

### Teaching notes

This resource could be used in a number of ways to support student learning:

- Issue it to students at the beginning of your Germany teaching to allow ‘flipped learning’ in which students read up on the topic of each lesson in advance, so that you can move more quickly to analysis and source work in lesson time.
- Students can use it to fill in gaps after missed lessons / periods of absence.
- Students can use it to support their content coverage during revision.

### A brief introduction to German history ...

- Germany is a large country in Europe.
- Because of its size, it has lots of raw materials and a large population, which means that it has been able to grow rich and powerful. Today Germany is generally thought of as the richest and most powerful country in Europe.
- However, before 1871 Germany was actually lots of small states called ‘principalities’ that were run by lots of princes. It was not a united country.
- In 1871 one of these states, Prussia went to war with France over a piece of land on the border called Alsace-Lorraine. Many of the other German states supported Prussia.
- Prussia won the Franco-Prussian war and, having shown how powerful it was, united the rest of Germany into one country.
- Germany was led by the ruler of Prussia, Kaiser Wilhelm I. He was a strict ruler and controlled every aspect of people’s lives. For example, there was little freedom of speech and art and the media were strictly censored.

### Why did Germany become involved in the First World War?

- In 1888 Kaiser Wilhelm II (Wilhelm I’s grandson) became ruler of Germany.
- He was worried that Germany, as a ‘new’ country was not as powerful as others.
- Countries like Britain and France had huge empires (when one country owns others), navies and armies.
- Wilhelm wanted his ‘place in the sun’ (an empire) so he started to take over countries in places like Africa. He also started to build up his army and navy. This worried Britain and France, who feared that their supremacy was being challenged and tensions grew until war broke out in 1914.

### How was Germany affected by the war?

- At first, people in Germany were excited about the war. They were told by government propaganda that Germany was winning.
- However, the reality was quite different: British ships surrounded Germany. They blockaded German ports and stopped supplies like food getting into Germany. Rationing had to be introduced.
- By 1918 people in Germany were starving to death. Official German figures said that 763,000 people died of starvation during the war.
- People were also fed up of seeing their male relatives being conscripted to fight, and die in the war.
- When the USA entered the war in 1917, Germany and their allies were outnumbered and the morale of the German people started to crumble. They stopped believing that they could win the war and wanted to surrender.
- However, Britain, France and the USA said that Germany could only surrender if the Kaiser abdicated. He refused.

### Why did Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicate?

- On 25 October 1918 navy commanders told the fleet in the town/harbour of Kiel to fight British ships.
- Sailors knew that this was suicidal and refused.
- The Kaiser did nothing to stop this mutiny. He could have sent in the army to stop the sailors, but he did not.
- Seeing that the Kaiser did nothing to stop the mutiny, other people started to revolt and strike too. Strikes spread over all of Germany and soldiers often joined in the protests.
- Soldiers and workers took over many cities in Germany. They wanted to end the war, but many politicians were worried a revolution, like the one that had happened in Russia, could happen.
- The Social Democrats, who were the party in charge of the Reichstag (German parliament), sent an ultimatum to the Kaiser - saying he had to resign or they would join in the revolution.
- There was a general strike in Berlin. Armed workers and soldiers were everywhere. Germany was in crisis.
- One Social Democrat announced that the Kaiser had abdicated. This was a lie, but he wanted to stop the crisis. He also said that a German Republic - where the country was run as a democracy and everyone would vote for who ruled it - would be set up.
- On 10 November Kaiser Wilhelm abdicated and fled to Holland.
- On 11 November Germany signed an armistice - an agreement that said they surrendered and stopped the fighting. Peace terms would be agreed later.

### What problems did this cause?

- Germany was used to being ruled by one strong ruler - the Kaiser.
- Now there was a political vacuum. No one was in charge and lots of people started thinking about how they could take power.

