

1. Weimar Germany 1919-33

Game Changer: understand how successfully the Weimar Government dealt with Germany's problems

Key Words

abdicate give up the throne
armistice agreement to stop fighting
blockaded cut off
constitution rules for a country
democratic people vote in elections
mutiny refusal to follow orders
proportional representation voting system that awards seats proportionally to the percentage of votes won by a party
Reichstag German parliament (elected representatives who pass laws)
reparations money paid by a losing country
republic country with no monarch
resented felt bitter/angry about

Time period: MODERN 1750-present

1 Impact of the First World War

By late 1918, Germany was losing the war. The British Navy had blockaded German ports, causing food shortages.

- There were protests in cities and a **mutiny** at Kiel naval base
- This forced the Kaiser to **abdicate** in November 1918.

Germany became a **republic** and signed the **armistice** to end the war. The war had left Germany badly damaged:

- Over 2m German soldiers had been killed, many more disabled
- Its economy was ruined - trade had reduced during the war
- 300,000 died from starvation in the winter of 1918-19. Thousands died from the Spanish flu.
- Germany was politically unstable. Those on the right wanted the Kaiser back. Those on the left wanted a Communist **revolution**.
- Germans were misled by the Kaiser's government. Many believed Germany would have won the war if it had not surrendered.



2 The Weimar Republic

After elections in January 1919, the new **Reichstag** was set up in the city of Weimar. The **constitution** set out how the new **democratic** Germany would work:

- the **president** was elected every 7 years and was in charge of the armed forces
- the president chose the chancellor from the biggest party in the Reichstag
- the **chancellor** was head of the government
- Reichstag members were elected every 4 years
- everyone over 20 could vote
- proportional representation** made it easy for smaller (and more extreme) parties to win seats
- Article 48 gave the president **emergency powers** - he could declare an emergency and rule alone

3 Impact of the Treaty of Versailles It took the following from Germany (**LAMB**):

Land - Germany lost 13% of its land to France and Poland. It had its **colonies** removed, and was not allowed to keep troops near the border with France (the Rhineland)

Arm - reduced to 100,000 men, no air force, only 6 battleships

Money - Germany had to pay £6,600 million in **reparations**

Blame - Germany had to accept full blame for the war

The Treaty was **resented** by Germans and later destroyed by Hitler.



1. Weimar Germany 1919-33

Game Changer: understand how successfully the Weimar Government dealt with Germany's problems



Key Words

general strike

all workers stop working

hyperinflation

huge rise in prices caused by extreme fall in value of money

inflation

rise in prices caused by falling value of money

paramilitary

unofficial and illegal military group

putsch

illegal attempt to take over the government

Rentenmark

new German money

reparations

money paid by a losing country

Time period: MODERN 1750-present

5 Opposition to the government

The Weimar government was run by Social Democrats, in the political centre. President Ebert (1919-25) faced opposition from:



The LEFT

Spartacist Uprising (Jan 1919, Berlin)
Communists Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht led a revolution. Defeated by right wing *Freickorps* ('Free Corps') **paramilitary** groups



The RIGHT

- Kapp Putsch (1920) - Free Corps led by Wolfgang Kapp seized Berlin. Army wouldn't fight ex-soldiers. A **general strike** forced Kapp out.
- Munich Putsch (1923) - Nazis tried to seize power by force in Munich. Hitler supported by WWI Army leader, General Ludendorff. Easily ended by police, 16 people killed.
- Right wing judges let Hitler off with 9 months jail - where he wrote his autobiography *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle). Hitler changed tactics, as he needed more than violence to win power.



6 Hyperinflation

- Germany could not pay its **reparations** bill
- France and Belgium responded by sending troops into the Ruhr (industrial area of Germany) to seize the value of the sum owed
- The German government ordered **passive resistance** - workers in the Ruhr went on strike. This cut the government's income.
- The government printed more and more money to pay workers.
- This made the value of money fall, so prices rose. This was far more dramatic than usual **inflation**, so was called **hyperinflation**.
- Germans' savings were lost - many middle class people turned against the weak Weimar republic.



7 Economic and political reform under Stresemann

Gustav Stresemann (Chancellor, 1923) ended hyperinflation by:

- Ending passive resistance and got Germans working again.
- Introducing a new currency, the **Rentenmark**.
- Stopped printing money. Cut government spending.

Stresemann negotiated more time to pay reparations, and got a big loan from the USA in the Dawes Plan (1924).



