, such as Jews and communists, were banned from joining.
Music	Goebbels ruled music should be German or Austrian. Marching music, old folk songs and classical music by musicians like Beethoven and Mozart were popular. Some music popular in the Weimar period was banned. Jewish composers were banned. So was jazz because it had its origins among the black people of America.
Books	Goebbels created a list of banned books, which were removed from libraries and bookshops. In 1933 students were encouraged to burn piles of banned books looted from libraries. *Mein Kamp* was the best-selling book in Germany. Goebbels encouraged books about race, the glory of war and superiority of Nazis.
Art	In Weimar Germany, art tended to be modern and abstract. This type of art was labelled 'degenerate' by the Nazis and banned. Modern art was burned or put in exhibitions to show people how 'bad' it was. The Nazis favoured realistic and traditional paintings that fitted with Nazi ideology (ideas and beliefs). Nazi art showed strong, heroic 'pure' Germans, happy family scenes and lots of images of Hitler in heroic poses.

Repression (use of force and terror)

- **Police state:** This meant the country was controlled by the political police. The government had strict control over people's lives, especially by means of a secret police.
- Heinrich **Himmler:** The head of the SS. All police forces were put under his control.
- **SS** (Blackshirts): This was set up as Hitler's private bodyguard, but became the most important military group in Germany. The SS could arrest anyone for any reason, search homes and seize property. They also ran the concentration camps, and later, the death camps.
- **Gestapo**: Secret police of the Nazis. They did not wear uninforms. The Gestapo tapped telephone calls and opened mail. They had the power to arrest, imprison without trial, and torture anyone. They set up a huge network of informers. Even children were encouraged to report their parents if they said something negative about the Nazis.
- **Concentration camps**: These had been set up as prison camps for political opponents of the Nazis. Most prisoners were initially communists. They were forced to work hard and some were even tortured or worked to death.
- **Regular police and law courts**: These were under Nazi control. **Judges** had to take an oath of loyalty to Hitler. People could be arrested who had not committed a crime, but were suspected of being against the Nazis. They would not get a fair trial.

Opposition

- **Low-level opposition:** Some people grumbled about what the Nazis were doing, spread rumours or told anti-Hitler jokes– often in the privacy of their own homes.
- **Passive resistance:** Some people refused to give the 'Heil Hitler' salute. Others would not go to work (absenteeism) or work slowly (go-slow) to undermine Nazi efforts, particularly in the war.
- **Edelweiss Pirates:** Working-class, rebellious teenagers who refused to join the Hitler Youth. Some even attacked members of the Hitler Youth.
  The Nazi response became increasingly harsh. Pirates were arrested by the Gestapo and some even sent to concentration camps. In Cologne in 1944 Edelweiss Pirates teamed up with army deserters in armed conflict with the Nazis. 12 Pirates were publicly hanged.
- **Swing Youth:** Wealthier middle-class teenagers who openly showed their dislike of Nazi ideas by listening to jazz music. Jazz was banned by the Nazis. Some members were arrested and even sent to concentration camps.
- **White Rose group:** Led by brother and sister Hans and Sophie Scholl. The White Rose (symbol of peace) was the name given to a series of leaflets they printed. These were openly against Nazi values and the war. In 1943 the Gestapo arrested Hans, Sophie and other leaders who were tortured and executed.
- **July 1944 Bomb Plot:** There were around 50 attempts on Hitler's life. The July Bomb Plot was the closest any Germans got to assassinating Hitler. It was led by Colonel Stauffenberg and given the code-name 'Valkyrie.'
  Stauffenberg placed a bomb in Hitler's headquarters. However, the briefcase containing the bomb was moved just before it exploded. Hitler was only injured. 5000 people were killed after the plot, including Stauffenberg.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: Germany, Part 3

Key words (underlined)

