

# GCSE History Knowledge Organiser Paper 1

## Germany 1890-1945 Democracy to Dictatorship

**1890**  
Naval race: Germany begins to expand its navy to compete with Britain's navy

**1898**  
Kaiser Wilhelm II becomes Emperor of Germany

**1900**  
November - Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates; the First World War ends

**1914**  
First World War begins

**1918**  
November - Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates; the First World War ends

**1919**  
January - Spartacus League revolt  
June - Treaty of Versailles is signed  
August - Weimar Constitution is established

**1920**  
January - American jazz music comes to Germany  
February - Founding of Nazi Party  
March - Kapp Putsch

**1921**  
January - French and Belgian troops invade German industrial area of the Ruhr  
Hyperinflation makes money worthless

**1922**  
March - Foundation of Hitler Youth

**1923**  
November - Munich Putsch

**1924**  
August - Dawes Plan: US loans money to Germany

**1925**  
February - Hindenburg becomes President

**1926**  
January - Germany joins League of Nations

**1929**  
February - Young Plan is proposed  
October - Wall Street Crash, leading to the Great Depression

**1930**  
The Depression takes hold in Germany

**1931**  
November - Hitler is named Chancellor; after Hindenburg's death in 1934, Hitler becomes Germany's dictator

**1932**  
August - Summer Olympics held in Berlin  
Membership of the League of German Girls becomes compulsory

**1933**  
November - Kristallnacht: Jewish homes, businesses and synagogues attacked

**1934**  
June - Night of the Long Knives; Rohm (below, behind Hitler) is arrested and later shot

**1935**  
September - Germany invades Poland; the Second World War begins

**1936**  
September - Germany invades Poland; the Second World War begins

**1937**  
Volkswagen car company is formed

**1938**  
January - Wannsee Conference: plan created for extermination of Europe's Jews  
Death camps are set up in German-occupied areas

**1940**  
April - Hitler commits suicide  
May - Surrender of Germany to Allies in the Second World War

**1941**  
April - Hitler commits suicide  
May - Surrender of Germany to Allies in the Second World War

**1942**  
January - Wannsee Conference: plan created for extermination of Europe's Jews  
Death camps are set up in German-occupied areas

**1943**  
April - Hitler commits suicide  
May - Surrender of Germany to Allies in the Second World War

**1944**  
April - Hitler commits suicide  
May - Surrender of Germany to Allies in the Second World War

**1945**  
April - Hitler commits suicide  
May - Surrender of Germany to Allies in the Second World War

## Tier 2 Vocabulary

**Abdicate:** to give up the throne.

**Anti-Semitism:** hatred for persecution of the Jews and ethnic, religious, or racial group.

**Armistice:** agreement, or truce, to stop fighting.

**Avant-garde:** new and experimental ideas and methods in art, music, or literature.

**Coalition:** government with two or more political parties combined to rule.

**Communism:** political system where all properties owned by the government; people are equal and they are paid by the government according to their needs.

**Concentration camp:** camp in which people are held under harsh conditions and without the freedoms of the rest of society.

**Conscription:** law making all men join the armed forces and be available to fight anytime.

**Constitution:** set of rules by which your country is governed.

**Death camp:** extermination camps where prisoners, mainly Jews, were put to death.

**Eugenics:** the science of improving the population by controlled breeding.

**Euthanasia:** deliberate killing of a person.

**Ghetto:** where members of a particular racial group are forced to live.

**Holocaust:** term used to describe the mass murder of millions of Jews by the Nazis during the Second World War.

**Hyperinflation:** sudden, dramatic rise in prices.

**Indoctrinate:** another word for 'brainwash'; to teach someone to accept to believe without exception.

**Kaiser:** the German emperor.

**Lebensborn:** 'Fountain of Life', a Nazi movement to try and stop the population decline in Germany.

**Left wing:** political belief that promotes equality, high taxation for the rich, and the redistribution of wealth.

**Militarism:** belief that a country should maintain strong armed forces and be prepared to use it aggressively.

**Mutiny:** rebellion by soldiers or sailors who refuse to take orders.

**Nuremberg Laws:** series of laws aimed at excluding German Jews from Reich citizenship and stopping them from marrying or having sexual relations with persons of 'German or related blood'.

