#### Describe two features of the Kaiser's government (the Kaiserreich)

Kaiser Wilhelm II Autocratic, hereditary position

Like a Prime Minister



Elected parliament. All men 25+ vote

## Describe two problems faced by the Kaiser's government:

Each state sent representatives to consult over new laws

- The Kaiser's militarism and desire for 'a place in the sun (Weltpolitik). The Kaiser wanted a large navy to protect the newly expanded German Empire and to rival Britain's - Naval Laws introduced 1898-1912 - sees German navy rapidly increased in size. Plunges Germany into long-term debt to fund this. Causes tension in Europe e.g. naval race with Britain.
- Industrialisation— wages poor, poor living and working conditions, food expensive - meant workers were unhappy. More and more people went on strike and joined trade unions in the hope of forcing the Kaiser to improve these conditions.
- Growth of socialism more and more workers voted for the Social Democratic Party (SPD) who believed in socialism (the idea that power and wealth should be shared equally among the people) and want social reform. They hoped the Kaiser may share some of his power, and allow the Reichstag to make more social reforms or laws to improve workers' rights and conditions. Around 1 in 3 Germans voted for SPD. More extreme socialists want to start a revolution, rebel against the Kaiser, and run towns via workers' councils.
- Kaiser was an autocratic ruler who could ignore his government's advice and make decisions alone. The Kaiser made all decisions related to the military and foreign countries.

### Germany at war:

- Huge amount of civilian suffering during war due to Anglo-Naval Blockade stopping supply ships getting to Germany – food, medicine and clothing shortage.
- People grow war weary.
- 1915 500 women gather in front of parliament buildings demanding the return of the soldiers.
- 1916 10,000 workers assemble in Berlin shouting 'Down with the war, down with the government

# Which groups supported the Weimar Republic?

make money)

Too many parties fighting over single issue - difficult to make decisions or

Difficult to get a majority party - forms lots of coalitions that don't agree.

Unhappy parties can walk out of Reichstag and force National Election.

Many did not like this new democratic system e.g. old army generals,

Allows extremist parties (e.g. Nazis) to enter parliament.

Social Democratic German Centre Party People's Party Party (SPD) -Democratic Party (Zentrum) (DVP) - Middle Mostly working (DDP) - middle class class class e.g. lawyers writers Supported interests Ebert was from the Believed in Supported any and heliefs of the SPD Relieved individual freedom policy that everyone was e.a. freedom of Catholic Church. prompted trade equal, wanted and industry (to speech.

votes they win; it can lead to lots of small parties gaining seats and an unstable government.

introduce new laws.

**Communist Party** National (KPD) - working class People's Party (DNVP) - Middl and upper classes, some ex-soldiers Wanted Germany to Wanted a strong

be run by small

workers' councils, not

by a government.

Hated democracy and wanted a strong government led by one strong government ruled by one politician e.g.

**National Socialist German** Workers' Party NSDAP/Nazio - unemployed, mainly exsoldiers: some support from Not based on Wilson's 14 Points middle - and upper - classes who feared communists.

Anti - Republic

Why did Germany hate the Treaty?

Kaiser abdicated - person responsible punished already.

Humiliated Anglo-Naval Blockade - 700,000 already

Article 231 – not actually fully to blame Lost 13% of land - 6 million displaced

Lost 16% steel and 48% coal Had been told they were winning war belief they hadn't actually lost -Military terms leave them vulnerable

### Hyperinflation Crisis (1923)

the Kaiser

- 1922 Germans announce they cannot afford to pay the next reparations instalment. The French and Belgians didn't believe them and decided to take what they were
- January 1923 60,000 French and Belgian soldiers marched into the Ruhr, a rich, industrial area of Germany. They took control of every factory, mine and railway. They also took food and goods from shops and arrested those who resisted.
- The German government ordered its workers not to fight back, but instead to go on strike and not help the soldiers remove goods from the country - passive resistance.
- French and Belgian soldiers were tough on the strikers. Over 100 of them were killed and 15,000 were thrown out of their homes as a punishment.
- The German government promised to continue paying the workers on strike, as they were doing what the government told them to do. Germany was running short of money because the Ruhr was not producing coal, iron and steel to sell to other
- To pay striking workers, the German government printed large amounts of money. The striking workers were being paid for not working, and began to quickly spend
- their money. In response, shopkeepers began to put up their prices.
- As shops raised their prices, the government responded by printing even more money to help people buy things. But the more money the government printed, the faster
- The faster prices went up, the faster people spent their wages. Soon workers were being paid twice a day. They carried their wages around in wheelbarrows, which wasn't even enough to buy a decent meal. The price of goods even rose between joining the back of a queue and reaching the front.
- By 1923, German money was worthless. The government had printed so much money that it lost all its value. People started to use money to light fires, or to make paper aeroplanes or kites to fly. Not surprisingly, many blamed the government, as it had been their decision to call a strike and print the money.

### What was the impact of Hyperinflation?

- People with savings in the bank the biggest losers. Some people saved their whole life to get 1000 marks in the bank. By 1923, 1000 marks would not even buy them a loaf of
- Elderly people on fixed pensions found their income would no longer buy them what
- Many small businesses collapsed as normal trade became impossible because of daily
- People who had borrowed money found it very easy to pay off their debts. They were the real winners. If a person had borrowed 10,000 marks in 1920 (a lot of money back then), they could now pay off their debt with one banknote.

# Part 1: Germany and the Growth of Democracy

POLITICAL - 'Stab in the back' myth - the idea that the Weimar politicians who had signed the Armistice on November 11th 1918 had stabbed Germany in the back and should not be supported.

Political vs. Economic Threats to the Weimar Government in the 1920s:

Red = threat from the left. Blue = threat from the right

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC - The economy was in ruins, its people were starving, and society was divided and politically unstable. The Weimar Republic, with its Proportional Representation and slow decision-making process, struggled to make decisions quick enough.

# POLITICAL THREAT FROM LEFT – 6 January One of the political groups in Germany at the

time - the Spartacus League. Believed in communism. Wanted Germany to be run by small councils of soldiers and workers, not a large parliament. Try to take over Berlin on 6 January 1919 - thousands roam street, firing guns and trying to take over important buildings

Ebert sends in 2000 Free Corps (right-wing exsoldiers) to crush rising. 3 days of brutal street fighting, Free Corps recaptured buildings and Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht were

> This was another reminder that democracy had enemies who were willing to use violence to transform society

Showed there were

violent means to

groups present in society

who were willing to use

completely eradicate the

new government and run

society in an entirely

different way (small

councils rather than a

large parliament). Also

howed dangerous

division between left-wing

## POLITICAL THREAT FROM RIGHT - March 1920 - Kapp Putsch. Wolfgang Kapp gathered 5000 men (the Free

Corps), mainly police and ex-soldiers, took over Berlin. Aimed to take over whole country, make army strong again, recover lands lost in ToV. President Ebert and the government had to flee Berlin. The army refused to stop the revolt. However, Ebert did not have support of workers who went on strike, resulting in no gas, water, electricity or trains. After 100 hours Kapp fled and Ebert returned.

going on strike.