8 Improved foreign relations

Stresemann's successes as foreign minister (1923-29):

- Locarno Pact (1925) - Germany agreed not to fight France.
- Germany returned to the international community by joining the League of Nations (1926).
- Young Plan (1929) cut reparations by two-thirds, extended deadline to 1988.



2. Rise of Nazis and consolidation of power 1933-4

Game Changer: understand how the Nazis took total control of Germany by 1934



Key Words

propaganda

one-sided publicity

Reichstag

German parliament (elected body, passes laws)

SA

Nazi stormtroopers known as 'brownshirts', large force - many were young and unemployed

SS elite Nazi squad known as 'blackshirts', Hitler's personal bodyguard

Wall Street Crash

US stock market crash, ruined US economy, causing global Great Depression

Time period: MODERN 1750-present

1 Reasons for Nazi Support a) Leadership

After the Munich Putsch (1923), Hitler reorganised the Nazi Party to win elections:

- Each local branch had a leader, answering to Hitler.
- The Hitler Youth was set up (1926)
- Joseph Goebbels produced election **propaganda**
- Hitler made powerful speeches



The Nazis also continued to use violence:

- The **SA** caused street violence.
- The **SS** was created to give Hitler protection

BUT the Nazis did **WORSE** in the 1928 elections than 1924, as Germany was recovering under Stresemann.



2 Reasons for Nazi Support b) Great Depression

The 1929 **Wall Street Crash** devastated Germany:

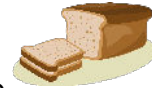
- German banks had to repay US loans - this led to German businesses going bankrupt.
- Unemployment soared - reaching 6m by 1932
- People turned to extreme parties (Nazis and Communists) to save them - by July 1932 the Nazis had the most seats in the **Reichstag** (230).



3 Reasons for Nazi Support c) Promises and Propaganda

Goebbels used effective posters to send Hitler's promises to people:

- 'Bread and Work' - full employment
- Scrapping the Treaty of Versailles
- 'Saving' Germany from the Jewish people, who Nazis wrongly blamed for all Germany's problems.
- 'Saving' Germany from Weimar politicians, who were blamed for 'stabbing Germany in the back' by signing the Treaty of Versailles



In March 1932 Hitler ran against President Hindenburg in presidential elections. He lost, but his tour of Germany made him famous. 13m voted for him.

d) Fear of Communism - Growing support for Communists

scared many middle class Germans, who feared revolution.

- Hitler promised to protect Germany from Communists
- The SA fought Communists on the streets. Some people thought the Nazis looked more organised and powerful than the weak Weimar government.



4 Political Deal - Hitler becomes Chancellor

By 1932 Hindenburg ruled using emergency powers, with Von Papen's help. Both thought the Nazis were too extreme and violent.

- Nazis had most seats in the Reichstag. Social Democrats and Communists could have outvoted them, but didn't work together.
- Hindenburg and Von Papen thought they could control Hitler, so made him chancellor in January 1933.



2. Rise of Nazis and consolidation of power 1933-4

Game Changer: understand how the Nazis took total control of Germany by 1934



Key Words

chancellor
leader of German government but not all-powerful
concentration camps prison camps - inmates were mistreated and forced to do hard labour
dictator
all-powerful leader
Fuhrer
Nazi all-powerful leader
one-party state only one political party allowed
Reichstag
German parliament
trade unions
workers groups that push for better conditions

Time period: MODERN 1750-present

5 Steps to dictatorship

As **chancellor**, Hitler still did not have total control over Germany. He took the following steps to become **dictator**:

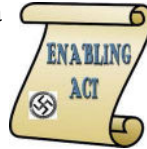
- **Feb 1933 Reichstag Fire** - Hitler blamed communists. He convinced Hindenburg to use emergency powers to ban them from election campaigning. Police imprisoned communists without trial.



- **March 1933 elections** - Nazis won 288 seats. Not a majority, but Centre Party and National Party agreed to support Hitler. Communists banned from the Reichstag, giving him control of it.



- **March 1933 Enabling Act** - the Reichstag passed a law letting Hitler make laws without its approval. SA and SS intimidated politicians into voting for the Act.



- **July 1933 political parties banned** - Germany now a **one-party state**.

- **June 1934 Night of the Long Knives** - SS murdered hundreds of SA leaders, including Ernst Rohm. SA were key to Hitler's rise, but he now saw Rohm (leader of 3m SA men) as a threat. Generals worried Rohm might take over the smaller Army (100,000 men), so this won Hitler the Army's support.

