KQ1 How can we understand the rise of the Nazi Party 1919-33?

Focus 1. How stable was the Weimar Republic 1919-23?

Focus 2. How far did economic problems further threaten stability 1923-30?

Focus 3. Why was there a dramatic increase in support for the Nazi Party 1929-33?

**A List of Key Terms and their meanings in this topic**.

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| Anti-Capitalist | Hatred of capitalism |
| Authoritarian | A belief in government by a strong leader with total power |
| Capitalism | An economic system where businesses and industries are in the hands of private individuals |
| Chancellor | Leader, prime minister of Germany |
| coalition | A government formed by two or more political parties |
| communist | Believer in political system- government control of economy, equality insociety & no private ownership |
| constitution | Document laying down basic laws of how a country should be run |
| coup | Sudden seizure of power by a small group |
| democracy | A system of government where leaders are voted in to office by the people |
| dictatorship | Rule by one all-powerful person or group |
| fascism | Right-wing group of ex-soldiers, a private army |
| hyperinflation | Massive rise in prices |
| ideology | Set of ideas |
| Kaiser | The German Emperor |
| left-wing | Political view interested in the needs of workers. |
| nationalised | To be controlled by the State or government |
| nationalism | Belief that a nation should rule itself and be strong |
| putsch | Plot to overthrow the government, sudden armed uprising |
| Reichsrat | National Assembly of German states |
| Reichstag | German parliament |
| reparations | Payments made by Germany to the victors of the war to compensate for damage |
| republic | Country with a government that has a president as head of state not a monarch (king or queen) |
| Ruhr | The most important industrial areas of Germany. |
| SA | Sturm-Abteilung (storm troopers) Nazi paramilitary group, set up in 1921 and used to intimidate opponents |
| socialist | Left-wing political movement stressing the good of society as a whole and emphasis of collective rather than individual ownership of property |
| Spartacists | Communist revolutionary group |
| Wall Street Crash | October 1929, share prices fell on the New York stock exchange, followed by a worldwide economic collapse and Depression. |

**Focus 1: How Stable was the Weimar Republic?**

**Content overview**

1)The early years: the Weimar Republic:The Weimar Republic; its problems and successes and how these relate to the formation of the Nazi party. The Spartacists, the terms of the Treaty of Versailles and reactions to this within Germany: the Kapp Putsch, the formation of the National Socialist party.

2)Challenges and recovery: the impact of economic problems 1923–29. The key events of 1923, including the invasion of the Ruhr, hyperinflation and the Munich Putsch; the work of Stresemann in aiding recovery of the Weimar Republic between 1924 and 1929, including the introduction of a new currency, the Dawes and Young Plans and Germany’s entry to the League of Nations. Coverage of Stresemann’s foreign policy is not required other than its significance for the domestic situation within Germany.

3)Increasing support for the Nazi Party: Increasing support for the Nazi Party; support from different social groups up to 1929 and reasons for its dramatic increase after 1929, including changes of tactics, the appeal of Hitler, the role of propaganda, the work of the SA and the economic and political consequences for Germany of the Wall Street Crash of 1929.

**Activity 1 : How did the Weimar Republic political system work?** During WWI the Emperor (Kaiser) of Germany fled to Holland. Germany decided to have an elected government with no Emperor. This was a Democratic Republic. The rules for the governing of the country were written into a new constitution.

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| Screen Shot 2014-06-08 at 18.01.36.png |

**Activity 2 : The strengths and weaknesses of the Weimar Republic system of government.**

The Weimar Constitution was intended to be a very fair system of representing the German people. However, some Historians argue that it had key weaknesses that contributed to its instability. Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the Weimar Constitution. Read through the strengths and weakness of each feature carefully and indicate which two you think were more directly threatening to the stability of the Weimar Republic.

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| **Features of Constitution** | **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| **The role of the President** | Elected by the people every 7 years with the power to appoint the Chancellor and the government. Represented the will of the people and reflected the political balances of power in the Reichstag. All adults over 20 could vote and participate in the political system and the laws would reflect their wishes. | The President had too much power and might be tempted to make decisions based on their own interests rather than those of the views of the country. In the event of a crisis the President may use these emergency powers to undermine the democratic political system which it was supposed to defend. |
| **Proportional Represen-**  **tation** | All political parties were given a fair share of the seats in the Reichstag proportionate to their national support and ensured all political views were considered. Political parties supporting Weimar included SPD Socialists, Centre, Liberals DDP & DVP, Conservatives DNVP. | It led to many small extremist political groups having influences eg the KPD and NSDAP, many coalition governments because no one party could get a majority in the Reichstag. The coalition governments were often weak and short lived because they could not agree to hide differences. |
| **Article 48** | In the event of a weak government that could not command a majority in the Reichstag, or in the case of a national emergency, the President could use emergency powers in the interest of stability of the political system. | Article 48 gave the President emergency powers to suspend the Reichstag, call for new elections and appoint new Chancellors. Ruling by emergency presidential decree they didn’t need to consult the Reichstag and the fundamental laws(rights) didn’t apply. |

**Activity 3 : How did the nature of the Weimar Constitution threaten the stability of the Weimar Republic? Answer question, using Activities 1& 2**

One of the key weaknesses of the Weimar Constitution was……

This threatened the stability of the Weimar Republic because….

Another key weaknesses of the Weimar Constitution was……

This threatened the stability of the Weimar Republic because….

