

Nazism and the Rise of Hitler

Fastrack Revision

- ▶ Germany, a powerful empire in the early years of the 20th century, fought the First World War (1914-1918) alongside the Austrian empire and against the Allies (England, France and Russia).
- ▶ Germany made initial gains by occupying France and Belgium. However, with the entry of US in 1917, the Allies gained strength and as a result Germany was defeated in November 1918.

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Those who supported the Weimar Republic, mainly Socialists, Catholics and Democrats were called 'November Criminals'.

- ▶ After the defeat, the emperor of Germany abdicated his monarchy. This gave an opportunity to the parliamentary parties to recast the German politics. A National Assembly met at Weimar and established a democratic republic with a federal structure.
- ▶ Weimar Republic, however, was not received well even by its own people because it accepted the Versailles Treaty after Germany's defeat, at the end of the First World War.
- ▶ The Versailles Treaty was harsh and humiliating. Germany lost its overseas colonies, 13% of its territories, 75% of its iron and 26% of its coal to France, Poland, Denmark and Lithuania. It was also demilitarised by Allied powers and was forced to pay a compensation of £ 6 billion.
- ▶ Many Germans held the Weimar Republic responsible for the defeat in the war and the disgrace at Versailles and it was opposed from within the country and revolutions were held through out the country to overthrow it.
- ▶ The revolutionaries formed 'Spartacist League' and 'Soviets of Workers and Sailors' were also established in many cities.
- ▶ The Weimar Republic, crushed the revolutions with the help of a war veterans organisation called 'Free Corps'.
- ▶ The Spartacists were forced to take a back foot and they later founded the 'Communist Party of Germany'.
- ▶ On the economic front also the situation was grim and Germany faced a economic crisis in 1923, as is indicated with the help of the following points:
 - ▶ Germany printed paper currency recklessly. With too much printed money in circulation, the value of German mark fell.
 - ▶ As the value of the mark collapsed, prices of the goods went extremely high. This crisis came to be known as 'hyperinflation'.
- ▶ Eventually, the Americans rescued Germany by introducing the 'Dawes Plan' and bailed them out of the financial burden by reworking the terms of reparation.

- ▶ The years between 1924 and 1928 were somewhat stable, but the period after 1929 was marked by severe depression.

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In April, the US dollar was equal to 24,000 marks, in July 3,53,000 marks, in August 46,21,000 marks and 9,88,60,000 marks by December. It ultimately ran into trillions.

- ▶ The effects of recession in the US economy were felt worldwide but German economy was the worst hit. This was due to the fact that the recovery of the German economy was possible only because of the short-term loans extended by the US banks. When the US economy suffered a set-back, the banks started calling back their loans. This led to fall in investments and production levels.
- ▶ By 1932, industrial production was reduced to 40% of the 1929 level. Small businessmen, the self-employed and retailers suffered as their businesses got ruined. Even big businesses faced crisis. People did not have money to buy food products even at reduced prices.
- ▶ The crisis in the economy, polity and society formed the background to Hitler's rise to power. Born in 1889, in Austria, Hitler spent his youth in poverty.
- ▶ During the World War I, he was in army, acted as messenger, became a corporal, and earned medals for bravery.
- ▶ In 1919, he joined a small group, called 'German Workers' Party. He subsequently took over the party and renamed it as the 'National Socialist German Workers' Party, which came to be known as the Nazi Party.
- ▶ By 1932, Nazi Party became the largest party in Reichstag, the German Parliament, with 37% votes.
- ▶ Hitler promised to build a strong nation, undo the injustice of Versailles Treaty and restore the dignity of the German people. He promised employment and secure future for the youth.
- ▶ All this helped him to gain enormous popularity among the German people, whose sense of dignity had been shattered and who were living in a time of acute economic and political crises.

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On 3rd March, 1933, the famous Enabling Act was passed to establish dictatorship in Germany. All political parties and trade unions were banned except for the Nazi Party and its affiliates.



- ▶ In January, 1933, President Hindenburg offered Chancellorship, the highest position in the cabinet of Germany, to Hitler. Having acquired power, Hitler set out to dismantle the structure of democratic rule in Germany.
- ▶ He introduced the Fire Decree on 28th February, 1933 which indefinitely suspended civic rights like freedom of speech, press and assembly that had been guaranteed by the Weimar Constitution.
- ▶ He formed Gestapo (secret state police), the SS (the protection squads), criminal police and the Security Service (SD). These bodies were given extra constitutional powers and gave Germany its reputation as the most dreaded criminal state.

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Nazi views were derived from the theories Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer. Charles Darwin was a natural scientist who tried to explain the creation of plants and animals through the concept of evolution and natural selection.

- ▶ Hitler assigned the responsibility of economic recovery to economist Hjalmar Schacht, who aimed at full production and full employment through a state-funded work creation programme. This project produced German superhighways and the people's car, the Volkswagen.
- ▶ In foreign policy too, Hitler acquired quick successes. He pulled out of the League of Nations in 1933, and reoccupied the Rhineland in 1936 and integrated Austria and Germany in 1938. It was done under the slogan 'One people, One empire, and One leader.'
- ▶ He then won over Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia and later ended up in conquering the whole country.
- ▶ The Nazis led by Hitler were committed to a system of belief and a set of practices. They believed in racial hierarchy. Blond, blue-eyed, Nordic German Aryans were at the top, while Jews were located at the lowest position.
- ▶ After gaining power, the Nazis began to implement their dream of creating an exclusive racial community of pure Germans and eliminating the undesirable, in the extended empire.
- ▶ From 1933 to 1938, the Nazis terrorised, pauperised and segregated the Jews, compelling them to leave the country. Between 1939 to 1945, they were concentrated in certain areas and were eventually killed in gas chambers in Poland.
- ▶ The Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by Nazi regime and its collaborators. The Jews wanted the world to know about the atrocities and sufferings that they had endured. So, they tried to spread knowledge about their plight. Many diaries have been found in ghetto and camps written by the Jews, describing their condition.
- ▶ Even gypsies, and blacks living in Nazi Germany were considered as racially inferiors and were widely persecuted.
- ▶ Hitler was fanatically interested in the youth of the country. The 'Youth League of the Nazis' was founded in 1922. Four years later, it was renamed as 'Hitler Youth'.
- ▶ At the age of 14, all boys had to join 'Hitler Youth', where they learnt to glorify war, condemn democracy and hate Jews and the other undesirable races.

