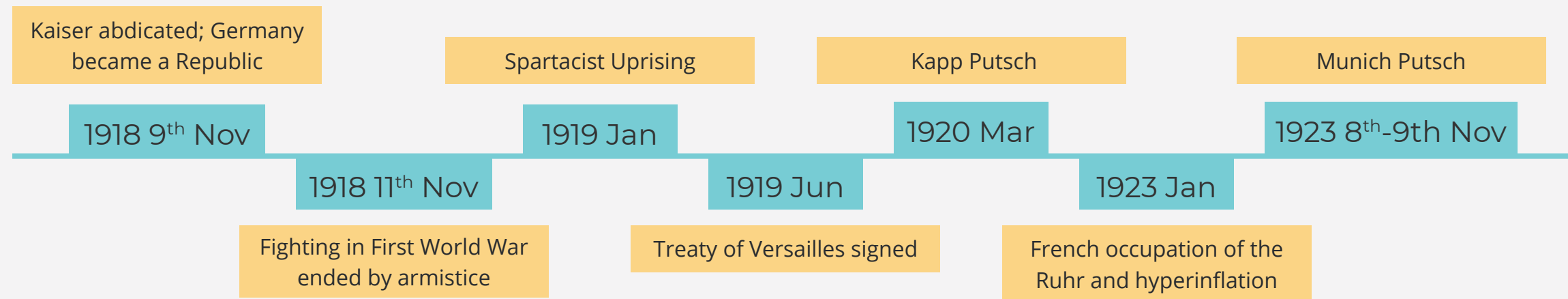


Key Question 1: What challenges were faced by the Weimar Republic from 1919 to 1923?

Timeline of events



FACT : In 1919 £1 was worth 35 German marks; by November 1923 it was worth 1,680,000,000,000 German marks!

Important concept

The **Weimar Republic** was the German government after the Kaiser had abdicated in November 1918 -

- It was democratically elected by a system of proportional representation (e.g. 10% of the vote = 10% of the seats).
- The President was elected for 7 years and selected a Chancellor to form the government.
- The Chancellor was the political leader most likely to get laws passed by the Reichstag.
- The Reichstag was made up of regularly elected representatives.
- Article 48 of the Weimar Constitution gave the President the power to make laws without consulting the Reichstag in an emergency.

IMPORTANT EVENTS : 1919-1920

1. Spartacists 1919:
 - led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg
 - aimed to make Germany a communist country like Russia
 - formed the German Communist Party (KPD).
 - called a general strike and took control of important buildings in Berlin
 - the Reichswehr (Army) and Freikorps (demobilised soldiers) ended the rebellion
 - Spartacist leaders were captured and executed
 - 3,000 people died in the uprising.
2. Kapp Putsch 1920:
 - the Berlin Freikorps refused to be disbanded after the Spartacist uprising
 - aimed to create right-wing government with Wolfgang Kapp as Chancellor
 - the Reichswehr (Army) in Berlin supported Kapp
 - the Weimar government moved out of Berlin
 - President Ebert called on workers to go on strike so the Putsch collapsed.

IMPORTANT EVENT : The Treaty of Versailles

- LAND:** Germany lost
- 13 per cent of its land
 - 6 million citizens
 - Alsace-Lorraine to France
 - Polish Corridor to Poland
 - Saarland to League of Nations control.
- MILITARY :** limited to
- 100,000 soldiers
 - no tanks, heavy guns, aircraft or submarines
 - ships of less than 10,000 tons
 - no troops in the Rhineland.
- FINANCE:** agreed to pay money as reparations of £6600 million
- FORBIDDEN:**
- uniting with Austria
 - joining the League of Nations.
- BLAME :** Article 231 (of 440)

Key words

Kaiser	emperor
Abdication	when a monarch leaves the throne
Republic	a country without a King or a Queen
Armistice	an agreement to end war
President	runs the country
Chancellor	in charge of the government
Reichstag	German parliament, makes laws
Article 48	president can ignore the Reichstag in an emergency
Constitution	rules about how a country is governed
Coalition	political parties working together in a government

Key Question 1: What challenges were faced by the Weimar Republic from 1919 to 1923?

