**1928**

* German economy had been stagnating as investment decreased
* Goebbels became Hitler’s Reich Propaganda Chief
* Some areas of thee cities such as the Wedding district of Berlin, fell under communist control

**1929**

* **24th October** – the New York Stock Exchange experienced its worst ever fall in share prices – ‘Black Thursday’
* **29th October**– the wall street crash
* State budget in serious deficit – unemployment benefits severe strain on state finances – falling tax revenue.
* **1929 – 1932** – Germany’s export trade declined by 61% - industrial production fell by 58% of its 1928 level

**1930**

* **March**– collapse of Muller’s grand coalition government
* **March**– Muller resigned – left wanted to protect benefit and raise taxes – right wanted to reduce unemployment benefit
* **March 1930** – Bruning appointed as Chancellor – leader of Centre Party – Hindenburg’s decision to appoint him heavily influenced by 2 military officers – General Groaner and General Schleicher
* Brunings coalition excluded the SPD – the largest party in the Reichstag
* His government did not have enough support in the Reichstag to pass laws
* **March 1930** – after March 1930 no government had majority support in the Reichstag and governments had to rely on ruling by presidential decree
* **September 1930** – Nazi party increased from 12 to 107 seats – became second largest party in Reichstag – 2 out of 5 voters gave their support to anti-democratic parties.
* Moves to limit the amount of benefit being paid
* **September 1930** – Reichstag election – major gains by Nazis and Communists
* **October 1930 and June 1932** – two waves of strikes for higher wages – due to emergency labour schemes – unemployed youths were required to undertake manual labour – receiving wages below legal minimum

**1931**

* **April**– in small town of Brand-Erbisdorff – centre for glass-making – after local glassworks had closed – half the population was receiving welfare payments
* **May**– Collapse of Austrian bank – German banking system plunged into crisis
* **July**– government closed the banks and the stock exchange for two days to provide the financial system with some breathing space
* **July**– Financial crisis in Germany
* **December**– Bruning issued a decree banning the wearing of political uniforms
* By the end of 1931 violence had become so intense
* **February – October 1931** – Reichstag did not meet at all – after that its sessions became shorter and more infrequent
* Political power had shifted from the Reichstag to the president and his circle of advisers – but also to the streets

**1932**

* **January**– Hitler addressed 650 businessmen and he did not make a single mention of Jews in the whole two-and-a-half-hour speech
* **February**– unemployment in Germany exceeded 6 million for the first time
* **April**– Hindenburg re-elected as President
* **April**– Hindenburg persuaded to sign decree outlawing SA – membership continued to grow – political violence not brought under control
* **April**– Bruning imposed a ban on the Nazi SA
* **April**– although Bruning imposed a ban on the SA in an attempt to stop street violence – the political situation continued to deteriorate and Schleicher withdrew his support – he was concerned it would provoke a Nazi uprising – also came to conclusion that no government could rule without support of Nazi Party
* **May**– Bruning was forced to resign as Chancellor and replaced by Papen
* **May**– Bruning resigns – replaced by Papen as Chancellor
* **May**– the fall of Bruning’s government
* **May**– campaign waged by right-wing parties against the employment of so called ‘double-earners’ achieved some success – law was passed allowing married women civil servants to be dismissed
* Limited to central government employees
* Women could only be dismissed if it could be proved that their economic circumstances were secure
* After law was passed Reich Postal Service dismissed 1000 married women from its employment
* **June**– Papen lifted ban on SA and imposed curbs on left wing press
* Resulted in new wave of street violence – especially during election campaign of July 1932
* Gave Papen an excuse to impose authoritarian rule in Germany’s largest state Prussia
* **July**– Papen declared a state of emergency in Prussia and dismissed the SPD led government
* **July**– Reichstag election – Nazis became the largest party
* **July-** election – most moderate parties suffered losses
* Nazis joined with other parties, even communists, to debate a vote of no confidence in Papen’s government which was passed by majority
* **September**– Reichstag passed a vote of no confidence in Papen’s government
* **November**– Reichstag election – Nazis lost votes but still the largest party
* **November**– Nazis lost 2 million voters and 34 seats – still largest party
* Nazis supported a communist led transport strike during election campaign – alienated middle class voters
* **November**– Papen was forced to resign as his government still faced a hostile majority after the election and army refused to support him in imposing authoritarian style of government and bypassing Reichstag
* **December**– Papen was forced to resign and replaced by Schleicher
* **December**– SA was estimated to have 400,000 members
* **May – December**– Papen’s government – Schleicher as defence minister
* **December 1932 – January 1933** – Schleicher convinced Hindenburg to appoint him as Chancellor – wanted the Nazis to join a coalition led by him
* One third of all German workers were registered as unemployed
* President election – Hitler stood up against Hindenburg
* Many people who voted for Nazis did so in spite of anti-Semitism not because of it
* Most Nazi propaganda had little or nothing to do with anti-Semitism – Nazis emphasised previously neglected issues to broaden appeal and widen support.
* More than 50% of the new communist members in 1932 left within a few months, only to be replaced by new recruits
* Nazis were the largest party in the Reichstag
* Gregor Strasser was purged by Hitler