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To encourage women to give births to more children, Honour Crosses were given. A bronze cross for four children, silver for six and gold for eight or more.

- ▶ Children in Nazi Germany were repeatedly told that women were radically different from men. Boys were taught to be aggressive, masculine and steel-hearted while girls were told that they had to become good mothers and rear pure-blooded Aryan children.
- ▶ Nazis used language and media with care and often to great effect. They never used the words 'kill' or 'murder' in their official communications. Mass killings were termed as special treatment, final solution (for the Jews), Euthanasia (for the disabled), selection and disinfections. Evacuation meant deporting people to gas chambers. The gas chambers were called as 'disinfection areas'.
- ▶ Following the policy of expansion, in September, 1939, Germany invaded Poland and this marked the starting of World War II.
- ▶ After the invasion of Poland, a war was also started with France and England.
- ▶ In September 1940, a Tripartite Pact was signed between Germany, Italy and Japan. By the end of 1940, Hitler was at the pinnacle of his power.
- ▶ To further expand territories, Hitler attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941. This was a historic blunder, as Hitler exposed the German Western front to British aerial bombing and the Eastern front to the powerful Soviet armies.
- ▶ The Soviet Red Army inflicted a crushing and humiliating defeat on Germany at Stalingrad and chased the retreating German soldiers to the heart of Berlin, establishing their control over the entire Eastern Europe for half a century thereafter.
- ▶ The US entered the war when Japan extended its support to Hitler and bombed the US base at Pearl Harbour.
- ▶ Hitler accepted defeat in May 1945 and the war ended in September after the dropping of atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the US.
- ▶ Hitler and his associates committed suicide.



Important Dateline

| Date/Year | Important Events |
|---------------------|---|
| 20th April, 1889 | --- Adolf Hitler born in Austria |
| 1st August, 1914 | --- First World War begins |
| 9th November, 1918 | — Germany and the Central Powers defeated in First World War; Weimar Republic established |
| 28th June, 1919 | — Treaty of Versailles |
| 1922 | --- Nazi Youth League founded (later renamed as Hitler Youth) |
| 1932 | — Nazi Party becomes the largest party in the Reichstag |
| 30th January, 1933 | --- Hitler became Chancellor of Germany |
| 3rd March, 1933 | — Enabling Act passed, establishing Hitler's dictatorship |
| 1938 | — Germany and Austria integrated |
| 1st September, 1939 | — Germany invades Poland, Second World War begins |
| September, 1940 | — Tripartite Pact between Germany, Italy and Japan signed |
| 22nd June, 1941 | — Germany attacks the USSR |
| 23rd June, 1941 | --- Mass murder of Jews begins |
| 7th December, 1941 | — Japan bombs Pearl Harbour; USA enters the war next day |
| 27th January, 1945 | — Troops of USSR liberate Auschwitz |
| 8th May, 1945 | — Germany surrenders to the Allies |



Practice Exercise

Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1. When did Germany withdraw herself from the League of Nations?
a. 1931 b. 1932 c. 1933 d. 1934
- Q 2. The German Parliament is known as:
a. National Parliament
b. German Legislature
c. Reichstag
d. German National Congress
- Q 3. The birth of the Weimar Republic coincided with the revolutionary uprising of the on the pattern at the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia.
a. Spartacist League b. Italian Nationalism
c. Militant Nationalists d. None of these

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After the defeat of Germany in the First World War and the resignation of the emperor, the parliamentary parties met at Weimar and established a Democratic Constitution with a federal structure called as 'Weimar Republic'.

- Q 4. Who founded the Communist Party of Germany?
a. Democrats b. Socialists
c. Spartacists d. None of these
- Q 5. The allied powers consisted of:
a. UK and France b. USSR and USA
c. Both a. and b. d. None of these
- Q 6. Germany, Italy and Japan were jointly known as:
a. Allied powers b. Axis powers
c. Centralist powers d. None of these
- Q 7. What was 'Jungvolk' in Nazi Germany?
a. A Book b. Jews Teachers
c. Schools d. Youth Organisation
- Q 8. 'Mein Kampf' was written by:
a. Adolf Hitler b. Voltaire
c. Montesquieu d. John Lords
- Q 9. Nazis believed in the
a. superiority of men
b. superiority of women
c. equality of both men and women
d. None of the above
- Q 10. What was the speciality of Nuremberg rally?
a. It was held every year
b. It demonstrated Nazi power
c. It showed loyalty to Hitler
d. All of the above
- Q 11. The International War Tribunal was set up in:
a. Vienna b. Munich
c. Nuremberg d. Auschwitz