IMPORTANT EVENTS : 1919-1920

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IMPORTANT EVENTS : 1923

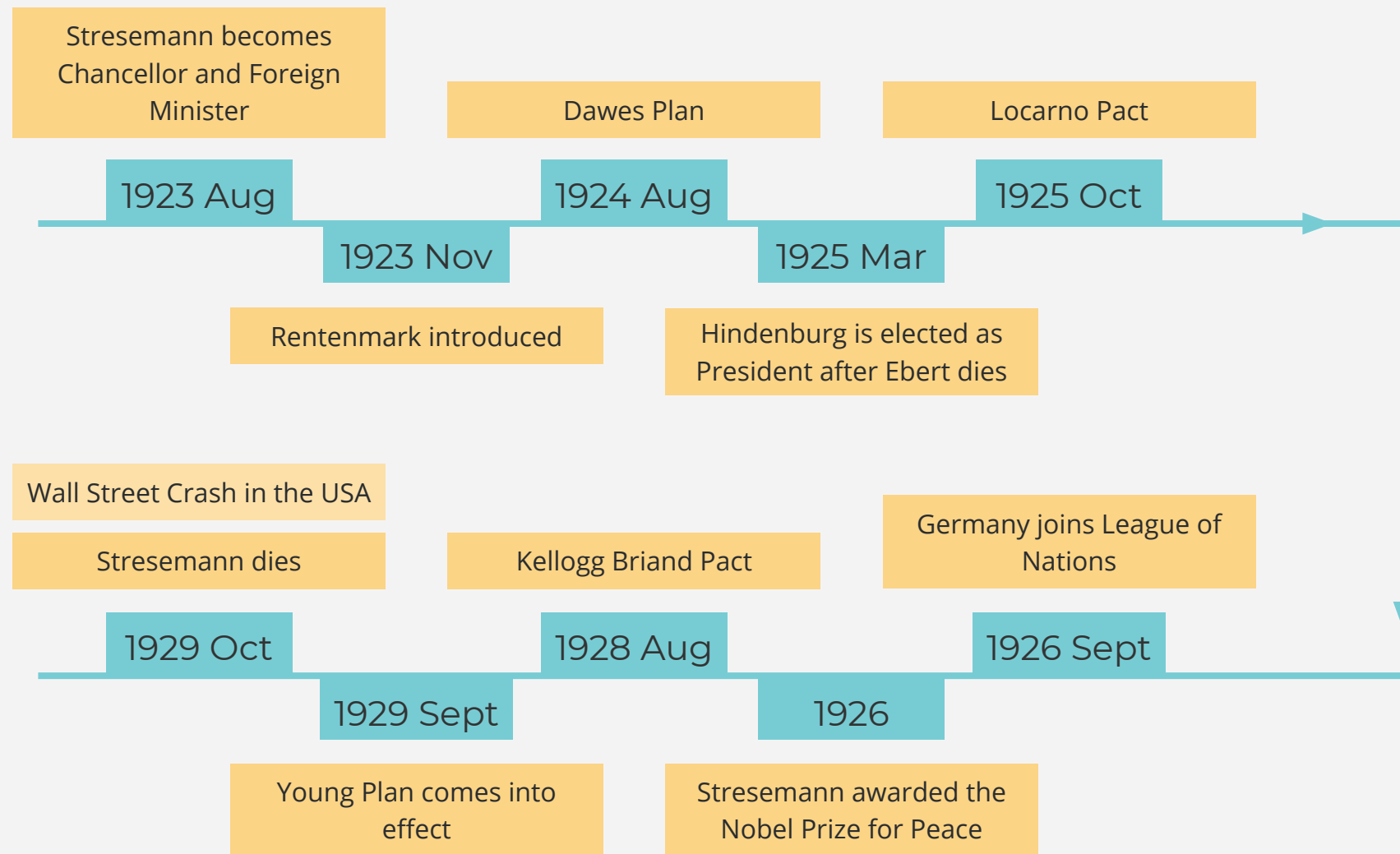
1. Hyperinflation
 - By 1923 German currency was worthless.
 - Food prices rose which was good for farmers but people had to barter or poach for food.
 - Savers and pensioners lost all their money.
 - Businesses could not afford to pay their workers.
 - Extreme political groups like the Nazis blamed the government.
2. Munich Putsch 1923
 - Hitler and 600 Nazis forced Von Kahr (Bavarian chief minister) to support their takeover of the government in Berlin.
 - Von Kahr told the police who attacked and arrested the Nazis
 - 16 Nazis and 4 policemen were killed.
 - Hitler was put on trial and the Nazi Party was banned.

Reasons for important events

1. Why people opposed the Weimar Republic:
 - left wing opponents wanted Germany to become Communist
 - right wing opponents wanted a strong leader (fuhrer)
 - proportional representation meant Germany had coalition governments which some people thought were too weak.
2. Why people hated the Treaty of Versailles
Some believed that:
 - Germany was not the only country to blame for the war
 - Germany had not lost the war and the leaders of the Republic had betrayed Germany ("the stab in the back")
 - Germany was being forced to pay more than it could afford
 - The Allies wanted to humiliate Germany.
3. Why hyperinflation happened
 - The German government had to print more money to make reparation payments to France, Belgium and the UK.
 - The French needed the money to pay their American debts.
 - The French invaded the Ruhr in 1923 to take their payments directly from German factories and mines.
 - German workers refused to work.

Key Question 2: Why were the Stresemann years considered a 'golden age'?

Timeline of events



“The German economy is doing well only on the surface. Germany is in fact dancing on a volcano. If the short-term loans are called in by America, most of our economy will collapse.”
Stresemann, September 1929

Important concept

The Golden Age was the period from 1924-29 and it saw significant changes in the standard of living and the position of women. Economic prosperity reduced support for extremists like the Nazis.

How did Germany recover from the hyperinflation crisis?

RENTENMARK

- In 1923 Stresemann introduced a temporary currency - the Rentenmark.
- In 1924 this became the Reichsmark, a new currency backed by gold reserves.

DAWES PLAN

- In August 1924 reparations were reduced to Germany's ability to pay.
- Allied troops left the Ruhr in 1925.
- The USA loaned Germany \$3,000 million over six years.

YOUNG PLAN

- In 1929 this plan reduced reparations from £6,600 million to £1,850 million.
- The length of time Germany had to pay was extended to 59 years.

BENEFITS OF THIS RECOVERY

- Public works provided new stadiums, apartment blocks and opera houses.
- Big business paid its debts so there was industrial growth.
- There were fewer strikes between 1924 and 1929.

HOWEVER:

- The German economy was dangerously dependent on American loans.

Key words	
Rentenmark	temporary German currency from November 1923, which became the Reichsmark in 1924
Hyperinflation	when money loses its value
Dawes Plan	an agreement where the USA would lend Germany \$3,000 million over six years
Young Plan	this lowered the reparations payment to £1,850 million and gave Germany 59 more years to pay
Treaty of Versailles	this decided how Germany was going to be treated after WW1
Locarno Pact	an agreement on borders signed by Britain, France, Italy and Belgium
Kellogg Briand Pact	65 countries including Germany agreed to resolve conflict peacefully

Key Question 2: Why were the Stresemann years considered a 'golden age'?

How important was Stresemann?

- He ended the hyperinflation crisis.
- American loans helped the German economy recover.
- He re-established the international position of Germany.

How did Germany improve its relations with other countries?

Stresemann, was foreign secretary from 1923 to 1929 and negotiated:

- **LOCARNO PACT 1925** – Germany, Britain, France, Belgium, Italy agreed to keep existing borders between Germany, Belgium and France.
- **LEAGUE OF NATIONS 1926** - Germany was given a permanent seat on the Council of the League of Nations and recognised as a Great Power again.
- **KELLOGG-BRIAND PACT 1928** - 65 countries, including Germany agreed, to solve all international disputes 'by peaceful means'.

