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Edexcel - GCSE (Grade 9-1)

STUDY GUIDE



Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

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Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

Edexcel - GCSE





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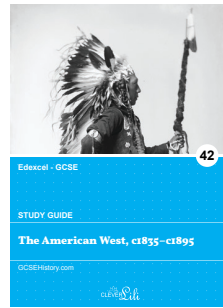
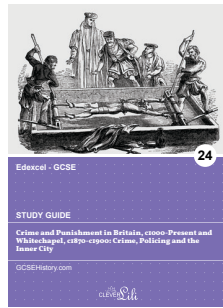
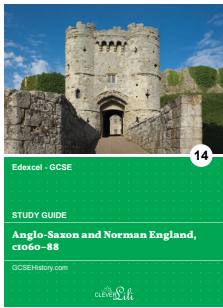
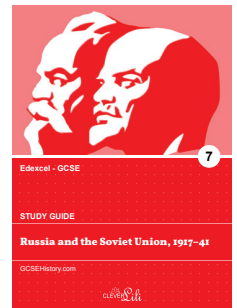
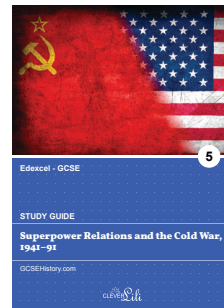
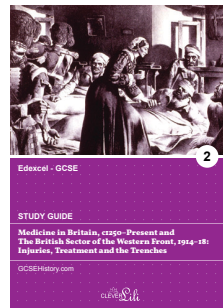
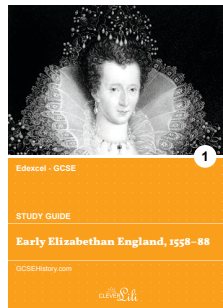
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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

In this study guide, you will see a series of icons, highlighted words and page references. The key below will help you quickly establish what these mean and where to go for more information.

Icons

-  **WHAT** questions cover the key events and themes.
-  **WHO** questions cover the key people involved.
-  **WHEN** questions cover the timings of key events.
-  **WHERE** questions cover the locations of key moments.
-  **WHY** questions cover the reasons behind key events.
-  **HOW** questions take a closer look at the way in which events, situations and trends occur.
-  **IMPORTANCE** questions take a closer look at the significance of events, situations, and recurrent trends and themes.
-  **DECISIONS** questions take a closer look at choices made at events and situations during this era.

Highlighted words

Abdicate - occasionally, you will see certain words highlighted within an answer. This means that, if you need it, you'll find an explanation of the word or phrase in the glossary which starts on **page 17**.

Page references

Tudor (p.7) - occasionally, a certain subject within an answer is covered in more depth on a different page. If you'd like to learn more about it, you can go directly to the **page indicated**.

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918 to 1939, is the modern depth study that focuses on the origins of the Weimar Republic, the challenges it faced and to what extent it overcame those challenges. The course also investigates why and how the Weimar Republic was dismantled by the Nazis and replaced by a Nazi dictatorship. You will focus on crucial events during this period, and study the different social, cultural, political, economic and military changes that occurred.

Purpose

This study enables you to understand the complexities and challenges that the democratic Weimar Republic faced and how it was transformed into a one-party state under the leadership of the Nazis. You will investigate themes such as democracy, revolution, dictatorship, government, propaganda, censorship, economy and society. This course will enable you to develop the historical skills of causation and consequence, and encourage you to analyse and evaluate contemporary sources as well as interpretations of the time period.

Topics

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918 to 1939 is split into 4 key topics:

- 🗄️ Topic 1 looks at the Weimar Republic between 1918 and 1929. You will study the origins of the new republic, the political and economic challenges it faced and to what extent it recovered between 1924 and 1929. You will also study how society changed during the 'Golden Years.'
- 🗄️ Topic 2 looks at the early development of the Nazi Party, the failed Munich Beer Hall Putsch and how the Nazi Party was reorganised afterwards. You will also study the political developments during the Great Depression and why and how Hitler became chancellor of Germany.
- 🗄️ Topic 3 looks at how Hitler and the Nazis dismantled the Weimar democracy, piece by piece, and created a one party dictatorship. You will study the ways in which the Nazis tried to control the hearts and minds of the German people using propaganda and censorship to control all aspects of life.
- 🗄️ Topic 4 looks at life in Nazi Germany and the Nazi policies towards women, children, education and the unemployed. You will study how living standards changed. The persecution of different minorities will also be explored.

