

# KS4 History Germany Democracy – Dictatorship : The Kaiser Years

## Key individuals

**Kaiser Wilhelm II**  
Ruler of Germany  
1888-1918



**Friedrich Ebert**  
President of the SDP

**Alfred von Tirpitz**  
Architecture of the Naval Laws



## Key groups

**SDP [Social Democratic Party]**  
Political party in Germany who supported the working class



**Junkers**  
Rich conservative landowners from Prussia



## Key terms

### Abdicate

When a monarch steps down/ gives up their power

### Absolute Monarch

The term to describe a monarch [king] who has total power over everything

### Blockade

When you stop something from getting across

### Chancellor

Person who is below the Kaiser in political power

### Constitution

Set of rules that a country follows

### Industrialisation

The rapid process of industries/ factories being built

### Kaiser

The German word for emperor/king

### Mutiny

When members of the military refuse to follow orders

### Naval Laws

A series of 5 laws created between 1898-1912 to increase Germany's naval power

### Prussia

Largest and most powerful part of the German Empire

### Reichstag

German word for parliament

### Ruhr

The industrial region of Germany

### Unification

The term used to describe when Germany and surrounding countries came together in 1871

### Weltpolitik

The Kaisers foreign policy plan to extend the German Empire

## Economic

- **Industrialisation** took place from 1870s
- 1900 Germany was largest economy in Europe



- Outdated industries; coal, iron, steel were replaced with modern industries; electrical, motor, chemical.



- The **Naval Laws** may have expanded the German power and generated support to the **Kaiser** but it came at cost of 490 million marks in national debt. The constant rise in taxes turned the **SDP** and **Junkers** against the **Kaiser**.



## Cultural

- **1875-1910** Berlin doubled in size



- **1910** 60% of Germans lived in towns/cities



- **SDP** grew in popularity as workers could vote and demanded more rights



- Trade Union support had increased to 10.8 million during this time



## Political

- The **SDP** had become the largest party in **Reichstag** by 1912. The **Kaiser** gave into some demands to stop rebellions. The **SDP** split into 2 groups [peaceful and violent]



- Anarchists believed that the **Kaiser** had too much power, this extremist group had become popular across Europe. They threatened to assassinate the **Kaiser** and other members of the government



- The Naval Laws; 1898 – Germany had 19 battleships and in 1900 – Germany had 38 battleships. This put Germany in a naval race with Britain



## WW1

Germany started strong going into WW1, the **Naval Laws** and **industrialisation** had made Germany confident. They also planned to remove France quickly so they could turn their attention to Russia.



From 1917 onwards things turned for Germany as **USA** joined sending 1.4 million troops, Britain had **blockaded** Germany's food supply, however rations were not introduced until it was too late and during the winter of 1917 mass starvation happened, giving this time period the name **Turnip winter**. In total 800,000 people died of starvation and 150,000 died from the Spanish Flu.



By 1918 parts of the Germany Navy **mutinied** against the **Kaiser**. In Germany widespread **rebellions** took place, many were calling for the **abdication** of the **Kaiser**



**9th November 1918** the **Kaiser abdicated** and fled to Holland, **Friedrich Ebert** became the 1<sup>st</sup> president of Germany.



# KS4 History Germany Democracy – Dictatorship : The Weimar Years 1919-1923

## Key individuals

**Friedrich Ebert**  
First President of Germany



**Rosa Luxemburg**  
Communist leader killed in the Spartakist Revolt



**Walther Rathenau**  
Member of Reichstag murdered by the Nationalist in June 1922



## Key groups

### Communist

Extreme left wing party who believed in sharing the wealthy of the country equally [supported by workers]



### Nationalist

Extreme right-wing party who believed their country is the strongest



### Freikorps

Ex-soldiers the government used to defeat the communist



## Key terms

### Allies

Britain, France and America

### Clause 231

The section of the Treaty of Versailles, where Germany had to take full blame for starting WW1.

### Diktat

The word Germans used to describe their hatred for the Treaty of Versailles.

### Hyperinflation

When the value of money decreases but prices rise up.

### Mein Kampf

Hitler's book called *My struggle*, this becomes the main pamphlet for the Nazis

### November Criminals

The phrase used by the Germans for the government that signed the Treaty of Versailles.

