

KEY FIGURES

Essentials

Name	Description
Kaiser Wilhelm II	German Emperor for 1888. Lost WWI, gave up and fled to Holland in November 1918.
Erich Ludendorff	2nd in Command of German forces (after Hindenburg) in WWI. He tried to aid Hitler in taking power in the Munich Putsch in 1923. He was acquitted of Treason in 1924.
Paul Von Hindenberg	In Command of German Imperial Army in WWI. He became President of the Weimar Republic in 1925 and remained so until his death in 1934.
Friedrich Ebert	Became Chancellor on November 9 th 1918 and moved the New Assembly from Berlin to Weimar in 1919. He became President (until 1925) in the first elections in January 1919.
Gustav Noske	Defence Minister under Ebert who agreed that the Freikorps and the Reichswehr should be used to crush the left wing revolutionaries during the Spartacist Uprising.
General Groener	The Head of the Reichswehr who offered to help the SDP crush the Spartacists.
Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg	Two Leaders of the Spartacist League who formed the German Communist Party (KPD). They engineered the Spartacist Uprising in January 1919. They were both killed.
Anton Drexler	Head of German Workers Party (DAP) in 1919. He made Hitler Head of Propaganda for the DAP in February 1919, when it became the NSDAP, and left the Party in 1923.
Dr Wolfgang Kapp (Kapp Putsch)	Leader of the right wing National People's Party and darling of the Freikorps. He tried a right wing revolution in March 1920 and when it failed he fled to Sweden.
Hermann Erhardt	The head of the Berlin Freikorps who joined the Kapp Putsch in 1920.
Walter Von Luttwitz	The Head of the Reichswehr in Berlin who joined the Kapp Putsch in 1920.
Ernst Rohm	Head of the SA when it was formed in 1921. He lost this position in 1925 and regained it 1930 but he was killed in 1934 on the <i>Night of the Long Knives</i> for being too powerful.
Alfred Rosenberg	Considered weak by Hitler which is probably why he made him leader of the NSDAP in 1923 whilst he was incarcerated. Hitler replaced him when he was released in 1924.
Gustav Von Kahr	President of Bavaria who was planning his own right wing coup when Hitler hijacked it in the Munich Putsch. He was assassinated on the Night of the Long Knives in 1934.
Otto Von Lussow	The Head of the Bavarian Army that betrayed Hitler at the Munich Putsch.
Hans Ritter Von Seisser	The Head of the Bavarian Police that betrayed Hitler at the Munich Putsch.
Gustav Stresemann	Chancellor and then Foreign Minister in 1923. He engineered the withdrawal of Belgium and France from the Ruhr, secured American loans, ended hyperinflation by introducing a new currency, improved foreign relations by joining the League of Nations, signing the Locarno Pact and the Kellogg Briand Pact and reduced reparations through the Dawes and Young Plan. He resigned as Chancellor in November 1923 but remained Foreign Minister until his death in 1929. He got the Nobel Peace prize in 1926.
Franz Pfeffer Von Salomon	When Hitler fell out with Rohm over his political reforms of the Nazi Party he reformed the SA with Salomon at his head. He remained head of the SA until 1930
Heinrich Himmler	Joined the SA and SS in 1925 and in 1929 he became the Head of the SS. He was the Head of the German Police State from 1936. He appointed Heydrich as SD head in 1932.
Gregor Strasser	Influential leader in NSDAP and in 1926 became Head of Propaganda. He was replaced by Josef Goebbels in 1930 and killed as a rival in <i>the Night of the Long Knives</i> in 1934.
Joseph Goebbels	He was Gauleiter of Berlin after 1926 and Minister of Propaganda from 1930. He established the Ministry of Propaganda and Enlightenment in 1933. He made 1,500 movies and even wrote his own book, <i>Mein Kampf</i> and was instrumental in Hitler's support.
Alfred Hugenburg	A rich and influential right-wing businessman. Head of the right wing National People's Party and a media mogul, he rallied 120 newspapers to help Nazi popularity in 1933.
Otto Dix	A famous painter who had fought in WWI and tried to show people the uglier side of life in the Golden Years.
George Grosz	Left-wing artist who fought in WWI. He joined the Communist Party in 1918 and was arrested for insulting the army in 1920. He painted doll-like figures in a political game.
Walter Gropius	Chief designer of Bauhaus who, like Grosz, fled to America when Hitler came to power.
Arthur Moeller and Oswald Spengler	Right-wing writers in the 1920s. Highly critical of the Weimar Republic but despite being influenced by the Nazi Party they both rejected the politics of the Nazis!