Key Individuals

Some of the key individuals studied on this course include:

- 👤 Adolf Hitler.
- 👤 Friedrich Ebert.
- 👤 Paul von Hindenburg.
- 👤 Gustav Stresemann.
- 👤 Rosa Luxemburg.
- 👤 Wolfgang Kapp.

Key Events

Some of the key events you will study on this course include:

- 📅 The effects of the Treaty of Versailles on Germany.
- 📅 The French and Belgian occupation of the Ruhr, 1923.
- 📅 The impact of the Great Depression on Germany.
- 📅 Hitler becoming chancellor.
- 📅 The creation of the Nazi police state and the setting up of the Gestapo.
- 📅 The establishment of the Hitler Youth and the League of German Maidens.
- 📅 The Nazi persecution of the Jews such as the Nuremberg Laws.

Assessment

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939 is paper 3 where you have a total of 1 hour and 20 minutes to complete. There will be 3 exam questions which will assess what you have learnt. Question 3 will be broken down into a, b, c and d. You answer all questions.

- 👤 Question 1 is worth 4 marks. This question will require you to make two inferences from a source that answers the question asked. You will need to support each inference with relevant detail from the source. This could be in the form of a quote, detail from a visual source or by paraphrasing what the source states.

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

- 👤 Question 2 is worth 12 marks. This question will require you to explain why an event occurred. You need to identify three reasons, support each one with accurate and relevant factual detail that is precisely selected and then clearly explain how each cause made the event happen.
- 👤 Question 3a is worth 8 marks. This question asks you to explain how useful two sources are for a specific enquiry using the content of the source, the provenance of the source and your own contextual knowledge.
- 👤 Question 3b is worth 4 marks. This question asks you to identify the main difference in the views of two historical interpretations on a specific topic. You have to support the main difference with details from both interpretations.
- 👤 Question 3c is worth 4 marks. This question asks you to suggest one reason why the views of the two historical interpretations might be different. You have to support the main difference with details from both interpretations and you could use the sources from question 3a to help you answer the question.
- 👤 Question 3d is worth 16 marks and an additional 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar. This question asks you to explain how far you agree with one of the interpretations. In your explanation you have to evaluate both interpretations, using your own knowledge of the historical context to come to your conclusion.

