NAZI GERMANY REVISION

Early Germany 1871-1918
Group of European states such as West Prussia and Bavaria put together into one giant superstate called Germany. Founded by Otto Von Bismark in 1871.

SUCCESSES WITH BEING A NEW COUNTRY
- Germany had **fertile land and many resources** which brought them economic success
- They **already had colonies** in Africa and the specific
- Being positioned in the middle of Europe meaning they were surrounded by other countries for trade

PROBLEMS WITH BEING A NEW COUNTRY
- Rush to build up their empire so they can catch up with other countries (however colonising too fast made other countries perceive the Kaiser as “greedy” and immature)
- Kaiser was obsessed with the army and war which worried other countries
- Kaiser was overly ambitious and wanted Germany to be the leading power in Europe and have the biggest empire
- There was a power imbalance between all the states within Germany because some states were more economically developed than others before their union
- There was religious segregation between the north and south of Germany that caused some ethical tension
  
  North Germany = Protestant  
  South Germany = Catholic

Kaiser Wilhelm II
1859-1941

- Became Kaiser in 1888 at a very young age (age 29)
- Refused to grant power to anyone else, only appointed obedient ministers
- Ambitious and suffered from IMPERIAL ENVY (obsessed with Germany being the most powerful country)
- Put through rigorous training at military school
- Personality contained childish traits: no compromise, short attention span, rude manners, big ego
- Queen Victoria’s nephew
- 9th November 1918 - Abdication of the Kaiser (stepping down from power).
- 11th November 1918 - Germany sign the ARMISTICE and surrender. WW1 has ended.
  - Leader of Social Democratic Party, FREDREICH EBERT declares Germany is now a REPUBLIC (has no single leader)
Crime and Punishment
THE COURTS
→ Hitler set up the National Socialist League for the Maintenance of the Law
→ Nazis used force to receive consent from every judge
→ Enabled the Nazis to monitor judiciary decisions
→ Also meant the legal system will follow Nazi priorities
→ Hitler allowed judges to punish innocent people, including political opponents
→ A People’s Court was set up to hear all treason cases

CONCERNTRATION CAMPS
→ First one opened up in Dachau, 1933
→ Controlled by the SS
→ Detained undesirable minorities permanently
→ Inmates first used for slave labour in 1938
→ 20,000 detainees in six camps by 1939
→ Efficiently organised and the trade of goods by slave labour benefitted the German economy

The Hitler Youth 1933-1945
The purpose was to sustain the A Thousand Year Reich. This was believed to be achieved by indoctrinating children from a young age, where the minds are more easily impressionable and less exposed to contradicting ideas. This ensured future generations couldn’t out-smarten Nazi politics.

→ 8am until 6pm every day (apart from Sunday) until the age of 14
  Time in school was long to ensure young minds were being oppressed with Nazi beliefs and not tempted to think differently or form opposition groups
→ Each lesson started with a class salute of “Heil Hitler”

SUBJECTS
- New subjects introduced such as Race Studies (taught importance of the Aryan race)
- Girls were taught Domestic Sciences (like cooking and needlework) to prevent them from wishing to pursue a career in education
- Four hours of PE per day emphasised good health
  - It prepared boys for the military
  - Girls often did more PE than boys because Nazis believed good maintenance of the female body would ensure mothers breed pure Aryan children
- History lessons criticized Communism and the Treaty
- Geography lessons taught Hitler’s idea of “Lebensraum” - a people without space, justifying his need to invade other countries
- “Mein Kampf” became a compulsory school text
MARTIN NIEMÖLLER (a priest who originally supported Hitler) was detained in a concentration camp in 1937 for setting up the PASTOR'S EMERGENCY LEAGUE (established in 1933) which criticized the control and "coordination" the Nazis wanted over the Church.

THE CONCORDAT
- An agreement between Hitler and the Catholic Church
- Signed in 1933
- The Catholic Church agreed not to voice any discontent for Nazi policies on the condition that the Nazis agreed not to interfere with the teachings of the Church
- Hitler fooled Christians into thinking he respected their religion, which is what gained the Nazis Christian support.

WHY THE CHURCH LATER OPPOSED THE NAZIS:
Unsurprisingly, Hitler later on rejected his own agreement by banning church youth groups because they imposed rivalry on the Hitler Youth. Hitler also tried to remove the Old Testament, because it was regarded as a 'Jewish Book'. So in 1937, the Pope declared that Nazi ideas were against Christianity and wrote a letter about Nazis abusing human rights. These letters were read out in churches all across Germany, so consequently nuns and priests were sent to concentration camps. Anti-Church propaganda described Christian ministers as “attacking” the order of the German State.

WHY THE NAZIS SUPPORTED ELIMINATION OF THE CHURCH:
- The Church valued God above all earthly leaders
- They had great ethical influence over more of the German population than Hitler did.
- The Church teaches many traditional morals and rules that contradict Nazi ideas.
- Other independent groups had already been eliminated.

THE REICH CHURCH
Churches were decorated with the Nazi flag. With complete control over the legislature and executive, the Nazis encountered very little Christian opposition by the late 1930s. Hitler was portrayed as a protector from Judaism and Atheistic Communism.

UNDERSIRABLES IN NAZI GERMANY:
- Physically disabled
- Those who wouldn't work
- Those who couldn't work
- Those who weren't Aryan
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Communists
- Gypsy Travellers
- Jews
- Homosexuals (believed to be sufferers of a mental condition in the 1930s)
- Those who couldn't make Hitler their first loyalty
- Those who wouldn't work
- Homeless people
- Socialists
- Political Rivals
- Bibles and crosses were banned and replaced with a sword and a copy of "Mein Kampf"