

TIMELINE

1871	The country we now know as Germany used to be a collection of separate states. After the Franco-Prussian War they united under the Prussians in 1871 into one Empire, or Reich, under an Emperor called a Kaiser.
1888	Wilhelm II became the Emperor (Kaiser) of the German Empire
1889	Hitler was born in Braunau, Austria
1902	Hitler's father died
1907	Hitler's mum died and he failed the entrance exam to Vienna Art School. He ended up on the streets and in shelters in Vienna for the next 5 years
1913	Hitler moved to Munich to avoid arrest for avoiding military service for the Austrian Army between 1909 and 1912
1914	Hitler was declared unfit for the Austrian Army but at the start of WWI he was given special dispensation to join the Bavarian Reserve Infantry Unit . That same year he fought at the First Battle of Ypres and he received the Iron Cross Second Class
1918	Hitler was temporarily blinded and awarded the Iron Cross First Class Oswald Spengler published his book – The Decline of the West.

Origins of the Republic 1918 – 1919

August 1918	The Allies Launched the Battle of Amiens and the 100 days offensive and pushed Germany back to and over the Hindenburg Line starting the process of military defeat.
25 th October – 6 th November 1918	The sailors refused an order a last ditch effort to break the Naval Blockade – the Kiel rebellion . Which started the German Revolution . By the 6 th the soldiers' and workers' councils had taken control of the cities.
9 th November 1918	A general strike in Berlin. Friedrich Ebert , head of the SDP, announced the abdication of the Kaiser and the establishment of the German Republic with Ebert as the Chancellor .
10 th November 1918	The Kaiser abdicated and fled to Holland. This ended what some call the German Revolution .
11 th November 1918	The Germans signed an Armistice to end the fighting in WWI.

Problems of the Republic 1919 – 1923

December 1918	Demonstrations on the streets from workers and returning soldiers in Berlin. At the end of the month Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg got fed up with the other Spartacist groups and created the German Communist Party or KPD .
1919	All women gained female suffrage over the age of 20 were given the vote
January 1919	The Spartacist Revolution attempted to create a left-wing Communist state with the KPD as the government but it was crushed by January 15 th .
February 1919	On 6 th February the Weimar National Assembly was formed to create the new Weimar Constitution . Philipp Scheidemann became Chancellor and Ebert became president.
March – April 1919	Further left wing uprisings were crushed in Berlin and Munich at the cost of 1,000 Spartacist lives.
June 1919	The Treaty of Versailles was signed on 28 th June.
August 1919	The Constituent Assembly wrote the new German Constitution which lay down the laws for how the new Weimar Republic would work.
September 1919	Hitler was sent to spy on the German Workers Party (DAP) and instead he publicly fell out with Professor Bauman and joined them as Committee member 7.
1920	The Cabinet of Dr Caligari movie was released with the star being Marlene Dietrich and the futuristic movie Metropolis was released.
February 1920	Hitler was put in charge of propaganda for the DAP and created the Volkischer Beobachter (newspaper) . Hitler changed the name of the DAP to the NSDAP or National Socialist German Workers Party (the Nazi Party.) He also announced the 25 point programme .

