

History Paper 2

Depth Studies

- Weimar Germany
- Nazi Germany
- Russia 1914-1941, Lenin and Stalin

Weimar Germany

- End of October 1918, German navy rebelled, spread throughout country
- November – Germany dropped out of the war
- January 1919, elections held for new Reichstag
- Feb 1919, new government agreed in Weimar
- Freidrich Ebert elected, parliamentary democracy

Problems

- **Ineffective constitution**, the President could take sole-power in times of emergency
- Proportional voting led to many different parties
- Army was not fully under government control
- Many government officials were right-wing, opposing.
- **Left wing rebellions** – Spartacist uprising in Jan 1919, Bavarian Uprising in 1919
- **Right wing terrorism** – Hated government for signing Versailles Treaty.
- Kapp Putsch, Mar 1920, Freikorps rebelled and took over Berlin.
- Assassinations on 356 politicians, e.g. Rathenau – SPD foreign minister.
- **Invasion-inflation** – Jan 1923, Germans failed to make reparation payment. French invaded Ruhr, Government ordered general strike. Led to hyperinflation.
- **Munich Putsh** – Hitler's Nazis tried to take control of Bavaria – imprisoned for 9 months.

Stresemann's Achievements DIFFERS

- **Dawes Plan** – Stressemann called of 1923 Ruhr strike and repaid reparations with the help of the Dawes Plan – which gave Germany longer to make payments
- **Inflation controlled** – Stressemann burned old currency and replaced with new Rentenmark
- **French leave Ruhr** April 1924, Stressemann persuades them
- **Foreign Affairs** – Locarno Treaty (regarding territory), joining League of Nations
- **Economic Growth** – Germany borrowed 25 million marks to rebuild the country, led to increased economy and culture
- **Reforms** – Introduced reforms to make life better for working classes
- **Strength at the Centre** – Arranged a “Great Coalition” of parties to unite and resist criticism of smaller extremist parties. Overcame problems of proportional representation as it had enough supporting members.

Weaknesses of Republic

- Depended on American loans and investments for economy and success
- When economic prosperity returned, the Great Coalition collapsed and parties began to argue amongst themselves again
- Extremists were still set against Weimar even after good times. Were waiting for an opportunity.
- 1924-1929 “The Wilderness Years” for Nazis, because of Germany’s growth the Nazis became unpopular.

Rise of the Nazi Party

- Results of the Depression in 1929 led to the rise of many of the extremist parties
- Trust for mainstream parties went down, as the extremists promised to fix everything
- Weimar seemed to do nothing.

Positive Reason	Negative Cohesion
Discipline and order	Fear of Communism
Promised jobs	Hatred against Jews and others
Rallies impressed everyone, made them feel part of a group, energetic	Weimar Republic seemed incapable to fix and do anything to prevent Depression
Soup kitchens and shelter for poor and unemployed	Hatred of Treaty of Versailles
Traditional values	Scapegoats, e.g. November Criminals
Hitler was a brilliant speaker	Nazis attacked other parties
Had support and money from many big companies	
Propaganda campaigns	

- Hindenberg and Von Papen schemed to give Hitler post of vice-Chancellor if he promised to support them, because they didn’t have enough support in the Reichstag
- He refused, demanding the Chancellorship, Von Papen and Hindenburg gave in, thinking they could control Hitler.

Steps to Dictatorship

Rigged German Election Leads To Psychopathic Nazi Fuhrer

1. Reichstag fire 27th Feb 1933– used to arrest many Communists
2. General Election 5th March – Called general election, ended up with 44%, so arrested the 81 Communist deputies which gave him majority.
3. Enabling Act 23 March - Reichstag votes to give Hitler power to make own laws.
4. Local Government 26th April – Nazis took over local government and police, replaces teachers and professors with Nazis. Gestapo set up.
5. Trade Unions banned May– Trade unions closed and leaders imprisoned, German Labour Front set up instead by Hitler, reduced workers’ pay and right to strike.
6. Political Parties banned July

7. Night of the Long Knives June 1934– SA were an embarrassment, not advantage. Hitler orders SS to kill over 400 SA men.
8. **Fuhrer 1934** – When Hindenburg dies, Hitler takes over office of President and leader of army. Made soldiers swear oath to Hitler personally.

Controlling Germany

Overdo The Power You Worthless Ranting Rogue

1. **One party state**
2. **Terror** – people kept in check by fear of Gestapo and concentration camps.
3. **Propaganda** – Cult of Personality (everyone grateful to Hitler)
4. **Youth** – Taught the children from young age Nazi values, Hitler Youth and the German Girl's League
5. **Workforce** – Banned all Trade Unions and set up the German Labour Front. Set up the Strength through Joy movement, where workers were rewarded with prizes.
6. **Religion** – Hitler signed Concordat with Pope, agreeing to leave Church alone if it stayed out of politics.
7. **Racism** – Anti-Semitism from the very start. Approved of by many Germans

Nazi Rule

NOW YOU

1. Nazi party members had best positions, best houses and preferential treatment
2. **Ordinary people** had decent lives, as long as they followed the rules and didn't speak out. There were jobs, law and order, money and national pride. But wages fell and strikers could be shot, no personal freedom and all culture had to be German.
3. **Women** – encouraged to be just child bearers. Medals given to those who raised the most. Seen as inferior, employment for women went down
4. **Youth** – Nazi culture was very youth-orientated. Believed they were the future and focussed on them. Most were happy, some rebelled. True Aryan girls were sent to camps where they were bred with selected Aryan boys. End of year, Edelweiss Pirates emerged, youth gangs which embraced Western culture.
5. **Opponents** – Used fear and horror against those who disapproved of their regime.
6. **Untermensch** – means subhuman. Included Jews, Gypsies, black people, mentally and physically disabled people.

