**1933**

* **January**– SA was the Nazis main instrument of terror and violence
* **January**– German economy was at its depths of depression with nearly 6 million people out of work
* **January**– after this, union resistance crumbled surprisingly quickly – they were absorbed into the DAF – Nazis emphasised national as opposed to class solidarity
* **24th March** – Enabling Act passed
* **31st March**– 1st Law for the Coordination of the Federal States – dissolved existing Assemblies – replaced them with Nazi dominated assemblies
* **7th April**– Law for the restoration of a professional Civil Service
* **7th April**– Second Law for the Coordination of the Federal States – created new post of Reich Governor to oversee government of each state – responsible for ensuring state governments followed policies laid down by central government
* **April**– merging of various professional association of judges and lawyers with the League of National Socialist Lawyers – creating front for German
* **2nd May**– existing trade unions banned – industrial workers presented as greatest challenge to process of Gleichschaltung
* **6th May**– German Labour Front was established – took over assets of trade unions – became largest organisation – although it replaced trade unions it was not a trade union itself
* **May**– when trade unions were taken over by the DAF – Catholic trade unions voluntarily disbanded
* **22nd June**– SPD outlawed as a ‘party hostile to the nation and the state’
* **27th June**– DNVP disbanded themselves
* **5th July**– Centre Party voluntarily disbanded
* **14th July**– Law against formation of New Parties: Germany was now a one-party state
* **July**– Hitler was able to declare that the Nazi revolution was over and that the process of Gleichshaltung had been completed –
* For Ernst Rohm – the leader of the SA, the Nazi revolution was far from complete
* The SA were determined to continue their violence until a second revolution had been achieved
* Rohm wanted the SA to eventually absorb and replace the national army
* **July**– in the Church elections, the German Christians won a sweeping victory and were now in a position to ‘Nazify’ the Church
* Ludwig Muller was appointed as Reich Bishop and took over the administrative headquarters of the Evangelical church with the help of the SA
* **July**– concordat between regime and Vatican
* **August**– the SA lost their ‘auxiliary police’ status and were subject to stricter regulations over their powers of arrest
* **September**– group of dissident pastors – led by Martin Niemoller and Dietrich Bonhoeffer established a pastor’s emergency league – this evolved into a breakaway church known as the confessional church – 5000 pastors supported
* party members persuaded to renounce their church membership
* party members were not allowed to hold any offices in the protestant or catholic churches
* **12th November**– Reichstag elections – Nazis won 92% of the vote
* **November**– in the election campaign there was only one party hence there was no longer a need for SA violence and intimidation
* SA lacked an official outlet and resented how former conservative opponents of the Nazis were allowed the join the Nazi Party and take important decisions in local and central government
* **November**– all university teachers were made to sign a declaration in support of Hitler and the Nationalist socialist state
* Students were forced to do 4 months labour service and 2 months in a SA camp
* Limit of Gestapo extended to cover the whole country
* SS controlled by Himmler
* SD and intelligence gathering offshoot of the SS
* SA controlled by Rohm
* Gestapo controlled by Goering
* **1933** – 1936 – competition between Himmler, Goering and Rohm for control over the police
* After 1933, the SD’s role was intelligence gathering – important role to monitor public opinion – identify those who voted ‘no’ in plebiscites
* Special courts were set up
* Establishment of the Pastors Emergency League
* Concordat where privileges were granted to the Catholic Church – later came under attack
* By the end of 1933 Nazis had acquired 27 daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 2.4 million a day
* News agencies that supplied the press with information were all merged into a state-controlled organisation – newspapers became bland and conformist
* Hitler made over 50 broadcasts – loud speakers were set up in town squares and factories so that everyone could hear important speeches
* Goebbels’s was personally responsible for approving every film
* Onwards main priority for women was to raise the birth rate – marriage loans – medals – healthy lifestyle – Nationalist socialist women’s organisation – the Reich mother’s service
* German women’s league set up
* In Spring and Summer, the Nazi regime began to ‘coordinate’ the Evangelical Church into a single, centralised Reich Church under Nazi control
* By the end of 1933, the Reich church had been successfully coordinated into the Volksgemeinshaft
* In the summer of 1933, the Nazis began seizing the property of Catholic organisations and forcing them to close
* By the end of 1933, thousands of SPD activists had been murdered or placed into ‘preventive custody’ and the SPD leadership fled into exile
* **1933 and 1934** – as the economy began to revive, foreign trade began to increase, and this led to imports growing faster than exports – this in turn led to a shortage of foreign currencies which were needed to purchase imported goods
* **1933 – 1939** – despite official attempts to hold down money wages, incomes for many workers increased – bonuses and other benefits – to attract skilled workers
* **1933 – 1939** – number of students attending universities decreased as Nazis downgraded importance of academic education