**Pacifist:** person who refuses on principle to take part in war.

**Passive resistance:** protesting against government or laws by using non-violent acts.

**Patriotic:** supporting your country, especially against its enemies.

**Police state:** country controlled by political police force.

**Proportional representation:** political system in which the number of politicians for a political party is in proportion with the number of votes they win.

**Putsch:** attempt to seize power or take control by using force.

**Rationed:** when certain foods, goods, and fuels that you in short supply of are spread more equally among people, by giving them a fixed amount.

**Rearmament:** building up new stocks of weapons or replacing all weapons with new ones.

**Self-sufficient:** having a 'closed economy', which meant the Nazis tried to stop trading with the outside world and rely entirely on its own resources.

**Socialism:** system of government which supports democracy and greater government involvement in the economy and society.

**Subversion:** trying to destroy or damage a system or a government.

**Swastika:** the crooked cross symbol adopted by the Nazis party as their emblem.

**Total war:** phrase introduced by Goebbels, meaning that all Germans must take an active part in the war.

**Volkswagen:** cheap car that millions of Germans saved up for.

**Wall Street Crash:** time in October 1929 when millions of people tried to sell their shares in companies at the same time, resulting in a huge drop in share prices; many people lost a lot of money.

## Tier 3 Vocabulary

**Article 48:** part of the Weimar constitution that gave the president the right to rule in a time of crisis without requiring the support of the Reichstag.

**Aryan:** person of German or Scandinavian origin, usually with fair-haired and blue eyed; the Nazis believed that Aryans were superior to all other races.

**Bundesrat:** group made up of German state representatives who supported the Kaiser.

**Confessional Church:** German Protestant group determined to have nothing to do with the Nazis or the German Christians.

**DAF (Deutsche Arbeitsfront):** German Labour Front, a Nazi organisation that workers had to belong to.

**Dawes Plan:** agreement between the USA and European countries, allowing for US loans to be given to two European countries (especially Germany) in order for them to build factories and roads, and stimulate the economy.

**Diktat:** nickname given by many Germans of the hated Treaty of Versailles; translated as 'dictated peace'.

**Edelweiss Pirates:** rebel youth gang which went campaigning and sang songs making fun of Hitler.

**Einsatzgruppen:** SS mobile death squads responsible for the murder of those thought by the Nazis to be racial or political enemies.

**Enabling Act:** law passed in March 1933 that allowed the Nazis to make their own laws without consulting the Reichstag.

**Final Solution:** Nazi name given to their attempt to wipeout Europe's Jews between 1942 and 1945.

**Free Corps:** right wing German paramilitary group that was active in the early years of the Weimar Republic.

**Gestapo:** part of the SS and Nazi Germany secret police force, created by Goering in 1933 and controlled by Himmler.

**KDF (Kraft durch Freude):** strength through joy organisation; parts of the German Labour Front that provided holidays and activities for ordinary Germans.

**Kinder, Kirche, and Küche:** 'children, church and cooking'; a slogan used by the Nazis which reflected what women should dedicate their lives to.

**Kreisau Circle:** group of army officers, university professors and aristocrats who talked often about the possibility of assassinating Hitler and getting rid of the Nazis but did not actually do anything.

**Kristallnacht:** night of broken glass, in November 1938, when Jews and their shops and businesses were attacked throughout Germany.

**November Criminals:** nickname given to the German politicians who ended the First World War and signed the hated Treaty of Versailles.

**Reichsbanner:** organisation formed by members of the Social Democrat party, the German centre party, and the German Democratic Party in 1924. Its goal was to defend parliamentary democracy.

**Reichstag:** the main, elected German parliament.

**Rentenmark:** German currency, introduced in 1924.

**Schutzstaffel (SS):** the full name of the SS.

**SDA (Schonheit der Arbeit):** beauty of labour organisation; parts of the German Labour Front that promoted working and workers.

**Spartacus League:** group of German communists who wanted a revolution like the one that had taken place in Russia in 1917.

**Stormtroopers (SA):** Hitler's brown shirted supporters who are employed to beat up opponents and guard meetings.

**White rose group:** anti-Nazi youth group, made up mainly of university students.

**Young plan:** agreement to reduce reparations made in 1929 between Germany and the countries they owed money to.