March 1920	In March, Ebert's government began to reduce the size of the army to 100,000 and disband the Freikorps in line with the terms of the Treaty of Versailles which lead to the Kapp Putsch .
1920 -22	Shortly after the Kapp Putsch left wing groups rebelled all over the country and there were violent clashes between the right and left wing with nearly 400 murders.
1921	Hitler became the leader of the Nazi Party. He set up the Sturmabteilung or SA, with Ernst Rohm at its head, to protect him and tackle his enemies. George Grosz painted 'Grey Day'
1922	The Nazi Party had grown to have 6,000 members. The Germans defaulted on reparations to France and Belgium.
1923	Anton Drexler , left the Nazi Party. The Party had grown to include 55,000 members. In January the French and the Belgians invaded the Ruhr and Hyperinflation started .
August 1923	Gustav Stresemann was elected Chancellor and he immediately called off Passive Resistance.
November 1923	Hyperinflation had destroyed the value of the German Mark . Stresemann scrapped the mark and introduced the Rentenmark and then the Reichsmark backed by gold. He also became foreign Minister of Germany and stepped down as Chancellor.
8th November 1923	Hitler, Ludendorff and 600 Nazis stormed the meeting of Lossow, Seisser and Von Kahr and forced them to support the Munich Putsch . However, they were released over night and rallied the army and police to confront Hitler
9th November 1923	Battle of the Munich Putsch. Hitler carried on regardless, with 2,000 men, but they clashed with the Police and four were killed along with 16 Nazis. Hitler dislocated his shoulder.
11th November 1923	Hitler was arrested and The Nazi Party was banned on the same day.
Feb 1924	The trial of Ludendorff and Hitler for high treason began.
Feb- April 1924	On 1 st April Ludendorff was acquitted and Hitler was found guilty but he was only given 5 years. He would only serve 9 months in Landsberg Prison.
December 1924	Hitler was released from prison. By this time he had finished writing Mein Kampf . When he came out of prison the Nazis were being lead by Alfred Rosenberg
Recovery of the Republic 1924-1929	
1924	The Dawes Act . Due to Hitler's performance at his trial the Nazis gained 32 seats in the 1924 election.
1925	In February Hitler managed to persuade the President of Bavaria to lift the ban on the Nazi Party. He then reorganised the party along political lines. The Dawes plan meant that the Allies agreed to withdraw from the Ruhr and the US loaned the Germans 800 million marks which increased to 3,000 million marks over the next six years. The signing the Locarno Pact was signed with Britain, France, Belgium and Italy. Friedrich Ebert died and Hindenburg was elected the new President in 1925. Hitler re-established the SA under the leadership of Franz Pfeffer Von Salomon and he created the Schutzstaffel or SS .
1926	The ' Locarno honeymoon ' the Germans joined the League of Nations (like the UN) . Stresemann got the Nobel Peace Prize . There were also 32 female deputies (MPs) in the Reichstag which was a record high of about 10%. However, Unemployment peaked. At the Bamberg conference Hitler became the undisputed leader of the Nazis again.
1927	Allied troops withdrew from the Rhineland . The unemployment insurance scheme enabled workers to receive benefits if they lost their jobs. Otto Dix painted 'Big City' At this point the Nazis had 27,000 members.
1928	The Germans also signed the Kellogg Briand Pact along with 64 other nations. The Social Democratic Party had 153 members of the Reichstag (like MPs) and the Nazis only had 12. Remarque's book All Quiet on the Western Front was published. Hitler included the confiscation of Jewish property in his 25 point programme. At this point the Nazis had 100,000 members. Hermann Muller Became Chancellor of Germany
1929	Stresemann negotiated the Young Plan with US banker, Owen Young, in 1929. Conservatives were very critical of the Dawes and Young Plan. Goebbels published his book, Michael .
Rise of Hitler 1929 – 1933	
October 1929	The Wall Street Crash . Gustav Stresemann also died.

1930	Hermann Muller resigned after failing to deal with the Depression. He was replaced by Heinrich Brüning . In the September 1930 election the Nazis became the second largest party behind the SPD. Goebbels became the Minister of Propaganda and Ernst Rohm the head of the SA again.
1931	Nazis secured the support of media mogul Alfred Hugenburg , which united the right wing parties under Hitler. The Sicherheitsdinst (SD) was set up under the leadership of Reinhard Heydrich . Balder Von Shirach became head of the Hitler Youth
1932	The SA also now had 600,000 members. They were now big enough to crush the Roter Frontkämpferbund (Red Front Fighters or RFB) who were the fighting wing of the KPD.
April 1932	President Hindenburg won the Presidential election with 53% of the vote but Hitler got about 37% . Brüning banned the SA and the SS.
May 1932	Von Schleicher managed to convince Hindenburg that Brüning needed to resign and Franz Von Papen should replace him. Von Papen lifted the ban on the SA and the SS.
July 1932	The Nazi Party became the biggest party in the Reichstag . However, Hitler was not made Chancellor.
August 1932	On August 5th, Hitler presented his list of demands to Von Schleicher.
November 1932	Von Papen was unable to form a viable government so he gambled, dissolved the Reichstag and called for new elections. In the November election the Nazis gained 196 deputies (30%). Hitler again demanded to be Chancellor. Von Papen resigned and Hindenburg reluctantly made Von Schleicher Chancellor.
December 1932	Schleicher's plan to save the government was to form a <i>querfront</i> or ' <i>cross-front</i> ' coalition. It failed.
January 1933	On 30 January 1933, Hitler was made Chancellor with Von Papen as his Vice-Chancellor.
Control and Dictatorship 1933-1939 and Life in Nazi Germany	
1933	There were 100,000 female teachers and 3,000 doctors. George Grosz fled to America. The Gestapo was set up with Goering at its helm and it was primarily lead by Reinhard Heydrich, who was also head of the SD. Hitler established the German Faith Movement Hitler signed the Concordat with Pope Pius XI . The Ministry of Public Propaganda and Enlightenment and the Reich Chamber of Culture was set up by Goebbels. The protestant ' Reich Church ' was set up and tits followers called themselves 'German Christians' and wore Nazi uniforms. But Martin Niemoller set up the protetant Pastors' Emergency League for those who wanted to oppose Hitler. The Law for the Encouragement of Marriage was passed giving marriage loans . The sterilisation law was passed. The Fraft Durche Freude, or KDF (Strength through joy) organisation was set up to give workers in Hitler's Germany cultural trips and holidays.
February 1933	The Reichstag fire and Hindenburg signed the ' decree for the Protection of the People and the State. ' This would never be repealed for 12 years...
March 1933	Nazis won 288 seats in the election, short of the 2/3 majority needed for constitutional change so Hitler pushed through the Enabling Act which effectively ended the Weimar Republic when Hitler He shut all the parliaments down.
April 1933	The first boycott of Jewish shops was arranged for Saturday 1 st .
May 1933	All trade unions were banned. They were all replaced by the German Labour Front.
July 1933	Hitler passed the Law against the Formation of Parties Act. This outlawed all other parties.
1934	Walter Gropius fled Germany. Himmler took control of the Gestapo. There were 50,000 members of the SS, Hitler was in charge of the Army, the Police, the government and the law courts. Albert Speer became Hitler's chief architect and created the Zepplinfield Stadium . The Frauenfront brought 230 women's groups under the control of Gertrude Scholtz-Klink
Jan 1934	All of the Lander were abolished entirely and subordinated to the Central government in Berlin.
June 1934	The Night of the Long Knives (also known as Operation Humming Bird or the Blood Purge)
July 1934	On 3 July a law was passed which stated that the action taken on the Night of the Long Knives was legal
August 1934	Paul Von Hindenburg died and Hitler became the Fuhrer of Germany. The army swore an oath of allegiance to their Fuhrer and he received approval from the people in a referendum.

