

Germany Knowledge Organisers

**Topic 1: The establishment
and development of the
Weimar Republic: 1919–Jan
1933**

The establishment and development of the Weimar Republic: 1919–Jan 1933: **Consequences of the First World War**

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Friedrich Ebert	SPD leader and first President of the Weimar Republic . Played key role in stabilising Germany post-WW1 via compromise with army and civil service.
Kaiser Wilhelm II	Abdicated in November 1918 after losing support from military and public. Marked the end of Imperial Germany .
Philipp Scheidemann	SPD politician who proclaimed the Republic from the Reichstag balcony on 9 November 1918 .
General Groener	Senior army officer who assured Ebert of military support in exchange for preserving army authority.
Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg	Leaders of the Spartacist League . Opposed Ebert's leadership and sought a Soviet-style revolution .

Dates	Key events
October 1918	October Reform : Transformed Germany into a constitutional monarchy to secure peace. Failed to prevent unrest.
3 November 1918	Kiel Mutiny : Soldiers refusal of orders to launch an attack against the British navy . Triggered wider revolution. Showed the collapse of military support for the Kaiser.
9 November 1918	Kaiser abdicates and Republic declared : End of Imperial Germany . Scheidemann declares the new republic .
10 November 1918	Ebert-Groener Pact : Agreement between army and Ebert to maintain order and defend the new government,
11 November 1918	Armistice signed : End of WW1. Laid the foundation for resentment and the “stab-in-the-back” myth .
6 December 1918	Spartacist demonstration : One of the many left-wing protests. Highlights opposition to the new government.

Key Words	Definitions
Armistice (1918)	Ceasefire agreement signed on 11 November 1918 between Germany and the Allies to end WW1.
Weimar Republic	Democratic government formed after the collapse of Imperial Germany in 1918.
October Reform	Political changes in October 1918 that shifted Germany towards parliamentary democracy to secure better peace terms.
“Stab-in-the-back” myth	Dolchstoss : Claim that Germany was betrayed by politicians and not defeated militarily in WW1. Used to discredit the new republic.
November Criminals	Nickname given to politicians who signed the armistice , suggesting they betrayed Germany.
German Revolution (1918)	Series of uprisings and mutinies (E.g. Kiel) that forced the abdication of the Kaiser . Led to a republic.
Council of People's Representatives	Led by Ebert . Temporary government formed after the Kaiser's abdication to steer Germany towards democracy.

The establishment and development of the Weimar Republic 1919–Jan 1933: **The Weimar Constitution**

Key Words	Definitions
Weimar Republic	1919 - 1933: The democratic government established in Germany after WW1.
Constitution	A set of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state is governed.
President	Head of state under the Weimar Constitution. Elected every 7 years. Held significant powers, including appointing the Chancellor and using Article 48,
Chancellor	Head of government. Appointed by the President and needed support from the Reichstag.
Reichstag	The German parliament. Elected by the people using proportional representation.
Proportional representation (PR)	Electoral system where parties gain seats in proportion to the number of votes they receive.
Article 48	Clause in the Weimar Constitution that allowed the President to rule by decree in an emergency. Later exploited by Hitler.
Bill of Rights	Part of the Weimar Constitution that guaranteed freedoms (E.g. speech, religion, equality, etc).
Federal system	Structure where individual states (Länder) retained certain powers within a united Germany.
Coalition government	Government formed by multiple political parties. Common due to PR, but often unstable.

Dates	Key events
November 1918	Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates. Germany declared a republic.
January 1919	National election held to choose a Constituent Assembly.
February 1919	New government meets in Weimar (not Berlin due to unrest). Weimar constitution drafted.
August 1919	Weimar Constitution formally adopted under President Friedrich Ebert.
1920s	Constitution leads to democratic reforms but also political instability due to PR and Article 48.
1930 - 1933	Increasing reliance on Article 48 to govern without Reichstag support. Undermines democracy.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Friedrich Ebert	First President of the Weimar Republic. Oversaw creation of the Weimar Constitution and transition to democracy.
Hugo Preub	Liberal lawyer and politician. Chief architect of the Weimar Constitution.
Paul von Hindenburg	President from 1925 - 1934. Used Article 48 extensively, paving the way for authoritarian rule.
Philipp Scheidemann	Announced the German Republic in 1918. First Chancellor of the Weimar Republic.

The establishment and development of the Weimar Republic: 1919–Jan 1933: Challenges to Weimar

Key Words	Definitions
Weimar Republic	Democratic government established in Germany after WW1.
Spartacists	A far-left revolutionary group aiming to create a communist state in Germany.
Freikorps	Right-wing paramilitary groups made up of ex-soldiers. Used by the government to crush uprisings.
Putsch	A violent attempt to overthrow the government.
Passive resistance	Non-violent refusal to obey orders (E.g. German workers refusing to cooperate during Ruhr occupation).
Hyperinflation	Rapid, uncontrollable increase in prices. Making money worthless.
Reparations	Payments Germany was forced to make under the Treaty of Versailles (132 billion gold marks).

Dates	Key events
January 1919	Spartacist Uprising: Communist (left-wing) revolt in Berlin led by Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht . Crushed by the Freikorps.
March 1920	Kapp Putsch: Right-wing coup led by Wolfgang Kapp and the Freikorps . Government fled Berlin but was saved by a general strike. Showed fragility of democracy.
January 1923	Invasion of the Ruhr: France and Belgium occupied the Ruhr to seize reparations in goods. Led to passive resistance and worsened economic crisis.
November 1923	Munich Putsch: Failed Nazi attempt to seize power in Munich, led by Hitler. Crushed by police and Hitler imprisoned. Gave Nazis publicity.
1923	Hyperinflation crisis: Caused by the Ruhr crisis and printing of money. Wages became worthless and savings wiped out; middle-class severely affected.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht	Leaders of the Spartacist uprising and wanted a communist Germany. Their deaths marked the end of the uprising and intensified left-right divisions.
Wolfgang Kapp	Led the Kapp Putsch to overthrow Weimar and restore the monarchy. Failed due to general strike, but exposed weak government authority.
Adolf Hitler	Led the Munich Putsch as head of the Nazi Party . Gained national attention and used his trial to promote views.
Gustav Stresemann	Appointed Chancellor (August 1923). Ended passive resistance and introduced the Rentenmark , stabilising the economy.

Stresemann and the Golden Years

1923-Stresemann becomes chancellor,introduces the Rentenmark and ends passive resistance
1924-Dawes Plan signed US loans begin to flow
1925-Locarno Pact signed
1926-Germany joins the League of Nations
1928-Industrial output returns to pre ww1 levels
1929-Young Plan finalised

Key people
Gustav Stresemann-Chancellor and foreign minister was the key architect of economic recovery
Charles Dawes-US banker who created the Dawes plan
Owen Young-US businessman who orchestrated the Young Plan
Paul Von Hindenburg-President of Germany

Term	Definition
Golden Years	Period of relative stability and prosperity in Weimar Germany (1924–1929), mainly due to Stresemann's policies.
Hyperinflation	Economic crisis of 1923 where German currency lost its value – resolved by Stresemann.
Rentenmark	Temporary new currency introduced in 1923 to stabilise the economy.
Dawes Plan (1924)	U.S. loans to Germany and restructured reparations payments.
Young Plan (1929)	Reduced Germany's reparations and extended the payment period.
Locarno Pact (1925)	Germany agreed to respect borders with France and Belgium – improved international relations.
League of Nations	Germany joined in 1926, showing growing international acceptance.
Industrial Production	By 1928, had recovered to 1913 levels – sign of economic recovery.
Coalition Government	A government formed by multiple political parties – common in Weimar era.
Standard of Living	The level of wealth, comfort, and access to goods and services – improved during these years

