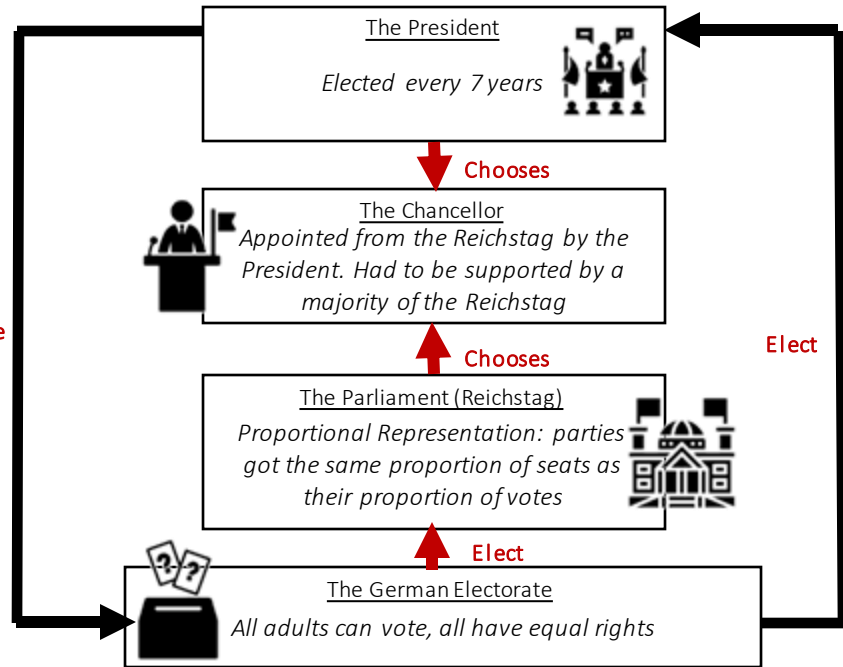


The Weimar Republic 1918-29:

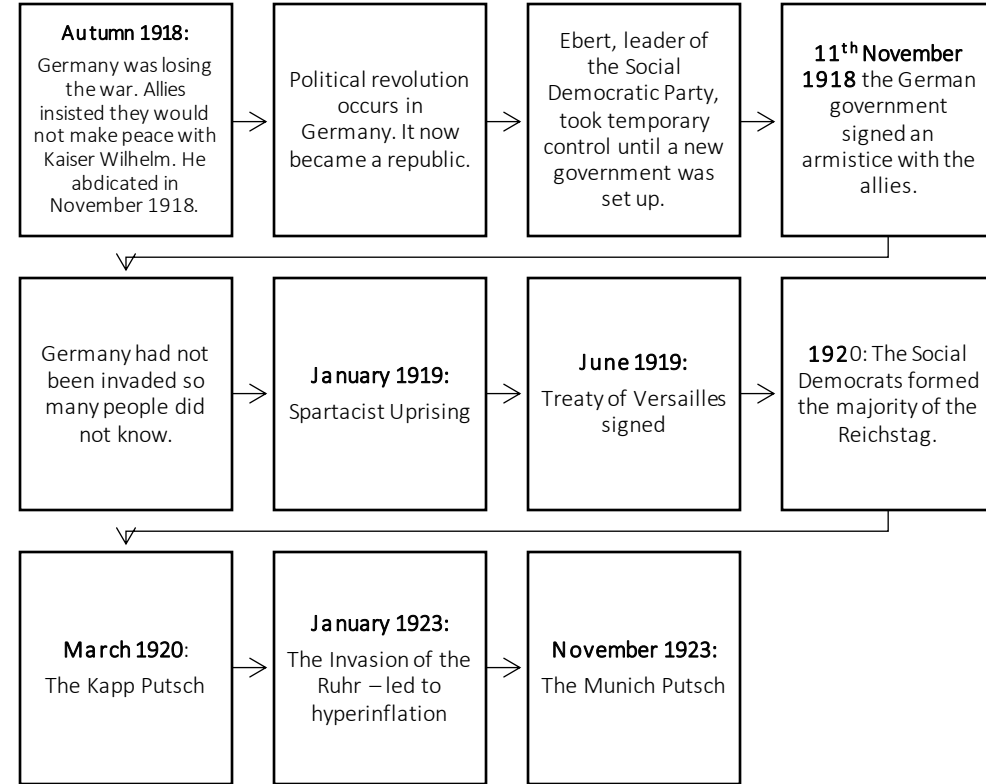
The Constitution:



Article 48
In an emergency the President can rule on their own.

- Intended to be fair. Women had the vote on the same term as men.
- President was elected every 7 years by the people.
- Voting based on **proportional representation**
- This weakened government as it led to lots of small parties and no majority
- Coalitions formed **did not** last long
- Chancellor did not need to be leader of the largest party
- Article 48 could be used to overrule Reichstag in emergency.

Key Developments



Challenges to the Weimar Republic from the left and right:

Attempted to lead a revolution to overthrow the government

Spartacist Uprising: January 1919

- Communists: Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht
- Seized control of government newspaper headquarters and tried to organise a strike.

- Uprising badly organised and government used police and Freikorps to suppress it
- Little support for uprising from public
- Lasted less than 2 weeks

- Revolt highlighted the instability of Weimar Government – dependent on army
- Republic promised not to change army leadership

Attempted to seize power. Freikorps hated the Treaty of Versailles and government for signing it

Kapp Putsch: March 1920:

- Right-wing Nationalist Freikorps
 - Led by Wolfgang Kapp

- Trade Unions in Berlin organised a general strike
- Kapp couldn't rule Germany due to chaos
- Kapp was caught and imprisoned

- Army sympathised with Kapp so refused to act against him
- 5,000 Freikorps set up government in Berlin, and Weimar government was forced to flee to Dresden

Treaty Of Versailles:

- Germans shocked at severity
 - 'Diktat' – a dictated peace enforced without negotiation
- Treaty of Versailles
- Germany's status destroyed
 - **Lost 13% of land** – including valuable farm land

LAND	ARMY	MONEY	BLAME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Alsace-Lorraine returned to France. <input type="checkbox"/> Land taken to give Poland access to sea. <input type="checkbox"/> 'Polish Corridor' meant East Prussia was cut off from Germany. <input type="checkbox"/> Lost overseas colonies. <input type="checkbox"/> Saar Coalfields given to France for 15 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 100,000 men. <input type="checkbox"/> Navy = 6 battleships and 15,000 sailors. <input type="checkbox"/> No submarines or aircraft. <input type="checkbox"/> Rhineland demilitarised and occupied by Allied troops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Germany had to pay £6,600 reparations. <input type="checkbox"/> Pay for damages caused by the war. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Article 231. <input type="checkbox"/> Germany to blame for causing WW1. <input type="checkbox"/> Justified making Germany pay reparations.