Additional Research p10-11

**Activity 4 : To the concept map!**

Complete section 1 of your concept map, selecting your 4 pieces of information carefully. Underline the key words in an appropriate colour.

**Activity 5 : The terms of the Treaty of Versailles 1919.** In November 1918 an armistice was agreed between Germany and the Allies, with Germany defeated. However, a peace treaty to formally end WWI had still to be negotiated. This Treaty was written at Versailles by the Allies (Britain, France and the USA), excluding Germany. The terms were harsh. The representatives for the new German Government were forced to sign or the Allies may have resumed the War. Highlight the term you feel the Germans would have most resented.

4 ***MainTerms***

***Land*** : Germany lost all overseas colonies, Alsace-Lorraine was returned to France, West Prussia, Upper Silesia and Posen were given to Poland, the Saarland was taken over by the League of Nations for 15 years.

***Army***: Germany was not allowed military aircraft or submarines, the navy was reduced to six battleships and 15,000 sailors. The army was reduced to 100,000. The Rhineland area was demilitarised (No armed forces in the area.

***Money:*** The war Guilt Clause meant that the victorious powers could demand compensation for the damage caused by the War. This was called Reparations. In 1921 the Reparations Commission fixed at £6,600 million, which had to be paid in annual instalments.

***Blame:*** Article 321 said that Germany was to blame for causing the war.

**Activity 6 :** **The political and economic impacts of the Treaty of Versailles**

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| **Economic Impact** | **Political Impact** |

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| Reparations, along with the loss of crucial industrial and agricultural land, made Germany economically very weak. | Many Germans believed that Germany could have won the War if they had carried on fighting. The German people had many objections to the Treaty of Versailles, which was felt to be very unfair, as it was based on the idea of Germany’s’ War Guilt’ |
| Germany did not keep up with its repayments so, in 1923 French and German troops invaded the Rhur region of Germany to seize raw materials as payment. This was legal under the Treaty of Versailles. | Some Germans blaming the new Weimar Government for the Treaty of Versailles. The army were seen as having been’ stabbed in the back’, betrayed by politicians. |
| Germany responded by stopping production of materials (Passive Resistance) | This contributed to the significant opposition to the new Weimar Government in the early 1920s. |
| This resulted in a worsened economic situation and triggered the Hyperinflation Crisis of 1923. | This resulted in increased support for extremist opposition groups, who rejected the democratic political system, which had been established |

Additional Research pages 11-13

###### **Activity 7 : Back to the concept map!**

Complete section 2 of your concept map, selecting your 4 pieces of information carefully. Underline the key words in an appropriate colour.

**Activity 8 : Threats to stability of the Republic** 1919-1923, the Weimar Government faced opposition from extremists on both the Right and Left. Nearly 400 political murders were carried out. The extreme political instability in the period was in part was due to the German people being unfamiliar with and uncertain about Democratic government. Rank them in terms of threat. *Additional Research p.14-15& 24-26*

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| **The Spartacists’ Uprising 1919**  Who?The Spartacists were far left wing revolutionaries,led by Rosa Luxemburg & Karl Liebknecht.  Why did they oppose the Republic? They wanted a Communist political system like in Russia to be set up in Germany and did not trust the new government to look after the interests of the working people.  What did they do? The Sparacists seized the headquarters of the government newspapers and telegraph bureau. The organised a general strike  By what methods did the Government deal with them, and how successfully? They got 4,000 ex-army Freikorps to fight the Spartacists. They killed the two leaders. This was a successful crushed the uprising.  Why did Spartacist challenge fail? The Spartacists were poorly organised and lacked support from the people of Berlin.  What was significant about the Spartacist challenge +/-? It highlighted the instability of the new Republic and that it had left wing opposition to it. It made the Republic seem indebted to the right-wing Freikorps. |
| **The Kapp Putsch 1920**  Who were they? The Freikorps (volunteer corps) of ex-soldiers. Friedrich Ebert, first President of the Weimar Republic had initially used them to keep control. They were led by Dr Wolfgang Kapp, an extreme Nationalist.  Why did they oppose the Republic? They were angry at the surrendering in WWI and the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. Also the government had tried to disband the Freikorps, despite having used them to crush the Spartacists.  What did they do? They seized Berlin and attempted to set up a new replacement government there.  By what methods did the Government deal with them, and how successfully? At first the government asked the army to deal with them, but they refused. The government then fled to Dresden, it looked like the Putsch was working. However, then the government asked the workers of Berlin to go on strike in resistance to the Putsch. This ground Berlin to a halt and successfully ended the putsch. Kapp couldn’t run the country this way and fled to Sweden, and the Weimar Government returned to Berlin.  Why did the Kapp Putsch challenge fail? Striking Union workers stopped all transport, power and fuel supplies, communication systems and manufacturing production. A country cannot function in this situation. This showed the lack of general support for the Putsch.  What was significant about the Kapp Putsch challenge +/-? It, again, highlighted the instability of the new Republic and showed it had right-wing opposition. It revealed that the new Republic had the support of many workers but not the Army. |
| **The Munich Beer Hall Putsch 1923**  Who were they? The German Workers’ Party was an extreme nationalist group. By 1920 it was led by Adolf Hitler and had changed its name to the National Socialist German Workers Party ( Nazis)  Why did they oppose the Republic? Hitler believed that the Ruplic betrayed Germany by surrendering in the War and signing the Treay of Versailles. In 1923, they were very angry that Stresemann had ended passive resistance in the Ruhr, and started paying reparations again.  What did they do? 8th Nov Hitler burst into a beerhall in Munich, where a local meeting of Bavarian leaders, ( including Kahr) was happening, hoping to force them to joining the Putsch. The next day, 3,000 Nazis and ex-army general Ludendorff marched through the streets hoping to draw enough support to begin a take over of the region, then Germany.    By what methods did the Government deal with them, and how successfully? The Putsch was crushed by armed police, in a gun battle, in which 3 police and 16 marchers were killed. Ludendorff surrendered and Hitler tried to flee but was arrested.  Why did the Munich Beer Hall Putsch fail? Hitler significantly over estimated support for the Nazis. He put too much faith in Kahr, the Bavarian leaders, who failed to turn up in support. The army and police did not join the Putsch, as Hitler had hoped and it didn’t attract mass support. They was also not well armed.  What was significant about the Putsch +/-? It showed that the Republic was able to withstand another attempt at a take over, The Nazis appeared to have been crushed, with Hitler put on trial and imprisoned. However, it revealed continued opposition to the Republic from the Right. Also Hitler used the trial as a platform for giving a speech, which gained international press coverage. Also the Judge gave him the minimum sentence, he was released after 4 months, showing some significant empathy for the Nazi cause |