- Q 12. Hitler attacked Poland on:
a. September, 1930 b. September, 1939
c. September, 1940 d. September, 1949
- Q 13. Nazi propaganda skillfully projected Hitler as a:
a. messiah b. saviour
c. Both a. and b. d. None of these
- Q 14. When did Hitler become Chancellor of Germany?
a. In 1930 b. In 1933 c. In 1931 d. In 1932
- Q 15. Who was the propaganda minister of Hitler?
a. Hjalmar Schacht b. Hindenburg
c. Joseph Goebbels d. Helmuth
- Q 16. Which committee was formed to prosecute Nazi War criminals for War Crimes after the Second World War?
a. Treaty of Versailles
b. Reichstag committee
c. International Military Tribunal
d. International Peace Forum
- Q 17. What is Hitler's ideology related to the geopolitical concept?
a. Lebensraum b. Living space
c. New country d. Both a. and b.
- Q 18. Nazis wanted only a society of pure and healthy:
a. Jews
b. Nordic German Aryans
c. Citizens
d. None of the above
- Q 19. Hitler's racism was borrowed from the views of:
a. Charles Darwin b. Herbert Spencer
c. John Locke d. Both a. and b.
- Q 20. When did the Second World War come to an end?
a. March 1945 b. May 1945
c. June 1945 d. March 1948
- Q 21. Which countries signed Tripartite Pact?
a. Germany, Austria and Japan
b. Germany, Italy and Japan
c. UK, France and Japan
d. France, UK and USSR
- Q 22. The Nazi Party had become the largest party by:
a. 1930 b. 1931 c. 1932 d. 1933
- Q 23. Synagogue is the place of worship for people of:
a. Buddhism b. Jewish faith
c. Christianity d. None of these
- Q 24. Who were regarded as the undesirable children in Nazi period?
a. Jews
b. Physically handicapped
c. Gypsies
d. All of the above

Which race were to be regarded as desirable by the Nazis?

- a. German soldiers b. Gypsies
c. Nordic Aryans d. Poles

Q 26. What was the name given to gas chambers by the Nazis?

- a. Killing Machine b. Solution Areas
c. Revolutionary Ground d. Disinfection Areas

Q 27. What did the term 'Evacuation' mean?

- a. Marking Jews people
b. Deporting people to gas chambers
c. Arresting people without any legal procedures
d. None of the above

Q 28. Hitler's ideas of racism were based on which of the following thinkers?

- a. Aristotle b. Pluto
c. Charles Darwin d. Rousseau

Q 29. Which article of the Weimar Constitution gave the President the powers to impose emergency, suspend civil rights and rule by decree in Germany?

- a. 45 b. 46 c. 47 d. 48

Q 30. Study the picture and answer the question that follows:



What is being depicted in the above picture?

- a. German children playing in a school
b. Jewish children and teachers being expelled from the school
c. Jewish children making fun of Aryan children
d. None of the above

Q 31. What is the correct sequence?

- I. Germany invades Poland and Second World War begins.
II. Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany.
III. Allied victory in Europe.
IV. Soviet troops liberate *Auschwitz*.
a. II, I, IV, III b. II, III, I, IV
c. II, IV, I, III d. I, II, III, IV

Q 32. Match the following:

| Column I | Column II |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Reichstag | A. Living space |
| 2. Lebensraum | B. Mass killings of the Jews |
| 3. Euthanasia | C. The German Parliament |
| 4. Final Solution | D. Mass killing of the disabled |
| 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 |
| a. A C D B | b. B A C D |
| c. D B A C | d. C A D B |



TIP

Find the correct match of the columns and then choose the correct code.

Q 33. Choose the incorrect pair:

- a. Treaty of Versailles-1919
b. Germany attacks the USSR-1945
c. Fire Decree declared-1933
d. Second World War begins-1939

Q 34. What is 'Gestapo' in Germany?

- a. Secret State Police b. Protection squad
c. Security service d. None of these

Q 35. Read the statements carefully and choose the correct option:

Statement (I): Nazism became a mass movement only after the Great Depression.

Statement (II): The Great Depression created heavy discontent among the people.

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
c. Both statements are incorrect.
d. Both statements are correct.

Q 36. Consider the following statements and identify the correct response from the options given thereafter:

Statement (I): On 3rd March, 1933, the famous Enabling Act was passed.

Statement (II): This Act established democracy in Germany.

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
c. Both statements are incorrect.
d. Both statements are correct.

Q 37. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:

Statement (I): In June 1943, Germany surrendered to the Allies.

Statement (II): Hitler, his Propaganda Minister Goebbels and his entire family committed suicide collectively in his Berlin Bunker in April.

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
c. Both statements are incorrect.
d. Both statements are correct.

Assertion & Reason Type Questions

Source Based Questions

Qs (Q.Nos. 38-43): In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Q 38. Assertion (A): Hitler was not interested in the youth of the country.

Reason (R): Ten year olds had to enter *Jungvolk* which was a Nazi Youth group for children below 14 years of age.

Q 39. Assertion (A): Nazi propoganda was effective in creating a hatred for Jews.

Reason (R): The Nazi regime used languages and media with care to propagate against the Jews.

Q 40. Assertion (A): Women played an important role in the French Revolution.

Reason (R): French women were free to change their patterns but there was a code of conduct for the German women.

Q 41. Assertion (A): Spartacist league was a war veterans organisation in Germany.

Reason (R): Spartacist league demanded that the Soviet's-style of governance be set up in Germany.

Q 42. Assertion (A): Nazism was an Anti-democratic Movement.

Reason (R): Nazism is a sworn enemy of Liberalism, democracy and civil liberties.