The Weimar Republic 1918-29:

The challenges of 1923:

- German government unable to make second reparations payment in **1922**
- Requested extra time
- France and Belgium took goods from factories and mines to the value of reparations payment

Invasion of the Ruhr:
France and Belgium invaded the Ruhr in **January 1923**.



- Strike united workers against French invaders
- Weimar government temporarily increased in popularity
- Some workers set fire to factories, sabotaged machinery and flooded mines



- Germany unable to offer resistance but refused to work for French (Passive Resistance)
- Clash with French troops resulted in shootings
- Government printed more money to pay strikers without having gold to support the value of paper money

Hyperinflation:

- Farmers benefited from increasing food prices
- Rich protected from the worst effects
- Many businessmen were able to wipe their debts. Others took over small businesses going bankrupt.

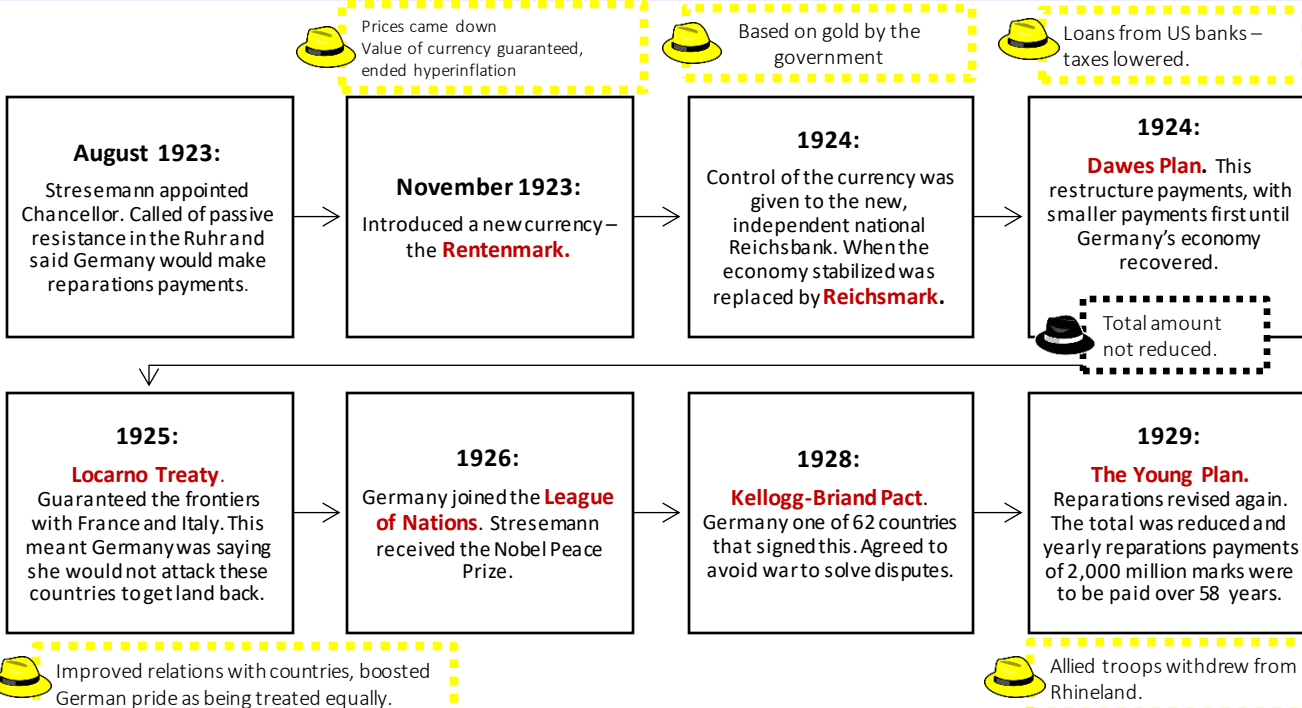


- Pensions and fixed incomes found their pensions became worthless
- Savings lost all value – particularly affected the middle class
- Wages could not keep up with inflation
- November 1918 - £1 worth of foreign goods would cost 20 marks – by 1923 cost 20 billion.

Changes in society 1924-29:

Standard of Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1928: an increase in wages by over 10%, German workers were some of the best paid workers in Europe • 1928: homelessness had been reduced by more than 60% • Between 1924-31 more than 2 million homes were built, while almost 200,000 were renovated or expanded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment remained high among those who worked in professions such as, lawyers, civil servants and teachers. • April 1928: almost 184,000 middle class workers were seeking employment and almost half of them didn't qualify for unemployment relief.
Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1926: there were 32 women deputies in the Reichstag which was higher than US and Britain • Number of female doctors doubled from 2,500 in 1925 to 5,000 in 1939. • Women had more rights e.g. right to vote, marriage was an equal partnership and women could enter all professions on the same terms as men. • Young single women had financial independence, divorces rates went up, women enjoyed more social freedom like smoking and drinking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite large number of women who worked during the war in 'male' jobs, after the war the better paid jobs were taken by men. • Married women who worked were criticised for working and neglecting their homes.
Cultural Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Architecture flourished, especially in Bauhaus. These were architects who designed various things such as housing estates. • This period encouraged literature from both right and left in politics. • Economic recovery after 1924, created finance to finance the arts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This led to the criticism that artists were undermining traditional German values, especially from the right wing. They said cultural changes were immoral.

The recovery of the Republic:



Evidence for recovery:

