

◆ 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).

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◆ 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.

◆ 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

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)



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

■ 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)

■ Annihilation (1941 onwards): Jews sent to death camps (e.g. Auschwitz) via trains (Fig.14, Fig.18–22)



 *Fig.13 – Deportation of Gypsies*



Fig.14 – This is one of the freight cars used to deport Jews to the death chambers.

◆ 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**

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)

◆ 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

◆ 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

📖 Mahatma Gandhi's letter to Hitler (Box 2) → Appealed to him for humanity & peace.

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📖 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.