• DDP
  o Democratic Party
  o Founded from the left wing of the National Liberals
  o Made up of business interests and middle-class intellectuals
  o Fully supportive of the republic
  o Policies
    ▪ Supported constitutional reform and democracy
    ▪ Supported fulfilment of the ToV

• Centre Party
  o Made up mostly of Catholics
  o Supported the republic at first, not so much after 1930
  o Policies
    ▪ Moderate right wing, against contraception, abortion, etc.
    ▪ Supported fulfilment of the ToV

• DVP
  o People’s Party
  o Founded from the right wing of the National Liberals
  o Made up of business interests, industrialists and white-collar workers
  o Ambivalent towards the republic
  o Policies
    ▪ Pro-business, anti-union, anti-labour
    ▪ Hostile to Versailles but policy of fulfilment of ToV

• DNVP
  o National People’s Party
  o Made up of conservatives, nationalists and the upper middle-class
  o Hostile to Republic, supported the Kaiser
  o Policies
    ▪ Conservative, anti-socialism, anti-Semitism
    ▪ Nationalism, rejected the ToV

• NSDAP
  o National Socialist German Worker’s Party
  o Made up of ex-servicemen and anti-Semites
  o Hostile towards the republic, condemned the “November Criminals”
  o Policies
    ▪ Unite all German-speaking peoples, creating lebensraum
    ▪ Opposed to the ToV and to Communism
    ▪ Refuse payment of reparations
Unit 3 – Nazi Germany

The Nazi Dictatorship

Enabling Act

- Long term causes
  - Hitler became Chancellor in 1933
  - Reichstag Fire heightened the fear of communism and destabilised the government
  - Catholic Church
    - The Centre Party was strongly influenced by the Church and had the second most seats in the Reichstag
    - Hitler reassured Ludwig Cass that the Act would not affect Catholics
    - Von Papen was similarly reassured
    - Hitler promised not to restrict the Catholic influence on education

- Short term causes
  - Violence and intimidation from the SA and SS
  - Vote
    - Goering reduced the number required for a majority to 378 by counting non-present deputies as present
    - 81 communists banned from the Reichstag, as were 26 SPD deputies
    - Final vote: 444:94
      - Remaining SPD deputies voted against

- Breakdown
  - Removed the requirement of parliamentary approval for legislation
    - New laws would be announced in the Reich Gazette and take effect the day after
  - All power from the Reichstag transferred to the chancellor for 4 years
  - Act ensured that dictatorship was legally binding and allowed the government to disregard the constitution
  - Rights of the President unaffected
  - Law expired if the Reich government was replaced

- Implementation
  - 31/3/33 – Destruction of local state government
  - 7/4/33 – Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service removed Jews and other political opponents from the civil service
  - 2/5/33 – Offices of ADGB, a socialist trade union organisation, stormed by the SA
  - 10/5/33 – DAF established as an alternative to trade unions
  - 22/6/33 – SPD officially banned
    - 3,000 members arrested
    - 100 people killed after resisting arrest
  - 14/7/33 – NSDAP became only legal political party
  - 20/7/33 – Nazi-Catholic Concordat agreed non-interference between groups
  - 1/12/33 – Law to Ensure the Unity of Party and State brought together the running of the party and the state
  - January 1934 – Reichsrat abolished
Dual state