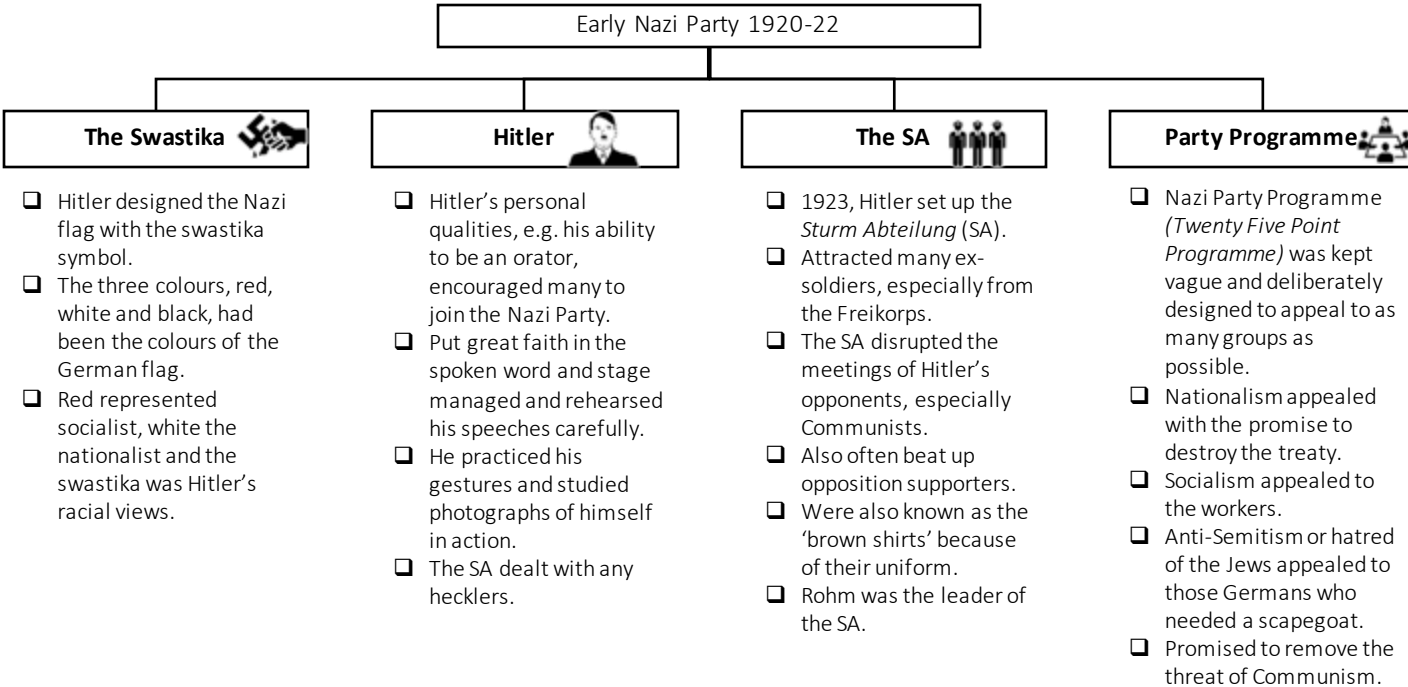
- Little support for extremist parties: 1924 Nazi had 32 seats in Reichstag → 1928 only got 12
- New factories built
- Fall in unemployment, wages and working conditions improved, average working hours reduced
- Unemployment and sickness benefits
- Pensions paid to war veterans and widows
- Foreign banks lent 25,000 billion marks to German borrowers
- 1928- Industrial production recovered to pre-war levels
- Number of people in higher education increased

Evidence against recovery:

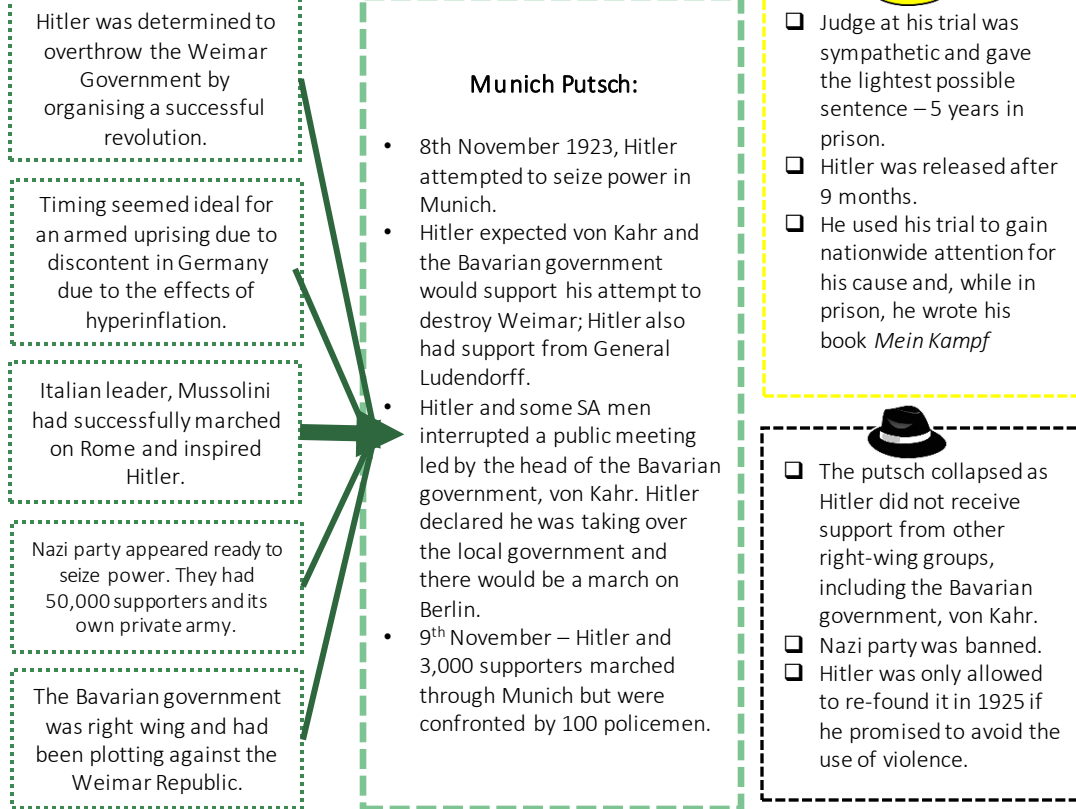
- Problems remained with the constitution – proportional representation
- Nationalists opposed the Dawes and Young Plans
- Hindenburg disliked the new republic
- Germany too dependent on US loans
- Unemployment remained a serious problem
- Growth in industry slowed down after 1927
- Fall in food prices, farmers' income reduced between 1925-29
- Stresemann aware that Germany's recovery was 'dancing on a volcano'
- Wall Street Crash devastated the world economy

Hitler's Rise to Power 1919-1933:

Early Nazi Party:



The Munich Putsch:



Re-organisation of the Nazi Party 1924-28:

February 1925, the ban on the Nazi party was lifted. Hitler relaunched the Party but it was recognised into a party that could appeal to electors.

Bamberg Conference:

- Hitler survived threats to his leadership of the Party from Strasser and Goebbels.
- They wanted the party to be more socialist to appeal to the working classes. Hitler was opposed and called a Party Conference in Bamberg in 1926.
 - His leadership became confirmed, and Goebbels became one of his closest supporters.

The SA:

- Was strengthened with more young men encouraged to join.
- The image of the organisation was changed – placing the emphasis on discipline and order rather than violence and intimidation.

Party Organisation:

- Hitler reorganised the Party to make it more efficient and to ensure it was prepared, even at street level, to fight future elections.
 - Created a national headquarters in Munich and insisted on the central control of finance and membership.
- Branches of the Party, were set up all over Germany and were placed under control of a Party Official.