TOPIC TITLE – The establishment and development of the Weimar Republic: 1919–Jan 1933
The impact of the Great Depression, elections and governments 1928–1933:

Key Words	Definitions
Great depression	A severe global economic crisis that began in 1929 after the Wall Street Crash.
Weimar republic	The democratic government of Germany from 1919 to 1933.
Unemployment	Reached over 6 million in Germany by 1932 due to the economic crisis
Coalition government	A government formed by multiple parties who must work together
Article 48	Part of the Weimar constitution allowing the president to rule by decree
Reichstag	The German parliament
Chancellor	The head of the German government
Hyperinflation	Rapid and excessive inflation, previously occurred in Germany in 1923 by fear of it lingered
Extremism	Political ideologies far from the centre (Communism, Nazism)
Nazi party (NSDAP)	Nationalist Socialist German Workers Party, led by Adolf Hitler
Communist party (KPD)	Left wing party that gained support from workers and the unemployed

Dates	Key event
1929	Wall street crash - Triggers the Great Depression worldwide, hitting Germany hard
1930	Bruning become chancellor - Begins governing with Article 48 due to lack of majority
1930	Reichstag election - Nazi party rises from 12 - 107 seats
1932 (July)	Reichstag election - Nazis become the largest party with 230 seats
1932 (Nov)	Reichstag election - Nazi's lose seats but still largest party (196 seats)
193 (Jan 30)	Hitler appointed chancellor by Hindenburg by Papens persuasion
1933 (Feb - Mar)	Reichstag fire and Enabling Act consolidate Nazi power

Key People	Role/importance
Adolf Hitler	Leader of the Nazi party, used the crisis to gain mass support
Heinrich Bruning	Chancellor (1930 - 32), used article 48 to bypass the Reichstag, unpopular
Hindenburg	President of Germany, Used emergency powers and appointed chancellors
Von Papen	Chancellor in 1932, tried to rule without majority support
Von Schleicher	Briefly chancellor in 1932 - 33, failed to maintain support
Goebbels	Nazi propaganda chief, key in spreading Nazi ideas

TOPIC TITLE – The Rise of the Nazi Party & Hitler's appointment as Chancellor

Key Words	Definitions
NSDAP (Nazi party)	National Socialist German Workers' Party; led by Hitler from 1921.
25 point programme	Nazi manifesto mixing nationalist and socialist ideas written in 1920.
SA (Sturmabteilung)	Nazi paramilitary wing, used to intimidate political opponents.
Anti-Semitism	Hostility towards Jews, central to Nazi ideology.
Social Darwinism	Belief in racial hierarchy and "survival of the fittest" among peoples
Propaganda	Political messaging, massively expanded by the Nazis under Goebbels.
Backstairs Intrigue	Term describing political manoeuvring that led to Hitler's appointment as Chancellor.
Article 48	Clause in the Weimar Constitution allowing the president to rule by decree.
Reichstag	German parliament, increasingly deadlocked during the early 1930s.

Dates	Key events
1919 Sep	Hitler joins the German Workers' Party.
1920	25 point programme announced.
1921 Aug	Hitler becomes leader and forms the SA.
1924 May	Nazis win 6.5% of votes following the Munich Putsch trial.
1928	Nazis gain rural support but remain a fringe party.
1932 March/ april	Hindenburg defeats Hitler in presidential elections.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Adolf Hitler	Leader of the Nazi Party; appointed Chancellor in 1933. I
Paul von Hindenburg	President of Germany; reluctantly appointed Hitler.
Franz von Papen	Chancellor (1932); helped broker Hitler's rise thinking he could control him.
Kurt von Schleicher	Chancellor before Hitler; failed to build a stable coalition.
Joseph Goebbels	Nazi propaganda Minister; instrumental in spreading Nazi ideology.
Anton Drexler	Founder of the German Workers' Party; predecessor to the NSDAP.

Dates	Key events
1932 July	Nazis become the largest Reichstag party.
1932 Nov	Nazi vote drops (33.1%), but they still remain the largest party.
1933 Jan	Hitler appointed chancellor of Germany.

Key Words	Definitions
Reichstag Fire	Feb 1933 Fire blamed on a communist—used to justify emergency powers.
Emergency Decree	Suspended freedoms; allowed arrest of communist and control of media.
Enabling Act	Gave Hitler power to pass laws without the Reichstag or president.
Night of the Long Knives	Purge of the SA leadership and political opponents.
Fuhrer	Title Hitler took after Hindenburg's death— merger of the office of the chancellor and president.
SS	Hitler's elite guard and later main force of repression. (ran camps)
Gestapo	Secret police— used for terror and informatics to crush opposition.
SD (Security Service)	Intelligence service run by Heydrich— tracked enemies of the state.
DAF	The German Labour Front. Replaced Trade unions.
Chamber of Culture	Controlled access to work in media/arts; enforced Nazi ideology.
People's Court	Courts used to bypass legal norms – often political show trials
"Working towards the Fuhrer"	Officials acted based on what they thought Hitler would want
Nuremberg Rallies	Large propaganda events to display Nazi unity and strength.
Berlin Olympics	Propaganda event to present Nazi Germany as peaceful and modern.

TOPIC TITLE – The rise of Nazism 2

Dates	Key events
27 Feb 1933	Reichstag Fire— Van der Lubbe blamed (Communist Scapegoat.)
28 Feb 1933	Emergency Decree issued— suspended civil liberties.
23 Mar 1933	Enabling Act passed— gave Hitler dictatorial powers.
7 April 1933	Civil Service Law passed— removed ews and 'Undesirables'.
14 July 1933	Law against the formation of New parties — Nazi one party-state.
30 July 1933	Night of the Long knives— purge of SA and political opponents.
2 August 1934	Hindenburg dies— Hitler becomes Fuhrer.
1936	Berlin Olympics— major propaganda opportunity.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Adolf Hitler	Leader of the Nazi Party, became <i>Führer</i> in 1934
Ernst Rohm	SA leader, murdered in Night of the Long Knives.
Reinhard Heydrich	Head of the SD (security service), key figure in repression
Rudolf Hess	Hitler's deputy – helped build Nazi bureaucracy.
Martin Bormann	Hess's Chief of Staff – became powerful in party structure

Treatment of opposition

Key Words	Definitions
Resistance	Opposition of Nazi Leadership,policies and rule
Gestapo	Nazu secret police used to crush opposition
Censorship	Control of information to suppress criticism
Underground	Secretive activities against the regime
Propaganda	Biased media used to control public opinion

Dates	Key events
1933	Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany
1934	The Night of the Long knives purge of international opposition
1942	White Rose group starts to distribute leaflets
1944	20 July Failed assassination attempt on Hitler Stauffenberg plot

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Sophie Scholl	Member of the White Rose group, executed for distributing anti-nazi leaflets
Claus Von Stauffenberg	German officer who tried to assassinate Hitler
Dietrich Bonhoeffer	Christian pastor who opposed Nazi ideology he was executed in 1945
Martin Niemoller	Protestant pastor who criticized the regime he was imprisoned in concentration camps

**Topic 2: The
establishment of the Nazi
Dictatorship and its
domestic policies Feb
1933–1939**

Hitlers consolidation of power/Reichstag Fire/Night of the long knives

Key terms	Definitions
Chancellor	Head of German Government
Reichstag	German Parliament
Enabling Act	Law giving Hitler power to rule by no decree
Gleichschaltung	Nazi policy to bring all parts of german society under nazi control
SA	Nazi parliamentary group known as brownshirts
SS	Hitlers elite bodyguards which later ran concentration camps
Fuhrer	Translates to Leader
Dictatorship	Lead by one person with total power