Q 43. Assertion (A): Politically, Germany was a Single-party System where only the Nazi Party could wield power.

Reason (R): The whole education system was put under the control of the state to propagate Nazism.

Answers

- | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (c) | 2. (c) | 3. (a) | 4. (c) | 5. (c) |
| 6. (b) | 7. (d) | 8. (a) | 9. (a) | 10. (d) |
| 11. (c) | 12. (b) | 13. (c) | 14. (b) | 15. (c) |
| 16. (c) | 17. (d) | 18. (b) | 19. (d) | 20. (b) |
| 21. (b) | 22. (c) | 23. (b) | 24. (d) | 25. (c) |
| 26. (d) | 27. (b) | 28. (c) | 29. (d) | 30. (b) |
| 31. (a) | 32. (d) | 33. (b) | 34. (a) | 35. (d) |
| 36. (a) | 37. (b) | 38. (c) | 39. (a) | 40. (b) |
| 41. (c) | 42. (a) | 43. (b) | | |

Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Germany, a powerful empire in the early years of the twentieth century, fought the First World War (1914-1918) alongside the Austrian empire and against the Allies (England, France and Russia.) All joined the war enthusiastically hoping to gain from a quick victory. Little did they realise that the war would stretch on, eventually draining Europe of all its resources. Germany made initial gains by occupying France and Belgium. However, the Allies, strengthened by the US entry in 1917, won, defeating Germany and the Central Powers in November 1918.

The defeat of Imperial Germany and the abdication of the emperor gave an opportunity to parliamentary parties to recast German polity. A National Assembly met at Weimar and established a Democratic Constitution with a federal structure. Deputies were now elected to the German Parliament or *Reichstag*, on the basis of equal and universal votes cast by all adults including women.

This Republic, however, was not received well by its own people largely because of the terms it was forced to accept after Germany's defeat at the end of the First World War.

Q 1. Against which of the following, Germany fought the First World War?

- England
- France
- Russia
- All of these

Q 2. *Reichstag* is the other name for:

- German Judiciary
- German Parliament
- German University
- None of these

Q 3. What were the initial gains made by Germany?

- Making Germany a powerful empire
- Occupying France and Belgium
- Defeating the Central Powers
- Establishing a Democratic Constitution

Q 4. How were the deputies of the *Reichstag* appointed?

- On the basis of total votes cast excluding women
- On the basis of Universal Adult Franchise
- On the basis of federalism
- On the basis of majority in Parliament

Q 5. A National Assembly met at Weimar established a:

- Military Tribunal
- Spartacist League
- Democratic Constitution
- War Tribunal

Q 6. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read them and choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): The Weimar Republic had to sign the humiliating Treaty of Versailles.

son (R): In the Weimar Republic, both the communists and socialists became irreconcilable enemies.

Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

- b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- c. Assertion is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Answers

1. (d) 2. (b) 3. (b) 4. (b) 5. (c) 6. (b)

Source 2

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

The war had a devastating impact on the entire continent both psychologically and financially. From a continent of creditors, Europe turned into one of debtors. Unfortunately, the infant Weimar Republic was being made to pay for the sins of the old empire. The Republic carried the burden of war guilt and national humiliation and was financially crippled by being forced to pay compensation.

Those who supported the Weimar Republic, mainly Socialists, Catholics and Democrats, became easy targets of attack in the conservative nationalist circles. They were mockingly called the 'November criminals'. This mindset had a major impact on the political developments of the early 1930s.

The First World War left a deep imprint on European society and polity. Soldiers came to be placed above civilians. Politicians and publicists laid great stress on the need for men to be aggressive, strong and masculine. The media glorified trench life. The truth, however, was that soldiers lived miserable lives in these trenches, trapped with rats feeding on corpses. They faced poisonous gas and enemy shelling, and witnessed their ranks reduce rapidly. Aggressive war propaganda and national honour occupied centre stage in the public sphere, while popular support grew for conservative dictatorships that had recently come into being. Democracy was indeed a young and fragile idea, which could not survive the instabilities of interwar Europe.

- Q 1. Who were the supporters of Weimar Republic after the First World War?
- a. Socialists
 - b. Catholics
 - c. Democrats
 - d. All of these
- Q 2. What was the burden imposed on Weimar Republic after the First World War?
- a. War guilt and national humiliation
 - b. Financial loss by being forced to pay compensation
 - c. Both a. and b.
 - d. Become target of attack in the conservative nationalist circles
- Q 3. Identify the main problem faced by the Weimar Republic in Germany.
- a. The Weimar Republic had to sign the humiliating Treaty of Versailles.
 - b. Hyperinflation made the German mark valueless and caused immense hardship for the common man.
 - c. Both revolutionaries and militant nationalists craved for radical solutions which was not easy.
 - d. All of the above.
- Q 4. Who became irreconcilable enemies in the Weimar Republic?
- a. Both the Communists and Socialists
 - b. Both the Socialists and Democrats
 - c. Both the Catholics and Democrats
 - d. Both the Socialists and Catholics
- Q 5. What was the impact of First World War on the lives of soldiers?
- a. Soldiers faced poisonous gas and enemy shelling and witnessed their ranks reduce rapidly
 - b. Soldiers lived miserable lives in trenches trapped with rats feeding on corpses
 - c. Both a. and b.
 - d. Soldiers became psychologically and financially unstable
- Q 6. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read them and choose the correct option:
- Assertion (A):** Socialists, Catholics and Democrats came to be known as 'November criminals' and were targeted.
- Reason (R):** They became easy targets of attack in the conservative nationalist circles.
- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
 - b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
 - c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
 - d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Answers

1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (d) 4. (a) 5. (c) 6. (a)

Page 3

Read the source give below and answer the questions that follow:

The years between 1924 and 1928 saw some stability. Yet, this was built on sand. German investments and industrial recovery were totally dependent on short-term loans, largely from the USA. This support was withdrawn when the Wall Street Exchange crashed in 1929. Fearing a fall in prices, people made frantic efforts to sell their shares. On one single day, 24 October, 13 million shares were sold. This was the start of the Great Economic Depression. Over the next three years, between 1929 and 1932, the national income of the USA fell by half. Factories shut down, exports fell, farmers were badly hit and speculators withdrew their money from the market. The effects of this recession in the US economy were felt worldwide.