As a result of this:

- In 1925 France withdrew from the Ruhr.
- The Allies agreed to the Dawes Plan and the Young Plan.
- In 1927 Allied troops withdrew from the Rhine, six years early.

Was this a "Golden Age" for Germany?

THE STANDARD OF LIVING:

- rising wages - Germany the best paid workers in Europe by 1928.

HOUSING

- tax breaks, land grants and low-interest loans for new houses
- 1924 -1931 more than two million new homes were built.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE:

- unemployment Insurance Law 1927 - unemployment benefits
- benefits for war veterans, war widows, single mothers and the disabled.

WOMEN:

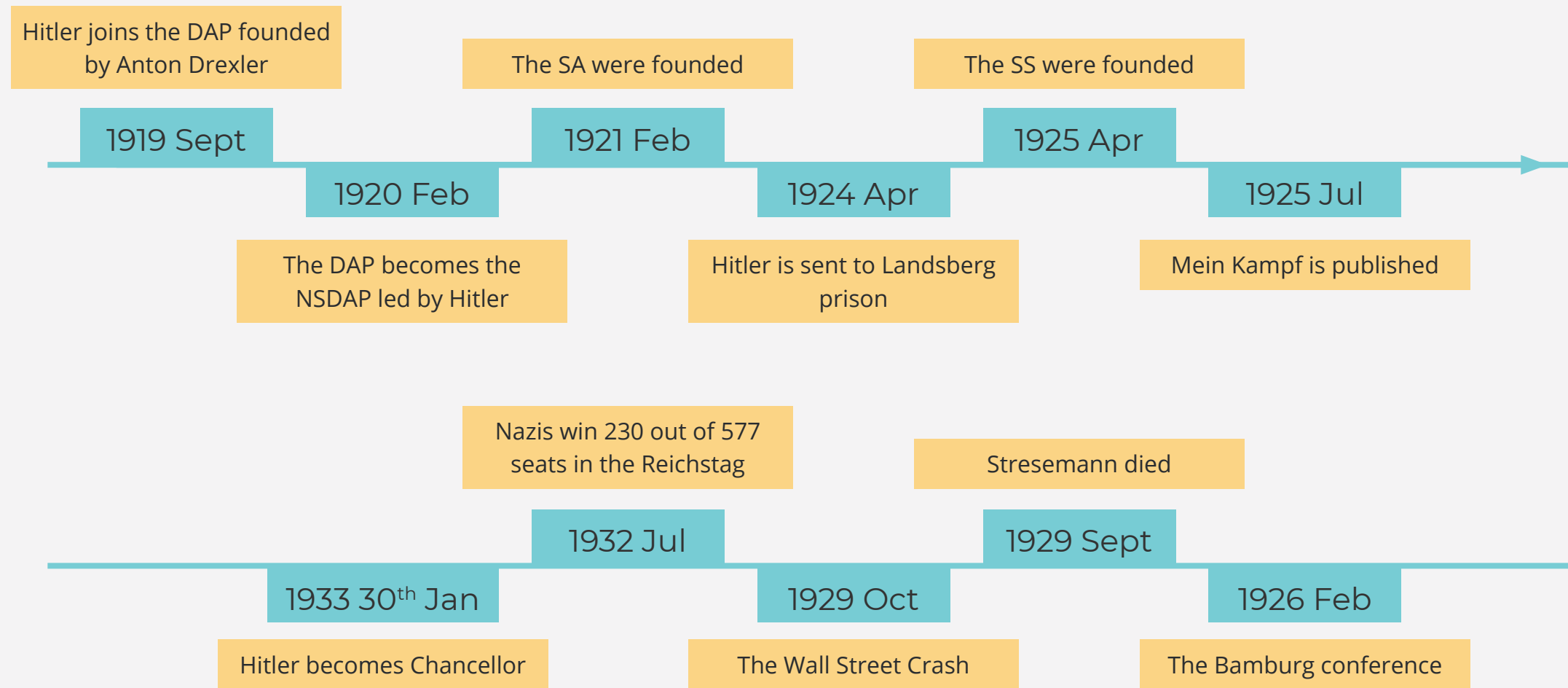
- women over 20 were given the vote
- growing numbers of women in new areas of employment - the civil service, teaching, social work, shops work, in factories
- enjoyed more social freedom, socially - went out unescorted, drank and smoked in public and were more fashion conscious.

HOWEVER:

- middle class had been bankrupted by inflation and struggled to get professional jobs
- farmers struggled to increase production
- 9% of the working population were unemployed (6% in 1924)
- right wing politicians criticised using American money and continuing to pay reparations.

Key Question 3: How and why did the Weimar Republic collapse between 1929 and 1933?

Timeline of events



How did the Nazi Party change its tactics in the 1920s?

- The Nazis began as the German Workers Party in Bavaria in 1919.
- Hitler took over the party in 1920 and changed the party name.
- The Nazis planned a violent revolution against the Weimar government helped by the SA who were formed in 1921.
- The 1923 Munich Putsch resulted in Hitler being sent to prison and the party being banned.
- After leaving prison in 1924 Hitler had the ban on the Nazis lifted.
- Hitler's ideas were published in the book "Mein Kampf" in 1925.
- Hitler decided to destroy the Republic by winning in national elections.
- At the Bamberg conference Hitler became undisputed Fuhrer of the party.
- Hitler toured the country giving speeches blaming the Jews, Communists, the Versailles Treaty and weak Weimar politicians for Germany's problems.
- During the Depression Hitler promised "Work, Freedom, Bread".
- The gauleiter of Berlin, Goebbels, ran a propaganda campaign using cinema, radio, posters, rallies and Nazi newspapers convinced a lot of people to support the Nazis.
- In 1928 the Nazis only had 12 seats in the Reichstag.
- In the September 1930 elections the Nazis won 107 seats.

