

# History



## Year 11 Knowledge Organisers

# WEIMAR GERMANY

## Knowledge organiser

Topic 1

Key Dates

### KEY EVENTS

- 1918 November:** World War One ended. The Kaiser abdicated and Germany became a republic.
- 1919 January:** The Spartacist Uprising led by the Communists in Germany against the newly formed Weimar Republic.
- 1919 June:** The Treaty of Versailles is signed, leading many Germans to resent the government.
- 1919 August:** The Weimar Constitution is approved.
- 1920 March:** The Kapp Putsch starts, aiming to put Wolfgang Kapp, a right wing nationalist, in power.
- 1923 January:** The French occupation of the Ruhr begins, leading to hyperinflation across Germany.
- 1924:** The Dawes Plan
- 1925:** The Locarno Pact
- 1926:** Germany joins the League of Nations
- 1928:** Kellogg Briand Pact is signed
- 1929:** Young Plan agreed

### WEIMAR CONSTITUTION

#### PRESIDENT:

- Elected every 7 years.
- **Head** of the Weimar Republic.
- Selected the **Chancellor**.
- Left the running of the country to the Chancellor.

#### Article 48

In an **emergency**, the President could **make laws himself without** the need of the Reichstag.

#### Controls the Armed Forces

#### Chancellor:

- Led the government
- Chosen by the President.
- Needed the support of the Reichstag.

#### Reichstag (House of Parliament)

- Voted on all **laws**.
- They were elected every 4 years using **proportional representation**.

#### The German People

Men and women over 21 can vote for the Reichstag every 4 years and the President every 7 years.

The Weimar Republic faced challenges to its early years from 1919-1924. It experienced a period of recovery in the years 1924-29, during which there were important changes in society.

### RECOVERY OF THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC, 1923-29

#### GUSTAV STRESEMANN

He became the German Chancellor in 1923 and had two aims, to improve the economy, and build better foreign relations.

#### RENTENMARK

In November 1923, he created a new currency to replace the old called the Rentenmark. Everyone was encouraged to exchange their money at the bank which helped to stabilise the economy, and encourage other countries to restart trading with them.

#### DAWES PLAN 1924

Stresemann secured France and Belgium's withdrawal from the Ruhr and agreed a more realistic payment for the reparations. The USA loaned Germany £40 million to help pay off her debts.

#### YOUNG PLAN 1929

The Allies agreed to reduce the reparations to a quarter of their original amount. Germany is then given 59 years to pay them.

#### LOCARNO PACT 1925

Germany, France and Belgium agreed to respect their joint borders, this helped to improve foreign relations.

#### KELLOGG BRIAND PACT 1928

Signed by Germany in 1928 alongside 65 other countries. They promised not to use violence to settle their disputes.

### WEIMAR CULTURE AND SOCIETY

#### WOMEN

- ❑ Now enjoyed equal rights in voting, marriage and work
- ❑ Enjoyed social freedom (fashion, smoking and drinking)
- ❑ Only 36% worked and wages were less than men
- ❑ 3000 female doctors by 1930 and 112 elected to the Reichstag

#### STANDARD OF LIVING

- ❑ Wages increased by 10%
- ❑ Working hours dropped
- ❑ New housing – 2 million were built
  - ❑ 60% less homelessness
  - ❑ Benefits for unemployment, war veterans and single mothers at 60 marks a week

#### CULTURE

- ❑ Germany becomes the culture capital
- ❑ There was no censorship under the Weimar government
- ❑ Freedom of speech was encouraged
- ❑ New architecture – Bauhaus- and art – modernism – were introduced
- ❑ Golden age of German cinema.

### CHALLENGES TO THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC

#### TREATY OF VERSAILLES

The terms of the treaty were severe. Article 238 said they had to take the blame for the war, their army was limited and they had to pay back £6.6 million in reparations. The German People felt as though they had been stabbed in the back.

#### SPARTACIST UPRISING

This was an uprising from the extreme Left, who wanted a Communist revolution and to get rid of the Weimar Government. Led by Liebknecht and Luxemburg, they tried to take over Berlin by taking key buildings and newspapers. It failed as the Freikorps suppressed the rebellion.

#### KAPP PUTSCH

Rebellion from the right. It was led by Wolfgang Kapp and the Freikorps. They wanted to create a right wing government. The Freikorps marched to Berlin to overthrow the Weimar government but the German workers opposed this. Berlin was paralysed and Kapp gave up.

#### INVASION OF THE RUHR

By 1923, Germany could not pay the reparations to France. France and Belgium decided to take Germany's resources instead so they occupied the Ruhr, the richest part of Germany. It gave them access to Germany's iron and coal reserves. The German workers strike in protest.

#### HYPERINFLATION

Germany tried to solve her debt problems by printing more money, but this plunged the economy into hyperinflation. This is when the value of money decreases so drastically, and the value of goods increases. By 1923 even basic necessities were hard to get hold of. The German people were struggling.

# RISE TO POWER

## Knowledge organiser

Topic 2

Key Dates

### KEY EVENTS

**September 1919:** Hitler joins the DAP – a right wing political group

**February 1920:** The DAP is renamed the NSDAP, the National Socialist German Workers Party.

**February 1920:** The Nazis published their 25 point programme outlining their road to a stronger Germany

**July 1921:** Hitler becomes the leader of the NSDAP

**November 1921:** The SA are set up

**November 1923:** The Munich Putsch is organised, but it fails.

**February 1924:** Hitler is imprisoned for his role in the Putsch but only serves 10 months

**December 1924:** Hitler releases Mein Kampf

**May 1928:** The Nazis get 12 seats in the general election

**October 1929:** Wall Street Crash leads to the Great Depression

**September 1930:** Unemployment reaches 3 million, the Nazis get 106 seats in the election.

**April 1932:** Hitler comes runner up in the Presidential election. With 13.4 million votes

**July 1932:** Unemployment reaches 6 million, the Nazis get 230 seats in the Reichstag

**January 1933:** Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany

### THE MUNICH PUTSCH

#### HITLER TRIED TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT IN THE MUNICH PUTSCH

- In November 1923, the Nazis marched on Munich.
- Hitlers soldiers occupied a beer hall in the Bavarian city of Munich where local government leaders were meeting.
- He announced that the revolution had begun



#### WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE MUNICH PUTSCH?

- The next day Hitler marched into Munich supported by his Storm Troopers (SA)
- The news of the revolt had leaked to the police, who were waiting for them.
- The police fired on the rebels and the revolt collapsed.



