

# Weimar Republic 1919-29

## Origins of the Republic

Near end of WWI G had lost 2m soldiers, 4m wounded, massive debt and facing food shortages. Kaiser Wilhelm (emperor) had lost control of country - strikes and riots.

9/11/18 Kaiser abdicates (stood down), country becomes a republic. Ebert (leader of the SDP) appointed head of govt until a new constitution (rules for the country) written.

11/11/18 armistice, G surrenders.

Ebert tries to bring stability: make G people confident in the Republic, get support of army, trade unions and business. But extreme political parties not happy.

January 1919 elections for National Assembly. Gather in city of Weimar to produce Constitution of the Weimar Republic.

## The Weimar Constitution

### Strengths

V democratic: over 21s and women allowed to vote

Proportional Representation – small parties (with +600,000 votes) get represented in parliament

Power divided so no individual or group could have too much power: voters elected President; President chose Chancellor; Chancellor proposed laws, which had to be agreed by Reichstag (Parliament)

### Weaknesses

Proportional Representation meant lots of coalition govts (small parties agreeing to work together, but often arguments, so govt collapsed. 9 govts for 1919-23)

Article 48: in case of a crisis, Chancellor could pass any law without the agreement of Reichstag

Several larger parties elected to Reichstag (nationalist and Communist) were opposed to democracy

## Early challenges (1919-23)

Weimar Republic always linked to surrender of WWI (this was unavoidable, but unpopular with German people)

Forced to sign Treaty of Versailles (peace terms) in June 1919; imposed by GB, Fr and US. G had no say.

War guilt: G had to accept blame for the war

Reparations: G had to pay £6.6bn to allies

Lost overseas colonies and pieces of land including Alsace Lorraine and Saar coalfields (to Fr), and Posen (to Poland). G lost 13% of land and 10% of population

G forced to reduce army to 100,000 troops, weakened navy, no air force.

Critics of the Treaty said that G had never actually lost the war – it was “stab in the back” of G by politicians who signed the Treaty. Reparations weakened G economy, and made politicians of seem weak.

### Spartacist Revolt

1919 Spartacists (communists led by Rosa Luxembourg) called a general strike: +100,000 workers took to the streets, seized govt newspaper and telegraph offices.

Weakened army could not stop the revolt, so Ebert ordered the establishment of Freikorps (units of former soldiers, +250,000); Freikorps crushed Spartacists, Luxembourg killed.

### Kapp Putsch

By 1920, Ebert struggling to control Freikorps. Led by Nationalist politician Wolfgang Kapp they took over Berlin. Govt fled to Weimar and encouraged people to go on strike, which stopped the uprising, but made the govt look weak

G struggled to pay reparations, as punishment Fr sent troops to Ruhr (industrial region of G). This massively weakened G economy as Ruhr contained 80% of G iron, coal and steel. Resulted in more debt for G, higher unemployment, shortages of goods.

Shortages meant that prices went up, so govt printed more money. This led to hyperinflation. Price of bread: 1919 = 1 mark; 1923 200,000bn marks.

Hyperinflation meant normal life became much more difficult: even worse shortages, people with savings lost everything (though it was good news for people who had loans)



## Recovery (1924-29)

Stresemann appointed Chancellor (he soon resigned from this job) and Foreign Secretary. He bought stability to the Weimar Republic. By 1928 his policies meant that support for moderate parties increased, and extreme parties decreased.

### Economic

Set up the Rentenmark (Nov 1923), a new currency, which meant that the economy could begin working again (factories back in business, people back in work)

Dawes Plan (1924): deal to help G pay reparations: loan of £25bn from US to get G economy going, reparation bill temporarily reduced to £50m per year. As a result Fr left the Ruhr; G industry returned to pre-WWI levels, increased employment, trade, tax paid to govt. But meant G was reliant on US loans, and extreme parties angry that G agreed to continue paying reparations.