**1933**

* **January**– true employment was about 8 million
* **January**– Hitler and Papen agree to work together in a coalition government – Hitler appointed Chancellor
* **January**– Schleicher resigned as Hindenburg refused to suspend the constitution, dissolve the Reichstag and grant him virtually dictatorial powers
* **January**– Talks between Hitler, Papen and Hindenburg’s inner circle led to a deal in which Hitler would form a coalition government with himself as Chancellor – Papen would be vice Chancellor – Hugenberg would run the Economics and Food Ministries
* **January**– membership of SA – 500,000 – a year later grew to 3 million
* **30th January**– Hitler was appointed Chancellor of new government in coalition where Nazi Party would share power with DNVP and others including von Papen
* **30th January**– Hitler was appointed Chancellor by president Hindenburg – Hitler held his first cabinet – Nazi party had 3 posts out of 12
* Papen was also the Minister-President of Prussia
* **1st February**– Hitler dissolved the Reichstag and called new elections
* **3rd February**– Hitler met with the senior army officers and outlined his plans for rearmament – reassured leaders he would not undermine army’s role as most important institution
* **5th February**– a young Nazi shot dead the mayor of a small town in Prussia – communist was killed in clashes with SA – crimes ignored by the police – SPD newspaper was banned for condemning killings – centre party newspapers also banned.
* Thousands of communists, socialists and trade unionists were rounded up and imprisoned in makeshift concentration camps set up in old factories.
* **20th February**– Hitler met a group of leading industrialists to ask for financial support for the Nazi election campaign and secured donations of three million Reichmarks – Hitler had to stop Nazi attacks on large capitalist enterprises
* Price of agreement between Hitler, army and big businesses was that he had to leave these institutions largely untouched by process of Gleichshaltung
* **27th February**– Reichstag building was set on fire
* **27th February**– Reichstag fire – by Dutch communist – Marinus van der Lubbe – Nazis claimed it was a part of a communist plot to start a revolution against Germany – was used to justify immediate suspension of civil liberties – terror had now become a legal means to crush opposition
* After Reichstag fire, Hitler was able to convince Hindenburg to sign a decree granting him emergency powers – the Decree for the Protection for the People and the State – suspended important civil and political rights guaranteed under the Weimar constitution
* Decree gave power to take over state governments if they refused to act against Nazis political opponents
* Police arrested 10,000 communists in two weeks
* **28th February**– Decree for the Protection of People and the State
* **February**– Stahlhelm and SA were merged and became recognised as ‘auxiliary police’ – activities of SA gained legal authority as a result of Nazis being in power
* Orders were issued to police forces forbidding them from interfering with SA activities
* **5Th March**– Reichstag elections – Nazis won 288 seats – still short of an overall majority
* **5th March**– Reichstag election – even with states resources at their disposal and opponents effectively banned from campaigning – Nazis still did not achieve a majority – with the support of DNVP gained a majority
* **6-7th March**– Nazis began taking over state government
* **8th March**– first permanent concentration camp was established
* **8th March**– first permanent concentration was established at Dachau near Munich with accommodation for over 5000 people
* **13th March**– Ministry for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda establishment
* **23rd March**– Reichstag meeting – Hitler’s sole objective was the passive of the Enabling Act – a law that would allow him to make laws without the approval of the Reichstag and without reference to the President for a period of four years
* **24th March**– Enabling Act was passed – Hitler was also given the power to make treaties with foreign states without the Reichstag’s approval
* **24th March**– Enabling Act passed
* **June**– in Hamburg unemployment rate among males in the 14-25 age group was 39%
* **July**– 26,789 political prisoners had been arrested by the SA or taken into ‘protective custody’ and imprisoned in some 70 camps
* 25-point programme of 1920 still statement of their aims
* **1920** – Nazis first put forward ideas in 25-point programme
* **1929** – After 1929, Hitler sought the support of wealthy businessmen such as Hugenberg and Thyssen – reassured them that a Nazi government would not threaten their interests
* **April 1922** – Hitler in his speech regarded democracy as Jewish
* **1925** – since 1925 the Fuhrerprinzip was the basis which the Nazi party was run as Hitler had supreme control over policy and strategy and the party members became subordinated to his will