Knowledge Organiser: Unit 3, Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 – 39.
Part 1: The Weimar Republic 1918 – 29.

Summary.

The Weimar Republic was the name given to Germany after the Kaiser had abdicated in November 1918. This was a time of despair and hope for Germany. At first, the country faced lots of chaos but under Gustav Stresemann, there was some recovery and stability.

Key events.

1	**1918 November.** World War One ended. The Kaiser abdicated and Germany became a country with no monarchy (a republic).
2	**1919 January.** The Spartacists Uprising
3	**1919 June.** The signing of the treaty of Versailles.
4	**1919 August.** The Weimar Constitution is approved.
5	**1920.** The Kapp Putsch.
6	**1923 October.** The French occupation of the Ruhr which leads to hyperinflation.
7	**1924.** The Dawes Plan.
8	**!925.** The Locarno Pact
9	**1926.** Germany joins the League of Nations.
10	**1928.** Kellogg Briand Pact is signed.
11	**1929.** Young Plan agreed.

Key concepts.

The **Weimar Republic faced much opposition**, It was disliked by the left wing who wanted Germany to be like Communist Russia and it was disliked by the right wing who wanted the monarchy back.
The **Treaty of Versailles** caused many problems for Germany. The German people disliked the politicians for signing it and it caused political problems and economic problems, particularly due to reparation payments.
Weimar Constitution was the most democratic constitution in the western world, providing fair representation for all. However, it also contained the means for its own destruction.
The Golden Age was the period from 1924-29 and it saw significant changes in culture, the standard of living and the position of women.

Key words

Abdication	When a monarch gives up the throne and all power.
Armistice	Agreement to end a war.
Article 48	The President could use this to ignore the Reichstag and rule as he saw fit
Coalition	A government of two or more political parties.
Constitution	Agreement about how the country should be ruled.
Dawes Plan	The USA agreed to loan money to Germany.
Freikorps	Ex-military soldiers who wish to overthrow the Republic
Gewaltfrieden	An enforced peace
Hyperinflation	When money loses its value
Kaiser	King
Kellogg Briand Pact	65 countries agreed to resolve conflict peacefully.
Locarno Pact	An agreement about borders signed by Britain, France and Italy.
Reichstag	German Parliament
Rentenmark	Currency of Germany after 1923
Reparations	Money to be paid to other states for the cost of the war
Republic	A country without a king or queen as head of state.
Treaty of Versailles	Stated the terms of ending the First World War.
Weimar	New government set up here as Berlin was too dangerous.
Young Plan	Cut the reparations payments and gave Germany longer to pay.

Key people.

Wilhelm	Kaiser of Germany. Abdicated in November 1918.
Ebert	1st President of the Weimar Republic
Gustav Stresemann	Chancellor summer 1923. He helped to bring about economic recovery after 1924 by building relations with other countries.
Hindenburg	2nd President of the Republic.

History knowledge organiser – Year 9: Hitler's rise to power

Key words and definitions

Treaty of Versailles: The Treaty of Versailles was signed after World War One had ended in 1918. The Treaty set out what punishment Germany should receive for their involvement in the war. The treaty was signed at the vast Versailles Palace near Paris - hence its title - between Germany and the Allies.

Democracy: a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

Dictatorship: a country, government, or the form of government in which absolute power is exercised by a dictator.

Nazis: a member of the National Socialist German Workers' Party.

Hyperinflation: monetary inflation occurring at a very high rate.

Depression: the financial and industrial slump of 1929 and subsequent years.

Self determination: Main idea of Woodrow Wilson during discussions. It meant that people should have the right to rule themselves and not be ruled by an empire

Reparations: The money Germany was forced to pay as punishment for starting WW1. Set at £6.6 bn to be paid over 42 years

Demilitarised: Germany was forced to demilitarise the Rhineland (area on German/ French border) This meant they had no military there

Diktat: The idea popular amongst many Germans that they had peace dictated to them, having no say



Key events

20 April 1889: Adolf Hitler was born in the small Austrian town of Braunau am Inn, in Upper Austria on the Austrian-German border.

