

Timeline: Germany 1918-45

1913

- Hitler went to Munich, a city in Bavaria to study art

1918

- 11th November- Matthias Erzberger, representing the new German government, signed the armistice for the end of World War 1
- December return of the German army to Berlin

1919

- 6th January- 100,000 communists demonstrated in Berlin and took over key buildings such as newspaper offices (inspired by the Spartacus League)
- 9th January- German Worker's Party (DAP) founded by Anton Drexler
- 15th January- Most influential communist leaders, Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Leibknecht arrested and killed
- February- Six moderate social democrats formed a council of People's representatives and organized the election for the National Assembly to create a new constitution (Weimar Republic)
- March- Freikorps numbered up to 250,000
- 28th June- The German Delegation signed the Treaty of Versailles
- August- National Assembly drew up new constitution –WEIMAR REPUBLIC
- Hugo Hasse (one of Ebert's council of People's representatives) murdered
- October- Share prices in the Wall Street stock exchange in New York began to fall
- 24th October- Black Thursday

1920

- The Kapp Putsch

1921

- Reparations eventually fixed for the Treaty of Versailles by the Allies
- Hitler created the Sturmabteilung (SA)
- August- Matthias Erzberger (moderate politician) was shot and killed walking in the Black Forest

1922

- June- Walther Rathenau (Weimar Foreign minister) machine gunned to death in the streets of Berlin

1923

- Germany could no longer pay the reparations to the allies for the treaty of Versailles
- Prices of goods in Germany reached spectacular heights [loaf of bread in 1919 cost 1 mark, now costs 100,000 million marks]
- Hitler selected trusted members of the SA and formed his own bodyguard- the Stosstrupp (Shock Troop)
- September- Gustav Stresemann was appointed new chancellor
- November- Stresemann eradicated the mark currency and issued a new one called the Rentenmark [lead to a period of stability]
- November- The Munich Putsch
- 8th November- meeting of 3000 officials of the Bavarian government in a beer hall- Burgerbrau Keller (Munich)

1924

- The Dawes Plan
- Hitler left prison

1925

- The Locarno Pact
- President Fredrich Ebert is replaced by Paul von Hindenburg (the former marshal of the Kaiser's army)
- 27th February- Hitler re-launches the NSDAP
- Hitler sets up a new party security group called the Schutztaffel (Protection Squad) or SS

1926

- September- Germany became member of the League of Nations
- Stresemann awarded the Nobel Prize

1928

- The Kellog-Briand Pact
- 25-points of 1920 was changed

1929

- The Young Plan
- 3rd October- Stresemann had a heart attack and died

- October- Share prices crash on the Wall street in New York

1930

- March – Collapse of coalition government led by Muler. Replaced by Bruning who rules by presidential decree.

1932

- Heinrich Bruning resigned from his chancellorship
- The SS are introduced to menacing black uniforms
- April- Hitler stood as a candidate for the presidential elections, loses to Hindenburg
- April- President Bruning uses presidential decree to ban the SS and the SA
- May- President Hindenburg made von Papen chancellor
- July- the NSDAP becomes the biggest party in the Reichstag, won 230 seats in the election

1933

- 30th January- Adolf Hitler was legally and democratically appointed chancellor of Germany
- 27th February- Reichstag building destroyed by a massive fire
- 5th March- Election: Nazis win 44% of the vote
- March- The Enabling Act: give Hitler dictatorial power
- April- start of Nazi boycott of Jewish businesses
- April – Law for the Re-establishment of a Professional Civil Service: purges Jews from public employment
- May- Hitler banned Trade Unions and made strikes illegal
- May- Jews were banned from the army
- June- Jews were banned from restaurants
- July- Hitler made all political parties in Germany illegal apart from the NSDAP
- July- Hitler reached a concordat (agreement) with the pope for the Catholic Church
- First concentration camp was opened in Dachau
- September- Hitler made Ludwig Muller (leader of the protestant German Christian Movement) the Reich bishop of Germany
- September- Jews were banned from inheriting land
- Pastor Martin Niemoller, a protestant pastor, set up the PEL (Pastors Emergency League)
- Goebbels made the Minister of People's Enlightenment and Propaganda
- The law for the Encouragement of Marriage was introduced