The German economy was the worst hit by the economic crisis. By 1932, industrial production was reduced to 40 per cent of the 1929 level. Workers lost their jobs or were paid reduced wages. The number of unemployed touched an unprecedented 6 million. On the streets of Germany you could see men with placards around their necks saying, 'Willing to do any work'. Unemployed youths played cards or simply sat at street corners, or desperately queued up at the local employment exchange. As jobs disappeared, the youth took to criminal activities and total despair became commonplace.

Q 1. How did Great Economic Depression start?

Ans. Great Economic Depression started when the wall Street Exchange crashed in 1929 and people sold their shares in a day due to the fear of fall in their prices.

Q 2. What was the impact of Great Depression on US?

Ans. The Great Depression had the following impact on US:

- (i) Values of shares dropped drastically and the national income of USA fell by half.
- (ii) Hundreds of American banks, factories, mining companies and business firms went bankrupt.

Q 3. Mention the impact of the Economic Depression on Germany.

Ans. The Great Economic Depression had the following impact on Germany.

- (i) The middle classes like salaried employees and pensioners found their saving wiped out due to the currency losing its value.
- (ii) The large mass of peasantry was affected by a sharp fall in agricultural prices.



Very Short Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Against whom did Germany fight in the First World War?

Ans. Germany fought against the Allies comprising of England, France and Russia.

Q 2. Name the four countries included in the Allied Powers in World War I.

Ans. England, France, Russia and USA were included in the Allied Powers in World War I.

Q 3. How did the Republic of Germany get its name 'Weimar'?

Ans. The Republic of Germany was named Weimar after the name of the town where the Constituent Assembly had met and framed the new Constitution.

Q 4. Who were the supporters of the Weimar Republic?

Ans. Socialists, Catholics and Democrats were the supporters of the Weimar Republic.

Q 5. What is the German Parliament known as?

Ans. The German Parliament is known as the Reichstag.

Q 6. How were the deputies of the Reichstag elected?

Ans. The deputies of the Reichstag were elected on the basis of Universal Adult Franchise.

Q 7. Which party came to be known as the Nazi Party?

Ans. The National Socialist German Workers' Party came to be known as the Nazi Party.

Q 8. Who offered the Chancellorship to Hitler, on 30th January, 1933?

Ans. On 30th January, 1933, President Hindenburg offered the Chancellorship to Hitler.

Q 9. 'From a continent of creditors, Europe turned into the continent of debtors.' Why?

Ans. It was due to the First World War.

Q 10. State any one effect of 'Great Depression' on the economy of Germany.

Ans. By 1932, industrial production was reduced to 40% of the 1929 level.

Q 11. Which party did Hitler join in the year 1919?

Ans. Hitler joined the 'German Workers Party' in the year 1919.

Q 12. What was the first step that Hitler took after being appointed as the Chancellor of Germany?

Ans. Hitler set out to dismantle the structure of democratic rule.

Q 13. Which act established Hitler's dictatorship in Germany?

Ans. The famous Enabling Act established Hitler's dictatorship in Germany.

Q 14. What was the significance of the Enabling Act?

Ans. The Enabling Act enabled Hitler to sideline the Parliament and rule by decree.



What was *Auschwitz* famous for?

Auschwitz was the centre for Mass killing during Germany.

What does the term 'Holocaust' refer to?

Ans. The term 'Holocaust' refers to the atrocities and sufferings endured by Jews during Nazi killing operations.

Q 17. What is meant by Euthanasia?

Ans. Euthanasia meant Mass killing of the disabled.

Q 18. What was the Gestapo?

Ans. The Gestapo was a secret state police under the control of the Nazis.

Q 19. When was the Youth League of the Nazis founded? What was it renamed four years later?

Ans. The Youth League of the Nazis was founded in 1922. Four years later it was renamed as Hitler Youth.

Q 20. Who were the signatories of the 1940 Tripartite Pact?

Ans. Germany, Italy and Japan were the signatories of the 1940 Tripartite Pact.

Q 21. 'Hitler understood the significance of rituals and spectacle in mass mobilisation and on this basis he devised a new style of politics'. Justify the statement by giving two reasons.

Ans. The following methods were used by him:

- (i) Massive rallies and public meetings were organised to demonstrate the support for Hitler and instil a sense of unity among the people.
- (ii) The red banners with the Swastika, the Nazi salute and the ritualised rounds of applause after the speeches were all part of Hitler's intention to exhibit his power.

Q 22. Study the map thoroughly and answer the following question:



What is shown in the above map about territory of Germany?

Ans. The above map shows the parts of the territory that Germany lost after the treaty like Belgium, Poland etc.

Short Answer Type Questions ↘

Q 1. 'Politically, the Weimar Republic was fragile.' Explain the statement.

