## 1. The Aftermath of World War I

Germany faced massive crisis after its defeat in WWI:

- The monarchy ended. A new democratic government was formed in 1919, called the Weimar Republic.
- Germans blamed the new government for accepting the humiliating Treaty of Versailles.

#### Treaty of Versailles (1919) terms:

- Loss of 13% territory (see Fig.2)
- Heavy war reparations of £6 billion
- Lost all overseas colonies
- German military was reduced
- War Guilt Clause blamed Germany alone

**Impact:** German pride was crushed. The people began to hate the democratic republic (called November Criminals).

## 2. The Weimar Republic: Challenges

### 2.1 Political and Economic Instability

- Communists (Spartacists) tried to overthrow Weimar govt. (Fig.3)
- Govt. relied on right-wing Free Corps to suppress them.
- Between 1919–1923: Germany experienced political assassinations, uprisings, and hyperinflation. (Fig.4):



Hyperinflation: Paper currency lost all value. People carried baskets of money to buy bread.

#### Great Depression (1929):

- U.S. withdrew loans → Germany's economy collapsed.
- 6 million people unemployed.
- Small businessmen, middle-class ruined.
- Despair and fear led people to seek radical solutions.

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## 3. Hitler's Rise to Power

## 3.1 Early Life and Entry into Politics

- Born in Austria (1889), joined German Army during WWI.
- Furious after Versailles Treaty.
- Joined German Workers' Party → renamed it Nazi Party.

#### ✓ Nazi votes:

• 1928: 2.6%

• 1932: 37% → Largest party in Reichstag (German Parliament)



Fig.7 – Hitler greeted at Nazi Congress

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### 3.2 Hitler's Appeal and Nazi Propaganda

- Powerful speaker: promised jobs, national pride, strong Germany.
- Used mass rallies, Nazi symbols (Swastika, salute), and slogans.

Propaganda: Carefully crafted images and speeches stirred public emotions. (Figs.8 & 9 show rallies)





Fig - 9

## 3.3 Establishing Dictatorship

- Jan 1933: Hitler became Chancellor.
- Feb 1933: Reichstag Fire → used as excuse to pass the Fire Decree: → Suspended civil rights (speech, press, assembly)
- Enabling Act (March 1933): Gave Hitler full powers to rule without Parliament.
  - All parties banned except Nazis.
  - Trade unions banned.
  - Secret police (Gestapo), SS, and other forces created.
  - Concentration camps built to crush opposition.
- Concentration Camps: Detained opponents without trial; surrounded by electric fences. (See Fig.21)

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Fig. 20 - A Concentration Camp.

# 4. Nazi Ideology and the Racial State

#### Core Beliefs of Nazism:

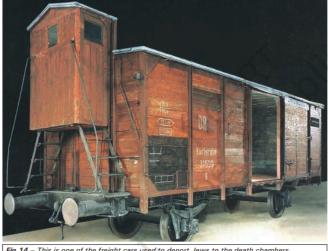
- No equality: Racial hierarchy (Nordic Aryans at top, Jews at bottom)
- Aryan race must dominate; others considered inferior.
- Jews blamed for Germany's problems
- 同 Lebensraum ("Living Space"): Germany must expand eastwards (e.g. Poland) to settle Aryans.

#### 4.1 Policies of Exclusion

#### Nuremberg Laws (1935):

- Only 'German blood' people are citizens.
- Jews barred from citizenship, marriages with Germans.
- Exclusion (1933–1939) → Jews removed from public life.
- □ Ghettoisation (1940–1944): Jews forced into ghettos (e.g. Warsaw, Lodz)
- 同 Annihilation (1941 onwards): Jews sent to death camps (e.g. Auschwitz) via trains (Fig.14, Fig.18–22)





# 5. Youth and Education in Nazi Germany

- Education controlled to promote Nazi ideology:
  - Jewish teachers and students removed
  - Textbooks rewritten with Nazi racial science
  - Children trained to hate Jews and worship Hitler

## **Youth Organisations:**

- Boys: Jungvolk (10–14), then Hitler Youth
- Girls: Trained to become pure Aryan mothers

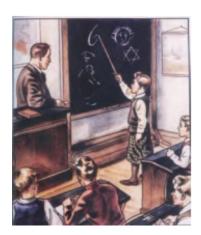


Fig.23 – Racial lessons in class



Fig.24 – Jewish children expelled from school

#### Mother's Role:

- To raise pure Aryan children
- Awarded Honour Cross for 4+ children (Bronze: 4, Silver: 6, Gold: 8)
- Women with Jewish links were publicly shamed (Fig.25–26)

# 6. The Machinery of Nazi Propaganda

#### 同 Language manipulation:

- "Final Solution" = Mass murder of Jews
- "Disinfection areas" = Gas chambers
- "Evacuation" = Deportation to death camps

#### Media used strategically:

- Posters, films (e.g. Eternal Jew), radio broadcasts
- Jews portrayed as rats/vermin, capitalists, traitors (See Fig.28 – anti-Jewish poster)
- Farmers, workers, youth all targeted through tailored propaganda.



(Figs.29-30)

4.7. Lanca et la con Occilia e

# 7. Impact on Ordinary People

Many ordinary Germans supported Nazism because it promised:

- Jobs, stability, restored national pride
- For others, fear silenced opposition
- Pastor Niemoeller's poem (Box 1) shows how people ignored injustices until it was too late.
- Jews began internalising Nazi hate dreams, identity crises.



■ Fig.31 – Milk cans with preserved Jewish documents from Warsaw Ghetto

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## 8. The Holocaust

- Holocaust: Systematic mass murder of 6 million Jews by Nazi regime.
  - Gas chambers, forced labour, ghettos used
  - Many Jews wrote diaries, hid archives to tell their story



Fig.32 – Denmark helped Jews escape by boats

## **E** Summary:

- Germany's defeat in WWI and humiliation under Treaty of Versailles led to instability.
- Hitler rose by exploiting people's anger, using powerful propaganda, and promising restoration.
- Nazi ideology promoted racism, antisemitism, and dictatorship.
- Millions of Jews, Gypsies, and others were killed under Nazi rule.
- It's a reminder of how dangerous blind nationalism and propaganda can become.