Key words

NSDAP	The German Socialist Worker's Party (the Nazis)
25 Point Programme	The political manifesto of the Nazi Party, written by Adolf Hitler and Anton Drexler
SA (Sturm Abteilung)	Storm Troopers ("brownshirts") - a Nazi group who used violence to intimidate their opponents
SS (Schutz Staffel)	Protection Squad - Hitler's loyal bodyguards, led by Heinrich Himmler
Gauleiter	A Nazi official in charge of a particular area (gau)
Propaganda	Information that persuades people to support a particular view
The Depression	World economic decline caused the US Wall Street Crash
Chancellor	The Weimar official in charge of the government

"It was not this government which led the German nation into ruin for 14 years. This government wants to lead the nation to the top once more." From Hitler's speech after becoming Chancellor in January 1933.

Important concept

The **Backstairs Intrigue** was the secret discussions by Weimar politicians that led to Hitler being asked to be Chancellor.

Key Question 3: How and why did the Weimar Republic collapse between 1929 and 1933?

How did the Depression affect Germany between 1929 and 1933?

- American loans to Germany were ended but reparation payments were only suspended in 1931
- International trade fell, damaging businesses
- Factory workers lost their jobs
- Farm workers lost money as food prices fell
- By 1932 6 million Germans were unemployed (4 in 10 people)
- Fewer people were paying taxes but the government needed to spend more money on unemployment benefits
- Without a majority of supporters in the Reichstag Chancellor Brüning had to rely on the President to use Article 48 to get things done
- For cutting unemployment benefits and failing to solve food shortages Brüning became known as the “Hunger Chancellor”
- People began to vote for the KPD (the German Communist Party) – it won 100 seats in the Reichstag in November 1932

Who were the “Three Chancellors”?

1. Heinrich Brüning (March 1930 to May 1932)
2. Franz von Papen (July 1932 to November 1932)
3. Kurt von Schleicher (December 1932 to January 1933)

How did the “Backstairs Intrigue” make Hitler Chancellor?

Problems facing the Weimar Republic:

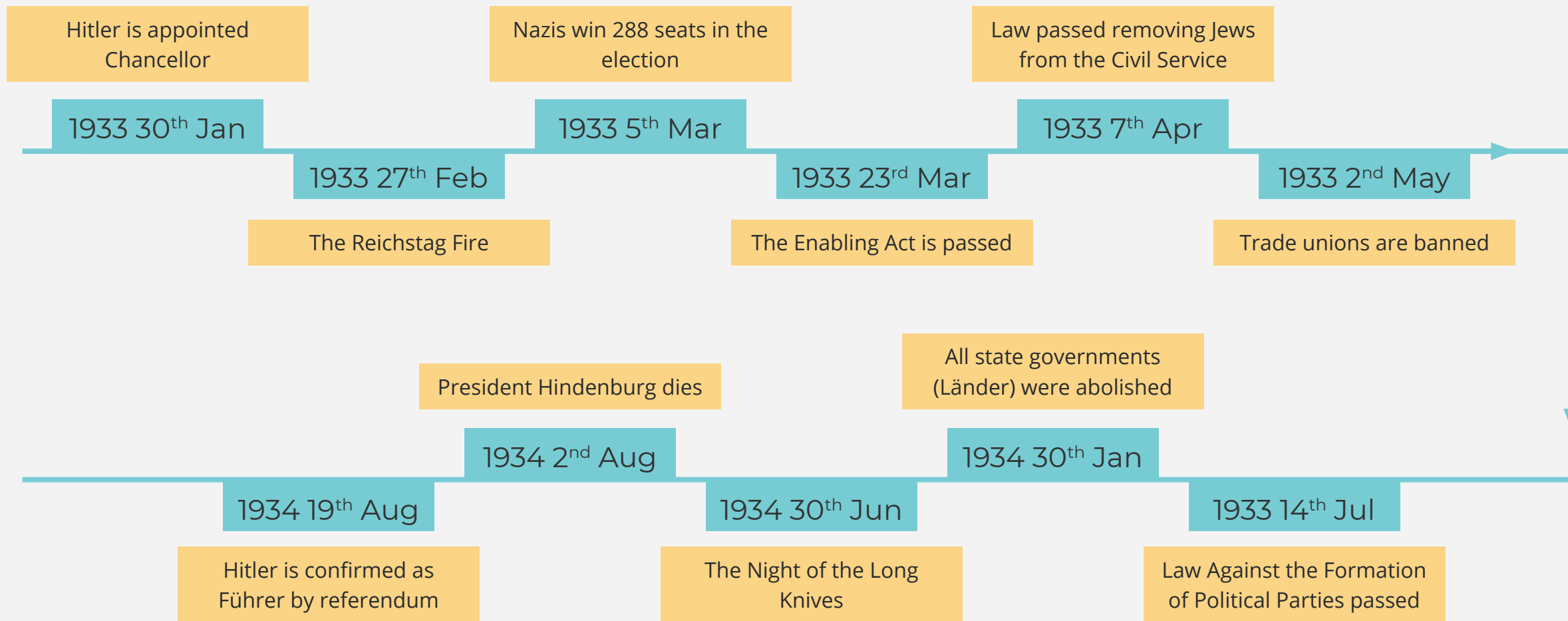
- rising unemployment
- rising costs of unemployment benefit
- successive Chancellors 1930-33 could not get laws passed through the Reichstag to solve problems because parties would not work with each other to solve problems
- the President had to use Article 48 to get any laws passed at all
- richer people feared a Communist takeover.

Reasons why Hindenburg asked Hitler to become chancellor

- By November 1932 the Nazis had 196 seats in the Reichstag and 1/3rd of the votes in the election – they were the biggest party.
- Von Papen failed to win support in two elections in 1932 and resigned.
- Von Schleicher could not get other parties to work with him and was sacked because some thought he might give power to the communists.
- Von Papen convinced Hindenburg that if Hitler was Chancellor he would make sure Hitler did as he was told – he said “he would make Hitler squeak”.

Key Question 4: How did the Nazis consolidate their power between 1933 and 1934?

Timeline of events



Why was the Reichstag Fire important?

