• Many important members were trained in public speaking as this was an important tactic of the party
• They still had very few votes in the Reichstag as they had a lack of support perhaps due to the fact that Germany was more stable
• Many Germans were happy again for the first time in ages due to the ‘Roaring 20’s’

The Wall Street Crash of 1929 and its effect on Germany

• The Crash brought about a worldwide recession known as the Great Depression
• Germany was affected badly as America could not continue to support it with loans
• German unemployment rose by millions, businesses went bankrupt
• This was an opportunity for Hitler and the Nazi Party
• They had always argued that Germany would suffer from financially relying on other countries
• To many Germans, the effect of the Great Depression proved Hitler right
• Things became difficult reminding Germans of what they experienced earlier with hyperinflation and war.

Why the Nazi Party became more Popular in the years 1929 to 1932

• Hitler changed his tactics to appeal to many Germans. He started gaining mass support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NAZI SEATS IN REICHSTAG</th>
<th>CAUSES OF NAZI SEATS – GERMAN ECONOMY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>13 seats – just over 2%</td>
<td>German economy had been growing, many wanted a safe government to maintain this</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>107 seats – risen to 18%</td>
<td>Year after the great depression, lack of confidence in German Government led many to extremist parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JULY 1932</td>
<td>230 seats – risen to 37%</td>
<td>Germany was still suffering from the GD so more and more turning to extremist parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER 1932</td>
<td>196 seats – dropped to 33%</td>
<td>Worst effects of the great depression were passing and signs the economy was improving, less extremist support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Working class support – Nazis said they could tackle unemployment and get them better working conditions and better job security
• Fear of communism among the wealthy and aristocrats
• Performed better in wealthier suburbs of cities
• Gained support of young people
The Work of the SA

- The leader was a very tough ex-soldier called Ernst Röhm
- Many young, working class men joined with old Freikorps and soldiers who had left the army of the treaty of Versailles
- The SA offered structure and opportunity many felt worth fighting for
- People wanted a strong government and national socialism
- The SA acted as bodyguards to Nazi officials and policed demonstrations and rallies
- SA often promoted strikes before the Nazis took power
- Strikes helped disrupt Germany and the government
- SA tactics were effective at terrorising opposition
- They would fight, intimidate and even murder people
- They commonly intimidate Jews
- Involved in the Munich Beer Hall Putsch
- The SS developed as a branch of the SA but increasingly took over their roles
- The SS actually organised and carried out many of the murders of the SA leadership on the Night of the Long Knives in 1934

Role of Nazi Propaganda

- The Nazis gained more respectability
- They joined other right wing parties to campaign against the Young Plan
- Hitler campaigned around the whole of Germany
- The propaganda minister – Joseph Goebbels became election campaign manager
- Goebbels sent pro-Nazi messages to Germans that denounced opponents as weak and incompetent or even dangerous threats to Germany
- There was increasing support for Hitler’s determination for a rearmament programme

Creation of the Nazi State

In what ways did political instability in 1932 and 1933 contribute to Hitler becoming Chancellor

- The Nazi Party became the largest political party in the German Parliament but it still wasn’t enough, they needed 51% to pass laws and make significant changes
- They were losing seats in the Reichstag, people were still wary of extremists
- They needed lots of financial support for expensive demonstrations and propaganda
- The President chose the chancellor, and he didn’t chose Hitler
- Hitler only wanted the role of chancellor, he wouldn’t have any other role
- Hindenburg did not approve of Hitler so appointed Von Papen in 1932, and then Von Schleicher to 1933, side-lining Hitler as chancellor
- Von Papen eventually persuaded Hindenburg to make Hitler chancellor with himself as vice, thinking he would be able to control and restrain him
- Hindenburg feared the direction Hitler might lead Germany in should he have the power
In the 1930’s the camps were increasingly used to imprison those who spoke out, including trade unionists and Christians.

Those who didn’t conform to the Nazi’s idea of racial purity were also placed in camps, such as Jews and Gypsies as well as homeless people or alcoholics.

Most people imprisoned before WW2 were eventually released.

The trade unionists were taken over and replaced with the Nazi’s German Labour Movement.

By the start of WW2 approx. a quarter of a million Germans were in concentration camps.

Different categories of people were labelled, e.g. Jews had the yellow star.

People were dealt with by sterilisation, euthanasia and forced labour.

As the was progressed, concentration camps became extermination camps.

It is important to remember the difference between these camps.

**Methods of Control of National and Local Groups and Systems**

- The Nazi party wanted total support from all Germans.
- Branches of the SS acted as secret police such as the Gestapo monitored Germans but could not be everywhere at once.
- They enlisted Block Wardens, who would spy on neighbours, colleagues and even family to make sure they were supportive of Hitler.
- Each warden was responsible for monitoring a small block, where they would do things such as collect donations from the residents if necessary.
- People could be imprisoned for reasons as simple as listening to foreign radio, or not hanging Hitler’s portrait in your home.
- There was even a law that said you could not tell jokes against the government or about the Nazi Party and Hitler, the Law against Malicious Gossip.

To what extent did laws restricting civil liberties prevent effective opposition to Nazi Rule?

**Political Parties/Churches/Opposition Groups/Individuals**

- Gestapo used informers to arrest opponents so many people feared each other as the informers were not known.
- Many Germans lived in such fear they just had to accept and support the Nazi Party to the extent they were expected to.
- Some people began to use methods to oppose Nazism, however opposition was rare and ‘underground’.

**Treatment of the Press/Censorship**

- Hitler and Goebbels used the media as a vital weapon in securing support.
- There were many press reports about the Nazi Party in the 1920’s that were negative.
- They wanted full control of the press and what was printed, and journalists had no choice but to write positively, or fear for their lives.
The Swing Youth: middle class, listened to dance and jazz music considered degenerate by the Nazi’s, mocked Nazi salutes and simply rejected the Nazi propaganda and control of youth

The Nazis responded to the Edelweiss Pirates by criminalising their actions, imprisoning or beating members, shaving their heads, sending them to camps and a few were even executed

The Nazi response to the Swing Youth was to punish them for not being pure Germans and arrest their leaders. Other punishments were the same as those for the Edelweiss Pirates

Change in the Role of Women in Nazi Germany:

In the Weimar Republic, many women had professions in teaching and medicine and 10% of the Reichstag Parliament were women

Nazi’s believed that men and women should have different roles

Many female doctors lost their jobs when Hitler came to power, the number of female teachers declined and women could no longer teach in universities

Nazi’s were also concerned with a falling birth rate so took steps to increase it

Campaign for larger families included higher maternity benefits, family allowances and loans to married women who did not take employment

Birth control and abortions were banned

There were awards for women who had many children

The drive to increase the birth rate did not apply to women who were considered to be a risk to racial strength or purity

Almost 100,000 women were sterilised under the law for the prevention of genetically diseased offspring

The Changes

From the late 1930’s onwards roles really changed

Some senior Nazi leaders wanted to increase the proportion of working women

Hitler was concerned about the effect of women working on German soldiers away from home

Build up to war did make Hitler realise that this would increase the demands of women working as there would be a labour shortage

Policies to women were changed that allowed them to work in factories and agriculture

Women had to combine family and working lives to produce supplies for the army

Women increasingly ran farms as rural life was made harder by bombs dropped by the Allies

By 1943, 3 million German women aged 19-45 had been conscripted for work

Hitler became very concerned for the decreasing male populations, and the idea of men having two wives was even briefly considered