

End of World War 1

The German army had not been **defeated** by October 1918. However, it was necessary for the Government to end the war and make peace for a number of reasons:

- Germany's **allies** had surrendered.
- The USA had stopped **trade** with Germany and had entered the war in 1917 against Germany.
- Many German **civilians** were starving and there were severe food shortages.
- Germany was running out of **raw materials**.
- **Revolts** had broken out across Germany.

The German officials agreed to an **armistice** (truce) to take effect on 11 November 1918. Government officials of the time were nicknamed 'the November Criminals'.

Treaty of Versailles

The German Government agreed to sign the **Treaty of Versailles** in June 1919, to make peace. This action was very unpopular in Germany and was used by enemies of the Government to claim that it had 'stabbed Germany in the back' by ending the war.

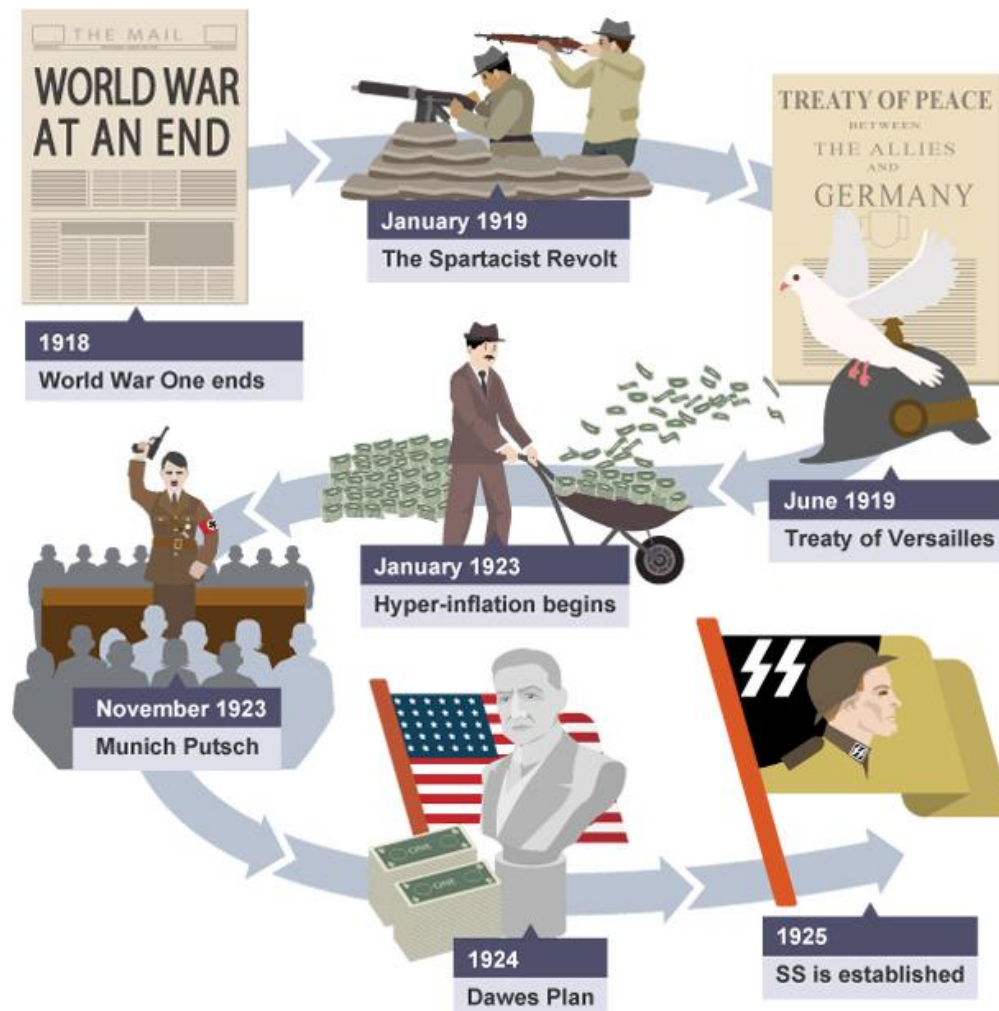
The terms of the Treaty were very damaging to Germany for a number of reasons:

- **Territory** was taken from Germany, depriving it of valuable industrial income.
- Germany had to accept responsibility for starting the war, leading to feelings of humiliation and anger. This was the War Guilt Clause, which left many Germans feeling humiliated.
- Germany had to pay **compensations** of £6.6 billion, which would ensure that the economy would not recover.
- Germany's armed forces were severely reduced. For example, there was no air force, a maximum 100,000 soldiers and a reduced navy.

The link to the armistice (truce) and Treaty of Versailles had serious **repercussions** for the Weimar Government.

Weimar Government

After the German Empire was defeated in World War I, Germany became a **republic**, but it was still called "Deutsches Reich" (German Empire). Today it is called the Weimar Republic and this period is called the Weimar period, because the **constitution** was made in the city of Weimar.



Dawes Plan- Payment Plan from the Americans to stabilise the economy from hyper-inflation.

During the early years of the Weimar Republic, the German Government experienced a number of problems which threatened its existence. After the end of World War One, it struggled from crisis to crisis.

The new German Government was linked to Germany's defeat in World War One, allowing Adolf Hitler to blame it for the outcome of the war.

The Nazi Party

The Nazi Party was a political group that ruled Germany between 1933 and 1945. "Nazi" is a short form of the official name. In English the official name is the

National Socialist German Workers' Party. Under Adolf Hitler's leadership, the Nazis started World War II.

Rise of Nazism

Nazism developed after World War I (1914-18). Germany lost that war and had to pay those who won as part of the Treaty. This led to hard times for the country. German money lost value and banks were forced to shut. Factories closed down and people lost jobs and hope. Many Germans blamed the government for their problems. Germans began looking for a change and turned to the Nazis, led by Adolf Hitler, who promised to make Germany great again.

The group that became the Nazi Party formed in 1919. Hitler attracted many new members with his angry speeches and his promise of Germany ruling Europe. They held huge rallies to gain support. In 1923, Hitler tried to take over the government but failed.

Nevertheless, the Nazi Party continued to grow. Many people joined the Nazis during the Great Depression—a time of poverty that began in 1929. People were unemployed, hungry and desperate, as millions were in Germany between 1930 and 1933, so they turned to extreme political parties offering simple solutions to their problems. In 1933, the president of Germany was named Hitler chancellor (prime minister).

Hitler made himself a dictator, or leader with unlimited power. Hitler stopped paying war damages and promised the German people new factories and roads. He also formed a new army and air force. His secret police rounded up his enemies and put them in concentration camps (prison centers).