



# Turton School History Department

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_



## Yr 9 History

Homework Book – Topic 1  
The rise of dictators

## Homework 1

To be completed by:

### What did the Big 3 want from the Paris Peace Conference?

In January 1919, delegates from 32 countries met at the Palace of Versailles near Paris to make peace after the First World War - the peace they hoped would 'end all wars'. The conference was dominated by David Lloyd George, Georges Clemenceau and Woodrow Wilson: the leaders of Britain, France and America, often known as the 'Big Three'. No Germans were invited and this later made them come to resent the treaty because they felt that decisions were made about them, not with them.

The First World War had ended when Germany signed the Armistice. However, a long and lasting peace was another matter entirely and would not be achieved simply by the end of the fighting. There were still many problems to sort out, such as what would happen to the countries that were liberated, what would happen to Germany and who would take control of the Sudetenland and Alsace-Lorraine (which Germany had taken control of in 1871 after the Franco-Prussian War).

Each of the leaders wanted slightly different things.

#### **Clemenceau - France**

Clemenceau was angry that Germany had done so much damage to France and wanted to punish Germany heavily to make them pay.

#### **Lloyd George - Britain**

George wanted to weaken Germany for two reasons: he wanted to appear on the side of the British people who were now very anti-German and he wanted to stop them from being powerful enough to cause another war. However, he did not want to punish them as heavily as France did. This was because he knew that Germany was still an important country in Europe for trade and to stop the spread of communism. He did not want to cripple them so much that they had to find a radical alternative.

#### **Wilson – USA**

Woodrow Wilson was not very interested in the affairs of Europe and simply wanted a long lasting peace. He therefore did not want to anger Germany.

**Why do you think that the Big Three disagreed at the conference?**

### Did everyone approve of the Treaty of Versailles?

The treaty of Versailles is often referred to as 'the hated treaty' - this is due to the fact that the leaders of America, Britain, France and Germany were all deeply unhappy with many different areas of the final agreement.

#### Germany

The Germans hated everything about the treaty:

- They were angry that they had not been allowed to negotiate.
- 'Deutsche Zeitung', a German newspaper, vowed: "We will never stop until we win back what we deserve."
- Count Brockdorff-Rantzau, leader of the German delegation at Versailles said Article 231 - the war-guilt clause - was "a lie". Germany officially denied the war-guilt clause in 1927.
- There was a revolution (the Kapp Putsch) against the treaty in Berlin in 1920.
- Germany hated reparations, and was forced to begin paying them in 1921. They defaulted in 1923

#### Britain

Britain gained some German colonies and the German navy was destroyed but:

and eventually Hitler refused to pay altogether.

- Lloyd George thought the treaty was too harsh, saying: "We shall have to fight another war again in 25 years time."
- The British diplomat Harold Nicolson called it "neither just nor wise" and the people who made it "stupid".

#### France

France got Alsace-Lorraine, German colonies, harsh reparations and a tiny German army but:

- The economist John Maynard Keynes prophesied that reparations would ruin the economy of Europe.
- Many French people wanted an independent, not a demilitarised, Rhineland.

#### America

Woodrow Wilson got the League of Nations, and new nation-states were set up in Eastern Europe but:

- Most French people did not think the League of Nations would protect them against Germany.
- Wilson thought the treaty was far too harsh.
- Self-determination proved impossible to implement - neither Czechoslovakia or Yugoslavia survived as united countries.
- Many Americans did not want to get involved in Europe, and in 1920 the American Senate refused to sign the Treaty of Versailles, or join the League of Nations.

## Homework 2

To be completed by:

**Did everyone approve of the Treaty of Versailles?**

From your learning about the Treaty of Versailles, do you feel it was a success or a failure?

**What was the League of Nations?**

One consequence of the Treaty of Versailles was the creation of a League of Nations

The League of Nations was an international diplomatic group developed after World War I as a way to solve disputes between countries before they erupted into open warfare. A precursor to the United Nations, the League achieved some victories but had a mixed record of success, sometimes putting self-interest before becoming involved with conflict resolution, while also contending with governments that did not recognize its authority. The League effectively ceased operations during World War II.

