Notes

**Birth of the Weimar Republic**

In the early years of the twentieth century, Germany fought the First World War (1914-1918) alongside the Austrian Empire and against the Allies (England, France and Russia.). All resources of Europe were drained out because of the war. Germany occupied France and Belgium. But, unfortunately, the Allies, strengthened by the US entry in 1917, won, defeating Germany and the Central Powers in November 1918. At Weimar, the National Assembly met and established a democratic constitution with a federal structure. In the German Parliament, deputies were elected on the basis of equal and universal votes cast by all adults, including women. Germany lost its overseas colonies. The War Guilt Clause held Germany responsible for the war and the damages the Allied countries suffered. The Allied armies occupied Rhineland in the 1920s

**First World War**

* Germany was defeated in the First World war.
* After the war was over, the monarchy in Germany quits.

**The Weimar Republic**

A National Assembly met at Weimar to wrote a constitution.

**Working**

* Deputies were elected to the German Parliament or Reichstag.

**Structure**

* Democratic constitution with a federal structure. Universal Adult Franchise (all adults have right to vote including women).

**Defects**

* Proportional representation: Made achieving a majority by any one party a near impossible task, which led to a rule by coalitions.
* Article 48: Gave the President the powers to impose emergency, suspend civil rights and rule by decree.
* The republic was not received well by its own people largely because of it had to accept the peace treaty of Versailles after Germany's defeat at the end of the First World War.

**Treaty of Versailles**

* Germany lost its overseas colonies.
* 13 percent of its territories.
* 75 percent of its iron.
* 26 percent of its coal.
* Allied Powers demilitarised Germany.
* Pay compensation of £6 billion.
* Lost resource-rich Rhineland.
* Many Germans held the new Weimer Republic responsible for not only the defeat in the war but the disgrace at Versailles.

**The Effects of the War**

The entire continent was devastated by the war, both psychologically and financially. The war of guilt and national humiliation was carried by the Republic, which was financially crippled by being forced to pay compensation. Socialists, Catholics and Democrats supported the Weimar Republic, and they were mockingly called the ‘November criminals’. The First World War left a deep imprint on European society and polity. Soldiers are placed above civilians, but unfortunately, soldiers live a miserable life. Democracy was a young and fragile idea which could not survive the instabilities of interwar Europe.

* The war had a devastating impact on Europe both psychologically and financially.
* From being a creditor, Europe became a debtor.
* The supporters of the Weimer Republic were criticised and became easy targets of attack in the conservative nationalist circles.
* Soldiers came to be placed above civilians.
* Aggressive war propaganda and national honour became important.

**Political Radicalism and Economic Crises**

The Weimar Republic’s birth coincided with the revolutionary uprising of the Spartacist League on the pattern of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. They crushed the uprising with the help of a war veterans organisation called Free Corps. Communists and Socialists became enemies. Political radicalisation was heightened by the economic crisis of 1923. Germany refused to pay, and the French occupied its leading industrial area, Ruhr, to claim their coal. The image of Germans carrying cartloads of currency notes to buy a loaf of bread was widely publicised, evoking worldwide sympathy. This crisis came to be known as hyperinflation, a situation when prices rise phenomenally high.

* The Spartacist League was established on the pattern of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia.
* The Spartacists founded the Communist Party of Germany.
* The Weimar Republic crushed the uprising with the help of a war veterans organisation called Free
* Corps.
* In 1923, Germany refused to pay the war compensations so, France occupied its leading industrial area, Ruhr.
* To counter this, Germany started printing paper currency recklessly.
  + The value of the mark collapsed and the prices of goods rose. There was hyperinflation.

**The Years of Depression**

The years between 1924 and 1928 saw some stability. The support of short-term loans was withdrawn when the Wall Street Exchange crashed in 1929. The Great Economic Depression started, and over the next three years, between 1929 and 1932, the national income of the USA fell by half. The economy of Germany was the worst hit. Workers became jobless and went on streets with placards saying, ‘Willing to do any work’. Youths indulged themselves in criminal activities. The middle class and small businessmen were filled with the fear of proletarianisation, anxiety of being reduced to the ranks of the working class or unemployment. Politically also, the Weimar Republic was fragile. The Weimar Constitution, due to some inherent defects, made it unstable and vulnerable to dictatorship. One inherent defect was proportional representation. Another defect was Article 48, which gave the President the powers to impose emergency, suspend civil rights and rule by decree.

* Wall Street Exchange crashed in 1929.
* Between 1929 and 1932, the national income of the USA fell by half.
* The effects of this recession in the US economy were felt worldwide.

**Effects on Germany**

* Germany received short-term loans largely from the US.
* Industrial production reduced.
* Workers lost their jobs.
* Youth took to criminal activities.
* Small businessmen and self-employed suffered as their businesses got ruined.
* People lost confidence in the democratic parliamentary system, which seemed to offer no solutions.

**Hitler’s Rise to Power**

Hilter rose to power. He was born in 1889 in Austria and spent his youth in poverty. In the First World War, he enrolled on the army, acted as a messenger in the front, became a corporal, and earned medals for bravery. Hitler joined a small group called the German Workers’ Party in 1919. He took over the organisation and renamed it the National Socialist German Workers’ Party, which later came to be known as the Nazi Party. In 1923, he planned to seize control of Bavaria, march to Berlin and capture power. During the Great Depression, Nazism became a mass movement. After 1929, banks collapsed, businesses shut down, workers lost their jobs, and the middle classes were threatened with destitution. In such a situation, Nazi propaganda stirred hopes of a better future.