Dates	Key events
1933	30 Jan Hitler becomes the chancellor of Germany 27 Feb The Reichstag Fire 5 March Reichstag Elections 23 March Enabling Act passed May Trade unions banned July All political parties banned except Nazi party
1934	30 June Night of the long Knives 2 August President Hindenburg dies and hitler becomes Fuhrer August Swears oath of loyalty to Hitler

Key people	Why Important?
Adolf Hitler	Leader of Nazi Party Chancellor 1933 and Fuhrer 1934
President Hindenburg	German president who appointed Hitler as chancellor
Heinrich Himmler	Head of SS involved in the purge against SA
Ernst Rohm	Leader of SA Murdered in the Night of the Long knives

TOPIC TITLE – Systems of government (Part 1)

Person	Role	Dates	Key events
Adolf Hitler	Fuhrer and Chancellor, Centralised power under his personal rule	30/01/1933	Hitler appointed Chancellor
Himmler	Head of the SS and police, oversaw Gestapo and Concentration camps	27/02/1933	Reichstag fire
Goebbels	Minister of propaganda, Responsible for controlling media and the Hitler myth	23/03/1933	Enabling act passed - Hitler gains dictatorial powers
Goring	Head of Luftwaffe, Key economic and admin roles, rival to Himmler	July 1933	Nazi party becomes the only legal political party
Rudolph Hess	Deputy Fuhrer until 1941, Responsible for internal party affairs	30/06/1934	Night of the Long Knives, SA is purged
Heydrich	Himmler's deputy, Chief of Reich security Main Office	02/08/1934	Death of President Hindenburg, Hitler becomes Fuhrer
Ernst Rohm	Leader of the SA until 1934, executed at night of the long knives	1935	Nuremberg law passed
Von Blomberg and von Fritsch	Army leaders purged in 1938, allowing Hitler to tighten army control	1938	Army purged (Blomberg - Fritsch crisis) Hitler becomes commander in chief

TOPIC TITLE – Systems of government (Part 2)

Key Words	Definitions
Fuhrerprinzip	Leadership principle, total loyalty to Hitler
Gleichschaltung	Coordination; Nazi control of all aspects of society
Enabling act	Law giving Hitler dictatorial powers
SS (Schutzstaffel)	Elite Nazi force under Himmler
Gestapo	Secret police
Reichstag fire decree	Suspended civil liberties
Hitler myth	Propaganda image of Hitler as Germany's saviour
Dual state	Parallel structures of state and Nazi party
Polycracy	Multiple overlapping power structures
Night of the Long Knives	Elimination of the SA and rivals

Censorship and Propaganda Gestapo and SS Terror tactics

Key Words	Definitions
Propaganda	Media and messaging used to control public opinion
Censorship	Banning or controlling information
Radio	Main use of propaganda tool to broadcast Nazi ideas directly to people
Gestapo	Nazi secret police that hunted enemies of the state
SS	Hitler elite force ran concentration camps and crushed opposition
SD	Nazi intelligence service spied on citizens
Police state	Country where the government uses police d surveillance to control people

Dates	Key events
1933	Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda set up
1933	Gestapo Secret police established
1934	Night of the long knives SS rises to power
1936	SS,SD and Gestapo brought under Himmlers control
1939	Gestapo had 150000 people under protective custody

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Adolf Hitler	Leader of Nazi Germany who believe in total control over thoughts and actions
Joseph Goebbels	Minister of Propaganda controlled all media including radio,film,arts
Heinrich Himmler	Head of SS, Gestapo and SD was a key figure in Nazi police state
Reinhard Heydrich	Head of the SD intelligence agency who later planned the Holocaust

Treatment of Opposition

Term	Meaning
Opposition	Any group or individual who resisted, criticised, or acted against Nazi rule.
Resistance	Active attempts to undermine or overthrow Nazi control, e.g. sabotage or assassination
Conformity	Compliance with Nazi rule, either willingly or through fear.
Gestapo	Nazi secret police – identified, arrested, and eliminated opposition.
SS	Elite Nazi organisation responsible for enforcing Nazi ideology and running concentration camps.
SD	Nazi intelligence agency that monitored potential opponents.

Key people	Role in opposition
Communists KPD	Major early opponents
Social democrats SPD	Tried to oppose Enabling Act
Trade unions	Dissolved in 1933 replaced by German labour front
Martin Niemoller	Protestant Pastor who resisted Nazi rule
White Rose Group	Led by Hans and Sophie Scholl distributed anti Nazi leaflets
Edelweiss pirates	Working class youth group
July Bomb plotters	Aimed to kill Hitler and take control

1933-Reichstag fire blamed communists used as excuse for opposition
 Feb 1933-Decree for protection of the state and the people
 March 1933-Enabling Act passed Hitler ruled without decree
 1934-Night of the Long knives SA and other political threats eliminated
 1935-Formation of the concentration camps system under control of the SS
 1942-White rose group formed and begins resistance
 July 1942-Stauffenberg plot failed assassination attempt on Hitlers life

The establishment of the Nazi Dictatorship and its domestic policies Feb 1933–1939: **Religious policies**

Dates	Key events
20 July 1933	Concordat signed between the Catholic Church and Nazi Germany.
September 1933	Reich Church established. With Muller as Reich Bishop.
1934	Confessional Church formed to resist state interference in Protestant doctrine.
1935 - 1937	Increasing Nazi pressure on churches. Youth groups banned and religious influence restricted.
21 March 1937	Mit brennender Sorge encyclical is smuggled into Germany and read from Catholic pulpits.
1937 - 1939	Persecution of Protestant and Catholic clergy intensifies. Many arrested or silenced.
1939	Nazi control over churches has deepened. Total elimination has not occurred yet.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Adolf Hitler	Although raised Catholic, saw Christianity as weak and sought to diminish its influence. He promoted Nazi ideology over church authority.
Ludwig Muller	Appointed Reich Bishop in 1933 to lead the Nazi-controlled Protestant Reich Church . His leadership caused division and led to the formation of the Confessional Church .
Martin Niemoller	Founding member of the Confessional Church . Initially supported Hitler, but later opposed Nazi control of religion. Arrested in 1937 and sent to a concentration camp.
Dietrich Bonhoeffer	Protestant theologian who actively opposed Nazi ideology and assisted Jews. Executed in 1945 for involvement in anti-Nazi resistance.
Pope Pius XI	Criticised Nazi ideology in the 1937 encyclical Mit brennender Sorge . Marked a rare official Catholic rebuke of the regime.
Clemens August von Galen	Catholic Bishop of Munster who openly criticised Nazi euthanasia and repression in sermons. His popularity protected him from Nazi retaliation.

Key Words	Definitions
Concordat (1933)	Treaty between the Vatican and Nazi Germany agreeing to mutual non-interference. Later violated by the Nazis.
Reich Church	Nazi-aligned Protestant church under state control. Led by Ludwig Muller /.
Confessional Church	Protestant breakaway movement resisting Nazi interference in church doctrine and leadership.
Volksgemeinschaft	Nazi ideal of a racially and ideologically unified national community. Often in tension with religious diversity.
Mit brennender Sorge (1937)	Papal encyclical condemning Nazi breaches of the Concordat and Nazi ideology.
Clergy resistance	Christian pastors and priests who spoke out or acted against Nazi policies.