Children

Nazi aims	●The aim of school, youth groups and propaganda was to indoctrinate young people into accepting and supporting Nazi ideas. Boys were prepared to be the soldiers of the future and girls to become mothers and wives.
Education	●Teaching of school subjects was controlled to **indoctrinate** children in Nazi ideas and beliefs. ●Traditional **fairy tales** were altered to get very young children to support the Nazis. Heroes of the tales were 'brave Germans' and the villains communists or Jews. ●In nursery, children were taught the Nazi salute. The school day would begin and end with the salute.
Lessons	●In **history lessons**, children were taught the Weimar Republic and its democratic government had betrayed Germany. ●**Race Studies** (Eugenics) was used to explain Nazi ideas on race- that Germans were the 'master' Aryan race and that others were inferior.
Youth groups	●Young people enjoyed the **Hitler Youth** (for boys) or **League of German Maidens** (for girls). ●They wore smart uniforms and marched in exciting parades with loud bands. ●They took part in a range of leisure activities, such as sport and gymnastics. Weekend camping and hiking trips gave children a sense of freedom. Older boys were trained to use rifles.
Propaganda	● **Mass rallies** were organised specially for young people with marches, parades, bands, firework displays and speeches by Hitler. ●Rallies provided excitement, fun and a sense of belonging. Hitler was mobbed by screaming girls much like a modern pop-star. ●Special **films** carrying Nazi messages were made for children.

Women

Weimar (1919-33)	●Women had many rights and freedoms, e.g. **right to vote** and if they worked for the government their pay was **equal** to men. Many went to university and became lawyers, teachers and doctors.
Nazi aims	●Nazis wanted a high birth rate to fit with their plans to expand Germany's territory and settle Germans in other areas of Europe. ●Nazi propaganda made the role of women clear- the **three Ks- *Kinder, Kirche and Küche*** (Children, Church and Cooking). ●Women were **not equal** to men. When Hitler came to power, many female doctors, teachers, lawyers and judges were sacked.
Appearance	●Women were expected to follow **traditional** German peasant fashions - plain peasant costumes, hair in plaits or buns and flat shoes. ●Not expected to wear make-up or trousers, dye their hair or smoke in public. Discouraged from staying slim, because it was thought that thin women had trouble giving birth.
Policies to increase birth rate	●A **loan** of 1000 marks was given out to newly married couples (the equivalent of a year's wages) to encourage them to have children. Kept 250 marks for each child they had. ●**Motherhood Medal** was awarded to women who had the most children. Mothers with eight children received the **Gold Cross**. ●**German Women's League** organised classes. These gave lessons in childcare, cooking and healthy eating. ●Nazis **banned contraception and abortion**. ●Homes for unmarried mothers were set up to allow unmarried women to become pregnant, often by 'racially pure' members of SS.

Christians

Catholics	●At first, Hitler cooperated with Catholic leaders. 1933 signed a **Concordat** (agreement) with the Pope. Hitler agreed to leave the Church alone and allowed it to keep control of its schools. In return, the Church agreed to stay out of politics. ●Hitler soon broke agreement. Nazis arrested Catholic priests and closed down Catholic schools and youth groups. ●1941 Archbishop **Galen** openly criticised the Nazis use of terror tactics, **euthanasia** (deliberate killing of a person) and concentration camps. Galen was put under house arrest until end of the war.
Protestants	●Hitler took a harder line against Protestants. He brought their churches together into one '**Reich Church**', which was under Nazi control. ●Known as 'German Christians', they wore Nazi uniforms and used the slogan –'the swastika on our chests and the Cross in our hearts.' ●Some Protestants opposed the Nazis. Pastor Martin **Niemöller** led a new Protestant group called the **Confessional Church**. ●Nazis banned the Confessional Church and arrested 800 of its pastors. Niemöller was sent to a concentration camp.

NAZI SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY (ii)

Reducing unemployment (economic policy)

- Hitler won so much support in 1933 because he promised to end the Depression. He had promised 'work and bread .'
- In 1933 six million Germans were unemployed. By 1939 the Nazis claimed no official unemployment.
- **National Labour Service** was set up for young men (18-25 years). Did various jobs, e.g. digging and planting forests. Had to wear uniforms and live in camps, but were given free meals. They were given pocket money rather than wages.
- **Public works schemes** were organised. New motorways (***autobahns***) were built. This gave work to nearly 100,000 people. Hospitals, schools and sports stadiums were built, giving work to more people.
- The greatest fall of unemployment was brought about by **rearmament**. The armaments industry expanded to build new tanks, battleships, fighter planes and guns. Thousands of jobs were created making these weapons and some business-men made fortunes from huge government contracts.
- In 1935 Hitler ignored the Treaty of Versailles. He introduced compulsory military service (**conscription**) for all men (18-25 years). The army alone increased by over one million between 1935-38.
- Women, Jews and political opponents of the Nazis were dismissed from their jobs. Many people were sent to concentration camps. None of these were included in official unemployment figures.