### The end of the war: The Treaty of Versailles

- The armistice was just the start of peace.
- The Big Three (Britain, France and America) met at the palace of Versailles, just outside Paris, to decide how to deal with the countries that had lost the war. This was called the Paris Peace Conference and the agreement that they signed was called the Treaty of Versailles.
- France wanted revenge on Germany; Britain wanted to be able to trade with Germany, but also to keep their naval supremacy and large empire; the USA wanted a good treaty that would lead to peace and to set up the League of Nations - this was to be a group of countries who worked together to keep peace, like a world government.
- The terms of the Treaty included:
  - the War Guilt Clause
  - reparations (set at £6,600 million in 1921)
  - army reduced to 100,000 men, no conscriptions, no tanks/aeroplanes
  - navy reduced to 15,000 men, 6 battleships, no submarines
  - land taken off Germany, including the Ruhr, Alsace-Lorraine, The Polish Corridor and the Saar
  - the Rhineland was demilitarised.

### How did people react to the Treaty of Versailles?

- People in Germany were horrified by the Treaty. They had been told that they were winning the war and now could not understand why they were signing such a tough treaty. There were rumours that Germany had been betrayed, this was called the 'stab in the back' theory - some believed that there had been a conspiracy led by Jews and Communists.
- The Treaty left Germany very poor. They lost land and valuable resources and in 1921 reparations were set at £6,600 million. They had to rebuild their country and were already broke, but now they had to pay a huge fine too.
- The Treaty was a 'Diktat' - Germany was not allowed to negotiate the terms, they just had to accept them. They felt that this was unfair.
- The term they hated most was the War Guilt Clause that said Germany had to accept full responsibility for starting the war. This also meant they had to pay reparations.
- The Treaty was signed by members of the Social Democrat party, led by Ebert. Many people called these politicians the 'November Criminals'.

## How would Germany be ruled without the Kaiser?

- The Kaiser had a government, called the Reichstag. They were led by the Social Democrats; the Chancellor was called Friedrich Ebert.
- Ebert decided that this was an opportunity to start a new Germany. There would be a democracy, where everyone decided who should be in the government and they would run the country for the people.
- However, with the Kaiser gone other groups saw this as an opportunity to seize power ...

Group	Beliefs	What happened?	Why didn't it work?
<b>The Spartacist League</b>  Led by Rosa Luxemburg (Red Rosa) and Karl Liebknecht.	Communists - wanted to get rid of money. Everyone would work for the good of the state. Everyone would be equal and would be given what they needed.	January 1918.  The Spartacist Revolt. Took over towns and cities, used violence and weapons like guns. Looked like the government might be overthrown.	Ebert asked the Freikorps, a band of ex-soldiers, to support the government. They murdered Luxemburg and Liebknecht and the revolt was stopped.  However this made Ebert unpopular. He was meant to be socialist, yet had squashed a socialist revolt and had had the leaders murdered without trial. He had also given power to a violent group, the Freikorps.
<b>The Kapp Putsch</b>  Freikorps, led by Wolfgang Von Kapp.	Right wing. Military. Hated the Treaty of Versailles, especially the term that said that the army had to be limited to 100,000 men. Also worried that Ebert's Reichstag weren't strong enough to stop a Communist revolt alone. Wanted to make Germany strong.	March 1920. The Kapp Putsch.  Freikorps marched into Berlin and declared that they were starting a new government. The army did not stop them. Ebert's government were forced to flee to the town of Dresden.	Politicians asked the workers to help. A general strike, where everyone stops working, happened. This showed Kapp that the population of Germany did not support him and he had to stop his Putsch.  However, the people who had been involved in the Kapp putsch were never punished and people saw that without the army to support them, the government was weak.

### The Weimar Constitution

- So how would Germany be ruled without the Kaiser?
- Because of all the chaos in Berlin, the government went to the town of Weimar to decide how they should run the country. This is why the government gets called the Weimar Republic. They decided:
  - ✓ The country would be a democracy; all Germans, men and women, had the right to vote. This was better than most other countries at the time, as women often couldn't vote.
  - ✓ Proportional representation would be used to decide how many seats each party got in the Reichstag. This meant that even if you voted for a party who were less popular, they were likely to have someone representing your views as a politician in the Reichstag.
  - ✓ The Reichstag was led by the Chancellor. This was the leader of the party who won the most seats.
  - ✓ There was also a President. The President was elected every seven years and could veto any laws passed by the Reichstag.
  - ✓ If there was an emergency, the President could pass decrees (laws decided without the Reichstag voting).