### Passive Resistance

Peacefully refusing to follow a ruler's command

### Putsch

An attempt to overthrow the government

### Reparations

Term to describe Germany's payment to 'repair' damages from WW1

### Stormtroopers

The name of the Nazi private army

### Treaty of Versailles

A document Germany was forced to sign in 1919 which represented the end of WW1

## Economic

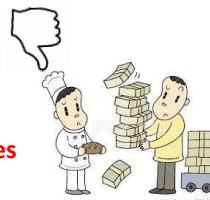
- Germany had to pay £6.6 billion in **reparations** to the **Allies** according to the **Treaty of Versailles**



- January 1923 France and Belgium marched into the Ruhr and controlled the German factories. This caused the economy to decline and was a key factor in leading to **hyperinflation**.



- Hyperinflation** impacted different groups in society
- Farmers could now set their own prices**
- People with mortgages/debts could pay them all off**
- Workers had to negotiate their wages daily**
- Pensioners/ set income could not afford their rent or keep up with the rising prices**
- People with savings, as these became worthless**
- Workers wages couldn't keep up with the price rises [bread 200,000 million marks]**



## Cultural



- Terms of the **Treaty of Versailles** impacted peoples; lost territory, with Poland getting East Prussia and France getting Alsace-Lorraine, **Clause 231** was part of the treaty, the army was reduced to 100,000 men, the country was allowed 6 battleships, no submarines/ aircraft [people lost their jobs]
- The German government told the workers to use **passive resistance**. The French then kicked out workers who refused to work leading to 150,000 refugees leaving the Ruhr.

## Political

### Communist



- Spartakist Uprising [Jan 1919]**: Attempted to take over Berlin by force, the government used the **Freikorps** to defeat them. **Rosa Luxemburg's** body was thrown in the river.
- Red Rising in the Ruhr [March 1920]** The communist party gained the support of the workers and encouraged them to strike. The government used the **freikorps** to stop this rebellion

### Nationalists



- Kapp Putsch [March 1920]** The Nationalist with the support of the **freikorps** successfully controlled Berlin for 100 days
- 250 politicians were assassinated including **Walther Rathenau**

### Nazis

- Munich Putsch [Nov 1923]**. Hitler and the **stormtroopers** stormed the **Beer Hall** where government officials were and waved a gun forcing them to accept him as their new leader. While this happened other **stormtroopers** controlled the media and army in Germany. A few days later on Hitler's celebratory march through Munich he was arrested. He was sentenced to 9 months in prison
- Impacts: He wrote **Mein Kampf**, created the Hitler Youth, the Nazi party decided to gain power through votes



## Key individuals

**Gustav Stresemann**  
Foreign minister of Germany



## Key Groups

Extremist groups like the **Communist** and **Nationalist** decrease in popularity as the country recovers



## Key terms

### **Depression**

When a country's economy is declining

### **Golden Age**

The term used to describe Germany between 1924-1929 when socially and economically they were recovering

### **League of Nations**

A group of countries created at the end of WW1 which was designed to help resolve conflicts

### **Rentemmark**

The name of the German currency from 1923

## Economic

Stresemann burns the old currency [marks] and creates a brand new one called the **Rentemmark**, this stops hyperinflation. Germany starts paying the reparations back, which causes France/Belgium to leave the Ruhr, following this passive Resistance is called off meaning workers go back to work, starting the German economy again



- Germany spends more on their imports than exports
- Farmers do not see the benefit from the economic revival, as they made more money during hyperinflation
- Unemployment does not dip below 1.3 million for 3 years
- Hourly wages for industrial workers increased yearly 1924-1929



Countries also began to trade with Germany again as their economy becomes more stable.

- Germany's export increases by 40%
- IG Farben chemical company become the largest in all of Europe



America gives Germany 2 loans to help them to create the **Rentemmark** and pay their reparations again

→ Dawes Plan [1924]

Reparations payments were lowered and 800m **marks** was given to Germany



→ Young Plan [1930]

Reparations reduced by 20% and USA continued to give loans to Germany

In autumn 1929 the American stock markets crashed, known as the Wall Street Crash. This put America into what is known as the Great **Depression**. In order to repair their own economy USA demand the loans they had given to Germany back!