Nazi Organisation:

- Set up to appeal to certain interest groups, including the Nazi Students' League, the Teachers' League, and the Women's' League.
- Nazi youth movement was organised to appeal to the young.

Propaganda:

- Goebbels organised Party propaganda and used posters skilfully.
- Also used Nazi newspapers and meetings to put across Nazi ideals.
- He discovered their anti-Jewish message had the most appeal among the working classes and increased anti-Semitic propaganda.
- Nazis trained their members in public-speaking.

Party Rallies:

- 1926, a Nazi Party rally was held at Weimar.
- Began the pattern of military style parades.

Hitler's Rise to Power 1919-1933:

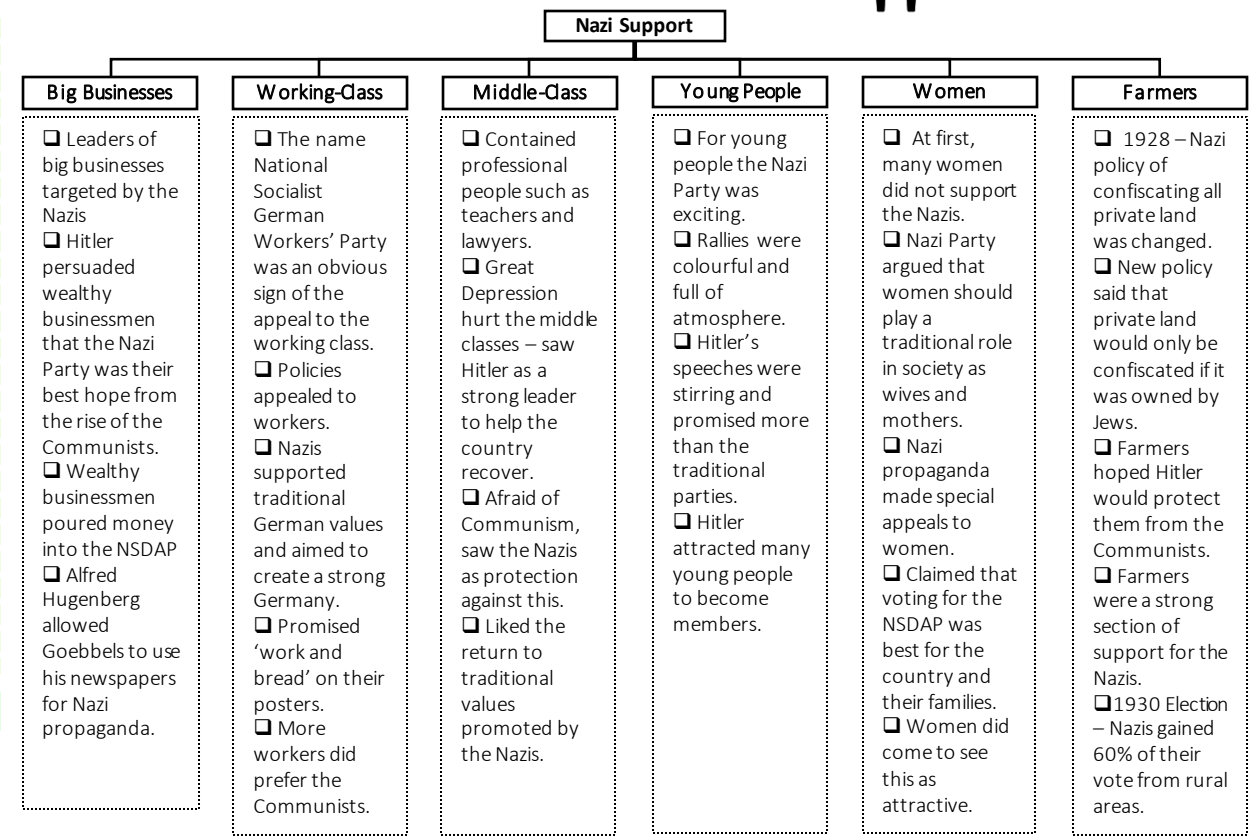
The Wall Street Crash:

October 1929, share prices began to fall on the Wall Street Stock Exchange in New York. The value of shares collapse and many US business were ruined. The USA had no option but to end their loans to Germany and demand the repayment of existing loans.

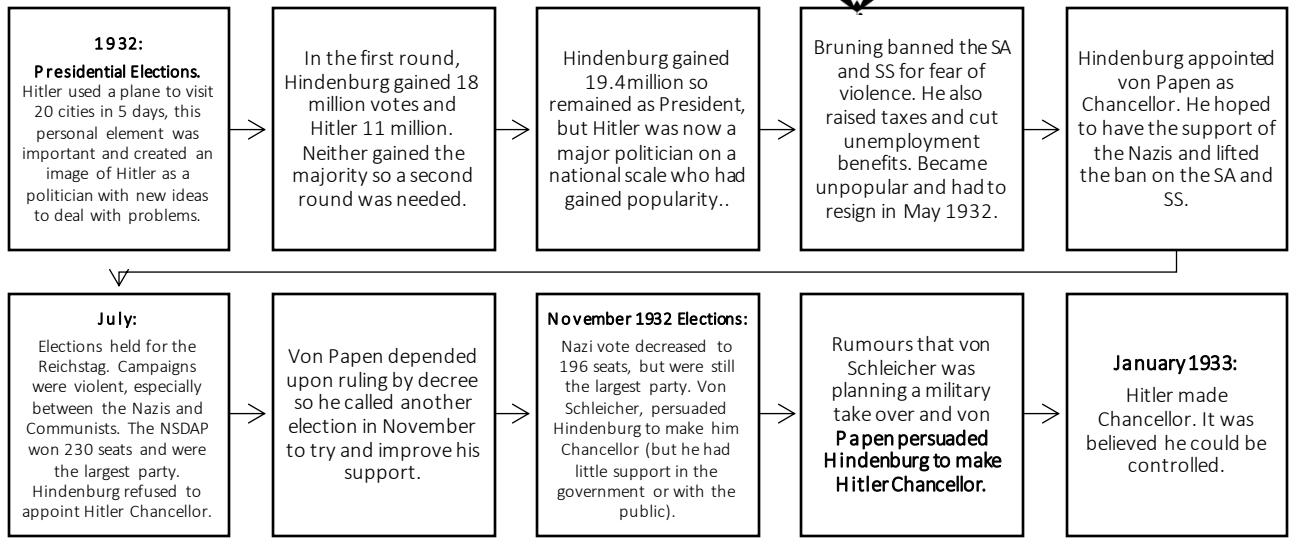
- Unemployed:**
 - By January 1933 – 6 million workers were unemployed.
 - Taxes were raised and unemployment benefits cut.
- Savers:**
 - Value of savings crashed. This meant, if people became unemployed they had no savings to fall back on.
- Workers:**
 - Employers cut wages and taxes increased.
- Homeless:**
 - Many people could no longer afford rent and people became homeless.
- Businessmen:**
 - Businesses closed, and if they did survive their income fell.
 - Business owners not hit as badly as workers or farmers.
- Young People:**
 - 1933, over half of all Germans between 16-30 were unemployed.
 - 60% of new graduates could not get a job.
- Farmers:**
 - In the 1930s, farmers started slipping into further debt.

