Weimar and Nazi Germany Mind Map (GCSE)

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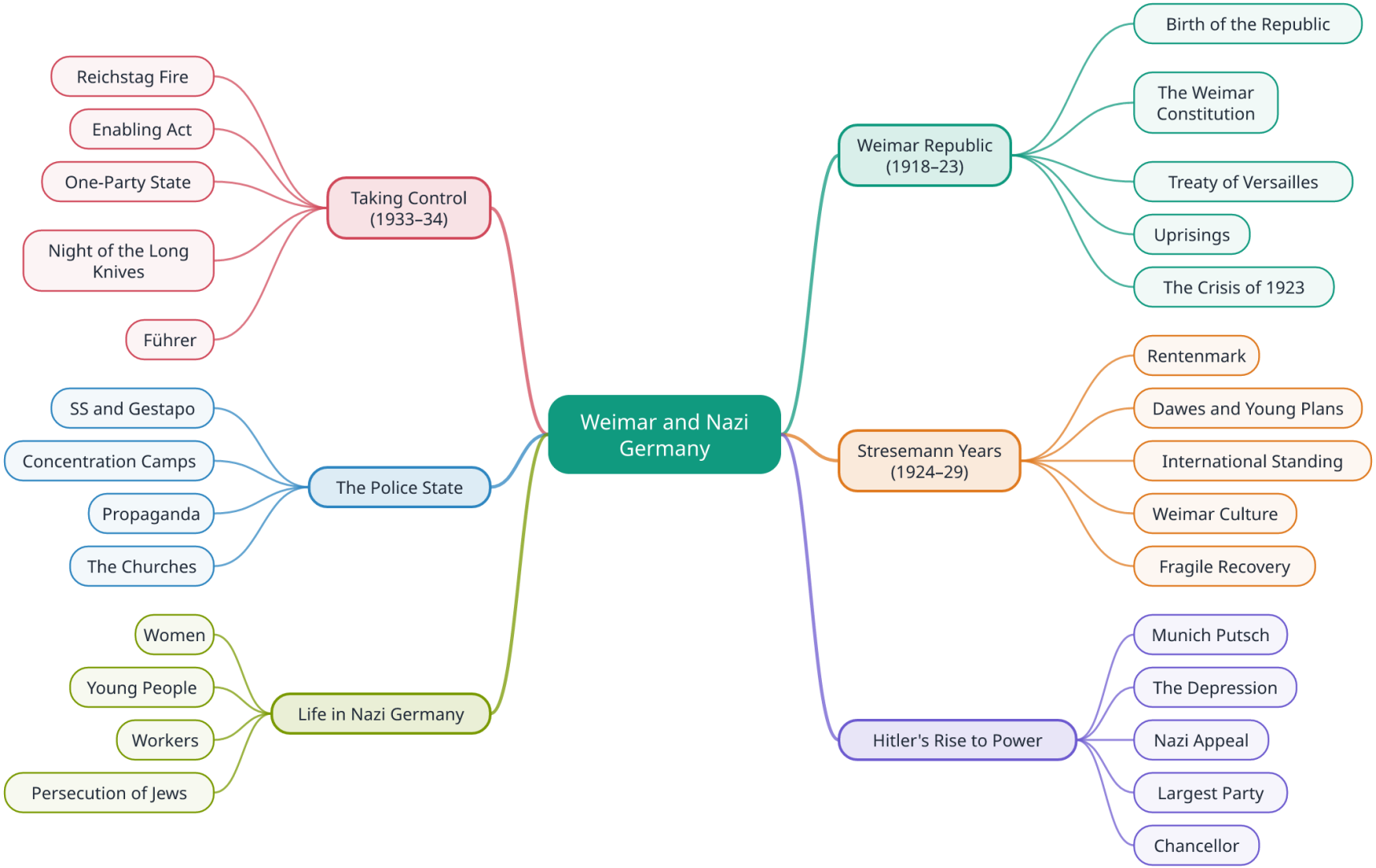

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Weimar and Nazi Germany mind map explained

Weimar Republic (1918-23)

Germany became a democracy at the end of the First World War, but the new republic faced crisis after crisis. AQA also covers the Kaiser's Germany from 1890.

Birth of the Republic

Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated in November 1918, and the new government signed the armistice on 11 November. Many Germans blamed these "November Criminals" for defeat, and some believed the army had been "stabbed in the back".

The Weimar Constitution

A democratic system with proportional representation, which led to many small parties and weak coalition governments. Article 48 let the President rule by decree in an emergency.

Treaty of Versailles

Signed in June 1919. Germany accepted blame for the war (Article 231, the war guilt clause), lost land and all its colonies, had its army cut to 100,000 men with no air force, and had to pay reparations, set in 1921 at £6.6 billion.

Uprisings

The communist Spartacist Revolt (January 1919) and the right-wing Kapp Putsch (March 1920) both tried to overthrow the government.