- State institutions
  - Reich Chancellery
    - Co-ordinated government and became increasingly important following the decline of the Cabinet in 1934
    - Hans-Heinrich Lammer was the head of the Chancellery, and played an important role
      - Drew up all government legislation
      - Became the link between Hitler and other organisations, effectively controlling the flow of information
      - Even as an organised bureaucrat, Lammer struggled to co-ordinate the growing number of organisations and ministries
  - Government ministries
    - Ministries such as transport, education and economics were run by leading civil servants
      - These civil servants were often very conservative, especially in the Foreign Office
      - They were also under pressure from growing Nazi institutions
        - The Economics Ministry was under threat from the Four-Year Plan
        - The Foreign Office lost its power to the Ribbentrop Bureau
          - The aristocrat Konstantin von Neurath was replaced by the Nazi Joachim von Ribbentrop
  - Judiciary
    - Hostile to the Weimar Republic throughout the 1920s
      - Law was seen ultra-conservative and often ruled against the left
        - Hitler’s lenient sentencing following Munich Putsch in 1923
      - On one level, the judiciary was willing to work with the regime
        - Not immune to Nazi interference
          - Judges and lawyers were “coordinated” but not many were replaced
            - The Justice Minister (Franz Gurtner) wasn’t a Nazi until 1941
          - New court structures enabled the Nazis to circumvent the judiciary
            - In 1933, Special Courts were established to prosecute political offences without a jury
            - In 1934, the People’s Court was established to try high treason with a jury of Nazis
          - All legal authorities lost influence to the SS-police system
            - 1941 saw the SS-Police given the ability to imprison without question anyone thought to be dangerous
    - Although the traditional role of the judiciary continued to function, it was subverted massively
  - Regional governments
    - By 1934, Gleichschaltung had destroyed the principle of federal government
      - Nazi Reich Governors existed only to carry out Nazi orders
        - More often and not, these were just the Gauleiters given power
A racist film that portrayed Jews like rats
- *Hitlerjunge Queux*
  - Based on the story of a Nazi murdered by communists

**Pure escapism**
- *The Adventures of Baron von Munchhausen*
  - A comedy based on an old German legend which gives the Baron immortality

**Emotive nationalism**
- *Olympia*
  - Leni Riefenstahl’s docu-drama of the 1936 Olympics
- *Triumph of the Will*
  - Her film about the Nuremberg Rally
- *Kolberg*
  - An epic produced in the last year of the war that played on national opposition to Napoleon

Leni Reifenstahl was supported in her direction of *Olympia*
- It took 18 months to edit the four-hour film from over a million feet of film captured by 33 operators

**Music**
- Less impacted than other arts because of its less obvious politicization
- Jewish composers such as Mahler and Mendelssohn were banned
- Jazz and dance-band were labelled “negroid” and “decadent”

**Literature**
- 2,500 writers left Germany during the years 1933-45
  - Evidence that German writers and dramatists did not agree with the regime
  - Examples
    - Thomas Mann, author, Nobel Prize winner and liberal
    - Bertolt Brecht, playwright and communist
    - Erich Maria Remarque, author of *All Quiet on the Western Front* and pacifist
  - It is difficult to find quality German literature from this time

**Joseph Goebbels**
- Oversaw Nazi propaganda from 1930
- Appointed Minister of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda in 1933
- Remained a central figure of the regime until its collapse in 1945
  - Played an important role in the final two years of the war
  - Maintained civilian morale by visiting smaller cities in the absence of Hitler
- Developed propaganda techniques that were years ahead of his time
  - “If you tell a big lie often enough, it becomes truth”
Beauty of Labour
- A strand of StJ intended to improve conditions in Nazi workplaces
- Employers were encouraged to improve working conditions through the offering of help with the costs
  - They used their workers to carry out these jobs, often overtime and for little to no pay
- The program had both economic and a propaganda uses
  - Workers were encouraged both to work more and to be thankful to the Nazis for their improvements of conditions

The DAF
- Overview
  - Replaced trade unions
  - 22 million members by 1939
  - Responsible for
    - Setting working hours and wages
    - Dealing with disobedience (ex. strikes)
    - Running training schemes
    - Setting stable rents for houses
    - Supervising working conditions (SdA)
    - Organising recreational facilities (Strength through Joy)

Trustees of Labour
- Government appointed officials
- Established under the Trustees of Labour Law of May 1933
- In charge of labour relations
- Supervised by Reich Ministry of Labour
- Kept “industrial peace” - min (and max from 1938) wages, resolving conflicts

RAD
- Reich Labour Service
  - Cheap labour.
  - Compulsory for men 1935, extended to women 1939.
  - 350,000 members by October 1939
  - All men between ages of 19 and 25 had to work for the government for 6 months. Lived in camps, wore uniforms - fit in with Nazi ideals, similar to military
  - Autobahnen road network could be used for the mobilisation of army during war, public buildings (e.g. 1936 Olympic stadium)
  - Helped with conscription (1935) and to lower unemployment

Key Facts
- Average real wages only rose from 1929 levels in 1938
- Biggest gains by those in arms business, those in consumer goods struggled.
- Working hours increased (43 hrs/week in 1933 to 47 hrs/week in 1939)
- Fall of unemployment hugely due to removal of women and Jews, as well as conscription from 1935 onwards

Rearmament
- Rearming of Germany created millions of jobs in this industry such as manufacturing of weapons.
- 46bn Reichmarks spent on rearming Germany.
Big business
- Big businesses controlled 70% of production by 1939.
- Managers' incomes increased by 50% 1933-39.