Self-sufficiency

- Under Hermann Goering, a **Four Year Plan** was introduced in 1936 to get Germany ready for war.
- Part of the Four Year Plan was to make Germany **'self-sufficient'**. Nazis tried to stop trading with other countries and rely entirely on German resources.
- More coal, oil, iron and other metals were produced and **synthetic** (artificial) raw materials, such as rubber, fuel and textiles were developed. New factories and industrial plants were built.
- By 1939 Germany was not self-sufficient. Over a third of its raw materials were imported.
- Nazis then decided to take over countries with the raw materials and food it needed. This was the policy of ***Lebensraum*** (living space).

Impact of economic policy on German people

- **Farmers**: Hitler cut the taxes farmers had to pay. Hitler guaranteed farmers could not be thrown off their land if they got into debt.
  Laws were introduced that stopped farmers dividing up their land and giving a part to each of their children. This meant some children were worse off and left the farms to look for industrial work.
- **Industrial workers**: Nazis created millions of factory jobs. The demands of rearmament made it important workers were productive and controlled. So the Nazis set up two organisations to manage German workers:
- **German Labour Front:** Nazi organisation that replaced trades unions, which were banned. Strikes were also banned. The Front set wages and hours of work. Workers could not bargain for better rights or conditions.
- **Strength Through Joy:** This scheme gave workers rewards for their work - evening classes, theatre and cinema trips, picnics, and even cheap holidays abroad and Mediterranean cruises.
- **Living standards:** Wages fell and the number of hours worked rose. Serious accidents in factories increased. Workers could be sacked for questioning working conditions.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: Germany, Part 3

Key words (underlined)

Impact of World War II (1939-1945)

Blitzkrieg 1939-1941	●First stage of the war was known as 'lightning war'. Germany enjoyed military success from September 1939 to June 1941. Germany invaded Poland and gained control of much of western and eastern Europe. ●Food and clothes rationing was introduced, but it was fair and adequate. ●Food and supplies of luxury goods, such as fur coats and perfume, flowed into Germany from conquered land. ●Some bombing raids on German cities, but British planes mainly attacked military targets.
Operation Barbarossa 1941	●In 1941, Germany invaded Russia. The German war economy was not capable of supplying enough men and weapons for a long war. ●Clothing became scarce and rationed. Food rations decreased as the war went on. ●British planes bombed industrial and residential areas of major German cities. ●There was a shortage of doctors to treat the wounded. ●Younger men were required to join the army to replace those killed; in turn more women were needed in factories. ●Prisoners in concentration camps were used as slave labour for war production.
Total War 1942	●Germany was defeated at **Stalingrad**, in Russia, in 1943. Over 80,000 Germans died. There were defeats elsewhere too. ●From 1942 everything was entirely focused on making weapons and growing food for soldiers. This was part of the 'total war.' ●A lot of food was unavailable for civilians (not soldiers). ●Heavy bombing of cities caused death and homelessness. Due to bombing, there was no electricity, water or transport. ●More women were needed to work in factories. ●From 1943 Hitler Youth boys manned anti-aircraft guns. A year later boys as young as 15 were sent to fight the Russians.
Defeat 1944	●By July 1944 it was clear Germany would lose the war. British, American and Canadian troops had landed, in France, on D-Day in June 1944 and fought their way towards Germany. ●Heavy air raids killed thousands. In Dresden on two nights in February 1945 nearly 150,000 people were killed. ●People scavenged for food. The ration system completely broke down. ●As Russian armies advanced in the east, millions of Germans became refugees (people forced to leave their homes).