### Problems with the Weimar Constitution

- × Proportional representation meant that it was difficult for a party to get an overall majority. There were lots of little parties in the Reichstag and to get a majority they often had to form coalition governments. When two different parties were running the country together they often had different ideas so it was difficult to pass laws.
- × This meant that lots of governments had to resign as they got nothing done. In 14 years (1919-1933) there were 25 different governments in the Reichstag so the country was quite unstable politically.
- × The president had too much power - they could pass laws on their own in an emergency, but the constitution didn't define what an 'emergency' was so they did this whenever they wanted to!

### Why was 1923 a year of crisis for the Germany?

#### The invasion of the Ruhr

- Reparations were set at £6,600 million in 1921. Germany was to pay this back in instalments.
- They managed the first payment, but could not afford the second. When they missed the third payment in 1923 the French, who needed the money to rebuild after the war, grew impatient. They invaded the Ruhr, an industrial area in Germany.
- Troops started to take goods instead of the money France was owed. When workers resisted they were shot - around 120 German workers were killed by the troops.
- Germany had been invaded. They were occupied by French soldiers and civilians were killed.

#### Hyperinflation

- The German government needed to stop the French taking German goods. To do this they paid the workers to go on strike.
- However, they had no money to pay them, so they printed out extra banknotes.
- This meant that there was more money in the country than Germany really had so the money became worthless.
- In 1918 an egg would have cost  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mark, in November 1923 it would have cost 80 million!
- This meant that people's saving suddenly became worthless. People living on fixed pensions could no longer afford to buy things. Children played with banknotes because they were worth nothing. The whole German economy collapsed.

#### The Munich Putsch

- The Nazis try to overthrow the government - violence, chaos and murder!

### How did Stresemann solve these problems?

- Gustav Stresemann was Chancellor during the crisis in the Ruhr, but resigned. He was Foreign Minister from 1924-1929.
- He is credited with rebuilding Germany after the crises of 1923.
- First, he called off the passive resistance (workers striking) in the Ruhr and let France have goods instead of the reparation payments. This ended the French occupation of the Ruhr.
- Next, he recalled all the worthless banknotes, destroyed them and started a new currency called the Rentenmark. This ended hyperinflation.
- In 1924 he agreed the Dawes plan with America. In this Germany borrowed 800 million gold marks. This money could now be invested into industry to kick-start the German economy again.
- In 1925 he agreed the Locarno Treaties with France. They agreed not to go to war, but to be friends. He won the Nobel peace prize for this.
- In 1926 Germany was allowed to join the League of Nations because Stresemann had proved that Germany was a peaceful company. They had regained international respect.
- In 1929 he signed the Young Plan with America, taking out more loans. They now had 59 years (until 1988) to pay back reparations.
- Germany had recovered, in 1913 (before the war) the German industrial production index (a way to measure how much was made in factories, out of a mark of 100) was 98. In 1929 it was 100.
- However, Stresemann himself was worried about these solutions. He was concerned that growth in Germany was based on the illusion of foreign loans. People thought Germany was rich again, but really they were just getting into debt and this would cause trouble for them in the future.



### The Munich Putsch (Beer Hall Putsch)

- The Nazis were a right wing political party that formed at the end of the First World War.
- They thought that the Treaty of Versailles had made Germany weak and wanted to make the country strong again.
- By 1923 they were led by a man named Adolf Hitler. However, they only had 3000 members.
- When Stresemann called for the passive resistance in the Ruhr and worked with France, Hitler claimed that this proved that the government was weak and did not like that Stresemann was willing to work with Germany's enemies.
- Hitler decided he would stage a revolt to overthrow the government.
- On 8 November 1923 Hitler and a group of Nazis walked into a meeting of local businessmen, led by the Bavarian Prime Minister, Gustav Kahr, and two of his most senior politicians. The meeting was held in a beer hall in Munich.
- Hitler had 600 Stormtroopers with him. They took Kahr and his ministers into a side room and held guns to their heads. They told them that they were going to stage a putsch (revolt) and that the Bavarian government had to support them.
- Hitler then returned to the main meeting and told the businessmen that he was going to overthrow the government, that the Bavarian state government supported him and that they should too. Nazi reports say that Hitler's speech was magnificent and that these men were happy to support him. In reality, they had machine guns pointed at them and had little choice.
- The next day the 3,000 Nazis marched on Munich. However, now that they were free, few of the people who had been in the beer hall the day before turned up to support him.
- The Nazis were met by the army. 16 Nazis and three policemen were killed, but Hitler escaped.