920 - As soon as Kapp fled abroad, leftwing workers in the industrial area of the Ruhr stayed on strike, rose up and took over several towns. Known as the Red Rising in

discontent many held towards their governmen and the political chaos in Germany at this time.

# POLITICAL THREAT FROM RIGHT - 1919

-1922 – over 350 political murders in Germany, mostly carried out by right-wing extremists. In August 1921, Matthias Erzberger, the man who signed the armistice in 1918, was shot dead by a right-wing group. Foreign Minister, Walter Rathenau also murdered, and acid was thrown on Philipp Scheidemann (Weimar

The judges, many of whom preferred the Kaiser's government, consistently gave these terrorists light sentences (average of four years in prison), or let them go free, increasing the threat to the Weimar government further, as this demonstrated that these threats would not be dealt with seriously

ECONOMIC - Hyperinflation Crisis of 1923 - For most Germans. 1923 was the worst year since the war. It had been the government's decision to call the strike in the Ruhr and to print the money, causing the hyperinflation crisis. People's entire life savings were lost, and those on a fixed income - e.g. pensioners - could not even afford basic necessities. Naturally, many blamed the government for their suffering.

Munich Putsch - 8 November 1923 - Hitler interrupted a meeting in a beer hall in Munich, where Gustav von Kahr, the head of the Bavarian government was speaking (Bavaria is a region in Germany). Hitler fired a bullet into the ceiling and announced that he was taking over Bavaria, and then he would march into the German capital of Berlin and take over the whole country. He locked Kahr and his companions in a small room. Then General Ludendorff, a great German war hero who knew about the plan, walked in and said he offered support to Hitler. Around Munich, Hitler's Stormtroopers took control of government buildings and arrested officials. The morning after the Munich Putsch, things did not go to plan for Hitler. Kahr promised to help him and was released, but he went back on his word and contacted the police. When Hitler and his 2000 supporters began to march through Munich's streets, they were met by armed police. After a short qun battle, three policemen and sixteen Nazis lay dead. Hitler was wounded with a dislocated shoulder, and he and Ludendorff were arrested and taken to prison. The Munich Putsch was over, and Hitler went on trial for treason. This was a reminder that democracy had enemies, and many in Germany were willing to use violence to remove the government. Hitler's 24-day trial was a media sensation and he used this opportunity to publicly criticise the government. He was only sent to jail five years, showing that many in Germany were sympathetic to anti-government views.

President Elected every seven years. Controls army, navy and air force. Can use Article 48 in times of crisis and rule on his own without getting the support of the Reichstag by issuing special emergency degrees (laws).

judges, upper class want return to Kaiser.

What was the Weimar Republic?

**Proportional Representation** 

What was it? Political system in which the number of politicians a particular party is in proportion with the number of

Chancellor Chosen by President, Responsible for day-to-day running of the country, Must have support from at least half the politicians in the Reichstag to introduce new laws. Minister)

Reichstan Elected every 4 years by the people of Germany. Discussed and introduced laws.

people (the

All men and women 20electorate)

democracy and

reform to help

workers

Fair, democratic

representation of

Wider choice for

Give small parties a

the people

voters

- By 1918, Germany close to collapse. rmans starving – surviving on turnips and bread.
- Deadly flu epidemic sweeping the country, killing thousands already weak due to diet.
- October 1918 General Ludendorff tells German politicians they cannot win the war.
- He says Britain, France and USA will be more sympathetic if they become democratic - i.e. the Kaiser must share his
- The Kaiser does this reluctantly allows formation of new government, transfers some power over to Reichstag.
- Too late, however anti-Kaiser demonstrations still continue.

# Mutiny and Revolution at the end of the war

- 28 November 1918, German navy ordered out to sea from Kiel in northern Germany to attack British ships.
- Sailors refuse to follow orders no longer want to fight.
- News of their mutiny spreads and other sailors refuse to follow orders
- Workers in the town support them.
- Soldiers sent to deal with this join the sailors and workers.
- They took over towns there and set up special councils to run In six days, workers' councils were governing cities all over
- Country was in chaos Kaiser had lost control and his army
- generals no longer supported him.
- 9 November 1918 Kaiser abdicates and secretly leaves

# Impact of war:

- Germany had borrowed money from abroad (the USA for example) to pay for the war. This would need paying
- Germany had lent some of its own money to its allies. Would they ever get this back?
- The war left 60,000 war widows and two million children without fathers. War pensions would cost the government a fortune in the future.
- German factories were exhausted by the war. They had been producing guns, bullets and shells, not goods to

#### Social:

- Women worked in factories during the war. Some Germans believed that this damaged traditional family
- The war left 60,000 war widows and two million children without fathers. War pensions would cost the government a fortune in the future.
- Some factory owners made a fortune during the war, while German workers had restrictions placed on their wages.

#### Political:

- Before the war, Germany had been a stable, rich nation. Now there was mutiny and revolution.
- Many ex-soldiers and civilians felt Germany could have won the war. They felt they had been betrayed by the politicians (the 'November Criminals') who had ended it, and refused to support them.

#### The end of the war

- Friedrich Ebert (leader of Germany's largest political party, the SPD), becomes leader of Germany, on a
- Promises to hold elections soon.
- On 11 November 1918, Germany surrendered WW1 was over.



(Spartacist) and right-wing (Freikorps) groups in

POLITICAL THREAT FROM LEFT - May 1919 councils seized power all over Germany, and a Communist People's Government took power in

> government had to flee and the army refused to stop the revolt. It was only ended by the workers

Significant threat

– The

Shows once more the

**Miss M History Resources** 

Problem	Stresemann's solution
Hyperinflation Crisis – German money was worthless	Brings in newer stable currencies – Rentenmark and Reichsmark. Success – Germans now accept new currency and hyperinflation ends. Failure – Those who lost savings never got these back.
French and Belgian troops invaded the rich industrial area of the Ruhr	Arranges the Dawes Plan – the USA lend 800 million gold marks to Germany. Germany restart reparations payments and French and Belgian soldiers leave the Ruhr. 1929 – Young Plan – Reparations total reduced to £1.8 billion.  Success – French and Belgians leave Ruhr. Failure – Many felt Stresemann gave in to bullying tactics and reparations should be cancelled altogether.
Germany was no longer considered a great power. Its global image had declined.	1925 – Sign Locarno Pact with Britain, France, Belgium and Italy. Joins LoN in 1926. 1928 – sign Kellogg-Briand (anti-war) Pact. Success – Germany regains international status and becomes key part of LoN. Failure – Some angry that Stresemann did not demand land back that had been taken from Germany in ToV.
German industries were in trouble after the war. Factories were run down, hospitals, schools, housing were all poor.	Uses some USA money to rebuild factories, houses, schools and roads. More jobs = more money and Germans become better off. USA companies e.g. Ford build factories here. Success - Germany becomes more prosperous. Failure – Very reliant upon USA (this is an issue following the Wall Street Crash of 1929).