Young Plan (1929) reduced total reparations to £2bn, paid over 59 years. Made G people more confident in stability of Weimar, allowed govt to lower taxes for working people.

### Foreign relations

Locarno Pact (1925) G agreed treaty with GB, Fr, Italy, Belgium (not imposed like Treaty of Versailles). Agreed peaceful border with Fr, Rhineland (region between G and Fr) demilitarised (no troops allowed there).

1926 G finally allowed to join the League of Nations (had been excluded since 1919)

Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928): G + 61 other countries signed agreement that they would not resort to war to settle disputes. Showed that G was now included among the main world powers and Weimar Republic respected.

### Changes in society

Living standards decreased during economic crises of 1918-23, but improved after 1923. Unemployment fell, working hours reduced, wages increased; new homes built, war veterans given support.

Women given right to vote, more women in work, but with lower wages than men in lower status jobs. Young women more independent. Society divided, many thought these “new women” threatened traditional values and upset economy.

Big cultural changes in Weimar. New freedoms and economic recovery resulted in new styles of art, cinema and architecture.

## Key words

**Abdicate** – when an emperor / king stands down from the role

**Chancellor** – the leader of the German Parliament

**Constitution** – set of rules for running a country

**Kaiser** – emperor of Germany until the end of WWI

**Putsch** – political uprising

**Rentenmark** – new German currency introduced 1923

**Reparations** – money that G had to pay the allies for damage done in WWI

**Republic** – a country ruled by a parliament, not a king/emperor

**Ruhr** – industrial area of Germany

# Hitler's rise to power (1919-33)

## Nazi Party (1920-22)

Hitler recovering from gas poisoning 1919, sent to spy on tiny German Workers Party (DAP) led by Drexler. Hitler joined the party and within two years had taken over and changed it into the Nazi Party. 1920 wrote the party's 25 Point Programme. Mainly because of Hitler's personal appeal (v passionate, persuasive orator) by end of 1920 party had 2,000 members.

Changed name to **National Socialist German Workers Party** (NSDAP) – Nazi for short; began using swastika logo; set up party newspaper to spread ideas.

July 1921 Hitler became party leader. He appointed key supporters Hess, Goering, Streicher and Rohm; also worked closely with General Ludendorff, leader of G army in WWI.

**SA** formed in 1921, led by Rohm: former soldiers hired as a private army. Known as Brownshirts, paraded on streets as a show of force, controlled crowds and opposition, often violently. Also disrupted opposition party meetings.

1922 Hitler took complete control of NSDAP, no more elections for leader, Hitler dictated all policy. By 1923 party membership +50,000.

## Munich Putsch (Nov 1923)

Causes: "stab in the back" anger about Versailles / Weimar politicians; **NSDAP** strong support in Munich; copying Mussolini's fascist March in Rome; Hyper inflation; Ruhr invasion. German people v angry, so Hitler made bid for power.

8 Nov 1923, meeting of Bavarian Govt, led by Von Kahr, in Munich beer hall. Hitler and 600 SA troops burst in, announced he was taking over the state of Bavaria and would march to Berlin to overthrow Weimar gov't.

Rohm and SA captured local police and army HQs, but Ludendorff released the 3 Bavarian leaders. Became clear that local politicians and people did not support the uprising. Shooting in town square: 14 Nazi supporters and 4 policemen killed, Hitler wounded. Hitler and Nazi leaders arrested.

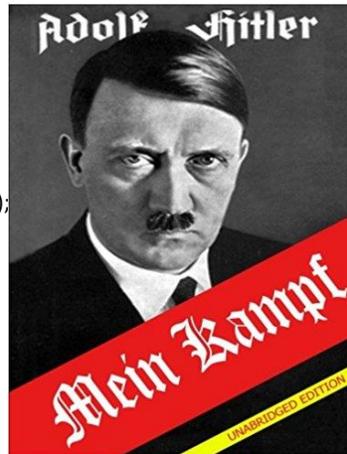
Consequences: Hitler and Nazi leaders found guilty of treason, sent to prison. NSDAP banned (until 1925); Hitler realised needed a new strategy – violent uprising failed, so needed to win power through election; Wrote *Mein Kampf* – book of his political ideas – in Landsberg Prison; gained lots of publicity from trial.