- **Aug 1934 death of Hindenburg, Fuhrer, Army oath**

Hindenburg died, Hitler passed a law making him president AND chancellor, with the title of **Fuhrer**. Army swore an oath of loyalty to Hitler, not Germany.



6 The creation of the police state

The process of '**co-ordination**' brought all aspects of German society under Nazi control:

- Civil servants, lawyers and teachers had to be Nazis.
- **Trade unions** were abolished.
- Regional governments closed to concentrate power in Berlin.



German lives were controlled by:

Terror

- **Courts**: Nazis controlled judges and courts of law. No fair trials for opponents.
- **Gestapo** (secret police): arrested people without trial. Spied on people through their neighbours.
- **Concentration camps**: people arrested by Gestapo or SS sent to do forced labour. Many communists and social democrats sent 1933-4.
- **SS**: Led by Himmler. Took over the police. Ran concentration camps.



Propaganda

- **Books**: burnt if not Nazi-approved
- **Newspapers**: controlled by Nazis.
- **Rallies**: 100,000s at [Nuremberg rallies](#).
- **Radios**: cheap 'people's receiver' radios set to Nazi station, played propaganda.



3. Life under the Nazis 1933-9

Game Changer: understand how the lives of Germans were affected by Nazi rule



Key Words

conscription

compulsory
military service

interest-free a
free loan (usually
you have to pay
interest if you
borrow money)

raw materials

basic materials
from which
products are
made e.g. oil,
rubber, iron

rearm increase
the number of
weapons, tanks,
aircraft etc.

self-sufficiency

not dependent
on other
countries for
goods (autarky in
German)

trade unions

workers groups
that push for
better conditions

Time period: MODERN 1750-present

1 Economic control

- Nazi aims:
1. Reduce unemployment
 2. Make Germany **self-sufficient**
 3. **Rearm** in preparation for war

Schacht's New Plan (1934-6)

- Public works reduced unemployment e.g. building motorways, public buildings
- Borrowed money, and made trade deals with other countries
- Encouraged married women to give up jobs in return for an **interest-free** loan

Unemployment fell quickly, especially as:

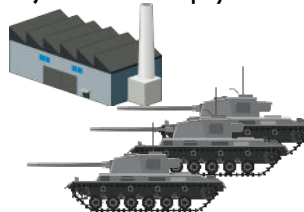
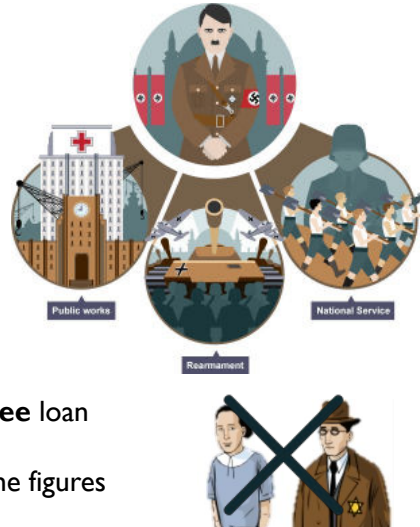
- women and Jews were not included in the figures
- **conscription** was introduced in 1935
- Young men (18-25) had to join the **National Labour Service** (RAD) for 6 months (from 1935) - worked on public works projects for low pay

1936 - Hitler wanted faster rearmament so put Hermann Goering in charge of the economy:

Goering's Four Year Plan

- Aim - prepare Germany for war in 4 years
- Spending on rearmament increased from 3.5bn marks (1933) to 26bn (1939).

But self-sufficiency was not achieved - 1/3 of **raw materials** still imported in 1939



2 Control of workers

Nazi workers' organisations:

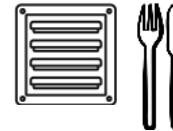
German Labour Front (DAF)

- To remove threat of **trade union** strikes, Hitler banned trade unions (1933) and made all workers join the German Labour Front.
- Headed by Dr Robert Ley.
- Workers' hours increased and pay was kept low (because there were no trade unions).



Beauty of Labour

- Aim - improve working conditions e.g. ventilation, canteens, toilets
- Some workers had to make improvements for free



Strength through Joy (KdF)

- Provided leisure activities for workers e.g. cruises, day trips, theatre trips, sport, social events
- Encouraged workers to pay weekly to save up for a car. 150,000 people paid in, but none received a car as the factories switched to war production.