### What happened to Hitler?

- Hitler was arrested and put on trial.
- He used the trial to get lots of publicity. He gave long speeches at his trial about the evils of the Treaty of Versailles and how Germany needed a stronger government than the Weimar Republic.
- He was sentenced to 5 years in jail, but was sent to a castle and served less than 9 months.
- He spent his time in jail writing a book called 'Mein Kampf' ('My Struggle') which became an international best seller and made Hitler rich. In it he outlined his ideology.
- After he was released from prison Hitler's tactics changed: now the Nazis would try to win power through politics, rather than seizing it with violence.
- When the Nazis came to power after 1933, they portrayed the Munich Putsch as a great victory - the day the world first took notice of Hitler!

**The Golden years: Art and culture**

- Stresemann Germany by taking out loans from the USA. After 1924 there was a ‘golden age’ for Germany.
- Women gained more freedom - under the Weimar constitution they had the same rights to vote as men, so had political equality; socially there was more freedom, women dressed in American fashions - they wore short clothes like the American ‘flappers’; there was also sexual liberation - women like Marlene Dietrich became ‘it girls’ (Sex symbols) in the movies and Cabaret dancers wore little.
- There was freedom of speech and expression. Under the Kaiser there had been strict censorship laws, now these were lifted and artists could criticise the government as much as they wanted to. This meant people had more freedom. An example of this is the painting ‘Pillars of the Community’ by George Grosz who painted a picture showing politicians with ‘poo for brains’. Otto Dix was another artist who criticised the decadence (rich but sinful) way people lived while other people, like war veterans, were suffering.
- Germany came to be seen as a centre for culture. There were nightclubs in Berlin where anything went - they often had gay nights and performing transvestites. Films were also big business - in 1927 Fritz Lang produced Metropolis. It cost 5 million Rentenmarks to make, making it the most expensive and most technologically advanced film of the age.

**Was 1924-1929 a ‘golden’ time or was Germany ‘dancing on top of a volcano?’**

Successes of the Weimar era	Failures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economy rebuilt.</li> <li>• Freedom of expression, since censorship laws were lifted.</li> <li>• Democracy for all.</li> <li>• Liberation for women - politically, socially, sexually.</li> <li>• Germany joined the League of Nations in 1926 and Stresemann won the Nobel Peace Prize - Germany was respected internationally once more.</li> <li>• By 1929 industrial production was better than it had been before the outbreak of the First World War.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successes based on an illusion - Germany was in debt to America.</li> <li>• Political instability - 25 governments over 14 years because of proportional representation.</li> <li>• Right wing groups, like the Nazis said that Weimar art and culture was sinful, degenerate and would lead to the moral decline of Germany.</li> <li>• Farmers did not share in the good times - their earnings were half that of the average German.</li> <li>• Resentment towards the Treaty of Versailles remained. Germany would be paying off reparations and loans until 1988!</li> </ul>

### The Depression

- In 1929 the Wall Street Crash hit America. They found themselves in economic depression.
- The American government recalled all the loans they had made to foreign countries.
- Germany was given 80 days to work out how to repay the loans they had taken!
- America no longer wanted to import foreign goods, and neither did other countries who were also now in depression. Germany lost overseas markets for their goods and factories were forced to close. People lost their jobs. By 1932 there were 5.5 million unemployed in Germany.
- Many people were evicted because they were unable to pay rent. They were made homeless. Those who were in work, endured low wages and poor conditions.
- As people grew more desperate they lost faith in the Weimar governments. They started to look for alternatives and more people started voting for extremist parties like the Communists and the Nazis.