**Activity 9: Back to the concept map!** Complete section 3 of your concept map, selecting your 4 pieces of information carefully. Underline the key words in an appropriate colour.

**Focus 2 : How far did economic problems further threaten the stability of the Weimar Republic 1923-1930?**

**Activity 1: Economic crisis 1Hyperinflation 1923. Add symbols to represent each stage in the crisis**

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| --- | --- |
| In 1919, the Treaty of Versailles took away from Germany 10% of its industry and 15% of its agricultural land, making the economy weaker and stated that Germany had to also to pay Reparations. |  |
| In 1921 a special commission fixed the Reparations at £6,600 million to be paid in annual instalments |  |
| In 1922, the German government was unable to make its first reparations payments, asking for more time to pay. The French refused. |  |
| So, in January 1923, the French marched into the Ruhr region of Germany to get payment in kind by confiscating raw materials and goods. |  |
| The French invasion helped to unite the Germans and temporarily increase support for the Weimar Government |  |
| Germany responded with Passive Resistance and went on strike, refusing to work for the foreign army of occupation. Some even took direct action, setting factories on fire and sabotaging pumps in mines. |  |
| Passive Resistance meant that Germany was not producing and selling things, so it became poorer. |  |
| So, in 1923, the German Gov started to print more bank notes. However, this simply meant that each bank note was worth less and prices went up. This is called inflation, once prices rise dramatically, this is called hyperinflation. |  |
| By mid 1923, the price of food and fuel went up so fast that employers paid workers twice a day, so they could shop at lunchtime, before prices had risen. |  |
| The new Chancellor, Stresemann, agreed to call off Passive Resistance. In October 1923 he launched a new temporary currency, the Rentenmark. This stabilised the value of German money. In November 1923, Stresemann agreed to resume paying Reparations. |  |
| This led to increased opposition from right-wing group who saw Stresemann’s actions as a betrayal. Opposition was particularly strong in Bavaria and included the Nazis’ Munich Beer Hall Putsch in November 1923. |  |
| The Government needed the support of the army to deal with this right-wing opposition. To get them on-side, they deposed the left-wing state governments of Saxony and Thuringa. |  |
| In 1924 the permanent new Reichsmark was introduced |  |
| The Dawes Plan of 1924,was negotiated between the USA and Germany, supported by France and Britain. It reduced and restructured the repayments. It also included a $3,000 million loan from US banks. |  |
| This provided money to rebuild Germany industry and to make repayments of Reparations easier, but meant that Germany was dependant on the USA and was seen by some as being dictated to again. |  |

**Activity 2 : The impact of hyperinflation on different people.**

In this activity you must consider the impact of hyperinflation on different groups of people in society. Read the impact on each group and identify what their likely attitude towards the government would be.

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| **Social group** | **Effects and Impact of hyperinflation** |
| Screen Shot 2014-06-09 at 07.22.06.png**Business/Rich** | The effects of hyperinflation were positive. Their debts, in terms of bank loans to expand their businesses, were wiped out. The very Rich had property, land and possessions which were still valuable. If their savings were held abroad, then this money was not affected.  Likely attitude towards the government: |
| Screen Shot 2014-06-09 at 07.22.23.png**Fixed income** | The effects of hyperinflation were negative. Their pension income and saving became worthless.  Likely attitude towards the government: |
| Screen Shot 2014-06-09 at 07.22.48.png**Middle Class** | The effects of hyperinflation were negative. Small businesses went bankrupt because goods cost more to buy and customers could not afford the produce.    Likely attitude towards the government: |
| Screen Shot 2014-06-09 at 07.23.05.png**Youth** | The effects of hyperinflation depended on whether they had a job. If so, their experience was like the workers below. But for others it was quite positive, if they had previously not been employed.  The young were able to be flexible. Some took advantage of the situation and started dealing goods, buying up in the morning and selling later for more money.  Likely attitude towards the government: |
| Screen Shot 2014-06-09 at 07.23.25.png**Workers/Farmers** | The effects of hyperinflation were mixed. Farmers made more money, as food prices rose. Workers’ wages rose far slower and did not keep up with inflation, whilst their cost of living spiralled.    Likely attitude towards the government: |

Additional Research- p20-23

**Activity 3 : Recovery or continued problems 1924-29** The table evaluates the extent to which the Weimar Republic was able to recover during the Stresemann years 1924-29.