3. Life under the Nazis 1933-9

Game Changer: understand how the lives of Germans were affected by Nazi rule

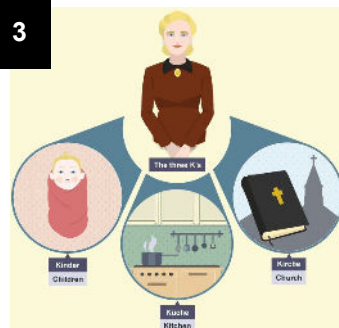


Key Words

Aryan Nazi idea of a German 'master race' - typically with blonde hair and blue eyes
conscription compulsory military service
discrimination unfair treatment
emigration move abroad
incentives rewards encouraging people to do something
indoctrinate completely convince people to blindly follow your beliefs
segregation separation by race

Time period: MODERN 1750-present

3



Treatment of women

- Nazis believed women should focus on '**3 Ks**': *Kinder*, *Küche*, *Kirche* (children, kitchen, church)
- Incentives** to have children: marriage loans cancelled when women gave birth (1/4 of loan for each child)
- Honour Cross of the German mother: bronze medal (4 children), silver (6), gold (8).
- Traditional values promoted: no makeup, smoking. Dress modestly, wear plaits. (But some women didn't.)
- Traditional values also *ignored* in order to increase birth rate: 'Lebensborn' programme encouraged unmarried women to have sex with SS men to produce **Aryan** babies, which were then supported by the government.
- Women's employment fell first, but rose by 2.4m from 1933-39 as male **conscription** led to worker shortages. In 1939 Nazis encouraged women to return to workforce.



4

Children and education - Nazis aimed to **indoctrinate** children:

- Anti-Nazi teachers were sacked. Lies taught as fact.
- History: myth of glorious 'Aryan' past, stab-in-the-back myth.
- Biology: fake race 'science' taught racial superiority and antisemitism.
- Boys - more maths and science, girls - domestic science (sewing, cooking etc.)
- Hitler Youth** (boys) compulsory from 1936, activities prepared boys for war
- League of German Maidens** (girls)
- Swing kids** and **Edelweiss Pirates** resisted Nazi ideas. They smoked, danced to American jazz.



5

Treatment of Jews up to 1939

Discrimination: 1933 boycott of Jewish shops. Jews sacked from civil service, universities, teaching, courts.

- Rights removed:** 1935 **Nuremberg Laws** removed German citizenship, forbade marriage with non-Jews.
- Violence:** 1938 **Night of Broken Glass** 7,500 Jewish shops smashed, 191 synagogues burnt. Jews made to clean up damage fined 1bn marks. 30,000 Jewish men taken to concentration camps.



Segregation: 1938-9 Jews banned from universities, schools, cinemas, swimming pools. Fired from jobs.

Emigration: encouraged by Nazis. 50% of 600,000 German Jews fled abroad 1933-39



4. Life during the Second World War

Game Changer: understand why life changed for Germans during the Second World War

[Bitesize
Germany
in WW2](#)



[Bitesize
Opposition
to Nazis](#)



Key Words

Catholic
Christian led by the Pope

civilians
people who are not in the military

Edelweiss Pirates
youth groups who resisted Nazi ideas.

euthanasia
killing someone to relieve suffering - usually terminally ill people, but Nazis killed disabled and mentally ill

evacuated
removed for safety

Protestant
Christian not led by Pope



Time period: MODERN 1750-present

1 Changing conditions on the Home Front

- 1939 Rationing of food, clothing
- Aug 1940 - air raids on **civilians** start
- 1942 Allied bombing increased with 'thousand bomber' RAF campaigns.
- 1944 'carpet bombing' of German cities by US and UK.
- 1945 raid on Dresden killed 25,000.
- Bombing caused 800,000 civilian deaths overall (compared to 43,000 in UK), 7.5m homeless, 2.5m children **evacuated**.
- Total War** 1943-44 - whole society had to help the war effort
- Labour shortages - women used in factories and other jobs
- Political prisoners, Jews, and prisoners of war forced to work. 7m forced labourers in 1943.
- Old men and young boys had to defend Germany when Allies invaded in 1945, due to shortage of trained soldiers.

Timeline: WW2

Sept 1939 Nazi Germany and USSR invade Poland

1940 Nazi Germany conquers Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, Belgium and France. RAF prevents invasion of Britain.

1941 - turning point. Nazi Germany invades USSR but can't defeat it. USA joins war against Nazis.