#### HITLER WAS IMPRISONED AND WROTE MEIN KAMPF

- He wrote a book in prison called Mein Kampf (my struggle) describing his beliefs and ambitions
- The Nazi party was banned, but it was removed in January 1925.
- Hitler became supreme leader and changed tactics from violence to politics.



#### HITLER CHANGES TACTICS IN 1926

- Hitler has a conference with the Nazi Leaders in Bamberg.
- At the conference, he makes it clear that the party would only follow his agenda.
- The party was however not very popular during the 1920s, as there was relative security within Germany thanks to Stresemann.

In 1919–20, the Nazi Party was set up and in the Munich Putsch of 1923, Hitler unsuccessfully tried to seize power by force. There was limited backing for the Nazis during the years 1924–28. The Wall Street Crash and depression of 1929 helped the party gain support. Political developments in 1932 led to Hitler becoming chancellor in 1933.

### EARLY STAGES OF THE NAZI PARTY

- ❑ Hitler began his political career in the German Workers Party in January 1919. The German Workers Party began to rely on him to get new party members. In 1920, the party was rebranded as the National Socialist German Workers Party
- ❑ In February 1920, the Nazi Party promoted its policies in the 25 point programme: the Treaty of Versailles should be abolished. All German speakers should be united. Only people with German Blood can be classed as citizens. Jews are not allowed to be German
- ❑ In 1921, Hitler founded his own party militia called the SA (the storm troopers). They carried out violent anti-Semitic attacks and intimidated rival political groups.



#### GOEBBELS

- ❑ He was made head of Nazi propaganda
- ❑ He believed in appealing to the peoples feelings in order to get them to support the party
- ❑ He oversaw huge propaganda campaigns with posters, leaflets, radio and organised rallies.

#### ROLES IN THE NSDAP

- ❑ Hitler kept control of his own party using 'stormtroopers' or SA led by Ernst Rohm
- ❑ They were ex soldiers who were paid by the Nazis
- ❑ They controlled crowds at meetings and removed opposition
- ❑ They made the NSDAP look strong and official

#### THE SA



#### SUPPORT FOR THE NAZIS IN THE 1920S

Under Stresemann, Germany had a better international status and had a stronger economy. Both of these factors limited the support for Hitler and the NSDAP as people realised they did not need extreme solutions to their problems. In 1925, Paul Von Hindenburg became the president. He was an ex WW1 war hero and general. Having him in charge further boosted the support for the Weimar Republic and cut support for parties trying to get rid of it, such as the NSDAP. In 1929, America plunged into severe economic depression with the Wall Street Crash, and dragged Germany down with it. This then meant that people turned back to the NSDAP as the Weimar government did not act quickly enough.

### HITLER BECOMES CHANCELLOR

#### JANUARY 1932

There are 6 million unemployed. Hitler uses the depression to promise better things, and people are desperate for a solution so they look to his more extreme ideas.

#### APRIL 1932

Hitler stands against Hindenburg for presidency. He loses, as Hindenburg is still a highly respected army veteran with a good reputation in the job.

#### JULY 1932

The Nazis were the largest part in the Reichstag with 230 seats. They do not have a majority but can operate with more power.

#### NOVEMBER 1932

The Nazis lose seats in this election, but they still remain the largest party in the Reichstag. This is a loss for Hitler however.

#### JANUARY 1933

Hitler is offered the Chancellorship in January 1933. Von Papen was made Vice Chancellor. Von Papen argued that they could control Hitler and use him as a puppet to get what they wanted out of the government. They were very wrong. Hitler therefore became Chancellor with the aid of political alliances which would eventually backfire on those within the deal.

# NAZI CONTROL

## Knowledge organiser

Topic 3

Key Dates

### KEY EVENTS

**February 1933:** Reichstag Fire. Parliament burns down and Hindenburg passes the Reichstag fire decree.

**March 1933:** the Reichstag passes the Enabling Act – Hitler can now pass any law without the permission of the government

**May 1933:** Hitler bans trade unions. These are to be replaced by the German labour front.

**June 1933:** Concordat signed with the Pope. Rome would not oppose Nazis if the Catholic church was left alone.

**July 1933:** Hitler bans all the political parties apart from the Nazis.

**June 1934:** Night of the Long Knives – Hitler eliminates threat from the SA.

**August 1934:** Hindenburg dies. Hitler combines rules of President and chancellor and takes the title of Fuhrer (leader) of Germany

**August 1934:** German army swears allegiance to Hitler

**August 1936:** Berlin Olympics begins

**1938:** Over the course of the year, Hitler removes 16 army generals from their positions.

From January 1933 to August 1934, the Nazis secured control of all aspects of the German state. Hitler then consolidated his dictatorship through setting up a police state and using propaganda and censorship.

### CONTROLLING RELIGION

#### CATHOLICS

In July 1933, an agreement was signed between the Pope and the Nazi government. Hitler promised to not interfere with the Catholic Church if the church agreed to stay out of German politics. The Catholic Church was now banned from speaking out against the Nazi party, but Hitler soon broke his side of the deal.