**To what extent did the Weimar Republic recover in the Stresemann years 1924-1929?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Evidence of recovery** | **Evidence of continued problems** |
| **Role and benefits of Stresemann**  Appointed Aug 1923 to deal with the problems of Hyperinflation. He was a good speaker and administrator. He confidently pursued policies to address economic and international relations problems.    **The economy**  Nov 1923, Stresemann introduced a temporary currency called the Rentenmark which was based on the value of real assests in Germany like land and resources. The following year the Rentenmark was converted into the Reichsmark, which was backed by gold. This stabilised the value of the mark and reduced inflation.  TheDawes Plan of 1924 reorganised Germany’s reparation payments. They were reduced payments for the first 5 years to a more manageable at 2, 500 milllion marks. The plan included a loan of 800 million gold marks to Germany and a promise from the French to withdrawal from the Ruhr. Over the following 6 years Germany borrowed $3,000 million from US banks.The 1929 Young Plan further reduced annual payments of reparations to 2,000 million, giving until 1988, to finish payments and included a promise from the French to evacuate the Rhineland by 1930, 5 years early. These Plans greatly assisted German industry.  By 1928 industrial production had reached pre-war levels. By 1930 Germany was one of the leading exporters of manufactured goods.  Unemployment fell, new factories & facilities opened and new roads and railways built.  **Foreign policy**  Stresemann greatly improved relations with Britain and France by ending passive resistance in the Ruhr. He signed the Locaro Treaties in 1925, which banned the use of violence when dealing with Belgium-German and Franco-German borders. , Germany was allowed to join the League of Nations in 1926.  In 1928 Germany signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact, with 64 other nations. This was an agreement to keep armies for self-defence, but to resolve all future disputes ‘peaceably’.    **Political stability**  Politically, the period saw more stable government and increased support for those parties supportive of the Weimar Republic.  There was less support for extremist parties and no uprisings or attempted Putsches between 1924-1933.  Hindenburg, a popular ex-army leader in WW1, became President in 1925. He promised to maintain the Constitution. | **Limitations of Stresemann**  His policy of fulfilment, co-operating with France and Britain, calling off passive resistance, which attracted a lot of opposition. By Nov 1929 he had lost the support of the Reichstag, and became Foreign Secretary instead of Chancellor.    **The economy**  The Dawes Plan did not reduce the total amount that Germany had to pay in Reparations.  German Nationalists opposed the Dawes Plan because it gave the Allies partial control over Germany’s railways and the German state bank.  The economy depended on US loans**.** Problems in the USA would cause massive problems in Germany. This proved disastrous after the Wall Street Crash.  Unemployment remained a serious problem and never fell below 1 million. From 1928, it began to rise.  Growth in industry began to slow down after 1927.  Wealth and economic power was not equally distributed. Farmers lost out due falling food prices. By 1929 farm workers earned half the national average. National income from agriculture dropped between 1925-29.  Rich people in Germany had to pay high taxes, which they claimed stifled growth.    **Foreign policy**  The Treaty of Versailles still stood.  The Locarno Treaties were an acceptance of the borders established at Versailles, so was seem by many in Germany as accepting a weakened and reduced Germany.  Germany still had no Empire which, at this point was key to a country’s identity as a Great Power.    **Political problems**  The basic problems of the Constitution remained; because of Proportional Representation no one party could secure a majority in the Reichstag, so the governments were formed by coalitions of different political parties. These were weakened through differences and divisions over policies.  Nationalists opposed Stresemann’s economic policies. There were also still extremist groups like the Nazis and Communists, who wished to overthrow the Weimar Republic.  Hindenburg, the President, was no a supporter of the new republic and democratic ideas. |

**Activity 4 : Answer the following question.** How far did the Weimar Republic recover from the economic crisis of 1923 in the Stresemann years 1924-29? A lot? A little? Not at all?

* There is evidence of some recovery during the Stresemann years 1924-29. For example..
* However it also true that there remained underlying political and economic problems. For example..

**Activity 5:** **Back to the concept map!**

Complete section 4 of concept map, select 4 pieces of information. Underline the key words

**Activity 6 : Economic crisis 2! The Great Depression 1929-32**

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| In 1929 share prices fell disastrously on the New York stock exchange (Wall St). The value of shares fell after a few days of wild speculation. This began a worldwide decline in trade and economic depression and US businesses and Banks were in significant financial difficulty. |
| American banks ended their loans to German businesses and recalled loans already made. |
| As global trade declined, German exports fell and industry suffered. Many German businesses that had borrowed money went bankrupt, failed and workers lost their jobs. |
| This led to a dramatic rise in unemployment. By 1932 6 million were out of work. Many Germans felt that the government were to blame because they let the economy become dependant on the USA. |
| The German government initially increased taxes on businesses, to help them pay benefits to the unemployed. |
| Many Germans turned to support extremist parties, such as the Nazis and Communists, both of whom criticised the approaches of the Weimar Government. |
| The Centre and SDP Parties were in a coalition government. They disagreed on which policies to use to tackle the Depression. The SDP left the coalition government. Leaving the Centre Party’s leader as Chancellor, without a majority in the Reichstag |
| In late 1932, Bruning’s government introduced laws to cut unemployment benefit, raised taxes and reduced wages, to try to deal with the Depression, which increase suffering. |
| Bruning asked President Hindenburg to use Article 48, with the emergency of the Depression, so laws could be passed without the Reichstag |

**Activity 7 : The impact of the Depression on different groups of people.**

Consider the likely attitude of each group towards the government, given the impact of the Depression.