- The Nazis set up the RAD (National Labour Service)

1934

- January- Hitler abolished the Lander (local/region) parliaments
- 30th June- The Night of the Long Knives: Hitler purges the SA
- 1st July- Rohm was shot
- 2nd August- President Hindenburg dies: allows Hitler to become president and chancellor with title of Fuhrer

1935

- The Lebensborn (fountain of life) programme was introduced by Heinrich Himmler, the SS leader
- Made compulsory for all young men to serve for six months in the RAD
- March – Hitler announces start of rearmament programme
- 15th September- Nuremberg Laws introduced
- Laws against homosexuals were strengthened

1936

- Himmler placed in charge of the SS, SD and Gestapo
- The Olympic games were held in Berlin
- Four Year Plan introduced with Goering in charge
- Law for the Incorporation of German Youth makes the Hitler Youth an official education movement
- March- German troops enter the demilitarised Rhineland

1937

- Niemoller sent to concentration camp and the PEL was banned
- Encyclical letter from the Pope criticises repression of Catholic Church in Germany

1938

- Feb – Hitler purges army leadership to increase his control over the military
- March – Germany annexes Austria in the Anschluss
- March- Jews had to register their possessions
- July- Jews had to carry identity cards
- July – Jewish doctors, dentists and lawyers were forbidden to work with white Aryan Germans

- Sep – Germany gains control over Sudetan area of Czechoslovakia after negotiations with Britain, France and Italy at Munich
- 7th November- Polish Jew, Hershel Grynszpan shot a random German man called Ernst von Rath out of anger to Nazis who killed his parents
- 9th and 10th November- Kristallnacht (Crystal Night)/ Night of the Broken glass

1939

- January- Reich office for Jewish Emigration was set up. Reinhard Heydrich, head of Gestapo, became its director
- March – Germany occupies the rest of Czechoslovakia
- RSHA established to bring all police forces under SS control
- Membership of Hitler Youth becomes compulsory
- April- Orders went out for the Jewish to be evicted from their homes and put into ghettos
- April- orders sent out for Gypsies within enclosed and guarded ghettos inside Germany, ready to be deported
- August – Nazi-Soviet Pact agreed to divide Poland between the two powers
- August – rationing of some key foodstuffs begins
- September – German forces invade Poland, leading to start of WW2
- October – Euthanasia programme approved
- Germany was ready for war

1940

- January – first gassing of mentally ill
- April – Germany invades Denmark and Norway
- May – Germany invades Holland, Belgium and France
- June – France defeated
- Start of Madagascar plan
- October – Warsaw Ghetto sealed

1941

- June – German forced invade the USSR
- *Einsatzgruppen* deployed behind Eastern Front
- August – Euthanasia programme halted
- December – German declaration of war on USA

1942

- ‘total war’ measures implemented in Germany
- April – opening of Sobidor death camp
- Mass deportations of Jews from Western Europe to Auschwitz

- December – German Gypsies deported to Auschwitz

1943

- January – Defeat of German army at Stalingrad marks the decisive turning point in the war
- Start of sustained bombing campaign against German cities by British and Americans
- Warsaw ghetto uprising

1944

- June – allied forced open ‘second front’ in west with D-Day landings
- Mass deportations of Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz
- July – attempt to assassinate Hitler by army officers in Bomb Plot fails
- start of the death marches

1945

- January – Soviet forces enter Germany from east
- Liberation of Auschwitz and other camps
- March – British and American enter Germany from the west
- April – Hitler commits suicide
- May – Germany concedes defeat with unconditional surrender