## In what ways did the lives of Germans change during the Golden Age / 1920s?

Germany before the Golden Age: The Kaiser kept tight control on all types of entertainment rols were removed in Weimar Germany, giving many Germans a new sense of

freedom:				
Becomes very popular.     Metropolis directed by     Fritz Lang – most     technically advanced film     of the decade     German actress Marlene     Dietrich becomes     worldwide star playing     glamorous, strong-willed     women.	Literature:  Over 120  newspapers to choose from. Fric Remarque's anti-war novel (All Quiet on the Western Front) sold half a million copies in 3 months.	Nightlife:  Bermany becomes centre for new plays, operas, and theatre shows.  Kurt Weill's The Threepenny Opera – box office smash – would have been banned in the Kaiser's days for its vulgar songs. Berlin famous for its nightclubs. Live bands – American Jazz music. Dancers would appear naked. Transvestite evenings.		
Art:      Flourished.     Avant-garde artists e.g. Otto Dix and George Grosz believed art should show reality of everyday life e.g. differences in social classes.     Believed art should make you think.     Art now painted in a way that criticised current events.	Design: New group of designers and architects – Bauhaus movement. Believed in modern, simple and practical designs, rather than elaborate designs.			

Reactions: Some embraced changes. Many hated them, Wanted back old traditional values. Believed Germany was in moral decline, Berlin viewed as corrupt and sex-obsessed, Nazis openly criticised nightclubs.

## Who voted for the Nazis?

# Part 2: Germany and the Depression How did Hitler eliminate his opposition and become Führer/dictator?

Farmers: Farmers had been hard hit by the Depression; people were not buying as much food and farmers had to lower prices. The Weimar government did not help farmers

The Nazis promised farmers higher prices for their crops, a better quality of life, and higher status in German society. Farmers hated communists - if communists took over they would seize the land that families had farmed for generations. The Nazis said they would destroy communism.

important. Some women agreed with Hitler when he said over the last 10 years 'our youth have been exposed to a flood of muck and filth, in word and print, in the theatre and in the cinema.' The Nazis promised to sort out any corruption and immorality in societyl

Women: The Nazis appealed to

morals, and self-discipline were

The Nazis said that family life, good

many women voters.

Upper class: The Nazis promised the wealthy classes strong leadership 'good old days' when Germany was feared and respected throughout them to run factories how they wanted, and his plans to use their factories to build weapons. battleships, and fighter planes mean they might make even more money.

take the businesses of the upper classes.

Middle class: Middle-class people - small business owners, bank workers, doctors, managers - voted for the Nazis in large numbers

Some people's wages had been cut by the government in the There were large groups of

unemployed youths are all over the place. The middle class feared law and order might break down. Feared a communist revolution may destroy their way of life. Weimar Government not strong in their eyes - the government just argues among itself. The Nazis on the other hand promised to deal with problems decisively - and their Stormtroopers (SA) were not

February 1933 - Hitler called for a new election for March 1933, hoping to get a majority. He now had greater influence over many newspapers and radio stations. He used his control of the police to intimidate voters and beat up opponents.

27 February 1933 - A week before voting day, the Reichstag burned down. Communist Marinus van der Lubbe was arrested. Hitler blamed it on a Communist plot to take over Germany.

28 February 1933 – Hitler asked Hindenburg to pass an emergency 'Protection Law' giving Hitler the power to deal with Germany's problems. Because of the Reichstag Fire and the apparent Communist Plot, Hindenburg agreed.

March 1933 – The new law, the 'Decree for the Protection of the People and the State' (Reichstag Fire Decree), banned leading communists from taking part in the election campaign. 4000 communists were jailed and the newspapers banned. In the election on 5 March, the Nazis got more votes than ever, but still not the majority Hitler desperately wanted.

23 March 1933 - Centre Party (Zentrum) politicians join the Nazis. Hitler now has a majority. Many Centre Party politicians were bullied into passing the Enabling Act -Hitler could now make laws without approval from the rest of the Reichstag.

7 April 1933 – Nazis were put in charge of all local government, councils and police. The Gestapo (secret police) was formed. The first concentration camp for political prisoners was opened in Dachau, southern Germany

2nd May 1933 - Hitler banned all trade unions, taking away a workers' ability to complain about pay/conditions.

14th July 1933 – Hitler banned all political parties except the Nazis. The Law Against the Formation of New Parties banned the establishment of new ones. Germany was now a one-party state.

June 1934 – Hitler murders his opponents in the SA in the Night of Long Knives.

2 August 1934 - When Hindenburg died, Hitler immediately took over as President whilst remaining Chancellor. He made the army swear an oath of loyalty to him, and not the country Hitler decided to be called Der Führer - the leader.

### Hitler's road to power/ Chancellor

worsened. As parties rarely won a majority in Weimar Germany, they usually got together to form a coalition government from which Chancellor was chosen Such coalitions were mostly ineffective and the President could use Article 48 of the Constitution to appoint a new Chancellor in emergencies.

- coalition was formed
- largest Party (Social Democratic Party was largest).
- He was unpopular for cutting

### Hitler builds on Nazi success:

- Nazis put up millions of posters and flags, and Hitler gave speeches at
- communists and disrupted their campaign.
- Many Germans felt the chaos, was failing.
- In March 1932, Hitler challenged against Hindenburg's 19.3 million.

- Hindeburg appointed another Centre Party politician, Franz von Papen. Von Papen lacked support, so he
- The Nazis were now the largest political party.