Ans. This statement can be explained with the help of the following points:

- (i) Due to the clause of proportional representation contained in the Constitution, one single-party could not come to power; rather a coalition government was formed.
- (ii) Another defect was the Article 48, which gave the President the powers to impose emergency, suspend civil rights and rule by decree.
- (iii) Within a short period of time, many governments changed and this made people lose confidence in the democratic parliamentary system which seemed to offer no solution.

Q 2. When was the Enabling Act passed? What were its provisions?

Ans. The famous Enabling Act was passed on 3rd March, 1933. The main provisions of this Act were:

- (i) It established dictatorship in Germany.
- (ii) It gave Hitler all powers to sideline Parliament and rule by decree.
- (iii) All political parties and trade unions were banned except for the Nazi Party and its affiliates.
- (iv) The State established full control over the economy, media, army and judiciary.

Q 3. Enumerate the steps taken by Hitler to reconstruct Germany.

Ans. The following steps were taken by Hitler to reconstruct Germany:

- (i) He took the services of an economist named Hjalmar Schacht who aimed to achieve full employment through a state-funded and work-creation programme.
- (ii) As per the recommendations of Schacht, Hitler undertook the construction of German superhighways and started the production of Volkswagen.
- (iii) Hitler was of the opinion that resources can be accumulated through expansion of territory. He invaded Poland and established puppet regimes in large parts of Europe.

State any three promises made by Hitler with the people of Germany.

The following promises were made by Hitler with the people of Germany:

- (i) He promised to build a strong nation, undo the injustice of the Versailles Treaty and restore the dignity of the German people.
- (ii) He promised employment for those looking for work and a secure future for the youth.
- (iii) He promised to weed out all foreign influences and resist all foreign conspiracies against Germany.

Q 5. What do you understand by the 'Genocidal War' in Germany?

Ans. Genocidal War means killing on large scale leading to destruction of large sections of people. Nazis killed the Jews, Gypsies and the Polish civilians. They killed the people in poisoned gas chambers. The number of people killed included 6 million Jews, 2,00,000 Gypsies, 1 million Polish civilians, and 70,000 Germans, who were considered mentally and physically-disabled, besides many political opponents.

Q 6. What changes were brought in schools under Nazism?

Ans. The changes that were brought about in schools under Nazism were:

- (i) Jewish teachers were dismissed. Children were segregated. Germans and Jews could not sit together or play together. Subsequently, 'undesirable children', i.e., Jews, the physically handicapped, and Gypsies were thrown out of schools.
- (ii) German children were subjected to a process of Nazi schooling based on a prolonged period of ideological training. School textbooks were rewritten.
- (iii) Racial Science was introduced to justify Nazi idea of race. Stereotypes about Jews were popularised even through Math classes.
- (iv) Children were taught to be loyal and submissive, hate Jews and worship Hitler. Even the function of sports was to nurture a spirit of violence and aggression among children.

Q 7. What was Hitler's foreign policy?

Ans. In the foreign policy, Hitler pulled out of the League of Nations in 1933, reoccupied the Rhineland in 1936 and integrated Austria and Germany in 1938 under the slogan, 'One people, One empire and One leader'. He then went on to wrest German-speaking Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia and subsequently captured the entire country. In all this, he had the unspoken support of England, which had considered the Treaty of Versailles too harsh for Germany.

Q 8. How did the common German people react to Nazism?

Ans. The reaction of common people to Nazism can be understood with the help of the following points:

- (i) Many were ardent supporters of the Nazis. They were against the Jews, willingly marked the houses of Jews and reported suspicious neighbours.
- (ii) The German people favoured the Nazis because they genuinely believed Nazism would bring prosperity and improve the living standard of the people.
- (iii) However, some Germans also opposed Nazism and organised active resistance and braved police repression and death.

Q 9. Why USA resisted its involvement in the Second World War? Which incident marked its entry into the war?

Ans. The USA had resisted involvement in the Second World War because it was unwilling to once again face all the economic problems that the First World War had caused. But it could not stay out of the war for long.

Japan was expanding its power in the East. It had occupied French Indo-China and was planning attacks on US naval bases in the Pacific. When Japan extended its support to Hitler and bombed the US base at Pearl Harbour, the US entered the Second World War.

COMMON ERROR

Students don't read the questions carefully or forget to answer the 2nd part.



Long Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Describe the problems faced by the Weimar Republic.

Ans. From its very inception, the Weimar Republic faced many problems which are as follows:

- (i) Many Germans held the new Republic responsible not only for the defeat of the Germany in World War I but also for the national humiliation at Versailles.
- (ii) From the outset, the Republic was financially crippled by the war compensation imposed on Germany.
- (iii) Germany government's economic reforms (e.g., printing of enormous paper money in 1923) led to an unimaginable inflation, with disastrous consequences for many sections of the population. The Great Economic Depression (1929-1934) worsened the situation. Big businesses, middle class,

workers, and peasants—all were badly affected. Economic crisis led to political radicalisation. Members of Weimar Republic became an easy target of attack in the conservative nationalist circles. They were mockingly called the 'November criminals' because they had accepted the humiliating terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

- (v) The birth of the Weimar Republic coincided with Russian Revolution. Soviets of Workers and Sailors were established and most people were demanding Soviet-style governance.

Q 2. Explain the meaning of Holocaust. How was it practised in Germany?

Ans. Holocaust means 'destruction or slaughter on a mass scale.' It refers to the atrocities and sufferings that the Jews had endured during the Nazi killing operations.