Sample

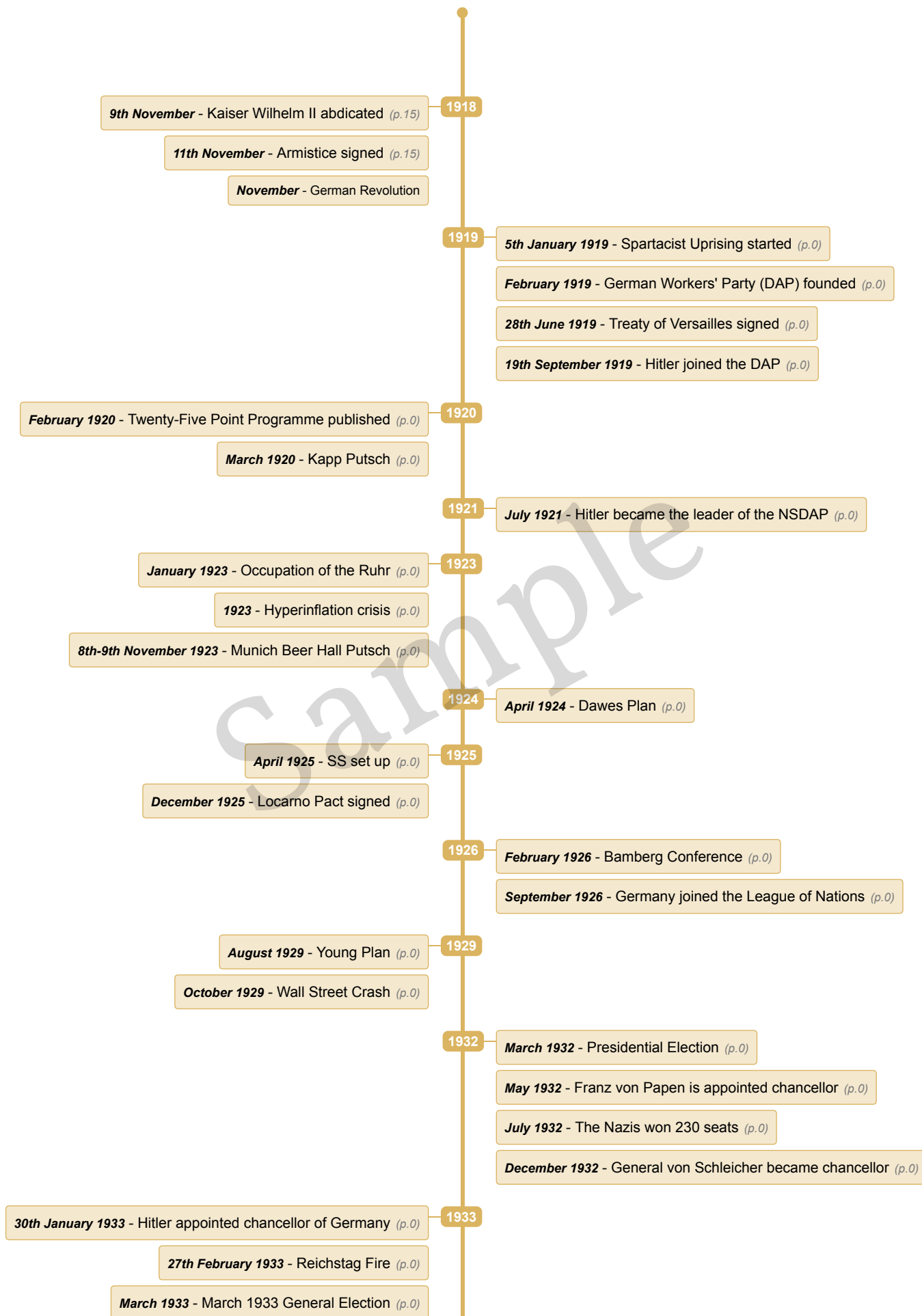


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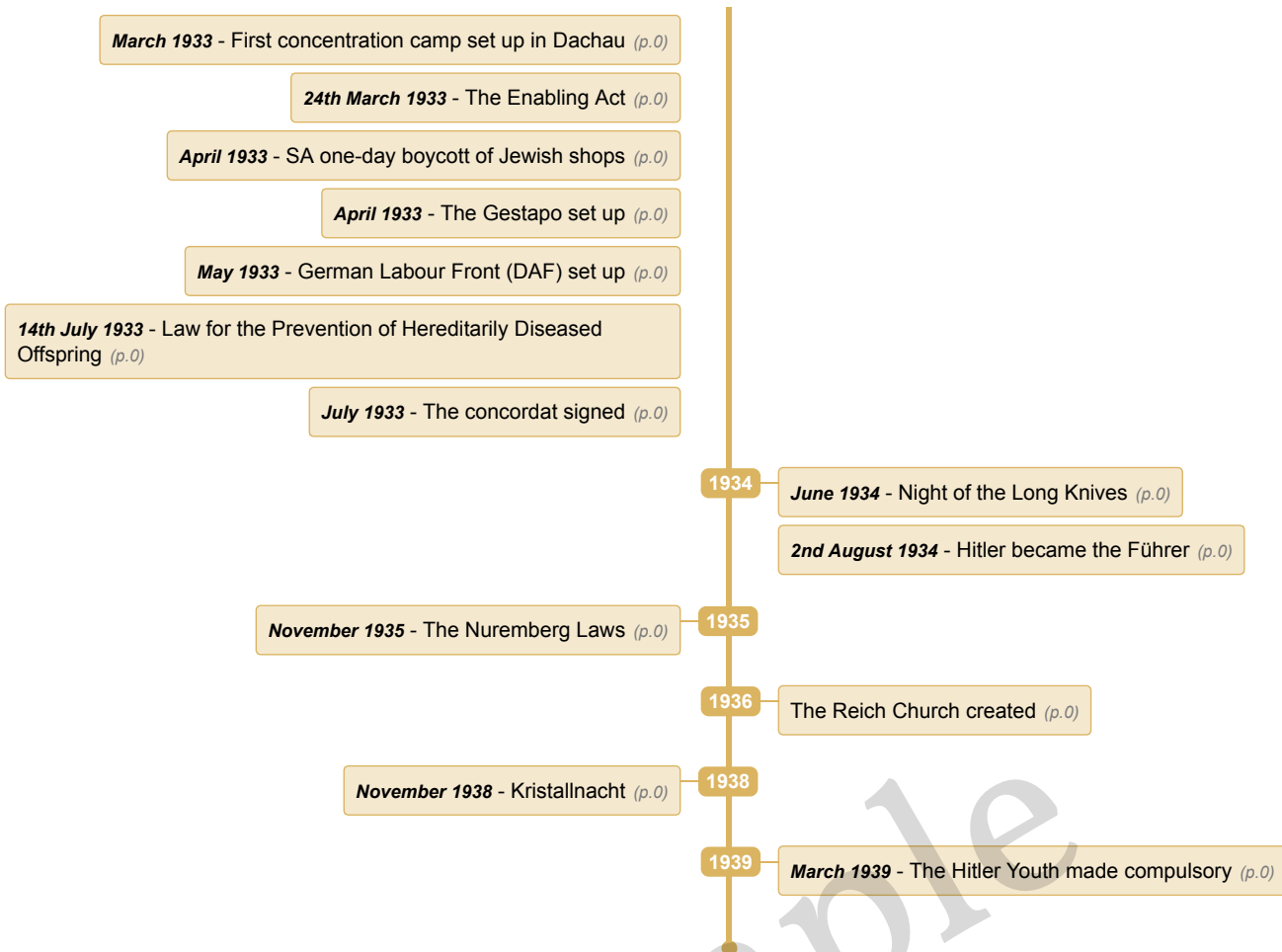
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WEIMAR AND NAZI GERMANY, 1918-1939

TIMELINE



WEIMAR AND NAZI GERMANY, 1918-1939



Sample



IMPACT OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR ON GERMANY

The First World War had a huge impact on Germany.



What happened with Germany and the First World War?

The First World War had a huge impact on Germany's society, politics and **economy**.



How did Germany enter the First World War?

The following 3 key events led to Germany entering the First World War.

- ✓ Germany declared war on Russia on the 1st August, 1914.
- ✓ After Germany invaded France via Belgium, Great Britain declared war on Germany on the 4th August.
- ✓ This was followed by the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) joining the war a few months later, in October, where it supported Germany.



How was Germany affected by the First World War?

Germany was affected in 3 key ways:

- ✓ Germany was economically damaged and the country's **debt** increased to 150 billion marks.
- ✓ They were affected socially with two million troops and approximately 763,000 **civilians** dead.
- ✓ They were affected politically with many groups attempting to seize power, the Kaiser's abdication and Germany becoming a **republic**.



How did the First World War affect people socially in Germany?

Germany was badly hit by the war because of the Allied Naval Blockade that stopped supplies getting into Germany during the war, and remained in place until the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, leaving many starving and ill.



How many casualties did the First World War claim in Germany?

Germany was affected socially by the First World War in 5 key ways:

- ✓ They had a high **casualty** rate with approximately two million dead soldiers.
- ✓ Some 600,000 women were left as widows.
- ✓ The war also took its toll on **civilians**, with approximately 763,000 people dying from starvation.
- ✓ The gap between rich and poor had grown as a result of the war and increased social divisions.
- ✓ Over 1 and a half million soldiers returned home following the war, many struggling to adapt back to **civilian** life and accept defeat.