1942 Nazi losses in North Africa

1943 Nazi Germany loses Battle of Stalingrad, stopping its advance into USSR. It is pushed back in North Africa & USSR.

1944 Allies invade Europe (D-Day)

1945 Invasion of Germany by USSR (from east) and Allies (from west). Hitler suicide. Nazi Germany surrenders.



2 Opposition to the Nazis

- Christian** resistance was limited:
- Catholic:** Bishop Von Galen criticised the **euthanasia** programme. Popular with public, so not killed. Inspired White Rose.
- Protestant:** Martin Niemoller led the Confessing Church - resisted Hitler merging all Protestant churches into the Nazi Reich Church. Sent to concentration camp. Dietrich Bonhoeffer helped Jewish people escape Germany. Executed in 1945.
- Military:** July Bomb Plot (1944) - attempt to kill Hitler, led by Von Stauffenberg. Failed - 5,000 executed.
- Youth:** White Rose students group distributed anti-Nazi leaflets. Hans and Sophie Scholl were caught and executed.
- Edelweiss Pirates** attacked Hitler Youth members, some hid Army deserters. Nazis hanged 13 in 1944.
- Jewish:** underground resistance movements, some armed uprisings against the Nazis e.g. Warsaw Ghetto Uprising 1944.

4. Life during the Second World War 1939-45

Game Changer: understand why life changed for Germans during the Second World War



Key Words

collaborators

those who work with others

Denazification

removal of Nazi Party

Einsatzgruppen

Nazi death squads - killed Jews in Eastern Europe and USSR

exterminate

destroy completely

genocide

killing intended to destroy a whole group of people

ghetto

city area only for Jews

inflation

rise in prices

Nuremberg

Trials trials of top Nazis after WW2

systematic

highly planned

Yalta and

Potsdam

conferences

meetings of Allies and USSR



3 Treatment of Jews (1939-45)

The **Holocaust** was the **systematic** murder of 6 million Jews by the Nazis and their **collaborators** during WW2.

- From 1939, Nazis conquered much of eastern Europe. 3.5m Jews lived there.
 - Nazis made them live in overcrowded **ghettos**, and wear a star. People in the Warsaw Ghetto only got 300 calories a day - 55,000 starved or died of disease.
 - Nazi death squads (**Einsatzgruppen**) followed the German Army into Poland and then the USSR. They rounded up Jews, marched them out of their village, forced them to dig mass graves, then shot them. They killed over 1m Jews in eastern Europe.
 - By late 1941 Nazis also occupied much of USSR - ruling 6m Jews in total.
 - At the Wannsee Conference (Jan 1942) Nazi leaders wanted more 'efficient' modern killing methods. They built 6 **death camps** to **exterminate** all European Jews. (Concentration camps were for imprisonment.)
 - Nazis called this **genocide** the 'Final Solution'. Train lines took Jews from across Europe directly to the camps. Those too young or old to work were killed immediately in gas chambers (about 80% of arrivals). The rest were slave workers, or experimented on.
 - In the Auschwitz camp, 1.1m people were killed.
- Nazis also murdered other groups: Roma and Sinti (gypsies), LGBT+ people, disabled people, political opponents, prisoners of war.



4 Impact of defeat

- More than 3m German soldiers and 3.5m German civilians died
- 10m German refugees - expelled from European countries - came back to Germany homeless.
- Food shortages, cities ruined from bombing, homes destroyed. **Inflation** and shortages of many products.
- Division of Germany and Berlin into 4 zones (run by GB, US, France, USSR) - decided at **Yalta and Potsdam conferences**.
- Nuremberg Trials** 1946: 12 Nazi war criminals sentenced to death, 7 to life imprisonment.
- Also trials of officers and prison guards (24,000 trials 1945-9).
- Denazification** to remove Nazis from powerful positions. But it was difficult to rebuild without re-employing some people. Abandoned in 1951.



5. West and East Germany 1949-91

Game Changer: understand why conditions in West and East Germany were different after 1949



Key Words

Chancellor head of German government
consumerism culture based on buying things
Deutschmark new German currency
growth rate how fast economy is growing
inflation rise in prices
Marshall Aid money given to capitalist European countries by US to help them rebuild after WW2
minister runs part of the government
occupation control of one country by another country's army
productivity efficiency of workers
trade unions workers groups that push for better conditions

1 Division of Germany



- Agreed (at Potsdam, July 1945) - US to send industrial goods to USSR zone, USSR to send agricultural goods to US zone
- 1946 USSR didn't deliver goods, so US didn't either
- USSR refused to hold free elections in Eastern Europe
- 1947 US and GB zones united as Bizonia. New currency - **Deutschmark**.
- May 1949 - Allies combine zones as **Federal Republic of Germany (FRG)**.
- Oct 1949 - USSR zone becomes **German Democratic Republic (GDR)**

Time period: MODERN 1750-present

2

Economic recovery in the West Konrad Adenauer (1949-63) - First Chancellor. Ludwig Erhard - economic minister.