To increase Nazi support in the Reichstag Hitler asked Hindenburg to call a general election for 5 March 1933. Because Goering was now in charge of the police the SA began a brutal election campaign against the KPD (the Communists). On 27 February, the Reichstag building was set on fire. A Communist, Marinus van der Lubbe, was arrested and charged with starting the fire. He was found guilty and executed.

- Hitler:
- argued the Communists were planning a revolution so Communist leaders were arrested and the party was banned
 - passed the 'Decree for the Protection of the People and State'
 - restricted free speech
 - imprisoned enemies of the state without trial
 - took control of the press, and banned left-wing newspapers.

It is possible that the Nazis themselves secretly started the fire so they could blame it on the Communists.

Key words

Enabling Act	Gave Hitler the power to rule Germany without consulting the Reichstag for 4 years
Censorship	Controlling information that is printed or broadcast if a government does approve of it
Trade unions	Organisations that protected and improved the rights and pay of workers
Länder	Governments of the states within Germany
Dictatorship	Putting one political party or person in complete control of a country
Gleichschaltung	Complete control over all aspects of life, getting rid of what is different
Führer	German word for leader; this is what Hitler became instead of being Chancellor and President
Reichswehr	The German armed forces (became the Wehrmacht in 1935)

Important concept

The **Legal Revolution** was achieving power in Germany by legal means, through elections, so that the Nazis could destroy the Republic from within.

"We'll take any legal means to revolutionise the existing situation. We come as enemies! Like the wolf tearing into the flock of sheep, that is how we come!" Goebbels speaking in 1928

Key Question 4: How did the Nazis consolidate their power between 1933 and 1934?

How did the Enabling Act help Hitler?

In the March 1933 election the Nazis won 288 seats - still not a majority. A coalition was formed with the National Party.

To get the Enabling bill passed into law, Hitler:

- banned the Communists from attending
- ordered the SA men to prevent known opponents from entering
- counted absentees as present and in favour of the proposed bill.

The Enabling Act was passed, allowing Hitler to pass laws without consulting the Reichstag so he could establish his dictatorship. As a result:

- all trade unions were banned and strikes were made illegal
- all other political parties were banned by the Law Against the Formation of Parties
- all local states (länder) were to be run by Reich governors and local parliaments were abolished.

This enabled Hitler to have more complete control over the government. Germany was now a dictatorship. He could implement his policy of gleichschaltung – controlling every aspect of people's lives.

What was the Night of the Long Knives?

Ernst Röhm, leader of the SA, wanted to increase his power by adding the SA into the German Army (the Reichswehr). He also wanted a social revolution which would do away with Germany's class structure.

Hitler saw the SA as a threat to his power. He had to make a choice between the SA and the army.

The SA were given a holiday for the whole of June 1934. Leaders were told to meet in a hotel near Munich at the end of the month.

On the night of 30 June 1934 'Operation Hummingbird' was carried out; it is now called the Night of the Long Knives.

Over 400 'enemies of the state' were arrested and shot by the SS, including -

- most of the SA leaders including Röhm
- former Chancellor von Schleicher
- Bavarian Chief Minister von Kahr who had betrayed the Nazis in Munich in 1923.

The Night of the Long Knives:

- got rid of opponents to Hitler's rule
- secured the support of the army
- relegated the SA to a minor role
- made the SS, and their leader Himmler, more important.

Fact

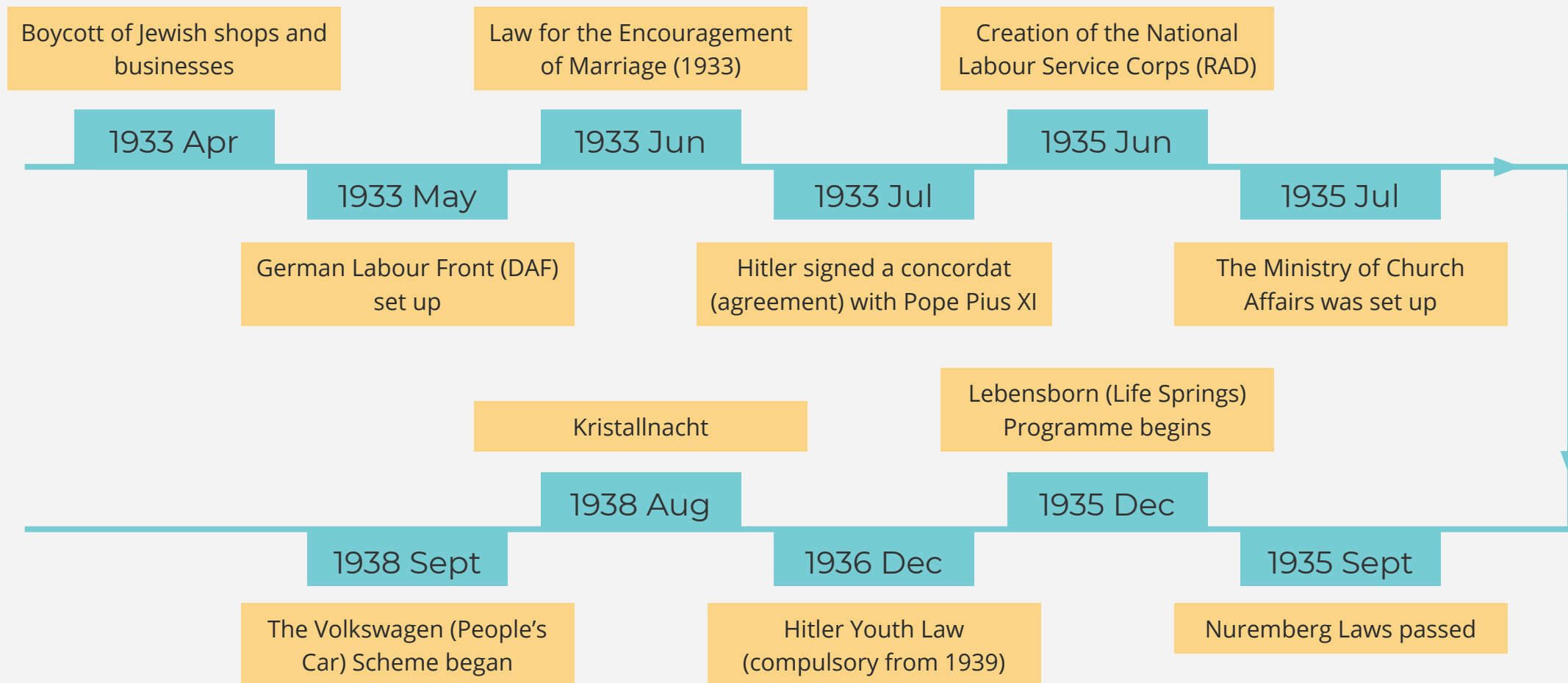
"Night of the Long Knives" was a phrase from a popular German song from this time

How did Hitler become Führer?