#### PROTESTANTS

The Protestant Church was reorganised and fell under Nazi control. In 1936 all Protestant Churches were merged to form the Reich Church. The Reich Church 'Nazified' Christianity. The Reich Church replaced the symbol of a cross with the Nazi Swastika, and the Bible was replaced by Mein Kampf. Only Nazis could give sermons and the Church suspended non-Aryan ministers.

### CREATION OF A DICTATORSHIP

#### REICHSTAG FIRE AND ELECTION

On 27<sup>th</sup> March the Reichstag building was set on fire. A Dutch communist Van Der Lubbe, was caught red handed in the burning building. Days later in the election 44% of the population voted for the Nazis, who won 288 seats in the Reichstag – still not an overall majority.

#### THE ENABLING ACT

With the communist deputies banned and the SA intimidating all the remaining non-Nazi deputies, the Reichstag voted by the required two thirds majority to give Hitler the right to make laws without the Reichstag's approval for four years.

#### NAZIS IN GOVERNMENT

Hitler then put all officials in charge of the civil service, courts and education. Anyone else in these positions were removed.

#### TRADE UNIONS

Any trade unions were banned. Instead, German workers were now expected to join the new German Labour Front (DAF)

### THE NAZI POLICE STATE

- The SS replaced the SA, and were put in charge of all police and security services .
- The SD were the security force for the Nazi Party to monitor its opponents. They kept details of everyone it suspected of opposing the Nazi Party or the German government at home or abroad.
- The Gestapo was Hitler's non-uniformed secret police force. Their job was to identify anyone who criticised or opposed the Nazi government.
- The Gestapo were officially given permission to use torture when questioning suspects or gaining confessions.

### CONTROLLING THE PEOPLE

#### PROPAGANDA

The aim was to control the way the people thought. Propaganda means spreading information that influences how people think and behave. Joseph Goebbels was in overall charge of the Nazi propaganda machine.

#### ARTISTIC WORKS

Goebbels founded the Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda in 1933. It had departments for music, theatre, film and literature and the radio. All artists, writers, journalists and musicians had to register.

#### CENSORSHIP OF THE PRESS

All newspapers were controlled by the government and could only print stories favourable to the Nazi regime.

#### CONTROL OF THE RADIO

People's radios were sold very cheaply so that most Germans could afford. All radio output was controlled by Goebbels' ministry through the Reich Broadcasting Corporation.

#### MASS RALLIES

These public displays of support from Nazism involved music, speeches and demonstrations of German strength. The biggest one was held each year in August in Nuremberg

#### USE OF SPORTS EVENTS

Berlin hosted the Olympics in 1936, which the Nazis used as an opportunity to showcase the success of the regime and to demonstrate the superiority of the Aryan race.

#### POLITICAL PARTIES

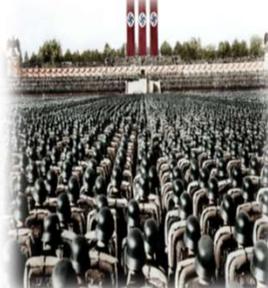
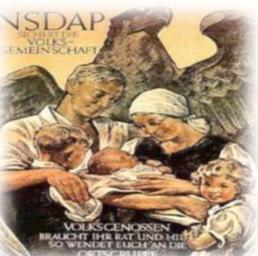
All other political parties were banned, only the Nazi party were allowed to exist.

#### NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES

Many members of the SA, including its leader Ernst Rohm, were demanding that the Nazi party carry out its socialist agenda and that the SA take over the army. Hitler could not afford to annoy businessmen or the army, so the SS (Hitler's personal bodyguards) murdered 400 members of the SA, including Rohm.

#### HITLER BECOMES FUHRER

When Hindenburg died, Hitler declared himself jointly president, chancellor and head of the army. Members of the armed forces had to swear a personal oath of allegiance not to Germany, but to the Hitler.



# LIFE IN GERMANY

## Knowledge organiser

Topic 4

Key Dates

### KEY EVENTS

**1935:** The Nuremberg Laws are put into place, limiting the rights of Jewish people in Germany

**1935:** Lebensborn was implemented, meaning German women could 'donate' their bodies to reproduce with Aryan SS men.

**1936:** The Reich Church was created, replacing the Protestant church with Nazi memorabilia.

**1937:** Attendance at the Hitler youth became compulsory, meaning that they were being prepared for their Nazi futures

**1938:** Kristalnacht begun, with the Nazi's attacking Jewish homes and places of work.

**November 1938:** 20,000 Jewish people were sent to Concentration camps

**1939:** WW2 begins as Germany invades Poland

The lives of German citizens were drastically by Nazi policies. Policies were introduced for the youth, women and men. There was also the introduction of racial policies against minority groups such as gypsies, Jews, Slavs, homosexuals and people with disabilities.

### CONTROLLING THE GERMAN PEOPLE

#### THE YOUTH

- ❑ Youth movements helped produce committed Nazis. Hitler knew that loyalty from young people was essential if the Nazis were to remain strong.
- ❑ Youth movements were a way of teaching children Nazi ideas
- ❑ **Hitler youth was for boys** aged 14 and over. It became compulsory in 1936. they wore military uniforms and took part in military exercises.
- ❑ **The League of German Maidens** were for girls, and they were trained in domestic skills such as sewing and cooking
- ❑ Education across Germany was nazified, with all teachers joining the Nazi Teachers Association. The curriculum was altered to reflect the ideas that Aryan's were the better race and antisemitism was prominent.