What happened to Germany's economy after the First World War?

There were 7 significant negative effects on the **economy**:

- ✓ By 1918, **industrial production** was reduced by a third from 1913 levels.
- ✓ Fuel was short as a result of the war and consequently 300,000 people died from hypothermia.
- ✓ The government's budget was stretched by paying pensions to the 600,000 widows and 2 million orphans left after the war.
- ✓ Germany's **debt** was 50 billion German marks in 1914. This rapidly increased to 150 billion by 1918.
- ✓ Germany was **bankrupt** as it had spent all its gold reserves on the war.
- ✓ **Inflation** increased as a result of the weak German mark so the prices of goods were increasing.
- ✓ Germany was forced to begin **interim** payments to the Allies immediately after **armistice** was signed.



What happened to Germany politically at the end of the First World War?

There were 5 important political effects:

- ✓ There was massive political unrest with uprisings and **strikes**, such as the naval **mutiny** in Kiel in October, 1918.
- ✓ The unrest spread to become the German Revolution (p.0) began, with huge consequences for the government and **constitution** of Germany.
- ✓ A **communist state** was declared in Bavaria on 7th November, 1918.
- ✓ The **kaiser** lost control and **abdicated**.
- ✓ The new Weimar Republic (p.0) was created, and by signing the Treaty of Versailles, was greatly resented by the German people.



What were the events of the revolution in Germany before the end of the First World War?

There were 10 main events that occurred during the German Revolution (p.0):

- ✓ The **allies** offered Germany an **armistice** to end the war. Part of their deal included that Germany become a **democracy** and the Kaiser should **abdicate**.
- ✓ The **kaiser** declined these terms, wishing to continue with the war.
- ✓ In response, the German Navy **mutinied** at the end of October 1918, refusing to follow the Kaiser's orders.
- ✓ Soon a domino effect occurred and by November 1918, there were demonstrations and **strikes** all across Germany and a **communist state** declared in Bavaria.
- ✓ On the advice of his government and the army, Kaiser Wilhelm **abdicated** on 9th November, 1918 and fled to the Netherlands.
- ✓ Philipp Scheidemann, a member of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), announced that Germany was a **republic** to **prevent** a **communist** government being declared on 9th November, 1918.
- ✓ Prince Max von Baden stepped down as the **kaiser's chancellor**. Friedrich Ebert, the leader of the SPD, took over as the chancellor of Germany.
- ✓ On 10th November, 1918, Ebert suspended the Reichstag (**parliament**) and formed the Council of People's Representatives to run the country until a new **constitution** was written.
- ✓ Germany signed a **ceasefire** or **armistice** with the Allies on 11th November, 1918 to end the fighting in the First World War.
- ✓ In January 1919, there were elections to the Constituent Assembly, or National Assembly, which would decide on the new **constitution**.



What were the consequences of the German Revolution before the end of the First World War?

There were 3 key results of the German revolution (p.0):

- ✓ The **kaiser abdicated**.
- ✓ Germany became a **republic**.
- ✓ This led to the end of the First World War.



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PLEASE PURCHASE THE BOOK FOR FULL CONTENT.

Sample

GLOSSARY

A

Abdicate - to give up a position of power or a responsibility.

Abolish, Abolished - to stop something, or get rid of it.

Abolition - the act of abolishing something, i.e. to stop or get rid of it.

Agriculture - an umbrella term to do with farming, growing crops or raising animals.

Allegiance - loyalty to a person, group or cause.

Allies - parties working together for a common objective, such as countries involved in a war. In both world wars, 'Allies' refers to those countries on the side of Great Britain.

Anti-Semitic - to be against, or hostile to, Jews.

Armistice - an agreement between two or more opposing sides in a war to stop fighting.

Arson - the act of deliberately starting a fire.

Artillery - large guns used in warfare.