## Lean Years 1924-28

In prison Hitler wrote **Mein Kampf**: Aryan race destined to rule the world; Jewish conspiracy to undermine Aryans by inter-marriage and taking over German business and industry; Nationalism (capturing Lebensraum "living space" for German people in East); totalitarianism – strong leader better than weak democracy; traditional German values.

Released 1924 after 9 months in prison, relaunched NSDAP: better organised party that could win political power through election; HQ in Munich, 35 local party organisations around the country.

- SA continued to grow (400,000 members by 1930) – but many were thuggish difficult to control, and more loyal to Rohm than Hitler.
- Hitler set up the **SS**, elite personal bodyguard, led by Himmler. 3,000 members by 1930.
- NSDAP far better organised and had 100,000 members by 1929, but limit to support because of success of Stresemann in making Weimar more stable. Recovery of economy meant NSDAP had no support from working classes.



## Hitler becomes Chancellor (1933)

1930 NSDAP 107 seats in Reichstag (18% of votes). Moderate SDP 25%. **Hindenburg's** term as President ended. He stood for election again aged 84, beat Hitler by 18m votes to 11m; but nobody won 50% of votes, so another election later that year; Hindenburg beat Hitler again 19m votes to 13m.

Chancellor **Bruning** banned the SA and SS and announced plan to buy up land from big landowners to house unemployed. This united right wing groups against Bruning; without support of the Reichstag or President Hindenburg he was forced to resign. After Bruning's resignation Hindenburg made Von Papen Chancellor, with Nazis supporting a coalition of right wing supporters. Hitler becomes part of gov't of Germany.

1932 Reichstag election, lots of violence, +200 killed. NSDAP won 230 seats, 38%, biggest party. Hitler demanded Hindenburg sack **Von Papen** and appoint him as Chancellor. Hindenburg hated Hitler, assumed Nazi support would drop so refused to make him Chancellor. But Von Schleicher persuaded Hindenburg that he must force von Papen to resign or face civil war.

**Von Schleicher** appointed Chancellor Dec 1932, but with no public support, and no majority in Reichstag he was unable to govern. Von Papen persuaded Hindenburg to make Hitler Chancellor with Von Papen as vice, saying that he would be able to control him. Jan 1933 Hitler appointed chancellor.

## Growth of Nazi Party 1929-32

October 1929 Stresemann died and **Wall Street Crash** led to Great Depression. Stock market crash in USA led to collapse of economy in Germany. Banks demanded loans back, so factories and farms had to close and people lost jobs. Jan 1933 = **6.1m unemployed** including 40% of factory workers, 50% of 16-30 year olds. People lost savings, gov't increased taxes, no money to pay unemployment benefits, mass homelessness.

Chancellor Bruning failed to deal with unemployment crisis; moderate parties could not agree so Bruning had to use **Article 48** to pass emergency laws – he lost control, so forced to resign May 1932.

As life became harder, growing support for KPD (communist party) among workers; and NSDAP among middle and upper classes who feared communism.

## Support for Nazi Party

Appeal of **Hitler as a strong leader** who could restore law and order and scrap Treaty of Versailles (he featured on propaganda posters and travelled extensively to speak at rallies); financial support from wealthy businessmen; uniformed SA made Nazis look well organised and in control and also attacked opposition politicians, supporters, meetings in violent clashes.

Particular policies to appeal to different groups in society:

Big business (protection from communism); working class (traditional values, stronger Germany, promise of "work and bread"); middle class (recovery from Great Depression where they had lost savings, anti-communist); farmers (communists would seize their land); young people (Hitler's personal appeal, jobs).