**1934**

* **30th January**– Law for Reconstruction of the Reich – state assemblies abolished – state government formally submitted to government of the Reich
* **January**– combined SA and Stahlhelm membership was 4.5 million – Rohm’s forces vastly outnumbered the army
* **14th February**– Reichsrat abolished – as a result of abolition of state assemblies
* **April**– People’s court set up to run alongside existing court system – set up to deal with professional crimes – 3 Nazi judges alongside 2 professional judges – no juries – defendants had no rights of appeal against their sentences.
* **April**– all radio stations in Germany were brought under the control of the Reich Radio Company, controlled by the propaganda ministry
* **17th June**– Papen made a speech criticising Nazi excesses – it had Hindenburg’s approval – despite Goebbels’s attempt to censor it, it was featured in the press
* Blomberg, again with Hindenburg’s support, threatened to declare martial law and give the army power to deal with the SA – matters came to a head
* **30th June**– ruthless purge of the SA – known as the ‘Night of the Long Knives’ was launched, when the SS, acting on Hitler’s orders eliminated the leadership of the SA and many other political opponents of the Nazis
* At least 84 executed
* 1000 more arrested
* Hitler took opportunity to remove other opponents and settle old scores – Schleicher – Strasser – von Kahr
* **30th June**– Night of the Long Knives
* **30th June**– the leader of the Nazi SA, Ernst Rohm, was executed by two SS officers
* **June**– after the night of the long knives, violence and terror were used more systematically and in a more controlled way
* **13th July**– when Hitler addressed the Reichstag, he accepted full responsibility for the executions – he said he had been compelled to act in order to save the country from and SA coup
* This secured the army’s support
* He also gained support for his decisive actions
* **2nd August**– Death of President Hindenburg – Hitler became president as well as Chancellor and the army swore an oath of allegiance to him
* **2nd August**– Hindenburg died
* **19th August** – Hitler took the title of Fuhrer
* **19th of August** – plebiscite was held to get the German people’s seal of approval on Hitler’s appointment as Fuhrer and Reich Chancellor – 90% of voters approved of the change
* **August**– Schacht the president of the Reichbank, became the Economic Minister
* Nazis wanted to achieve economic autarky
* SA units began stopping army convoys and confiscating weapons and supplies – ambitions of SA and Rohm regarded as serious threat by army leaders
* Himmler’s power strengthened by Knight of the Long Knives
* After 1934, all concentration camps were under SS control – treatment of prisoners became systemised
* Development into the Confessional church – acts of resistance – Aryan paragraph
* Protestants refused to accept being a part of a ‘coordinated’ Reich Church – there was a struggle between the confessional church and the Nazi regime
* Pastors spoke out against the ‘Nazified Christ’ pulpits
* Many churches refused to display swastika flags
* Four-year plan – by Schact which placed controls on imports and on access to foreign currency
* After 1934 girls were expected to do a year’s work on the land or in domestic service
* **1934** **– 1935** – secret communist activity not completely eradicated by Gestapo
* **1934 and 1939** – around 3400 people were tried by the People’s Court – most of whom were former communists and were given the death penalty

**1935**

* **October -** SA membership had declined to 1.6 million and without Rohm as its leader, its political power was destroyed
* Of the 25,000 workers who participated in strikes in 1935, 4000 spent short periods in prison
* Unemployment had fallen to 2 million according to official figures
* A Reich Labour Service was introduced under which unemployed young men were compelled to do six months labour in farming or construction
* Later in the same year, military conscription was also reintroduced for young men
* **1935 – 1936** – increased strike activity at a time when there was widespread discontent over food prices
* **1935 – 1936** – shortage of foreign exchange, food shortages, rising prices, lower living standards
* **1935 – 1936** – some Catholics began to speak out from their pulpits about the dangers of Nazi religious ideas – leading these criticisms was von Galen and archbishop of Munster

**1936**

* SS, SD and Gestapo placed under Himmler’s command – he was able to exploit the rivalry between Goering and the Minister of the Interior – Frick
* SS controlled entire third Reich police system and the concentration camps
* After 1936, there was a noticeable tightening of control and an increase in repression – increase in concentration camp inmates
* After 1936, after crushing the communists and socialists, the regime reoriented the concentration camp system to deal with ‘undesirables’
* Membership for Nazi youth groups made compulsory – growing regimentation in youth movements
* Membership of the Hitler Youth and the League of German Girls made great demands on a teenager’s free time
* Goering was put in charge of a Supreme Reich Authority to run the 1936 four-year plan
* New four-year plan with economic autarky as its basis – under control of Goering – aim of plan was to make Germany ready for war within four years
* Hitler claimed the battle for work had been won in speeches and radiobroadcasts – was not questioned after 1936 illustrating success of propaganda
* Official figure of people out of work was 1.6 million – should have been 3 million – after 1936, rearmament shortages led to a rapid expansion in unemployment and resulted in labour shortages appearing by 1939
* Hitler Youth created – relatively unsuccessful
* Law gave the Hitler youth equal status to schools – Catholic youth organisations were banned
* DAF started to provide vocational training courses to improve workers skills