## Cultural

As the economy recovers people finally start to enjoy themselves socially, for the first time since WW1, this has given this time period the nickname **Golden Age**

- Areas like science receive more funding, allowing better research like Einstein
- 2 million people in Germany go to the cinema each day
- Sexual freedom happens, with clubs for homosexuals to go to being legal
- Jazz/ cabarets clubs became popular
- Women were allowed to vote equal to men, and began to have careers
- Fashion became westernised with make-up and trousers or short dresses being a common look.



Conservative [traditional] groups and the elderly disliked these changes and wanted to return back to *'the times of the Kaiser'*. They disliked the Western [American] influence on Germany such as Jazz and found the new sexual freedom demoralising.



Following the Wall Street Crash unemployment reached 1.9 million



## Political

Germany was allowed to join the **League of Nations** in 1926, this demonstrates countries starting to forgive Germany for WW1.



Support for extremist groups decreases as people begin to praise the German government [SDP]



# KS4 History Germany Democracy – Dictatorship : Rise of the Nazis 1929-1934

## Key Individuals

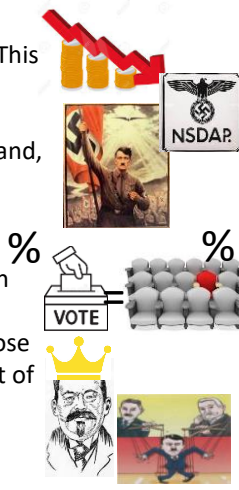
<p><b>Hindenburg</b> President of Germany</p> 	<p><b>Ernest Rohm</b> Leader of the SA, killed during the Night of the Long Knives</p> 
<p><b>Hitler</b> Leader of the Nazi Party and Chancellor of Germany 1933</p> 	<p><b>Himmler</b> Leader of the SS and close friend to Hitler</p> 
<p><b>Van der Lubbe</b> Dutch-communist blamed for starting the Reichstag Fire</p> 	<p><b>Goebbels</b> Propaganda minister for the Nazi and close friend to Hitler</p> 
<p><b>Von Papen</b> Chancellor of Germany 1932-1933</p> 	

## Key Terms

<p><b>Article 48</b> Used during emergencies and allowed the President to make laws/decisions without Reichstag</p>	<p><b>Fuhrer</b> Title created by Hitler when he became the dictator of Germany</p>
<p><b>Concordat</b> A deal with between the Nazis and Catholic Church, that they would support the Nazis if they stayed out of religion</p>	<p><b>Nazis</b> Right-wing extremist political party, stands for Nationalist Socialist German Workers Party</p>
<p><b>Dictator</b> A ruler with total power that allows no freedoms</p>	<p><b>Proportional Representation</b> A form of democracy whereby the % of votes a political party gains is the same % of seats they have in government</p>
<p><b>Enabling Act/Law</b> This enabled [allowed] Hitler to create his own laws without Reichstag for 4 years</p>	<p><b>SA [stormtroopers]</b> The Nazis own private army, there was 2 million members and most were thugs who started fights with the public</p>
<p><b>Extremists</b> Political parties with extreme views or methods</p>	<p><b>SS</b> Hitler's own private bodyguards</p>

## Chancellorship

- Following the Wall street crash in 1929, Germany went through an economic Depression. This resulted in unemployment rising from 1.3 million to 6 million. When a countries economy struggles then **extremist** supports rises.
- The **Nazis** offered something for everyone in their policies e.g. farmers owning their own land, the abolishment of the Treaty of Versailles, pension amount increase, all German speaking countries to unite. This meant they gained more votes. People also viewed **Hitler** as the saviour of Germany and liked him due to his good public speaking skills.
- The Weimar government was decided by **proportional representation**. As the Nazis rose in popularity they gained more votes and therefore more power in Reichstag.
- Hindenburg** introduced **Article 48** [people viewed him as being like the Kaiser], he also chose people to be chancellor who were not in Reichstag, such as **Von Papen** who was only apart of the cabinet of Barons [rich]. **Von Papen** and **Hindenburg** in the end gave the Chancellor position to Hitler in January 1933 as they believed they could use/miniplate him and his popularity with the German people.



## Reichstag Fire

Hitler pushed for a presidential election in February, but he still did not gain a majority. One week later the Reichstag was set on fire. **Nazi** police arrested **Van de Lubbe** [a Dutch communist] who was at the building when it was set on fire. After days of with the **Nazi** police **Van der Lubbe** confessed to setting the fire. Following this **Hitler** was able to get the communist party banned.