- Adenauer's aims: improve the economy, end Allied occupation of West Germany, democracy and denazification
- Successful: 'economic miracle', Allied **occupation** ended (troops remained as allies), became a successful democracy.



Erhard's policies



- Marshall Aid** from US invested in industry (1.4bn 1947-52)
- Government worked with **trade unions** to avoid strikes e.g. working days cut from 6 to 5 a week.
- Taxes quite high to pay for welfare benefits.



Impact: 'Economic Miracle'

- Highest **growth rate** in western Europe
- Full employment (helped by demand from Korean War)
- High **productivity**
- Very low **inflation**
- Industrial growth - 2nd biggest producer of cars in the world by 1960s e.g. VW Beetle
- High quality e.g. Mercedes-Benz, Leica cameras



- Very few strikes by trade unions
- West Berlin was a centre of **consumerism** - luxury goods and thriving social activities.
- High standard of living



Stalin (USSR leader) feared a strong West Germany so disliked its economic recovery.

5. West and East Germany 1949-91

Game Changer: understand why conditions in West and East Germany were different after 1949



Key Words

collectivised
farming the state controls all farming
consumer goods goods bought by people to use e.g. washing machines
heavy industry making large heavy products e.g. iron, steel
industrialisation developing factories and industry
nationalised owned by the state
rationing limits on amount of goods you can buy
Red Army USSR's Army
Stasi East German secret police
state nation controlled by a government

Time period: MODERN 1750-present

3 Control and repression in the East



- One-party communist **state**, led by Walter Ulbricht
- Controlled by the USSR and its leader, Stalin.
- Opponents imprisoned - 120,000 in ex-Nazi concentration camps.
- Prison for political prisoners set up 1951, East Berlin. Torture common.



- 3.5m East Germans moved to West (1949-61) for better living/working conditions.
- 1952- border between East and West Germany closed (by East Germany). People still escaped from East to West Berlin.

- **1953 uprising** - strike by hundreds of thousands of workers, wanted free elections, better living standards. Attacked Communist Party buildings. Crushed by **Red Army** - 125 killed, thousands arrested
- **Stasi** doubled in size after the uprising. Monitored people to prevent more uprisings. Informants got benefits (e.g. consumer goods, travel or education opportunities) for informing on their neighbours. 25% of East Germans were Stasi informants by 1980s.



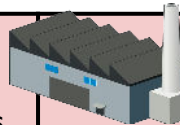
Ulbricht's socialist policies

- **Industrialisation**
- **Collectivised farming** - all farms were owned by the state.



(Intended to make farms bigger and more efficient using modern machinery.

- Private ownership of businesses not allowed - all were **nationalised**.



Impact

- Industrial production x2 from 1950-55
- Farming policies caused food shortages - **rationing** continued until 1958
- 15,000 farmers moved to West Germany. They hated government owning their farms.
- Government focused on **heavy industry** so few **consumer goods** produced - hard to buy a washing machine or car.



4 Separation of Germany by 1961 - into two very different Germanies:

- **West Germany** - 'economic miracle', political freedom.
- **East Germany** - lower standard of living, lack of freedom



Berlin was also divided:

- **West Berlin** - modern consumer city.
- **East Berlin** - run down, large areas still damaged from WW2.

6. Cold War relations 1949-91

Game Changer: understand why relations between the two Germanies changed



Key Words

Bizonia formed in 1947 by merger of US and UK zones
capitalism system in which people can own businesses and private property
Cold War conflict in which USA and USSR avoided direct 'hot' war as they had nuclear weapons
Communism system in which individuals are not allowed to own private property
Deutschmark new currency in Allied zones, created 1948
Marshall Aid money given to capitalist European countries by US to help them rebuild after WW2
NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organisation - Western alliance
Soviet from USSR

1 Cold War After WW2

relations between western Allies (GB, US, France) and the USSR were tense.

- It was too dangerous to fight directly as both sides had nuclear weapons (US 1945, USSR 1949), so the conflict was called the **Cold War**.
- By 1948 many Eastern European countries (Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Hungary, Albania, Czechoslovakia) were communist.
- Winston Churchill called Europe's division between **capitalism** and **communism** an 'iron curtain'.

- US gave **Marshall Aid** to capitalist countries to stop communism spreading. This increased division with USSR.