### Who were the Nazis? Beliefs

- Hitler was a soldier in the First World War. At the end of the war the government sent him to spy on a new, right wing group named the German Workers' Party (DAP). He liked the group so much that he joined it! He renamed it the Nationalist Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP).
- They were a nationalist group. They believed that Germany was the best and should not be suffering - they said problems were caused by the Treaty of Versailles, the November Criminal, the lack of strong government and Jews and Communists.
- The Nazis set out their 25 Points - a programme of how they would rebuild Germany. It included things like: taking Lebensraum (living space) to give Germany more land after they had lost 10% of land in the TOV; 'Righting the wrong' of the TOV - they would get rid of the treaty; stop paying reparations; make the country self-sufficient; the idea that they Aryan people were superior to Jews who were damaging Germany and needed to be stopped.

### The Nazis in the 1920s

- They were willing to use violence. The Stormtroopers (SA) were used to intimidate opponents.
- Munich/Beerhall putsch 1923 (see above).
- After Hitler was released from jail he decided to try to win power through politics, not putsches!
- They started the Hitler Youth.
- However, they were still a relatively small party.
- Their ideas were unclear - they tried to be everything to everyone!

Why did more people support the Nazis after 1929?				
Workers	Women	Industrialists (rich factory owners)	The army	Farmers
Kept slogans simple - e.g. 'Bread and work'.  Promised jobs.  Promised to end the TOV, stop paying reparations to solve unemployment.  Immigration would be stopped - which the Nazis said would help unemployment.	Traditional values.  Said Weimar culture was decadent and sinful.  Focus on the family.	Anti-Communist - would stop the threat of workers overthrowing their employers.	A strong government and leader. Overturn the TOV which restricted the army to 100,000.	Encouraged traditional values and said that the countryside was Germany's backbone.

How did Hitler become Chancellor in 1933?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nazis won 37% of the vote in the 1932 election. This meant that they were the largest party in the Reichstag but did not have a majority.</li> <li>• President Hindenburg refused to make Hitler Chancellor, instead he chose Franz Von Papen.</li> <li>• Von Papen was chancellor, but his party did not have a majority. He was forced to resign as he could not pass any laws.</li> <li>• Hindenburg made General Von Schleicher Chancellor, but he was very unpopular as he had got even fewer votes than Von Papen!</li> <li>• January, 1934 Von Papen secretly agrees to work with Hitler. On 22 January he asked Hindenburg to make Hitler Chancellor. Hindenburg refused.</li> <li>• Von Schleicher had to resign - he could not get enough support in the Reichstag to pass anything.</li> <li>• Hindenburg wanted Von Papen to take the Chancellorship, but was advised that this could start a revolt as he was still so unpopular. Von Papen persuaded Hindenburg to let Hitler be Chancellor; he believed that he could control Hitler. On 30 November 1933, Hindenburg appointed Hitler as Chancellor. Von Papen boasted that 'we've got our man!' He thought he could manipulate Hitler, but was very wrong indeed ...!</li> </ul>

### How did Hitler become a dictator by 1934?

- **February 1933:** Election. Hitler wanted to win a majority so set up another general election. As Chancellor he now controlled most newspapers and radio stations, so controlled what the voters could hear. He also used the police and storm troopers to intimidate voters and beat up opponents.
- **27 February 1933:** The Reichstag Fire. The parliament building was burnt down. A communist was arrested for this. Hitler used this as an excuse to suspend civil rights, for example, political prisoners could be held without trial.
- **1 March 1933:** Hitler persuaded President Hindenburg that there was a Communist Plot to take over Germany, using the Reichstag Fire as evidence. He persuaded Hindenburg to give him the powers to deal with this 'plot' so Hindenburg passed an emergency decree called the 'Protection Law' - this banned Communists from taking part in the election of March 1933; 4000 Communists were thrown in jail; and all Communist papers were closed.
- **March 1933:** Election. The Nazis won just under 44% of the vote. They still did not have a majority.
- **23 March 1933:** Forced the Reichstag to pass the 'Enabling Act' that enabled Hitler to pass laws without the Reichstag. They had voted themselves out of existence. Democracy in Germany was dead.
- **7 April 1933:** The Nazis were put in charge of all local governments and the Gestapo (Secret police) were formed.
- **2 May 1933:** Hitler banned all trade unions, took away their money and threw the leaders in jail. Workers could no longer complain about pay and conditions
- **14 July 1933:** All political parties, except the Nazis, banned. The 'Law against the Formation of New Parties' said that anyone trying to start a new political party would go to jail for three years. Germany was now a one-party state.
- **30 June 1934:** The Night of the Long Knives. Hitler was concerned that Rohm, who controlled the SA, was getting too powerful and might compete with him for leadership. HE arrested Rohm and other leaders of the SA, as well as other opponents such as von Scleicher, and had them arrested. This was all done very publically as a message to people - mess with Hitler and you'll be killed!
- **2 August 1934:** President Hindenburg died, aged 87. Hitler made himself the President and the commander of the army. He gave himself the title 'Der Fuhrer' (the leader). Hitler was now a dictator - the sole ruler of Germany.

