

Stresemann's international policies

Locarno Pact (1925)

1. Germany agreed to stop arguing with France, Britain and Belgium and accept the borders put in place from ToV.
2. France and Belgium would remove their troops from the Ruhr/Rhineland= allowed Germany to start producing resources again= TRADE!!!!

League of Nations (1926)

1. Germany accepted into this because of them agreeing to [Locarno Pact](#).
2. Germans allowed into a peacekeeping organisation that brought back Germany's power as a leading nation and brought national pride back.

Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928)

1. An agreement between 62 countries that agreed never to go to war with each other. Would only defend.
2. Germany were now seen as trustworthy nation who were more interested in peace & prosperity.



Stresemann's Economic policies

- Declares Germany bankrupt and introduces the [Reichsmark](#) as the new currency
- Everyone who had savings, or lost their money during hyperinflations was now completely gone.

Dawes Plan

1. Gave Germany 800 million from US loans to rebuild economy.
2. Germany paid off some of their reparations with this= ease pressure.
3. Built businesses such as, factories, schools, hospitals, developed infrastructures and rebuilt after the war= more jobs created and money to come in.
4. Germany got richer so US businesses invested and created jobs, such as Ford and Gillette.

Young Plan

1. Reduces reparations from 6.6 billion to 1.8 billion
2. Could pay it over a longer period.

Tight-rope economy where if USA demand the loan back, Germany can't do it and their economy will collapse.

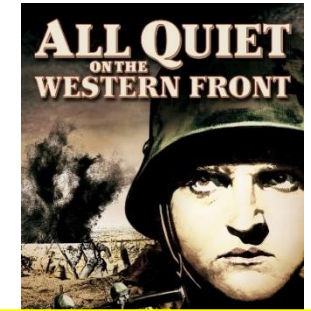
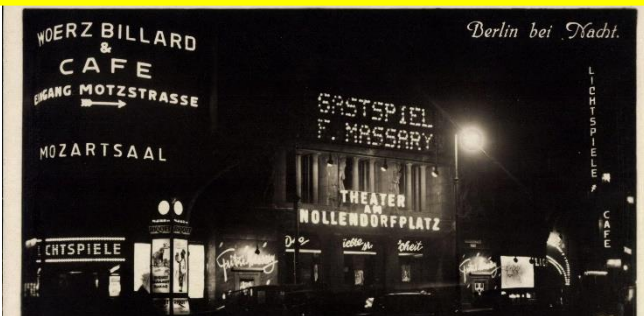
Stresemann's Golden Age

Cinema

1. Became a leading form of entertainment under Stresemann's time in government.
2. Fritz Lang created the film **Metropolis** which was the most technologically advanced film at the time= Germany look better.
3. **Marlene Dietrich** became the best worldwide actress of the decade and showed women as glamorous and independently strong.

Nightlife

1. New operas, theatres and nightclubs built across Germany.
2. Opera= Kurt Weill's opera which was a smash hit as it played vulgar songs about politicians that would have been banned before.
3. Jazz lively music brought into Germany which linked the opening of Cabaret Clubs where women would be the main performers.
4. Some nightclubs used to host "transvestite" and sometimes they have "naked nights"



Stresemann's Golden Age

Literature

1. People could choose from 120 different newspapers and magazines to learn what was going on= **freedom of speech**, information no longer controlled like under Kaiser.
2. Famous anti-war novel became extremely popular selling 3 million copies in 3 months= **All Quiet on the Western Front**

Art and Design

1. **Avant-Garde**= allowed freedom of expression through paintings normally based on the true reality of life, such as, poverty, society issues and criticising the government. One famous artist was **Otto Dix** and **George Grosz**.
2. **Bauhaus Project**= Designing and creates new modern ideas such as chairs, coffee pots and architectural designs to create more practical concepts rather than old fashioned fancy Romanesque designs.

Negatives of Stresemann's reign

1. Right-wingers angry because the government have just accepted the ToV without fighting for what Germany thought should have happened.
2. **Tight-rope economy**= Germany was too heavily reliant on American money and if they asked for it back, Germany would collapse (as it did in 1929= Great Depression)
3. New art, music and theatres was hated by smaller towns people and old people= **damaged the traditional family/Christian values**.
4. New **nightclubs** promoted an attitude that **homosexuality** was fine and that developed a **freer attitude towards sex**= Germany moving into moral decline.
5. Cabaret Clubs were accused of hosting possible **prostitutes** due to clothing that women would wear in their dances.
6. Hitler closes all these down when in power in 1933, and artists and performers such as Lang and Grosz run away to another country.
7. Due to proportional representation, extremist parties still **had a voice in government**, criticised the new government and were waiting for the economy collapse.