Hitler was a powerful speaker, and his words moved people. In his speech, he promised to build a strong nation, undo the injustice of the Versailles Treaty and restore the dignity of the German people. He also promised employment for those looking for work and a secure future for the youth. He promised to remove all foreign influences and resist all foreign ‘conspiracies’ against Germany. Hitler started following a new style of politics, and his followers held big rallies and public meetings to demonstrate support. According to the Nazi propaganda, Hitler was called a messiah, a saviour, and someone who had arrived to deliver people from their distress.

* Hitler was born in Austria in 1889.
* He acted as a messenger, corporal in the First World War.
* He joined the German Workers Party and renamed it National Socialist German Workers' Party.
* This later came to be known as the Nazi Party.
* By 1932, it had become the largest party with 37 percent votes.
* Nazism became a mass movement only during the Great Depression.
* By 1932, it had become the largest party with 37 percent votes.

**The Destruction of Democracy**

President Hindenburg offered the Chancellorship, on 30 January 1933, the highest position in the cabinet of ministers, to Hitler. The Fire Decree of 28 February 1933 suspended civic rights like freedom of speech, press and assembly that had been guaranteed by the Weimar Constitution. On 3 March 1933, the famous Enabling Act was passed, which established a dictatorship in Germany. The state took control over the economy, media, army and judiciary. Apart from the already existing regular police in a green uniform and the SA or the Storm Troopers, these included the Gestapo (secret state police), the SS (the protection squads), criminal police and the Security Service (SD).

* On 30 January 1933, Hitler achieved the highest position in the cabinet of ministries.
* Hitler now set out to dismantle the structures of democratic rule.
* The Fire Decree of 28 February 1933 suspended civic rights like freedom of speech, press and assembly.
* Communists were hurriedly packed off to newly established concentration camps.
* All political parties were banned.
* Special surveillance and security forces were created to control the people and rule with impunity.

**Reconstruction**

Economic recovery was assigned to the economist Hjalmar Schacht by Hitler, who aimed at full production and full employment through a state-funded work-creation programme. This project produced the famous German superhighways and the people’s car, the Volkswagen. Hitler ruled out 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. Schacht advised Hitler against investing hugely in rearmament as the state still ran on deficit financing.

* Hjalmar Schacht took over the responsibility of economic recover.
* The state funded project produced the famous German superhighways and the people’s car, the Volkswagen.
* Hitler reoccupied the Rhineland in 1936.
* He integrated Austria and Germany in 1938.
* Acquired German-speaking Sudentenland.
* Hitler chose war to recover from economic crisis.

**World War II**

* On September 1939, Germany invaded Poland
* Started a war with France and England.
* In September 1940, a Tripartite Pact was signed between Germany, Italy and Japan.
* In June 1941, Germany attacked Soviet Union.
* Germany exposed through both sides.
* From the western front – to Britishers.
* From the eastern front – to Soviet Armies.
* Soviet Army defeated Germany at Stalingrad.
* Japan bombed the US base at Pearl Harbor.
* US entered the war.
* US drops atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan.
* The war ended in May 1945 with Hitler’s defeat.

**The Nazi Worldview**

Nazis are linked to a system of belief and a set of practices. According to their ideology, there was no equality between people but only a racial hierarchy. The racism of Hitler was borrowed from thinkers like Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer. The argument of the Nazis was simple: the strongest race would survive, and the weak ones would perish. The Aryan race was the finest who retained its purity, became stronger and dominated the world. The other aspect of Hitler’s ideology related to the geopolitical concept of Lebensraum, or living space. Hitler intended to extend German boundaries by moving eastwards to concentrate all Germans geographically in one place.

* According to Nazi ideology there was no equality between people, but only racial hierarchy.
* Nordic German Aryans were at the top, while Jews were at the lowest while all other races are between them.
* New territories had to be acquired for settlement of Nordic German Aryans race.

**Establishment of the Racial State**

Nazis came into power and quickly began to implement their dream of creating an exclusive racial community of pure Germans. They wanted a society of ‘pure and healthy Nordic Aryans’. Under the Euthanasia Programme, Helmuth’s father had condemned to death many Germans who were considered mentally or physically unfit. Germany occupied Poland and parts of Russia captured civilians and forced them to work as slave labour. Jews remained the worst sufferers in Nazi Germany. Hitler hated Jews based on pseudoscientific theories of race. From 1933 to 1938, the Nazis terrorised, pauperised and segregated the Jews, compelling them to leave the country.

**The Racial Utopia**

Genocide and war became two sides of the same coin. Poland was divided, and much of north-western Poland was annexed to Germany.

People of Poland were forced to leave their homes and properties. Members of the Polish intelligentsia were murdered in large numbers, and Polish children who looked like Aryans were forcibly snatched from their mothers and examined by ‘race experts’.

* Hitler divided and occupied north-western Poland.
* Poles were forced to leave their homes.
* Educated Polish classes were murdered.

**Youth in Nazi Germany**

Hitler was interested in the youth of the country. Schools were cleansed and purified. Germans and Jews were not allowed to sit or play together. In the 1940s, Jews were taken to the gas chambers. Introduction of racial science to justify Nazi ideas of race. Children were taught to be loyal and submissive, hate Jews and worship Hitler. Youth organisations were responsible for educating German youth in ‘the spirit of National Socialism’. At the age of 14, boys had to join the Nazi youth organisation where they were taught to worship war, glorify aggression and violence, condemn democracy, and hate Jews, communists, Gypsies and all those categorised as ‘undesirable’. Later, they joined the Labour Service at the age of 18 and served in the armed forces and entered one of the Nazi organisations. In 1922, the Youth League of the Nazis was founded.

* Youth in Nazi Germany
* All schools were cleansed and purified means Jews teachers were dismissed.
* Jews, the physically handicapped and Gypsies were thrown out of schools and later sent to the gas chambers.
* A prolonged period of ideological training for good German students.
* School textbooks were rewritten.
* Racial science was introduced to justify Nazi ideas of race.
* Children were taught to be loyal and submissive, hate Jews, and worship Hitler.
* Ten-year-olds had to enter Jungvolk.
* At 14, all boys had to join the Nazi youth organisation – Hitler Youth.
* They joined the Labour Service at 18.

