The growth of the Parliamentary government
didn’t have complete power: Reichstag elected and needed to pass legalisation – often delayed and amended
no control of who’s in Reichstag – but could dismiss them: couldn’t directly influence vote
Different political parties (SPD) acted as pressure groups and influenced public opinion: different views to Kaiser – members loyal to parties – not always to the Kaiser

The influence of Prussian militarism
Large army (proportional to population size): high government spending, service/loyalty to Kaiser, society respect/admire
Army generals were Kaiser’s advisors – he depended on their advice through WW1
Maintaining/growing army was expensive – Kaiser needed Reichstag’s approval for military spending

Industrialisation
Positive
High employment
immigration – more workers
coal production rivalled Britain’s in 1914
communications/trade improved from
railways/trains/ships
out-produced rest of Europe with electrical goods / chemicals
increased prosperity
improved living standards

Negatives
Rapid urbanisation: poorer living/working conditions
large rich/poor gap
agriculture didn’t increase – food imported: expensive
high immigration rates – hatred of foreigners
anti-semitism
Kaiser expected to solve conflict between workers due to immigration
Working class took interest in politics: growth of socialism

Social reform & growth of socialism – industry’s profit should be shared equally between everyone in society
Feared by ruling/middle classes: potential rise of workers to overthrow existing economic/political system
Became more popular throughout his reign: more seats in Reichstag due to proportional representation – made it difficult to get what he wanted
1891 – banned: children under 13/women working 11 hours/businesses operating on a Sunday
Improved old age pensions, welfare provision
Compulsory for industrial courts to settle disputes between workers and employers
Changes by Chancellor Caprivi to ease pressure from socialism – 1894: Kaiser dismissed him – too socialist

Domestic importance of Navy Laws
Tirpitz navy secretary pushed for changes
Kaiser thought it would lead to further industrial growth
protect/expand Germany’s empire
Create great symbol of Germany’s power
rival Britain’s Royal Navy

Positive
Helped businesses/industries – created more work and employment
SPD opposed Navy laws: expensive & helped Kaiser present them as the unpatriotic ‘enemy’ within

Negative
Conflict between Kaiser & army leaders: more money going to Navy than army
Britain’s response helped create fear in Germany, generated support for Kaiser’s other policies
Raised taxes, borrowed money
Encouraged patriotism & nationalism – helped win support for Weltpolitik policy
No longer can own businesses

During war

Ghettos: Invasion of Poland: 3 million more Jews in their control
War made it impossible to remove them by emigration
Herded & bricked into ghettos
Tiny rations: thousands died of starvation
Diseases: typhus – overcrowding

Mass murder: 1942 invasion of USS2: lots more Jews in their control

*Einsatzgruppen* (special group of SS soldiers) sent to murder Jews through mass-execution

Undesirables – physically/mentally imperfect / not contributing to society / behaving in unacceptable ways

1933: Law for Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Offspring: 300,000 disabled people sterilised
1940-41: T4 programme: thousand of (mentally) disabled killed by gas – until protests led by Bishop stopped it
Gay: sent to prison/concentration camp – used for medical experiments to correct their ‘disorder’
Tramps/beggars: concentration camps – did hard labour
Socialists / Trade Unionists
Religious objectors / conscription-refusers – concentration camps
Pacifists: refused to serve in army & wanted to live by religious beliefs

Untermenschen: sub-human – anyone not western-Europe white
Banned from marrying Aryan
Slavs: continually reminded they didn’t fit Aryan ideal – but had less persecution
During WW2: German army treated them very badly everywhere
Mixed race children sterilised
Roma people: suffered from policies – escalated in severity from Hitler’s start
Sent to camps
Ordered to be deported
25% of Roma Europe population killed

*Nuremberg Laws* – 1935

Reich Law on Citizenship: Only German blood
Non-Aryan: subjects – not citizens
Jews can’t vote / have passport / work for government
Reich Law fit Protection of German Blood and Honour: Non-aryans can’t marry / have sexual relation with citizen

Final solution of the Jewish Question

January 1942: senior Nazis met at Wannasee for conference to discuss this

*Himmler* (Head of SS & Gestapo) put in charge of systematic killing of all Jews under German control
Labour/death camps built: Auschwitz / Treblinka / Chelmo & more
Old/sick/young killed immediately with gas chambers – useless in labour
Able-bodied: used for slave labour & medical experiments
6 million Jews / 500,000 European gypsies / Jehovah’s witnesses / homosexuals / Russian/Polish prisoners of war
Worked to death / shot / gassed