Russia 1914-1941

The Situation

- Autocratic society, Tsar given his position by Divine Right
- Nicholas II was weak and unpopular, he didn't understand his people and the changes it was going through
- He was a full believer in the autocratic society, and avoided making important decisions.
- Peasant villages controlled by the "mir", local council, had power over peasants and could decide if they could have land
- Growing industry meant more working class, but the conditions and wages were very poor
- 1904 – Tsar leads war against Japan, they lose badly.

1905 Revolution

- Bloody Sunday, January. Father Gapon led protests to Winter Palace. The Cossacks opened fire and killed hundreds.
- The Tsar lost the respect of many of the people, things came to climax in October
- General strike spreads across the country and representatives from different unions met to co-ordinate worker strikes
- The Tsar gave in and offered people what they wanted, the October Manifesto
- Offered a Parliament, right to free speech and the right to form political parties
- In November he conceded even more and offered financial help for peasants
- This was all just to delay the people, while he made peace with Japan and brought his troops back in order to crush the rebellion with his army.
- The Dumas became the Tsar's puppets and he dismissed them whenever they disagreed with him or were too critical
- E.g. when the first Duma demanded control of taxes in 1906, he sent them away.

Stolypin

- Appointed Prime Minister by Tsar
- Used "carrot and stick" method
- Stick – he came down hard on any opposition and destroyed rebellions before they could form
- Carrot – Helped peasants by giving them more land, and helped peasants buy land for themselves – kulaks.
- But peasant conditions stayed the same, only some benefited from his reforms

Rasputin

- Mystic healer, who was said to have helped heal the Tsar's son
- Had great deal of influence over Tsarina, and therefore the Tsar
- Well known as a womaniser, and his relationship with the Tsarina damaged public appearance
- Tsar attempted to send him away – Tsarina demanded him to be recalled.
- Made people doubt authority of him

First World War

- At first, it was a good thing. People supported the war and the Tsar
- Patriotism and loyalty was revived
- Things went horribly wrong – huge losses
- Food shortages when supplies went to the front lines
- Increased prices over everything made life harder for peasants
- 1915 Tsar personally went to oversee the war – huge mistake, not only did he fail to win any battles, but he left the Tsarina in charge.
- Rasputin influenced Tsarina heavily, put his friends in positions and let country fall to pieces
- Railway system fell into disrepair, food was left rotting – starvation
- Everyone lost confidence in the Tsar and the government, soldiers, peasants and working class

1917 February/March Revolution

- Huge discontent, thousands went on strike
- When soldiers were ordered to shoot protesters, they shot their commanding officers and merely joined them
- The Tsar abdicated, and was refused entry by the railway workers.
- Provisional Government formed.
- **Crucial role of the army**

Provisional Government

- Supposed to run country until elections
- Soviet groups gathered and met – Petrograd Soviet
- Petrograd Soviet had more power, started to organise food and housing, and the railway.
- The PG was made up of many different political parties, all with different aims for the country
- The PS was more united, clearer aims
- PG was technically in control, but the real power was with the PS
- The PG only looked to immediate problems, not the future, thus it was doomed to fail.

Problem	PG Action
Peasants demanding land	Refused to reform land ownership “not their responsibility
Food shortages	Did nothing, kept fighting war so still food shortages
War	Losing men and battles continuously, offensives failing. Wasting precious supplies
Alternative government, what to do about PS?	PS had many members and more power, and it was hostile to the PG. They did nothing
Mutiny	Deserters shot – very unpopular with people.

Bolsheviks

- Led by Lenin
- Wanted revolution
- Gained support through Lenin's "April Theses" – Peace, Land and Bread
- Tried to take control in July 1917 but failed.
- Lenin forced to flee

Kornilov Coup

- Russian Commander in Chief, turned his army from the Front and marched against the PG
- Kerensky was forced to give the Bolsheviks and PS weapons to save the government from Kornilov
- Kornilov was turned back and he fled
- Now the Bolsheviks were the real power in Russia. Lenin encouraged Trotsky to prepare plans to take-over.

October Revolution 1917

- Bolshevik Central Committee vote for Revolution October 23rd
- Lenin was in charge, but Trotsky did most of the planning
- Takeover wasn't kept secret, Kerensky tried to find troops to help, but failed. He went into hiding
- 7th November, armed Red Guard seized important buildings and bridges within Petrograd
- Little fighting, next day the Bolsheviks continued to seize key locations
- Life still continued as normal, shops were opened and trams running
- Bolsheviks moved in on Winter Palace where PG was meeting on the night of the 8th. Easily taken, no opposition
- New government set up, The People's Commissars.

