



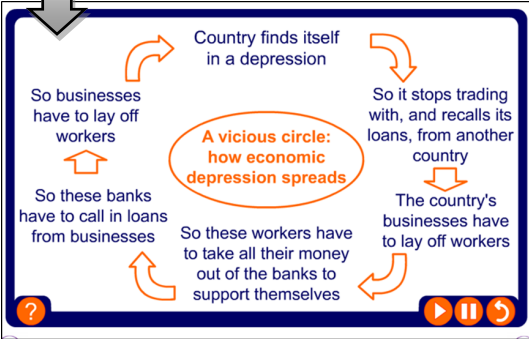
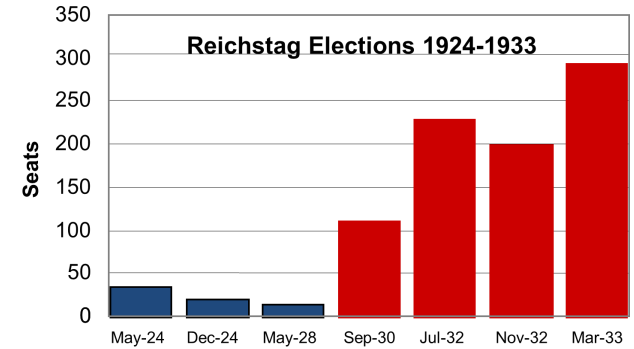
In October 1929 the Wall Street Crash hit the USA terribly. The US government faced with a lack of funds called back all the loans they'd made to other nations—including the

Year 11 History

Economic Consequences

- America could no longer afford to trade with Germany and so stopped buying German goods such as cars, electrical equipment and clothing. Many German factories had to stop trading and so many German workers lost their jobs.
- US banks demanded the money back that they had loaned Germany under the Dawes Plan. German banks requested this money back from German businesses and so many more business-

A graph showing the rise in support for the Nazi Party both before and after the Great Depression (1929)

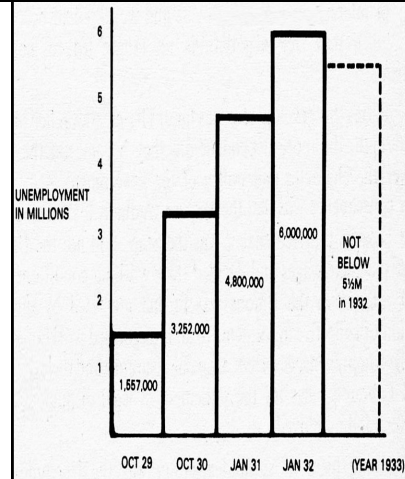


- ### Reasons for the growth of the Nazi Party
- 1) By 1932 unemployment stood at 6 million. The Nazis promised to create jobs if voted into power.
 - 2) Hitler appealed to a lot of people. His powerful speeches filled people with hope, he promised to make Germany a great nation again.
 - 3) Weimar politicians couldn't agree on how to help the poor, they were even forced into cutting people's state support (dole). People felt that the democratic system wasn't working.

Political Consequences

- America could no longer afford to trade with Germany and so stopped. People started to listen to different extreme political parties (like the left wing Communists and the right wing Nazis) Both parties promised radical solutions by removing the Weimar government from power and introducing different ways of improving people's lives.
- In the 1930 election the Communists increased their number of seats in the Reichstag to 77 (from 54) Nazi support increased from 12 seats (in 1928) to 107 seats.

A graph detailing the rise in German unemployment from the time of the Great Depression. By 1932 there were 6 million



- ### Social Consequences
- Many people were forced into living on the streets—they were jobless, hungry and angry at the leaders of the Weimar Republic who they blamed for all their problems.

Women in 1920's (Weimar) Germany

In the 1920's German women could vote (before many other European nations)

Many women attended universities and became doctors and lawyers.

If they worked for the government their pay was equal to men.

The birth rate fell as more women worked. In 1933 the birth rate had dropped to 1 million births per year.

Kinder (Children)

Contraception and abortion were banned. The Nazis expected women to dedicate their lives to having as many children as possible. To encourage them medals were awarded for the numbers of children women had (the Motherhood Medal) - 8 children would

Kuche (Kitchen)

Many female doctors, teacher, lawyers and judges were sacked and replaced by men. It was viewed as more acceptable for a woman to stay at home and concentrate on running the home as a housewife.