Feb 1908: Hitler dreamt of a career as an artist. His father had rejected the idea but after he died in 1903 Hitler would try to make his dream a reality. He applied to the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts but was promptly rejected in October 1907.

Aug 1914: Hitler was keen to prove his loyalty to Germany. In August 1914 the world plunged into a war unlike any seen before. Hitler quickly enlisted. In the army he finally found purpose; a cause with which he could wholly identify. Serving in both France and Belgium, he was twice decorated for bravery.

Nov 1918: Hitler was wounded for a second time following a British gas attack. While recovering in Pasewalk, the unthinkable happened – Germany surrendered. Before the surrender, facing serious discontent at home and the prospect of defeat at the front, Germany's High Command sought to shift the blame. Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated days before Armistice. Like others, Hitler was enraged by what he saw as the betrayal of an undefeated German Army by Jews and socialists at home. He resolved to go into politics.

Jun 1919: To the victors the spoils: when the Treaty of Versailles was signed in summer 1919, Germany was forced to accept sole responsibility for the war. Just as damaging, the peace obliged Germany to pay large amounts in reparations. The huge loss of territory it also dictated came as a devastating blow. Hitler bitterly resented it. Defeat and then humiliation at Versailles challenged his whole sense of worth.

Jul 1921: Hitler's oratory skills helped him rise quickly through the ranks of his new party. In February he spoke before a crowd of nearly 6,000 in Munich. To publicise the meeting, he engaged in propaganda tactics – sending out party supporters in trucks with swastikas to leaflet the area.

Nov 1923: Hitler sought to start a revolution. On 8 November, Bavarian Prime Minister Gustav Kahr addressed a meeting of businessmen at a beer hall in Munich. Hitler burst in with his storm troopers (the SA) – a motley crew of far-right paramilitaries. At gunpoint, Kahr was forced to pledge support. The next day, Hitler led 3,000 men onto the streets. But the police were waiting. In the ensuing violence, 16 Nazis and 3 policemen died. Hitler was arrested and sentenced to five years in prison for treason.

Jan 1933: Now a German citizen, Hitler led the Nazis to become the largest party in Germany with over 37% of the popular vote in the elections of July 1932. German President von Hindenburg's concern at growing Communist support persuaded him to give Hitler the post of Chancellor in January. Hitler quickly consolidated his position. By March he had dictatorial powers courtesy of the Enabling Act, which allowed him to pass laws without Reichstag approval. Political parties, organisations and unions unassociated with the Nazis were soon disbanded. But Hitler still needed the support of the army to fulfil the vision he had outlined in Mein Kampf.

Jun 1934: The leader of the SA, Ernst Röhm, was among hundreds assassinated in one night as Hitler purged his party. Röhm's commitment to 'continuing revolution' was not conducive to Hitler's own ambitions. He could not tolerate opposition to his plans to suppress workers' rights and make Germany ready for war. The army, however, approved and after President Hindenburg died in August, they supported Hitler's elevation to Führer. Hitler was now in total control.

Sep 1935: Since 1933 the Nazis had tried to exclude Jews and other 'undesirables' from public life. In 1935 a new phase began – enforced biological segregation. At the annual Nuremberg rally Hitler announced laws denying Jewish people citizenship and prohibiting marriage or sexual relations with people of "German or related blood". Anyone with three or more Jewish grandparents was affected, irrespective of their own religious identity.

Sep 1938: With his vision under way domestically, Hitler set his sights beyond Germany's borders. Lebensraum – territorial expansion – was next on his agenda. In March Hitler triumphantly led Nazi troops into Austria, achieving his goal of unifying the country of his birth and the country he ruled. His next target was the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia. Convinced that neither Neville Chamberlain, the British prime minister, nor his French counterpart Edouard Daladier wanted war, Hitler pressed his demands. At a conference in Munich organised by Chamberlain, those demands were met. Nazi troops marched into Czechoslovakia and took the Sudetenland.