# June 30 1934, the Night of Long Knives:

#### Why did Hitler wish to remove the SA? Had protected Hitler from harm and beat up opponents.

- Many SA members were violent thugs who wanted well-paid jobs as a reward now Hitler was in power.
- Hitler worried that their leader, Ernst Rohm, was becoming too powerful. The SA already had more members than the army.
- Rohm wanted to combine his 400 000 SA with the 100 000 men. in the army, and control both himself - alarmed Hitler.
- Hitler needed to keep the army leaders happy he would need them to get back the land Germany lost in the Treaty of Versailles

## What happened on the Night of Long Knives?

- Hitler arranged a meeting at a hotel in Bavaria, with SA leaders on 30 June 1934.
- Shortly before dawn. Hitler and an assassination squad from the SS (his bodyguards, the black-shirted uniformed Schutzstaffel) stormed into the hotel and arrested Rohm and other SA leaders. They were later shot dead.
- Over the next few days, around 400 political opponents were executed, including ex-Chancellor von Schleicher.

## Another new Chancellor:

- As a result of his success. Hitler demanded the Chancellor's job. Hindenhurg refused because he thought the Nazis were a disruptive
- party and used his emergency powers to give the job to yon Papen again. Von Papen called another election in
- November 1932. While votes for the Nazis fell slightly, they were still the
- Von Papen's Centre Party got fewer seats too, so he resigned again.

# state. Rule of murder:

Hitler did not hide what he had done. Established murder now a method of Nazi government.

Impact of the Night

of Long Knives:

Rivals dead - many

who Hitler regarded

as a threat were now

dead, including Rohm

and any leading Nazis

Rise of SS: SS, lead by

who did not agree

Heinrich Himmler

SA. Along with

Gestapo, SS now

now responsible for

Hitler's security, not

formed basis of police

with Hitler.

## Hitler becomes Chancellor:

Hindenburg made his old friend, Kurt von Schleicher, Chancellor, but he had little support so resigned

- On 30 January 1933, Hindenburg had little choice but to appoint Hitler as Chancellor.
- He tried to limit Hitler's power by appointing von Papen as Vice Chancellor, and only allowing Hitler to have two other Nazis in the Cabinet.
- Hindenburg and his advisors wrongly thought that they could control Hitler.

# **Miss M History Resources**

# Why did the Depression affect Germany?

- The Depression meant that Americans could not longer afford to buy goods from European factories e.g. Germany anymore, so foreign factories had to shut down.
- Goods made in German factories, e.g. cars, electrical goods and clothing, were not selling, so factories had to close down and millions became jobless.
- American banks also demanded back all the money they had lent to Germany in WW1. Banks tried to get this money back from German businesses, which could not pay, and so went bankrupt. People were soon living on the streets jobless, hungry, angry and full of resentment.

## How did the Depression affect Germany politically?

Unemployment and hunger changed the way Germans thought and behaved. Millions blamed the Weimar Government for their problems. People were prepared to listen to political parties (e.g. left-wing Communists and right-wing Nazis) whose leaders promised them radical solutions to all Germany's problems and ways of making their lives better. The Weimar Republic and democracy was not effectively dealing with the Depression people wanted a change and Hitler's arbeit und brot message appealed to many. Hitler's message had always been the same, but now people were desperate enough to listen to him.

The Depression: The Depression hit Germany hard, Businesses

collapsed, unemployment soared to over 6 million. However, this

helped Hitler. Those voters who had paid little attention to Hitler in

repeat their core beliefs: that the Treaty of Versailles was a crime to

Germany, that Jews should be blamed for the economic problems,

that Germany should be reborn as a great and powerful country.

Their message was still the same as the early 1920s, except now

Appeal of Adolf Hitler: Hitler himself had a lot to do with his

audiences with hope

increasing popularity. He had a charismatic personality, and could

make people believe he could be trusted to make Germany a great

nation. as a powerful and inspiring speaker, he was able to fill his

desperate Germans wanted to believe them and vote for them.

the 1920s now started listening to him. The Nazis continued to

Youth: Hitler was an ex-soldier who knew the value of a powerful army, navy and air

He promised to tear up the Treaty of Versailles signed by weak Weimar politicians. Promised to make Germany strong again. Many young people wanted to be a part of Germany's bright future and get jobs in the armed forces or building new homes, motorways or hospitals. People who heard Hitler speak were won over by the sheer force of his

Unhappiness with the Weimar Government: The Weimar

and get Germany out of the Depression. Proportional

land). Without this support, Brüning resigned.

politicians could not seem to agree how to help the unemployed

about a single issue. They argued constantly and achieved very

little. First one Chancellor (Müller) and then another (Brüning) made

President's emergency decrees and making them legal under Article

48. However, when Brüning tried to pass laws to seize rich people's

land and give it to poor peasants, the new President Hindenburg. quickly withdrew his support (Hindenburg himself owned lots of

Fear of Communism/other political parties: In 1917, there had

took over businesses and farms. There had been attempts by

German Communists to take over Germany in the years after the

end of the First World War (Spartacist Uprising). As a result,

hard to build. Communists did not believe in religious

been a communist revolution in Russia, and the Communist Party

middle- and upper-class Germans, particularly businessmen and

want to lose the wealth and position in society that they worked so

institutions either, so they worried churchgoers too. From the start,

Hitler said he would fight communism. He sent his own private

army, the Stormtroopers (SA), to fight with communist gangs.

classes because he promised to deal with the communist threat.

Hitler gained support from the German middle - and upper -

landowners, were frightened of German communists. They didn't

little impact. At one point, Brüning was passing laws by using the

Representation meant lots of political parties were arguing

Why did the Nazis grow in power?

Nazi Party structure/methods/tactics: Hitler thought that he could become Germany's ruler by leading armed soldiers in a Revolution. He

100,000 men in the SA by 1931, 400,000 by 1932. the SA protected Hitler's meetings and tried to influence voters at

elections – appeared organised in their uniform during this time of chaos – walking propaganda that gave German

Made use of propaganda through new media like radio broadcasts and cinema news reports. Bought newspapers and

After the Depression hit Germany in the 1930s, the Nazis appeared the most organised and disciplined group in the

This, and his constant use of radio, which had only recently become widely popular, showed how 'in touch' and modern the

tried this in 1923 but his Munich Putsch failed. He realised that he needed to change tactics, so he decided to win power legally by winning

votes in elections. After prison, Hitler and the Nazis stated to spread their ideas systematically and to build up support through an effective

printed millions of leaflets and posters - persuaded and influenced Germans to their ways of thinking.

Hitler took part in fabulous parades - showed off Nazi power. Rallies - passionate speeches.

In 1932, he used an aeroplane to take him to 20 cities in 7 days to make election speeches.

Nazi Party offices were set up all over Germany - recruited more loyal followers.

people hope that Hitler could similarly organise the country.

Hitler Youth Organisation was set up to encourage younger followers.

country - a party that might restore the nation's strength and power.

Joseph Goebbels made chief propagandist in 1928.