The League of Nations has its origins in the Fourteen Points speech of President Woodrow Wilson, part of a presentation given in January 1918 outlining of his ideas for peace after the carnage of World War I. Wilson envisioned an organization that was charged with resolving conflicts before they exploded into bloodshed and warfare. By December of the same year, Wilson left for Paris to transform his 14 Points into what would become the Treaty of Versailles. Seven months later, he returned to the United States with a treaty that included the idea for what became the League of Nations.

Republican Congressman from Massachusetts Henry Cabot Lodge led a battle against the treaty. Lodge believed both the treaty and the League undercut U.S. autonomy in international matters. In response, Wilson took the debate to the American people, embarking on a 27-day train journey to sell the treaty to live audiences but cut his tour short due to exhaustion and sickness. Upon arriving back in Washington, D.C., Wilson had a stroke. Congress did not ratify the treaty, and the United States refused to take part in the League of Nations.

In other countries, the League of Nations was a more popular idea. Under the leadership of Lord Cecil, the British Parliament created the Phillimore Committee as an exploratory body and announced support of it. French liberals followed, with the leaders of Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium, Greece, Czechoslovakia and other smaller nations responding in kind.

**What were the positives of creating a League of Nations?**

## Homework 4

To be completed by:

### What is a dictatorship?

Read through the article below about Democracy, Dictatorship and Europe in the 1920s and 1930s. Then I want you to complete questions below.

A dictator is a political leader that holds absolute power over a country. No one is allowed to oppose their leadership and they are allowed to handle any national situation without approval from anyone. Many dictators rule with violence or force to avoid opposition, and in some places, anyone who opposes a dictator is killed. Dictatorships usually deny people basic freedoms, they control their citizen's attitudes and beliefs. The whole point of a dictatorship is to have absolute governmental control. The type of dictatorship used in Nazi Germany and the USSR was totalitarian dictatorship, which was a much stricter type of dictatorship. The government controlled all aspects of life including beliefs and attitudes of the citizens.

The Italian dictator, Benito Mussolini ruled with Fascism. This is in contrast to democracy, which is where people vote for their chosen leader. These systems tend to have more checks and balances to make sure laws and policies are fair. During the 1920s and 30s, political and economical issues allowed dictatorships to begin in Germany, Italy, Russia and Japan. WWI left many countries in poverty, which caused panic among the citizens, who looked to powerful people they thought could solve the problems.

After WWI, Communists took control of Russia, and Lenin (a communist leader) took control of Russia. After Lenin died, there was a huge conflict over who would take his place, eventually, Joseph Stalin eliminated the other competition and became the dictator of Russia.

Meanwhile, in Germany, the Nazi party was gaining a lot of support because of the Great Depression, In the elections of September 1930 the Nazis got an astounding 6.5 million votes! Hitler was made chancellor of Germany in 1933. Hitler vowed that he would ignore the treaty of Versailles and bring Germany back to power. Hitler said that Germans were a superior race, and that Jews and Slaves were inferior. Hitler began a campaign against Jews and Communists and started trying to get rid of them. Because people were so panicked, Hitler's nationalism was very appealing. Also, it helped people to have a group of people to blame for their own misfortune.

In Italy, economic problems led to rebellions. As a result of the violence, a group called the Fascists gained a lot of support. The leader of the Fascists was Mussolini. Mussolini gained support by publishing a rebel newspaper called the arditi, Mussolini used the profits he made from the newspaper to arm his men and soon took control as the leader of Italy. Mussolini controlled his people by making them afraid, and telling them that the problems Italy was having could only be fixed under his rule. Mussolini promised that he would make Italy prosperous again.

**What is the difference between a democracy and a dictatorship? What reasons are there for the rise of Dictatorships in the 1920s and 30s?**

### What did the Nazis believe?

Under Hitler's leadership the Nazi party quickly developed a 25-Point Programme, a list of the policies it would introduce if it came to power.