TOPIC TITLE – The establishment of the Nazi Dictatorship and its domestic policies Feb 1933–1939: German Labour Front + Strength Through Joy PT1

Key Words	Definitions
Trade Union Replacement	The DAF replaced and banned any other worker party that wasn't the DAF, and banned strikes and working negotiations.
Worker Discipline	The DAF enforced obedience and no questioning, as well as discouraging complaints and promoting productivity.
Social Harmony	Promoted by Nazi Propaganda to discourage class conflict and introduce cooperation amongst all Germans, no matter the class.
Labour Regulation	The DAF oversaw working conditions, wages, hours and training.
Industrial Output	The DAF wanted industrial output to be as high as possible, and was based on discipline.
Reich Labour Organisation	The DAF functioned as the official body of labor body of the Nazi regime, managing every aspect of work life.
No Strikes	Strikes were banned and any unrest to do with labour was put down by the Nazi Party.

2 May 1933 - 6 May 1933	Trade unions banned in Germany. Their offices were raided, leaders arrested. German Labour Front (DAF) established under Robert Ley as the sole labour organization.
1934	DAF begins to control working conditions, wages, and leisure , replacing independent union functions.
1934–1939	DAF membership grows rapidly – over 22 million workers forced to join.
1938	DAF supports increased working hours and contributes to the Four-Year Plan industrial goals.
1945	DAF is dissolved by Allied occupation authorities after Nazi defeat.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Workers - Robert Ley, Adolf Hitler	Roles - DAF, KdF, SdA; Suppression of Unions, Promotion of Nazi Work Culture.
Peasants / Farmers - Richard Darré, Adolf Hitler	Roles - Blood and Soil, Reich Food Estate, Hereditary Farm Law.
Big Business - Hjalmar Schacht, Hermann Göring, Fritz Todt	Roles - Economic recovery, rearmament, Four-Year Plan, industrial coordination
Landowners / Mittelstand - Hitler, Schacht, Darré	Roles - Sought to balance support between conservative elites and small businesses

TOPIC TITLE – The establishment of the Nazi Dictatorship and its domestic policies Feb 1933–1939: German Labour Front + Strength Through Joy PT2

Key Words	Definitions
Third Reich	The German State from 1933 to 1945, along with its occupied territory.
NS Gemeinschaft Kraft durch Freude	The German name for Strength Through Joy.
Leisure Programs	Organised holidays, sports and trips to congratulate and thank workers for their work and loyalty to the Nazi regime.
Mass Tourism	The KdF enabled normal Germans to take holidays around Europe and Germany, for the first time.
Propaganda	Tools used by the Nazis to control public opinion; KdF activities were used to spread Nazi ideals through leisure and entertainment.
Volkswagen	The "People's Car": A Car promoted by the KdF for the workers and the average Germans, and a few people actually received one and it became a massive lie.
State Controlled Leisure	The government controlled all aspects of free time, and to enforce Nazi values.
Social Engineering	KdF was used to mold society according to Nazi goals, using leisure to shape behaviours and attitudes.
Subsidized Vacations	Low cost trips used to promote loyalty to the Nazi regime.
Volksgemeinschaft	Aimed to unify all workers under the Nazi regime in a racially pure community.
Strength Through Joy	KdF was a department within the DAF, showing how labor and leisure were linked under Nazi control.

Date	Event
November 1933	KdF founded as a subdivision of the DAF. Aim: organize leisure and holidays to improve worker morale and loyalty.
1934–1939	KdF organizes a vast range of activities: concerts, cruises, theatre visits, hiking trips, and more.
1938	Peak of KdF popularity: over 10 million Germans participate in KdF events. Some workers even go on cruises or foreign holidays.
1938–39	Introduction of the Volkswagen (People's Car) savings scheme. Workers paid into it but never received cars due to war.
1939	Outbreak of WWII halts most KdF activities. Focus shifts to war effort.
1945	KdF dissolved along with the DAF at the end of the war.

The establishment of the Nazi Dictatorship and its domestic policies Feb 1933–1939: Policy towards women

Key Words	Definitions
Kinder, Küche, Kirche	“ Children, Kitchen, Church ”: Slogan representing traditional Nazi ideals for women’s roles.
Volksgemeinschaft	Nazi goal of a united national community. Women’s key role was to produce racially pure children.
Mutterkreuz	Mother’s Cross : Medal awarded to women with large families. Bronze (4+ children), silver (6+ children) and gold (8+ children).
Lebensborn Programme	SS-run maternity homes for “racially pure” women to give birth (often to children fathered by SS members).
Rearmament	Nazi military build-up that later created labour shortages. Increased the demand for female workers.
Anti-feminism	The Nazi rejection of women’s rights and political / employment equality.

Dates	Key events
1933	Law for the Encouragement of Marriage : Provided loans to newlyweds if the woman left work. ¼ written off per child.
1933	Sterilisation Law : Allowed the forced sterilisation of people deemed “genetically unfit”, especially women.
1934-1937	Mother’s Cross introduced. Encouraged higher birth rates.
1936	Labour shortages began. Women recruited back into work due to rearmament pressures.
1938	Lebensborn programme expanded. Reflected racial priorities over traditional family ideals.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Adolf Hitler	Promoted a traditional view of women’s roles as mothers of the Aryan race .
Gertrud Scholtz-Klink	Leader of the Nazi Women’s League . Spread Nazi ideology to women and oversaw female training.
Heinrich Himmler	Head of the SS . Ran the Lebensborn programme and directed racial population policies.

Education and Policy towards the youth

Key Words	Definitions
Indoctrination	Teaching someone to accept a set of beliefs uncritically
Aryan	Nazi term for 'racially pure' German person
Hitler youth	Youth organisations for boys promoting Nazi values
BDM	League of German girls
Nazi teachers league	Organisation all teachers had to join to promote Nazi beliefs
Curriculum	Subjects and content taught in schools

Dates	Key events
1933	Nazis begin to control of education system
1934	Nazis Teachers League becomes compulsory
1936	Hitler youth made compulsory for Aryan Race
1939	Nazi curriculum fully implemented was starts

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Adolf Hitler	Wanted to shape future generations to serve the Nazi state
Baldur Von Schirach	Head of the Hitler Youth
Bernhard Rust	Minister of Education led Nazi changes to schooling

Benefits of Nazi rule

Key words	Definitions
Aryan	Nazi term for 'Master Race'-ideal german people
volksgemeinschaft	'Peoples community'- Nazi ideal of a unified racial state
Autarky	Economic self sufficient, a Nazi goal
Lebensraum	'Living space'- Nazi policy to expand territory
Rearmament	Building up military forces banned by Treaty of Versailles

Dates	Key events
1933	Nazis come to power start of economic recovery programs
1935	Nuremberg laws passed racial policies
1936	Berlin olympics showcase Nazi Germany
1938	Kristallnacht state sponsored anti jewish violence
1939 1945	WW1 Economic and military expansion

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Adolf Hitler	Leader who promised national revival gained popular support
Hermann Goering	Head of Four Year Plan boosted military industry
Robert Ley	Leader of German Labour front controlled the workers

Key Words	Definitions
Communist	A theory or system of social organization in which all property is owned by the community and each person contributes and receives according to their ability and needs.
Conservative	In a political context, favouring free enterprise, private ownership, and socially traditional ideas.
Passive Resistance	Used by the White Rose Group and the Scholl's, which involved propaganda type media and tried to stop the controlled Nazi State with fliers and leaflets.
White Rose	A non-violent student resistance group based in Munich; opposed Nazi policies, especially the Holocaust.
July Plot (1944)	A failed assassination attempt against Hitler by German army officers (also called Operation Valkyrie).
Gestapo	Nazi secret police tasked with crushing opposition through surveillance, arrest, and torture.
Conservative resistance	Opposition from within the German elite, especially military and aristocratic circles who opposed Hitler's radicalism.
Communist resistance	Opposition by members of the banned Communist Party (KPD), often organized underground or from exile.
People's Court (Volksgerichtshof)	Nazi court used for political trials; known for show trials and death sentences.
Sippenhaft	"Kin liability" — punishment of a resister's family for their actions.
Operation Valkyrie	A plan intended to take control of Germany after Hitler's assassination; part of the July Plot.