Hitler used new technology in new ways.

and a more powerful nation, like the Europe, Hitler had promised to allow The Nazis promised to destroy communism, and not let communists

afraid to take on communists. The Nazis appeared to show order and discipline in a time of

Political instability grew as the Depression

#### September 1930 Reichstag Election: No party won a majority so a

- Nazis gained 107 seats to be second
- Heinrich Brüning of the Centre Party
- became Chancellor.
- unemployment pay and raising taxes

- mass rallies huge meetings across
- Hitler's private army, the SA, beat up meetings, making it hard for them to
- violence, and unstable governments proved that the Weimar government
- Hindenburg for the presidency. He won an impressive 13.4 million votes

- - called an election.

# July 1932 Reichstag election:

# Brüning resigned in July 1932 and

How did the Nazis affect the lives of

How did the Nazis reduce unemployment?

National Labour Service (RAD): Men 18-25 spend 6 months in RAD. Plant forests dia trenches mend hedges Wear uniforms and live in camps. Given free meals, pocket money, and a job. Unemployment figures drop rapidly.

Public Work Schemes: June 1933 Nazis ordered creation of huge network of autobahns (motorways), Around 3800km of motorways, as well as hospitals and schools were built. Gives work to over 100,000 people.

Rearmament: When a country Invisible unemployment: rebuilds its armed forces. Hitler was Twisting the unemployment determined that Germany should be a statistics. Women who gave up strong military power again, so work to have a family did not ordered the building of new tanks, count in official unemployment battleships, fighter planes, and guns. figures. Part-time workers Thousands of jobs were created, and counted as full-time. Nazis huge government contracts made created jobs by sacking Jewish people, who were then replaced factory owners a fortune. Hitler reintroduced conscription. From 1935, by non-Jews. The Nazis then did all men 18-25 were forced to join not count these newly army for at least two years. Army grew unemployed Jews in their to 1.4 million, giving even more people jobs.

## How did the Nazis change the lives of workers?

#### DAF: Deutsche Arbeitsfront (German Labour Front):

- Replaced trade unions
- Strikes now illegal, workers needed permission to leave jobs.
- Promised to protect workers' rights and improve conditions. Ran two schemes to improve German lives, SDA and KDF:

# SDA - Schonheit der Arbeit

(Beauty of Labour): Tried to improve the workplace by installing better lighting, safety equipment. new washrooms, low-cost canteens and sports facilities.

KDF - KraftdurchFreude (Strength through Joy):

Organised leisure activities to encourage hard work. Had a reward scheme with cheap holidays. theatre trips and football match tickets if workers met targets.

#### Were workers better off?

- DAF ran scheme to help workers save for a car 'People's Car' (Volkswagen). Despite many saving hard, this was a scam. No German every received a car - money was going towards weapon
- Nazis did provide work, but workers lost their rights as trade unions were banned. This meant workers could not quit without permission and strikes were banned.
- People could be forced to work as many hours as the Nazis
- One way the Nazis created jobs was by sacking Jewish people and encouraging women to leave the workforce.
- The KDF did provide rewards for workers e.g. holidays, but some of the holidays were still too expensive for workers
- Food cost more than it used to as Germany was trying to be selfsufficient and not rely on imports from abroad. This meant there was less food in the shops, so shopkeepers charged more due to high demand.

#### Positive changes the Nazis made for farmers: Negative changes the Nazis made for farmers:

- To keep farms large, productive and controlled by the same families, farmers could not divide land between their children. This meant children had to look for iobs in cities instead
- In the late 1930s the Nazis controlled food prices, rather than allowing farmers to do so.

# The Impact of the SECOND World War:

- Supplies needed for soldiers, so sacrifices made back home.
- Severe food shortages by November 1939, food and clothing were rationed.
- One egg per week
- Soap and toilet paper in short supply soggy, stewed pine needles used in the bath rather than soan
- Hot water rationed to two days per week
- Severe labour shortages and refugees:
- 1942 Albert Speer made Armaments Minister and was told to organise Germany for
- Everything was entirely focused on making weapons and growing food for soldiers.
- Anything that did not contribute to war was stopped beer houses, dance halls, sweet shops all shut.
- Factories forced to stay open longer.
- Too many men fighting in the war large numbers of women drafted into factories to work in them.
- By 1944, seen million foreign workers had been brought in from countries Germany had conquered as slave labour in the factories.

- From 1942, Britain and America began pounding German cities with bombs no electricity, water or transport. Ruhr Valley bombed for weeks.
- Refugees.
- Thousands of deaths and injuries. Medical services stretched.
- Flooding, gas explosions, danger of unexploded bombs.
- Support for Nazis begins to weaken.

#### How did the Nazis change the lives of young people?

Hitler hoped to use the German school system to brainwash young Germans into loving him and the Nazi Party. He believed that children who learned to idolise him when they were young would continue to admire him for the rest of their lives. He realised that in the future he may have to call on these people to put up with hardships, to fight, and perhaps even die for him.

History	Key military victories of Germany/how badly Germany was treated because of ToV.
Geography	Land Germany would soon conquer.
Maths	Calculate how much money could be saved by removal of 'untermensch'
Eugenics	Race studies – how mental/physical characteristics of human race could be improved by choosing who could become parents. Racist nonsense.  Taught about the Nazi belief in the inferiority of black people, eastern Europeans, and Jews. Generation of young people grow up believing they were better than other races – could explain why so many failed to speak out against Nazi persecution in later years.
Science	Chemical warfare.
PE	Tripled – fitness training for war.

#### Did Germany become self-sufficient? Economic policy

#### The economy under Schacht: Respected banker Hjalmar Schacht was appointed Minister of Economics:

- He realised that imports of raw materials e.g. iron, steel, rubber and wood were needed to build weapons.
- He signed deals with countries in South America and south-east Europe to supply raw materials in return for German goods.
- For a short time things went well weapons production increased and unemployment fell.
- But Germany was still dependent on foreign raw materials and the changes were too slow for impatient Hitler. Schacht was sacked and replaced by Hermann Goering.