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| --- | --- |
| **Social group** | **Effects and Impact of the Great Depression** |
| Screen Shot 2014-06-09 at 07.22.06.png**Business** | The effects of the Great Depression were very negative. Businesses were forced to close and taxes were raised to help unemployment.  Attitude to government: |
| Screen Shot 2014-06-09 at 07.23.05.png**Youth** | The effects of the Great Depression were very negative. They were badly hit by unemployment. By the end of 1932 50% of all 16-30 year old could not get a job, including 60% of graduates.    Attitude to government: |
| Screen Shot 2014-06-09 at 07.23.25.png**Workers** | The effects of the Great Depression were very negative. Many German workers and farm labourers lost their jobs. By 1932, 3 million were out of work, including 40% of factory workers.    Attitude to government: |

**Activity 8 : Back to the concept map.**Complete s. 5 of concept map, selecting 4 pieces of information

Focus 3: How important was Hitler in the rise of the Nazis?

**Activity 1: Who was Adolf Hitler?** Color code his positive and negative experiences.

|  |  |  |
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| Birth  Hitler was born in Braunau, Austria in 1889. He hated his father, who died when Hitler was 13. He loved and worshipped his mother. However she died when he was 18. | Education  He spent 5 years at primary school, followed by 4 years at middle school, which he hated. He did not do well at school. He described his teachers as ‘absolute tyrants.’ They had no sympathy with youth.’ He left school with no qualifications. | Vienna  In 1907 he failed the entrance exams to the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts. He soon ran out of money and was forced to live in a homeless hostel, raising money by selling hand painted postcards. It was in Vienna when he first developed his hatred of Jews. |
| Munich  In 1913, he moved to Munich because of the high numbers of Jews in Vienna. He also moved to avoid arrest for failing to register for National Service between 1909 and 1912. | images.jpg | Soldier  In Feb 1914 he tried to join the army, in Vienna, but was found unfit. Once WWI began, he managed to join. He was a good soldier who won medals for bravery. His officers noticed that he was an effective speaker and gave him a job for after the war. |

**Activity 2: How did Adolf Hitler become leader of the German Workers’ Party? Colour code then boxes into: Motivation, Chance, Appeal of the Party and Hitler’s strengths.**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Experiences in WWI  During the War he had a very positive experience of being part of the Army. It strengthened his patriotism. He was very angry when Germany surrendered and blamed the government and the Jews for letting down the army. | Army Opportunity  The army gave him a job after the War checking on extremist groups. One group he was sent to check on was the German Workers’ Party. He liked what they stood for and joined them, becoming member number 7. | Appeal of Ideology  He joined the party because he was interested in their ideas. Its leader, Drexler, opposed the Treaty of Versailles and represented strong Nationalist ideas, as well as being interested in the needs of workers. |
| Achievements  In February 1920 Hitler was put in charge of propaganda. He attracted 2,00 people to a meeting that month. He successfully led the meeting, launching the new name and his 25 point programme. | images.jpg | Skills  Hitler showed a real talent for public speaking. He also realised that the media was an effective means of attracting support. |

**Activity 3 : The Nazi Party ideas** By February 1920 Hitler helped draft the party’s 25 point programme.

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| --- | --- |
| Values/ideology | Examples from the Programme |
| Nationalist- Pride in Nation and belief it should be powerful. | \*We demand the union of all Germans.to form a Greater Germany. \*We demand…the abolition of the Treaty of Versailles |
| Racist/Anti-Semitic – Viewing Germans as superior/ Hatred of Jews. | \*Only members of the nation may be citizens of the state…none but those of German blood. \*The right of voting is only to be enjoyed by citizens of the State. |
| Socialist/Anti-Capitalist – emphasis on collective needs, not individuals. | \*We demand the nationalisation of all businesses. \*Abolition of incomes unearned by work. |
| Opposed to Parliamentary Democracy. | \*We demand that there shall be a strong central power of the Reich. |

