Early
Weimar
1919-1923

(Was it really bound to fail?)

Treaty of Versailles

Terms War Guilt Clause: Reparations: £6,600 million. Lost land (13% e.g. Alsace-Lorraine, Reduced Armed Forces (e.g. army - 100,000 men,), League of Nations couldn't join – lost status as **Great Power** 'Stab in the back' - the

November Criminals:

Weimar politicians had betrayed Germany by signing Treaty

BUT - no viable alternative to Weimar government.

The Constitution

Good - All have vote over the age of 20 (for Reichstag & President), personal freedoms BUT

PR - Proportional Representation

- 9 coalitions in 4 years Article 48 - Emergency Rule laws passed by President without Reichstag approval **BUT - Weimar survived President Ebert willing to use** unconventional tactics e.g. against the Sparticists (used Freicorps), the Kapp Putsch

(asked workers to strike)

Revolts

GERMANY

Spartacist Revolt Jan 1919 (Communist - KPD) -Freikorps stopped the rebellion - Rosa Luxemburg & Karl Liebknecht murdered Kapp Putsch (Freikorps) Mar 1920. Regular army refused to stop Putsch. President Ebert asked workers of Berlin to go on strike - stopped Putsch Murders 1921/1922 e.g. Erzberger (he signed the **Treaty of Versailles)**

Munich Putsch (Nov 1923) attempt by Nazis to take over the government of Bavaria. Lacked support. **BUT** - revolts all ultimately failed

Poor leadership - e.g. Munich Putsch a chaotic failure - delays - Ludendorff was late, mistakes - releasing von Kahr etc - army mobilised. Lack of support from the public: e.g. Spartacists only had 15,000 members

Year of Crisis - 1923

Invasion of the Ruhr (Jan 1923) fails to pay reparations to France & Belgium - 60,000 troops invade- German workers go on strike - passive resistance

Hyperinflation (Feb1923- Nov 1923). German Govt print money to pay strikers' wages. Prices out of control. Nov 1923: bread cost 201,000,000,000 marks.

BUT Weimar survived:

Invasion - Weimar Government seen positively because they support strikers **Hyperinflation** - Stresemann appointed Chancellor in August 1923 - replaced currency with a new Rentenmark (3,000 million old marks). Stability slowly returned.

Stresemann The recovery of Weimar 1924-1929

(Had Germany really recovered?)

Foreign Affairs

1.Ruhr - French to leave the Ruhr in August 1925. Foreign troops removed from German soil, 2. Locarno Treaty - 1925, agreed to respect western borders e.g. loss of Alsace-Lorraine. **Improved relations with France**

3. League of Nations September 1926, Germany allowed to join; given permanent seat - ended the 'shame' of Versailles & Germany now had Great Power status 4. Kellogg-Briand Pact -August 1928 Germany renounced the use of force along with over 60 countries, including both America and Soviet Unionshowed Germany had become a world power again. BUT Extremists (e.g. Nazis) not won over. waited for opportunity to attack the Weimar government. Progress limited – problems remained e.g. Rhineland still demilitarised zone

Economy

1. Dawes Plan 1924- gave Germany longer to make reparations payments (and the Young Plan of 1929 reduced the amount to £1850 million). linked to Germany's ability to pay 2. Inflation Controlled - Stresemann called in all the old, worthless marks and burned them. He replaced them with a new Rentenmark (worth 3,000 million old marks). Restored confidence 3. Economic Growth – Germany used American loans (\$3,000 million) to build roads, railways and factories. The economy boomed - jobs created BUT Recovery based on US Loans - huge risk & Some groups did not benefit e.g. farmers - 1929 production still only 74% of pre war levels,

Political & Domestic

'Great Coalition' made up of pro-democracy parties (SDP, the Centre party and Stresemann's own party the DVP). Hindenburg becomes president - gives stability and overcomes the flaws of PR **Reforms** - reforms to make life better for the working classes - Labour Exchanges (1927) and unemployment pay. Also, 2 million new houses were built - homelessness reduced by 60% Security & improved standard of living BUT 'Golden Years' so Great Coalition fell apart wouldn't work together and problems caused by PR return. Some Left Out Not everyone benefited -1928 - 184,000 middle class unemployed 50% could not claim benefits. Dancing on a volcano!!

The Rise of the Nazis 1929-1933

(Why do Germans vote for the Nazis?)