TOPIC TITLE – The establishment of the Nazi Dictatorship and its domestic policies Feb 1933–1939 – Opposition and Resistance

Date	Event
1942	Creation of the White Rose Group on the 27th June, 1942, and it ended on February 22nd, 1943 after both members were executed.
July 1944	20th July, 1944, the July Plot (Operation Valkyrie) took place with a failed assassination attempt on Hitler at a meeting, where the bomb-briefcase was moved before the explosion.
Post-July 1944	Massive wave of arrests and executions following the July Plot; over 5,000 people killed.
1939–1945	Communist underground resistance continues, despite severe repression.
1944	Gestapo crackdown on Edelweiss Pirates, several executed in Cologne.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
White Rose Group (Hans and Sophie Scholl)	Formulated passive resistance against the Nazi Regime by printing anti-nazi posters and information, first posting them around their university and then throughout the area, they were found, imprisoned and then executed.
July Plot (Kreisau Circle, Stauffenberg, Moltke, Beck, Tresckow, Rommel and Goerdeler).	The Kreisau Circle was a wide range group of Officers, Aristocrats, Academics and Churchmen who all met at the Kreisau estate of Moltke, where they discussed plans for a new Germany after Hitler, and they decided that the only way to go was to assassinate Hitler in the Stauffenberg Plot / July Plot / Operation Valkyrie.
Conservative Opposition (Carl Friedrich Goerdeler).	Goerdeler opposed the Anti-Semitism and Holocaust massively whilst he was in office. He was a monarchist, executive, economist and civil servant.
Communist Opposition (Ernst Thalmann, Wilhelm	Even though Ernst was arrested in 1933, he became a symbol of anti-fascism and the face of communism even in the camp. Koenen was a KPD underground organiser, where he was later imprisoned in Nazi Camps. Ackermann was a key player in post

TOPIC TITLE – The establishment of the Nazi Dictatorship and its domestic

policies Feb 1933–1939 – Racial Policies to 1939

Date	Event
April 1933	Boycott of Jewish Shops and Businesses. (April 1st) Law for the Restoration of the Civil Service, with the Jewish banned from civil jobs. (April 7th)
1935	September 15th, 1935: The Nuremberg Laws were passed, which were based on Citizenship and Blood Laws.
1936	Anti-semitism was temporarily removed for the Berlin Olympics.
March 1938	Anschluss with Austria, racial laws extended.
Late 1938	November 9th - 10th: Kristallnacht, against the Jewish in Germany and Austria. November 12th: Jewish fined 1 Billion Rentenmark for the events of Kristallnacht. Late 1938: The Jewish were banned from most public spaces and schools.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
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Person	Role/Contribution
Adolf Hitler	Leader, driving force behind racial ideology
Heinrich Himmler	Head of SS, oversaw racial enforcement and concentration camps
Reinhard Heydrich	Helped organize Kristallnacht and early Jewish policies
Joseph Goebbels	Propaganda Minister, incited hatred, helped trigger Kristallnacht

Key Words	Definitions
Anschluss	The Annexation of Austria.
Anti-Semitism	Hatred or prejudice against Jews.
Aryan	Nazi ideal of the “master race” (typically Northern European).
Untermenschen	“Subhumans” – Jewish, Roma, Slavs, etc., seen as racially inferior.
Nuremberg Laws	1935 laws removing Jewish rights and banning intermarriage.
Kristallnacht	1938, violence against Jews and destruction of their property.
Eugenics	Nazi belief in racial purity through sterilization and selective breeding.
Volksgemeinschaft	“People’s community” – racially unified Germany, excluding minorities.
Lebensborn	SS program to breed Aryan children.
Racial Hygiene	Effort to keep Aryan bloodline “pure”.

**Topic 3: The impact of war
and defeat on Germany:
1939–1949**

The impact of war and defeat on Germany: 1939–1949: **The war economy and Total War**

Key Words	Definitions
War economy	The restructuring of the economy to focus on military needs during wartime.
Total War	A conflict where all resource and civilians are mobilised for the war effort. Blurring the lines between military and domestic life.
Four-Year Plan (1936)	Economic strategy under Goering to prepare Germany for war in 4 years. Included autarky and rearmament.
Central Planning Board	Organisation set up by Albert Speer in 1942 to coordinate economic production and boost war efficiency.
Rationalisation	Streamlining industry to increase output using fewer resources. Central to Speer's reforms.
Armaments miracle	Term used to describe the increase in German weapons production after Speer's appointment, despite the Allied bombing .

Dates	Key events
1939	Outbreak of WW2: Shift to full-scale war economy begins. Not immediately efficient.
1939 - 1942	Expansion of the economy: German industry shifted gradually from civilian to military production, laying the groundwork for Total War . Full mobilisation was hindered by coordination issues and resource shortages.
1942	Albert Speer appointed Minister of Armaments and War Production: Marked the beginning of centralised and efficient economic management. His policies drastically improved production by centralising control and standardising designs.
1943 - 1944	Peak of German arms production ("Armaments miracle"): Despite heavy bombing, Speer's measures significantly increased weapons output.
1945	Defeat of Nazi Germany: The sustained pressure of strategic bombing, resource exhaustion and mismanagement lead to economic ruin. War economy collapses, Infrastructure destroyed.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Hermann Goering	Led the pre-war Four-Year Plan to expand the economy for rearmament. Failed to fully mobilise the economy for war as his plans lacked the coordination and efficiency required for Total War .
Albert Speer	Transformed the war economy after 1942 using central planning, standardisation and slave labour. Dramatically improved arms production (" Armaments miracle ").
Fritz Todt	Predecessor to Speer, died in 1942. Initiated attempts at wartime production planning but lacked full control.

Key Words	Definitions
Strategic bombing	Targeted attacks on enemy infrastructure, industry, and cities to cripple war effort.
RAF	Royal Air Force of Britain; led bombing raids over German cities.
USAAF	United States Army Air Forces; worked with RAF in strategic bombing.
Operation Gomorrah	Allied bombing of Hamburg in 1943; caused massive destruction and civilian deaths.
Hamburg	German city heavily bombed in 1943; ~40,000 killed.
Dresden	Cultural city bombed in 1945; over 25,000 civilians killed.
Firestorm	Intense fire created by bombing raids, causing widespread destruction.
Civilian casualties	Deaths and injuries to non-combatants during bombings.
Morale	The mood or spirit of the population; declined due to bombings and losses.
War production	Manufacturing of weapons, ammunition, and military supplies.
Displacement	Forced movement of civilians due to destruction of homes.
Air raids	Attacks by aircraft dropping bombs on cities and industrial targets

TOPIC TITLE – The impact of war and defeat on Germany: 1939–1949: Impact of Bombing		
Dates	Key events	
1942	Strategic Bombing Campaign, Start of the Sustained Bombing by the Allies on Germany, to weaken industry, production and morale.	
July 1943	Operation Gomorrah , RAF and USAAF bombed Hamburg. 40,000 civilians killed, with the city centre destroyed.	
February 1945	Dresden Bombing, Intense firebombing, which killed 25,000 people. Symbolic of civilian suffering and cultural loss.	
1939	1939, Rationing Introduced, Food and Goods were split to ensure fair distribution.	
1939 - 1945	British Naval Blockade, Restricted German imports of food and fuel, worsening shortages and rationing.	
	Key individuals	Why are they important?
	Herbert Backe	Nazi Minister of Food; responsible for rationing and the "Hunger Plan".
	Arthur Harris	Head of RAF Bomber Command; led the Allied bombing campaign against Germany.
	Albert Speer	Nazi Minister of Armaments; maintained production despite bombing damage.
	Joseph Goebbels	Nazi Propaganda Minister; aimed to keep civilian morale high during air raids.

