**1919** – 41 women were elected to the Reichstag – no political party had female leader

**April 1922** – Treaty of Rapallo organised by Walther Rathenau with Russia

**1923**

* 233 companies bankrupt
* **August**– Height of hyperinflation crisis – government of Cuno collapsed – was replaced by a new coalition led by Gustav Stresemann
* ‘great coalition’ first in Weimar history to include parties from both the left and the right
* Stresemann’s party the DVP shared power with the Centre Party, the Socialists and the DDP
* **September**– Passive resistance called off
* **November**– New currency called Rentenmark introduced to replace the old and worthless Reichsmark – one Rentenmark for one trillion Reichsmarks – was supported by a mortgage on all industrial land – insufficient gold reserves to back new currency.
* **November**– Stresemann asked Allies Reparations Committee to set up committee of financial experts to address Germany’s repayment concerns
* After 1923 government made it easier for farmers to borrow money – made matters worse as farmers became saddled with debt
* **1923 - 1929** – Gustav Stresemann was foreign minister.
* **November 1923 – March 1930** – There were 7 coalition cabinets

**1924**

* **April**– Dawes plan finalised – Stresemann’s government had fallen – he remained as foreign secretary – took credit for what happened
* Amount paid each year should be reduced until 1929
* Germany would receive large loan of 800 million marks from USA to help get plan started
* **May**– Over 61% voted pro-republican parties – Nazis won 6.5%
* **July**– Dawes plan agreed and accepted by both Germany and the Allies

* **August**– Rentenmark became Reichsmark – backed by German gold reserve – under direction of Hjalmar Schacht
* 300,000 civil servants lost their jobs
* Increased taxes for both individuals and companies
* **December**– 67% voted pro-republican parties – Nazis won 3%
* 2 elections
* Over 6000 companies bankrupt
* Wages began to increase
* New schemes of relief were launched – money spent on welfare payments and health improvements
* The Public Assistance system which provided help to poor and destitute – was modernised
* **1924 – 1925** – French gradually left the Ruhr once it became clear that Germany was going to restart paying reparations – occupation no longer justified
* **1924 – 1928** – Number of strikes in German industry declined – partly because of new system of compulsory arbitration for settling industrial disputes
* **1924 – 1928** – SPD remained single largest party in the Reichstag

**1925**

* **January**– Conservative right-wing DNVP joined a Reich coalition government for the first time
* **28th February**– Ebert, the first President of the Weimar Republic
* **October 1925** – European powers met at Locarno – discussions led to Rhineland Pact and Arbitration Treaties – known collectively as Locarno pact
* Stresemann regarded Locarno as his greatest achievement – he was rewarded by Germany’s acceptance into the League of Nations as a permanent member of the council
* He was also awarded the Nobel peace prize in 1926
* The Locarno Pact
* Onwards presidential power was in the hands of a man who did not believe in democracy – was not prepared and was not prepared to defend it against its enemies – ruled by decree on routine basis
* Germany appeared more stable and prosperous – combination of new currency, Dawes plan and Schacht’s work at Reichbank to keep interest rates high to attract foreign investment – helped improve situation
* 178,930 dwellings were built
* The State insurance system to help those injured at work – extended to cover those suffering from occupational diseases
* 36% of German workforce were women
* Barmat scandal – Jewish businessmen – brothers convicted of bribing public officials for loans – sentenced to 11 months
* Hindenburg, a staunch opponent of the republic, was elected as its president
* By end of 1925 unemployment had reached one million
* **1925 – 1926** – Plight of German farmers worsened due to global grain surplus and price slump.
* **1925– 1926** – 17% of the unemployed were in the 14-21 age group – due to baby boom in 1900 and 1910
* Weimar Republic introduced elementary schools which all children would attend for first 4 years of education – those who failed entry exam to gymnasium schools would continue at elementary schools for a further 4 years
* 80% of Jews lived in cities and were well educated
* Jews accounted to 1% of the population but achieved a degree of influence out of all proportion to their numbers
* Jewish banking families owned about 50% of private banks – Jewish directors also managed several major public banks
* Banks owned by Jews made up 18% of the banking sector in Germany
* Jews owned almost half the firms involved in cloth trade
* Jews were successful in law and medicine making up 16% of lawyers and 11% of doctors
* 9 out of 38 Nobel prizes were awarded to Jews up to 1938
* **1922 – 1925** – Mining company reduced workforce by 136,000