- Rise in support for KPD and NSDAP:**
- Moderate parties failed to solve Germany's economic problems.
 - Stresemann had died and the Weimar Republic lacked a strong leader.
 - Chancellor Bruning** raised taxes to pay for unemployment benefits, but then reduced the benefits.
 - Germans turned to extremist parties like the Nazis and Communists:
 - 1928 Election** – Nazis 12 seats, Communists 54
 - 1932** – Nazis 230 seats and Communists 89

Growth in support for the Nazis:



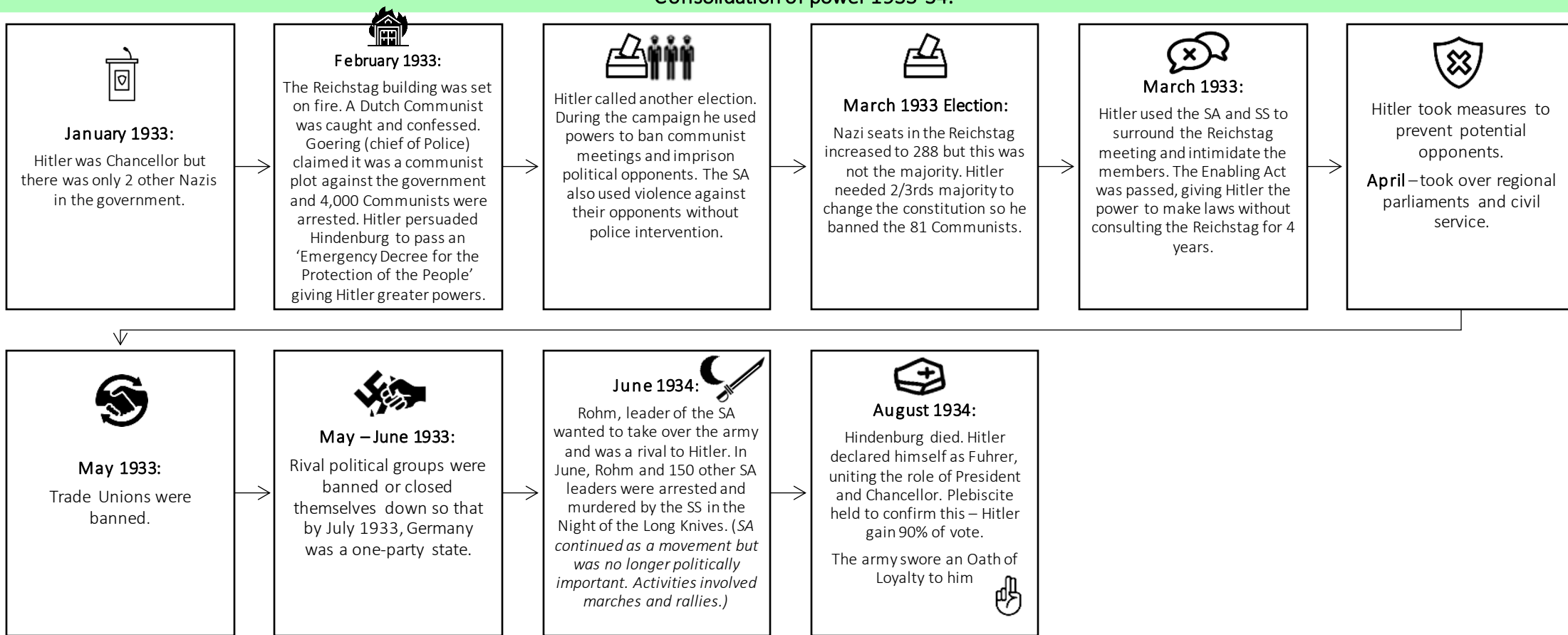
Hitler becoming Chancellor:



<p>The SA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held marches and rallies that built up the importance of the party. Uniformed appearance of the SA suggested it was organised and disciplined. SA attacked rival groups and disrupted political meetings. SA ran soup kitchens to provide support for the poor. By 1932, the SA had 600,000 members, attracting the young and unemployed. 	<p>Appeal of Hitler:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impressive orator and regularly held public speeches Portrayed himself as Germany's last hope and attacked the Treaty of Versailles, reviving the Stab in the Back Theory 	<p>Party Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included the need for a strong government. Emphasised nationalism and provided a scapegoat in the form of the Jews. Party had training for its speakers and lots of organisations for different groups in society. 	<p>Propaganda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included promises of 'Work and Bread' which were targeted at the working class Promised jobs and blamed Weimar Government for problems. Nazi Party not involved in government so not seen as responsible.
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Nazi Control and Dictatorship 1933-39:

Consolidation of power 1933-34:



The Police State:

The Police State

The SS

- Controlled by Himmler
- Range of roles e.g. Hitler's bodyguard
- Nazi Party police force – involved in rallies, running concentration camps.

The SD

- Security service
- Created by Himmler in 1931
- Spied on known opponents
- Kept records with the details

Gestapo

- Set up in 1933
- Did not wear uniforms and followed up reports and information about the general public making critical comments/ actions
- Spied on people, tapped phones, used torture when questioning people
- Only about 30,000 people out of 80 million

Concentration Camp

- Labour/prison camps
- First opened in Dachau in March 1933
- Usually in remote areas, away from public attention
- Contained political prisoners, 'undesirables' such as homosexuals and minority groups

Judges

- Trial by jury was abolished and trials were decided by single judges
- These were all members of the Nazi Party
- New People's Court was created to hear cases of treason against the state
- Trials held in secret
- No right of appeal

Nazi Control and Dictatorship 1933-39:

Opposition, resistance and conformity:

Opposition

Limited Opposition?