#### **Key Nazi beliefs contained in the 25-Point Programme:**

- A strong Germany - the Treaty of Versailles should be abolished and all German-speaking people united in one country.
- Führer - the idea that there should be a single leader with complete power rather than a democracy.
- Social Darwinism - the idea that the Aryan race was superior and Jews were 'subhuman'.
- Autarky - the idea that Germany should be economically self-sufficient.
- That Germany was in danger - from communists and Jews, who had to be destroyed.
- Lebensraum - the need for 'living space' for the German nation to expand.

#### **The appeal of the Nazis**

In the 1920s, the Nazis tried to appeal to a lot of different members of society. The 25-Point Programme had policies that were:

**Socialist:** farmers should be given their land; pensions should improve; public industries such as electricity and water should be owned by the state

**Nationalist:** all German-speaking people should be united in one country; the Treaty of Versailles should be abolished; there should be special laws for foreigners

**Racist:** Jews should not be German citizens; Immigration should be stopped.

**Fascist:** focused on creating a strong central government; government control of the newspapers

#### **Membership and growth**

When Hitler joined the German Workers' Party he became its 55th member. By the end of 1920 the newly named Nazi Party recorded a membership of 2,000 and during the upheaval of the hyperinflation crisis its membership grew rapidly, to 20,000 by the time of the Munich Putsch in November 1923.

#### **The role and impact of the SA**

In 1921 Hitler assembled a large group of unemployed young men and former soldiers, known as the Storm Troopers (Sturmabteilung) or SA, as the Nazi Party's private army:

- They gained the nickname 'Brownshirts', after their brown shirted uniforms.
- Their role was to protect party meetings, march in Nazi rallies and intimidate political opponents by breaking up their meetings.
- Many of the SA men were former soldiers. Some were upset with the way they had been treated after World War One and saw the government as the 'November Criminals'.
- After the failure of the Munich Putsch, the SA was reorganised.
- It began to be used to intimidate voters into voting for the Nazi Party.
- However, the Nazi Party was not the only organisation to have a paramilitary group. The communists also had similar elements.

## Homework 5

To be completed by:

What did the Nazis believe?

What was the appeal of the Nazi Party? What reasons are there for the rise of Dictatorships in the 1920s and 30s?

### **What was the Munich Putsch?**

In November 1923, Hitler tried to take advantage of the hyperinflation crisis facing the Weimar government by trying to launch a revolution in Munich – known as the Munich Putsch. It seemed like the perfect opportunity to take power, but poor planning and misjudgement resulted in failure and the subsequent imprisonment of Adolf Hitler.

Causes that led to Hitler attempting the Munich Putsch in 1923

- By 1923, the Nazi party had 55,000 members and was stronger than ever before.
- The Weimar Republic was in crisis due to hyperinflation.
- In September 1923, the Weimar government had called off the general strike, and German nationalists were furious with the government.
- Hitler thought he would be helped by important nationalist politicians in Bavaria.
- Hitler had a huge army of SA members, but he knew he would lose control of them if he did not give them something to do.
- Hitler hoped to copy Mussolini - the Italian fascist leader - who had come to power in Italy in 1922 by marching on Rome.

During the hyperinflation crisis of 1923, Hitler saw an opportunity. People across the country had many different ideas about how Germany was being run. The individual states had different identities that affected how politics was run in that area. In Bavaria, (capital – Munich) the majority of the population were Catholic and things were quite traditional. This meant that many within that state intensely disliked the new Weimar government and saw them as weak. Hitler thought he would take advantage of this and plotted with two nationalist politicians - Kahr and Lossow - to take over Munich in a revolution.

Hitler collected the SA and told them to be ready to rebel. But then, on 4 October 1923, Kahr and Lossow called off the rebellion. This was an impossible situation for Hitler, who had 3,000 troops ready to fight.

On the night of 8 November 1923, Hitler and 600 SA members burst into a meeting that Kahr and Lossow were holding at the local Beer Hall. Waving a gun at them, Hitler forced them to agree to rebel - and then let them go home. The SA took over the army headquarters and the offices of the local newspaper.