#### WOMEN

- ❑ The Nazis had clear ideas of what they wanted from women. They were expected to stay at home, look after the family and produce children in order to secure the future of the Aryan race.
- ❑ Hitler wanted a high birth rate, so he introduced laws that encouraged marriage, such as giving couples loans of 1000 marks.
- ❑ Women were also given awards called the Maiden's Cross when they had large numbers of children, and could opt to have a baby outside of marriage with an Aryan SS guard.
- ❑ Measures were also introduced to stop women working, such as providing them with financial incentives to not work.
- ❑ They were also expected to wear plain clothes with their hair in plaits.

### IMPROVEMENT IN LIFESTYLES

#### PUBLIC SERVICES

Hitler began a huge programme of public works, which included building hospitals, schools and public buildings such as the 1936 Olympic stadium. The construction of the Autobahns created work for 80,000 men.

#### REARMAMENT

Rearmament was responsible for the bulk of economic growth between 1933 and 1938. Rearmament started almost as soon as Hitler came to power but was announced publicly. This created millions of jobs for German workers.

#### NATIONAL LABOUR SERVICE

The introduction of the National Labour Service (NLS) meant all young men spent six months in the NLS and were then conscripted into the army. They were no longer counted in the unemployment figures.

#### INVISIBLE EMPLOYMENT

Although Germany claimed to have full employment by 1939, many groups of people were not included in the statistics, including the 1.4 million men in the army, Jews who were sacked from their jobs, women who were encouraged to leave their jobs to start families.

#### THE LABOUR FRONT

This was a Nazi organisation that replaced Trades Unions, which were banned. It set wages and nearly always followed the wishes of employers, rather than employees.

#### LABOUR SCHEMES

Strength Through Joy gave workers rewards for their work – evening classes, theatre trips, picnics and even very cheap or free holidays. Beauty of Labour helped Germans see that work was good, and to improve working conditions.

### KRISTALNACHT

- ❑ Nazi officers were told to attack Jewish homes and **synagogues** but do it undercover and not in their Nazi uniform. This would make it look as if the German public had started the violence, not the Nazis.
- ❑ Instructions were sent to local Nazis to arrest as many Jews as the prisons would take.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November

- ❑ Gangs smashed and burned Jewish property and attacked Jews all over Germany. Some Germans were horrified by the attacks, others were pleased and joined in.
- ❑ **Official Nazi figures** listed 814 shops, 171 homes and 191 synagogues destroyed. The official figures state that 100 Jews were killed.

#### The consequence for the Jews

- ❑ Goebbels **blamed the Jews** for starting the trouble who were **fined 1 billion marks**.
- ❑ By 12<sup>th</sup> November **20,000 Jews** had been rounded up and sent to **concentration camps**.

### PERSECUTION OF MINORITIES

#### GYPSIES

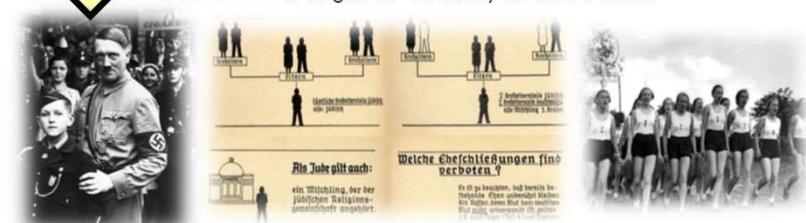
They were sterilised so they could not have any children, and by 1939 35,000 were sent to concentration camps.

#### HOMOSEXUALS

They lost their civil rights, and were sterilised so they could not have children. 15,000 died in concentration camps.

#### DISABLED

350,000 were sterilised and 200,000 were euthanised – killed so that the state would not have to look after them.



### NUREMBERG LAWS

#### 1. The Reich Law on Citizenship.

- ❑ Only those of German blood could be a German citizen.
- ❑ Jews lost the rights of citizens such as the vote and holding a German passport.

#### 2. The Reich Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honour

- ❑ Jews were no longer allowed to marry or have a sexual relationship with a German citizen.
- ❑ Jews banned from joining the German armed forces.

# WEIMAR NAZI GERMANY

## Glossary

**ANNSCHLUSS** the annexation of Austria by Germany

**ANTI-SEMITISM** Hatred and persecution of the Jews

**ARMISTICE** The ending of hostilities in a war

**ARYAN** Nazi term for a non-Jewish German, someone of supposedly 'pure' German stock

**CAPITALISM** An economic system in which the production and distribution of goods depend on private investment.

**CENSORSHIP** Controlling what is produced and suppressing anything against the state.

**CENTRE PARTY (ZP)** A Catholic party occupying the middle ground in political views.

**CIVIL RIGHTS** Basic rights of citizens such as the right to vote, equal treatment under the law etc.

**COALITION GOVERNMENT** A government of two or more political parties.

**COMMUNIST PARTY (KPD)** The German Communist Party, following the ideas of Karl Marx

**CONCENTRATION CAMP** Prison for political prisoners and enemies of the state who are placed there without trial.

**CONCORDAT** An agreement between the Pope and a government concerning the legal status of the Roman Catholic Church within that government's territory.

**CONSCRIPTION** compulsory military service for a certain period of time.

**CONSTITUTION** The basic principles according to which a country is governed

**DAP** The German Workers party

**DDP** German Democratic Party, a left wing liberal party founded in 1918

**DNVP** The German National People's Party, the nationalist right-wing party supported by business people and landowners.

**DOLCHSTOSS** 'Stab in the back' theory

**ENABLING ACT** The law that gave Hitler the power to rule for four years without consulting the Reichstag.

**EUTHANSIA** bringing death to relieve suffering. The Nazis interpret this as killing anyone who was 'substandard'

**FEDERAL STRUCTURE** System in which power is divided between a central and regional government.

**FREIKORPS** Private armies set up by senior German army officers at the end of the First World War. Mainly comprised of ex-soldiers.