## Steps to Power

- In March 1933 **Hitler** was able to get Reichstag to agree to the **Enabling Act/law**, this gave Hitler powers to create his own laws without needing Reichstag's permission for 4 years.
- April 1933 all local governments now were lead by a **Nazi** officials in all cities
- May 1933 trade unions were banned – removing the workers permission to strike
- June 1933 **Concordat** allowed the **Nazis** to remove one of their biggest threats by gaining them as an ally
- July 1933 all political parties, other than the **Nazis** were banned.
- April 1934 all judges in Germany had to swear an oath of loyalty to the **Nazis**



## Night of the Long Knives

**Ernest Rohm** was the leader of the **SA**, he believed once **Hitler** came to power he should lead the German army. **Himmler** wanted to expand his power further than just being the leader of the **SS** and **Goebbels** was worried about the **Nazi** image being ruined due to the **SA**. Both told **Hitler** that **Rohm** was plotting against him. These events took place 2-4<sup>th</sup> July 1934. Before the arrest **Himmler** and **Goebbels** created 12 fake documents showing that **Rohm** was working with the French to remove **Hitler**. **Hitler** told **Rohm** and other **SA** officials to meet him, during the night these men were taken by surprise and arrested. **Rohm** was executed along with 1000 of **SA** members, **Von Papen** was also made to step down. Following this **Hitler** called for a cabinet were he stated that *treasonous acts* had taken place. **Hindenburg** even praised Hitler for saving the country. In August **Hindenburg** died and **Hitler** made himself President and Chancellor and eventually removed democracy and created the term **Fuhrer** for himself.



**KS4 History Germany**  
**Democracy to Dictatorship**  
**Life in Nazi Germany –**  
**Social Policies**

Key Terms

**Autarky**

Self-Sufficiency

**Aryan**

Term used by the Nazis for the perfect German race

**Conscription**

When a country forces [makes it legal] for people over a certain age to have to join the armed forces

**Eugenics**

The study of racial science

**Indoctrinate**

The process of brainwashing people to believe one point of view

**3 K's**

Policies used by the Nazis to control women

**Fuhrer**

Title created by **Hitler** when he became the **dictator** of Germany

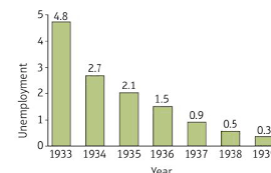
**Rearmament**

Process of equipping/building up an armies resources

Economy




When Hitler became the **Fuhrer** of Germany, the economic state of Germany was poor, with it still experiencing a Depression. Hitler had promised to Germany's economy and make the country strong once again. He did this by introducing work schemes such as;

- **Rearmament** of the Germany army, this not only gave more males the job option as a soldier but also required more factories to be built [which have jobs] and then there was the jobs of producing the resources for the army. This scheme also showed how Hitler would make Germany strong again.
  - **Conscription** meant that men were employed by the army
  - Public Works; gave men jobs which required no set skills [meaning anyone could do them]. These included simple things like planting trees, to more complex of building schools/hospitals and even the autobahn [creating 80,000 jobs]
  - National Labour Service was a scheme whereby all young men worked for 6 months of the year on public works projects
  - **Autarky**; aimed to reduce Germany's reliance on other countries for materials
- All of these schemes caused unemployment to drop from 6 million to the 1000s in just a few years, however these statistics did not include; the Jewish population and women [who had their jobs removed].



Women

Life for women before the Nazis rule include one of freedom e.g. voting, living on their own, having jobs and wearing whatever they wanted. The Nazis wanted to return to a more traditional image/role for women. This included; no dyed hair or make up, dresses or skirts, no smoking and no dieting [to allow them to have children easily]. Women were encouraged to follow the **3 K's**.