**The Nazi Cult of Motherhood**

In Nazi Germany, children were told women were different from men. Boys were taught to be aggressive, masculine and steel-hearted and girls were told to become good mothers and rear pure-blooded Aryan children. Girls had to maintain the purity of the race, distance themselves from Jews, look after their homes and teach their children Nazi values. But all mothers were not treated equally. Honours Crosses were awarded to those who encouraged women to produce more children. Bronze cross for four children, silver for six and gold for eight or more. Women who maintained contact with Jews, Poles and Russians were paraded through the town with shaved heads, blackened faces and placards hanging around their necks announcing, ‘I have sullied the honour of the nation’.

* Boys were taught to be aggressive, masculine and steel hearted.
* Girls had to become good mothers and rear pure-blooded Aryan children.
* All mothers were not treated equally.
* Women who bore racially undesirable children were punished.
* Women who produced racially desirable children were awarded.
* Honour Crosses were awarded to encourage women to produce many children.
* Women who didn’t follow prescribed code of conduct were publicly condemned, and severely punished.

**The Art of Propaganda**

Nazis termed mass killings as special treatment, the final solution (for the Jews), euthanasia (for the disabled), selection and disinfection. ‘Evacuation’ meant deporting people to gas chambers. Gas chambers were labelled as ‘‘disinfection areas’, and looked like bathrooms equipped with fake showerheads. Nazi ideas were spread through visual images, films, radio, posters, catchy slogans and leaflets. Orthodox Jews were stereotyped and marked and were referred to as vermin, rats and pests. The Nazis made equal efforts to appeal to all the different sections of the population. They sought to win their support by suggesting that Nazis alone could solve all their problems.

* Mass killings were termed special treatment, final solution, euthanasia, selection and disinfection.
* Nazi ideas were spread through visual images, films, radio, posters, catchy slogans and leaflets.
* In posters, enemies of Germans such as Jews were shown as evil.

**Ordinary People and the Crimes Against Humanity**

People started seeing the world through Nazi eyes and spoke their Nazi language. They felt hatred and anger against Jews and genuinely believed Nazism would bring prosperity and improve general well-being. Pastor Niemoeller protested an uncanny silence amongst ordinary Germans against brutal and organised crimes committed in the Nazi empire. Charlotte Beradt’s book called ‘The Third Reich of Dreams’ describes how Jews themselves began believing in the Nazi stereotypes about them.

* Many people were influence by the idea of Nazi.
* They believed Nazism would bring prosperity and improve general well-being.
* Every German was not a Nazi.
* Large majority of Germans were passive onlookers.

**Knowledge about the Holocaust**

The war ended and Germany was defeated. While Germans were preoccupied with their own plight, the Jews wanted the world to remember the atrocities and sufferings they had endured during the Nazi killing operations – also called the Holocaust. When they lost the war, the Nazi leadership distributed petrol to its functionaries to destroy all incriminating evidence available in offices

* Jews collected and preserved documents wrote diaries, kept notebooks, and created archives which
* are called the Holocaust.
* Jews wanted the world to remember the atrocities and sufferings they had endured during the Nazi killing operations.

**Very Short Answer Question**

**Question 1** The Great Depression was a period of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer: Economic crisis

**Question 2** What is the German Parliament known as ?

Answer: The German Parliament is known as the Reichstag.

**Question 3** A camp where people were isolated and detained without due process of law, referred to as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer: Concentration camp

**Question 4** Which Article of the Weimar Constitution gave the President the powers to impose emergency, suspend civil rights and rule by decree ?

Answer: Article 48

**Question 5** Who offered the chancellorship to Hitler on 30 January 1933 ?

Answer: President Hindenburg

**Question 6** People of Weimar Republic lost confidence in the democratic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer: Parliamentary system

**Question 7** The Nazi Party had become largest party by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer: 1932

**Question 8** The Tripartite Pact was signed between Germany, Japan and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer: Italy

**Question 9** Nazi propaganda projected \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer: Hitler as a messiah

**Question 10** Nazi youth groups for children below 14 years of age were called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer: Jungvolk

**Question 11**What was Auschwitz ?

Answer: Auschwitz was the centre for mass killing during Nazi rule.

**Question 12** What was the original name of Nazi party ?

Answer: The National Socialist German Workers Party.

**Question 13** The gas chambers that looked like bathrooms, equipped with fake shower heads, were labelled as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer: Disinfection areas

**Question 14** How did Hitler view war ?

Answer: Hitler viewed war as the way out of the approaching economic crisis.

**Question 15** When was the Enabling Act passed in Germany ?

Answer: On 3rd March, 1933

**Question 16** Name the four countries included in the Allied Powers in World War II.

Answer: England, France, Russia and USA were included in the Allied Powers.

**Question 17** What was the significance of the Enabling Act ?

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

**Question 18** Which concept of Hitler’s ideology revealed his desire for an extended empire ?

Answer: The geopolitical concept or concept of living space revealed his desire for an extended empire.

**Question 19** Which country used atomic bombs during World War II ?

Answer: USA used atomic bombs during World War II against Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

**Question 20** What was the work entrusted to the International War Tribunal set up in Nuremberg after the war ?

Answer: It was set up to prosecute Nazi war criminals for crimes against peace, for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

**Question 21** What was the name given to separately marked areas where the Jews lived ?

Answer: The separately marked areas where the Jews lived were called ghettos.

**Question 22** Which incident persuaded the USA to join the war ?

Answer: Japan’s unprovoked attack on the US base at Pearl Harbour in December 1941 persuaded the USA to join the war.

