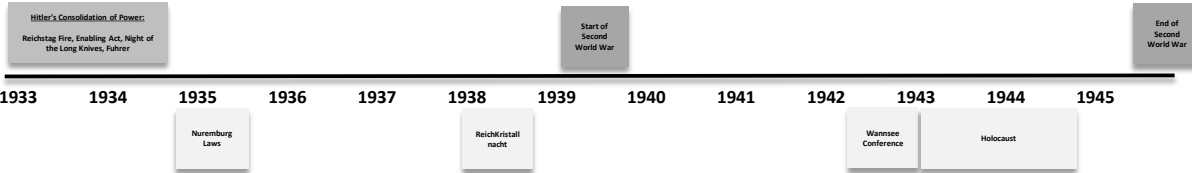


Knowledge Map: Germany 1933-1945 (Nazi Germany)

Summary:

This part of the course looks at what life was like in Nazi Germany following Hitler becoming Chancellor in January 1933. It would be a turbulent 12 years in power which would see Hitler turn Germany from a democracy to a dictatorship, rule Germany by fear and terror, and eventually take Germany into an unsuccessful war.



Consolidation of Power (Jan 1933 to August 1934)

Summary

This period is one where Hitler turns Germany from a **democracy** to a **dictatorship**. To do this he must bring key organisations and institutions under his control. This will include the Reichstag, the President, the army and his own SA. He must also do this all legally so as not to have his authority questioned. The period from January 1933 to August 1934 sees him establish complete authority over Germany.

Key Knowledge

1	Reichstag Fire and Law for the Protection of People and State	On the 27th February 1933, the Reichstag was set on fire. Hitler took the opportunity to blame the communists and persuaded Hindenburg to declare a state of emergency. Using Article 48, Hindenburg passed a law called the <i>Law for the Protection of People and State</i> which Hitler used to arrest known communists. This was done two weeks prior to the March Election.
2	March Election (Mar 1933)	Hitler had hoped that the Reichstag Fire would see the communist share of the vote be reduced and the Nazis share of the vote grow and give them a majority in the Reichstag. Whilst the Nazis increased their vote to 42% (288 seats) it was still short of a majority. Hitler still relied on the Reichstag to pass laws.
3	The Enabling Act (Mar 1933)	As a consequence of a failed majority, Hitler resorted to a different tactic. He persuaded the Reichstag through incentives and fear to pass a law that gave the Chancellor the ability to pass laws without consulting the Reichstag but for it to be temporary for four years. The law was passed and Hitler had effectively removed the problem of the Reichstag.
4	Laws passed using the Enabling Act	Hitler used the Enabling Law to pass a series of laws that took power away from various groups and into the hands of the Nazis. A law was passed banning Trade Unions in May 1933. In July 1933, a law was passed banning the formation of parties (making the Nazis the only legal party). In January 1934, local governments were banned.
5	Night of the Long Knives (June 1934)	On the 30th June 1934, Hitler took the decision to remove the growing threat of the SA. The SA had become restless at not being made into the army after the Nazis achieved power. Rather than disappoint them and face rebellion, Hitler chose to kill the leadership. In doing so he also indicated to the army that they were his preferred choice going forward.
6	Hitler becomes Fuhrer (Aug 1934)	In August 1934, Hindenburg died. Rather than replace the President, Hitler chose to remove the position of President and create the position of Fuhrer, which means supreme leader. At this point, he makes the Army swear an oath of loyalty to him, securing their loyalty. At this point, Hitler has created a complete dictatorship where all political and military institutions are under his control.

Life in Nazi Germany (1933 to 1939)

Summary

This section of Nazi Germany considers what it was like to live in Germany under the control of the Nazis and the establishment of a *Volkgemeinschaft*. This section will be themed and look at groups affected by the Nazis such as women and the youth of Germany. It will also consider other themes such as the economy and opposition to the Nazis. One key area will be how the Nazis controlled the people through a combination of terror and propaganda.

Key Knowledge

7	Control (Terror Network and Propaganda)	Hitler used two methods to control the German people: Propaganda and Terror. Propaganda was run by Joseph Goebbels through the Ministry of Propaganda and Enlightenment. However, the most effective form of control was the terror network, particularly the Gestapo (the secret police).
8	The Economy (1933 to 1939)	Hitler quickly reduced unemployment in Germany from 6 million in 1933 to just half a million in 1939. He did this through Job Creation Schemes which were big building projects across Germany. The best example of this is the Autobahns. Rearmament would be another source of jobs. However, the Nazis often manipulating figures by not including Jews or women in the official unemployed lists.
9	Role of Women	Under the Nazis, women had a particular role to play on Germany. They were to be mothers and to be homemakers for their husbands. Women were encouraged to give up their jobs through incentive schemes such as marriage loans and medals for giving birth. This saw the birth rate in Germany rise for the first time in decades.
10	Role of Youth	Social clubs such as the Hitler Youth and League of German Maidens reinforced the stereotypical view of the roles on men and women. Boys were expected to train to become soldiers and women were taught homemaking skills. In 1934, it was made compulsory to join one of these social clubs.
11	Education	The young in Germany were indoctrinated from an early age through education. The Nazis used education to create future Nazis with the introduction of lessons such as Racial Studies and Party Beliefs. Textbooks were changed to include questions that reinforced Nazi beliefs. For example, they contained images of stereotypical Jews and Maths questions that calculated such issues as bomb flights.
12	Opposition	Due to the overwhelmingly effective terror network, there was not much opposition to the Nazis. Certainly, no opposition that was effective. Main examples of opposition were small but included youth groups such as Edelweiss Pirates and the White Rose Movement, the Church and the Army. It is the last group who are the only ones to try to remove Hitler from power in the July 1944 Bomb Plot. It failed but all opposition did in Nazi Germany.