Aryan - a member of the 'master race' perceived by the Nazis, who had the idea of a pure German race.

Assassinate - to murder someone, usually an important figure, often for religious or political reasons.

Assassination - the act of murdering someone, usually an important person.

Authoritarian - either a person who believes in strict obedience to those in authority or a system of government in which there are few freedoms.

Autobahn - the German motorway system.

B

Bankrupt - to be insolvent; to have run out of resources with which to pay existing debts.

Boycott - a way of protesting or bringing about change by refusing to buy something or use services.

C

Cabinet - politically, the group of senior ministers responsible for controlling government policy.

Campaign - a political movement to get something changed; in military terms, it refers to a series of operations to achieve a goal.

Capitalism - the idea of goods and services being exchanged for money, private ownership of property and businesses, and acceptance of a hierarchical society.

Castrated - referring to a man whose testicles have been removed to prevent reproduction.

Casualties - people who have been injured or killed, such as during a war, accident or catastrophe.

Catholic - a Christian who belongs to the Roman Catholic Church.

Ceasefire - when the various sides involved in conflict agree to stop fighting.

Censorship - the control of information in the media by a government, whereby information considered obscene or unacceptable is suppressed.

Chancellor - a senior state official who, in some countries, is the head of the government and responsible for the day-to-day running of the nation.

Civil liberties - the set of basic freedoms citizens expect in a democracy, such as freedom of speech or freedom of religion.

Civil rights - the rights a citizen has to political or social freedoms, such as the right to vote or freedom of speech.

Civil servant - a person who works for the government, either at national or local level.

Civilian - a non-military person.

Claim - someone's assertion of their right to something - for example, a claim to the throne.

Coalition government - a government formed by more than one political party.

Colonies, Colony - a country or area controlled by another country and occupied by settlers.

Communism - the belief, based on the ideas of Karl Marx, that all people should be equal in society without government, money or private property. Everything is owned by the people, and each person receives according to need.

Communist - a believer in communism.

Concentration camp - a place where large numbers of people are imprisoned with inadequate facilities. Conditions are harsh and they are forced to work or kept there to await execution. The term is most frequently used in connection with the Nazis.

Concordat - a treaty signed in July 1933 between the Catholic Church and the Nazis that effectively meant they would stay out of each others' affairs.

Conference - a formal meeting to discuss common issues of interest or concern.

Conscription - mandatory enlistment of people into a state service, usually the military.

Conservative - someone who dislikes change and prefers traditional values. It can also refer to a member of the Conservative Party.

Consolidate - to strengthen a position, often politically, by bringing several things together into a more effective whole.

Constitution - rules, laws or principles that set out how a country is governed.

Constitutional assembly - group of elected representatives gathered specifically to draft a new constitution for a country.

Consumer goods - products that people buy.

Cooperate, Cooperation - to work together to achieve a common aim. Frequently used in relation to politics, economics or law.

Corrupt - when someone is willing to act dishonestly for their own personal gain.

Coup - a sudden, violent and illegal overthrow of the government by a small group - for example, the chiefs of an army.

Currency - an umbrella term for any form of legal tender, but most commonly referring to money.

D

Death camp - another name for an extermination camp in Nazi Germany.

Debt - when something, usually money, is owed by a person, organisation or institution to another.

Decree - an official order with the force of law behind it.

Demilitarised - to remove all military forces from an area and forbid them to be stationed there.

Democracy - a political system where a population votes for its government on a regular basis. The word is Greek for 'the rule of people' or 'people power'.

Democratic - relating to or supporting the principles of democracy.

Deport - to expel someone from a country and, usually, return them to their homeland.

Dictator - a ruler with absolute power over a country, often acquired by force.

Dictatorship - a form of government where an individual or small group has total power, ruling without tolerance for other views or opposition.

Diktat - a penalty or settlement imposed on a defeated party. The Germans called the Treaty of Versailles a 'diktat', or 'dictated peace'.

Dispute - a disagreement or argument; often used to describe conflict between different countries.

E

Economic - relating to the economy; also used when justifying something in terms of profitability.