**Question 23** What do you know about Wall Street Exchange ?

Answer: It is the name of the world’s biggest stock exchange.

**Question 24** Which countries were known as Axis Powers in World War II ?

Answer: Germany, Italy and Japan were known as Axis Powers.

**Question 25** When did Youth League of the Nazis found ?

Answer: The Youth League of the Nazis was founded in 1922.

**Question 26**. Who was propaganda minister of Hitler?

Answer: Goebbels

**Question 27.** Which court was set up at the end of the Second World War to prosecute Nazi war criminals?

Answer: An International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg

**Question 28**. What do you mean by Genocidal war?

Answer: Genocidal war means killing on large scale leading to destruction of large sections of people.

**Question 29**. What do you mean by Reichstag?

Answer: Reichstag is the name of the German Parliament.

**Question 30**. Which treaty was signed by Germany after its defeat In the First World war?

Answer: The Treaty of Versailles was signed by Germany after its defeat in the First World War.

**Question 31**. Who were mockingly called 'November Criminals'?

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

**Question 32**. How were the deputies of the Reichstag appointed?

Answer: The deputies of the Reichstag were elected on the basis of universal votes cast by all adults including women.

**Question 33**. Which article of the Weimar Constitution gave the President the powers to impose emergency, suspend civil rights and rule by decree in Germany?

Answer: Article 48 of the Weimar Constitution gave the President the powers to impose emergency, suspend civil rights and rule by decree in Germany.

**Question 34**. What do you mean by Free Crops?

Answer: The war veterans organisation through which the Weimar Republic crushed the uprising of the Spartacist League are called Free Corps.

**Question 35**. Why did Nazis hold massive rallies and public meeting in Germany?

Answer: Nazis held massive rallies and public meetings in Germany to demonstrate the support for Hitler and instil a sense of unity among the people.

**Short Answer Questions**

**Question 1** Trace any three main features of the foreign policy of Hitler.

Answer:

* On 30th January 1933, Hitler became the Chancellor of Germany and established dictatorship.
* Right from the beginning, he followed a policy of aggression and war towards other countries.
* He pulled out of the League of Nations in 1933, reoccupied Rhineland in 1936 and integrated Austria and Germany in 1938 under the slogan ‘One people, One empire, One leader’.

**Question 2** The Peace Treaty at Versailles with the Allies was a harsh and humiliating peace. Explain the statement with any three examples.

Answer:

* In the First World War, Germany was defeated. The peace Treaty at Versailles with the Allies was a harsh and humiliating peace.
* Germany lost its overseas colonies and also much of its territories in Europe.
* Germany lost 75% of its iron and 26% of its coal to France and other countries.
* The Allied Powers demilitarised Germany to weaken its power. Germany was forced to pay compensation amounting to £ 6 billion.
* The Allied forces occupied the resources rich Rhineland till the 1920s. (Any three)

**Question 3** Explain the three fold plan of Hitler becoming Chancellor of Germany to consolidate the Nazi power.

Answer:

* Hitler’s three fold plan comprised of capturing the legal authority to rule, crushing the country’s political opposition and eliminating rivals within the party.
* In the pursuit of first, he used the Reichstag fire incident to clamp down the communists. He armed himself with the emergency powers and murdered and jailed key communist leaders and suppressed civil liberties.
* In March 1933, the German Reichstag passed the enabling laws which transferred all the powers from the Reichstag to the government headed by him.
* Further, Hitler turned his attention to the rival political parties. He outlawed all existing and potential opposition institutions. By July 1933, the Nazis were the only legitimate party in Germany.

**Question 4** When did Hitler formally announce his violation of the Treaty of Versailles ? What reason did he give for this ?

Answer:

* Hitler formally announced his violation of the Treaty of Versailles in March 1935.
* Hitler claimed that he was trying to make Germany equal in position to the other European powers.
* Since European nations had not followed the policy of disarmament, German rearmament was a necessity.

**Question 5.** What was the ideology of the Nazis regarding the Jews ?

Answer: The ideology of the Nazis regarding the Jews were :

* All schools were cleansed and purified under Nazism. Those teachers were dismissed who were found to be Jews or seen as politically unreliable.
* German and Jew children were not allowed to sit or play together.
* All the undesirable children—Jews, Gypsies, and the physically handicapped were dismissed from schools and.Jinally were taken to gas chambers in the 1940s.

**Question 6.** What do you know about ‘Nazi schooling’ ?

Answer: All ‘Good German’ children were subjected to a prolonged period of ideological training—a process of Nazi schooling. School textbooks were rewritten. Racial science was introduced to justify Nazi ideas of race. Children were taught to be loyal and submissive, hate Jews, and worship Hitler. Even sports was used to nurture a spirit of violence and aggression among children. Hitler believed boxing made children iron-hearted, strong and masculine.

**Question 7.** What was the Nazis ideology regarding motherhood ?

Answer: In Nazi Germany, children were repeatedly told that women were radically different from men. It was preached that the fight for equal rights for men and women was wrong and it would destroy the society. The boys were taught to be aggressive, masculine and steel-hearted. The girls were taught to become good mothers. They were supposed to rear pure-blooded Aryan children and maintain the purity of the race. They had to distance themselves from Jews, look after the home, and over and above teach their children the Nazi values.

**Question 8.** What were the results of the victory of Nazism in Germany ?

Answer:

* The victory of Nazism in Germany led to the destruction of democracy and establishment of dictatorship.
* It also led to the militarism and preparation for the war.
* In Germany, all other political parties were banned except the Nazi Party.
* Nazism opposed Socialism and Communism, so the advocates of these philosophies were either jailed or killed.

**Question 9.** Why did the USA show unwillingness to get involve in the Second World War initially ? Why did it change its attitude afterwards ?