It was practised in Germany by the Nazis using the following methods:

- (i) Physically eliminating all those who were seen as undesirable by killing them in gas chambers by the use of poisonous gas.
- (ii) Making people from Poland and Russia as slave labour and imprison them in concentration camps.
- (iii) Jews were segregated and pauperised forcing many of them to leave the country.
- (iv) Jews were victimised through the media by circulating pictures, films, slogans and leaflets. They were stereotyped, mocked, abused and described as evil.
- (v) Jews were referred to as vermin, rats and pests. Their movements were compared to those of the rodents.

Q 3. Describe the main provisions of the Treaty of Versailles which was signed in 1919.

Ans. The main provisions of the Treaty of Versailles are as follows:

- (i) Germany and her Allies were declared guilty of aggression. The German empire in Europe was dismembered. She was forced to cede parts of her pre-war territories to Denmark, Belgium, Poland and Czechoslovakia.
- (ii) Alsac and Lorraine were restored to France. The coal mines in the German area called Saar were ceded to France for 15 years.
- (iii) The area of Rhine valley was to be demilitarised.
- (iv) Germany was required to pay war indemnity to the Allies. It was fixed at an enormous figure of £ 6 billion.
- (v) Germany was dispossessed of her colonial empire which was divided among the victors.



TIP

Learn thoroughly the important provisions of the treaty of Versailles.

Q 4. Which factors were instrumental in Hitler's rise to power?

Ans. The factors which enabled Hitler's rise to power are as follows:

- (i) The Weimar Republic from the very beginning was unable to provide a stable government. It failed to inspire confidence of the people in the democratic parliamentary system and made the Republic vulnerable to dictatorship.
- (ii) Hitler capitalised on the sense of humiliation which many Germans felt at their defeat in the war and the unjust provisions of the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler promised not only to build a strong nation but to undo the injustice of the Treaty of Versailles and restore the dignity of the German people.
- (iii) The economic consequences of World War I, crippling effect of redemption dues imposed by the Allies and failure of the Republic's economic reforms leading to high rates of inflation affected the common man. Germany witnessed high rates of unemployment and price rise. Under these circumstances, the Nazi propaganda stirred hopes of a better future.
- (iv) Threat of communism was a contributing factor in the rise of Hitler. It enabled Hitler to win the support of the conservatives comprising of land owners and business classes.
- (v) Failure of communist party and socialist parties to unite against threat of Nazism also contributed to the rise of Hitler.

Q 5. 'Hitler systematically destroyed democracy'. Analyse.

Ans. As soon as Hitler became the dictator of Germany, he began to take drastic steps one after another to systematically destroy democracy. These steps are as follows:

- (i) He passed the Fire Decree on 28th February, 1933. This decree indefinitely suspended civic rights like freedom of speech, press and assembly.
- (ii) The communists were exiled to concentration camps.
- (iii) He passed the Enabling Act on 3rd March, 1933. This Act established dictatorship in Germany and gave Hitler all powers to sideline Parliament and rule by decree.

- iv) He banned all political parties and trade unions. Only Nazi Party and its affiliates remained in existence.
- (v) He established complete control over the economy, media, army and judiciary.

Q 6. What were the main features of Hitler's geopolitical concept of 'Lebensraum'?

Ans. The main features of Hitler's geopolitical concept of 'Lebensraum' are as follows:

- (i) It was an expansionist policy of Nazi Germany.
- (ii) According to this concept, new territories had to be acquired for settlement. This would enhance the area of the mother country, while enabling the settlers on new lands to retain an intimate link with the place of their origin.
- (iii) It would also enhance the material resources and power of the German nation.
- (iv) Hitler intended to extend German boundaries by moving eastwards, to concentrate all Germans geographically at one place.
- (v) Poland became the laboratory for this experimentation.

Q 7. The Germans continued their pursuit of establishing a highly desirable race in Poland. How?

Ans. The Germans continued their pursuit of establishing a highly desirable race in Poland in the following manner:

- (i) Occupied Poland was divided and much of the North-western Poland was annexed to Germany.
- (ii) In the annexed part, the Poles were forced to leave their properties behind for the ethnic Germans.
- (iii) Poles were herded like cattle in the other part called the General Government, the destination of all undesirables of the empire.
- (iv) Members of the Polish intelligentsia were murdered.
- (v) Polish children resembling Aryans were forcibly taken from their mothers and examined by 'race experts'. If they passed the race tests, they were raised by German families. If not, they were sent to the orphanages where most of them perished.

Q 8. Enumerate the steps taken by Nazis to eliminate Jews.

Ans. The following steps were taken by the Nazis to eliminate them:

- (i) Jews were barred from owning land.
- (ii) They were forced to live in separately marked areas called ghettos.
- (iii) They were often persecuted through periodic organised violence and expulsion from the land.

- (iv) From 1933 to 1938 the Nazis terrorised, pauperised and segregated the Jews, compelling them to leave the country.
- (v) Between 1939 to 1945, they were concentrated in certain areas and were eventually killed in gas chambers in Poland.

Q 9. 'The crimes that the Nazis committed were linked to a system of belief and a set of practices.' Explain by giving five points.

Ans. The Nazis committed a number of crimes. They killed innocent Jews, disabled persons and people belonging to different races. Even children were not spared from their atrocities. These crimes were committed by them in pursuance of the following beliefs:

- (i) According to Nazi theory, there was no equality between people, rather a racial hierarchy. In this view blond, blue-eyed, Nordic German Aryans were at the top, while the Jews were at the bottom.
- (ii) Hitler believed in the concept of 'evolution and natural selection,' propounded by Charles Darwin and the idea of 'Survival of the fittest' propounded by Herbert Spencer. Because of these beliefs, he exterminated the weak and the disabled persons.
- (iii) These ideas were also used by Nazis to justify imperial rule over conquered people.
- (iv) The Nazis believed that the Aryan race was the finest. It had to retain its purity, become stronger and dominate the world and the other races had to perish to make way for it.
- (v) Hitler also used the idea of Lebensraum or living space. He believed that new territories had to be acquired for settlement as this would enhance the area and resources of mother country.