Great Depression Impact 6 million unemployed June 1932, 4/10 unemployed, 50,000 businesses go bust; 18000 farms collapse. German industrial production 58 per cent of its 1928 levels. Government **Response** - People are starving, benefits cut 1932 (Bruning - the 'Hunger Chancellor'), **Reaction - How did Germans Vote** People turned to extremists e.g. the Nazis because they offered help e.g. jobs. Evidence - 1928 - 12 seats in the Reichstag- June 1932 - 230 seats

Nazi Methods Propaganda- Goebbels radio, cinema, posters - simple messages - **promises** Election November 1932- stalemate. Von (Bread & jobs, remove Treaty of Versailles), & Papen recommends suspending scapegoats (Jews, Communists). Owned 120 newspapers. Hitler - powerful speaker, powerful and appealing images 'family man' or strong military figure SA violence - 1932-170,000 men - target Communists (KPD), Well organised (money from businesses who feared Communists), modern campaigns e.g. flying Hitler Excitement (rallies etc) BUT Nazis never got more than 44% of the vote

Political Scheming

constitution. Hindenburg fears civil war makes Von Schleicher Chancellor; he tries cross party co-operation (including Communists) - Querfront. Alarms Von Papen He schemes with Hitler30 January 1933, Hitler made Chancellor & Von Papen Vice-Chancellor. Latter says he can control Hitler - only 3 Nazis in Cabinet Miscalculates - Enabling Act Mar33

Weakness of Weimar Treaty of Versailles: terms hated e.g. paying reparations when 6 million Germans unemployed. PR endless coalitions & Article 48 20 separate coalitions between 1930-1932 Lack of agreement forced use of Article 48 - used 5 times in 1930, 66 times in 1932 **Divided opponents** – e.g. Communists & SDP refused to

work together to stop Nazis.

Social & Cultural Change 1923-1929

The Nazi Party 1919-1929

Women

Political Gain - 1919 equality with men. Vote at age 20.

Employment white collar jobs up from 6.5% in 1907 to 12.6% in 1925. 1933: 3,000 doctors, 100,000 teachers. Civil service - equality in pay.

Social Freedoms: went out unescorted, able to drink and smoke in public, fashion conscious - influenced by Hollywood. Cut hair, wore bright makeup and wore short skirts (knee length)

<u>Culture - The Golden Period of</u> Weimar:

Art & Culture - censorship
removed. Artists e.g. George
Crosz flourished
Architecture - the new style
Bauhaus - 'The School of Building'
Cinema - e.g. Fritz Lang 'Metropolis', the singer and film
star Marlene Dietrich
Literature - e.g. Erich Remarque 'All Quiet on the Western Front'
Cabaret - e.g. Kurt Weill - 'Mack
the Knife' -the Threepenny Opera

Nazi Party 1919-1923

Founded in 1919 by Anton Drexler. Hitler joined September 1919. Both wrote the 'Twenty Five Point Programme' in 1920 set of policies: e.g. unity of all German-speaking peoples, get rid of Treaty of Versailles, lebensraum, Aryan master race. Hitler became leader 1921, changed name NSDAP, membership 55,000 in 1923. Set up SA, Munich Putsch: 8/9 Nov - support from Ludendorff (war hero). Forces head of Bavarian Government (von Kahr) to support. 2000 Nazis - 16 dead, Hitler arrested. BUT Publicity - Hitler now recognised everywhere, wrote Mein Kampf, changed tactics - get power legally - vote not revolt

Nazi Party 1924-1929

Bamberg Conference 1926 - strengthened his control et up a network of local parties.
Set up the Hitler Youth,
Josef Goebbels in charge of propaganda.

Money Support of wealthy businessmen – they gave him money (fear of Communists)

BUT when Weimar did well few people voted for the Nazis - only 12 seats in Reichstag in the elections of 1928

Consolidating Power 1933-1934

(How do they remove opposition) It strengthened the position of the Nazis_blamed Communists (van De Lubbe), Hitler said fire was serious threat to government. Nazis were 'protecting' Germany from Communism.