**1937**

* Total of 250 strikes were recorded – reactions to poor working conditions or low wages
* By the end of 1937, 7000 pastors had been imprisoned
* Martin Niemoller, the co-founder of the confessional church was sent to a concentration camp – he was anti-Semitic but opposed the church adoption of the Aryan paragraph
* Pope issued the papal encyclical ‘with burning grief’ –it condemned Nazi hatred upon the Church – smuggled and read out aloud from almost every Church pulpit in March 1937
* Charges against priests for ‘abuse of the pulpit’ became regular occurrences
* Von Gallen – too important to arrest
* Rally involved 100,000 people
* Campaign was launched to collect scrap metal from people’s homes and gardens and from public spaces to make up serious shortages in raw materials – garden fences, park railings and iron lampposts were removed to be melted down – pots and pans collected from people’s homes by Hitler Youth
* Pope Pius XI issued an encyclical entitled ‘with burning grief’

**1938**

* **Autumn**– opposition to Hitler within the army and civil service came to a head

November 1937 – Hitler outlined his secret thoughts to senior army commanders and leading Nazis such as Goering – making it clear that he envisioned a union with Austria and an invasion of Czechoslovakia within a year

* Defence Minister General Blomberg, and the commander in chief of the army, General Fritsch, expressed their doubts to Hitler
* **September**– Hitler ordered the army to prepare plans for an invasion of Czechoslovakia – had the invasion been launched it seemed likely that Britain and France would support Czechoslovakia and war would result
* The threat of war prompted Head of Army General Staff General Beck, and a number of senior army figures to plot to remove Hitler from power in a military coup
* Detailed plans were made for a march on Berlin if war was declared – but the whole enterprise depended on Britain and France standing by Czechoslovakia
* An envoy was sent to inform the British and French governments of the plans, but although the plotters were listened to sympathetically, those governments would not risk war
* The British and French agreed to a peaceful German takeover of the Sudetenland area of Czechoslovakia
* Hitler had achieved ‘another victory without bloodshed’
* Conspiracy to overthrow him quietly receded into the background
* Concerns about absenteeism – new labour regulations were introduced, laying down severe penalties for ‘slackers’ – Gestapo arrested 114 workers in 1938 for absenteeism and slow working
* Within 3 months Hitler purged Blomberg and Fritsch and replaced them with more compliant generals
* 34,000 companies had improved their working conditions – the beauty of labour was a KdF department devoted to improving conditions
* **1938 – 1939** – sabotage increased – regarded as criminal offence – number of persecutions
* When two confessional church bishops were arrested there were mass demonstrations in their support

**1939**

* Himmler’s victory was sealed with the creation of the Reich Security Department Headquarters – which placed all party and State police organisations under one organisation supervised by the SS
* SD had 50,000 officers
* 20,000 Gestapo officers – despite reputation of being all knowing – most were office based not field based agents
* 70% of German households possessed a radio set – the highest proportion in the world
* There were labour shortages in key industries
* Germany still imported one third of its raw materials – German economy was under severe strain
* Shortages of food and other basic necessities
* Membership of Hitler Youth was made compulsory – Hitler youth members had to swear a personal oath of allegiance to the Fuhrer – activities emphasised competition, struggle, heroism and leadership, loyalty and discipline
* membership of the BDM or the League for German girls became compulsory
* All young women up to 25 had to do a year’s unpaid work with the Reich Labour Service before they could get paid employment
* Attendance of parades beginning to decline – Nazis concerned about re-emergence of youth cliques
* German women’s league had over 6 million members
* 5% of population were listed as ‘god believers’
* All church schools had been converted into community schools – power and influence of Catholic church had been severely weakened
* the Nazis had failed to establish a single, unifying Protestant Church based on the German Christian Movement
* façade of cooperation while at the same time pursuing policies to weaken its hold
* Hitler held back from formally renouncing concordat

**July 1932** – Prussian State government had been dismissed by Papen – Reich Commissioner had been appointed to run the state – in Hitler’s cabinet Goering was the Reich Commissioner

* Many local officials forced to resign – replaced by Nazi party appointees – lacked experience
* Party officials placed in government to ensure civil servants were carrying out orders of the regime

**1942** – extermination camps were established in occupied countries

**1931** – the SD were established as the internal security system of the Nazi party – set up to investigate claims that its party had been infiltrated by political enemies – led by Heydrich

**Late 1930s** – response of many young people was to opt out, either by allowing their membership to lapse or simply not attending weekly parades

**1930s** – prices rose – shortages of key commodities – could afford few luxuries