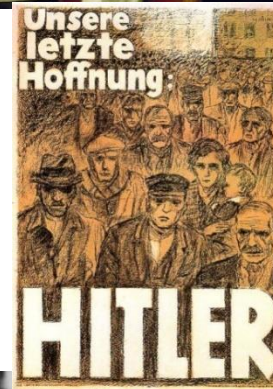
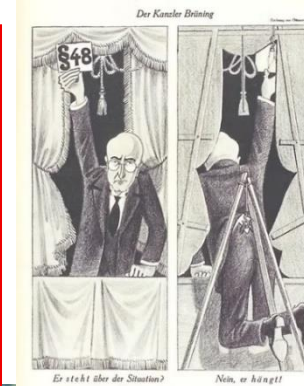
The Great Depression and Hitler's Rise to Power (1929-1933)

- The **Wall Street Crash (1929)** caused a global economic depression that **hit Germany very hard**.
- **Businesses collapsed**, and **banks closed**, leading to loss of savings and confidence.
- **Unemployment soared** to around **6 million people** by 1932.
- The **Weimar Government** appeared weak and unable to solve the crisis.
- **People became desperate**, losing faith in democratic parties.
- **Extremist parties** like the **Nazis and Communists exploited** the crisis by offering simple solutions and strong leadership.
- **Hitler repeated his key messages** from the early 1920s:
 - The **Treaty of Versailles** and "**November Criminals**" had betrayed Germany.
 - **Jews** were blamed for Germany's financial and social problems.
 - Germany needed to be **reborn as a strong, proud, and united nation**.
- **Nazi propaganda** presented Hitler as a **saviour** who could restore jobs, pride, and order.
- Many Germans turned to Hitler because his **promises of stability and national revival** now seemed believable.



Hatred of Democracy

- **Chancellor Brüning** used **Article 48** to pass laws without the Reichstag – democracy looked weak.
- Politicians **argued constantly** while unemployment and poverty worsened.
- By **1932**, unemployment reached **6 million**, and wages were **40% lower than in 1929**.
- Many Germans **lost faith in democracy**, believing politicians didn't care about ordinary people.
- **Extremist parties**, like the Nazis, gained support by promising **strong leadership and action**.



Fear of Communism

- Many Germans feared a **Communist takeover**, like in Russia.
- **Middle-class citizens** and **business owners** worried about losing property and industry control.
- **Farmers** feared land seizure, as had happened in the USSR.
- Nazis promised to **protect property, land, and business**, gaining **financial support and votes**.
- **SA (Brownshirts)** clashed with Communists, appearing to **defend law and order**.
- Some people supported Nazis out of **"negative cohesion"** – they backed Hitler because he opposed the same things they did (Communists, Weimar politicians, Jews).

Propaganda

- The **Nazi Party** ran one of the most **effective propaganda campaigns** in history, led by **Joseph Goebbels**.
- Used **modern technology**:
 - **Radio broadcasts, cinema newsreels, mass rallies, posters, and loudspeakers** spread their message across Germany.
- Portrayed **Hitler as Germany's saviour** — a **strong, energetic, modern leader** who could unite the nation.
- **Simple, emotional slogans** like "One People, One Nation, One Leader" were easy to remember and appealed to ordinary Germans.
- Promised to **restore traditional values**, end unemployment, and make Germany proud again.
- **Images and rallies** were carefully staged — huge crowds, flags, and music created excitement, loyalty, and belief in Hitler's leadership.
- The Nazis claimed **democracy was weak** and that only a **single, strong leader** could bring order and unity.
- They also **adapted quickly** — if a policy was unpopular, they dropped it to avoid losing support.
- To appeal to the poor, they **organised soup kitchens** and provided **shelter for the homeless**, showing practical compassion.
- Propaganda made it seem as though **everyone supported Hitler**, creating pressure to join in and appear patriotic.

1930 Election: Nazis - 107 seats

Who was made Chancellor?

Heinrich Brüning (Centre Party)

What challenges did he face?

- The **Great Depression** had caused massive unemployment and poverty.
- **Reichstag was divided**, with Nazis and Communists blocking new laws.
- Brüning had to rely on **Article 48** (presidential decrees) instead of democratic votes.
- **Public anger** grew as he cut wages and benefits to control inflation.

What problems did his government cause?

- His **austerity measures** worsened unemployment and suffering.
- Made democracy look weak and ineffective.
- **Increased support for extremist parties**, especially the Nazis.



July 1932 Election: Nazis - 230 seats (largest party)

Who was made Chancellor?