Decree for the Protection of the People and State (Reichstag Fire Decree) (Legal step - uses Article 48) 28th Feb 1933, Removed civil rights e.g. free speech - closed newspapers, freedom from arrest.. Nazis arrested over 4000 Communists. Weakened the Communist campaign in the election of 5th March

Reichstag Fire 27th February 1933

Enabling Act 23 March 1933

Ended democracy in Germany.
Gave Hitler dictatorial powers for 4 years - could make laws without consulting the Reichstag. SA surrounded Reichstag intimidating members. Only the SPD voted against - passed by 444 votes to 94 votes. Hitler secured the support of the Catholic Centre Party by making them promises. The Communists were in prison following the Reichstag Fire. BUT was legal - the Reichstag voted for it - gave Hitler the power to establish dictatorship

Other Opposition

Uses Enabling Act - opponents removed
Regional government - Lander. 26th April
1933 set up Nazi regional Gaus. Regional
Parliaments closed Jan 1934
Trade Unions 2nd May 1933 banned
Political Parties 14thJuly 1933 the Law
Against the Formation of New Parties was
passed- only Nazi Party allowed
People's Courts 25th April 1934 used to
try 'enemies of the state' Fuhrer 19th
August 1934 - legal - referendum.
Combined roles of President & Chancellor armed forces loyal personally to Hitler. All
legal steps

Night of the Long Knives 30 June 1934
Operation Hummingbird Strengthened
Hitler's position - removed the potential
'enemy within' - Rohm.

Not Legal - there was no trial
Actions 400 of the SA members,
including its leader Röhm are murdered
Why - Rohm wanted to incorporate the
army into the SA and wanted socialist
reforms. Secured loyalty of army
generals who feared being taken over by
the SA. Opposition to Hitler inside Nazi
Party removed

Fuhrer 19 August 1934- combines role of President & Chancellor. 90% vote in favour. Personal loyalty of army. Legal

Terror & Persuasion 1933-1939

vote

(Why did people do as they were told?)

Terror

1933. BUT Nazis only get 44% of the

SS -'protection squad'. Elite force formed 1925. 1934 - 50,000
members - 'pure Aryans' -. Led by
Heinrich Himmler. Had power to
arrest people without trial. Ran
concentration camps. The Gestapo state secret police - set up 1933.
Under control of SS from 1936. It
tapped telephones, intercepted mail
& spied on people. Network of
informers

SD intelligence gathering – potential enemies 200,000 Germans imprisoned for opposition

Legal System & Concentration Camps

Judges have to swear an oath of loyalty to the Nazis & become members of the National Socialist League for the Maintenance of law.

Lawyers October 1933 - German Lawyers

Front - 10,000 members by the end of the year

People's Courts 24 April 1934 - to try cases of treason - crimes punishable by death rose from 3 in 1933 to 46 in 1943. Hitler checked sentences, Nazi flag & Hitler's image in court room.

Concentration Camps - first camp - Dachau March 1933. By 1939 - 150,000 prisoners - Jews, political opponents, religious leaders, sexual offenders (homosexuals) etc

Persuade - Propaganda

Josef Goebbels. - in March 1934 he set up the Ministry for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda to control information and beliefs. The Nazi message was contained in simple slogans like 'Ein Volk, Ein Reich, Ein Fuhrer' (One People, One Nation, one Leader). Technology The Nazis used this to get their message across e.g. helping people to buy cheap radios - could listen to Hitler - 70% had radio by 1939. Cinemas - 250 million people went in 1933; Goebbels checked all scripts Posters promoted Nazi messages. Books censored - e.g. book burning Berlin May 1933

Control - Censorship
Newspapers Reich Press Law
October 1933. 1600
newspapers etc closed. Music 'black' Jazz music banned Hitler preferred German
composers e.g Wagner
Theatre - Nazi messages within
the plays. Architecture promoted Greek & Roman style
- not contaminated by Jews Art
- perfect Aryan types with
traditional roles for women

Changing Lives 1933-1939 (Winners & Losers)

Aryan Germans

Employment - RAD (18-25 year olds), rearmament - jobs producing tanks, planes, conscription 1 million jobs, The Labour Front public schemes e.g. (autobahns)

SdA - improved conditions at work Conditions - KdF cut price holidays, theatre trips, cheap radios, Volkswagon scheme

Strong Govt - gave people hope restored law and order BUT RAD - low pay, compulsory Trade unions banned 2 May 1933 - no right to strike etc Radios peddled Nazi propaganda. Culture had to be German

Women

Women cherished - 3 Ks - children, kitchen, church

Law for the Encouragement of

Marriage March 1933 - 1000 marks loan on marriage if the woman gave up her job. Would not be repaid if she produced 4 children,

Motherhood Cross medals for large

German Women's Enterprise:

promotes domestic skills.