As well as appealing to different groups, another strand of Nazi message was appealing to united nation



## Key words

**Aryan** – the master race who Nazi's believed should dominate lesser races

**Mein Kampf** – Hitler's book about his political beliefs

**SA** – "brownshirt" private Nazi army, led by Rohm

**SS** - Hitler's elite personal bodyguards, led by Himmler

**Stab in the back** – idea that the Weimar politicians let down the German people by signing Treaty of Versailles

# Nazi Dictatorship 1933-39

## Reichstag Fire

30/1/33 Hitler = Chancellor, but limited by Weimar Constitution power of President Hindenburg.  
27/2/33 Reichstag building destroyed by fire. Dutch Communist Van der Lubbe caught (possibly framed by Goerring?). VdL claimed he was working alone, but Hitler said it was a communist plot – used this as excuse to attack communists.  
Triggered Article 40 (state of emergency) 4,000 Communists arrested immediately. Called election and used new powers to ignore SA violence. Nazis won more Reichstag seats, and took 81 Communist seats = 2/3 majority required to change constitution.

## Enabling Act

New laws introduced in March 1933 to take power away from Reichstag. Chancellor's cabinet (led by Hitler) could propose new laws, these laws did not need to be approved by Reichstag. SS Stormtroopers intimidated opponents, vote passed by Reichstag = end of democratic rule.

## Removing opposition

Trade Unions (workers' organisations banned, officials arrested, strikes made illegal).

Other political parties offices attacked, newspapers banned, money confiscated. July 1933 all parties except NSDAP (Nazi) made illegal.

Local governments (parliament in each region) banned Jan 1934 – regions to be run by governors appointed by Hitler.

## Night of the Long Knives

Hitler thought that Rohm (leader of the SA) was a threat to his power. 3m SA stormtroopers (of whom 60% unemployed, so angry) were loyal to Rohm – more troops than the army. Rohm also criticised Hitler's close links with rich industrialists and army generals. Himmler and Heydrich (leaders of the SS) wanted to increase power of SS by weakening SA.  
30 June 1934 Hitler arranged a meeting of Rohm and 100 SA leaders. They were arrested and shot.  
Some Germans opposed this violence, but most resented violence of the SA and convinced by Goerring that Rohm had been planning a revolution

2 August 1934 President Hindenburg dies. Hitler declared himself Fuhrer, with combined powers of Chancellor and President. All soldiers had to swear oath of loyalty to him. Public vote: lots of Nazi propaganda 90% voted in favour of Hitler as Chancellor, end of Weimar Republic. The Third Reich had begun.

## Police State

Police were controlled by central and local govt, so Hitler set up his own police / security forces run by Nazi party to keep control.

**SS** originally run by Himmler with 240 men = Hitler's personal body guard, During 1930s expanded to 240,000, in charge of all police and security forces. SS did not have to act within the law.

SS led by Heydrich, kept information about everyone suspected of opposing Nazis  
**Gestapo** (secret police) led by Heydrich from 1936. Identified any opposition; spied on people and tapped phones; used torture to gain confessions; dawn raids; sent people to concentration camps. Only 30,000 Gestapo policing a population of 80m, but used fear to control people.

By 1939 150,000 people in **concentration camps**: political opponents, minority groups (eg Jews), undesirables (eg homosexuals). Dachau was first, opened in 1933.

**Legal system**: all judges had to support Nazi ideas or they were removed; Judges decide innocence/guilt, not jury. 1930-32 8 people sentenced to death for political crimes; 1934-39 534.

At first Hitler tried to get **Christian churches** to work with the Nazis and support them, but this failed.

**Catholics** were loyal to Pope not Hitler. July 1933 Concordat with the Pope, Hitler agreed that Catholics could worship freely and run Catholic schools in return for priests swearing loyalty to Nazi Party. But he did not keep the promise: Priests were arrested and sent to concentration camps, Catholic schools closed.