Economic depression - a sustained downturn in the economy.

Economy - a country, state or region's position in terms of production and consumption of goods and services, and the supply of money.

Electorate - a group of people who are eligible to vote.

Embassy - historically, a deputation sent by one ruler, state or country to another. More recently, it is also the accepted name for the official residence or offices of an ambassador.

Empire - a group of states or countries ruled over and controlled by a single monarch.

Exile - to be banned from one's original country, usually as a punishment or for political reasons.

Extreme - furthest from the centre or any given point. If someone

holds extreme views, they are not moderate and are considered radical.

F

Fascism - an extreme right-wing belief system based around racism and national pride. It was created by the Italian dictator, Benito Mussolini, and later adopted by Adolf Hitler.

Fascist - one who believes in fascism.

Fixed income - a regular, set amount of money received by someone, such as a salary or pension, which does not change.

Foreign policy - a government's strategy for dealing with other nations.

G

Ghetto - part of a city, often a slum area, occupied by a minority group.

H

Hyperinflation - rapid acceleration of inflation which typically sees a currency lose its value and become worthless. As a result, the price of goods skyrockets for a short period of time.

I

Ideology - a set of ideas and ideals, particularly around political ideas or economic policy, often shared by a group of people.

Imperial, Imperialisation, Imperialism, Imperialist - is the practice or policy of taking possession of, and extending political and economic control over other areas or territories. Imperialism always requires the use of military, political or economic power by a stronger nation over that of a weaker one. An imperialist is someone who supports or practices imperialism and imperial relates to a system of empire, for example the British Empire.

Import - to bring goods or services into a different country to sell.

Independence, Independent - to be free of control, often meaning by another country, allowing the people of a nation the ability to govern themselves.

Indoctrinate, Indoctrination - to teach someone to accept a set of beliefs without reservation or question.

Industrial - related to industry, manufacturing and/or production.

Industry - the part of the economy concerned with turning raw materials into manufactured goods, for example making furniture from wood.

Inferior - lower in rank, status or quality.

Inflation - the general increase in the prices of goods which means money does not buy as much as it used to.

Informant - someone who passes important information to another person or organisation, such as the police.

Interim - in the meantime; during an intervening period.

Investor - someone who puts money into something with the

expectation of future profit.

Invisible unemployment - unemployment that is hidden because it is not counted in a government's official figures. For example, only those who are jobless but actively seeking work may be included.

J

Juries, Jury - a group of people sworn to listen to evidence on a legal case and then deliver an impartial verdict based on what they have heard.

K

Kaiser - the German word for a king or emperor.

L

Left wing - used to describe political groups or individuals with beliefs that are usually centered around socialism and the idea of reform.

Legislation - a term for laws when they are considered collectively, for example housing legislation.

M

Mandate - authority to carry out a policy.

Merchant, Merchants - someone who sells goods or services.

Middle class - refers to the socio-economic group which includes people who are educated and have professional jobs, such as teachers or lawyers.

Military force - the use of armed forces.

Minister - a senior member of government, usually responsible for a particular area such as education or finance.

Moderate - someone who is not extreme.

Modernise - to update something to make it suitable for modern times, often by using modern equipment or modern ideas.

Monarchy - a form of government in which the head of state is a monarch, a king or queen.

Mutiny - a rebellion or revolt, in particular by soldiers or sailors against their commanding officers.

N

Nationalism, Nationalist, Nationalistic - identifying with your own nation and supporting its interests, often to the detriment or exclusion of other nations.

Negative Cohesion - Where someone focuses on negative aspects to unite people in their dislike of something.

O

Oath - a solemn promise with special significance, often relating to future behaviour or actions.

Occupation - the action, state or period when somewhere is taken over and occupied by a military force.

Offensive - another way of saying an attack or campaign.

P

POW, Prisoner of war, Prisoners of war - somebody who has been captured and taken prisoner by enemy forces.

Paramilitary - a group of unofficial or private soldiers organised along military lines.

Parliament - a group of politicians who make the laws of their country, usually elected by the population.

