KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: Germany in Transition 1919-39 (Unit 2)

Staffel)

Gauleiter

Propaganda

Chancellor

The Depression

Himmler

A Nazi official in charge of a particular area (gau)

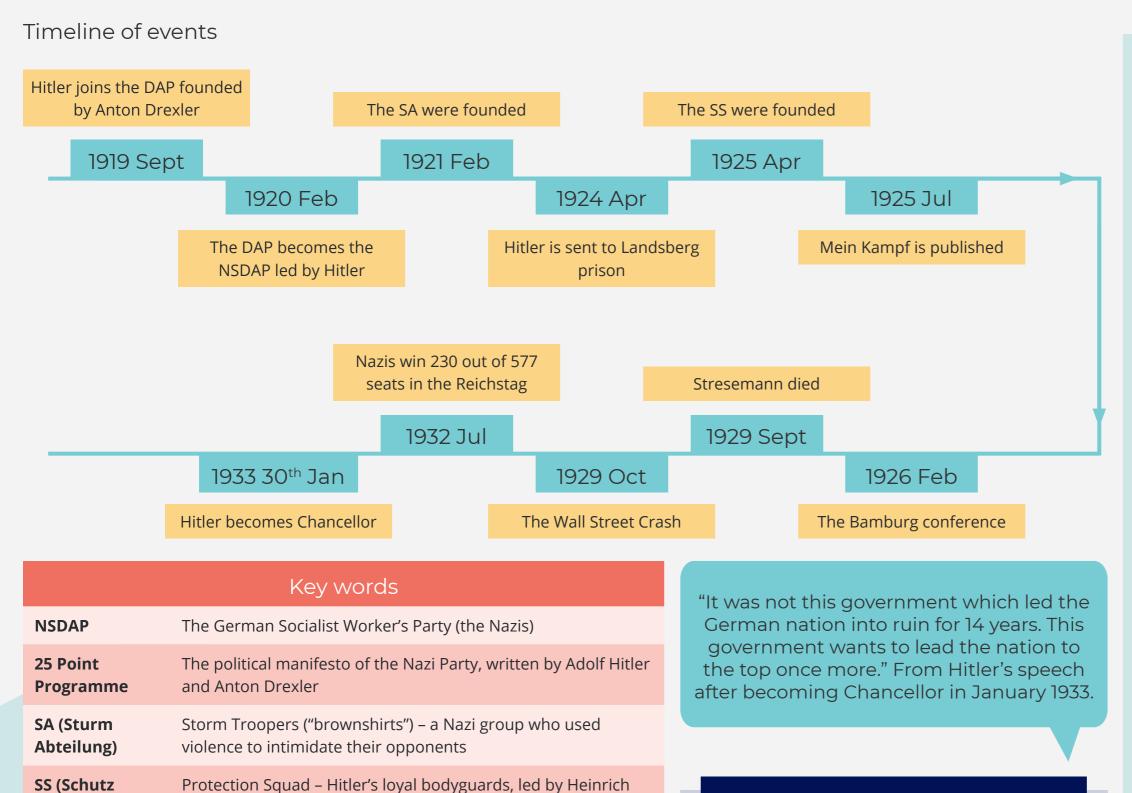
The Weimar official in charge of the government

Information that persuades people to support a particular view

World economic decline caused the US Wall Street Crash



Key Question 3: How and why did the Weimar Republic collapse between 1929 and 1933?



Important concept

The **Backstairs Intrigue** was the secret discussions by Weimar politicians that led to Hitler being asked to be Chancellor.

How did the Nazi Party change its tactics in the 1920s?

- The Nazis began as the German Workers Party in Bavaria in 1919.
- Hitler took over the party in 1920 and changed the party name.
- The Nazis planned a violent revolution against the Weimar government helped by the SA who were formed in 1921.
- The 1923 Munich Putsch resulted in Hitler being sent to prison and the party being banned.
- After leaving prison in 1924 Hitler had the ban on the Nazis lifted.
- Hitler's ideas were published in the book "Mein Kampf" in 1925.
- Hitler decided to destroy the Republic by winning in national elections.
- At the Bamburg conference Hitler became undisputed Fuhrer of the party.
- Hitler toured the country giving speeches blaming the Jews, Communists, the Versailles Treaty and weak Weimar politicians for Germany's problems.
- During the Depression Hitler promised "Work, Freedom, Bread".
- The gauleiter of Berlin, Goebbels, ran a propaganda campaign using cinema, radio, posters, rallies and Nazi newspapers convinced a lot of people to support the Nazis.
- In 1928 the Nazis only had 12 seats in the Reichstag.
- In the September 1930 elections the Nazis won 107 seats.

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Key Question 3: How and why did the Weimar Republic collapse between 1929 and 1933?

How did the Depression affect Germany between 1929 and 1933?

- · American loans to Germany were ended but reparation payments were only suspended in 1931
- International trade fell, damaging businesses
- Factory workers lost their jobs
- Farm workers lost money as food prices fell
- By 1932 6 million Germans were unemployed (4 in 10 people)
- Fewer people were paying taxes but the government needed to spend more money on unemployment benefits
- Without a majority of supporters in the Reichstag Chancellor Bruning had to rely on the President to use Article 48 to get things done
- For cutting unemployment benefits and failing to solve food shortages Bruning became known as the "Hunger Chancellor"
- People began to vote for the KPD (the German Communist Party) it won 100 seats in the Reichstag in November 1932

Who were the "Three Chancellors"?

- 1. Heinrich Bruning (March 1930 to May 1932)
- 2. Franz von Papen (July 1932 to November 1932)
- 3. Kurt von Schleicher (December 1932 to January 1933)

How did the "Backstairs Intrigue" make Hitler Chancellor?

Problems facing the Weimar Republic:

- rising unemployment
- · rising costs of unemployment benefit
- successive Chancellors 1930-33 could not get laws passed through the Reichstag to solve problems because parties would not work with each other to solve problems
- the President had to use Article 48 to get any laws passed at all
- richer people feared a Communist takeover.

Reasons why Hindenburg asked Hitler to become chancellor

- By November 1932 the Nazis had 196 seats in the Reichstag and 1/3rd of the votes in the election they were the biggest party.
- Von Papen failed to win support in two elections in 1932 and resigned.
- Von Schleicher could not get other parties to work with him and was sacked because some thought he might give power to the communists.
- Von Papen convinced Hindenburg that if Hitler was Chancellor he would make sure Hitler did
 as he was told he said "he would make Hitler squeak".