TOPIC TITLE – The impact of war and defeat on Germany: 1939–1949: Impact of

Key Words	Definitions
Rationing	Government control over food and water for equal distribution during times of crisis.
Ration Cards	Issued to civilians as a 'claim' for food, such as Meat Cards, where they would be traded for food.
Ersatz Goods	Substitute Products
Hunger Plan	Nazi Policy to Starve Soviet Citizens and direct foods to Germans.
British Naval Blockade	British strategy to cut off food supplies to Germany from the Sea / Ocean.
Stalingrad	Major German Defeat in 1943, downwards turn of Morale.
Total War	Policy declaring all aspects of society must contribute to War Efforts.
Propaganda	Information spread to influence public opinion; used heavily by Goebbels.
Mobilisation	The process of preparing and organising society for war.
Disillusionment	Growing doubt about Nazi leadership and the war.
Censorship	Government control over information to retain High Morale.

Rationing and Morale	
Dates	Key events
1939	Rationing introduced, food and essential goods began to be strictly controlled as war began.
1939-1945	British Naval Blockade, severely limited imports into Germany, worsening shortages.
1941 onwards	Hunger Plan implemented, the Nazi plan to starve Soviet civilians and redirect food to Germans.
1942-1945	Use of Ersatz goods, shortages led to the widespread use of substitutes (e.g. synthetic coffee).
1943	Food quality and quantity declined, the Working-Class Germans faced malnutrition as supplies ran low.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Herman Göring	Oversaw the Four-Year Plan; responsible for economic planning including rationing in early war years.
Joseph Goebbels	'Minister of People's Enlightenment' - Propaganda Minister.
Claus von Stauffenberg	Army officer who led the July Bomb Plot against Hitler in 1944, showing internal resistance.

Dates	Key events - Morale
Feb 1943	Defeat at Stalingrad, Major German Military Loss, shattered faith in Nazi victory.
Feb 1943	Goebbels' Total War speech, urged full commitment to the war effort, marked growing desperation.
1942- 1945	Bombing raids intensified, constant air attacks caused fear, destruction, and hopelessness.
July 1944	July Bomb Plot, failed attempt to assassinate Hitler, showed deepening resistance and cracks in loyalty. (Operation Valkyrie and The Kreisau Circle)
1945	Collapse of morale, civilians lost hope as defeat became inevitable, trust in propaganda vanished.

Key Words	Definitions
Anti semitism	Prejudice against Jews
Aryan	Nazi term for a supposed master race
Ghetto	Segregated area where Jews were forced to live
Einsatzgruppen	SS death squads that executed Jews in occupied areas
The Final Solution	Nazi plan to exterminate all Jews in Europe
Wannsee conference	1942 meeting that coordinated the Final Solution
Concentration camp	Detention centre for enemies of the state
Extermination camp	Facility built for mass murder mainly of Jews
Holocaust	The genocide of 6 million Jews in WWII
Roma (Gypsies)	Ethnic group also targeted for racial discrimination
T4 programme	Nazi euthanasia programme for targeted individuals

TOPIC TITLE – War and racial policies, The Final Solution

Date	Event
1933 - 1939	Nazi's encourage Jewish emigration
1939	Invasion of Poland, World War two begins
1939 - 1941	Jews forced into Ghettos to segregate them
1940	First deportation of Jews from Germany
1941	Invasion of the USSR, Jewish emigration banned, Mass shootings in Eastern Europe
Jan 1942	The Wannsee conference, Final Solution planned
1942	Extermination camps begin in full operation

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Adolf Hitler	Fuhrer, main architect of Nazi ideology and anti semitic policy
Heinrich Himmler	Head of the SS, oversaw the Final Solution and concentration camps
Reinhard Heydrich	SS leader, Chaired the Wannsee conference
Adolf Eichmann	Organised logistics of Jewish deportations to death camps

**Topic 4: Divided Germany:
The Federal Republic and
the DDR 1949–1963**

Key Words	Definitions
ACC (Allied Control Council)	Body governing Germany post-WWII, based on 4-power unanimity.
Berlin Blockade (1948-49)	Soviet effort to isolate West Berlin; caused the Berlin Airlift
Berlin Airlift	Allied response to the blockade; massive supply operation by air
Ostmark	New currency introduced in Soviet-controlled East Germany.
Deutsche Mark (DM)	Western Currency introduced in 1948, angering Soviets
Rosinenbomber	"Raisin bombers"—nickname for planes that dropped sweets and supplies to Berliners.
Marshall Plan	US economic aid program; aimed at rebuilding Europe and resisting communism
Grundgesetz	"Basic Law"—Constitution of the FRG
FRG (BRD)	Federal Republic of Germany; capitalist democracy in the West.
GDR (DDR)	German Democratic Republic; communist state in the East.
Six Power Conference	Meeting of Western Allies and Benelux to discuss forming West Germany.
Potsdam agreement.	Post-war agreement allowing four-power control of Germany and Berlin.

UNIT TITLE – Creation of Two Germanys and the Basic Law.

Dates	Key events
24 June 1948	Berlin Blockade begins; Soviet cut off road, rail and canal access to West Berlin.
June 1948	Currency reform: DM introduced in Western zones; Ostmark created in Soviet zone.
12 May 1949	Blockade ends; Soviet lift blockade after failing to force surrender.
23 May 1949	Federal republic of Germany (FRG) created. (West Germany)
7 Oct 1949	German Democratic Republic (GDR) created. (East Germany)
May 1946	Western Allies stop reparations to the USSR.
Jan 1947	Bizone created (USA and British Zones Merge)
June 1947	Marshall Plan
1949	Trizonia created (France joins Bizonia)
Key individuals	Why are they important?
Joseph Stalin	Soviet leader; initiated Berlin blockade to assert control.
General Clay	US military governor; led the Berlin Airlift.
Konrad Adenauer	First Chancellor of FRG (West Germany), elected in 1949)
Theodor Heuss	First President of FRG.
Wilhelm Pieck	First President of GDR (East Germany) Communist.
Otto Grotewohl	First Prime minister of GDR.
Walter Ulbricht	Leader of SED, ruling party in East Germany.

TOPIC TITLE – Creation of the FRG DDR 2 - Bonn Republic

Key Words	Definitions
Bonn Republic	Informal name for West Germany under the Basic Law, with Bonn as its capital.
Basic Law (Grundgesetz)	FRG's provisional constitution—meant to be temporary until reunification.
Occupation Statute	Set of rules giving USA,Uk and France control over the FRG despite its new constitution.
Parliamentary Council	65 Lander-appointed members tasked with drafting the Basic Law.
Inalienable Rights	Human rights in the Basic Law that could not be suspended or abolished.
Constructive vote of No confidence	A chancellor could only be removed if an alternative majority-supported government was proposed.
Bundestag	Lower house of the FRG parliament—elected directly by the people.
Bundesrat	Upper house of the FRG parliament—represents to federal states (Lander)
Mixed Member Proportional Representation	Electoral system giving two votes; one for constituency rep, one for party list.
5% rule	Electoral threshold requiring parties to win at least 5% of the votes to be represented in the Bundestag.
Supreme Constitutional Court	Court created to protect democracy, monitor parties, and ban anti-democratic groups.
SRP (Socialist Reich party)	Banned in 1951—far right nationalist group.
Communist Party (KPD)	Banned in 1956 despite minore electoral support.
Free German Youth	East German communist youth organisation—banned in FRg in 1950.