Erich Remarque and Ludwig Renn	Left-wing anti-war writers in the 1920s. Remarque's book <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> was turned into a movie that won important Academy Awards in 1930.
Erwin Piscator	Zeittheatre writer whose play <i>The Salesman of Berlin</i> showed three road sweepers cleaning up the worst parts of the 1920s, excess money, militarism and a dead soldier.
Marlene Dietrich	One of the most popular film stars in the world and she often played mysterious and glamorous women in 'expressionist films' (films with a message).
Fritz Lang	Cutting edge movie maker in the 1920s, famous for his movie <i>Metropolis</i> .
Hermann Muller	Head of the SDP and the Chancellor of Germany between 1928 and 1930. He resigned after he failed to deal with the Depression.
Heinrich Brüning	He was Head of the ZP (Centre Party) and became Chancellor in 1930, thanks to Von Schleicher's support. He was nicknamed the 'Hunger Chancellor' and Hindenburg used Article 48 to keep him in power. Brüning was replaced by Von Papen in May 1932.
Kurt Von Schleicher	Defence Minister and advisor for Hindenburg. He was behind the political intrigue that got Hitler to power in 1933. He became Chancellor in November 1932 but failed to create his <i>querfront</i> coalition and resigned in January 1933.
Franz Von Papen	Chancellor from May 1932. He reinstated the SA and SS and faced a series of violent demonstrations. He failed to court Hitler or the left-wing or form an effective government and was replaced by Von Schleicher in November 1932. He convinced Hindenburg he could control Hitler as his Vice Chancellor in 1933 – he failed.
Ernst Thälmann KPD is Communist Party)	Head of the KPD from 1925 and was fairly successful elections in early 30's. Arrested in 1933 by the Gestapo, kept in Solitary Confinement for 11 years and then shot in 1944.
Hermann Goering	Minister of Prussia from 1933 and one of the only two Nazi Cabinet ministers in the Hitler's first government. He then created the Gestapo after the Enabling Act in 1933. He headed his 'four year' economic plan in 1937 to rebuild the Nazi war machine.
Wilhelm Frick	The second cabinet Minister in Hitler's first government as Minister of the Interior. Said 'Everything which is useful for the nation is lawful, everything which harms is unlawful.'
Ludwig Müller	Nazi supporter who became the first Reich Bishop of the Protestant Reich Church.
Martin Niemöller	He set up the 'Confessional Church' and the Pastor's Emergency League. He ended up in Concentration Camps from 1937 – 1945 but survived!
Dietrich Bonhoeffer	Member of Confessional Church who fought against the Nazis. Sent to a Concentration Camp in 1943. Implicated in a Hitler assassination plot and shot 4 weeks end of WWII.
Paul Schneider	Member of Pastor Emergency League. He resisted the Nazis from inside a Concentration Camp for 2 years. He was whipped, beaten and tortured for refusing to take off his cap for the rising of the Nazi flag. He was killed by a lethal injection in 1939.
Reinhard Heydrich	Head of SD in 1931 and a.k.a the Man with the iron heart, the Butcher of Prague, the Blond Beast and the Angel of Death. He was assassinated in 1942.
Agnes Von Grone	Head of the Women's Bureau that stood up to Hitler but it was disbanded in 1936
Cardinal Galen	Catholic leader who attacked the Nazi dictatorship but survived, despite pressure on Goebbels to hang him, because he was too popular in South Germany.
Pope Pius XI	Signed Concordat with Hitler in 1933 to try and save the Catholic Church from Hitler's influence and simultaneously protect Germany from the Communists. However, in 1937 he rallied the Catholics against Hitler in his 'With burning anxiety' speech.
Leni Riefenstahl	She made the film 'The Triumph of the Will' which was a documentary that followed the events of the 1936 Olympics and other rallies.
Albert Speer	One of the chief architects of the Monumental Style he was the chief architect in designing the Zeppelinfeld Stadium in which the Nuremberg rallies were held.
Maurice Bavaud	A Swiss student who tried to shoot Hitler in Munich in 1938 at the annual parade but failed to get a clear shot and thus pulled out so as not to injure anybody else.
George Elser	In 1939 he planted a bomb in the Bürgerbräukeller (the Munich Putsch Beer Hall) where Hitler was speaking, but Hitler left early and the bomb went off killing 7 people...
Gertrude Scholtz-Klink	She was a fervent Nazi Party (<i>NSDAP</i>) member and leader of the National Socialist Women's League or <i>Frauenfront</i> in Nazi Germany.
Bernhard Rust	In 1934 he was made the Minister of Science, Education and National Culture and set about reshaping the German educational system.
Balder Von Shirach –	The Youth Leader of the Reich from 1931 – 1940.
Dr Hjalmar Schacht	Minister of Economics from 1934 – 1937 who came up with the 'New Plan' or –