The next day, 9 November 1923, Hitler and the SA went into Munich on what they thought would be a triumphal march to take power. However, Kahr had called in police and army reinforcements. There was a short scuffle in which the police killed 16 members of the SA. Hitler fled, but was arrested two days later.

Consequences of the Munich Putsch

The Munich Putsch was a failure in the short term, but it was also an important event in the Nazis' rise to power. As a result of the Putsch: Short term failure:

- The Nazi party was banned, and Hitler was prevented from speaking in public until 1927.
- Hitler was tried for high treason (betraying his country) and sentenced to five years in prison.

Long term success:

- He was sentenced in April and out of prison by December. During his time in the comfortable Landsberg Prison, he wrote 'Mein Kampf' – a propaganda book setting out Nazi beliefs. Millions of Germans read it, and Hitler's ideas became very well-known.
- The fact that the judge had been so lenient with the sentence and that Hitler had served so little time suggests that some people in authority had sympathy with Hitler and what he had tried to do.
- Hitler realised that he would never come to power by revolution and that he would have to use democratic means, so he reorganised the party to enable it to take part in elections.

## Homework 6

To be completed by:

What was the Munich Putsch?

Create a flow diagram that explain the causes, events and results of the Munich Putsch

## Homework 7

To be completed by:

### Research Task – Mein Kampf

To become a good historian you will need to be able to conduct your own research and wider reading (at A level student are expected to carry out 5 hrs of wider reading a week – just for History!).

You do not need to conduct 6 hrs reading but for your first research task you are to visit the website below and read about the book that was written by Adolf Hitler.

Visit this web site:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Mein-Kampf>



What does Mein Kampf mean? How many copies did it sell? What were the key ideas from this book? Why do you think the book was banned in post-war Germany?

**What was the impact of the Depression on Germany?**

Hitler was appointed Chancellor in January 1933. His rise to power was the result of many factors: the impact of the Depression, the weaknesses of Weimar democracy and the strengths of the Nazi party. In October 1929 the Wall Street Crash on the US stock exchange brought about a global economic depression. In Europe, Germany was worst affected because American banks called in all of their foreign loans at very short notice. These loans, agreed under the Dawes Plan in 1924, had been the basis for Germany's economic recovery from the disaster of hyperinflation. The loans funded German industry and helped to pay reparations.

The most obvious consequence of this collapse was a huge rise in unemployment. Over the winter of 1929-30 the number of unemployed rose from 1.4 million to over 2 million. By the time Hitler became Chancellor in January 1933 one in three Germans were unemployed, with the figure hitting 6.1 million. Industrial production had also more than halved over the same period. The rise in unemployment significantly raised government expenditure on unemployment insurance and other benefits. Germans began to lose faith in democracy and looked to extreme parties on the both the Left (the communists) and the Right (the Nazis) for quick and simple solutions.

In March 1930 the German Chancellor, Hermann Müller, resigned when his government could not agree on how to tackle the rise in government spending caused by the rise in unemployment. He was replaced by Heinrich Brüning. His policies were ineffective in dealing with the unemployment crisis and further undermined Germans' faith in democracy:

- In July 1930 Chancellor Brüning cut government expenditure, wages and unemployment pay. This added to the spiral of decline and unemployment continued to rise, as well as making those who had lost their jobs even poorer.
- However, Brüning could not get the Reichstag to agree to his actions, so President Hindenburg used Article 48 of the Weimar constitution, which gave the President the power to pass laws by decree, to govern. This undermined democracy and weakened the power of the Reichstag – arguably opening the way for Hitler's later dictatorship.

During the economic depression between 1930 and 1933, many people were affected and poverty hit Germany hard. Extreme political parties offering simple solutions to their problems appeared at both ends of the political spectrum. Between 1930 and 1933, support for the extreme right-wing Nazis and the extreme left-wing communists soared.

By 1932 parties committed to the destruction of the Weimar Republic held 319 seats out of a total of 608 in the Reichstag, with many workers turning to communism. The communists had their own version of the SA, the Communist Red Fighting League, which broke up opposition party meetings. They confronted the police in street battles, and clashed with the Nazis' SA as well. However, ultimately, the party that did better out of all this unrest were the Nazis.