## Life in Nazi Germany

### Nazi Germany: Fear

- The Nazis scared people into obeying and supporting them.
- They used the Gestapo - the secret police to investigate 'un-Nazi behaviour'.
- They relied on informants to tell them when someone was acting in an Un-Nazi way.
- They would take suspects in, interrogate them using torture and then send people off to concentration camps.
- There was also the SS - Hitler's elite who ran the concentration/extermination camps.

### Nazi Germany: Race and Eugenics theory

- The Nazis believed that the Aryan people (North Europeans, often with blonde hair and blue eyes) were superior to other races.
- They believed that other groups were inferior - especially the Jews, but also groups like black people and gypsies.
- They said that the German blood was pure and that mixing and having children with non-Aryans would 'dirty' this pure blood.
- They also tried to stop people with hereditary diseases from reproducing - they said that disabled/ill people cost Germany money and that this was not fair. They forced 'undesirables' to be sterilised and even sent children with hereditary diseases to be killed (known as the T4 project).

### Nazi Germany: Women

- The Nazis wanted women to be mothers - the more children they had the more people Hitler would have in his army.
- Women were banned from doing certain jobs and encouraged to stay at home and have babies.
- To encourage this Aryan couples were given a loan when they got married. Every time they had a child the loan was reduced. If they had four children they would not have to pay anything back.
- Motherhood was also celebrated. There was a special holiday on the day of Hitler's mother's birthday. Medals were given to women who had lots of children, bronze for 4, silver for 6 and gold for 8.
- Women were encouraged to have simple, traditional hairstyles and clothes and not to wear make-up. They were banned from smoking in some towns.
- In school and the Hitler youth, girls did activities that helped prepare them for becoming mothers.
- Single Aryan women might live in Lebensborns where they would sleep with members of the SS and then have support to raise their children.
- Propaganda reinforced the role of women to be to focus on the three Ks - Kinder, kurche and kirche (Children, church and cooking).

### Nazi Germany: Children

- Children were indoctrinated (brainwashed) from an early age. Even children's storybooks reinforced Nazi ideology - Jews were often the baddy, instead of the Big Bad Wolf!
- School was designed to reinforce Nazi ideas - all teachers had to be members of the Nazi party and went to special training during their holidays.
- All subjects taught Nazi ideas - genetic theory in science, how the Jews had damaged Germany in history.
- Outside of school children joined the Hitler Youth. This was made compulsory in 1939.
- In the Hitler Youth children were drilled so that boys were trained to become soldiers and girls were trained to become mothers.

### Nazi Germany: The Church

- The Church was very strong in Germany, so the Nazis had to be careful how they dealt with it.
- They tried to use the Church through 'Nazification' of churches and services, for example, swastikas were put on alters.
- All Protestants had to be members of the German Christians, which was run by the state.
- In 1933 the Nazis signed the 'Concordant' with the Pope, saying that they would not interfere with Catholics in Germany, but that the Catholic Church must not interfere with politics in return.
- The Nazis also set up the 'German faith movement' their own religion that focused on nature.
- There was lots of opposition to the Nazis from the Church - for example Cardinal Galen opposed kinder euthanasie and even managed to get it stopped in 1941. The Nazis did not deal with him because they did not want to make a martyr out of him, so instead they killed his supporters.
- Niemoller started the 'Congressional Church' so that Protestants did not have to join the German Christians. He was sent to a concentration camp, but managed to survive.