The German Women's League travelled around to speak at women's groups giving advice on cooking, childcare and diet.



Women in 1930's (Nazi) Germany

Kirche (Church)

Women were expected to marry and stay married. Marriage loans were offered to Aryan couples by the Nazis to pay for weddings. On the birth of a first child they could keep a quarter of the money, four children and it would all be paid off. Smoking, wearing trousers or high heels was frowned upon. Slimming was discouraged as it might make it harder to get pregnant.

Economic Problems of the Weimar Republic

Reparations (1921)

As part of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was ordered to pay back reparations (for damages caused by the war):

- In 1921 the figure was set at **£6.6 billion** to be paid in yearly instalments for the next **66 years**.
- Later that year the government scraped enough money together to make

Occupation of the Ruhr (1922)

- In 1922 when the next reparations payment was due, the Germans announced that they couldn't make the payment!
- The **French and Belgians** didn't believe them and decided to take what they were owed by force.
- In Jan 1923, **60,000 French and Belgian soldiers** marched into **the Ruhr** (one of the richest industrial areas of Germany). They **took control of every factory, mine and railway in the region**. They intended to take

Hyperinflation (1923)

- The German government ordered its workers in the Ruhr to go on **strike** in order to not work for the French and Belgian soldiers to produce the goods that they would take away. This was known as **passive resistance**. **The German government continued to pay those workers on strike.**
- After running short of money **the German government printed large amounts of money** in order to pay the striking workers and to pay the money they owed France and Belgium. This started to cause problems: **as workers spent money in shops, shopkeepers began to put up prices.**
- The German government printed even more money to help workers buy products, so shops raised their prices again.



Why did many German people hate the Weimar Republic?

1) **Proportional Representation**—Political parties were awarded the number of seats in the Reichstag in relation to the percentage of votes won. This made it difficult for one party to win a majority. In all the time it existed the Weimar Republic was made up of coalition governments made up of a mixture of different parties.

2) **Article 48**—This was a clause in the Weimar constitution which meant that laws could be passed by the President only instead of going through the Reichstag. This was only meant to be used in a time of crisis but could be misused.

3) The politicians who made up the new government were known as the **'November Criminals'** by many people due to their involvement in signing the armistice in November 1918 which ended WWI in defeat for Germany. They were never forgiven for this.

Losers - People with bank savings
Winners - Business owners who had

were the biggest losers. 1000 marks in the bank might take a lifetime to save for. After hyperinflation it wouldn't buy a loaf of bread!

- Elderly people who lived on fixed pensions found their income would no longer buy them what they needed.

- Many small businesses collapsed as normal trade became impossible as people found they had less to spend.

borrowed money found it was easy to pay off their debts.

- Wealthy businessmen were able to buy out other businesses at a fraction of the cost. Making more profit for themselves in the long run.

Political Problems of the Weimar Republic

The Kapp Putsch (1920)

When—March, 1920 a right wing supporting politician Wolfgang **Kapp** gathered around 5000 men, mainly ex soldiers and took over the capital, Berlin.

Why—Kapp was angry at the fact that the Weimar government no longer needed support from his right wing group, the **Freikorps (Free Corps)**. The Freikorps were used by the government to attack (and kill) Communist supporters.

What happened—The Weimar government fled Berlin but **Kapp didn't have the support of the workers** who went on strike

Red Rising in the Ruhr (1920)

When—March 1920—after the Kapp Putsch, **left wing workers** (Communist supporters) in an industrial area of Germany called the Ruhr, stayed on strike.

What happened—They **took over several towns** in the region forcing the ruling authorities to flee.

Result—The government sent soldiers and some loyal Freikorps

The Munich Putsch (1923)

When—November 1923, **Hitler and the Nazis tried to seize control of the Bavarian government** in southern Germany.

Why—Hitler promised to overturn the Treaty of Versailles, destroy communism and restore Germany to greatness.

How—**He planned on capturing Munich and marching to Berlin.** The Nazis had forced a key Bavarian politician, von Kahr to support their plans at gunpoint, as soon as von Kahr was released he told the authorities of Hitler's plans.

What happened—As Hitler and about 2000 supporters marched through Munich they were met by armed police. **Three policemen and 16 Nazis died** in a short gun