**How did the Depression help the Nazis gain power in Germany?**

## Homework 9

To be completed by:

### Research Task – Joseph Stalin

Joseph Stalin (1878-1953) was the dictator of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) from 1929 to 1953. Under Stalin, the Soviet Union was transformed from a peasant society into an industrial and military superpower. However, he ruled by terror, and millions of his own citizens died during his brutal reign.

Visit this web site:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zncygk7>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/joseph-stalin-national-hero-or-cold-blooded-murderer/zhv747h>



**Why were people so afraid of Stalin? Do you think Stalin was a national hero or a cold-blooded murderer?**

### How did the Nazis gain power in Germany?

In 1928, the Nazis had only 12 seats in the Reichstag; by July 1932 they had 230 seats and were the largest party.

Because the Nazis' 25 Point Programme appealed to people all over the country from all walks of life, they became popular. Other extremist groups like the communists only really appealed to the industrial workers in Germany's cities and couldn't keep up.

- Wealthy businessmen: were frightened communists would take their wealth away and did not want to see any more increase in support for them. To combat this, they began to give money to Hitler and the Nazis, hoping they would gain more seats – not the communists.
- The middle-class: were generally quite traditional and were not convinced by the Weimar democracy. Hitler promised them a strong government and won their votes.
- Nationalists: they blamed the legacy of the Treaty of Versailles and reparations for causing the depression and so lent their support to the Nazis who had promised to make Germany strong again.
- Rural areas: The Nazis appealed to people in the countryside - especially middle class shopkeepers |

#### The effects of propaganda

Nazi propaganda was controlled by Joseph Goebbels and had three main themes:

- and craftsmen, farmers and agricultural labourers.
- The Führer cult. Hitler was always portrayed as Germany's saviour – the man who would rescue the country from the grip of depression.
- Volksgemeinschaft (people's community). This was the idea that the Nazis would create one German community that would make religion or social class less relevant to people.
- Scapegoating the Jews (and others) for Germany's ills. Jews were often portrayed as sub-human, or as

Hitler was a great speaker with an extraordinary power to win people over. Goebbels' propaganda campaign was very effective (he used aeroplanes to bring Hitler to speak across the country, radios to broadcast important speeches and rallies to make supporters excited) and brought huge support for the Nazis by targeting specific groups of society with different slogans and policies to win their support.

#### The work of the SA

The SA played a part in the Nazis' increasing popularity by:

- a threat to both the racial purity and economic future of the country.
- intimidating the Nazis' political opponents – especially the communists – by turning up at their meetings and attacking them |
- providing opportunities for young, unemployed men to become involved in the party
- protecting Hitler and other key Nazis when they organised meetings and made speeches

## Homework 10

To be completed by:

How did the Nazis gain power in Germany?

What was the most important in helping the Nazis gain power? Aims; Propaganda; Hitler himself or the SA?

### Revision Quiz

A good historian (or student of any subject) needs to know the key information and facts about their subject. In history you will be expected remember information such as dates and names along with the key events. This will allow you to explain your answers fully when you are assessed. One tool to help you do this is to use flash cards and revision quizzes. A set of electronic flash cards has been created for you to access on the website 'Quizlet'.

Scan the QR code using your phone to be taken directly to the flashcards. These can be used as a revision aid and also to create your own quizzes about the period.

### Additional websites:

There are a number of useful websites to visit to help build up your knowledge about this period:

BBC Bitesize Nazis: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z3bp82p/revision/1>

BBC Bitesize Stalin's Russia: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z6cfd6f/revision/1>

### Wider reading

There are many great reading books covering this period, specifically designed for you to understand the period and also see it from a different point of view.

**The Nazis a warning from History** At the heart of the book lies compelling eyewitness accounts of life under Adolf Hitler, spoken through the words of those who experienced the Nazi regime at every level of society. An extensive new section on the Nazi/Soviet war provides a chilling insight into Nazi mentality during the most bloody conflict in history.