- On 2 August 1934 President Hindenburg died.
- Hitler combined President and Chancellor into one new job – Führer.
- As Führer he was Head of State and Commander-in-Chief.
- The German army swore an oath of loyalty to him as their Führer.
- In a referendum 90 % of Germans agreed that Hitler should become Führer.
- Hitler was now absolute dictator of Germany.

Key Question 5 : How did Nazi economic, social and racial policy affect life in Germany?

Timeline of events



What were the Nazis policies towards young people?

Hitler indoctrinated young people to turn them into loyal Nazis by (a) controlling education:

- Teachers had to belong to the Nazi Teachers' League.
- The curriculum for the boys was preparation for the military; for the girls it was to become good homemakers and mothers.
- Lessons were used to promote Nazi ideals and textbooks were rewritten to reflect Nazi views.

... and (b) through the Hitler Youth Movement:

- The Hitler Youth Law of 1936 made it difficult to avoid joining by allowing pressure to be put on parents.
- The Second Hitler Youth Law of 1939 made membership compulsory. By 1939 there were 7 million members, although there were 16 million young people in Germany in total.

What were the Nazis policies towards religion?

- Hitler set up the Ministry of Church Affairs in 1935 to weaken the hold that Catholic and Protestant churches had on the people.
- The German Faith Movement was encouraged by the Nazis to replace Christian values with pagan (non-Christian) ideas.
- Hitler signed a concordat (agreement) with the Pope and the Catholic Church that they would leave each other alone.
- Some Protestants established a pro-Nazi Reich Church, others opposed Nazism like Pastor Neimöller

Important concept

Totalitarianism was the idea that the government would control every aspect of people's lives.

"Ein Volk, Ein Reich, Ein Führer"

Key words

Four-Year Plan	A plan which to make Germany ready for war within four years, prioritising to rearmament and autarky
Autarky	A Nazi government policy of making Germany self-sufficient with no foreign imports
Three Ks	Kinder, Kuche, Kirche – Children, Kitchen, Church.
Indoctrination	Making someone accept a system of thought without question
Protestant	Christian churches that were not controlled by the Pope in Rome
Catholic	Christian churches that were controlled by the Pope in Rome
Anti-Semitism	Hatred of the Jews
Aryan	Nazi term for a non- Jewish German; someone of supposedly 'pure' German stock

Key Question 5 : How did Nazi economic, social and racial policy affect life in Germany?

How did the Nazis rebuild the German economy?

- Hitler reduced unemployment from 6 million to less than ½ million by 1939.
- Invisible unemployment - did not count Jews or women in job figures.
- National Labour Service Corps (RAD) - compulsory for all males aged 18-25 to serve in the RAD for six months.
- RAD were put to work on public works schemes building autobahns (motorways), hospitals, schools and houses as well as planting trees.
- Rearmament - created jobs in the army and industry.
- Goering introduced the Four-Year Plan (1936-40) to speed up rearmament, and introduce autarky which was designed to make Germany self-sufficient.
- Trades unions were replaced the German Labour Front (DAF) to discipline workers, regulating pay and hours of work.
- Strength through Joy (KdF) aimed to improve leisure time by sponsoring subsidised leisure activities and cultural events.
- The Beauty of Work organisation aimed to improve working conditions by building canteens and sports facilities.
- Volkswagen (People's Car) Scheme helped workers to save for their own car.

What were the Nazi policies towards women?

- During the Weimar period women achieved equal voting rights with men, got a good education, had careers in the professions.
- Nazis believed women should follow the Three K's (Kinder, Küche, Kirche - Children, Kitchen, Church) i.e. give up their jobs, marry, start a family.
- Law for the Encouragement of Marriage - loans to encourage couples to marry, and they would not have to pay it back if they had four children.
- The Motherhood Cross medal was introduced to reward women - bronze for 4 children, silver for 6 and gold for 8
- Lebensborn (Life Springs) Programme - Unmarried Aryan women were encouraged to 'denote a baby to the Führer' by becoming pregnant by 'racially pure' SS men.

What were the Nazis policies towards the Jews and minorities?

Hitler argued that pure Germans - Aryans - formed the 'master race'; to protect this the Nazis sterilised the mentally ill, the physically disabled, homosexuals, black people and gypsies.