Persecution of the Jews (1933 to 1945)

Summary

This section looks at the group most affected by the Nazi regime: the Jews. This section attempts to look at the causes of anti-Semitism across Germany, a timeline of persecution and how it gradually accelerates towards and through the Second World War. This section can be divided into three key time periods: 1933 to 1938, 1938 to 1942, and 1942 to 1945.

Key Knowledge

13	Anti-Semitism (Background)	Anti-Semitism means hostility or hatred against Jews and is not something exclusive to Germany. Jewish people have been persecuted throughout history - for example, in England in the Middle Ages. This was because they had a different religion with different customs which people resented. Christians blamed Jews for the execution of Christ and argued Jews should be punished forever. Whatever the reasons, anti-Semitism was not a new thing.
14	Hitler's Beliefs	Hitler developed his anti-Semitic beliefs through his formative years. He lived in Vienna, Austria which has a long tradition of anti-Semitism. He resented the wealth of Viennese Jews. He scapegoated all Germany's problems and failures on the Jews. He blamed them for defeat in the First World War, hyperinflation in 1923 and the depression of 1929.
15	1933 to 1938 - Removal of the Jews from society	Central to Nazi policy was the creation of a pure German state. This meant treating all non-Germans, especially Jews, as non-citizens. The period of 1933 to 1938 was about the removal of Jews from German society. Series of laws pushed Jews to the edges of society. The most famous of these laws were the Nuremberg Laws of 1935 which stated that only those of German blood could be German citizens. Jews lost their citizenship.
16	1938 to 1942 - Acceleration of Jewish Policy (Violence)	From 1938, Nazi policy towards Jews accelerated rapidly. This was after the Night of Broken Glass (Reichkristallnacht) which was an organised night of violence by the German government against Jews (9-10 Nov). This persecution continued into 1939 and beyond into the Second World War where policy included Jews being housed in ghettos.
17	Wannsee Conference (1942)	The Wannsee Conference is where the 'final solution' was decided upon. Nazi policy up to this point had seen millions of Jews throughout Europe housed in ghettos which were becoming intolerable and unworkable. The solution was to systematically murder these Jews in specially constructed extermination camps. Whilst it was made official here, it was in fact already happening on the Eastern Front in Russia when the German army were already mass-killing Jews.
18	1942 to 1945 - The Final Solution	The final solution saw the systematic murder of 6 million European Jews by the Nazis in Extermination Camps in Eastern Europe. The most famous of these camps was Auschwitz.

Germany in the Second World War (1939 to 1945)

Summary

This section looks at how the war changed Germany. The start of the war was very successful for the Germans with victories across Europe but by 1941 this slowed and then by 1943, it was reversed. The impact of all this on the home front was disastrous and many Germans faced huge food shortages and the threat of being bombed. By 1944, Germany was desperate and by 1945, it was defeated.

Key Knowledge

19	Course of the War	When Germany invaded Poland in 1939, the Allies declared war on them. Initially, the Germans were very successful: 1939 defeat of Poland, 1940 defeat of Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Netherlands and France using a tactic of Blitzkrieg. By 1940, only Britain stood against Germany. However, it all turned in 1941 when Germany invaded its 'ally', the USSR, and further setbacks in north Africa it saw the Third Reich begin to retreat.
20	Changes on the Home Front	Hitler wanted to avoid the suffering experienced by Germans in the First World War. However, rationing was introduced as early as 1939 and only extended as the war progressed. By the summer of 1940, 50% of German workers were involved in war production but this was slow and only improved towards the end of the war when it was too late. The Nazis had to also reverse key policies and allow women to work in factories.
21	Bombings	From 1940, the Allies began a bombing campaign on industrial areas in the north and west of Germany. In August 1940, they bombed Berlin for the first time. As a consequence, the government introduced a massive programme of air defence and evacuation (this included to camps run by the Hitler Youth). The bombings were increased during the war on cities such as Berlin and Dresden.
22	Movement to "Total War"	From 1943, the Germans started suffering defeats on the battlefield (e.g. Stalingrad). Therefore, a new plan was sought and Germany could only win if ordinary Germans were willing to sacrifice everything (Total War). Women were mobilised into the war effort, anything that was not contributing to the war was eliminated (e.g. professional sport), shortages became worse, and an increase in propaganda.
23	Impact of Defeat	In May 1945, Germany surrendered to the Allies. It meant forced expulsion for 11 million Germans from occupied territories. Life after the war was harsh with bombed cities in appalling conditions, diets were poor with food shortages, and the economy was facing huge inflation. There were trials for Nazi war criminals (the Nuremberg Trials) and this continued for many years. A process of denazification was then begun to remove any Nazis from key positions.

Keywords

Volkgemeinschaft	National Community - What Hitler wanted to create in Germany
Reichkristallnacht	Night of the Broken Glass - Organised night of violence against Jews
Holocaust	Systematic killing of 6 million Jews by the Nazis