1935	By the mid-1930s the Edelweiss Pirate groups such as the Kittleback Pirates , the Navajos and the Roving Dudes started to hang about on street corners. Jewish students planned to kill Hitler but backed out. The Swing Youth demonstrated Middle Class resistance to Hitler. The Lebensborn Programme , The Marriage Health Law , Gypsies banned from marrying Germans, All text books had to be approved by the Nazis. It was compulsory for all men of 18 and 25 to join the Reich Labour Service and through conscription do military service.
September 1935	Reich Citizenship Law and the Law to Protect German Blood and Honour which became known as the Nuremberg Laws .
1936	Judges made to join the National Socialists League for the Maintenance of Law (NSRB) and lawyers also became part of the German Lawyers Front . Women banned from being judges . The Berlin Olympic Games was held and the film 'Triumph of the Will' made by Lief Riefenstahl . The Women's Bureau under Agnus Von Grone was disbanded. Women doctors, civil servants and teachers were forced to leave their jobs. They were expected to follow the 3 Ks – Kinder, Kucher and Kirche . The Hitler Youth Law made it virtually impossible for young people not to join the Hitler Youth. 3 million resisted. Jewish teachers were fired and even banned from giving private tuition.
1937	The Enabling Act re-enated . This brought in Gleichschaltung – lives of citizens would be controlled by the Nazis. Catholic Youth Groups were shut down. Pope Pius XI issued his 'with burning anxiety' speech. Martin Niemoller was arrested and sent to a concentration camp. All women had to do a 'duty year' and Marriage Loans were abolished. Dr Hjalmar Schacht was moderately successful with his 'New Plan.' However it was replaced by Goering's four year plan .
1938	16 top Generals, including Blomberg, Fritsch and Von Brauchitsch were fired. They planned to assassinate Hitler but this plan was suspended after the army marched into Czechoslovakia. Maurice Bavaud tried to shoot Hitler in Munich. 125,000 people were working on building autobahns and 2 million went on KDF holidays. The German Labour Front set up the Volkswagen (People's Car) scheme . In November Jewish children expelled from schools and gypsies sent to concentration camps
March 1938	The Anschluss between Germany and Austria lead to a marked increase in anti-semitism .
November 1938	A Polish Jew, called Herschel Grynszpan , was deported to Poland. He walked into the German Embassy in Paris and shot the first official he met. This lead to Kristallnacht, or 'Crystal Night' or the 'Night of broken glass.' The Jews were fined one billion Reichsmarks for the damage, were banned from going to Aryan schools and banned from owning businesses or employing workers.
1939	250,000 members of the SS arrested 160,000 for political crimes. All Catholic Schools were shut. Thomas Mann and Bertolt Brecht , left Germany. George Elser planted a bomb in the Burgerbraukeller that killed 7 but failed to kill Hitler. Pastor Paul Schneider was killed by lethal injection after 2 years of torture. 14.6 million women were at work. Membership of Hitler Youth became compulsory and they had to make an oath of allegiance . Thanks to conscription there were 1.4m in the German armed forces. By 1939 nobody had managed to buy a Volkswagen . By 1939 the average working week had risen from 42 hours in 1933 to 47 hours a week. This was done to create the idea of a workers community or volks-gemeinschaft . By the Summer 250,000 Jews had fled Germany. The Nazis started their Euthanasia Programme and 6,000 disabled children were killed.
Jan 1939	The Reich Office for Jewish Immigration was established under Reinhard Heydrich . This began forced emigration .
April 1939	Jews were then made to surrender precious jewellery and on 30 th April they were evicted from their homes and forced into ghettos
September 1939	Jews were forced to hand in their radios