<p>Kinder [Children] </p>	<p>Küche [Kitchen] </p>	<p>Kirche [Church] </p>
<p>The Nazis wanted German women to have as many <b>Aryan</b> children as possible. This was encouraged by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Giving 250 marks for each child they had</li> <li>→ Motherhood Cross [bronze=4 kids, silver=6 kids and gold= 8+ kids]</li> </ul>	<p>The Nazis discouraged women from work once they were married, to focus on having children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ They could work in caring jobs e.g. teaching/nursing</li> <li>→ Law of Reduction of Employment [paid women to stay at home]</li> </ul>	<p>This was not massively different/difficult for the Nazis to do as the majority of Germany Christians. It encouraged women to attend to church and to be;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Obedient</li> <li>→ Importance of family life</li> </ul>

Children

Young people were very important to the Nazis. They understood that they were future soldiers and mothers of the **Aryan** race. This was made clear with the Youth Groups that were created;



**The Hitler Youth**

- Boys wore military style uniforms
- Boys joined from 6 and then moved to the main youth group at 11
- By 1939 90% of population were members
- They practised using rifles and were **indoctrinated**



**The League of German Maidens**

- Girls wore a uniform
- Girls joined from 10
- They still had to do some physical activity e.g. marching
- They practised textiles and cooking and were **indoctrinated**

German schools also promoted Nazi values with subjects focussing in;

- German history [victories]
- Maths
- Fitness [ 1 hour per day]
- **Eugenics**
- Girls did **domestic studies** whereas boys focussed on science

Religious studies was banned and all subjects centred on **Aryan** supremacy and **Anti-Semitism**

# KS4 History Germany

## Democracy – Dictatorship

### Life in Nazi Germany – Social Policies

#### Key Individuals

#### Ludwig Müller

A Nazi Bishop who grouped Protestantism together and promoted Nazi ideas



#### Key Terms

#### Anti-Semitism

Hostility or discrimination towards Jewish population

#### Boycott

When you stop buying from a company as a punishment or protest

#### Euthanised

Intentionally ending someone's life [usually to stop suffering]

#### Ideology

A set of belief systems

#### Persecution

Violent and non-violent targeting of groups based on things like; race, gender etc.

#### Star of David

A Jewish symbol



In Germany during the Nazi rule the vast majority of people were Christians, with **45 million Protestant** and **22 million Catholic**. The Nazis had dealt with the Christian threat back in 1933 with the **Concordat**, however as the Nazis pushed their values and beliefs more on to the German people, a clash occurred between the Nazis and the Church. Both organisations had completely opposite ideologies;

- The Christians promoted equality, peace and love to all
- The Nazis promoted race superiority, violence and hatred towards 'the weak'

The Nazis already had some support from Christians through their **Reich Church** which was led by **Ludwig Müller**. Some Christians welcomed the Nazi takeover as there was deep rooted **Anti-Semitism** already in the Church.

The Nazis tried to seize further control of the Church by;

- Banning the Old Testament as it was classed as a 'Jewish Book'.
- Hitler also broke the **concordat** by trying to stop Catholics using the crucifix in Church and instead promoted the Nazi symbol.
- Catholic schools and other religious organisations were shut down and instead children were sent to state schools and Hitler youth groups where Nazi values were taught

#### Nuremberg Laws



15<sup>th</sup> September 1935 in Nuremberg Nazi leaders announced new laws [which promoted Nazi ideology]. The law defined that someone was Jewish if they had 3 or 4 grandparents that were Jewish. The laws also;

- All rights were taken away from Jewish people
- Banned marriage between Jewish and Non-Jewish
- Jewish patients could not be seen by **Aryan** doctors

On the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1933 the Nazis carried out the first nationwide planned action against the Jewish population in Germany; a **boycott** targeting Jewish run businesses and professionals. The SA stood outside the shops to discourage people from entering, painted 1000s of doors was the **Star of David** followed by **Anti-Semitic** signs [e.g. *Don't buy from the Jews*] and the Nazi symbol



#### Religion



45 million



22 million



VS



#### Persecution

#### Kristallnacht [Night of the Broken Glass]

9-10<sup>th</sup> November 1938 the first series of violent attacks started took place against the Jewish community. Jewish shops, homes and synagogues were burnt/smashed or destroyed.