Answer: The USA had resisted involvement in the war. 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 Harbor, the US entered the Second World War. The war ended in May 1945 with Hitler’s defeat and the US dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima in Japan.

**Question 10.** Why was the International Military Tribunal set up in Nuremberg at the end of the Second World War ?

Answer: At the end of the Second World War the International Military Tribunal was set up in Nuremberg to prosecute Nazi War Criminals. The Tribunal prosecuted the Nazi’s for crimes against Peace, for War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity. However, the Nuremberg Tribunal sentenced only eleven leading Nazis to death. Many other imprisoned for life.

**Question 11.** What is hyperinflation ? What were the factors that led to hyperinflation in Germany ?

Answer: Hyperinflation is a situation when prices rise phenomenally high. This situation occurred in Germany in 1932 due to following reasons :

* Germany had fought the war largely on loans and had to pay war reparations in gold. This depleted gold reserves at a time resources were scarce.
* In 1923 Germany refused to pay, and the French occupied its leading industrial area, Ruhr, to claim their coal. Germany retaliated with passive resistance and printed paper currency recklessly. With too much printed money in circulation, the value of the German mark fell.

**Question 12.** Explain the factors which led to the rise of Hitler in Germany.

Answer: The factors which led to the rise of Hitler in Germany were :

* Germany was compelled to sign the treaty by which she had to pay a huge war indemnity. This treaty created the feeling of dissatisfaction among the people of Germany. The Weimar Republic was regarded as a symbol of national disgrace. Hitler assured the Germans about the restoration of the old prestige, so they became his followers.
* Germany had to face a Great Economic crisis after the First World War. Many soldiers were no more in service, so they became unemployed. Trade and commerce were ruined. In 1929, there was, however, a great slump in Europe. Germany was in the grip of unemployment and starvation. The prices rose and the value of money fell.
* The Germans had no faith in democracy. It was against their culture and tradition. They, at once, gave support to a strong man of action like Hitler who could turn their dreams into reality.

**Question 13.** What were the provision of the famous Enabling Act ?

Answer: On 3 March 1933, the famous Enabling Act was passed. The provisions of the Enabling Act were given below :

* 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.
* Special surveillance and security forces were created to control and order society in ways that the Nazis wanted.

**Question 14.** What promises did Hitler make to the German people ? How did he mobilise them ?

Answer: Hitler was a powerful speaker. His passion and his words moved people. He promised to build a strong nation, undo the injustice of the Versailles Treaty and restore the dignity of the German people.

He promised employment for those looking for work, and a secure future for the youth. He promised to weed out all foreign influences and resist all foreign ‘conspiracies’ against Germany.

Hitler devised a new style of politics. He understood the significance of rituals and spectacle in mass mobilisation. Nazis held massive rallies and public meetings to demonstrate the support for Hitler and instil a sense of unity among the people. The Red banners with the Swastika, the Nazi salute, and the ritualised rounds of applause after the speeches were all part of this spectacle of power.

**Question 15.** From whom did Hitler borrow his racist ideology ? Explain.

Answer:

(a) Hitler borrowed his racist ideology from thinkers like Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer.

(b) Darwin was a natural scientist who tried to explain the creation of plants and • animals through the concept of evolution and natural selection. Darwin never advocated human intervention in what he thought was a purely natural process of selection.

(c) Herbert Spencer later added the idea of survival of the fittest. According to this idea, only those species survived on earth that could adapt themselves to changing climatic conditions.

However, his ideas were used by racist thinkers and politicians to justify imperial rule over conquered peoples.

**Question 16.** Describe the effect of Great Economic depression on Germany ?

Answer: The effect of Great Economic depression on Germany were :

* The German economy was the worst hit by the Great Economic depression. By 1932, industrial production was reduced to 40% of the 1929 level. Workers lost their jobs or were paid reduced wages.
* The number of unemployed touched an unprecedented 6 million. Men could be seen on streets with placards saying,’ Willing to do any work’. As jobs disappeared, youth took to criminal activities, and total despair became common place.
* There were deep anxieties and fears in people. The middle classes, especially salaried employees and pensioners, saw their savings diminish when the currency lost its value.
* The large mass of peasantry was badly affected by a sharp fall in agricultural prices.

**Question 17.** ‘In my state the mother is the most important citizen.’ Discuss this statement made by Hitler.

Answer: (a) Though Hitler said that in my state the mother is the most important citizen, it was not true.

(b) All mothers were not treated equally. Women who bore racially desirable children were awarded, while those who bore racially undesirable children were punished.

(c) Women who bore ‘desirable’ children were entitled to privileges and rewards. They were given special treatment in hospitals and concessions in shops and on theatre tickets and railway fares.

**Question 18**. Describe the events that happened during Great Economic Depression in the USA?

Answer:

* The Wall Street Exchange crashed in 1929 and due to fear a fall in prices, people made frantic efforts to sell their shares;
* 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.

**Question 19**. Describe any three inherent defects in the Weimar Constitution that made it vulnerable to dictatorship.

OR

Question Mention three reasons responsible for the failure of the Weimar Republic.

OR

Question State any three factors which made the Weimer Republic politically fragile.

Answer:

* The constitution provided that government must be based proportional representation which made achieving a majority by any one party a near impossible.
* The coalitions governments were not stable and keeps changing.
* The constitution had Article 48, which gave the President the powers to impose emergency, suspend civil rights and rule by decree.

**Question 20**. What promises did Hitler make to the Germans when he came to power?

Answer:

* He promised to build a strong nation and undo the justice of Treaty of Versailles and restore the dignity of the German people
* He promised employment for those looking for work
* He promised to remove all foreign influences and resist all foreign conspiracies against Germany.

