



# Germany 1890-1945

## Crucial Knowledge



<b>Factors</b>	
<b>Social</b> – relating to people and society <b>Economic</b> - relating to businesses and wealth <b>Political</b> - relating to the government or public affairs of a country	
Germany under the Kaiser 1888-1918	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kaiser Wilhelm II was the King of Germany.</li> <li>• The Kaiser wanted a strong army and navy to rival Britain.</li> <li>• Weltpolitik (World Policy) was the Kaiser's desire to rule the world.</li> <li>• Germany entered World War One (1914) full of confidence due to a strong navy and military.</li> <li>• By the end of World War One (1918) Germany was starving and defeated. The Kaiser had ran away.</li> </ul>
Weimar Germany 1918-1933	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The German people felt stabbed in the back by their new leaders when they signed the armistice; losing Germany the war.</li> <li>• Germany were forced to sign the Treaty of Versailles which crippled them. (LAMB)</li> <li>• Groups with extreme political ideas, such as the Communists and the Nazis, attacked the Weimar government.</li> <li>• When Germany couldn't pay their war reparations, France and Belgium invaded the Ruhr for coal. The government paid the workers to strike, which lead to Hyperinflation, where German money became worthless.</li> <li>• From 1924 (Dawes Plan) to 1929 (Wall Street Crash) Germany recovered from its early problems and began to experience a Golden Era of politics and culture.</li> </ul>
The Rise of Hitler 1928-1933	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nazis went from 2.8% to 37.3% of the vote by promising 'Work &amp; Bread' to the 6 million unemployed Germans during the Great Depression.</li> <li>• Hitler became a sensation in Germany with thousands watching his powerful, persuasive speeches which promised to make Germany great again.</li> <li>• Hitler became Chancellor of Germany on 30th January 1933.</li> <li>• The Reichstag Fire enabled Hitler to use fear of Communism to pass the Enabling Act; setting him on his way to complete power in Germany.</li> <li>• Hitler removed Nazi leaders who threatened his power during the Night of the Long Knives. Hindenburg died a month later allowing Hitler to become Führer.</li> </ul>
Life in Nazi Germany 1933-1945	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women were expected to follow the three Ks; Kinder, <u>Küche</u>, <u>Kirche</u> (Children, Kitchen, Church) which encouraged them to raise the birth rate.</li> <li>• The Nazis controlled young people through Hitler Youth groups and new school lessons which promoted Nazi values.</li> <li>• The Nazis considered the Aryan Race superior to other "races" who they saw as inferior such as Jews, Gypsies and Homosexuals.</li> <li>• The workers needed to fuel the Nazi war machine. Unemployment disappeared through Nazi public work programs to build roads, schools and hospitals.</li> <li>• The Nazis controlled the population through a combination of terror and propaganda.</li> </ul>
Impact of World War Two 1939-1945	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the start of World War Two (1939), due to rationing, two out of every five Germans ate better than before the war .</li> <li>• From 1943, Germany was hit hard by bombing and increased rationing. Morale and support for the war lowered massively.</li> <li>• As the war turned against Germany, opposition increased from groups such as young people, the church and the military.</li> <li>• Hitler committed suicide and Germany surrendered in 1945.</li> <li>• The world learnt the full extent of the horrors of the 'Final Solution' when concentration camps were liberated in 1945.</li> </ul>