### The economy under Goering:

- In 1936, Goering introduced a Four Year Plan to increase military production
- High targets were set (and met) in industries like steel ands the production of explosives.
- However, targets were not met in other key industries like oil production.
- Germany still needed foreign raw materials so Goering tried to make Germany self-sufficient. Petrol was made from coal, make up from flour, coffee from acorns, artificial wool from wood pulp, etc

#### Schools

- Teachers had to join German Teachers League and teach what the Nazis wanted, or be sacked
- Every subject was used to put forward Nazi propaganda and beliefs.
- Textbooks were rewritten to present Nazi beliefs as fact.
- Race studies 'Eugenics' was taught. Students were taught that the Aryan race was superior to others.
- PE became very important to prepare boys for the army. Girls studied domestic skills such as cooking and sewing to prepare them for their roles as wives and mothers.
- Students identified as potential future Nazi leaders were sent to special academies called 'Napolas' (National Political Educational Institutions). Those who graduated were tough, clever and fiercely loyal to

#### Universities

- Universities had to change their courses to reflect what the Nazis believed -Einstein's Theory of Relativity was not taught as he was Jewish.
- Top university professors were hand-picked by the Nazis.
- Many lecturers were sacked, either for racial or political reasons. By 1939, over 3000 had been dismissed.
- Many lecturers fled the country e.g. Einstein (he was Jewish).
- All students had to train as soldiers for a month each
- The Nazis did not regard university education as important, and fewer Germans attended university during the Nazi

# How did Nazis change the lives of women?

# Women in Weimar Germany:

- In the 1920s, women had many rights and freedoms that women in other countries did not have, E.g. they could vote. and if they worked for the government, their pay was equal to men.
- Many women attended university and became lawyers and doctors
- The birth rate fell as more women worked. In 1900 there had been over 2 million births per year. In 1933, there were under 1 million births per year.

# Women in Nazi Germany:

- The Nazis were worried about the declining birth rate. They felt that a low birth rate and a smaller population did not fit with their plans to expand Germany's territory and settle Germans in other areas of Europe.
- The Nazis felt it was a woman's patriotic duty to stay at home, have lots of children, and support their husbands.
- Women should stick to the three Ks - Kinder, Kirche, Küche (children, church, and cooking).

#### 1922: Hitler Youth Organisation founded.

1933: All other youth groups banned.

1936: Law for the Incorporation of German Youth - gives Hitler Youth equal status to school and home.

1939: Membership of the Hitler Youth made compulsory.

- Would join a Nazi club called the 'Little Fellows' (6-10). then Young Folk (10-14), then Hitler Youth (14-18).
- Boys went to Hitler Youth meetings several times a week after school, and to special weekend camps every month.
- They learned how to march, fight with knives, fire a gun.
- Activities were based on competition, struggle, heroism and leadership.
- The Nazis wanted to prepare the boys for their future role as soldiers

- Would join club called 'Young Girls' between 10-14. then League of German Girls/Maidens (14-17).
- For girls, the emphasis was on how to keep fit, cook good meals, and care for babies, to prepare for motherhood
- They also went on tough marches and attended weekend camps
- Both boys and girls were encouraged to report their parents or teachers if they criticised Hitler or told anti-

The Nazis and religion

Why did some Christians support the Nazis? The Nazis believed in the importance of marriage, the family and moral values. So did most Christians. Hitler had promised to destroy Communism (communist was anti-religious). Hitler promised to respect the Church.

#### The Nazis and the Catholic Church:

- Hitler cooperated with the Catholic leaders at first, A 1933 Concordat (agreement) with the Pope (head of the Catholic Church) said that the Catholic Church and the Nazis would not interfere with each other.
- Hitler soon broke this agreement. Catholic priests were harassed and arrested and Catholic youth clubs and schools were closed down.
- In 1937, the Pope issued a statement called 'With Burning Anxiety', read out in Catholic churches across Germany. This said the Nazis were 'hostile to Christ and his Church.'
- In August 1941, Catholic Archbishop Galen (one of Germany's best-known religious leaders) openly criticised the Nazis. He was put under house arrest until the end of the war.

## Other religious groups:

- Jehovah's Witnesses were pacifists who refused to serve in the army. One third of Germany's Jehovah's Witnesses were killed in concentration camps.
- Members of other groups Salvation Army, Christian Scientists, Seventh Day Adventist Church - also persecuted.
- Jewish people suffered relentless persecution.

# The Nazis and German Protestants:

- Hitler was admired by some German Protestants, known as 'German Christians' who wanted to see their Church under Nazi control.
- Their leader, Ludwig Miller, became the first 'Reich Bishop' of the German Christians in September 1933.
- They often wore Nazi uniforms and used the slogan 'the swastika on our chests and the Cross in our hearts'

#### The Nazis and German Protestants:

- Some Protestants were totally opposed to the Nazis. Pastor Martin Niemöller formed the Confessional
- Church, which openly criticised the Nazis. The Nazis arrested around 800 pastors of the Confessional Church.
  - Niemöller was sent to a concentration camp and the Confessional Church was banned.

## Racial policy, persecution and the Final Solution:

Hitler believed that Germans were the 'superior' master race -Arvans - with the right to dominate 'inferior' races and groups of people. He feared that such groups would mix with Aryans and wanted to rid Germany of them. He had a particularly obsessive hatred of lews

#### Nazi policies towards women:

Work - Many female doctors, teachers, lawyers, and judges were sacked. Working was discouraged, as it might hinder producing children.

Family – Contraception and abortion were banned. Generous loans (equivalent to a year's keep 25% of the loan for each child they had. The Motherhood Medal was awarded to women with the most children. Mothers with eight children received the 'Gold Cross'.

Sterilisation - The Nazis thought that some women were unfit to be mothers. The 'Law for the Prevention of Diseased Offspring' allowed forcible sterilisation of women with a history of mental illness, hereditary diseases, or anti-social behaviour (like alcoholism).

Behaviour - In many cities, women were banned from smoking because it was 'unladylike'. Wearing trousers or high heels was also frowned upon for the same reason. Slimming was discouraged because it might make it harder to get pregnant. Contraception and abortion

Organisations – The German Women's League coordinated all adult women's groups, and representatives travelled around giving advice on cooking, childcare and diet. The Nazi Women's Organisation was an elite female group dedicated to Nazi beliefs and ideas.

Lebensborn Movement - Girls would be taught in school that it was their duty to produce racially pure children and SS men were acceptable 'pure' fathers. If a young girl became pregnant (even if she was not married), she received the very best medical treatment in a specially built 'Lebensborn Centre'.

#### Persecution of racial groups:

- The Nazis classed Jews, Gypsies, Slavs (e.g. Russians), black and Indian people as 'inferior'.
- Hitler wanted to cleanse Germany of these people.
- The Nazis began to persecute and, later, murder members of these groups. Over half a million Gypsies and over six million Jews from across Europe died in
- death camps in the years up to 1945. The Nazis used the term Untermensch for 'inferior' races.

