

# Life in Nazi Germany

Headings	Notes
<b>HITLER'S RISE TO POWER</b> <b>THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After World War I, Germany became a <b>democracy</b> named '<i>the Weimar Republic</i>'.</li> <li>• The Weimar government was in power when the <b>Treaty of Versailles</b> was signed. As a result, the government was nicknamed the '<b>November Criminals</b>' for accepting the harsh conditions that were imposed on Germany through the Treaty.</li> <li>• Germany spent much of the 1920s in <b>economic crisis</b>, with very high levels of unemployment and <b>inflation</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>THE NAZI PARTY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In <b>1919</b>, the <b>National Socialist German Worker's Party</b> (NSDAP or '<b>Nazi Party</b>') was founded.</li> <li>• The Nazis were strongly <b>anti-communist</b> and wanted to speed up <b>German recovery</b> and to <b>remove the Treaty of Versailles</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Adolf Hitler</b> was impressed by their ideas and joined the Nazi Party. He was a <b>gifted speaker</b> and soon became <b>party leader</b>.</li> <li>• In November 1923, Hitler and the Nazi Party organised a <b>rebellion</b> in <b>Munich</b>, the <b>Beer Hall Putsch</b>. Hitler and other Nazis were sent to prison as a result. While in prison, Hitler wrote <i>Mein Kampf</i> (<i>My Struggle</i>), which outlined core Nazi beliefs and his vision for the future of Germany.</li> <li>• Hitler adopted many of Mussolini's Fascist Party methods such as the fascist salute, an army – the <b>SA</b> or <b>Sturmabteilung</b> (<b>Stormtroopers</b>), also called the '<b>Brownshirts</b>' – and an emblem. Hitler chose the <b>swastika</b> as an emblem and made it Germany's <b>official flag</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>THE RISE OF THE NAZI PARTY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>unpopularity of the Weimar government</b>, due to Germany's defeat, the harshness of the <b>Treaty of Versailles</b> and the aftermath.</li> <li>• <b>The Great Depression</b> – in <b>1929</b>, the US experienced the <b>Wall Street Crash</b> when the value of shares at the New York Stock Exchange suddenly collapsed, Germany had borrowed from US banks, which then withdrew their loans, leading to closures and soaring unemployment.</li> <li>• <b>Hitler's leadership and policies</b> – Hitler's nationalism appealed to people because it encouraged them to take pride in their nation and to believe that he could restore Germany to greatness.</li> </ul>

Keywords	Summary
<b>Democracy</b> <b>Brown Shirts</b> <b>Weimar Republic</b> <b>Treaty of Versailles</b> <b>November Criminals</b> <b>Nazi Party</b> <b>Swastika</b> <b>Adolf Hitler</b> <b>Wall Street</b> <b>Beer Hall Putsch</b> <b>Mein Kampf</b> <b>Great Depression</b> <b>SA</b>	

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<p><b>CREATION OF A DICTATORSHIP</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In February <b>1933</b>, the <b>Reichstag</b> was set on <b>fire</b>, allegedly by a Dutch Communist. This gave Hitler an excuse to ban the Communist Party and give extra powers to his SA.</li> <li>In the March 1933 <b>general election</b>, the SA and the <b>Waffen SS (Schutzstaffel)</b> attacked any opponents and voters. The Nazi Party gained votes but failed to win a majority.</li> <li>In March 1933, Hitler created a law called the <b>Enabling Act</b>, which allowed him <b>to rule by decree</b>, or make laws by himself without having to go to the parliament (like Mussolini).</li> <li>Hitler was now known as <b>der Führer</b> (<i>'the Leader'</i>).</li> </ul>
<p><b>LIFE IN HITLER'S GERMANY</b></p> <p><b>ECONOMIC POLICIES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Independent trade unions</b> were abolished and <b>strikes</b> were made illegal.</li> <li><b>Public work schemes</b> were created, for example to build motorways called the <b>Autobahnen</b> and the <b>Olympic Stadium</b>.</li> <li><b>Rearmament</b> (arms and ammunition being manufactured again for the Germany army) began.</li> <li>The motor industry developed; in 1937, a new – and more affordable – car called <b>Volkswagen</b> (<i>'People's Car'</i>) was manufactured.</li> <li>Hitler <b>cut taxes</b> to encourage <b>private industry</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EDUCATION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Nazi youth groups</b> were set up – the <b>Hitler Youth</b> and the <b>League of German Maidens</b>.</li> <li>In schools, <b>textbooks</b> were rewritten. <i>Mein Kampf</i> became the official history book.</li> <li><b>Teachers</b> had to be members of the Nazi Party and a <b>portrait of Hitler</b> was in every classroom.</li> </ul>
<p><b>WOMEN'S LIVES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women were expected to stay at home and look after the family. Many women had to give up their career as a woman's life was to revolve around <b>'the three Ks'</b>: <i>Kinder, Küche, Kirche</i> which means <b>children, kitchen, church</b>.</li> <li>Hitler wanted a <b>high birth rate</b> so mothers who eight or children were awarded a gold medal.</li> <li>Women were required to wear <b>traditional peasant clothes</b> with <b>flat shoes</b>, while their hair had to be done in buns or plaits. They were not allowed to wear make-up or trousers, dye their hair or smoke in public.</li> </ul>
Keywords	Summary
<p>Reichstag      Volkswagen</p> <p>Waffen SS      Hitler Youths</p> <p>Enabling Act      League of German Maidens</p> <p>Rule by Decree</p> <p>der Führer      The Three Ks</p> <p>Trade Unions</p> <p>Public Work Schemes</p> <p>Olympic Stadium</p> <p>Rearmament</p>	