Farming
- Farm debts written off
- Farmers given low interest rates
- Reich Entailed Farm Law 1933
  - Gave security to medium-sized farms
  - Forbade division of farms in order to promote efficient agriculture
- Reich Food Estate
  - Supervised agricultural production & distribution
  - Reich Food Estate & Reich Entailed Farm Law became resented for certain rules and regulations
    - Passing on farm to only one child - affected future livelihoods of other children once they were ready for the world of work
  - Production increased 20% 1928-1938, despite drift of people to towns where there were higher wages.
- 4-year plan
  - Autarky (economic self-sufficiency) meant that in the event of war especially Germany could support itself and would not be susceptible to another blockade as in WW1

Landowners
- Initially suspicious, thought Nazis would redistribute large estates.
- Economic interests not threatened pre 1939.
- Early victories in war meant cheap land could be acquired.
- Loss of land to USSR meant nationalisation of land.

The Mittelstand
- Voted for Nazis in higher proportions than other groups.
  - Money from formerly Jewish businesses was used to offer low interest loans.
  - Law to Protect Retail Trade (1933) banned opening of new department stores and taxed existing ones.
  - New trading regulations - supported small craftsmen.
- Continued to decline since industrialisation of Germany.
- Aging group (10% under 30 and 19% over 60 in 1939)
• **Battle of Stalingrad**
  - German offensive to capture the oilfields in the Caucasus began in June 1942
    - Sixth Army were ordered to capture Stalingrad
    - Stalingrad lies on the River Volga, and was crucial for access to it
    - Street fighting began in September
  - Red Army organised huge resistance under General Zhukov
    - Red Army launched a counterattack on 19 November, trapping the Germans
  - General von Paulus was ordered by Hitler to fight to the death
    - German Army surrendered on 31 January 1943
    - 92,000 men were captured including 24 generals
  - Aftermath
    - USSR exploited this victory to win an enormous tank battle at Kursk in 1943
    - Paved the way for the Red Army to liberate Eastern Europe

• **Rapid Russian Advances**
  - Following victory at Kursk, Soviet forces drove the Germans back to the River Dnieper and cut off the Crimean units
  - The Siege of Leningrad was broken in January 1944 and Western Russia was liberated by July
    - All of Russia had been liberated by the end of 1944, and Bulgaria and Romania had surrendered
  - In 1945, the Red Army drove into Germany met by fierce resistance
    - The Battle of Berlin cost 300,000 Soviet troops as they encircled the city
  - Admiral Donitz surrendered to the allies on the 8 May

**Italy**

• Allied troops invaded Sicily in July 1943
  - Mussolini rescued by German troops (not for long though hahahahahahaha)
• Italy surrendered in September 1943, but fighting continued as Germany seized a number of important cities
  - Rome not captured by Allies until June 1944

**Defeat on the Western Front**

• **Operation Overlord**
  - British and American troops invaded France on the 6 June 1944
    - Americans on Omaha beach encountered severe German resistance
    - British invasion of Normandy faced less resistance as Hitler was slow to reinforce that sector
      - British troops suffered heavy casualties as they advances through the Normandy countryside
  - Paris was liberated on the 24 August and Brussels and Antwerp in early September
  - Hitler hoped to repeat the victory of 1940 by launching an attack through the Ardennes on 16 December 1944
    - This failed and the Allied advance continued through Europe
• **American advances**
  - American troops crossed the Rhine on 22 March 1945 and 320,000 German troops surrendered in the Ruhr in early April
  - American and Soviet troops met on the 25 April at Torgau