Dates	Key events
1948	London Six Power Conference—decision to draft a new West German constitution.
23 May 1949	Basic Law comes into effect, FRG officially established.
1950	Free German Youth and 10 other communist groups banned.
1951	Socialist Reich Party banned.
1953	5% hurdle introduced; league of German Youth Banned.
1956	Communist party banned after a long legal case.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Konrad Adenauer	First Chancellor of Frg, Key figure in shaping postwar democracy.
Theodor Heuss	First president of FRG
Members of Parliamentary council	65 delegates from lander—responsible for drafting Basic Law.

Key Words	Definitions
FRG	West Germany formed in 1949
Basic law	Provisional constitution of the FRG
CDU	Conservative party led by Adenauer
SPD	Socialist opposition party
Chancellor	Head of government in the FRG
Wirtschaftswunder	Economic miracle of rapid recovery post WWII
Social market economy	Economic miracle combining free market with social welfare
Western integration	Alignment with NATO, USA, and European organisations
Reunification	Goal of restoring one Germany, opposed by Adenauer under Soviet terms
Anti-communism	Core principle of Adenauer's policy during the Cold War

TOPIC TITLE – The 1949 election

Dates	Key events
23rd May 1949	FRG founded
14th August 1949	First federal election in West Germany after WWII
15th September 1949	Adenauer becomes Chancellor
1951	FRG joins the European coal and steel community
1955	FRG joins NATO
Key individuals	Why are they important?
Adenauer	CDU leader, First Chancellor of the FRG (1949 - 1963)
Erhard	Economics minister under Adenauer, architect of the economic miracle
Schumacher	Leader of the SPD in 1949, Opposed Adenauer's western alignment
Heuss	First president of the FRG, member of the free democratic party (FDP)

Political and Social Stability - trade unions, education, Welfare and Women.

Key Words	Definitions
German Federation of Trade Unions (DGB)	Umbrella organisation unifying all major industry trade unions.
Co-determination Law (1951)	Granted workers representation on coal, iron and steel industry boards.
Works' Constitution Law (1952)	Created works councils in companies with over 500 workers.
Industrial Peace	Reduced labour conflict and strikes in FRG, unlike Britain and France.
Bismarchian Welfare Model	Insurance-based welfare system originated from 1880s, kept and expanded in the FRG.
1957 Pension Reform	Increased pensions to 60% of previous earnings.
Child benefits (1954)	Tax funded support for families with children.
Social Housing (1949-61)	3-6 million flats built were state-supported, tackling the housing crisis.
Lander	Federal states in Germany—each controlled its own education policy.
Dusseldorf agreement	Inter-state agreement on standardising aspects of education, (Exams, holidays, school year)
Schuchaos	Nickname given to the disorganised educational reforms of the 1950s.
Article 3 (Basic Law, 1948)	Constitutionally guaranteed equal rights for men and women.
Law of Equality of the Sexes (1957)	Gave women the right to work without their husband's permission and control their own property.
Three Ks (Kinder, Küche, Kirche)	Conservative model of women's roles; Children, Kitchen, Church.

Dates	Key events
1949	Trade Union system simplified into 16 workers' unions. Basic Law enacted.
1951	Codetermination law; Worker representation on managerial boards.
1952	Works' Constitution Law; Worlds councils established in large companies.
1954	Child benefits introduced.
1957	Sick pay increased by law; Pensions raised 60%. Law of Equality of Sexes passed.
1958	School fees abolished by some Lander.
1949-1961	6 million homes built.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Konrad Adenauer	FRg Chancellor (1949-63); prioritised industrial peace, social stability, and conservative values.
SPD (Social democratic Party)	Pushed for wealth redistribution, nationalisation, and full welfare reform—opposed by Adenauer's CDU-led government.

TOPIC TITLE –Social and political stability 2

Key Words	Definitions
Consumer Society	A Society in which buying good nd services is a primary social and economic activity.
5-day Work week	Introduced in late 1950s; led to better work-life balance.
Tax relief Programmes	Encouraged home ownership and consumer spending.
Materialism	Growing emphasis on owning goods as a sign of success and identity
“Without me” Mentality	Popular 1950s attitude of avoiding politics, focusing on personal and family life.
Remilitarisation debate	Controversial rearmament of West Germany; most accepted due to faith in Adenauer
Teddy Boys	Rebellious youth influenced by American culture, rejected conservative values.
Coca-Cola Society	Nickname for the increasing Americanisation of German youth culture via pop culture and consumer goods.
Social Mobility	Increase in movement between classes, particularly rural to urban migration
Modern industrial Society	Transition from agriculture/heavy industry to tech, electronics, and services
Income Inequality	Despite prosperity, a small % held most wealth (e.g. 1.7% held 35% of private wealth).
Agrarian Decline	Farming jobs dropped due to low income and urban migration despite state subsidies
Transport Manufacturing Boom	Significant growth in car production and road networks (2 million cars in 1951 → 12.1 million in 1965).

Dates	Key events
1951	West German population; 47.5 million.
1955	Still significant poverty and low consumer ownership (pre-boom snapshot)
1956-58	Teenage riots by “teddy Boys” protesting traditional values.
1962	Consumer ownership rises; fridges (62%), TVs (42%), Cars (38%)
1965	Work week reduced to 40 hours; population reached 58.6 million.
1945-1965	Transition from post-war hardship to consumer society; massie car ownership boom fro 2 million in 1951 to 12.1 million by 1965.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Konrad Adenauer	Seen as a “reliable father figure”; maintained public trust despite remilitarisation concerns.
Mary Fulbrook	Historian who described 1950s-60s West Germans as “homogeneously middle class”

FRG	West Germany, formed in 1949 under Allied control.
Cold War	Tension between the capitalist West (led by the USA) and communist East (led by the USSR).
Allied High Commission	Body made up of the USA, UK, and France that held authority over West Germany post-WWII.
Occupation Statute	Gave the Allied powers final say over major decisions in West Germany, including foreign trade.
International Ruhr Authority	Body allowing control of Germany's coal and steel output by other European powers.
Customs Union	An agreement among countries to allow free trade with each other and impose a common tariff on imports
Petersberg Agreement (1949)	Allowed the FRG to join the Ruhr Authority and begin forming foreign relations
European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)	1951 economic organisation to unify European coal and steel industries; key to Franco-German cooperation
Schuman Plan	French proposal to create the ECSC to prevent future conflict and promote economic unity.
"Common Market"	Nickname for the EEC due to its goals of economic unity and trade freedom.
GATT	Global trade agreement created by the UN to reduce tariffs and encourage international trade.
OEEC	Organisation formed to oversee the Marshall Plan and foster economic cooperations in Europe.