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PROPAGANDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Joseph Goebbels</b>, Minister for National Enlightenment and Propaganda, controlled the press, radio, cinemas, theatres and art. Posters of Hitler were put up all around Germany.</li> <li>• Books by Jews or those disagreeing with Nazism were banned. <b>Book burnings</b> were common.</li> <li>• Cheap radios were made called the <i>People's Radio</i>, so that Hitler's speeches could reach every home in order to promote Nazi ideology.</li> <li>• <b>'Heil Hitler!'</b> ('Hail Hitler!') was a common greeting – the Nazi salute was compulsory.</li> <li>• The Nazis held party rallies in Nuremberg, Bavaria. The <b>Nuremberg Rallies</b> had a different theme each year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In <b>1934</b>, documentary-maker <b>Leni Riefenstahl</b> recorded the rally and created the propaganda film <i>Triumph of the Will</i>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In <b>1936</b>, the <b>Olympics</b> were held in <b>Berlin</b>. They were used to present Germany to the world as a successful and happy nation.</li> </ul>
TERROR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1933, the <b>Gestapo</b> (secret police) was set up by <b>Hermann Göring</b>. It was led by <b>Heinrich Himmler</b>.</li> <li>• By 1934, Hitler began to believe that his SA were a threat to him. The <b>Waffen SS</b> was set up as his <b>personal bodyguard</b>, also led by <b>Heinrich Himmler</b>.</li> <li>• On <b>30 June 1934</b>, the SS killed the leaders of the SA and others they suspected of being a threat. This was called <b>the Night of the Long Knives</b>.</li> <li>• From <b>1933</b>, <b>forced labour camps</b> were set up for journalists and political prisoners (including communists), LGBT people, Roman people, people with disabilities, Catholic priests, Jehovah's Witnesses and Jews.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A FASCIST LEADER: ADOLF HITLER (1889-1945)</b></p> <p><b>EARLY LIFE AND CAREER</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adolf Hitler was born in Braunau am Inn, Austria, where his father was a customs official. Hitler was raised Catholic. He was expelled from a couple of schools before moving to Vienna in 1905 where he hoped to become an artist. In 1914, he moved to Munich before he joined the German army at the outbreak of World War I, serving as a messenger for which he was decorated with the Iron Cross for bravery.</li> </ul>

Keywords	Summary
<p><b>Joseph Goebbels</b></p> <p><b>Book burnings</b></p> <p><b>Heil Hitler</b></p> <p><b>Nuremberg Rallies</b></p> <p><b>Leni Riefenstahl</b></p> <p><b>Gestapo</b></p> <p><b>Waffen SS</b></p> <p><b>Hermann Göring</b></p> <p><b>Heinrich Himmler</b></p> <p><b>Night of the Long Knives</b></p>	

