Germany In Transition 1919-39

After WW1 - 1919-23

T of V:

- £6.6 billion reparations
- 100.000 soldiers
- 13% of land lost
- Article 231 blamed for WW1

Weak Government:

- Lots of coalitions
- Blamed for signing T of V
- Article 48 undemocratic

Uprisings:

- 1919 Spartacist. Communist revolt, Rose Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht. Put down by Freikorps (ex soldiers)
- 1920 Kapp Putsch. Right-wing

 Freikorps. Forced government
 to run away, led by Wolfgang
 Kapp. Stopped by a strike by general population.
- 1923 Munich Putsch. Started in Beer Hall, plan was to march to Munich. Betrayed by local politicians. 16 Nazis and 4 police officers killed, Hitler shot in shoulder.

Occupation of Ruhr:

 Germany missed reparations payment. French took over factories. Germany told workers to strike and sabotage. More money printed to pay workers, causing hyperinflation.

Golden Years - 1924-29

Economic Recovery:

- Rentenmark new temporary currency ends hyperinflation.
- 1924 Dawes Plan loans from America to pay reparations.
- 1929 Young Plan reparations reduced to £1.85 billion.
- Industrial production increased.
- Unemployment still high.
- Stresemann said they were 'dancing on a volcano'.

International Recovery:

- 1925 Locarno Pact keep existing borders.
- 1926 League of Nations Germany allowed to join.
- 1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact 63 countries keep armies for selfdefence.

Social recovery:

- Censorship removed.
- Women given rights.
- 60% less people homeless.
- Bauhaus architecture.
- Modern Art

End of Golden Years:

- WSC in America 1929.
- America call in loans.
- Germany fall into depression.
- Unemployment reaches 6 million.

Nazi Rise to power

Early Years 1919-23:

- Small local party
- Hitler joins and produced 25 point programme in 1920, setting out beliefs.
- Hitler rebrands party swastika.
- SA used to intimidate opponents.

Munich Putsch 1923:

- Attempt to takeover failed.
- Hitler put on trial for treason.
- Went to prison for 9 months.
- Treated well and allowed guests.
- Wrote his book Mein Kampf.

Between 1925-29 the Nazis were not popular – government was doing well.

Reasons for growing support:

- 1929 Depression.
- Propaganda Goebbels.
- SA intimidation.
- Financial support from industrialists.
- Hitler's speeches.

Hitler becomes Chancellor:

- Nazis were biggest party but Hindenburg hated Hitler.
- Agreed to make him Chancellor with Von Papen as vice – both believed could control Hitler.

Consolidation of power

Reichstag Fire – 27th Feb 1933:

- Blamed on a Communist Van der Lubbe.
- Hitler used it to persuade Hindenburg to pass a law to imprison opponents.
- This was important as there was an election a week later.

Enabling Act – 23rd March 1933:

- Gave Hitler full power for four years.
- Passed through intimidation and not allowing communists to vote in parliament.
- Hitler used this to ban trade unions and other political parties.

Night of Long Knives – 30th June 1934

- Hitler's purge of opponents.
- 400 people killed, including SA leader Ernst Rohm.
- Hitler feared the SA were loyal to Rohm instead of him.
- This secured support of the German army.

Death of Hindenburg - August 1934

- Hitler merges the role of Chancellor and President.
- Approved through a referendum – 90% of people voted in favour.

Nazi Policies

Economic:

- National service RAD for 18-25 year olds, building motorways
- Invisible unemployment not counting certain groups women, Jews, communists.
- Rearmament ignored T of V and built army up to 1.4 million.
- Unemployment went from 6 million to 35,000 officially.
- Volkswagen scheme conned people to pay for cars they never received.
- Trade unions were replaced with the DAF under Nazi control/Strength through Joy gave people cheap tickets and holidays.

Women:

- Rights taken away jobs.
- Encouraged to have children loans, medals, Lebensborn Programme (SS men).
- Expected to have at least four children.
- Three Ks Kinder, Kirche, Kuche.
- Eventually they needed women back in work duty year. Helping on a farm for no pay.

Young people:

- Education was controlled textbooks rewritten, teachers replaced.
- Lessons like 'race study' and 'eugenics'.
- Boys focused on military, girls focused on preparing them to be mothers.
- Hitler Youth controlled free time.

Jews:

- 1933 Boycott of businesses.
- 1935 Nuremburg Laws lost citizenship
- 1938 Kristallnacht violent attacks.
- 1939 Began removing Jews from Germany.

Terror and Persuasion

Terror – led by Himmler:

- Gestapo Secret State Police. Plain clothes, open letters, tapped phones. Gave impression of always listening.
- SS Wore black, began as Hitler's bodyguard.
 Responsible for removing of all opposition within Germany.
- SD Intelligence body. Aimed to discover enemies. Professional and educated.
- Concentration camps all opponents would be sent here. Gestapo sent people, SS would run these.

Control:

• Legal system – all judges were loyal to Hitler, and he could alter sentences.

Propaganda – led by Goebbels:

- Posters targeting Jews and depicting perfect aryans.
- Radio Nazi controlled. Cheap radios were sold
- Cinema all scripts approved by Goebbels, 40 minute Nazi advert at start.
- Rallies showed off power of Nazis. Most famous in Nuremburg.
- Books any opposing books were burnt, and writers left.

Censorship:

- Newspapers all put under Nazi control.
- Music Jazz banned.
- Art Modern art was banned, old fashioned was promoted.
- Architecture Bauhaus was replaced with grander style.

Foreign Policy

Aims:

Reverse T of V, Unite Germany speakers,
 Lebensraum – living space, Anschluss – union with Austria, destroy communism.

Rearmament:

- Hitler began to rearm Germany built army to 1.4 million by 1939.
- Introduced conscription in 1935 no-one stopped him.

Rhineland - 1936

- T of V said Germany wasn't allowed troops there.
- Hitler put troops in, was ready to withdraw.
 No-one stopped him became confident.

Anschluss - 1938

- Had attempted this before in 1934, but was scared of Mussolini.
- Stirred up trouble, then sent in troops to restored order. 99.75% approved in vote.

Sudetenland and Czechoslovakia:

- Sudetenland was German speaking. Hitler demanded it back.
- Met with Britain, Italy and France and agreed to give Hitler Sudetenland in Sept 1938.
- March 1939 Hitler took rest of Czechoslovakia – breaks agreement.

Nazi-Soviet Pact and War

- August 1923 Hitler and Stalin make an agreement to take half of Poland each. This will avoid Hitler fighting on two fronts.
- 1st September Hitler invades Poland, causing Britain to declared war.