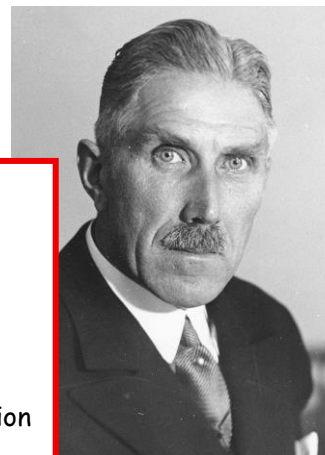
Franz von Papen

What challenges did he face?

- Nazis were now the **biggest party** in the Reichstag, but Hitler refused to join a coalition unless he was made Chancellor.
- Papen had **very little support in parliament** and struggled to pass laws.
- Faced **street violence** between the **SA and Communists**, creating instability.

What problems did his government cause?

- He used **presidential power** instead of parliamentary votes, further **weakening democracy**.
- His government lost credibility and made **Hitler seem like the only strong alternative**.



November 1932 Election: Nazis - 198 seats (lost support)

Who was made Chancellor?

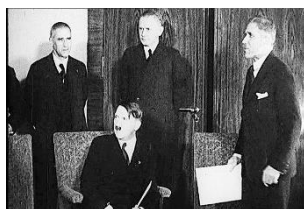
Kurt von Schleicher

What challenges did he face?

- Tried to form a coalition with **trade unions and moderate Nazis**, but failed.
- **Political divisions** made it impossible to form a stable majority.
- Unemployment and unrest continued to rise.

What problems did his government cause?

- Schleicher appeared **weak and indecisive**.
- President **Hindenburg lost confidence** in him.
- Created an opportunity for **Papen and Hindenburg** to consider bringing **Hitler into power** to stabilise Germany.



January 1933 (No election)

Who was made Chancellor?

Adolf Hitler

What challenges did he face?

- Nazis still didn't have a majority (less than 50% of votes).
- Needed to **gain control of parliament**
- Many Germans still **feared Nazi extremism**.
- President **Hindenburg** appointed Hitler as Chancellor but gave **most key cabinet positions to non-Nazis**.

- Only **2 Nazis in the cabinet**: Hitler (Chancellor) and Wilhelm Frick (Interior Minister).



Reichstag Fire (February 1933)

A week before voting day, the Reichstag burned down. A communist, Van der Lubbe, was arrested and blamed for the fire. Hitler said the fire was part of a communist takeover of Germany. He said he would deal with the plot accordingly.

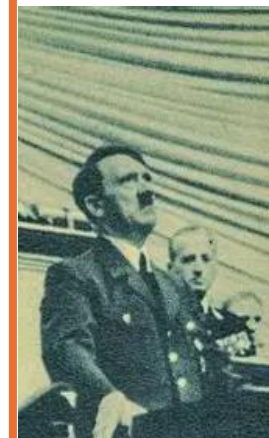
Hitler was granted emergency powers by Hindenburg to deal with Germany's problems. The threat of terrorism convinced Hindenburg to hand this power to Hitler. Hitler then banned leading communists from taking part in the election. Thousands of communists were thrown in to prison and their newspapers shut down. The Nazis gained more votes than ever before in the election due to his swift response to the Communist threat.



Enabling Act (March 1933)

Due to Hitler stirring up the fear of communism he managed to persuade politicians from other parties to support him in the Reichstag. Hitler then looked to force the Reichstag into accepting the Enabling Act. This gave him power to make laws without asking the rest of the politicians to agree with it. This made sure that Hitler did not need to worry about Hindenburg or the Reichstag.

With this, Hitler banned all trade unions, taking away the workers' ways of complaining. He banned all other political parties making Germany a one party state. He opened up the first concentration camp in Southern Germany for political prisoners and the Nazis put in charge of local government. Hitler now controlled all aspects of politics in Germany.



Night of Long Knives (30th June 1934)

The SA had been a real asset to Hitler and his rise to power. They helped to intimidate during elections, force politicians to accept the Enabling Act and beat up political opponents. However, Hitler feared that if the SA merged with the army then their leader, Rohm, he would become the most powerful man in Germany. Hitler feared that Rohm was looking to seize power and take over from him. Therefore, Hitler decided to act and leaders of the SA were killed over the weekend of 30th June to remove the problem Hitler was facing.

Many of the people close to Hitler regarded as a threat were now dead; this included all leading Nazis who disagreed with Hitler. The SS, led by Himmler, became the most important group when looking after Hitler's security. They now formed the basis of the police state in Germany. Also, the fact that Hitler was open about this event and nothing was done about it meant that Hitler had successfully established murder as part of the Nazi government.

Hindenburg's Death (August 2nd 1934)

When president Hindenburg died, Hitler immediately took over the control of President as well as remaining as Chancellor. In addition, he made the army swear an oath of loyalty to him, and not to the country. Hitler decided to give himself the title of Führer-The Leader.