BUT Invisible unemployment women professionals removed from the work place. Loss of personal freedoms & choice. Lebensborn racially pure babies 'donated' to the Fuhrer

Young People

Hitler Youth and League of German Maidens (BDM) - exciting activities, told they were special. Prepared for future role: military & motherhood Education Nazi curriculum e.g. Eugenics, PE for 15% of timetable, History – concentrated on Nazi versions of events etc. Textbooks re-written. The Poisonous Mushroom" was a children's book that taught children to hate Jews BUT Membership compulsory of HY, Girls resented 3Ks, anti-Nazi groups e.g. Edelweiss Pirates and Swing Groups BUT Higher education denied to girls, censorship and propaganda in

classroom.

Untermensch (Undesirables)

Opponents Sent to concentration camps, Fear of SS/Gestapo

Trade Unions banned 2 May 1933, Political parties banned 14 July 1933, Religious opponents - arrested e.g Niemoller

Jews & Other Undesirables

Jews - Invisible unemployment
Nuremberg laws Sept 1935- lose
citizenship, forced out of professional jobs
e.g. 1936 teaching, violence Kristallnacht 1938: 25,000 sent to concentration camps,
Gypsies, disabled, mentally ill,
homosexuals - increasingly 'removed'
from society - e.g. Sterilisation Law July
1933 - up to 400,000. Euthanasia 1939

Foreign Policy 1933-1939

(What are his aims?)

<u>Destroy the Treaty of Versailles.</u> **1935 - Conscription & Rearmament** Disarmament Conference 1932-34 failed.

Conscription 1935 - Introduced conscription (calling up men to the army). Increased the size to 500,000, Rearmament - e.g. 1000 planes for air-force. This broke the T of V, Britain, Italy and France formed the Stresa Front to protest at this action but did nothing else. Anglo-German Naval Treaty June 1935 - Britain agreed German fleet could be 35% of the size of GB Navy

Challenge to T of V condoned by GB 1936 - RHINELAND

Hitler invaded the demilitarised Rhineland on 7 March 1936. This broke the T of V. It was a bluff – German army had only 22,000 soldiers had orders to retreat if they met any resistance.

Challenge to T of V - Britain and France did nothing

Unite All German Speaking People

1935 SAAR

families

As planned in the Treaty of Versailles, the people of Saar (which had been given to France for 15 years) vote to return to Germany - 1 March 1935.

1938 - ANSCHLUSS with AUSTRIA

Attempted Anschluss in 1934 failed due to Italian intervention but Mussolini ally in 1938. Crisis - Chancellor Schuschnigg forced to accept Nazi Seyss-Inquart in government in order to keep independence. BUT Hitler feared Schuschnigg would hold vote to stop Anschluss so threatened invasion; Capitulation. Schuschnigg resigned 12 March, replaced by Seyss-Inquart. He invites German troops to 'restore order'. 13 March 1938 - Anschluss; confirmed by 99.75% in referendum. Also Challenge to T of V - Britain and France did nothing

1938 SUDETANLAND

Czechoslovakia - only democracy in Eastern Europe and possessed a good army. Sudetenland - 3 million German speaking area. April 1938 Hitler encouraged the Sudeten Nazis to demand union with Germany. Crisis - French & British (Daladier & Chamberlain) appeased Hitler. At Munich, on 29 September 1938, Britain and France gave Hitler the Sudetenland - Czechs not included in discussions. Appeasement

<u>Lebensraum</u>

1939 - INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

In March 1939, Hitler's troops marched into the rest of Czechoslovakia. This was when British people realised that only war would stop Hitler. Lebensraum non-German speaking land seized.

The Polish Corridor

30 March 1939 - Britain guarantees Polish borders. Hitler plans invasion (Operation White) for 1 September 1939 to retake the port of Danzig & the Polish Corridor and Poland

1939 USSR/NAZI PACT

23rd August - both countries benefited - the Soviet Union gained time to prepare for war and gained territory in Eastern Europe. Germany could attack Poland and not have to face a two-front war. Secret clauses divided Poland between the two.

1939 POLAND

land seized

War declared 3 September 1939. Poland ceased to exist on 6th October **Lebensraum - non-German speaking**

Anti Communist October 1936 ROME-

BERLIN AXIS

an agreement to pursue a joint foreign policy to stop the spread of communism in Europe.

November 1936 ANTI - COMINTERN PACT

Hitler signed a treaty with Japan to limit the spread of Communism. Comintern refers to ' Communist International' - set up in Russia in 1919 to support spread of Communism.

Italy also signed in November 1937