Racial Policy

Aryans	●Nazis believed some races were superior (better) than others. They believed Germans were the 'master race', known as Aryans. ●Ideally an Aryan would be strong, tall, blond, blue-eyed and white. All Aryans were expected to work to make Germany a great nation.
Undesirables/ inferior groups	●Racial groups who were not pure Aryans and so the Nazis believed they did not belong in Germany. This included Jews and gypsies. ●People who were unable to contribute to making Germany a great nation (e.g. disabled) were also considered 'undesirables.' ●Nazis believed these people needed to be removed to strengthen Germany,
Jews	●Nazis believed Jews were to blame for Germany's defeat in World War I. Nazis thought the Jews were an inferior race that should not be allowed to mix with Aryans. ●Jews were persecuted through laws, which separated them from Aryans. ●When war broke out (1939) persecution became more violent. Over six million Jews from all over Europe died in concentration camps.
Physically and mentally disabled	●About 350,000 disabled men and women were forcibly sterilised by the Nazis. They did not fit in with the Nazis vision of a race of strong Aryans. ●Nazis wanted to stop them passing on their 'deformities' to their children. ●From 1939, Nazis began to kill them. This is known as euthanasia. About 200,000 people, including 5000 children, were murdered in specially built 'nursing homes.'
Tramps, beggars and alcoholics	●These were regarded as incapable of helping to make Germany a strong nation. From 1933 they were sent to camps.
Christians	●Many Christians were sent to camps. ●Some were pacifists (against war) and so refused to join the army. ●Others, such as Jehovah's Witnesses, refused to offer total loyalty to anyone other than God.

Persecution of Jews (1933-1939)

1933 Official one-day boycott of Jewish shops and businesses. Members of the SA stood outside shops and physically prevented customers entering.

Jewish civil servants, lawyers and teachers were sacked.

1934 Jewish shops were marked with a yellow star of David- a symbol of the Jewish religion- or the word *Juden* (Jew).

1935 Nuremberg Laws removed legal rights from Jews. No longer German citizens, which meant they were not protected by the law.

Marriages between Jews and Aryans were banned. Sexual relations between the two groups outside of marriage were forbidden.

1936 Anti-Jewish slogans were temporarily removed during Olympics.

1938 Jewish doctors, dentists and lawyers were forbidden to treat Aryans.

Jewish businesses were forced to close. Jews had to hand over their property to the government.

Jewish children were not allowed to attend state schools.

Kristallnacht In November 1938 a Jew shot dead a Nazi official in Paris. SS began a campaign of terror against Jews, known as *Kristallnacht* (the Night of Broken Glass). Jewish shops, synagogues and homes were destroyed. Thousands of Jews were arrested and nearly a hundred were killed.

1939 *Kristallnacht* was followed by the mass arrest of Jews; within weeks 30,000 Jews had been sent to concentration camps.

Jews were officially encouraged to emigrate, but not all could afford to. More would have left Germany if other countries had been prepared to accept them.

Persecution of Jews during World War II(1939-1945)

September 1939 German army invaded Poland. On the same day German Jews were subject to a curfew.

When World War II started Nazi persecution of Jews became harsher as the Nazis no longer cared about world opinion.

Nazis experimented with segregated (separated) areas for Jews called ghettos in Polish cities, with Warsaw the largest. Many Jews died from starvation in ghettos. Nazis organised labour camps close to the ghettos.

Special SS units, called the *Einsatzgruppen*, moved into Poland and Russia behind the German army to round up Jews and Communists. Victims were marched to the outskirts of their villages, forced to dig their own graves and then shot.

January 1942 Nazi leaders met at Wannsee Conference, on the outskirts of Berlin, to discuss the 'Final Solution' for the mass murder of Europe's Jew.

Himmler, head of SS, was put in charge of the 'Final Solution.' Slave labour and death camps were built in Poland, such as Auschwitz-Birkenau. Camps were also set up in Germany and Austria.

By **1943** Jews from all over Europe were sent to camps. The old, the sick and young children were killed immediately. The able-bodied were first used as slave labour.

Six million Jews were sent to camps to be worked to death, gassed or shot. 500,000 gypsies and countless political prisoners, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals and Russian and Polish prisoners of war were also killed. These were all victims of the Holocaust (murder on a mass scale).