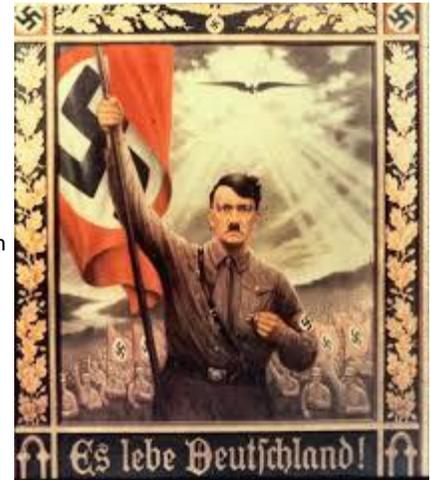
Some **Protestants** were glad that Hitler had saved Germany from anti-Christian communists. Prot churches which wanted to work with Nazis combined to form **Reich Church**: could carry on preaching, some displayed Swastika in churches. But some Prots opposed, and even openly criticised Nazis: Martin Niemoller.

Germany was becoming a **totalitarian state**: Hitler controlled Reichstag, Nazi Party, army, police, legal system, church.

## Controlling attitudes

Joseph Goebbels was responsible for Nazi **propaganda** (newspapers, posters, radio, film), to control the attitudes of the German people.  
**Newspapers** which opposed Nazis were closed (1,600 in 1935), those that remained were censored (told by party what they could/not publish).  
From 1933 all **radios** were censored and used to broadcast Nazi propaganda. Hitler and other Nazis made regular broadcasts, mass produced radios v cheap (1939 70% of German homes had one), could not pick up foreign radio stations. Goebbels had used **mass rallies** in election campaigns of 1920/30s. In Third Reich he made these bigger and more frequent. Mass rally held in **Nuremberg** each year to show strength of Nazi Germany and display national unity – in 1934 +200,000 attended.  
**Sport** used to increase Nazi support: stadiums covered in Swastikas, visiting teams had to make Nazi salute (looked like they were showing respect to Nazi state). 1936 Berlin Olympics: built biggest stadium in world, v well organised to show Nazi organisation to the world, Germany won most medals.

Nazis opposed modern **culture / arts** from Weimar era; approved of arts which focused on traditional values (eg family, loyalty and discipline). Reich Chamber of Culture headed by Goebbels made sure that all culture was in line with Nazi ideas, banned anything that disagreed.  
+12,000 works of art removed from galleries, competitions to encourage Nazi-approved art. Architecture focused on buildings that made Germany look powerful (eg parade ground for Nuremberg Rally) Some types of music banned, eg Jazz seen as the work of black people. Traditional German folk music favoured  
All books had to be approved by the Chamber of Culture; 2,500 writers banned; millions of books (written by Jews, communists, anti-Nazi authors) were burned  
Film used to promote Nazi ideas. All film plots had to be approved by Goebbels; Nazi party made its own films – entertainment with political message.



## Opposition

Hitler and Nazis had high level of support from German people (censorship of alternative ideas, pro-Nazi propaganda, Nazi success eg reducing unemployment). But there were several areas of resistance (refusing the support Nazi ideas) and opposition.

The **Church**. Pastors Emergency League opposed Nazi control, set up Confessing Church (rival to Reich Church). 6,000 priests spoke against Nazis, +800 sent to concentration camps. 400 Catholic priests also sent to concentration camps.

Martin Niemoller opposed Nazi interference in church, repeatedly spoke against them. He was spied on by gestapo, arrested many times for treason.

Many young people were part of Nazi organisations, but some rebellious groups. **Edelweiss Pirates**: working class teenagers from cities who opposed Nazi discipline / lack of freedom. Copied American style of clothing, went on hikes, mocked Hitler Youth.

**Swing Youth**: middle class teenagers, played American music, organised illegal dances.

Both groups resisted some Nazi expectations, but little opposition (cultural, not political; also small: 2,000 Edelweiss Pirates 8m Hitler Youth in 1939.