#### Persecution of 'undesirables':

- 'Undesirables' was Hitler's term for people with mental or physical disabilities and those who did not, in his view, contribute to society.
- He believed they weakened Germany and he wanted to get rid of them to create a stronger nation. About 350,000 physically and mentally disabled
- people were forcibly sterilised by the Nazis. From 1936, the Nazis began to kill them. This was
- known as Aktion T4. About 200,000 people, including 5000 children, were murdered in specially built 'nursing homes'.
- Around half a million homeless people, beggars, and alcoholics were sent to concentration camps in 1933.
- Many were worked to death. Thousands of prostitutes, homosexuals, and 'problem' families were sent to camps too.

# Impact of Nazi policies towards women:

- Thousands of women were prevented from following their chosen career path.
- The birth rate did increase.
- When the Second World War started in 1939, there was a labour shortage as men were joining the army. Thousands of women were needed to work in factories for the war effort, taking on the joint role of main wage earner and mother. Unlike in Britain, though, women were still not called up to work.

Miss M History Resources

School: Jewish children were forced out of German state schools and 'Eugenics' (Race Studies) was introduced in

Laws: The Nuremberg Laws of 1935 banned marriages between Jews and non-Jews. German citizenship was also removed.

Work: From March 1933, all Jewish lawyers, judges, teachers (and later, doctors) were sacked.

Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass): In November 1938 Jewish homes, synagogues, and businesses were attacked all over Germany and Austria. About 100 Jews were killed and 20.000 sent to concentration camps.

# Journey to the Final Solution:

When war broke out in 1939, the persecution of the Jews

- Jews were rounded up in some countries under Nazi occupation and forced to live in ghettos in major cities, or sent to work in labour camps.
- Execution squads (Einsatzgruppen) went out into the countryside and shot or gassed Jews.

#### Death camps

- At the Wannsee Conference in 1942, Nazi leaders planned what they called 'a final solution to the Jewish question: the murder of every Jew in Nazi-controlled territory.
- This was the plan to murder Europe's 11 million Jews, either by working them to death or killing them in poison gas chambers
- Heinrich Himmler, Head of the SS, oversaw the Final Solution
- Six death camps (or extermination camps) were to built Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Chelmno, Maidanek, Sobibor Treblinka. They contained gas chambers to carry out the murders, and large crematoriums to burn the bodies.
- Jews from all over German-occupied Europe were transported to these camps. In total, around 6 million were
- The Nazis' attempt to wipe out the Jewish race is commonly known as the Holocaust

### Fighting back: Jewish resistance

Some Jews fought back. They formed resistance groups, attacked German soldiers, and blew up railway lines the Germans were using. Secret schools, theatres, and places of worship were also set up in some ghettos. There were also examples of armed resistance:

# Warsaw Ghetto Uprising,

1943: In the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland, Jews rebelled against the German soldiers there. It took 43 days for the Germans to regain control. They then arrested and executed all those involved and burned down the

Treblinka Camp Uprising 1943: One of the prisoners

managed to get into the weapons store where he handed out guns and grenades. After setting the camp on fire, 150 prisoners managed to escape, killing 15 guards in the process. However, the Nazis soon regained control and many escapees were killed.

Himmler: Head of the SS. A loyal Nazi who personally reported to Hitler, whom he had known since 1923.

Fear and terror: Repression and the Police State:

#### Regular police and law courts:

- Ordinary police continued their work, but ignored Nazi crimes.
- Top jobs in the police now went to Nazis.
- Law courts and judges were under Nazi control.
- New laws death penalty for anti-Hitler joke, having sex with a Jew. listening to foreign radio station.

# The Gestapo (secret police):

- No uniform. Spied on people they thought might be a threat.
- Tapped phone calls and opened mail. Had the power to arrest, imprison without trial and
- torture anvone. Set up a network of 'informers' who would report to anvone who criticised the Nazis. Children were

encouraged to

or teachers.

report their parents

sections: SD (Sicherheitsdienst) looked after 'security'. They could arrest anyone for any reason, search homes and seize property.

The SS (Schutzstaffel):

Set up in 1925, wore

personal bodyquard.

The Waffen SS - elite

concentration camps

unit in the army.

The Death's Hand

and later, death camps

Units - ran

black uniforms.

Originally Hitler's

divided into three

but over time

- of time. Anyone the Nazis did not like were sent there - Jews Gypsies, political opponents. anvone who criticised Hitler.
  - Inmates were forced to work hard and some were even tortured or worked to death.

Concentration camps:

Set up as soon as

Hitler took power.

where 'enemies of

the state' could be

held for any length

Large prisons

# differ from Interpretation A about ? Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B (4 marks) CONTENT

Explain how the two interpretations are different from one another - Compare the content of Interpretation A with the content of Interpretation

OUESTION ONE: How does Interpretation B

Analyse the content of both interpretations. What is different between them? Where does the content differ? Write at least 2-3 differences down

Quote from the source but don't just simply give quotes - explain how the two are different

QUESTION FOUR: Describe two... (4 marks)

about two key features or issues of this period.

You need to show what you know and understand

Make sure that you have named the two features

and written detailed relevant historical facts about

5 minutes. 1 paragraph

#### **QUESTION TWO:** Why might the authors of Interpretations A and B have a different interpretation ? (4 marks) ahout PROVENANCE ONLY

Compare the provenance (where the interpretations come from) of Interpretation B with the provenance of Interpretation C.

Say how they're different, use contextual knowledge/ your knowledge of the time, think about influence on author. Think about who wrote the interpretation, when they wrote it, why they wrote it, and explain how this will have affected what they write.

Tip: this question is about the circumstances in which the interpretations were said/written. What situation was the person in that made them say what they said? Make sure that you use the captions (provenance) of each interpretation.

What changed and what caused the changes? You must

changes due to events or government decisions. What were

Name 2-3 changes, causes, or consequences, then write lots

explain how a particular group of people experienced

the causes of the changes, and what were the results?

5 minutes. 1 paragraph

of facts about each.

10 minutes. 2 paragraphs

#### **QUESTION THREE:** Which interpretation do you find more convincing about Explain your answer using Interpretations A and B and your own knowledge (8 marks) CONTENT + CONTEXT

Compare the content of the interpretations with your contextual knowledge (knowledge about the time) and assess their accuracy. Imagine the question is asking you 'which interpretation do you find most accurate?' You should pick out parts of each interpretation, fact-checking these parts with your own knowledge.

Finish with a conclusion deciding which you find the most convincing (truthful/accurate) — which interpretation fits in best with what you know about the history of this topic? Your conclusion should be based on the history that happened, not on who the author is

Tip: What historical facts can you use to support or challenge each author's view? Use the knowledge you have based on what you've studied about this topic.

#### DO NOT DISCUSS PROVENANCE IN 03.

QUESTION SIX: Which of the following was...