- 400 synagogues burnt down
- Around 7,500 Jewish shops were destroyed
- 30,000 Jewish people were arrested and sent to concentration camps
- 100 Jewish people were killed



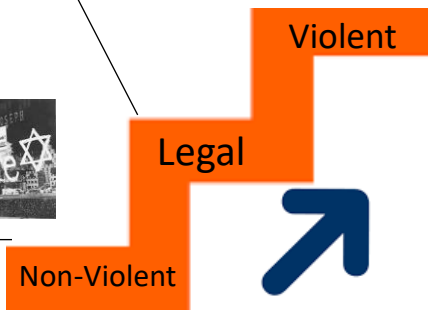
#### Religious Opposition to the Nazis

- The assassination bomb plot attempt against Hitler was believed to have religious reason behind it
- 1937 the Pope published a speech called 'With Burning Concern' where he attacked Hitler, referring to him as "a mad prophet with repulsive arrogance". Which was read out in every Catholic Church



#### How did the Nazis deal with religious opposition?

- 400 Catholics were sent to the Dachau concentration camps
- 800 protestant from the Confessional Church were arrested and sent to concentration camps



#### Other minorities

In order to keep the German population **Aryan** minority groups were sterilized in order to remove 'defects' such as deafness. Groups were also **Euthanised** [100,000 people]. Groups such as; homosexuals, beggars, alcoholics were sent to the concentration camps

**KS4 History Germany**  
**Democracy – Dictatorship**  
**Life in Nazi Germany – Control**

Key Individuals

**Joseph Goebbels**  
 Head of Nazi Propaganda 1933-1945. He helped Hitler become Chancellor through radio, posters and campaigns. He later helped the Nazis further their control over the German people



**Heinrich Himmler**  
 Head of SS [1929-1945] and set up/ran the secret police and concentration camps



Key Terms

**Censorship**  
 When a person or government controls what information is shared with the public

**Executed**  
 Putting someone to death as a legal penalty [punishment]

**Gestapo**  
 The Nazi secret police

**Propaganda**  
 Using media to portray a particular message, idea or set of beliefs

Rallies

These were planned/organised events which were an opportunity to show support for Nazism. Music was played and speeches given by Nazi officials. The biggest was held each August in Nuremberg.



Propaganda

Sporting Events

Berlin hosted the 1936 Olympics. The Nazis saw this as an opportunity to showcase to the rest of the world the Aryan dominance and superiority. Germany won the most Gold medals that year. Architect Albert Speer Olympic stadium designed promoted German dominance



Art & Culture

The Nazis used artwork to promote the Aryan race and films to promote German superiority. They also used films like the *Eternal Jew* to promote hatred towards the Jewish population. Music was classical and modern music like Jazz was banned in Germany.



On 10<sup>th</sup> May 1933 a group of German university students who supported the Nazis organised a countrywide book burning event. This took place in major cities outside of university whereby 1000's of books were burnt and destroyed. The author of the books were deemed 'undesirable' such as;

- Jewish
- Anarchists
- Communist
- Black
- Homosexual



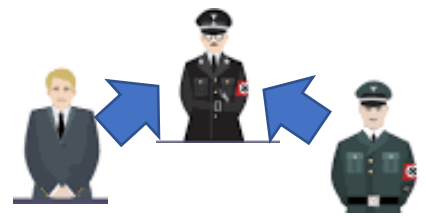
Censorship

In order to control what the population of Germany had daily access to the Nazis imposed **censorship** in medias such as;

- Newspapers which were all controlled by the government and only printed information that favoured the Nazis. Any newspapers that spread negative stories about the Nazis were banned
- Radios were sold cheaply so that every German household would have one, the Nazis then controlled the stations that people could listen to; including for news and songs. Foreign radio stations were banned in Germany and if a person was caught listening to one they could be **executed**



The Schutzstaffel [SS] was in charge of monitoring terror. They later set up the camps 'enemies' of the state were sent too



The **Gestapo** job was to monitor the German people and look for signs of opposition

The **Sicherheitsdienst [SD]** job was to listen to phone calls and gather evidence to give to the SS

Fear

- The Nazis controlled the legal system making opposition difficult;
- Judges swore an oath of loyalty to the Nazis
- All lawyers had to be members of the Nazi Lawyers Association
- Standard punishments were removed, this meant judges could decide how to punish criminals

You could be **executed** for 46 different crimes in Nazi Germany including; stealing and keeping secrets. The Nazis courts passed down 40,000 death sentences



The first concentration camp was set up 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1933 to sent political opposition such as SDP or Communists. By 1939 there were 5 concentration camps containing 50,000 people