- Police state meant there was little significant opposition
- Many people grateful to have a job and better standard of living so put up with Nazi control
- Hitler had created his dictatorship legally
- Many policies were popular e.g. restoring Germany's economy, emphasising the family, focus on the youth
- Repressive policies i.e. concentration camps, were not obvious to ordinary people (censorship and camps were isolated)
- Propaganda was effective
- Occasionally, the Nazis dropped unpopular policies
- Opposition was disorganised and groups did not work together
- Features of the police state made people afraid to express criticism
- Even your own children might inform on you

Church



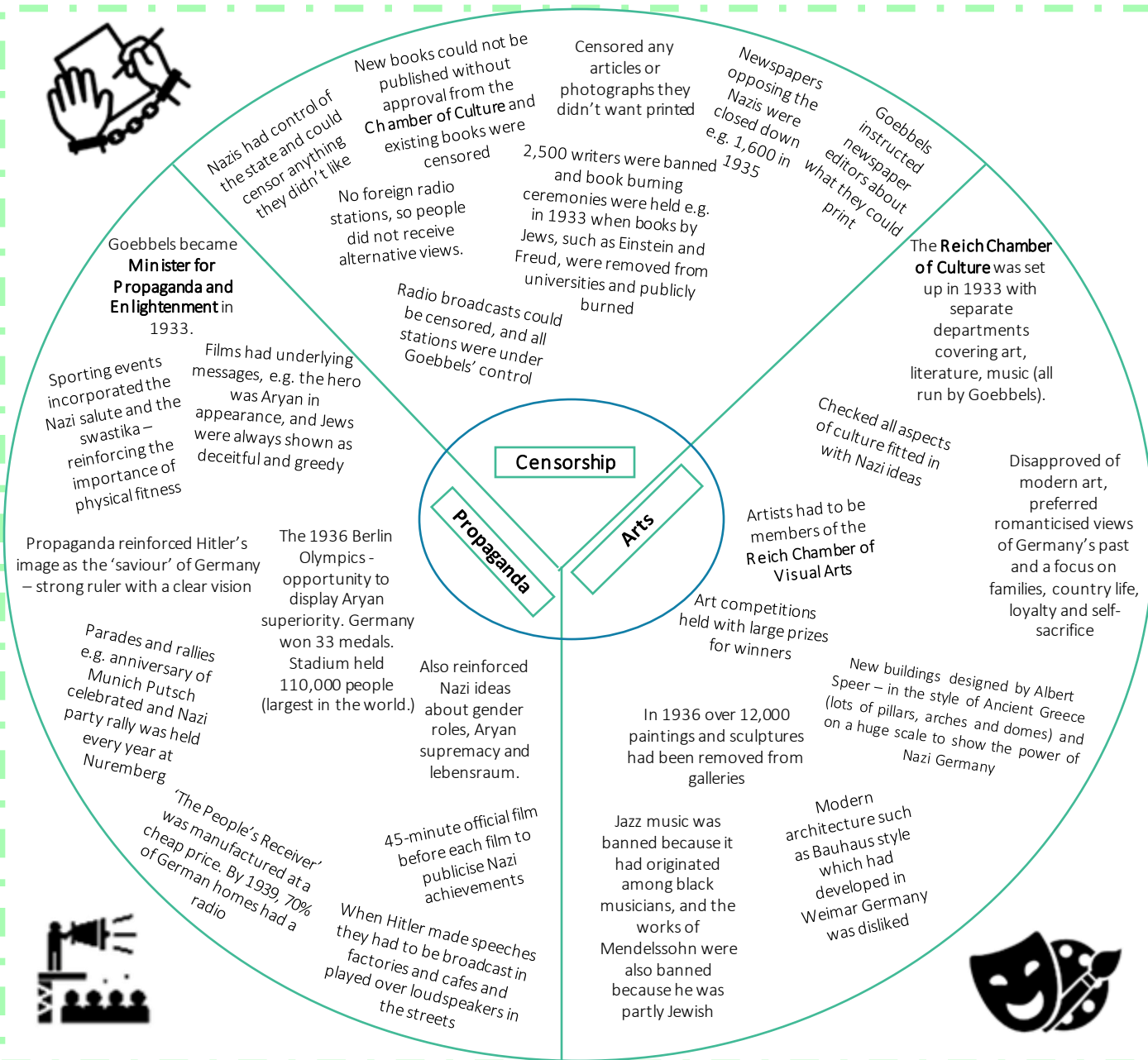
- 1933 – Protestant Pastors set up the Pastor's Emergency League (PEL) to oppose the Reich Church
- They set up the Confessing Church in 1934 - 6,000/8,000 pastors joined this
- Individual pastors such as, Martin Niemoller openly criticised Hitler but 800 ended up in concentration camps
- Individual Catholic priests spoke out, especially Cardinal Galen
- Galen was not punished but 2 priests who printed his sermons were arrested and sent to concentration camp
- 400 Catholic priests were imprisoned at Dachau
- Confessing Church and Catholic Church had lots of popular support, but was not organised opposition

Youth



- Number of young people did not want to join the Hitler Youth
- Groups developed in working class areas of big cities e.g. Roving Dudes in Essen
- Each group identified themselves by wearing the white edelweiss flower and were known as the **Edelweiss Pirates**
- Edelweiss Pirates were mainly teenagers, especially young males who resented the military discipline of Hitler Youth, also wore hair long and copied American style
- Activities similar to Hitler Youth – singing, hiking, camping but also told anti-Nazi jokes and painted graffiti
- Swing Youth movement was middle-class youth who admired American and British culture
- Met and played jazz, smoked and drunk alcohol
- Youth opposition was limited, only about 2,000 Edelweiss Pirates
- Tended to focus on resisting ideas than organising opposition

Controlling and influencing attitudes:



Vocabulary

Keyword	Definition
Censorship	Banning of parts of books, films, news etc., that are considered politically unacceptable or a threat to security.
Resistance	Refusal to accept or comply with something.
Opposition	Disagreeing with and actively working to remove something.

Life in Nazi Germany

Nazi policies towards women:



Women's role was important in society but was based on the home and family (**Kinder, Küche, Kirche**) - Children, Kitchen, Church.

Women were expected to have a traditional appearance. Were not supposed to wear trousers, make up or smoke. This was reinforced through propaganda.

In Weimar Germany there was a number of educated and professional women - lawyers, doctors, teachers, judges etc. were pushed out of many jobs, especially professions like Law, Medicine, Education. Were discouraged from higher education because was not necessary to their role in society.

Law for the Encouragement of Marriage, 1933, said that when a couple got married they could receive a loan of 1,000 marks in the woman gave up work and the amount they had to repay was reduced by one-quarter for each child they had.

After 1935 - pure Aryan women were encouraged to visit Lebensborn clinics in order to become pregnant by pure SS men and they could receive financial aid.

Some women disliked Nazi policies. The first women's concentration camp was opened in 1933, another in 1938 and a third in 1939.

The Mother's Cross was awarded to women, bronze for 4 children, silver for 6 and 8 for gold.