Important

Name	Description
Maximillian of Baden	He assumed the position of Chancellor in October 1918 and sued for peace with the Americans. He sent Erzberger to negotiate the Armistice in Compiegne.
Chancellor Philipp Scheidemann	He became Chancellor in after the first elections for the Weimar Republic in January 1919. He resigned in June 1919 because he refused to sign the Treaty of Versailles.
Matthias Erzberger	One of the three Germans sent to sign the Armistice. He was murdered by the right wing in 1921 in the riots after the Spartacist Uprising.
President Woodrow Wilson	He was the President of the USA from 1912 - 1920. He was approached by the Von Baden government to end the war and pushed for the League of Nations at Versailles.
Prime Minister George Clemenceau	Prime Minister of France who wanted to cripple Germany to stop it from invading France again and wanted reparations. His ideas mostly won out at the Treaty of Versailles.
Prime Minister David Lloyd George	The British Prime Minister at Versailles. He wanted a fair deal for Germany and had to battle some British politicians who wanted to 'squeeze Germany until the pips squeak.'
Professor Baumann	A right wing Bavarian who wanted Bavarian Independence who argued with Hitler at the first DAP meeting Hitler attended in 1919.
Benito Mussolini	Head of the Italian National Fascist Party who took control of Italy in 1923 and inspired Hitler to try the same thing in the Munich Putsch
Franz Thyssen	He was a Ruhr based Steel magnate and right winger. He joined Hitler in heavily criticising the Dawes and Young Plan.
Krupp and Bosch	Powerful industrialists who saw Hitler as the lesser of the two extremist evils. They supplied money to help Hitler to power, e.g. advertising his economic programme.
Marinus Van Der Lubbe –	He was a 23 year old Dutch Communist and known arsonist who set fire to the Reichstag in February 1933. He was executed in 1934.
Karl Ernst	Head of the SA in Berlin he was implicated in aiding in the Reichstag Fire. He was killed on the Night of the Long Knives
Josef Fath	Catholic who fought constant battles with Hitler Youth leaders and Nazi school officials to keep young people from joining the Hitler Youth and giving up their Catholic beliefs.
Blomberg, Fritsch and Von Brauchitsch	Three generals of the 16 that Hitler fired when he took control of the Reichswehr.
Herschel Grynszpan	He shot a German official in Paris revenge for the deportation which lead to Kristallnacht.
Bertolt Brecht and Thomas Mann	Two of the 2,500 writers who fled Germany after the burning of 20,000 books in Berlin in 1933.
Brahms, Beethoven and Wagner	Hitler's favourite composers. He was also a fan of German folk music.
Martha Brixius	A famous witness of life in Nazi Germany who commented on the difficulties of living in Nazi Germany
Jesse Owens	A black American Sprinter who won four gold medals and broke 11 Olympic records at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games.