# KS4 History Germany Democracy – Dictatorship World War Two

## Key Individuals

**Admiral Canaris**  
Took part in a **coup** against Hitler



**Colonel Stauffenberg**  
Took part in an assassination attempt against Hitler



**Sophie Scholl**  
Leader of the White Rose Group



**Hans Scholl**  
Leader of the White Rose Group



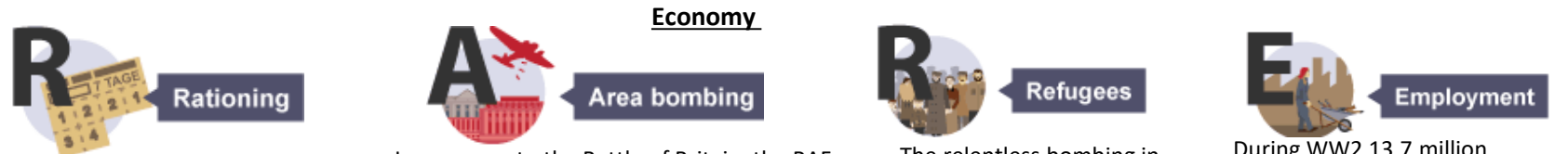
## Key Terms

**Blitzkrieg**  
An intense military tactic used by the Germans to bring about a swift victory

**Coup**  
A plan/sudden violent and unlawful seizure of power from the government

**Ration**  
Used during the war, people were given a fixed amount of resources to avoid running out

→ 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939 Germany invaded Poland, causing Britain to declare war on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Germany then successfully took over France within 6-9 months using **blitzkrieg** tactics.  
→ With only Britain left fighting against Germany, Hitler turned his attention to invading there. The Battle of Britain took place using planes and bombing cities, unfortunately Hitler was unable to successfully invade Britain



The Nazis brought **rationing** before WW2 had even begun, due to the devastation during WW1. Your food **ration** depended on your importance in the war effort. E.g. Jewish people were given less than **Aryan**. Unfortunately, **autarky** had failed in Germany and instead food prices rose and Germany saw a shortage of meat & coal.

In response to the Battle of Britain, the RAF launching bombing raids on German cities targeting; military, industry and civilians. Over 3 years;  
→ 61 German cities were destroyed  
→ 3.6 million homes destroyed  
→ 7.5 million people were made homeless  
→ 800,000 people wounded  
→ 400,000 people killed  
Nazi **propaganda** downplayed these attacks to not panic the German people.

The relentless bombing in areas like the **Ruhr** forced people out of their homes and towns/cities. Following the Battle of Stalingrad the Soviet army marched through Poland and East Germany leading to many German refugees fleeing out of fear of vengeful Russian soldiers.

During WW2 13.7 million German men worked in the armed forces. This left huge gaps of employment in Germany, Hitler tried to get women to step in to take these roles, however due to the social policies introduced under the Nazis many women refused to work. The Germans used 8 million enslaved labourers into German jobs

**Youth Groups**  
Edelweiss Pirates [working class]  
This group would go camping to get away from the watchful eyes of the Nazis, they would listen to old folk music and write anti-Nazi slogan on walls. Largely this group was simply monitored by the **gestapo**, however;  
→ In 1942 700 members were arrested  
→ 1944 12 members were publicly hung



Swing/ Jazz Group[middle to upper class]  
This group would reject Nazi values and had the money to go to banned clubs. They danced to Jazz music. They were closely monitored by the **gestapo** who regularly raided the banned nightclubs



**Opposition**  
The White Rose Group  
This group was formed in 1943 by students from Munich University. They opposed the Nazis by;  
→ Creating and distributing 6 anti-Nazi leaflets [150,000 copies in total]  
→ Denounced Nazi regime and called for a country-wide resistance  
→ Openly denounced the persecution and mass murder of Jewish people  
→ Wrote anti-Nazi graffiti  
→ Marched through the streets of Germany protest



The leaders of the group were unknown for a long time, with the **gestapo** desperately trying to find them. That was until **Sophie and Hans Scholl** were seen distributing one of the leaflets by a caretaker at the university, who reported it to the **gestapo**. The brother and sister were arrested and both beheaded.



Opposition in the German Army  
Admirals Coup – October 1939  
Following the successful invasion in Poland some members of the German army feared Hitler's plan to attack France was too rushed. **Admiral Canaris** attempted to get support from the heads of the army by leading a **coup**. However when a harsh winter delayed Hitler plan anyway support began to go for the **coup**. **Canaris** was **executed** for high treason in a concentration camp in 1945.