Passive resistance - to resist something without using violence but by not cooperating.

Persecute - to treat someone unfairly because of their race, religion or political beliefs.

Persecution - hostility towards or harassment of someone, usually due to their race, religion or political beliefs.

Plebiscite - a vote or referendum on an important matter in an area or country.

Police state - a totalitarian country in which the police have a great deal of power to control the people and suppress opposition.

Pope - the head of the Roman Catholic Church.

Population - the number of people who live in a specified place.

Poverty - the state of being extremely poor.

President - the elected head of state of a republic.

Production - a term used to describe how much of something is made, for example saying a factory has a high production rate.

Profit - generally refers to financial gain; the amount of money made after deducting buying, operating or production costs.

Propaganda - biased information aimed at persuading people to think a certain way.

Proportional representation - a system of voting in which political parties gain seats in proportion to the number of votes they receive in an election.

Prosecute - to institute or conduct legal proceedings against a person or organisation.

Prosperity - the state of thriving, enjoying good fortune and/or social status.

Protestant - someone belonging to the branch of the Christian Church that separated from the Roman Catholic Church in the 16th century.

Putsch - a German word describing a coup or violent attempt to overthrow a government.

R

Rallies, Rally - a political event with speakers and a crowd, designed to increase support for a politician, political party or an idea.

Real wages - a person's income in terms of how much they can buy after taking inflation into account.

Rebellion - armed resistance against a government or leader, or resistance to other authority or control.

Rebels - people who rise in opposition or armed resistance against an established government or leader.

Reform, Reforming - change, usually in order to improve an institution or practice.

Reparations - payments made by the defeated countries in a war to the victors to help pay for the cost of and damage from the fighting.

Repress, Repression - politically, to prevent something or control people by force.

Republic - a state or country run by elected representatives and an elected/nominated president. There is no monarch.

Revolution - the forced overthrow of a government or social system by its own people.

Right wing - a political view with beliefs centred around nationalism and a desire for an authoritarian government opposed to communism.

S

Sabotage - to deliberately destroy, damage or obstruct, especially to gain a political or military advantage.

Scapegoat - someone who is blamed for the wrongdoings or mistakes of others.

Slavic people, Slavs - the main ethnic group of people living in Eastern Europe.

Socialist - one who believes in the principles of socialism.

Spartacists - a group of communists in Germany who staged an unsuccessful revolution in 1919.

Standard of living - level of wealth and goods available to an individual or group.

State of emergency - where a national emergency, disaster or crisis has occurred in which normal government procedures are suspended so it can deal with the situation.

State, States - an area of land or a territory ruled by one government.

Sterilisation, Sterilise - to clean something so it is free of bacteria; also refers to a medical procedure that prevents a person from being able to reproduce.

Strike - a refusal by employees to work as a form of protest, usually to bring about change in their working conditions. It puts pressure on their employer, who cannot run the business without workers.

Superior - better or higher in rank, status or quality.

Suppress, Suppression - the use of force to stop something, such as a protest.

Synagogue - a Jewish place of worship.

T

Tactic - a strategy or method of achieving a goal.

Territorial - relating to land or territory.

Territories, Territory - an area of land under the control of a ruler/country.

Totalitarian - someone who wants a system of government in which the leader has total control, or a dictatorship, and also used to refer to that system of government.

Trade unions - organised groups of workers who cooperate to make their lives better at work. For example, they might negotiate for better pay and then organise a strike if one is refused.

Treason - the crime of betraying one's country, often involving an attempt to overthrow the government or kill the monarch.

Treasurer - the person in charge of an organisation's money or finances.

Treaty - a formal agreement, signed and ratified by two or more parties.

U

Undesirable, Undesirables, Untermenschen - a German word meaning 'sub-human' which refers to those considered racially and/or socially inferior.

Upper class - a socio-economic group consisting of the richest people in a society who are wealthy because they own land or property.

V

Veteran, Veterans - an ex-soldier.

W

Working class - socio-economic group consisting of those engaged in waged labour, especially manual work or industry, who typically do not have much money.

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