**FUHRERPRINZIP** the idea that the Nazi Party and Germany should have one leader, obeyed by all.

**GERMAN LABOUR FRONT (DAF)** Organisation set up by the Nazis to control German workers.

**GESTAPO** Official secret police of the Nazi regime

**GHETTO** A densely populated area of a city inhabited by the Jews

**GLEICHSCHALTUNG** Bringing people into an identical way of thinking and behaving

**GREAT DEPRESSION** Slump in the economy in the 1930s which led to high unemployment.

**GYPSY** A race of people found across Europe who generally travel across the continent rather than living in one place

**HEIL HITLER** Form of salute to Hitler

**HITLER YOUTH** Organisation set up for the young in Germany to convert them to the Nazis

**HYPERINFLATION** Extremely high inflation, where the value of money plummets and it becomes almost worthless

**INDOCTRINATION** Converting people to your ideas using education and propaganda

**INFORMANT** Person who gives information to the authorities about other people.

**KAISER** The German emperor

**LANDER** Regional states of Germany

**LEAGUE OF NATIONS** The international body established after WW1 in order to maintain peace.

**LEFT WING** Group of politicians and parties which favour socialism

**MANIFESTO** A public declaration of a political party's policies.

**NATIONAL SOCIALIST** Member of the NSDAP

**NATIONALISE** To change from private ownership to state ownership

**NAZI TEACHERS LEAGUE** Organisation set up to control teachers and what they taught

**NOVEMBER CRIMINALS** Name given to the German politicians who accepted the armistice which ended the war.

**PASSIVE RESISTANCE** Opposition to a government, invading power, without using violence.

**PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION** The number of votes won in an election, determined the number of seats in the Reichstag.

**PUTSCH** Attempted takeover of the government.

**REICH** In German, this has many meanings – state, kingdom, empire. When used by the Nazis it tended to mean an empire of Germany.

**REICHSTAG** German government

**REPARATIONS** War damages (money) to be paid by Germany

**REPUBLIC** A state in which the government is carried out by the people or their elected representatives.

**SA** The Parliamentary 'storm troopers' of the Nazi party.

**SD** 'Security Service' the intelligence agency of the Nazis.

**SOCIALISTS** Those who believe in state ownership

**SS** Originally the Nazi paramilitary organisation that acted as Hitler's bodyguard, they became the most powerful troops on the Third Reich and carried out the Final Solution.

**SWASTIKA** Emblem of the Nazi Party; a cross with the arms bent at right angles

**THIRD REICH** Nazi name for Germany. Means 'Third Empire'

**TRADE UNIONS** Organisations set up to protect and improve the rights of workers

**TREASON** A crime against the state

**VOLKISCH** In Germany it began to mean being linked to extreme German nationalism

**WALL STREET CRASH** 29<sup>th</sup> October 1929, when more than 16 million shares were traded in panic selling.

**WEIMAR REPUBLIC** The republic that existed in Germany from 1919-1933

# COLD WAR ORIGINS

## Knowledge organiser

Topic 1

Key Dates

### KEY EVENTS

**1941:** The formation of the Grand Alliance between USSR, GB and the USA

**1943:** The Tehran Conference began including the big three to agree with what would happen post WW2

**February 1945:** The Yalta Conference was held leading to many Eastern countries coming under Soviet influence

**August 1945:** USA drop the atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki

**1946:** Winston Churchill makes his famous iron curtain speech.

**1947:** The Truman doctrine and Marshall plan were created in an attempt to prevent the spread of communism

**1947:** Cominform is set up by Stalin in direct response to the Truman Doctrine.

**1948:** The Berlin Blockade begins

**1949:** Stalin sets up Comecon, and the Berlin Blockade ends. The formation of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic, as well as the start of NATO

**1955:** The start of the Warsaw Pact

**1956:** The Hungarian Uprising

After the events of the Second World War, the political differences between the east and the west cause an increase in tension globally. The deep mistrust between the East and West would lead to the Berlin Blockade and the formation of alliances that deepened the tensions felt around the world.

### NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT

#### NATO

- ❑ This was a Western European defensive alliance backed by the USA
- ❑ This idea was suggested by Britain and agreed by the USA, leading to the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

#### WARSAW PACT

- ❑ The East was very suspicious of NATO.
- ❑ When Germany joined, it was agreed a military base would be put there which worried the USSR
- ❑ This led to the USSR creating its own Eastern defence alliance named the Warsaw Pact

### THE HUNGARIAN UPRISING

The Hungarians hated Soviet rule and after WW2 they were left under the control of communist governments. Rakosi was a very strict communist and pro-Soviet, who set about imposing a dictatorship in Hungary following Stalin's methods. This led to demonstrations in Hungary, and there seemed to be some relief with the death of Stalin and the 'de-Stalinisation' of the government. Khrushchev – the new Soviet leader – agreed to allow Gomulka who was popular with the Polish to stay in charge, and give them more independence.

Protests from Hungarian students however went further, demanding freedom of speech and free elections. They dragged statues of Stalin through the street and attacked the secret police. Khrushchev sent tanks into Hungary to stop the demonstrations. He remained cautious however as Hungary was not happy with strict communism, so he allowed Imre Nagy – a communist – to take charge. He was very liberal which worried Khrushchev as he planned a very moderate form of Communism which was unheard of for a Satellite State.

### THE BERLIN BLOCKADE

#### CAUSES OF THE BERLIN BLOCKADE

- West Berlin had recovered from the war much quicker than the East
- Stalin was determined to make East Germany pay for the war.
- USA and Britain merged their section into one, calling it Bizonia
- The Soviets begin to monitor the road and rail traffic into Berlin
- USA and Britain introduced a new more valuable currency to Bizonia
- East Germans rushed to convert their currency, undermining USSR control there.