TOPIC TITLE – Foreign Policy (EEC, ECSC, Petersberg etc)

Dates	Key events
1948	GATT and OEEC founded; FRG (via the Bizone) involved in European economic affairs.
1949	FRG created; Occupation Statute and Petersberg agreement signed.
1950	Schuman Plan proposed.
1951	ECSC founded by six nations including the FRG
1951	FRG joins GATT
1952	FRG joins IMF(Global financial institution aimed at stabilising currencies and promoting economic cooperation)
1957 March	Treaty of Rome signed—establishes the EEC.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Konrad Adenauer	First Chancellor of the FRG. Leader of the CDU. Architect of West Germany's foreign policy post-WWII. Strong anti communist and a pro-Western.
Robert Schuman	French Foreign minister; proposed the Schuman Plan leading to the ECSC
Kurt Schumacher	SPD leader who criticised Adenauer as a "chancellor of the Allies" for cooperating with the West
Benelux States	Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg—founding members of ECSC and EEC alongside FRG, France, and Italy

TOPIC TITLE – FRG's Military integration and relations with the GDR/USSR

Key Words	Definitions
EDC (European defence Community)	Proposed 1950s plan for a join European military force under French leadership with limited German input.
Bundestag	The national parliament of West Germany (FRG)
Paris Treaties (1954)	Agreements granting West Germany Sovereignty, Nato membership, and permission to rearm.
German sovereignty	The ability of the FRG to self-govern without Allied control, officially restored in 1955
West European Union (WEU)	A defensive alliance including FRG, UK, France, Italy, and Benelux after the collapse of the EDC.
Bundeswehr	The official name of West Germany's new army, established under the Paris Treaties
NATO	A Western military alliance formed in 1949; FRG joined in 1955. Stands for North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.
Plebiscite	A direct public vote on a significant national question.
Saar	German region rich in coal, economically linked to France post-WWII, returned to the FRG in 1957.
Magnet theory	Adenauer's belief that a strong West Germany would attract East Germans and support eventual reunification.
Oder-Neisse Line	Border between Poland and East Germany, recognised by the GDR but rejected by the FRG
remilitarisation	Re-establishing a military force for West Germany, controversial due to memories of WWII.

Dates	Key events
1949	NATO formed; FRG created under Allied supervision.
1950-19 52	Plans for EDC proposed and signed (but later failed)
1954 Oct	Paris Treaties signed; settled Franco-German disputes.
1955 May	FRG gains sovereignty and joins NATO.
1955	Bundeswehr (German Army) officially created.
1957	Saar returned to the FRG as the eleventh Land.
1963	Adenauer signs Franco-German treaty with Charles de Gaulle

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Konrad Adenauer	Chancellor of the FRG; prioritised Western integration over reunification and distrusted communism.
Rene Pleven	French Prime Minister; proposed EDC with limited German military involvement
Gustav Heinemann	CDU minister who resigned over opposition to German rearmament.
Charles de Gaulle	French president; signed the 1963 Franco-German treaty with Adenauer.
Joseph Stalin	Soviet leader; offered reunification terms in 1952 that were rejected by the FRG and Western Allies.

The Berlin Wall Divided

Key Words	Definitions
Berlin wall	A concrete barrier built in 1961 dividing East and West
GDR	Stands for German Democratic Republic- East Germany- communist, backed by the USSR
FRG	Stands for Federal Republic of Germany- West Germany- capitalist, backed by the US and Allies
Checkpoint Charlie	Main crossing point between East and West Berlin for foreigners
Brain Drain	The emigration of skilled,educated workers from one country to another
Cold War	The period of tension (1945-1991) between the USA and USSR without direct war

Dates	Key events
1961	13 august 1961 The Berlin wall began construction overnight
1961	June 1961 Vienna summit between Khrushchev and Kennedy
1961	October 1961 Tank standoff at checkpoint charlie
1989	Berlin wall falls leading to German reunification

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Nikita Khrushchev	Soviet leader who authorities the wall to stop the flows of refugees
John F Kennedy	US president during the time of the construction of the Berlin wall
Walter Ulrich	East German leader who pushed the wall to protect the GDR
Konrad Adenauer	West German chancellor at the time opposed the wall but remained calm

TOPIC TITLE – Divided Germany: The Federal Republic and the DDR 1949–1963: Adenauer’s decline and the Der Spiegel Crisis of 1962; West Germany in 1963;

Key Words	Definitions
Der Spiegel	A German Magazine that had criticized the German Defense Minister (Franz-Joseph Strauss) by attacking his financial purchases, and his politics, which claimed he wanted launch a Pre-Emptive nuclear strike on the USSR to ‘deter communism’.
Economic Miracle	A period from 1948 to 1966 where West Germany saw rapid expansion and recovery of the state economically after the events of World War II.
Bundeswehr	German Army criticized in the Spiegel Article.
Authoritarianism	Accusations against Adenauer’s government for acting undemocratically.
Censorship	Government attempt to suppress media criticism.
Coalition Crisis	FDP nearly exited government, threatening Adenauer’s majority because of the Der Spiegel Crisis.
Press Freedom	Major public issue that highlighted the limitations of democratic freedom.
CDU	Christian Democratic Union, Dominant party facing internal challenges.
SPD	Social Democratic Party gaining strength under Willy Brandt.
Élysee Treaty	Franco-German agreement signed in 1963 for reconciliation and cooperation.
Modernisation	Growing demand for policy reform and generational change.
Credibility Gap	Loss of trust in Adenauer’s leadership and transparency.

Date	Event
1962	10th October 1962, the Der Spiegel published it’s most controversial and infamous piece about Strauss. Adenauer sacked Strauss , the offices in Hamburg and Bonn were shutdown, with the published Augustine also being arrested and write Ahlers being caught in Spain on Holiday and shipped back to Germany.
1963	April 1963, Adenauer announces he will resign in 6 months time, and he does so in the October of 1963.
Later 1963	October 17th, Erhard becomes Chancellor after Adenauer.
Early 1963	On January 22nd 1963, the Élysee Treaty between France and the FRG was signed.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Konrad Adenauer	Leader of the CDU, the most powerful party, so therefore the FRG too, as well as the man responsible for the Economic Miracle and seen as a champion.
Franz-Joseph Strauss	German Defense Minister who was attacked in the Der Spiegel that claimed he wanted to nuke the USSR.
Ludwig Erhard	Chancellor after Adenauer, beginning in 1963 and ending in 1966.
Willy Brandt	Leader of the SPD and Mayor of Berlin, and was a credible person for the CDU.

Key Words	Definitions
GDR / DDR	German Democratic Republic / East Germany: A communist state established in 1949 in the Soviet zone (area of Germany controlled by USSR after WW2).
SED	Socialist Unity Party of Germany: Ruling party of the GDR formed from a forced merger of the SPD and KPD in the Soviet zone.
Volkskammer	The People's Chamber: GDR's (in theory democratic) parliament - SED majority.
Stasi	Ministry for State Security: Secret police responsible for surveillance and repression. Founded in 1950.
People's Congress	Soviet-supported assembly that laid the groundwork for the GDRs creation, bypassing West German political developments.
Democratic Centralism	Leninist principle where decisions made by leadership are binding for all. Used to suppress dissent in the SED.
Block parties	Non-SED parties in the GDR that were allowed to exist but were tightly controlled and subordinate to the SED through the national front.
Politburo	Executive committee of the SED. Held real power. Not the parliament.
NVA	National People's Army: GDRs military to protect the regime. Established in 1956.
KVP	People's Police: Paramilitary force.
Warsaw Pact	Military alliance of Communist states led by the USSR. GDR joined in 1955.

Divided Germany: The Federal Republic and the DDR 1949–1963: **GDR in 1949**

Dates	Key events
1946	SED formed by merger of SPD and KPD.
1949	GDR officially established.
1952	"Building Socialism" : SED intensifies central control, collectivisation and repression.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
Walter Ulbricht	SED General Secretary (essentially leader of the GDR) and architect of the dictatorship: Loyal Stalinist, oversaw centralisation, repression and Berlin Wall.
Otto Grotewohl	First Prime Minister of the GDR: Real power lay with Ulbricht and the politburo.
Joseph Stalin	Soviet leader (1928 - 1953): Instrumental in forming SED and shaping East Germany's one-party state and security model.
Erich Mielke	Head of Stasi (1957 - 1989): Oversaw the expansion of the surveillance state.