The Generals Plot – July 1944  
By July 1944 Germany was losing WW2 badly, this meant support for Hitler had fallen. A bomb was planted by **Colonel Stauffenberg** at one of Hitler's meetings. It exploded by Hitler survived. In response;  
→ **Stauffenberg** was shot the same day  
→ 5,000 people were **executed**.  
→ General Field Marshall Erwin van Romell was forced to commit suicide.



# KS4 History Germany Democracy – Dictatorship World War Two

## Key Individuals

**Reinhard Heydrich**  
Head of the **SD**



## Key Terms

**Einsatzgruppen**  
A SS unit who was tasked to follow behind the Nazis in the Soviet Union and round up Jewish people to shoot

**Exterminate**  
Destroy, completely or kill something

**Final Solution**  
Nazi plan to removing the Jewish population permanently

**Ghettos**  
An enclosed community for Jewish population keeping them separate from everyone else



**Phase One – Ghettos**  
Following Germany's conquest of Poland 3 more million Jews became part of their population. Polish Jews were kept in **ghettos** and camps in terrible conditions. 1000s died of disease of starvation. The largest was Warsaw **ghetto** which had more than 400,000 Jews in an area of 1.3 square miles

## Steps to the Final Solution

**Phase Two – Mass killings**  
During the German invasion into the Soviet Union, 4 specially trained **SS** units called **Einsatzgruppen** was created. Victims of this group were taken to the edge of towns/villages forced to dig mass graves and shot. → In September 1941 outside Kiev 33,700 Jewish people were killed in just 2 days. → 1.2 million Jews in total were believed to have been killed using this method  
The Nazis felt these mass killings were expensive and time consuming.



## Phase Three – The Final Solution

On 20<sup>th</sup> January 1942 **Reinhard Heydrich** held a conference in Wansee. It was agreed here that all the Jews under Nazi occupation would be brought to Poland. It was decided that;  
→ Those who were fit enough to work would be forced to work to death.  
→ Those who were not would be **exterminated**.  
6 death camps were built in total to carry out this **genocide**  
→ The biggest camp was Auschwitz-Birkenau where 2.5 million Jews were murdered  
→ 6 million Jews in total were killed during the **Holocaust**  
→ Several million other groups such as; gypsies, homosexuals, soviet prisoners and other 'undesirables'  
→ 88% of Polish Jews were killed



**Germany's downfall**  
→ Hitler began to look weak due to the prolong stalemate with Britain and so turned his attention to the Soviet Union [their ally]. Hitler attacked Stalingrad which again ended in a brutal defeat. This move however, pushed the Soviets onto the **allies** side.  
→ In 1943 following the Battle of Kursk Italy was knocked out of the war, leaving only Germany and Italy left  
→ June 1944 Britain and American joined forces and launched D-Day. This successful invasion reclaimed France, forcing the Nazis army to retreat back to Germany  
→ German soldiers were not being attacked from both the East [Soviets] and West [USA/Britain and France]  
→ As the Soviets re-claimed Eastern Europe they discovered and **liberated** those in the **Holocaust**. The news of the events that had taken place here became public as western newspapers arrived and shared the story around the world

## End of the War

**End of war in the West**  
On the 30<sup>th</sup> April the Soviet Union arrived in Berlin. **Hitler** and his wife committed suicide as he knew he had lost. Germany officially surrendered following this. Other important Nazi officials such as **Joseph Goebbles** and his family also committed suicide. Those Nazis officials that survived were put on the Nuremburg trials where they were found guilty and **executed** after the war.



**End of war in the East**  
China → had been invaded by Japan in 1937. Once Japan had been defeated in 1949 a **civil war** took place in China between the communist and Nationalist  
Japan → In order to end the war quickly in August 1945 America dropped 2 atomic bombs on Japan. This was new military weapons. Japan surrendered following these attacks and WW2 was officially over



**Division of Germany**  
Following the end of WW2 Germany was divided into 4; the West given to France, Britain and America and the East to the Soviet Union

The West → these countries had learnt from WW1 and did not want to punish their zone too harshly. They wanted to help the countries economy re-build and support the country

The East → The Soviet Union wanted to punish their zone due to the damage Germany had done to them during the war. The Soviet Union also wanted to created a **buffer zone** around their country to protect themselves from any further invasions

This division of ideas and other ideology eventually lead to the **Cold War**