#### EVENTS OF THE BERLIN BLOCKADE

- Most goods and supplies had to go through East Germany to reach the West.
- The USSR blocked the roads, railways and canals to make life difficult for West Berlin
- This meant that many people in Germany would run out of essential items
- The Blockade prevented any more Marshall Aid from reaching West Berlin.
- Stalin's main objective was to force the West to abandon West Berlin, allowing it to be controlled by the Soviets.

#### THE BERLIN AIRLIFT

- General Clay of the USA believed that giving in to Stalin would be giving in to communism.
- The West also didn't want to let Germany down or give in to the Soviets
- There were still 3 air corridors over Berlin, and so Britain and America used these to fly supplies into West Berlin.
- Within a few weeks, 8000 tonnes of supplies landed in West Berlin every day.
- Stalin was frustrated, but there was little he could do without declaring war.

### POLITICS IN THE COLD WAR

#### TEHRAN CONFERENCE, 1943

Stalin and Roosevelt agreed that the USSR would join the United Nations and to join the war against Japan. Churchill and Stalin later made the 'percentages agreement' to divide Eastern Europe.

#### YALTA CONFERENCE, 1945

It was agreed that many Eastern European countries would come under Soviet rule, and that Berlin would be divided into four zones. The USSR could take reparations from Germany. They could not agree on what to do with Poland.

#### POTSDAM CONFERENCE, 1945

This was not a successful meeting, although they finalised the divisions of Germany, tensions were rising and they could not agree how harshly to punish Germany.

#### THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE 1947

This was America's policy to prevent the spread of communism further. They promised to support in whatever way any country that was under threat of becoming a communist.

#### COMINFORM 1947

This was the USSR's retaliation to the Truman Doctrine. It would bring together all Eastern European countries so they all followed the same policies, and brought them under tighter soviet control

#### THE MARSHALL PLAN

This was America's economic plan, to provide aid to countries to help them rebuild after the war, and prevent them becoming communist countries.

#### COMECON

This was the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, set up by Stalin. It encouraged the soviet controlled countries to work together to rebuild.

The division of Germany was agreed at Tehran and finalised in the Yalta conference. Berlin was also to be separated into four zones so that each of the allies could have a controlling interest in Germany's recovery.



# COLD WAR CRISES

## Knowledge organiser

Topic 2

Key Dates

### KEY EVENTS

**1960:** American U2 spy plane shot down over Soviet territory. The Paris Summit begins

**April 1961:** The Bay of Pigs incident occurs in Cuba, increasing tensions between the East and West

**August 1961:** Construction of the Berlin Wall begins, dividing East and West Germany permanently

**October 1962:** The Cuban Missile Crisis officially begins

**June 1963:** US President Kennedy visits West Berlin

**1968:** The Prague Springs occurs, attempting to push Soviet control out of Czechoslovakia.

### THE BERLIN WALL

The East German leader, Walter Ulbricht, began construction of the Berlin Wall at 2am on the 13<sup>th</sup> August. It began with just a barbed wire fence around the perimeter of East Berlin, but within days it became a permanent concrete wall. For many of the people living in Berlin, this was emotionally hard. Families would be divided until it came down, and many who tried to cross were shot dead. Ulbricht was happy with the wall and it boosted East Berlin's economy.



### THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

#### CUBAN REVOLUTION

The Cuban Revolution occurred in 1959 when Fidel Castro took over control of Cuba from Batista. He wanted to remove American influence from the country and help the ordinary Cuban people. As he was a socialist and so had ties to communism, it meant America were afraid of the threat they posed. It allowed the USSR to make an alliance close to the US.

#### THE BAY OF PIGS

Batista had settled in America along with exiled Cubans, and so Kennedy wanted to use these to invade Cuba again. They would be trained by the CIA, with the US air force supporting them. However, before the invasion took place Kennedy decided against using the air force. The Exiles were left unsupported in their attack and they were easily defeated. American involvement was still obvious and Castro was able to celebrate an American defeat. It pushed Cuba towards the Soviets for support.

#### THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

With the increased relations between the USSR and Cuba, in 1962 ballistic missiles were put into Cuba, both short and long range. In order to prevent this, the US placed a blockade around Cuba to prevent any more weapons coming into the country. Kennedy spoke to the American people on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October about the quarantine, as the US armies readied themselves. Khrushchev offered to remove the missiles if the blockade was removed on the 26<sup>th</sup> October, both offers were rejected initially.

#### CONSEQUENCES

The Missile crisis had initially increased tensions between the two countries. Kennedy had won the war of words, and although Khrushchev removed his missiles from Cuba and received criticism from both his own party and China, he knew that the missiles in Turkey would be removed and so he had won. The 'hotline' was also set up which meant that there was a direct line from the Whitehouse and Kremlin so future communications could be done faster than letters.

In the 1960s, the tensions reached a boiling point. The lives for people on the East and West of the Iron Curtain were becoming more apparent in their differences. America refused to back down with Berlin which led to the formation of the Berlin Wall, and the nuclear arms race led to the Cuban Missile Crisis.

### CAUSES

- ❑ The Prague Springs were a series of reforms introduced in Czechoslovakia to remove the worst features of communism. They were introduced by Alexander Dubcek, a senior communist in Czechoslovakia.
- ❑ Leonid Brezhnev – the new leader of the USSR - was worried that they may leave the Warsaw Pact and so the USSR invaded the country to prevent this.

### EVENTS

- ❑ In June 1968, Prague was chosen to be the location for the Warsaw Pact military exercises, with Soviet, Polish and East German troops. This was clearly an attempt to intimidate Czechoslovakia.
- ❑ When this did not stop the Czechoslovakian reforms, Brezhnev turned to force, sending tanks into the country to take Prague. Dubcek was arrested and replaced by a leader loyal to Moscow, who then reversed the reforms.