## Key words

**Concordat** – deal that Catholic Church could remain independent as long as priests swore loyalty to Hitler

**Enabling Act** – Law which took powers from Reichstag and gave to Chancellor

**Gestapo** – secret police

**Propaganda** – information presented in a way to make a political point (eg Hitler is great / Jews are evil)

**Totalitarian State** – country where one group / person controls everything (politics, media, police, army, etc)

**Trade Union** – collective group representing rights of workers

# Life in Nazi Germany 1933-39

## Women

Nazis believed women should adopt traditional role of wife and mother: stay at home to care for family; give birth to many children, dress in simple modest way. Used propaganda to change women's behaviour: focus on children, cooking, church Loans to encourage early marriage and women stopping work (loan paid off if had 4 children). Bronze/silver/gold Mothers Cross medal for having 4/5/6 children. Women banned from some professions, school girls trained for motherhood, not work. Nazi policies did result in less women working (so more employment for men), higher birth rate. But as German industry increased, more women were required to work.

## Young people

Hitler aimed to create the Thousand Year Reich (Nazi state to survive for a v long time), so policies for young people aimed to strengthen Germany and Nazi party now and in future. Hitler thought he could make young people loyal, even if some adults were not. Propaganda designed to make Hitler appear as a father figure to all German children.

Nazi youth groups set up in 1920s, but less members than other groups (1932: 600,000 Protestant youth group; 100,000 Nazi youth groups). 1933 all non-Nazi youth groups banned, young people pressured to join Nazi groups; 1939 all German young people (except undesirables) forced to join from age 10.

**Hitler Youth:** boys aged 6-18 swore loyalty to Hitler; taught about Nazi ideas, German heroes and evil Jews; had to report parents / teachers who were disloyal to Hitler; regular hiking and sports activities to make young people fit and healthy; military training (eg map reading, 1938 1.2m boys taught to use guns); activities to make them loyal and tough.

**League of German Maidens:** 10-21 year old girls took part in similar political activities to boys (eg rallies and oath of loyalty), and did some physical activities to build character and strength. But otherwise activities for girls different: (no military training); trained to cook, iron, sew, prepare for motherhood; taught the importance of only marrying an Aryan man.

Nazis took control of **education** to ensure that young people taught to follow Hitler and be good Nazis. 1933 law passed to allow sacking of any teachers who opposed Nazis; teachers forced to swear oath of loyalty to Hitler; 200,000 given training in teaching Nazi ideas. Swastikas on classroom walls, lesson start/finish with "Heil Hitler" and Nazi salute.

Changes to school curriculum (what students learned): new subjects eg Race studies; more physical education; girls studied different subjects eg cookery; all textbooks (especially history) had to be approved by Nazis, eg Treaty of Versailles described as "stab in the back" in school books; traditional subjects eg maths changed to promote Nazi ideas (eg maths questions that looked at the cost of undesirables such as disabled people).

## Employment

1933 25% of labour force (5m people) unemployed; Hitler feared unemployed people may support Communists; also wanted Germany to be more productive. By 1939 unemployment reduced to 0.3m

**Labour Service (RAD)** created jobs for unemployed providing public services (eg fixing roads, planting trees). This was voluntary at first, but compulsory for 6 months for young unemployed from 1935. Organised like the army: uniforms, parades, lived in camps. Pay and working conditions v poor.

**Autobahn** (motorway) project. By 1935 125,000 men employed building motorways. Also public buildings, bridges, sports facilities. This created jobs, also made G economy more successful  
**Rearmament** (rebuilding G armed forces). Hitler defied limit on German army from Treaty of Versailles. 1935 military conscription; 1939 1.36m soldiers in German army. Also massive investment in industry to produce weapons and military equipment.

Some historians argue that unemployment figures were low because women/Jews stopped from working (but not counted as unemployed), and men forced to do bad jobs working in Labour Service or public works – supported by huge government spending, which could not have continued for long.