**Activity 4: The development of the Nazi Party in the wider political and economic context 1919-1932.** Read through the grid. Consider: when the economy was most and least stable, when the Weimar government seemed most and least secure, when the Nazis were most successful. Label the boxes.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The Economy | Economic problems due to War costs Versailles Treaty said Germany had to pay reparations for war damages to the winning countries and land where industry and agriculture could make Germany money was taken from them. | 1921 reparations were set at £6,600 million. 1923 Germany failed to pay, so France invaded the Ruhr to confiscate goods. The German reaction of passive resistance worsened money problems, so they printed more banknotes. This led to hyperinflation. | Relative economic recovery ‘The Golden Age’. Chancellor Stresemann launched new currency & negotiated US loans (Dawes Plan 1924). Industrial production & exports increased. However, some groups suffered economically, like farmers. Big divide between rich & poor. | The economy faced huge problems following the Wall St Crash. The USA recalled their loans and Germany entered into a terrible Depression. Businesses closed and unemployment rose to 6 million by 1932. |
| Position of Weimar Government | Weimar constitution had weaknesses; weak coalition governments due to proportional representation. Some support for new democratic political system, but people not used to democracy. Some wanted a strong leader like the Kaiser. Opposition; Left –Spartacists 1919 & Right – Kapp Putsch 1920. | The government responded by abandoning passive resistance. Opposition to the government grew, especially from the right. The Munich Beer Hall putsch was the third attempt to over throw the government (this time from the Nazis). The government used the police and the army to restore order and control. | Support for government increased. No attempted take-overs by extremists and the coalition governments worked fairly well with few disagreements. However, there were still parties through this period, who wished to get rid of the democratic political system completely. Even the President Hindenburg (from 1925) didn’t believe in democracy. | Opposition to the government was massive, as didn’t seem to be able to solve economic crises. Coalition government split over what to do. In elections support for extremist parties (Nazis & Communists) rose dramatically. Hindenburg desperate to hold on to power so decided to let Hitler be Chancellor. |
| Position of the Nazis | The Nazi party was set up in 1919 and was small and insignificant at the start. They launched their programme in 1920. Hitler designed Nazi symbol & worked on propaganda. | By 1923 support for extremist parties, including the Nazis, had increased. Support came from those suffering from hyperinflation, such as pensioners & those with savings. However, the Nazi party was still small. The Putsch failed due to poor planning, low support & an effective response by the authorities. Hitler was imprisoned. | Nazis revamped themselves after Hitler’s release. Hitler wrote Mein Kampf, setting out ideas & beliefs. Shifted methods, from illegal attempts to overthrow the government, to legal campaigning to gain power through electoral system, using propaganda. But levels of support remained fairly low.1928 abandoned their socialist policies to appeal to businessmen. | Dramatic rise in support for Nazis. Promised to sort out economic problems and propaganda to gain votes. By 1932 were the biggest party in Reichstag, but still didn’t have majority. (37%). After failing to win Presidential elections, Hitler demanded to be Chancellor. Hindenburg refused, but used secret deal making with Von Papen to get Hindenburg to agree. |
| Dates | 1918-1920 | 1923 | 1924-1928 | 1929-1932 |

**Activity 5: How was the Nazi Party reorganised 1924-28?**

a) Look carefully at the diagram on the reorganisation of the Nazi Party. Colour code the text under these three areas: 1) Tactics and policies 2) Leadership of the party 3) Nazi organisations. There may be more than one in a box.

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| Bamberg Conference  Hitler called a Party meeting at Bamberg in Bavaria in 1926, when it appeared that his leadership was threatened by Gregor Strasser and Josef Goebbels. They wanted the Party to become more socialist, as its early policies had been. Hitler opposed this. He got party members attending the meeting to support him and confirm his leadership. He made Goebbels one of his closest henchmen. | Mein Kampf  Hitler wrote this book in jail. It was published in 1925. Because of the publicity from Hitler’s trial it became a best seller. In it Hitler articulated all his ideas and beliefs, which would come to underpin Nazi policy, including Anti-Semitic ideas and the importance of a strong leader to lead Germany to greatness. |
| New Rallies  From 1926 the Nazis began to use military-style parades as a means of attracting support. The first was a Nazi Party rally in Weimar. | The SA  This organisation was strengthened with more young men encouraged to join. It grew in size. The image of the organisation was changed, placing emphasis on discipline and order rather than violence and intimidation. |
| Change in agricultural policy  From 1928 the Nazis focused much more on winning support in agricultural areas. This was because of the Depression, which had affected farming and prices and made farmers particularly frustrated with the Weimar government and looking for an alternative. | Propaganda  Goebbels was responsible for overseeing Party Propaganda. He ensured that skilfully designed posters were produced and also used newspapers to put across Nazi ideals. He found that their anti-Jewish message had most appeal with the working classes, so increase anti-Semitic propaganda. |
| Group Organisations  These were set up to appeal to certain interest groups, including the Nazi Students’ League, the Teachers’ League and the Women’s League. The Nazi youth movement was organised to appeal to the young. | Structures for leadership  Hitler re-structured the Party to make it more efficient. He created a national headquarters in Munich centrally controlling finance & membership. Branches of the Party, Gaus, were set up all over Germany, under the control of Party Officials known as Gauleiter. |

b) Use the information on this diagram to respond to the following question:

Describe three key features of the Nazi Party reorganisation 1924-28.

One key feature of the Nazi party reorganisation was the development of policies and tactics. For example...This…

Another key feature of the Nazi party reorganisation was the development of party leadership. For example...This …

Another key feature of the Nazi party reorganisation was the development of Nazi organisations. For example… This…

**Activity 6: Why did some groups support the Nazis 1920-28?**

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| **Social group** | **Possible Reasons for supporting the Nazis** |
| Screen Shot 2014-06-09 at 07.22.48.png**Middle Class** | Groups such as master-craftsmen, clerks and merchants who lost out in 1923 due to Hyperinflation. They also felt that their livelihoods were threatened by Communism. |
| Screen Shot 2014-06-09 at 07.23.05.png**Youth** | They were inspired by Hitler and, if ex-soldiers, hated the Weimar Regime and Nazi ideas like getting rid of the Treaty of Versailles. They blamed the Weimar Government for lack of work. |
| Screen Shot 2014-06-09 at 07.23.25.png**Farmers/skilled workers** | Farmers were badly affected by falling food prices in the mid-1920s. The onset of the Depression in Agriculture from 1927 worsened this. Skilled workers such as plumbers and electricians were worried about Communism and the risk to their status. |

**Activity 7: How did support for the Nazis change over time?**

**1924 32 seats \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

This strong start was partly due to Hitler’s trial and concerns over the recent Hyperinflation crisis and political instability. Some of their support came from frustration with Stresemann’s solutions to the crisis (stopping passive resistance and repaying reparations).