**Question 21**. Explain any three effects of the Treaty of Versailles over Germany

Answer:

* Germany lost its overseas colonies
* It was demilitarized
* The allied armies occupied resource-rich Rhineland
* It lost 75 percent of its iron and 26 percent of its coal to France, Poland, Denmark and Lithuania.

**Question 22**. Describe the political impact of defeat of the Imperial Germany.

Answer:

* The defeat of Imperial Germany and the abdication of the emperor gave an opportunity 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.

**Question 23**. Why did Weimar Republic set up in Germany after the First World War become unpopular? Give three reasons

Answer:

* The Weimar Republic was politically too fragile which created instability in Germany.
* The Weimar Republic was held responsible for signing the Treaty of Versailles and accept its harsh terms.
* The Weimar Republic did not take any steps to improve the economic conditions of the people.

**Question 24**. How did Nazis demonstrate support for Hitler?

Answer:

* Nazis held massive rallies and public meetings to demonstrate the support for Hitler and instil a sense of unity among the people.
* The Red banners with the Swastika, the Nazi salute, and the ritualised rounds of applause after the speeches were all part of this spectacle of power.
* Nazi propaganda skilfully projected Hitler as a messiah, a saviour, as someone who had arrived to deliver people from their distress.

**Question 25**. What was the verdict of Nuremberg Tribunal? Why did the Allies avoid harsh punishment on Germany?

Answer:

* The Nuremberg Tribunal sentenced only eleven leading Nazis to death for the mass murder of selected groups of innocent civilians of Europe.
* Many others were imprisoned for life.
* The Allies did not want to be as harsh on defeated Germany as they had been after the First World War which led to the rise of Nazi Germany.

**Long Answer Question**

**Question 1**. Describe the events that happened during Great Economic Depression in the USA?

Answer:

* The Wall Street Exchange crashed in 1929 and due to fear a fall in prices, people made frantic efforts to sell their shares
* 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.

**Question 2**. Describe any three inherent defects in the Weimar Constitution that made it vulnerable to dictatorship.

OR

Question Mention three reasons responsible for the failure of the Weimar Republic.

OR

Question State any three factors which made the Weimer Republic politically fragile.

Answer:

* The constitution provided that government must be based proportional representation which made achieving a majority by any one party a near impossible.
* The coalitions governments were not stable and keeps changing.
* The constitution had Article 48, which gave the President the powers to impose emergency, suspend civil rights and rule by decree.

**Question 3**. What promises did Hitler make to the Germans when he came to power?

Answer:

* He promised to build a strong nation and undo the justice of Treaty of Versailles and restore the dignity of the German people
* He promised employment for those looking for work
* He promised to remove all foreign influences and resist all foreign conspiracies against Germany.

**Question 4**. Explain any three effects of the Treaty of Versailles over Germany

Answer:

* Germany lost its overseas colonies
* It was demilitarized
* The allied armies occupied resource-rich Rhineland
* It lost 75 percent of its iron and 26 percent of its coal to France, Poland, Denmark & Lithuania.

**Question 5**. Describe the political impact of defeat of the Imperial Germany.

Answer:

* The defeat of Imperial Germany and the abdication of the emperor gave an opportunity 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.

**Question 6**. Why did Weimar Republic set up in Germany after the First World War become unpopular? Give three reasons

Answer:

* The Weimar Republic was politically too fragile which created instability in Germany.
* The Weimar Republic was held responsible for signing the Treaty of Versailles and accept its harsh terms.
* The Weimar Republic did not take any steps to improve the economic conditions of the people.

**Question 7**. How did Nazis demonstrate support for Hitler?

Answer:

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**Question 9** Why did the Nazis hate the Jews?

Answer: Traditionally the Jews were considered as the killers of Jesus Christ. It was this traditional hostility and the fact that were basically money lenders charging excessive interest that made the Nazis hate the Jews.

**Question 10** Why did the German Mark collapse?

Answer: Germany had to pay war reparation after its defeat in the First World War. But Germany refused to pay the reparation and France occupied Ruhr to claim Germany’s coal. In retaliation Germany printed paper currency recklessly. As a result, the value of German mark collapsed and prices of goods soared.

In December 1923, 1 US dollar was equal to 98,860,000 marks. People had to carry a cart load of currency to buy a loaf of bread. This crisis is known as hyperinflation

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OR

Question Mention three reasons responsible for the failure of the Weimar Republic.

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* Answer:
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* It lost 75 percent of its iron and 26 percent of its coal to France, Poland, Denmark & Lithuania.

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**Question 16.** Why did Weimar Republic set up in Germany after the First World War become unpopular? Give three reasons

Answer:

* The Weimar Republic was politically too fragile which created instability in Germany.
* The Weimar Republic was held responsible for signing the Treaty of Versailles and accept its harsh terms.
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**Question 18.** What was the verdict of Nuremberg Tribunal? Why did the Allies avoid harsh punishment on Germany?

Answer:

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* Many others were imprisoned for life.
* The Allies did not want to be as harsh on defeated Germany as they had been after the First World War which led to the rise of Nazi Germany.

**Question 19.** Mention any five effects of the ‘Great Economic Depression’ on the economy of Germany?

Answer:

* The industrial production was reduced to 40 percent of the 1929 level.
* Workers lost their jobs or were paid reduced wages.
* Unemployed youth took to criminal activities and total despair became commonplace.
* The middle classes, especially salaried employees and pensioners, saw their savings diminish when the currency lost its value.
* Small businessmen, the self-employed and retailers suffered as their businesses got ruined.

**Question 20.** Why was the 'Treaty of Versailles' treated as harsh and humiliating to people of Germany? Explain.

Answer:

* Germany lost its overseas colonies, a tenth of its population, 13 percent of its territories, 75 percent of its iron and 26 percent of its coal to France, Poland, Denmark and Lithuania
* The Allied Powers demilitarised Germany to weaken its power
* The War Guilt Clause held Germany responsible for the war and damages the Allied countries suffered
* Germany was forced to pay compensation amounting to £6 billion
* The Allied armies also occupied the resource-rich Rhineland for much of the 1920s.