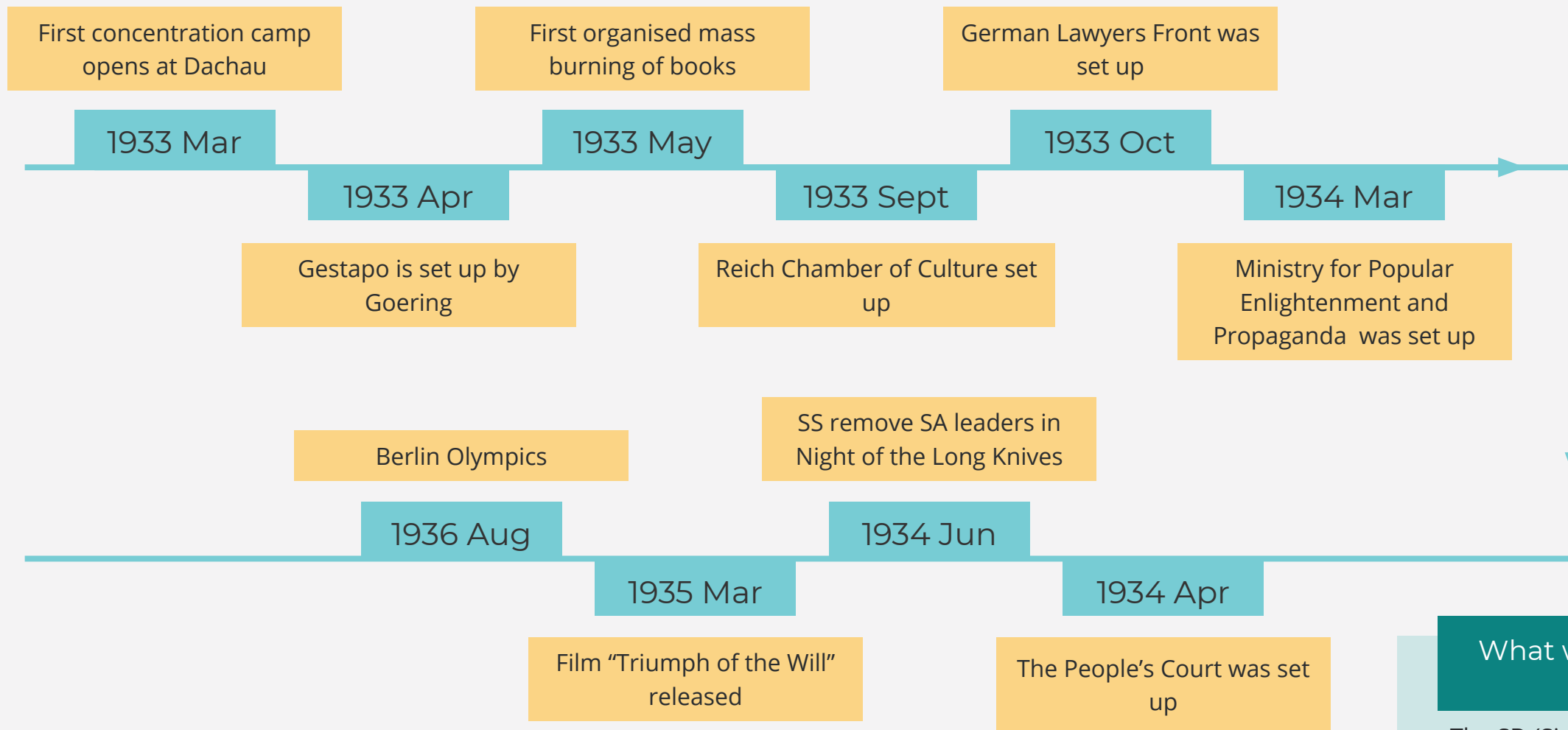
The Nazis used anti-Semitism to blame the Jews for Germany's recent problems e.g. losing the First World War, hyperinflation, the Depression.

Hitler had no master plan to eliminate the Jews until 1939 but there were many ways in which the Jews were persecuted -

- The Nazis encouraged people to boycott Jewish shops.
- The Jews were banned from doing important jobs like teaching, working in the civil service or being doctors.
- The 1935 Nuremberg Laws took away the citizenship of the Jews and made it illegal for them to have relationships with Aryans.
- Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass) 1938 - Goebbels organised attacks on Jewish property in cities across Germany - over 7500 Jewish shops were destroyed, 400 synagogues burnt down, 100 Jews were killed, 30,000 were arrested; Jews were fined 1 billion Reichmarks for the damage.

Key Question 6 : What methods did the Nazis use to control Germany?

Timeline of events



"The best propaganda is that which, as it were, works invisibly, penetrates the whole of life without the public having any knowledge of it" Joseph Goebbels

Important concept
 Terror and persuasion – "the carrot and the stick" – trying to scare people into doing as they are told at the same time as convincing them they are doing the right thing.

What were the main elements of the Nazi police state?

- The SD (Sicherheitsdienst) was set up in 1931 by Himmler to discover actual and potential enemies of the Nazi Party and remove them.
- The SS (Schutzstaffel) - set up in 1925, in 1934 made responsible for the removal of all opposition to the Nazis within Germany; ran the concentration camps; SS officers had to be pure Aryans.
- The Gestapo (Secret State Police) – set up by Goering in 1933, could arrest and imprison suspected 'enemies of the state' without trial; used surveillance, entrapment and informants to catch their victims.
- Political opponents and 'enemies of the state' ended up in concentration camps, including religious groups e.g. Jehovah's Witnesses, Jews; members of rival political parties e.g. the Communists; the 'work shy' e.g. gypsies, vagrants, alcoholics; sexual offenders e.g. homosexuals.
- By 1939, 160,000 people were held in these camps.

Key words

Police state	A country where the police are used to ensure obedience to the government
SS	Dealt with 'enemies of the state', ran the concentration camps
Gestapo	Secret police who used informants and entrapment to find 'enemies of the state'
Concentration camp	A prison camp for 'enemies of the state' and opponents of the Nazis
Propaganda	Aggressively promoting a particular point of view
Censorship	Controlling information by removing or hiding what you do not want people to know
Degenerate	Word used to describe art, music, film or literature that did not follow Nazi values

Key Question 6 : What methods did the Nazis use to control Germany?

How did the Nazis use propaganda to control the German people?

Ministry for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda was set up by Goebbels to control the thoughts, beliefs and opinions of the German people.

Cinema:

- films had pro-Nazi story lines e.g. "The Eternal Jew" to be approved by Goebbels
- newsreels focusing on Nazi achievements were shown with every film
- films like "Triumph of the Will" by Leni Riefenstahl glorified Hitler.

Rallies:

- the annual mass rally in September at Nuremberg mixed stirring spectacle with a speech by Hitler created an atmosphere of frenzy.

Radio:

- all radio stations were under Nazi control and spread only Nazi messages
- cheap mass-produced radios were sold so 70% of Germans had one by 1939
- radio was played in all public places e.g. bars, factories, even in the street.