**1928 12 seats \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

This drop was due to the period of recovery under Stresemann and a greater confidence in the democratic system.

**1930 107 seats \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

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This was due to the impact of the Wall Street Crash. Unemployment reached 4 million by 1930. There were also political issues with the split of the coalition government. Increasing support for the Communists amongst the working classes scared the middle classes who feared revolution.

**1932 230 seats \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

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The Nazis became the largest party in the Reichstag. Increased support was due to the worsening effects of the depression. Unemployment stood at 6 million. The Nazis skilfully exploited the depression using clever propaganda and by the appeal of Hitler and Nazi organisation and by presenting appealing policies.

**Activity 8: Why was there increased support for the Nazi Party 1929-32?**.

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| **The Nazis’ impressive image**  **Appeal of Hitler**  Posters and rallies presented Hitler as a ‘superman’. He wore glasses to read, but refused to wear them in public, as he saw them as a sign of weakness. He was a powerful speaker who used gestures and repetition to hammer home his message.    **Nazi Organisation**  The SA helped to attract supporters to the Party, drawn by the smart uniform, impression of strength discipline and sense of belonging. This appealed to the unemployed who lacked purpose and hope. The SA processions made the Nazis appear organised and powerful, as a party. The SA were also used to intimidate any opposition. They frequently attacked Communist meetings. | **Nazi Policies**  Hitler focused on promises to solve the economic crisis. Hitler provided scapegoats to blame for these problems (the Weimar Government, Jews and Communists). He revived the ‘stab in the back’ theory, claiming current problems were due to the unnecessary German surrender in WWI and the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler promised to unite all Germans and make Germany rich and powerful again. They were flexible in their policies. They dropped the socialist element of nationalisation from their policies to attract support from businessmen. | **Propaganda**  Posters targeted different audiences and were timed to have maximum impact. Their messages were clear but simple.  The Nazis produced 8 different newspapers, including Der Sturmer and Volkisher Beobachter. Each paper had its own character, designed to appeal to a particular group. Alfred Hugenburg also let the Nazis promote themselves through his massive media empire.  Rallies were organised on a huge scale with thousands of uniformed Nazis parading. The rallies culminated in speeches given by Hitler. Goebbels used chartered planes to fly Hitler across Germany, enabling him to speak at 4 or 5 rallies per day. Smaller parades and marches were organised locally, providing entertainment, concerts and sporting events to capture support. |
| **Great Depression**  The economic effects of the Wall Street Crash, with the recalling of US loans, was devastating for Germany. Unemployment reached 6 million, as banks recalled loans and businesses failed due to lack of finance and the drop in world trade. The political effects of the depression were profound. The coalition government split and President Hindenburg and Chancellor Bruning resorted to ruling undemocratically by using Article 48’s Emergency Powers.  Instead of printing more money, like in the hyperinflation crisis, the Chancellor raised taxes, which infuriated businessmen. He reduced wages and made cuts to unemployment benefit, which angered the poor. | **Weaknesses of Weimar Government**  There were fundamental weaknesses of the Weimar Constitution. Proportional Representation resulted in coalition governments in which there could be internal disagreement, making them unstable, particularly when faced with the significant crisis of the Great Depression. The leaders of the Coalition parties (Centre and SDP) disagreed over unemployment benefits. The coalition broke and the President resorted to using Article 48 to manage the country without new laws having to go through the Reichstag. Bruning, the Chancellor, increased taxes to cope, which was unpopular. More and more people moved to supporting the extremist parties. Political violence erupted on the streets, with fighting between the Nazis and Communists. | **Fear of Communism**  With the problems of the depression people becoming disillusioned with the central parties. Some people turned to the Communists and the party grew to having 100 seats in the Reichstag by Nov 1932. The Communists blamed the problems on the capitalist system and insisted that only a communist government with nationalised industries could respond to the needs of the German people.  During the elections of 1932 500 were killed or seriously wounded in 7 weeks of political fighting. This violence scared many Germans. Those who earned a living through business, such as shopkeepers, farmers and businessmen, were also very fearful of the possibility of a Communist Revolution. This was because it could mean a loss of their livelihood. |

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**Activity 9: Who supported the Nazis 1929-32?**