### Nazi Germany: The economy

- Aims in 1933: reduce unemployment (5.5 million in 1932); rearm Germany; make Germany self-sufficient (so that it produced everything it needed and did not have to import anything).
- Jobs were created - building autobahns (motorways) or in a compulsory work group called the RAD, where young people worked on public projects for six months to get them into jobs.
- In 1935 the focus of economic policy changed - now focus was on getting ready for war. Goering was put in charge of this.
- Goering developed the Four Year Plan - to get Germany ready for war within four years. Part of this was 'Autarky' - Germany needed to be self-sufficient.
- Forced labour in concentration camps would be used; imports would be reduced and factories would focus on rearming.
- Conscription was introduced in 1935. This helped reduce unemployment.
- The Four Year plan was not fully successful. Goering said 'Arms not butter' but butter had to be rationed! The only way Germany became self-sufficient was by invading other countries at the start of the war - after the 4 years Goering had given himself.

### How did the Nazis control and win over workers?

- All workers had to join the German labour front, run by Dr Robert Ley.
- Strikes were banned. Workers could not quit their jobs without the permission of the government.
- However, by 1938 workers were earning 10 times what they had done in 1932.
- Dr Ley calculated that the average worker had 3740 hours of leisure time in a year. He said that workers who were kept busy would be happier, work harder and not have time to cause trouble! So the Nazis filled up people's leisure time: They set up the KDF (Strength through joy) programme which organised things like bands, plays and sports matches.
- Good workers were also given rewards - 5\* holidays in Italy and luxury cruises at very low prices. The Nazis also built holiday resorts where workers could have cheap breaks.
- In 1938 Porsche designed 'The people's car' the Volkswagen beetle. Workers could join a scheme where they paid money every week until they got their own car. However, this was all a scam - the money went to building weapons and not a single worker got their car!



### Nazi Germany: Propaganda, censorship, art and culture

- Goebbels was in charge of the Ministry for Propaganda and National Enlightenment - he was in charge of propaganda and censorship.
- **Newspapers:** These were controlled by the Nazis. Jewish editors were fired and there were strict rules about what could be published, Anti-Nazi papers were closed.
- **Films:** Goebbels checked films were 'suitable', anything that did not encourage Nazi ideas was banned, news reels were shown at the start of films - showing great Nazi victories - you could not go into the cinema after this had started, so audiences had to sit through them before seeing the main film.
- **Radio:** The Reich Radio Company controlled all German radio stations, the 'people's receiver' was made - cheap radios that everyone could afford to buy, but that could only receive Nazi stations (not foreign ones), by 1939 70% of German households owned a radio, 6000 loud speakers were also put up in public places,
- **Rallies:** Thousands of people came to celebrations where leading Nazis made speeches.
- **Culture:** The Reich chamber of culture was set up. Artists had to be members of this. There was strict guidelines about what was acceptable. Art had to be very traditional and reinforce Nazi ideas. Weimar art was seen as degenerate and sinful - it was banned and put in a special exhibition of 'degenerate art' - the exhibition was VERY popular!
- **Music:** Music should be German, folk songs or classical music like Bach. Jazz was banned as it was seen as being 'black'.
- **Literature:** There was a list of books that were banned. In May 1933 there was a public book burning. Goebbels even wrote his own book: 'Michael' which was about Nazi values.
- The **Olympics** were held in Berlin in 1936. The Nazis used this as a chance to show off their advanced nation. A huge stadium was built and state of the art technology such as photo finish and large stop watch were made. Leni Riefenstahl directed a film called 'Olympia' which is still seen as a classic. Anti-Semitic activity was paused while the Olympics was on.
- However, an American athlete named Jesse Owens infuriated Hitler - he was black and proved Nazi race theory (about black people being inferior) wrong, by winning four gold medals and beating 11 records.

