

GCSE History Topic 1: Germany 1890-1945: Democracy and Dictatorship

Part 2: Germany and the Depression



Key dates

1929 **October** – Wall Street Crash happens in America and plunges the world in Economic Depression

1930 The Nazis exceed their own expectations and become the second largest party in the Reichstag

1932 **July** – Another election sees the Nazi Party become the largest Party in the Reichstag

1933 **January** – Hindenburg gives Hitler the role of Chancellor (believing he can control him)
27th February – The Reichstag Fire which is blamed on Communists
28th February – Protection of the People and State Act is passed banning the Communist Party and increases Hitler's power
23rd March – Enabling Act is passed
2nd May – Trade Unions are banned
14th July – All political parties (apart from Nazis) are banned

1934 **30th June** – Night of Long Knives
August – Hindenburg dies. Hitler is able to combine the role of President and Chancellor to become **Der Fuhrer**

Key Tier 3 vocabulary

Economic depression

During the 1930s when many banks and businesses failed and millions lost their jobs.

Wall Street Crash

When millions of people tried to sell their shares in companies at the same time, resulting in a drop in share prices. Many people lost a lot of money

Article 48

Part of the Weimar Constitution that gave the President the right to rule in a time of crisis without the support of the Reichstag

Propaganda

Systematic spreading of ideas and information in order to influence people's thinking and actions. Often spread via media such as posters, films, radio and newspapers

Coalition

A government where two or more political parties come together to rule

Chancellor

In Germany, the chief minister, or Prime Minister in the Government

Reichsbanner

Organisation formed by members of the SPD, the German Centre Party and the German Democratic Party (1924). Aimed to defend democracy. Often clashed with the Nazis and members of the Communist Party. Willing to use violence.

Mass Rally

A huge meeting of people, united for a common cause or occasion

Cabinet

A group of senior politicians responsible for controlling government policy

Dictatorship

A country with one leader who has total control over how a country is governed

Gestapo

Part of the SS and Nazi Germany's secret police force. Created by Goering (1933), controlled by Heinrich Himmler

Enabling Law

Law passed in 1933 that allowed Nazis to make their own laws without consulting the Reichstag

(Der) Fuhrer

Supreme leader; the title adopted by Adolf Hitler.

Schutzstaffel (SS)

The full name for the SS. Originally Hitler's elite bodyguards, they became a key instrument in Nazi terror. Led by Heinrich Himmler and used in the persecution of political opponents and the Jews.

Police State

Country controlled by a political police force; the government has strict control over people's lives, especially by means of secret police.

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Prior knowledge required:	Provides building blocks for:
- World War One - The interwar years - Primary sources and World War Two - The Holocaust, a case study	- GCSE: <i>Conflict and tension between East and West 1945-1972</i> - A level: <i>Britain 1930-1997 including; Churchill</i>

Key people and groups

Adolf Hitler	Leader of the Nazi Party from 1921. Chancellor of Germany from 1933, Fuhrer (dictator) of Germany from August 1934.
Gustav Stresemann	Foreign Minister of Germany (1923 – his death in 1929). Chancellor of Germany (August – November 1923). He is credited with repairing the economy and foreign relations.
Herman Goering	Commander in Chief of the <i>Luftwaffe</i> (German Air Force), Director of the Four Year Plan in the German economy, and, at the outbreak of war in Europe, Hitler's acknowledged successor. He was responsible for ordering Security Police chief Reinhard Heydrich to organize and coordinate a "total solution" to the "Jewish question."
Ernst Rohm	Leader of the Sturmabteilung (SA), the Nazi Party's original paramilitary wing, which played a significant role in Adolf Hitler's rise to power. He served as chief of the SA from 1931 until his murder in 1934 during the Night of the Long Knives.
Henrich Himmler	Nazi party's propaganda leader between 1926 and 1930. In 1929, he was appointed head of the SS, Adolf Hitler's personal bodyguard.
Joseph Goebbels	Propaganda Minister of Germany

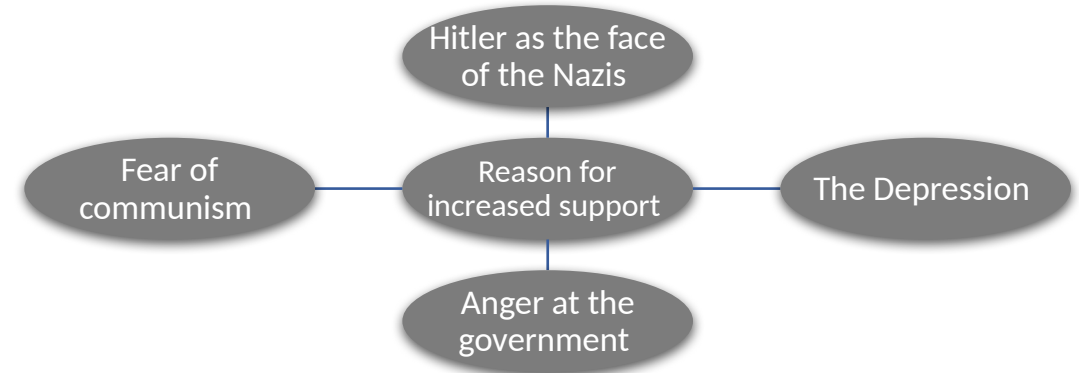
What cross-curricular links can you make with this big picture enquiry question?

Key knowledge

In the first section of this unit you will focus on the impact of the Depression: growth in support for the Nazis and other extremist parties (1928–1932), including the role of the SA and Hitler's appeal.

The second part of this unit will focus on the failure of Weimar democracy: election results and the increased support for the Nazi Party; the role of Papen and Hindenburg and Hitler's appointment as Chancellor.

The final section of this unit will focus on 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.



Key historical skills

Cause/consequence	Similarity/difference	Change/continuity
Significance	Sources	Interpretations