## Living Standards

Overall wages increased under Nazi rule, but so did prices. Higher earners could afford luxuries (eg number of car owners x3 in 1930s); lower earners struggled to pay for essentials like food. Working hours increased for 43 hours per week in 1933 to 49 hours in 1939.

Nazis set up organisations to improve standard of living for workers:

Trade unions replaced by Labour Front which protected rights of workers (eg minimum pay, maximum working hours). But hours increased, and workers lost right to negotiate pay. Labour Front focused on the interests of the Nazi state, not workers or business owners.  
Strength Through Joy (KdF), benefits for workers: cheap leisure/sports events, holidays. 35m workers joined. Volkswagen (people's car) designed, workers encouraged to pay 5marks per week to eventually buy a cheap car – though factory started making weapons not cars in 1938. Beauty of Labour campaigned for better facilities for workers.

## Persecution of minorities

Nazis believed in Aryan master race, other races inferior. **Eugenics:** encouraged racially / physically superior people to reproduce; "undesirable" people sterilised (stopped from having children).

**Anti-semitism** (anti-Jew) had been common in Europe for centuries, but increased in 1930s G: seen as enemies of Germany; blamed for Treaty of Versailles and economic disasters of 1923 and 1929. Moderate Germans influenced by anti-semitic Nazi propaganda.

**Slavs** (Eastern Europeans) portrayed as sub-human in Nazi propaganda, Nazis threatened to capture Lebensraum (living space) for Germany in the East.

Roma **gypsies** seen as threat to racial purity of Aryans. From 1933 they could be sent to concentration camps; 1939 ordered to prepare for deportation (sent away from Germany).

**Homosexuals** accused of lowering moral standards so Nazis passed laws against them. People with **disabilities** seen as a burden on society. 1933 law forced the mentally ill, alcoholics, deaf and other groups to be sterilised (+400,000 by 1939). +5,000 babies/children with physical disabilities killed.

## Persecution of the Jews

477,000 Jews in Germany in 1933, 1% of population. Nazis used propaganda and education to present Jews as enemies of G and began to change laws (eg banned from certain jobs, some councils provided separate yellow benches for Jews).

1933 boycott of Jewish shops and businesses – SA painted yellow stars on Jewish businesses and stood outside discouraging people from using them.

**Nuremberg Laws (1935):** Jews = subjects not citizens, so lost right to vote, have a passport; forced to wear a yellow star; not allowed to marry or have sex with Germans

1938 had to register all possessions (so easier for Nazis to confiscate them) and carry ID cards

9 November 1938: After a young Jew shot and killed a German; Goebbels used this to stir up hatred against Jews in Hannover, then across Germany. Nazis encouraged to attack Jews and their property, police told not to stop these attacks. SA, Hitler Youth and general public attacked on **Kristallnacht** (night of broken glass). +110 killed, 191 synagogues and 814 Jewish shops destroyed. Goebbels blamed Jews for starting the trouble, fined 1bn marks to pay for damage and 20,000 Jews sent to concentration camps.

January 1939 Heydrich and Gestapo given task of **deportation** of all Jews from Germany. Some of the atrocities against Jews kept secret, but people in Germany and abroad were aware of what was happening to German Jews from 1933-39. Some may have been too scared to oppose it, but others clearly thought it was justified because they supported / took part in it.

## Key words

**Conscription** – forcing people to join the army

**Deportation** – expelling a person / group from a country

**Eugenics** – managing who reproduces in attempt to control racial / physical purity

**Hitler Youth** – Nazi youth movement, organised activities for children and "brainwashed" them

**Living standards** – quality of life for people

**Persecution** – attacking a particular group in society

**Rearmament**- building up the army

**Strength through Joy** – organisation that gave rewards / benefits to workers

**Thousand Year Reich** – idea of a Nazi totalitarian state which exists for a very long time