10 minutes. 3 paragraphs

... (12 marks)

Paragraph One - Consider in detail the first bullet point - write a paragraph describing and explaining why this is important. Paragraph Two - Consider in detail the second bullet point - write a paragraph describing and explaining why this is important. Paragraph Three - Compare both factors and explain which you think was the more important reason. Explain why the other is also less important.

15 minutes. 3 paragraphs

# Propaganda:

What? The spreading of information and ideas in the hope that it influences how people think and

Who? Leading Nazi Joseph Goebbels was put in charge of Nazi propaganda. He was a powerful speaker and very good at his job.

How? He understood that propaganda worked best if people were repeatedly given some basic ideas with short messages and

What key messages? Blaming Jews for Germany's problems, Criticising the Treaty of Versailles, Making Germany great again,

How? These messages continuously appeared all over Germany on posters, in newspapers, speeches, films and radio,

Newspapers: Only stories that showed the Nazis doing good things were permitted. Negative stories about Germany's 'enemies'. Newspapers that did not comply were shut down.

Films: All films had to show the Nazis in a 'qood' way, and their 'enemies' in a bad way e.g. Suss the Jew. Goebbels had to pre-approve storylines.

Books, theatre, music: Writers were forced to write books, plays, and songs that praised Hitler and the Nazis.

Radio: All radio stations were under Nazi control to broadcast Nazi ideas. Cheap radios were produced that could only tune in to Nazi-controlled stations. Loudspeakers were put in factories, cafes, streets, etc. to publicly air Nazi message - it could not be avoided

In public: Impressive mass rallies were held to celebrate Hitler's greatness. Huge arenas were built where carefully choreographed shows were put on with choirs, bands, speeches, fireworks, and air displays. They were designed to impress and show how well organised the Nazis were. Posters appeared all over Germany showing Hitler's power and the good things the Nazis were doing.

# Resistance and Opposition

5 minutes. 1 paragraph

both features

# Grumbling or moaning:

**QUESTION FIVE: In what ways... (8 marks)** 

In the privacy of their own homes, people may tell an anti-Hitler joke or complain about the Nazi regime

#### Open Opposition:

Some Germans organised themselves into groups to openly oppose the Nazis. The Swing Youth declared their dislike of Nazi ideas and policies by listening to jazz music and having Jewish friends.

The White Rose group, led by Hans and Sophie Scholl, urged Germans to get rid of Hitler. They handed out anti-Nazi leaflets, put up posters, and wrote graffiti on walls. Youth groups e.g. The Edelweiss Pirates and the Navajos beat up Nazi officials and helped army deserters.

Other groups sabotaged railway lines and passed on military secrets to other countries.

Protestant (Niemöller and Bonhoeffer; members of the Confessional Church) and Catholic Church (Archbishop Galen) leaders made some open criticism of the Nazis too. The Catholic Church spoke out in 1941 against the killing of physically and mentally disabled people.

A public show of opposition, often by refusing to do what most of the population were doing, e.g. refusal to do the Heil Hitler salute (e.g. August Landmesser who had a Jewish wife) or to give money to Hitler Youth members who were collecting funds.

## Attempts to kill Hitler:

Passive Resistance

There were around 50 attempts on Hitler's life, some by lone individuals, others by organised groups

The Kreisau Circle - a group of army officers, university professors and aristocrats who discussed assassinating Hitler, but didn't actually do anything.

The Beck-Goerdeler group – contacted the British about removing Hitler, but no agreement reached. The group did, however, try to kill Hitler in March and November 1943, and was behind the July Bomb Plot of 1944.

The July 1944 Bomb Plot - army officer Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg was part of a group that detonated a bomb where Hitler was meeting other Nazi leaders. Despite killing four men and injuring Hitler, the bomb failed to kill him.

## The Chamber of Culture: Led by Joseph

- Goebbels. All musicians, writers artists and actors had to be a member.
- Anyone who refused to join was not allowed to work.
- Some people, e.g. Jews, were banned from joining.

#### Cinema:

- Nazi supporters e.g. Alfred Hugenberg owned film studios. so the Nazis had a direct influence on exactly which films
- were made. Goebbels read and approved all film
  - All films had to carry a pro-Nazi message.
  - News reports of Nazi achievements were always shown before the main

# Music:

- · Official approval was given to traditional marching music, folk songs, and classical music by Austrian composers e.g. Bach, Beethoven, Mozart and Wagner.
- Some music that was popular in Weimar Germany was not permitted.
- Jewish composers were banned, and so was jazz music because it had origins among African Americans.

#### Theatre:

- In the Weimar era, Nazis founded the Militant League for German Culture to protest against 'modern' plays and films they disapproved of e.g. Threepenny Opera due to its scandalous themes
- and jazz music. When the Nazis took over, they ruled that plays should mainly focus on German history and politics.
- Songs about sex and politics were common in Germany's cabaret clubs. The Nazis closed them

# Literature

Why? Goebbels fe the Nazi message

- A list of banned books was created. 'Un-German' books or those by Jewish authors were removed from libraries and bookshops.
- Goebbels organised events in which books were gathered and burned.
- Goebbels encouraged books about race, the glory of war, and the brilliance of the Nazis. Some popular books written in Weimar Germany were banned e.g. Erich Remarque's
- anti-war novel All Quiet on the Western Front. Hitler's Mein Kampf was the bestselling book in Germany
- Around 2500 writers left Germany between 1933 and 1945.

Art:

- The Nazis wanted art to be clearly understandable to ordinary people
- It should show healthy, heroic, German figures and family scenes of happy, strong, 'pure'
- Germans Hitler hated modern art from the Weimar era (e.g. Otto Dix and George Grosz) and called it 'degenerate' (perverted).
- In 1936, the Nazis publicly burned 5000 paintings they disapproved of. They put on an exhibition of 'degenerate' art to mock it and opened another of officially approved paintings.

- Hitler had clear ideas about the design of big, public buildings like libraries, government offices, and parade grounds. He favoured huge, stone structures, often copies of buildings from ancient Greece or Rome.
- Bauhaus was an important architectural and design movement in Weimar Germany. It used new technology to design simple, practical buildings and objects. Hitler did not approve of such modern design, and closed the movement down in 1933.

## Sports and Leisure:

- Health and physical fitness was important to the Nazis, so success in sport was used to promote the Nazi
- The Olympic Games, held in Berlin in 1936, was a propaganda opportunity Famous German filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl made a ground breaking film of the Games using the latest German technology.
- The German team came top of the medals table - Nazis claimed this showed superiority of the German race.
- During the Games, anti-Semitic posters and newspapers were temporarily stopped to give the world the impression of a tolerant Germany.

How did the Nazis change art and culture?