Time period: MODERN 1750-present

2 Berlin Blockade and Airlift 1948-9

Angry at the creation of **Bizonia** and the **Deutschmark**, Stalin blockaded the Allied zones in Berlin. This stopped them receiving food and goods from Allied-controlled parts of Germany.

- Allies responded by flying in supplies.
- A plane landed every 3 minutes.
- Stalin abandoned the blockade after 11 months.

Impact of the blockade:

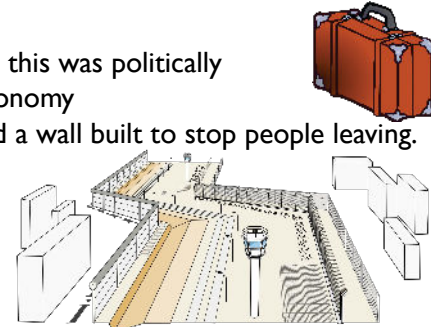
- Germany permanently divided into West and East
- 1949 **NATO** set up to protect US allies
- Berlin remained a major point of tension in Cold War.



3 Berlin Wall 1961

Skilled workers migrated from East to West Berlin - this was politically embarrassing for East Germany, and damaged its economy

- Aug 1961 Nikita Khrushchev (USSR leader) ordered a wall built to stop people leaving.
- Oct 1961 - tense 24hr stand-off between **Soviet** and US tanks at the main crossing in the wall (Checkpoint Charlie). Soviet tanks backed down - the US continued to access West Berlin.
- 1963 - US President Kennedy said 'a war is a hell of a lot better than a war'
- Nearly 100 killed shot trying to escape the East (1961-89). Gap called the 'Death Strip'



6. Cold War relations 1949-91

Game Changer: understand why relations between the two Germanies changed

Brandt
kneels
[clip](#)



Brandt
visits the
GDR [clip](#)



Key Words

common market

countries agree to trade freely and let workers move freely between countries

detente period of improved relations between the two sides of the Cold War from 1967-79

diplomat a nation's representative in another country

homage respect

NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (alliance of Western countries)

non-aggression will not attack

Ostpolitik

'Eastern Policy'

remilitarised

brought back military forces

Warsaw Pact

alliance of Eastern European communist states, led by USSR

Time period: MODERN 1750-present

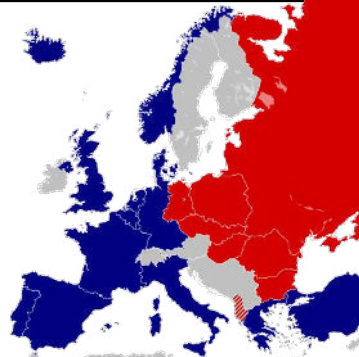
4 Allies and Enemies

1949 NATO set up -

West Germany joined 1955. Included US and Canada - all 11 states promised to defend each other if invaded.

- **1955 Warsaw Pact** set up - military alliance of communist states.

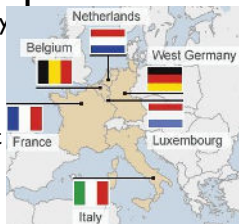
- West and East Germany **remilitarised** - each had their own powerful army.



West Germany became economically linked to western Europe:



- France and West Germany shared production of coal, iron and steel from 1950. Expanded 1951 to include Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy in the European Coal and Steel Community. Boosted trade and production.



- In 1957 it became the **common market** or EEC (European Economic Community). Members traded and moved goods, workers and money freely. (EEC became the European Union (EU) in 1993)

5 Brandt and Ostpolitik

Willy Brandt - West Germany's foreign minister from 1966, Chancellor from 1969

- His 'Eastern Policy' (Ostpolitik) aimed to improve relations with East Germany
- 1970 **non-aggression** treaty between West Germany and USSR
- Brandt knelt in **homage** at the memorial to Polish Jews killed by the Nazis.
- 1970 treaty with Poland recognised that Poland now owned the territory that once belonged to Germany. Germans in Poland could finally return to West Germany.
- 1971 treaty with the USSR accepting that the division of Berlin was permanent
- 1972 Basic Treaty - East and West Germany agreed to exchange **diplomats** and increase trade and communication between the two countries.



Impact:

- Brandt won 1971 Nobel Peace Prize
- Relations between East and West Germany improved
- Travel between the two Germanies became easier
- Trade increased
- 1973 Both countries joined the United Nations
- Contributed to **detente**.