By 1937 due to preparations for war, there was a demand for workers. A compulsory year of labour was introduced, where women were expected to work on farms or in factories. In 1933 there were 5 million women working in Germany, by 1939 there were 7 million.

1938 - divorce laws were changed to encourage men to separate from wives who could not have children



By 1936 only 1 million unemployed and by 1939, 300,000



Conscription reduced unemployment and made sure men were ready when war broke out

Employment and living standards:



RAD was unpopular because they received small pay and had to live in camps in poor conditions.



Jews and women were dismissed from jobs and did not count as unemployed

National Labour Service (RAD) was set up in 1933. Provided work for unemployed males ages 18-25 doing jobs such as, repairing roads, plantings trees, buildings hospitals. Was voluntary at first but in 1935 became compulsory for 6 months.

Autobahns (motorway) project created jobs for unemployed. One began in 1933 to build 7,000 km. Improved transport would help the economy too.

Unemployment was a priority as Nazis could lose support if they did not deal with the problem of 6 million unemployed.

1935 - Hitler reintroduced conscription into the army. Also meant more jobs creating weapons, uniforms, building aircraft etc.

Nazis did not actually reduce unemployment but made groups unemployed, part-time workers and people in concentration camps did not count 'invisible unemployment'

Nazi policies towards the young:



Youth: Strengthen Germany for the future and prepare for a Thousand Year Reich. Policies were affected by ideas about gender.

Education

- Weimar Germany, education was compulsory until 14. There were separate schools for boys and girls.
- Hitler wanted to bring the education system under control - Bernard Rust became **Minister for Education** in 1934.
- All teachers had to swear an oath of loyalty to Hitler and join the **Nazi Teachers' League**
- Lessons included the Hitler Salute and posters and flags were in classrooms
- Nazis controlled the curriculum - History was about Germany's great past, Geography was about land taken away in the Treaty of Versailles, PE was doubled, Maths was adapted so problems included references to war
- Girls had lessons in bed making and cookery, while boys learned Science
- From 1935, textbooks had to be approved by the Nazis

Hitler Youth

- The Hitler Youth began in 1926, however Hitler banned almost all other youth movements in 1933
- Baldur von Schirach was appointed **Minister for Youth**
- 1936, the movement took over all sports facilities so there was pressure on young people to join, nevertheless there was still over 1 million young people who did not join
- 1939, membership was made compulsory
- Hitler Youth groups for boys were arranged by age. 6 - 10 (Pimpfe - Little Fellows), 10 - 14 (German Young People), 14 - 18 (Hitler Jugend)
- Members swore an oath of loyalty to Hitler, went hiking, camping, had political lectures, physical training and military exercises.
- Stressed obedience, comradeship and loyalty but also competitiveness and ruthlessness. Punishments were hard.

German League of Maidens

- Girls joined the Young Maidens (Jungmadel) aged 10 - 14, and then the League of German Maidens (BDM) aged 14-21.
- Would have political lectures, physical activities e.g. camping, marching, physical training to prepare for motherhood, training in cooking, sewing and running a horse.
- Girls were also taught about 'racial hygiene' - only marrying Aryan men.
- Like the boys, the girls were also taught to place loyalty to Hitler above their own families and be prepared to inform on their parents or teachers

Standard of Living:

- More people employed so had money to spend. Some prices rose but wages increased. However, workers had to work longer hours (about 6 extra hours a week)

Labour Front (DAF)

- Nazis worried about trade union strikes. These were banned and replaced with DAF.
- Supposed to protect workers' rights but workers lost the right to negotiate wages or strike and DAF could punish workers who disrupted production.

Volkswagen:

- Designed as an affordable family car and savings scheme was introduced. In 1938 Volkswagen care factories were switched to weapons production - no one got a car or their money back.

Strength through Joy:

- Intended to keep workers happy.
 - Provided subsidized leisure activities e.g. sports activities, cheap cinema or theatre tickets, cheap holidays or even cruises.
- By 1936 there were 35 million members.

Beauty of Labour:

- Scheme to encourage workers to improve their working conditions
- Company agreed to provide better toilets, canteens, showers etc. but the workers were expected to build these in their free time.

Life in Nazi Germany

Beliefs and treatments of minorities

Nazi Beliefs

To create a 'volk' (**National community**)

Create a **master race** of Aryans, physically and mentally.

Believed Aryans were superior due to their strength, intelligence and capacity to work hard and sacrifice themselves

To achieve the master race, there would need to be **selective breeding** and **rounding up of undesirables/subhumans**

The ideal German: Socially useful and able to contribute to the Volk.

Minorities

Consequences

There were about **26,000 gypsies** who lived a nomadic lifestyle – they were banned from travelling in groups, rounded up and put on a register, tested to see if they were fitted the racial characteristics of German citizens and often imprisoned in camps.

Homosexuals were arrested and often sent to concentration camps; they were also encouraged to voluntarily be castrated.

1933 - Law for the Prevention of Hereditary Diseased Offspring made it compulsory for mentally ill, alcoholics, disabled, epileptics, deaf and blind people to be sterilised (400,000 people). In 1939, the Nazis ordered babies with severe mental or physical disabilities to be killed (T4 programme). Over 5,000 young people were killed

Were less than 500,000 Jews in Germany (about 1% of the population). Hitler encouraged the German people to blame their problems on Jews. Propaganda, education, media, and culture all spread anti-Semitic messages – describing Jews as vermin, evil, scheming and trying to weaken German nation.

Many Germans disliked what was happening, but much of this was happening out of sight. Others took no action because they were afraid or because the benefits of Nazi rule outweighed the issue. Some were convinced by the propaganda and supported the measures.

Why were Jews persecuted?

- ❑ Hitler was determined to create a racially pure state
- ❑ Long standing of anti-Semitism within Germany
- ❑ Hitler resented the wealth experienced by Jews whilst in Vienna
- ❑ In the 1920s Jews were used as scapegoats for signing the Treaty of Versailles
- ❑ Hitler blamed Germany's defeat in WWI upon Jews
- ❑ Hitler blamed the hyperinflation of 1923 and the depression of 1929 upon Jews
- ❑ The Weimar Republic was seen as heavily composed of Jews

Vocabulary

Keyword	Definition
Volk	The German People
Anti-Semitism	Hostility or prejudice against the Jews
Aryan	'The Master Race'
Persecution	Hostility/ill-treatment due to race, political or religious beliefs
Lebensraum	'Living Space' – the basis of the policy for German expansion
Ideology	A system of ideas and ideals relating to political theory

Key forms of persecution

Persecution of Jews

1933 - Boycott

- ❑ In **April 1933**, after the second set of elections, the Nazis set about terrorising individual Jews, damaging synagogues and organising boycotts outside Jewish businesses.
- ❑ Homes and shops had the Star of David displayed.
- ❑ There was a **nationwide boycott of Jewish businesses** and professions. Reactions to the boycott were mixed.
- ❑ Some cities saw violence, others nothing.
- ❑ The general German public did not take part and continued to shop freely.