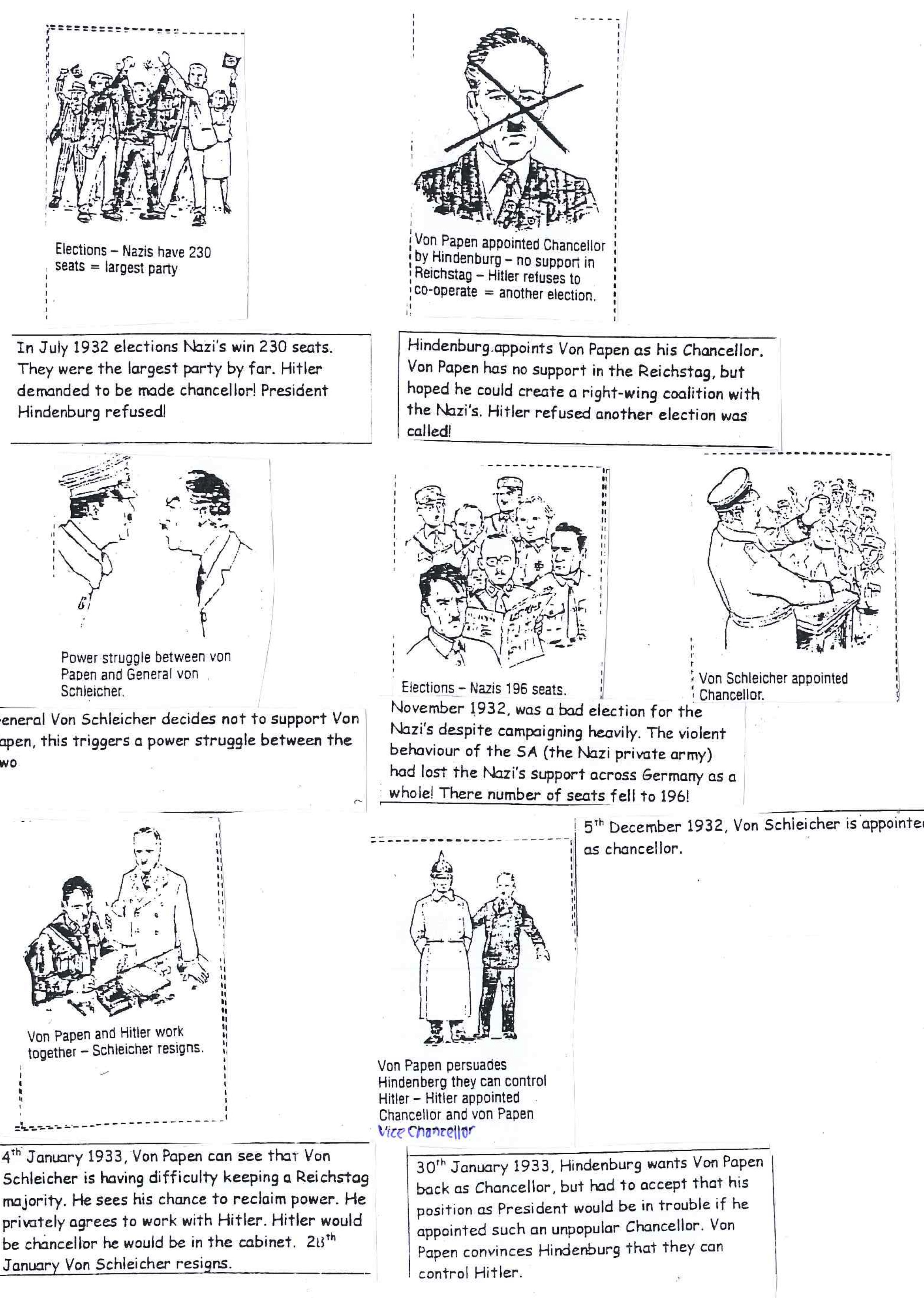
Colour Code: 1) Positive appeal of the Nazis 2) Negative reactions to alternatives (negative cohesion).

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| **Social group** | **Why did they support the Nazis?** |
| 1 The countryside | It was in the rural areas of Germany that Nazism first became popular in the 1920s. Agricultural prices slumped even further after the Wall Street Crash. The Nazis promised to defend farmers’ lands from the collectivisation of the communists. |
| 2 The upper classes | These were wealthy landowners or business people who felt especially threatened by the possibility of a communist takeover. The Nazis, with their promises to destroy communism and support big business, were the lesser of two evils. As early as 1929 Alfred Hugenburg, leader of the German Nationalist Party and a wealthy newspaper owner, worked with Hitler in attacking the Young Plan. He gave the Nazis access to his media empire, especially his cinemas. Big business gave funds to support the Nazi Party. |
| 3 The middle classes | The middle classes of shopkeepers, civil servants, professionals and teachers were afraid of communism on the one side and big businesses on the other. The Nazis promised to protect them from both. They were also alarmed at increasing disorder and violence and were impressed by the discipline of the SA. |
| 4 The working classes | Workers in the cities did not vote for the Nazis in large numbers, preferring the communists. However, outside the big cities most workers worked for small family firms. They did not belong to unions and were attracted by Hitler’s promises of more rights for working people and better jobs. |
| 5 The young | Many strong supporters were young people. Over 40 per cent of those that joined before 1933 had been born between 1904 and 1913. They were attracted by Nazi ideals, the discipline of the SA and the promise of employment. |
| 6 Women | Hitler was keen to win the votes of women and they were especially targeted in Nazi poster campaigns. He promised to make the family more important and give women a special place in their role as mothers and wives. |

**Activity 10: Political developments and manoeuvrings 1932-33**  *Further Research p48-49.*

You have been given a story-board that illustrate events between July 1932 and January 1933.

Add dates/notes to the storyboard, explaining how events contributed to Hitler becoming chancellor.



**Activity 11: Back to the Concept map** Complete sections 6, 7 and 8 of your concept map, selecting your 4 pieces of information carefully. Underline the key words in an appropriate colour.