Reasons for Success: **Perhaps Seven Powers Gave Lenin An Opportunity**

- **PG Problems:** The Government was weak and unpopular
- **Slogans:** "Peace, Bread, Land" and "All Power to the Soviets" Simple promises for the people to understand
- **Pravda:** Newspaper, form of propaganda
- **German money:** Bolsheviks financed by the Germans
- **Lenin:** Brilliant leader, with one single aim
- **Army:** Red Guards were trained military force
- **Organisation:** Trotsky had planned everything

Staying In Power Great Big Changes Create Terrible War

- **Government changes** – in the elections, Lenin used the Red Guards to close and kill those who objected, turning it into government by the party
- **Brest-Litovsk** – making peace with Germany, in return they gave up large amounts of Russian agricultural and industrial land
- **Communist state** – introduced Communist laws, land taken from Tsar and nobles and given to peasants
- **Communist society** – banned religion, Labour Law gave workers 8-hour day, unemployment pay and pensions. Education, free love, divorce and abortion
- **Terror** – Cheka, censorship, Tsar and family killed
- **War Communism** – Grain requisitioning, government control of factories. Many peasants burned their surplus instead of handing it over.

Civil War 1918-1921

- Anti-Bolshevik elements united as the Whites to crush the Bolsheviks
- Made up of many different groups, including Mensheviks, Tsarists
- The West sent troops and supplies to support the Whites, for fear of Communism
- But there was discontent among the Whites, too many groups, and no clear unity
- They were joined together merely to destroy the Reds, whereas the Bolsheviks were fighting for their ideals and Russia
- They didn't work together to bring down the Reds, too many generals
- Bolsheviks controlled central Russia, they had better supplies and the railway network
- Used extensive propaganda to highlight the White's weaknesses

New Economic Policy 1921

- Harsh winter in 1920-1921 leads to famine, millions died from starvation.
- Hostility to grain requisitioning
- March 21st Kronstadt Rebellion, sailors went on strike because they felt Lenin went back on his word.
- Lenin realises he needs to compromise and make changes – Kronstadt sailors were Lenin's strongest supporters
- Grain requisitioning was abolished, surplus could be sold
- Small businesses under private ownership were allowed
- Rationing was abolished

Creation of USSR

- Set up in 1923
- Areas captured in Civil War – socialist republics
- United as one into "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics"

Trotsky Vs. Stalin

Trotsky	Stalin
Wanted to spread Revolution to other countries – Permanent Revolution	Wanted to improve the USSR and modernise it without foreign help. Communism In One Country
Refused to play dirty in politics	Politically clever
Popular with the Red Army, had their support	Powerful position as General Secretary of Communist Party
Extreme views, fear he would split the party	Safe “middle of the road” Communist, wouldn’t split the party
Wasn’t trusted, he’d only joined the party 1917	Loyal member for 20 years

- Stalin tricked Trotsky into not going to the funeral of Lenin
- Lenin’s Testament criticised many people, including Stalin, but wasn’t published
- 1924 – Stalin joins with Zinoviev and Kamenev to vote out Trotsky
- Stalin kicks out Zinoviev and Kamenev by joining with Bukharin
- Stalin turns on Bukharin and removes him from office
- 1929, Stalin in control

Collectivisation

- Russian agriculture was backwards, small farms and old methods
- In the late 1920s, there was a food crisis.
- When Stalin seized the grain, the peasants burnt it instead
- In 1929 he announced compulsory collectivisation as a way to increase efficiency of farms
- Kolkhoz, joined lands together to make a larger farm, collective farm and animals
- Grain was sold to the Government at a low price
- Made kulaks the enemy, after famine in 1932 they were eliminated
- By 1937, nearly all the land was part of collective farms

Five Year Plans 1928-1933, 1932-1937

- Stalin believed industry could only develop through state control and planning
- State would decide targets for individual factories to reach within 5 years
- Those who achieved were rewarded, those who failed were punished
- Industry heavily changed, new towns appeared.
- Magnitogorsk transformed from a tiny village into massive industry city
- In under 10 years, the USSR doubled industrial output

Negatives

- Forced labour killed millions
- New towns/cities couldn’t deal with huge influx, poor living conditions
- Not enough food, rationing introduced
- Poor working conditions and long working hours
- The targets were unrealistic

Stalin's Terror

- Believed Russia had to be united if it was to be strong
- Embarked on series of Purges to eliminate opposition and criticism
- 1930-1933 – Those who opposed industrialisation and kulaks
- Great Purges, 1934-1939. Political opponents. Then expanded to encompass everyone, from the army, to the church, ethnic groups and ordinary people.
- Cult of Stalin: Censorship of anything against Stalin. Propaganda everywhere, pictures and statues.
- Purged people (like Trotsky) were obliterated from history books and photographs.