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<b>THE NAZI PARTY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hitler joined the <b>National Socialist German Worker's Party (NSDAP or 'Nazi Party')</b>. By 1921, he had risen to become its leader.</li> <li>• In 1923, the Nazi Party organised a rebellion in Munich called the <b>Beer Hall Putsch</b>. While in prison for this, Hitler wrote <b>Mein Kampf (My Struggle)</b>, the Nazi manifesto. Hitler believed in a '<b>master race</b>' and was deeply <b>anti-Semitic</b> (<i>prejudiced against Jewish people</i>).</li> <li>• He also wanted to unite German-speaking peoples into an empire called the '<b>Third Reich</b>', in order to expand Germany's territory under a policy he named '<b>Lebensraum</b>' (<i>'living space'</i>).</li> </ul>
<b>HITLER'S RISE TO POWER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hitler was an impressive speaker and used <b>propaganda</b> well. He founded the <b>SS</b> and the <b>Gestapo</b> while he had opponents killed or sent to labour camps.</li> <li>• In 1933, he became the German <b>Chancellor</b>. In August 1934, he declared himself <b>der Führer</b> (<i>'the Leader'</i>) of Germany.</li> <li>• Hitler defied the Treaty of Versailles by <b>remilitarising the Rhineland</b> and joining with <b>Austria (the Anschluss)</b>.</li> <li>• In 1939, Hitler and Stalin made a '<b>non-aggression</b>' pact, which stated that they would not attack one another or aid each other's enemies for a decade. It also stated that they would partition Poland between them.</li> </ul>
<b>WORLD WAR II</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>World War II</b> broke out in <b>September 1939</b> when <b>Germany invaded Poland</b>, prompting Britain to declare war on the invading force.</li> <li>• In 1941, Hitler shocked Stalin by breaking the non-aggression pact and invading the Soviet Union in <b>Operation Barbarossa</b>.</li> <li>• The Nazis forced Jewish people into <b>ghettos</b> and <b>concentration camps</b>, where <b>6 million Jews were murdered</b>.</li> <li>• On the <b>30<sup>th</sup> April 1945</b>, with his allies either dead or losing their respective fronts and the Soviet Union's Red Army surrounded Berlin, <b>Hitler took his own life</b>.</li> </ul>

Keywords	Summary
Nazi Party <b>der Führer</b> Mein Kampf <b>Anschluss</b> Master Race <b>Non-Aggression Pact</b> Anti-Semitic Aryan Race <b>World War II</b> Third Reich <b>Operation Barbarossa</b> Lebensraum Gestapo <b>Holocaust</b>	

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Keywords	Definition
<b>Anschluss</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The political union of Austria and Germany in 1938.</li> </ul>
<b>Anti-Semitism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hatred of or prejudice against Jewish people.</li> </ul>
<b>Appeasement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy of Britain and France in the 1930s that believed that if they gave into Hitler's small demands then they would prevent another world war.</li> </ul>
<b>Aryan Race</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White non-Jewish people, especially those with a northern European appearance (tall, blonde hair, blue eyes) whom the Nazis considered to be the superior or master racial group.</li> </ul>
<b>Concentration Camps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twenty-Two Camps set up by the Nazis to imprison political prisoners and members of persecuted minorities in poor conditions and were often forced to provide labour.</li> </ul>
<b>Dictator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A ruler with full power over a country.</li> </ul>
<b>Dictatorship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A country being ruled or governed by a dictator.</li> </ul>
<b>Enabling Act</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law passed by Hitler that gave him power to rule by decree.</li> </ul>
<b>Extermination Camps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six camps organised by the Nazis in Poland to imprison political prisoners and members of persecuted minorities in poor conditions where they awaited mass execution.</li> </ul>
<b>Gestapo</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hitler's secret police.</li> </ul>
<b>Führer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Leader) Title of Hitler after he combined the offices of President and Chancellor</li> </ul>
<b>Hitler Youth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Nazi youth organisation for boys.</li> </ul>
<b>Holocaust</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The systematic genocide of European Jews by Nazi Germany</li> </ul>
<b>League of German Maidens</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Nazi youth organisation for girls.</li> </ul>
<b>Lebensraum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nazis wanted to control large parts of eastern Europe in order to create 'living space' for Germans.</li> </ul>
<b>Nazi Party</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common name of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, a fascist political party led by Adolf Hitler from 1921 to 1945.</li> </ul>
<b>Nazism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A form of government that is a one-party dictatorship based on nationalistic ideas and racial superiority.</li> </ul>
<b>Nuremberg Laws</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-Semitic laws passed in 1935 that stripped Jews of their citizenship rights.</li> </ul>
<b>Pogrom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An organised massacre and persecution of an ethnic or religious group.</li> </ul>
<b>Cult of personality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When propaganda is used to glorify a political leader, to create a god-like image of a political leader.</li> </ul>
<b>SS (Blackshirts)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Started out as Hitler's bodyguards and developed into the military wing of the Nazi Party.</li> </ul>
<b>Stormtroopers - SA (Brownshirts)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violent private Nazi army that intimidated political opponents.</li> </ul>
<b>Sudetenland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The majority German-speaking regions of Czechoslovakia.</li> </ul>
<b>Wall Street Crash</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collapse of the US economy in 1929, triggering a global recession.</li> </ul>
<b>Weimar Republic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democratic governments that led Germany between 1919 and 1933.</li> </ul>