**Question 21.** The First World War left a deep imprint on the European society and polity'. Elaborate the given statement

Answer:

* Soldiers came to be placed above civilians
* Politicians and publicists laid great stress on the need for the men to be aggressive, strong and masculine
* Media glorified trench life
* Aggressive war propaganda and national honour occupied centre stage
* Popular support grew for conservative dictatorships.

**Extra Long Answer Questions**

**Question 1** What steps were taken by Adolf Hitler for the destruction of democracy ?

Answer: The following steps were taken by Hitler for the destruction of democracy :

* A mysterious fire that broke out in the German Parliament building in February, 1933 indefinitely suspended civic rights. It is said that the fire was broken out by Hitler’s supporters, while Hitler blamed his political enemies for it. The Fire Decree of 28 February, 1933 indefinitely suspended civic rights such as freedom of expression, speech, press and assembly that had been guaranteed by the Weimar Constitution.
* After that Adolf Hitler turned on his enemy, i.e., the Communists of Germany, most ‘ of the communists were quickly packed off to the newly established concentration camps.
* The repression of the Communists was severe. Their membership was in thousands. 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 Adolf Hitler all political and administrative powers to sideline German Parliament and rule by decree.

**Question 2.** What were the main effects of Nazi rule on Germany ?

Answer: The victory of Nazism produced far reaching effects on Germany :

* Hitler tried to pull his country out of the Economic Crisis that had befallen on Germany as a result of her defeat in the First World War.
* Different types of industries were set up to provide work to the workmen. Trade was encouraged with the same aim in mind.
* Hitler inspired to make Germany a powerful country and enhanced his military power in all possible ways.
* All political parties except the Nazi Party were banned. And, then a Reign of Terror was let loose in Germany. Assassinations of anti-Nazi leaders took place on a large scale.
* The Communist Parties were also banned.
* Trade unions were suppressed.
* **Question 3.** What did Hitler do to overcome the economic crisis that badly hit the German economy ?

Answer: After establishing his dictatorship in Germany, he took major steps towards the economic reconstruction.

* Hitler assigned the responsibility of economic recovery to the economist Hjalmar Schacht who aimed at full production and full employment through a state-funded work-creation programme.
* In foreign policy also, Hitler acquired quick successes. He 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 Sudentenland from Czechoslovakia and gobbled up the entire country. In all of this he had the unspoken support of England, which had considered the Versailles verdict too harsh. These quick successes at home and abroad seemed to reverse the destiny of the country.
* Hitler chose war as the way out of the approaching economic crisis. Resources were to be accumulated through expansion of territory. In September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. This started a war with France and England. In September 1940, a Tripartite Pact was signed between Germany, Italy and Japan, strengthening Hitler’s claim to , international power.
* Hitler now moved to achieve his long-term aim of conquering Eastern Europe. He wanted to ensure food supplies and living space for Germans. He attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941. In this historic blunder Hitler exposed the German western front to British aerial bombing and the eastern front to the powerful Soviet armies.

**Question 4**. Why is Nazism considered a calamity not only for Germany but for the entire Europe ?

Answer: Nazi ideology specified that there was racial hierarchy and no equality between people.

(a) The blond, blue-eyed Nordic German Aryans were at the top, while the Jews were located somewhere on the lowest rung of the ladder.

(b) The number of people killed by Nazi Germany was 6 million Jews, 200,000 Gypsies, 1 million Polish civilians, 70,000 Germans.

(c) Nazism glorified the use of force and brutality. It ridiculed internationalism, peace and democracy.

(d) Nazi Germany became the most dreaded criminal state. Hitler chose war as the way out of approaching the economic crisis.

(e) Germany invaded Poland. This started a war with France and England in September 1940.

**Question 5** Explain the impact of the First World War on European society and polity.

Answer: The First World War left a deep imprint on European society and polity. It had a devastating impact on the entire continent.

(a) In society, soldiers were ranked higher than civilians. Trench life of the soldiers was glorified by the media. The media glorified trench life.

(b) Politicians and publicists laid great stress on the need for men to be aggressive and masculine.

(c) Aggressive war propaganda and national honour occupied centre stage in the public sphere.

(d) Popular support grew for conservative dictatorships that had recently come into being.

(e) Democracy as a young and fragile idea could not survive the instabilities of interwar Europe.

**Question 7**. Trace the events that led to the birth of the Weimar Republic.

Answer: In the 20th century Germany was a powerful Empire. During the First World War Germany took up the cause of Austria against the Allies. Many countries joined the war hoping to gain something, without realizing the fact that the war would prolong and drain Europe of its resources. Though Germany made initial gains by occupying France and Belgium, the Allies became stronger when the US joined them in 1917 and defeated Germany and the Central Powers.

The defeat of Germany resulted in the abdication of the German Emperor. This gave an opportunity for the parliamentary parties to bring in a change, in German politics. A democratic constitution with a federal structure was formed by the National Assembly, which met at Weimar and the Weimar Republic came into existence.

**Question 8.** What was the out come of the Versailles treaty?

Answer: At the end of the First World War, in which Germany lost, a peace treaty was signed at Versailles with the Allies. The Versailles treaty was harsh and humiliating, for the Germans. Germany lost its

* Over seas colonies
* One tenth of its population
* 13% of its territories
* 75% of its iron and
* 26% of its coal to France, Poland, Denmark and Lithuania.
* The Allied powers demilitarized Germany to weaken its power.
* The War Guild Clause held Germany responsible for the war and damages the Allied countries suffered.
* Germany was forced to pay a compensation of £ 6 billion.
* The Allied armies occupied the resource- rich Rhineland.