### CONSEQUENCES

- ❑ This worsened the relations between the East and the West. Britain and America both publicly protested about Soviet actions.
- ❑ However, for the most part it did not effect the relationship between the East and West. President Lyndon B. Johnson had an unspoken deal that they would not get involved in the Czech invasion if the USSR did not get involved in Vietnam. So while America publicly condemned the invasion, they did not send arms to help the Czech people.
- ❑ Communist parties in France and Italy were outraged by USSR's invasion and claimed independence from the Soviet Communist Party.



### TENSION IN POLITICS

#### BERLIN ULTIMATUM

In November 1959, Khrushchev gave the West an ultimatum: withdraw their forces from Berlin within six months and allow it to become neutral. The West however refused to withdraw.

#### SUPERPOWER SUMMITS

In 1959 Eisenhower and Khrushchev met to try and agree a solution to Berlin. Khrushchev agreed to meet in America which was a show of good will however.

#### PARIS SUMMIT

Although Khrushchev agreed to drop his demands on Berlin, tension continued to rise. On May 1<sup>st</sup> 1960 an American U2 plane was shot down by the Soviets. At the Summit, Eisenhower refused to apologise for the plane being in USSR air space and so Khrushchev walked out.

#### VIENNA SUMMIT

In 1961, Khrushchev reissued the Berlin ultimatum. Kennedy had just become president and the Soviets were winning the Space Race, and so the Soviets were in a good position. Kennedy stuck his ground and so the Soviets took it further.

#### BERLIN WALL

On the 13<sup>th</sup> August 1961, the people of Berlin woke to a physical border being constructed to separate East and West. People could not cross the border and stopped the East Berliners moving to the West.

# END OF THE WAR

## Knowledge organiser

Topic 3

Key Dates

### KEY EVENTS

**1972:** SALT I (strategic arms limitations talks) treaty is signed between America and the USSR

**1974:** SALT II negotiations begin

**1979:** SALT II treaty is signed but is never fully accepted by the US Senate

**1982:** The Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) in Geneva

**1983:** America announces its Strategic Defence Initiative to shoot down any missiles

**1985:** Gorbachev becomes the leader of the USSR

**1988:** Soviet troops begin to pull out of Afghanistan

**July 1988:** Gorbachev encourages free elections in Eastern Europe effectively ending the Cold War.

**1989:** The fall of the Berlin Wall

### GORBACHEV'S NEW THINKING

Gorbachev recognised that the USSR was outdated compared to the rest of the world. He introduced the idea of **GLASNOST** meaning 'openness' with the intent to be to end government corruption and restore faith in communism. He also implemented **PERESTROIKA** meaning 'restructuring' with the aim to strengthen the economy and allow increased trade.

From the 1980s onwards there is an effort made on both sides to break away from the tensions of the Cold War. Gorbachev is made leader of the USSR and slowly begins to remove its influence over Eastern European countries. This is made more secure when the Berlin Wall is brought down, reuniting Germany once again.

### THE SINATRA DOCTRINE

Gorbachev's new approach, the Sinatra Doctrine – allowed the Eastern European governments the opportunity to make their own decisions about the future of their countries.

#### HUNGARY

- The communist leaders introduced reforms such as allowing trade unions and freedom of the press.
- On the 24<sup>th</sup> June 1989, Hungary's first free elections were held and the government officially opened the border with Austria.

#### POLAND

- In 1988 there were strikes across the country and workers formed their own trade union.
- The Communists agreed to free elections, with support for the communists crumbling the first non-communist leader was elected

#### CZECHOSLOVAKIA

- Huge strikes in 1989 led the government to realise they had lost control.
- The communist government agreed to give up all power and allow free elections in the country.

### IMPROVED POLITICS

#### DÉTENTE

By the early 1970s, by America and the USSR saw the benefit of improving their relations. Both countries were spending too much on military weapons, the USSR would benefit from increased Western trade and America was recovering socially from the Vietnam war.

#### NIXON DOCTRINE

Nixon became president in 1969 and so they came up with a new foreign policy: America would remain a part of NATO but would no longer send its troops during conflicts. It reassured the USSR that America would limit its involvement.

#### SALT

The Strategic Arms Limitation Talks were signed in 1972 by the USA and USSR. Both agreed to restrict their anti-ballistic missile sites. It did not however reduce the number of existing weapons.

#### HELSINKI ACCORDS

Soviet leaders hoped that after Détente the communist governments in Eastern Europe would be recognised, and their borders accepted by NATO. In Helsinki, an agreement was reached to improve human rights including freedom of speech, the West recognised the borders of Eastern Europe and more cooperation between the East and West.

#### FAILURE OF SALT I

It was clear that neither side trusted each other and so continued to develop and position weapons. Technology had also improved meaning the wording of the agreement was out of date.

#### SALT II

The new agreement limited the delivery and placement of nuclear weapons and banned a new, improved version of the inter-continental ballistic missiles.

### THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

Demonstrations began across East Germany calling for reforms and greater freedom. However, with demonstrations continuing on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 1989 it was agreed to open the border with West Berlin. Thousands of people brought hammers and axes with them to destroy the wall, removing the last permanent reminder of Soviet control in the East of Berlin.



### SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN

#### IMPORTANCE OF AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan lies between Russia and the middle east, which supplies most of the oil to the rest of the world. In 1979 fundamentalist Islamic groups in Iran seized power and put strict Islamic laws in place. The Soviets were worried about this as there were around 30 million Muslims in the USSR, many living near the borders of Afghanistan. Soviet leaders were therefore worried that some of these Muslims may try and take over Soviet states.

#### SOVIET INVASION

Brezhnev decided to act and sent his soldiers into Afghanistan, where they quickly captured Kabul. They replaced Amin with a pro-Soviet leader Babrak Kamal but he was just as unpopular with the people. Many soldiers from the Afghan army deserted and joined the Mujahideen to fight against Soviet control.