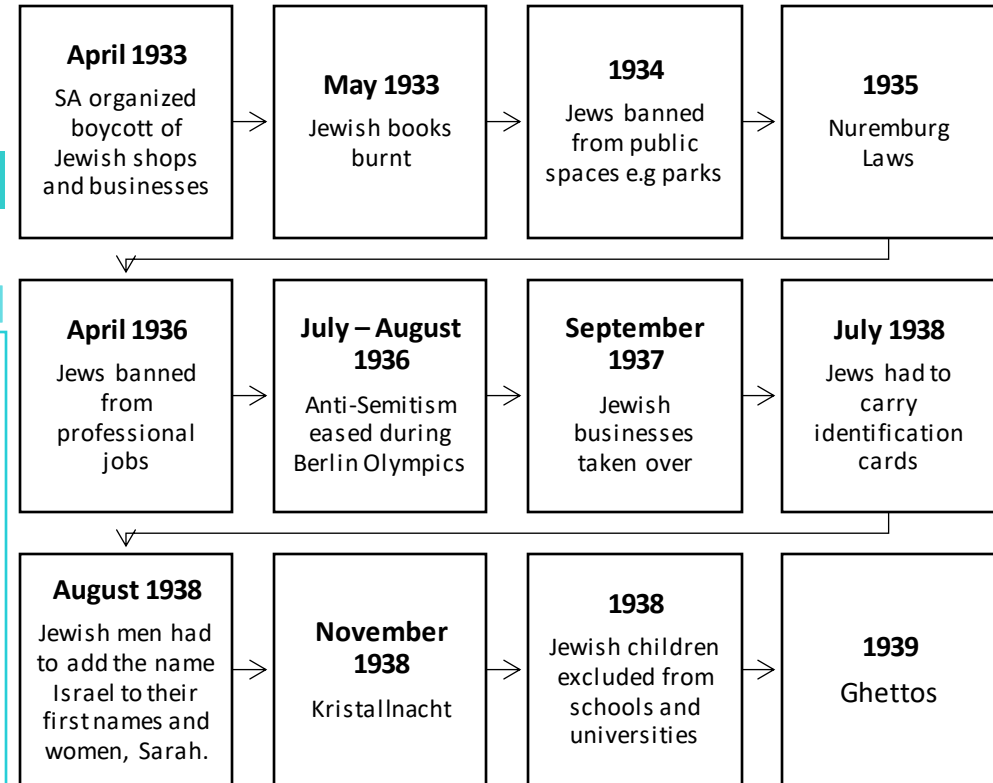
1935 Nuremberg Laws

- ❑ At the annual party rally held in **Nuremberg in 1935**, the Nazis announced new laws which institutionalized many of the racial theories prevalent in Nazi ideology.
- ❑ The laws excluded German Jews from Reich citizenship
- ❑ Prohibited Jews from marrying or having sexual relations with persons of "German or related blood."
- ❑ The laws took away their right to vote and deprived them of most political rights.
- ❑ Anyone who had three or four Jewish grandparents was defined as a Jew.

1938 - Kristallnacht

- ❑ Night of Crystal / Broken Glass
- ❑ Pogrom - **9th November 1938**
- ❑ Instigated by Nazi party officials in which synagogues were burnt, homes were destroyed, businesses smashed
- ❑ Announced that it was a public response to the murder of a diplomat by a Polish Jew
- ❑ 267 Synagogues were destroyed
- ❑ 7,500 Jewish owned establishments destroyed
- ❑ 91 Jews killed
- ❑ 30,000 Jewish males arrested
- ❑ Imposed a fine of 1 billion Reichsmark upon Jews to pay for damages.

Key Developments



Nazi Foreign Policy

Aims of Hitler's foreign policy

- ❑ Reverse the Treaty of Versailles- restore German territory and build up the German armed forces .
- ❑ Lebensraum- to get 'living space' in Eastern Europe for all of greater Germany.
- ❑ Unite all German speaking people into one main homeland.

Alliances & Agreements

Keyword	Definition
Non-aggression pact with Poland 1934.	Germany and Poland would respect each others borders. 👉 Hitler no longer feared attack from Poland.
Rome-Berlin Axis 1936	Italy and Germany agreed to follow common foreign policy and stop the spread of communism.
Anti-Comintern Pact 1936-	Made with Japan to limit communist influence in the world
Munich Agreement 1938	Britain, Germany, France and Italy agree that Czechoslovakia should allow Germany to take control of the Sudetenland.
Pact of Steel 1939	A full military alliance with Italy. 👉 Close economic bond between Germany and Italy.
Nazi-Soviet Pact 1939	Russia and Germany agreed not to support attacks on each other, agreed to eventually attack and split up Poland.

Disarmament Conference 1932

Countries met to discuss what they might do to prevent any future wars. Hitler left, saying that he wanted Germany to be equal with other countries for self-defence



German rearmament & conscription

In October 1933, Hitler withdrew from the League of Nations. All restrictions from the Treaty of Versailles were removed.

- ❑ 1933 - 3.5 billion marks was spent on producing tanks, aircraft and ships. 100,000 men.
- ❑ 1935 – Conscription introduced.
- ❑ 1936 – 26 billion marks spent on supplying the military. 1,400,000 men.



Stresa Front, April 1935

France, Italy and Britain met to discuss and protest German rearmament.



However, after this there was the Anglo-German naval treaty which let Germany build a fleet 35% the size of Britain's. Italy invaded Abyssinia which ruined their relationship with France and England.



Attempts to Unify all German speakers:



January 1935

Return of the Saarland - It voted 477,000 to 48,000 to reunite with Germany.



January 1936

Re-militarising of the Rhineland. Hitler thought that Britain and France would do nothing. 98.8% vote in favour of reoccupation.



March 1938

Anschluss with Austria - united with Austria after a failed attempt in 1934.



1938

The Sudetenland Crisis
Sudetenland - part of Czechoslovakia - contained 3 million German speakers. Hitler used social unrest to claim he would support Sudeten Germans with military force. The four main country leaders met and agreed it would be given to Germany. Chamberlain also met Hitler. They signed the Anglo-Saxon Treaty: neither country would go to war with each other again.



March 1939

The takeover of Czechoslovakia.
German troops were invited to restore order, even though there was no disorder. Germany took over the Czech provinces and controlled Slovakia.



September 1939

Hitler invaded Poland on 1st September 1939.