**Question 9.** What was the impact of the war on the European Society and politics?

Answer: The impact of the war on the European Society was devastating. It affected the economic, social and political fibre of Europe.

* The soldiers were placed above the civilians.
* Politicians and publicists emphasized on the need for men to be aggressive, strong and masculine.
* Trench life was glorified by the media though in actual practice the soldiers led a miserable life in the trench with rats feeding on the corpses and faced poisonous gas.
* Though war and national honour was brought to the fore front, people were in support of the conservative dictatorship.
* Due to the instabilities of war, European democracy could not survive, as it was a new idea.

**Question 10**. Write a short note on the Spartacist League.

Answer: Germany had to pay war reparation after its defeat in the First World War. But Germany refused to pay the reparation and France occupied Ruhr to claim Germany’s coal. In retaliation Germany printed paper currency recklessly. As a result, the value of German mark collapsed and prices of goods soared.

In December 1923, 1 US dollar was equal to 98,860,000 marks. People had to carry a cart load of currency to buy a loaf of bread. This crisis is known as hyperinflation.

**Question 11.** What brought about the Great Economic Depression?

Answer: There was some financial stability between 1924 and 1928. Short term loans from the USA helped industrial recovery in Germany. In 1929, when the Wall Street Exchange crushed, the US withdrew all the loans. People rushed in to sell their shares as they thought that the prices would go down drastically. It was said that on the 24th October alone about 13 million shares were sold. This brought about the Great Economic Depression.

The national income of the US fell by nearly 50% between 1929 and 1932. The factories were shut down, exports fell, farmers were affected badly and the speculators withdrew their money from the market. All these affected not only the US but the entire world.

**Question 12**. How did the Great Economic Depression affect Germany?

Answer:

* As in the USA and the rest of the world, the Great Economic Depression had adverse effect on Germany and its people. The industrial production came down to less than 40% compared to 1929.
* Workers either lost their jobs or were paid less.
* About 6 million people were left without any employment.
* As jobs disappeared the youth took to criminal activities.
* Total despair, a deep anxiety and fear became common place in people.
* The saving of salaried people and the pensioners began to diminish when the value of money went down.
* Small businessmen, self employed and the retailers were ruined.
* Big business was not possible.
* The sharp fall in agricultural prices affected the peasants to a great extent.
* Women were in deep despair as they could not feed their children properly.

**Question 13**. What were the powers that were given to the Police Forces in the Nazi State?

Answer: The newly organised Police Forces , in the Nazi State, were given so much powers that people could be detained in Gestapo torture chambers, they could be rounded up and sent to concentration camps, or be deported or arrested without any legal procedure. The police force could function with such unwieldy authority that the Nazi state was known as the most dreaded criminal state.

**Question 14.** What were Hitler’s Foreign Policies?

Answer: Hitler’s Foreign Policies were a great success. He pulled out of the League of Nations in 1933. He reoccupied the Rhineland , which was confiscated by the French ,in 1936. In 1938 Hitler integrated Austria and Germany under the slogan, One people, One empire, and One leader.

He then captured the German-speaking Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia, and soon gobbled up the entire country.

In all of his foreign activities Hitler had the unspoken support of England, which had considered the Versailles verdict too harsh. These quick successes Hitler had at home and abroad reversed the destiny of the country.

**Question 15.** What was the historic blunder Hitler committed in 1941?

Answer: In June 1941, Hitler attacked the Soviet Union. The German western front was exposed to British aerial bombing and the eastern front was crushed by the powerful Soviet Red Army at Stalingrad. Thus the Soviet established its leadership over entire Eastern Europe for the next 50 years. This was the historical blunder committed by Hitler.

**Question 16.** What was the reaction of the common people to Nazism?

Answer:

* The common people reacted positively to Nazism. They saw the world through Nazi eyes and spoke their mind in the Nazi language. The common man felt anger and hatred when he saw the Jews. They marked the houses of the Jews and reported about suspicious neighbours.
* They believed that Nazism would bring prosperity and general well-being.
* A large majority of Germans were passive onlookers and were scared to differ or protest.

**Question 17** What were the terms given by the Nazis when they wanted to convey the words ’kill’ or ‘murder in their official communications ?

Answer: The Nazis used the words ‘special treatment or final Solution’ to convey mass killing of the Jews. The words , ‘selection or disinfection’ was used for the elimination of the disabled and to deport people to the Gas Chambers the Nazis used the word ‘evacuation’.

Gas Chambers were called ‘disinfection areas’. These chambers looked like a bath rooms with fake showerheads.

**Question 18**. How were women treated in Nazi Germany?

Answer: Women in the Nazi Germany were treated as important citizens. Motherhood was glorified, but not all mothers were not treated equally. The women who bore desirable children were awarded. They were given favoured treatment in hospitals and concessions in theatres and shops. Those who bore undesirable children were condemned and punished severely.

Honour Crosses were given to women who produced more children. Women with 4 children were given a Bronze cross, women with 5 were given a Silver cross , while women who bore 8 children and more were given a Gold cross.

Aryan women who deviated from the given code of conduct were severely punished

**Question 19** What was expected of the youth in Nazi Germany?

Answer:

* All the young men above the age of 18 years were expected to serve in the armed forces and enter one of the Nazi organisations.
* At the tender age of 10 they had to join ‘Jungvolk’ – Nazi youth groups for children below 14 years of age. At 14 years of age they enrolled in the Nazi Youth Organisation called ‘Hitler Youth’.
* The German youth were educated in the spirit of National Socialism by these youth organisations. They were taught to worship war, glorify aggression and violence , condemn democracy , hate Jews, communists, gypsies and all those who were called ‘undesirable’.