### The Holocaust: Persecution 1933-38

- Shop boycotts began in 1933.
- The Nuremberg laws in 1934 said Jews and Germans could not marry or have sexual relationships and that Jews were subjects, not citizens, so did not have civil rights in Germany.
- Anti-Semitic propaganda blamed Jews for Germany's misfortunes and portrayed Jews as evil.
- In 1938 Kristallnacht was a night of mass violence. Ninety two Jews were killed. Synagogues and Jewish homes/shops destroyed. It showed Hitler that he could get away with using violence as afterwards the German people threw stones and spat at the Jews when they tried to clean up. Afterwards Jews were fined 1 billion marks and the money that insurance companies were meant to pay out also went to the state. Jews were sent to concentration camps and only released if they promised to leave the country for good.

### Opposition

- Most people were too scared to oppose the Nazis as they would be treated brutally if they did. However, some groups did try:
- Jewish resistance - the Partisans fought against the Nazis.
- Young people - Swing movement dressed in American fashions and listened to Jazz music; Edelweiss Pirates and Navajos gang- beat up Hitler Youth, refused to confirm, spread allied propaganda during the war - leaders executed. The White Rose Group - lead by Hans and Sophie Scholl - handed out leaflets at university. Hans and Sophie were executed in 1943.
- The Church - Galen, Niemoller and Bonhoffer.
- The Kreisau Circle, led by Helmuth von Moltke, A German aristocrat. Not violent. When the group was discovered in 1944 the leaders were executed.
- Beck-Goerdeler Group - tried to assassinate Hitler. Stauffenberg went to a meeting with a bomb in a briefcase. It went off but did not injure Hitler seriously. The leaders were executed for the 'July Plot'.

### The Final Solution

- This was decided at the Wannsee Conference in 1942 .
- Germany had invaded other countries and now had more Jews to 'worry' about.
- It was decided that they would be killed. Old methods, like sending out the Einsatzgruppen who were an extermination squad that rounded up Jews and shot them, were seen as being inefficient. Bullets were expensive and were needed for the war.
- Instead, extermination camps were opened, such as Auschwitz, Treblinka and Sobobor.
- Here Jews arrived from the ghettos in trains. They went through selection - women, children, sick and old people were sent straight to the gas chambers, where they were killed.
- Young, healthy males and women who could do useful jobs were sent to work in the camp. They kept the camp running - they were in charge of cremating bodies, sorting through Jews' property to see what could be sold and making items. They went through a process called 'destruction through work'. They were given 400 calories a day and forced to do hard labour so they died of starvation.

### Other groups persecuted by the Nazis

- Homosexuals - did not fit into the Nazi image of 'manly men' and traditional families.
- Jehovah Witnesses.
- Black people, Gypsies and people from Eastern Europe (such as the Slavs) - thought to be genetically inferior.
- People who were mentally ill, disabled or had hereditary diseases - felt to be a burden on society.
- These groups were sent to concentration camps.

### Germany and the Second World War

- At the start - some positives - healthier diet, work for women, high morale as the tactic of 'Blitzkrieg' (lightening war) gave lots of victories.
- Lots of areas were invaded and captured (Czechoslovakia, Poland, France) and so Germany had more natural resources and more industry to use to make weapons.
- But in 1941 Hitler attacked Russia. Things went badly wrong. Germany lost nearly 200,000 men and morale declined.
- Propaganda asked people to make sacrifices for the war effort. 1.5 million fur coats were donated for troops fighting in Russia.
- In 1942 Albert Speer was made armaments minister. He organised the country for 'total war'. German workers had to work longer hours in factories. Men and women were drafted into factories to keep production up.
- In 1942 the allies started bombing German towns and cities. They intended to destroy factories but also hit many civilian homes. Morale suffered once more.
- In one raid alone, Dresden, 1945, 135,000 Germans were killed.
- These raids were often followed by pamphlet drops - allied propaganda that encouraged the German people to give in.
- Food was also in short supply and rationing had to be introduced.
- By 1945 more than 3 million civilians were dead.
- More and more people started to oppose Nazi rule.
- Hitler killed himself on 30 April, 1945. Many other leading Nazis did the same when they realised that they had lost the war.