7. Co-operation and reconciliation

Game Changer: understand the factors that led to the reunification of Germany in 1990



Key Words

detente period of improved relations between the two sides of Cold War - 1967-79
dictator all-powerful leader
emigrate leave the country
glasnost openness (political freedom)
perestroika economic freedom
trade union workers group that pushes for better conditions
superpower most powerful nation (during the Cold War there were two superpowers)

Time period: MODERN 1750-present

1 End of the Cold War

After **detente**, tensions rose in the early 1980s. The USSR invaded Afghanistan. US president Ronald Reagan called the USSR the 'Evil Empire'. But the Cold War was nearly over because:

- USSR struggled as a superpower. It:
 - Had a weak economy - communism didn't work as well as capitalism in the West
 - Couldn't win war in Afghanistan
 - Couldn't afford expensive nuclear arms race with wealthy USA



- 1985 new leader Mikhail Gorbachev had new policies:
 - **perestroika** allowed competition in business
 - **glasnost** let citizens discuss the Soviet system's problems
- April 1989 Gorbachev said the Red Army wouldn't put down uprisings in Eastern Europe.
- Opponents of communism felt safe to rebel.
- Nov 1989 - Berlin Wall fell.
- Communism then collapsed in Eastern Europe.
- US and USSR signed 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) to reduce nuclear weapons.
- 1991 - USSR broke into 15 independent countries, including Russia. End of Cold War. US now the only **superpower**.



2 Collapse of communism in Eastern Europe

Opponents of communism took advantage of glasnost as other political parties were no longer banned.

- **1988 Poland**: strikes led to first free elections
- **1989 Poland**: the **trade union** Solidarity won 99% of seats, formed first non-communist government in Eastern Europe



- **Hungary**: new government included non-communists. Opened border with Austria. Tens of thousands of East Germans left for the West, 12% of population applied to **emigrate**.
- **West Germany**: protests for democracy and freedom of movement. Nov - Berlin Wall fell.
- **Czechoslovakia**: Velvet Revolution - Havel
 - led huge protests. Communist government resigns - Havel becomes president.
- **Romania**: secret police fired on protesters. Revolution. Brutal **dictator** Nicolae Ceaușescu and wife executed.
- **1990 Democratic elections** in Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, East Germany.



7. Co-operation and reconciliation

Game Changer: understand the factors that led to the reunification of Germany in 1990



Key Words

Berliners people who live in Berlin
consumer goods goods for people to use e.g. cars
currency merger two currencies join
glasnost openness (more political freedom)
GDP Gross Domestic Product - measure of the size of a country's economy
NATO alliance of Western countries
reelection winning another election
reunification rejoining two countries into one
Red Army USSR's Army
Stasi East German secret police
subsidies extra money from the state given if extra support is needed



3 Fall of Berlin Wall

From March 1989 many East Germans used the open border between Hungary and Austria (capitalist) to get to the West. Gorbachev's **glasnost** policy let opposition groups form in East Germany. People also felt more free to protest after **Red Army** troops left East Germany.

- October - large protests against the government. **Stasi** didn't stop them.
- Honecker (E German leader) resigned Oct. 1989. USSR refused to help his successor break up protests.
- November - record demonstrations (1m in East Berlin, 0.5m Leipzig)



9th Nov - government said border with W Germany was open 'immediately'. Berliners rushed to wall, forced guards to open checkpoints, began tearing the wall down.

4 German Reunification and role of Helmut Kohl

Kohl - Chancellor from 1982. Nov 1989 - his **reunification** plan surprised many Germans, and **NATO** allies. He wanted reunification to:

- Prevent an economic collapse in East Germany
- Avoid a refugee crisis as people fled the East
- Boost his chances of **reelection** in 1990 (he was unpopular)

Kohl achieved reunification because:



- He gave loans to: - East Germany - rescuing its bankrupt economy.
- USSR - in return Gorbachev approved reunification
- East Germans wanted reunification:
 - Free elections (March 1990) won by party wanting fast reunification
 - 300,000 East Germans moved west by March 1990

- 1990 **currency merger** very popular in East Germany - weak Ostmark exchanged at equal value to strong West German Deutschmark
- International support for reunification achieved at the 1990 Two-Plus-Four talks (W and E Germany + UK, US, France, USSR).

Treaty of Unification signed Aug 1990, approved by both parliaments.

Came into effect 3 Oct 1990. Kohl easily elected Chancellor.

Reunification had these effects:

- West of Germany had to give the east huge **subsidies**
- Unemployment in east - new Deutschmarks spent on west German consumer goods, not products from the east.
- Migration caused unemployment in west - more people than jobs
- 2022 Germany had 4th largest **GDP** in world (but east's economy still weaker)