Posters:

- seen everywhere with Nazi messages, eg "Ein Reich, Ein Volk, Ein Fuhrer".

1936 Berlin Olympics

- Germany hosted this event to publicise Nazi ideals and success around the world, and to prove Aryan superiority (Germany did win more medals than any other country at the games – 89 in total to USA's 56).

How did the Nazis control the legal system?

- Judges and lawyers had to belong to the National Socialist League for the Maintenance of Law and Order – sacked if they refused.
- The German Lawyers Front was established and its 10,000 members swore an oath of loyalty to the Führer.
- A new People's Court was set up to try enemies of the state; by 1939 it had sentenced over 500 people to death.
- Abolished the right to a trial before prison; by 1939, 162,000 Germans imprisoned without trial, 500 sentenced to death.
- The number of crimes punishable by death rose from 3 in 1933 to 46 in 1943; e.g. for listening to a foreign radio station.

How did the Nazis use censorship to control the German people?

Musicians, writers and actors had to join the Reich Chamber of Culture. Anything challenging Nazi ideals was "degenerate".

Newspapers:

- subject to strict censorship; editors were told what to print
- by 1935 the Nazis had closed down thousands of newspapers
- the German Press Agency told editors what foreign stories to print.

Books:

- all were censored and had to put across the Nazi message;
- over 2500 writers were banned
- the burning of banned books through mass bonfires
- authors like Bertolt Brecht and Thomas Mann went into exile.

Music:

- hated modern music, jazz in particular, so it was banned
- preferred German folk music and the classical music of German composers Bach, Beethoven and Wagner.

Theatre:

- focus on German history and political drama;
- cheap tickets encouraged people to see Nazi-inspired plays.

Art:

- hated modern art so it was banned
- preferred more heroic imagery that promoted Nazi ideals for example women as housewives and mothers.

Key Question 7 : What factors led to the outbreak of war in 1939?

Timeline of events



Important concept

Hitler wanted to “make Germany great again”, to make it the strong imperial country that nationalists thought it had been before it was “stabbed in the back” at the end the First World War.

Key words

Greater Germany	Germany plus Rhineland, Austria, Sudetenland, and the Polish Corridor
Lebensraum	Living space, for the growing German population
Communism	The belief that everyone must be equal – the Soviet Union (USSR) was a communist dictatorship
Anschluss	Union of Germany and Austria into one country
Remilitarisation	Allowing troops to be stationed somewhere again
Pact of Steel	Military alliance between Germany and Italy
Re-armament	Building up Germany’s armed forces again
Conscription	Compulsory military service
Plebiscite	A referendum, a public vote
Anti-Comintern	Against communists
Appeasement	Giving in to demands to avoid conflict

What were Hitler’s foreign policy aims?

- *Reverse the Treaty of Versailles* - to restore German territory and to build up the German armed forces.
- *Unite all German-speaking people* - to create a ‘Greater Germany’ (Grossdeutschland) by uniting all Germans into one homeland.
- *Lebensraum* – to get ‘living space’ in eastern Europe for the growing population of Greater Germany.
- *Destroy communism* - to get rid of communists who had betrayed Germany in 1919 and to destroy the USSR to stop it from attacking Germany.

What agreements did Hitler make with other countries?

- *Non-aggression Pact with Poland 1934* - Hitler promised to accept the borders of Poland for last ten years.
- *Rome-Berlin Axis 1936* - Italy and Germany agreed to follow a common foreign policy and stop the spread of communism in Europe.
- *Anti-Comintern Pact 1936* - Hitler signed a treaty with Japan and Italy to limit communist influence around the world.
- *Pact of Steel 1939* - Hitler and Mussolini signed a full military alliance to assist each other in the event of war.
- *Nazi-Soviet Pact 1939* - Hitler wanted to destroy Poland, not just take back Germany’s lost land. The USSR and Germany promised not to support attacks on each other. In secret they agreed to divide Poland.

Key Question 7 : What factors led to the outbreak of war in 1939?

How did Hitler re-arm Germany?

- Conscription was introduced – the army was increased from 100,000 in 1933 to 1,400,000 in 1939.
- In 1933 3.5 billion marks was spent on producing tanks, aircraft and ships. By 1939 this had increased to 26 billion marks.

Why did Hitler continue his aggressive foreign policy?

- After the Depression most countries were more worried about their own problems than those in other countries.
- The League of Nations was seen as weak because it had failed to stop Italy in Africa and Japan in China.
- British people thought the Treaty of Versailles was too harsh on Germany.
- Britain and France did nothing to stop Hitler earlier on and he became convinced that they would never stop him.

What territories did Hitler take over between 1933 and 1939?

1. *Saarland 1935* – citizens voted by 477,000 to 48,000 to rejoin Germany after League of Nations control since the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.
2. *Rhineland 1936* - Allied troops were withdrawn in 1935, in 1936 Hitler sent his army to re-militarise it. 98.8% of German people supported this. He had ordered his troops to withdraw if Britain and France objected but they said nothing.
3. *Anschluss 1938* - Hitler encouraged the Nazi Party in Austria to demand union with Germany. 99.75 per cent of Austrians voted in favour. Hitler had become more confident as his army was stronger and he had the support of Italy. Britain and France did nothing.
4. *Sudetenland 1938* – 3 million German speaking people lived there. 3/4 of Czechoslovakia's industry was there. Hitler threatened to attack Czechoslovakia to protect the Sudetenland Germans. Hitler met with the British, French and Italian leaders in Munich and they agreed to let Germany have Sudetenland as long as it left the rest of Czechoslovakia alone. Hitler agreed.
5. *Czechoslovakia 1939* - German troops were invited in to restore order, even though there was no disorder. Britain and France ended their policy of appeasement and agreed that they had to stop further German aggression.
6. *Poland 1939* - The Polish Corridor was created to allow Poland access to the sea and Danzig was controlled by the League of Nations. Britain had guaranteed Poland's borders. Hitler planned to invade Poland.