#### IMMEDIATE RESPONSES

Brezhnev argued that this would help restore order to Arghanistan and that he would withdraw his troops as soon as it had calmed down.

President Carter however declared that it was unprovoked aggression and that the invasion was a threat to world peace. Détente was well and truly over.

#### CONSEQUENCES

The Carter Doctrine stated that the USA would use military force if necessary to defend its national interests in the Persian Gulf region. It also promised aid to all of the countries bordering Afghanistan.

Carter also delayed passing the SALT II treaty and cancelled all shipments of grain to the Soviet Union

These acts did not remove USSR troops from Afghanistan, but it brought an end to Détente and relations were at their lowest point

# THE COLD WAR

## Glossary

**AIRLIFT** using airproplanes to transport supplies from one place to another.

**ALLIANCE** involves two or more countries agreeing to support each other during a war

**ALLIES** Countries that agree to work together in international matters and have good relations with each other.

**ATOMIC BOMB** A nuclear weapon that was very many times more destructive than any bombs used before

**BALLISTIC MISSILE** A flying bomb programmed to hit a particular target. International Ballistic missiles can travel across whole continents

**BLOCKADE** Similar to a siege; access and supplies to and from an area are stopped

**BOYCOTT** to refuse to buy or use something, or to refuse to take part in something

**BRINKMANSHIP** pushing a negotiation to the edge in the hope of forcing your opponent to back down.

**CAPITALISM** An economic system under which businesses and individuals are free to make as much money as they can

**CENSORSHIP** When the press, public speaking and culture are controlled by the government.

### CHECKPOINT

**CHARLIE** A famous crossing at the Berlin Wall, heavily guarded and needing paperwork to pass through

**CIA** Central Intelligence Agency, the American military organisation responsible for gathering intelligence on other countries.

**COALITION GOVERNMENT** A government made up of two or more political parties

**COLD WAR** The term used to describe tensions between the East and West after the second world war.

**COMECON** The Soviet Recovery Plan for Eastern Europe after WW2

**COMINFORM** the Communist Information Bureau, designed to bring tighter Soviet control over Eastern Europe.

**COMMUNISM** An political system in which the government controls the economy, and politicians decide how many goods are made.

**CONSUMER GOODS** Products that are not absolutely essential, but are commonly used in everyday life, like deodorant.

**CONTAINMENT** the policy of limiting communism to the countries where it had already taken hold.

**COUP** a sudden and often violent seizure of power.

**DEFECT** to leave one political system for another, such as leaving communism for capitalism.

**DEMOCRACY** this literally means 'power to the people' and allows its citizens to vote for who is in power.

**DETENTE** When relations between countries get better, it literally means 'release from tension';

**DICTATORSHIP** government that aims to completely control peoples lives and gives them little control

**DIPLOMAT** An official who represents their country abroad, such as an ambassador

**DISSIDENT** Someone who challenges or resists a political system

**DOCTRINE** A belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a group or organisation

**DOLLAR IMPERIALISM** The idea that the USA spreads its power and influence around the world using money.

**ECONOMY** The system under which a country's money, trade and goods are organised

**EMBARGO** an official ban on trade with another country

**EMIGRATION** leaving your own country to live in another

**EXCOMM** The Executive Committee of the National Security Council; they advised Kennedy during the Cuban Missile Crisis

**EXILE** Someone forced to live in a country other than their own, usually for political reasons.

**FREE PRESS** newspapers, magazines and radio and television programs are not censored by the government.

**GEOPOLITICS** when the location of countries makes them more or less politically important.

**GUERRILLA TACTICS** methods used by people fighting, they usually involve hit-and-run attacks and ambushes.

**HOTLINE** A direct phone line set up for a specific purpose, the nickname given to the phoneline between the USA and USSR.

**HYDROGEN BOMB** A more advanced and destructive nuclear weapon, 1000 times more powerful than an atomic bomb

**MARSHALL PLAN** the recovery programme that provided money and resources to rebuild Europe after WW2

**MUJAHIDEEN** Islamic Guerrilla fighters

**MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION** neither side would use nuclear weapons as it would mean their own destruction

**NEUTRON BOMB** a powerful nuclear weapon that could wipe out a large population

**NUCLEAR WEAPON** A weapon based on the power created by the splitting of the atom

**PROPAGANDA** messages persuading people to think or act in a certain way.

**PROXY WAR** An indirect War between the superpowers in which one side would provide money or resources to another country

**PURGE** The organised imprisonment or execution of a large number of people thought to be disloyal to a government

**QUARANTINE** placing someone or something in isolation

**REFORMS** changes made with the aim of improving how a country is run, or the aim of improving the lives of the people

**REPARATIONS** money or goods given to countries that have won a war by those who have lost.

**SATELLITE STATE** A country whose government seems independent, but is controlled by a more powerful one.

**SECOND COLD WAR** The period after 1980 when there was an increase in tensions between the superpowers.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL** The senior official in an organisation, such as the UN

**SOCIALISM** a political belief that the community should share available resources equally

**SPHERE OF INFLUENCE** An area where one country has a large amount of influence

**STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE** A system that allowed the US to locate and shoot down missiles in the air

**SUMMIT** a meeting between world leaders where they talk face to face about key issues.

**SUPERPOWER** A country that has significantly more power than the others, either militarily or economically

**TASK FORCE** a military force used to achieve a specific goal

**TELEGRAM** an electronically delivered message

**TORPEDO** an underwater missile

**U 2** an American spy plane used to gather information on the Soviet Union and its allies

**UNITED NATIONS** an international organisation set up to resolve conflicts between countries in a peaceful way

**US CONGRESS** the American parliament, made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

**US SECRETARY OF STATE** a senior American Politician, normally their chief diplomat.