Q 10. State the effects of world wide depression on Germany.

Ans. The following effects of Great Depression were visible in Germany:

- (i) By 1932, industrial production was reduced to 40 % of the 1929 level.
- (ii) Workers lost their jobs or were paid reduced wages.
- (iii) The number of unemployed reached 6 million.
- (iv) As jobs disappeared, the youth took to criminal activities.
- (v) The salaried persons and the pensioners saw their savings diminish.





Chapter Test

Multiple Choice Questions

- Q1. The birth of the Weimar Republic coincided with the revolutionary uprising of the on the pattern at the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia.
- a. Spartacist League b. Italian nationalism
c. Militant nationalists d. None of these
- Q 2. Which incident persuaded the USA to join the war?
- a. Hitler's attack on Eastern Europe
b. Hitler's policy of genocide of the Jews
c. Helplessness of England and France
d. Japan's attack on the US base at Pearl Harbour
- Q 3. Which countries signed Tripartite Pact?
- a. Germany, Austria and Japan
b. Germany, Italy and Japan
c. UK, France and Japan
d. France, UK and USSR
- Q 4. Which article of the Weimar Constitution gave the President the powers to impose emergency, suspend civil rights and rule by decree in Germany?
- a. 45 b. 46
c. 47 d. 48
- Q 5. Why did Helmut's father kill himself in the spring of 1945?
- a. He was depressed by Germany's defeat in Second World War
b. He feared that common people would mishandle him and his family
c. He feared revenge by the Allied Powers
d. He wanted to die because of the crimes he had committed during Nazi rule

Assertion and Reason Type Questions

Directions (Q.Nos. 6-7): In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.
- Q 6. Assertion (A): Women played an important role in the French Revolution.
Reason (R): French women were free to change their patterns but there was a code of conduct for the German women.
- Q 7. Assertion (A): The International Military Tribunal was set up in Nuremberg to prosecute Nazi war criminals.

Reason (R): The conduct of Germany during the war raised serious moral and ethical questions and invited worldwide condemnation.

Source Based Question

- Q 8. Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

On 30th January, 1933, President Hindenburg offered the Chancellorship, the highest position in the cabinet of ministers, to Hitler. By now the Nazis had managed to rally the conservatives to their cause. Having acquired power, Hitler set out to dismantle the structures of democratic rule. A mysterious fire that broke out in the German Parliament building in February facilitated his move. The Fire Decree of 28th February, 1933 indefinitely suspended civic rights like freedom of speech, press and assembly that had been guaranteed by the Weimar Constitution. Then, he turned on his archenemies, the Communists, most of whom were hurriedly packed off to the newly established concentration camps. The repression of the Communists was severe. Out of the surviving 6,808 arrest files of Duesseldorf, a small city of half a million population, 1,440 were those of Communists alone. They were, however, only one among the 52 types of victims persecuted by the Nazis across the country.

On 3rd March, 1933, the famous Enabling Act was passed. This Act established dictatorship in Germany. It gave Hitler all powers to sideline Parliament and rule by decree. All political parties and trade unions were banned except for the Nazi Party and its affiliates. The state established complete control over the economy, media, army and judiciary.

- (i) Who offered Hitler the highest position in the cabinet of ministers on 30th January, 1933?
- a. President Hindenburg b. Goebbels
c. Charlotte Beradt d. Herbert Spencer
- (ii) Which of the following measures was not adopted by Hitler to establish dictatorship in Germany?
- a. The Fire Decree of 28th February, 1933 was passed which indefinitely suspended civic rights.
b. The Socialists, Democrats and Catholics were arrested and killed.
c. All political parties and trade unions were banned. He controlled media, army and judiciary.
d. Many Germans who were considered mentally or physically unfit were sentenced to death.





(iii) **What was the impact of Nazism on domestic policy of Germany?**

- a. Hitler indefinitely suspended civic rights
- b. Many Germans were widely persecuted
- c. The large mass of peasantry was affected
- d. Women were filled with a sense of despair

(iv) **A camp where people were isolated and detained without due process of law is:**

- a. security camp
- b. concentration camp
- c. political camp
- d. None of these

(v) **Name the Act that established dictatorship in Germany.**

- a. Nazi Act
- b. Enabling Act
- c. Fire Decree
- d. Spartacist League

(vi) **In what way did the Nazi State seek to establish total control over the people?**

- a. The famous Enabling Act was passed
- b. All political parties and trade unions were banned
- c. Exclusive surveillance and security forces were created
- d. All of the above

Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 9. How did the Republic of Germany get its name 'Weimar'?
- Q 10. When was the Youth League of the Nazis founded? What was it renamed four years later?

Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 11. When was the Enabling Act passed? What were its provisions?
- Q 12. 'Hitler understood the significance of rituals and spectacle in mass mobilisation and on this basis he devised a new style of politics'. State the methods used by him in this style of politics.
- Q 13. Why USA resisted its involvement in the Second World War? Which incident marked its entry into the war?

Long Answer Type Questions

- Q 14. Mention five steps adopted by the Nazis to establish a racial state.
- Q 15. How did the Nazis in Germany use media to propagate their thoughts against Jews?

