Germany and West Germany, 1918-89

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get Lander to adopt framework which granted extra help for disadvantage and reduced the impact of ‘streaming’ – this failed to get required majority in the Bundesrat to become law.

- **Crisis:** problems of more people going to university (in 1960 239,000 and in 1980 749,000). Federal Education Promotion Act of 1971 aimed at increased participation from working class communities. Curriculum was accused of being old-fashioned, e.g. no economics or technology studies.

**Status and attitudes towards ethnic minorities, 1918-32**

- **Attitudes to Jews:** in 1933 Jews made up 0.76% of Germany (500k) 2/3 of whom them lived in cities. 5 Jews were cabinet ministers in Weimar (e.g. Walter Rathenau). The rabidly anti-semitic German Peoples Offensive and Defensive Alliance had 170,000 members when it was disbanded in 1923.
- **Attitudes towards gypsies and others:** in 1926 Bavaria passed series of laws against gypsies limiting their freedom of movement and in 1927 made them carry cards. In 1925 there were 200,000 Poles in Germany as a result of the demarcation between the two countries as Versailles – animosity towards Poles as fought them during the war. Blacks were discriminated against as a result of the French employment of colonial troops during the Ruhr crisis – e.g. 500 mixed race births from 1923 on labelled ‘Germany’s shame’

**Nazi racial policy**

- On Jan 1 1934 Nazis began compulsory sterilisation programme of ‘undesirables’ – almost 400,000 people sterilised between 1934 and 1945.
- **Making German ‘Jew free’: Separated from community by 1) legal separation – in essence segregation; 2) Bans and boycotts – during April 1933 series of laws restricted number of Jewish university students, banned Jewish athletes, stopped people with Jewish names from sending telegrams. Nuremburg race laws: 1935, anyone with 3 or 4 Jewish grandparents was Jewish. Prior to this, a Jewish star was displayed on Jewish-owned shops; propaganda urged separation to prevent contamination. Kristallnacht occurred on 9 Nov 1938 when Nazis burned over 260 synagogues and arrested 20,000 Jews and Jews then asked for reparation for damage.
- **Getting away:** between 1933 and 1939 450,000 Jews emigrated (Nazis had ‘flight tax’ of 30-50% of their wealth). Nazi policy eventually limited emigration and external countries imposed quotas.
- **War, change of policy:** special SS units called Einsatzgruppen set up to root out Polish partisans and Jews – killed 2m of 6m Jews during Holocaust.
- **Ghettos:** first ghetto in Piotrkow set up in Oct 1939. Food and medical supplies kept to minimum; this was a way for Nazis to dehumanise Jews as painted them as depraved and disgusting.

**The status of and attitudes towards ethnic minorities in the FRG**

- On April 1947 there were 10 million refugees and ‘expellees’ – important for building economy.
- **Economic boom of 50/60s:** economic growth created requirement for more workers – by 1955 there was full employment. Companies wanted to get more
3. Why did Hitler invade Poland in 1939?

**Political miscalculation**

- **Underestimation of desire to fight**: Poland in mid-1930s spent \( \frac{1}{2} \) of budget on armed forces; Chamberlain pledged to guarantee Polish independence on 31 Mar 1939 – Hitler thought this was a bluff.
- **H and promises to defend Pol**: Hitler stated in May 1939: ‘The task is to isolate Poland’. Chamberlain’s guarantee included certain clauses, which weakened agreement, e.g. Britain would not support if Poles showed ‘provocative or stupid obstinacy’ in refusing to talk to Germany over Dazingle and Polish Corridor.
- **Pact of Steel**: enhanced Hitler’s position by shifting balance of power against Allies.
- **Impact of Nazi-Soviet Pact**: Allies could no longer rely on dilution of German strength by fighting two fronts. On the pact’s announcement Chamberlain wrote to Hitler stating that ‘no greater mistake be made’ that believing Britain’s commitment would reduce.

**Did Germany invade Poland because of an economic crisis?**
The 4-year plan, instituted in 1936, was unattainable, as German resources did not equal demand for rearmament. The problems:
1. Need to import caused Balance of Payment problems.
2. Shortage of raw materials for forces, e.g. steel supplies cut from 530k tonnes to 300k tonnes.
3. Labour shortage – Army Ordnance Office estimated than an 870% increase in workforce was required to meet production targets. Could not conscript.
4. Food supply and diet worsened as resources committed to war.

**Economic factors** played part in Hitler’s thinking as he put British naval blockade down to reason for WW1 loss. *Blitzkrieg* may have been ‘wars of plunder’ so as to allow economy to be ready in 42/43 for full-scale war (cf. Adam Tooze).

**Hitler, invasion of Poland & own beliefs**

- Hitler believed in his own myth and the Nietzchean ‘will to power’.

3. Contribution of other nations to outbreak of war

**The Soviet Union**

- **Why didn’t West ally with USSR?** In May 1939 USSR foreign minister Molotov declared interest in forming alliance with Western powers – negotiations were slow; British willingness to negotiate was undermined by antipathy to communism.
- **Britain’s fear of alliance with Stalin**: Britain was mindful of the entangling system of alliances which contributed to WW1; Britain was global in outlook, due to the Empire – and so was worried about result of Soviet alliance on Japan and Eastern possessions.
- **British underestimation of USSR**: 26 Mar 1939 Chamberlain wrote of ‘profound mistrust of Russia’ – underestimated military strength, capacity of