**1926**

* **March**– Unemployment was over 3 million
* **April 1926** – Germany and the USSR renewed their earlier treaty in the Treaty of Berlin – added very little to original treaty except for the agreement that Germany would remain neutral if the USSR were to be involved in a war as long as the USSR was not the aggressor
* In order to ensure compliance with the treaty, allied forces occupied the Rhineland and an Inter-Allied Control Commission was established in Germany to monitor disarmament
* Germany allowed to build submarines in Spain
* Tanks and artillery in Sweden
* New fortifications built along Polish frontier
* Army sponsored number of paramilitary groups
* Secret armament was a policy driven by army commanders such as von Seeckt but was tactically approved by the politicians
* There were to be 205,793 more new homes – 70,000 more than previous year
* Cabinet of Luther collapsed after a dispute of flags
* Occupation forces were withdrawn from zone 1 of the Rhineland – Allies also withdraw the IMCC from Germany in the same year

**1927**

* Real wages increased by 9%
* A national unemployment insurance system was introduced to provide benefits to the unemployed – it was financed by contributions from workers and employers

**1928**

* **June**– Grand coalition led by Muller established – longest lived coalition of Weimar era – remaining in office until
* Increased by a further 12%
* Farmers initiated a series of small-scale riots – known as ‘farmers revenge’ – in protest against foreclosures and low market prices
* Support for extremist and anti-republican parties declined further – Nazis won 2.6%
* Decision to broaden Nazis appeal – Nazis began to concentrate efforts in rural areas
* In elections Nazis did badly losing 100,000 voters
* **1928** – Germany also signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact with France and the USA
* international agreement under which states would agree voluntarily to renounce the of offensive wars to resolve disputes – international agreement to avoid war
* **1928 – 1929** – Economy shrank

**1929**

* **October**– Nazi party’s membership grew to 150,000 – party took control of its first town council
* Investment in new machinery was falling
* German agricultural production was at less than three quarters of its pre-war levels
* **1929** – International committee met and produced a report on the final reparations’ settlement
* Young plan obliged Germany to continue paying reparations until 1988
* Total of reparations considerably reduced to £1.8 billion – annual payment increased
* Occupation forces withdrawn from Zone 2

**1930**

* **March**– however it was not until 1929 that the parties involved agreed on government policies – ongoing disputes – government only survived because of strong working relationship between Stresemann and Muller
* **June**– By June 1930 Britain and France agreed to withdraw all their troops from Rhineland – all foreign control over reparations ended – responsibility placed solely on German government
* New leader of right-wing DNVP Hugenberg, launched nationwide campaign against the plan – ‘freedom law’ – 13.8% of the population voted for it
* By 1930 estimated 1 million abortions a year
* 10 – 12,000 deaths from abortion each year – performed by unqualified people
* Decline in birth rate attacked by conservative politicians as ‘birth strike’ – threatened health of nation
* More than half the doctors in Berlin were Jews
* Occupation forces withdrawn from Zone 3 – 5 years ahead of schedule laid down in Versailles

**1933**

* 100,000 women teachers and 3000 women doctors
* ‘demobilisation’ laws after the war required women to leave their jobs so that ex-soldiers could find employment
* Married women who continued to have paid jobs were attacked as ‘double earners’ – blamed for male unemployment
* Campaigns in the press and by conservative politicians for the dismissal of married women workers

**Late 1920s** – Industrial sector wages had drawn level with those of the middle class and in some cases exceeded them

**1920s** – During inflation large landowners borrowed money to buy new machinery and improve farms – smaller peasant farmers who tended to hoard money had their savings wiped out

**Late 1920s** – Increase in bankruptcies amongst farmers as many lost their lands as banks demanded repayment of loans

**1920s** – Most popular group – League of German women – 900,000 members – promoted traditional family values and maternal responsibilities