The Crisis of 1923

When Germany fell behind with reparations, France and Belgium occupied the Ruhr industrial area in January 1923. The government printed money to pay striking workers, causing hyperinflation: by November 1923 a loaf of bread cost about 200 billion marks.

Stresemann Years (1924-29)

Gustav Stresemann, as Chancellor in 1923 and then Foreign Minister until his death in October 1929, led a recovery often called the Golden Age.

Rentenmark

A new currency introduced in November 1923, later replaced by the Reichsmark, which ended hyperinflation.

Dawes and Young Plans

The Dawes Plan (1924) gave Germany American loans and spread out reparation payments. The Young Plan (1929) cut the total reparations bill.

International Standing

The Locarno Pact (1925), joining the League of Nations (1926) and the Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928) brought Germany back into the international community.

Weimar Culture

Art, architecture such as the Bauhaus, cinema and cabaret flourished, though conservatives saw it as immoral.

Fragile Recovery

The economy depended on American loans, which would be called in after the Wall Street Crash.

Hitler's Rise to Power

From a failed putsch in 1923 to Chancellor in 1933.

Munich Putsch

In November 1923, Hitler tried to seize power in Munich and failed. In prison he wrote Mein Kampf and decided to win power through elections instead.

The Depression

After the Wall Street Crash (October 1929), American loans were recalled and unemployment rose to about 6 million by 1932. Desperate voters turned to extremist parties.

Nazi Appeal

Propaganda, rallies and the SA, promises of work and bread, blaming Versailles, communists and Jews, and Hitler's speeches won support.

Largest Party

In July 1932, the Nazis won 230 seats, about 37% of the vote, making them the largest party in the Reichstag.

Chancellor

On 30 January 1933, President Hindenburg appointed Hitler Chancellor in a deal with von Papen, who believed he could control him.

Taking Control (1933-34)

Hitler turned the chancellorship into a dictatorship in eighteen months.

Reichstag Fire

The Reichstag building burned on 27 February 1933. Hitler blamed the communists and used emergency powers to arrest them.

Enabling Act

Passed in March 1933, it let Hitler make laws without the Reichstag.

One-Party State

Trade unions were banned in May 1933 and all other political parties by July 1933.

Night of the Long Knives

On 30 June 1934, Hitler had Ernst Röhm and other SA leaders killed, removing a rival and winning the army's support.

Führer

When Hindenburg died in August 1934, Hitler combined the roles of Chancellor and President as Führer, and the army swore an oath of loyalty to him personally.

The Police State

The Nazis kept control through terror, propaganda and control of every part of life.

SS and Gestapo

The SS, led by Himmler, and the Gestapo secret police arrested opponents, often on tip-offs from informers.

Concentration Camps

The first, Dachau, opened in 1933 for political opponents and later held other groups the Nazis persecuted.

Propaganda

Goebbels controlled newspapers, radio and film. Cheap radios (the People's Receiver), the Nuremberg rallies and the 1936 Berlin Olympics spread the Nazi message.

The Churches

The Concordat with the Pope (1933) promised not to interfere with Catholics, but was broken. Protestant opponents such as Pastor Niemöller formed the Confessing Church; he was sent to a concentration camp.

Life in Nazi Germany

How Nazi policies affected different groups between 1933 and 1939. AQA also covers the war years to 1945.

Women

Expected to focus on "Kinder, Küche, Kirche" (children, kitchen, church). Marriage loans and the Mother's Cross encouraged large families.

Young People

The Hitler Youth and the League of German Maidens trained boys for the army and girls for motherhood. A 1936 law made the Hitler Youth the only youth organisation, and membership became compulsory in 1939. School subjects were rewritten with Nazi ideas.

Workers

Unemployment fell through public works, rearmament and conscription. Trade unions were replaced by the German Labour Front, with schemes such as Strength Through Joy.

Persecution of Jews

- 1933: boycott of Jewish shops
- 1935: Nuremberg Laws removed Jews' citizenship and banned marriage between Jews and non-Jews
- November 1938: Kristallnacht, when synagogues, homes and shops were attacked

How to revise with this mind map

1. Know your course's dates. Edexcel covers 1918 to 1939. AQA covers 1890 to 1945, so it adds the Kaiser's Germany before the war and the Nazi war years after 1939.

2. Build a timeline. Most marks come from putting events in order and explaining how one led to another, for example how the Depression helped the Nazis win votes.

3. Learn specific evidence: precise dates, numbers and names. 230 seats in July 1932, or bread at about 200 billion marks in 1923, makes an answer far stronger than vague statements.

4. Practise the question types: explaining consequences, explaining why something happened, and judging how far you agree with a statement using evidence on both sides.

5. Make it yours. Build your own Germany map in Mindmapi from your class notes, and ask the AI about any branch you are unsure of. The answer is saved into that branch's notes for next time.