

**in**

M.Tebbutt

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# Chapter 1

## in

### 1.1 main

The Road To World War

© 1996 M.Tebbutt

Welcome to The Road To World War by Mark Tebbutt. Please feel free to browse through this GSCE History revision aid on "Hitler's Germany".

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS SHAREWARE!

Document notes

The end of World War One  
Five Treaties  
A new leader and a new problem  
Economic collapse  
The invasion of the Ruhr  
Hitler  
The NSDAP  
The Putsch  
The loss in value of the German Mark  
Communism, Fascism & Democracies

SHAREWARE NOTICE

Distribution

Thanks to...

The author

Disclaimer

A request to fellow Amiga users

### 1.2 request

A request to fellow Amiga users

If you like this product, and have a method of making this distribution accessible to yet more Amiga users, then please use it! I'm begging you!

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Personally, I'm not on-line. So, if you care to do so, why don't you upload it onto BBS's? Or even the Aminet? Go on. Pretty please! Owners of PD Houses - here's another disk to add to your library! Even include it on collections! The ENTIRE distribution (see below) is only tiny! Pretty please with a cherry on top! (Pardon? Ahem. I'm calm now.)

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More legal thingies: ONLY DISTRIBUTE THIS PRODUCT FULLY INTACT (i.e- including every file, and don't change anything within the files themselves).

Remember that this product is SHAREWARE and under copyright.

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Anyone caught doing naughty pirate things will get the long arm of the law thrust upon them. And I'll personally slap their wrists and then chop them up into tiny pieces. Ha.

## 1.3 distribution

This product can be distributed freely provided that it remains INTACT, e.g- includes all files. It may be distributed on any CD collection, by any Public Domain or Shareware stockist, or on any BBS or the Aminet.

Please note that this product is © 1996 M.Tebbutt and unauthorised amendment of this product is illegal. PIRACY IS THEFT.

## 1.4 notes

Reading only one subject will not benefit you. It is necessary to see "the picture as a whole" before you can fully understand the situations in which Germany was put into.

NOTE: This publication is by no means "comprehensive". It is necessary to study many sources (e.g- books, etc.) before coming to any conclusions or writing about the subject. This is especially true of GCSE when writing essays or revising, etc.

Put your resources to good use and read about as many different viewpoints as possible before drawing your own conclusions. Also, check the reliability of your sources (are they primary or secondary? - If you don't know what this means then ask your History teacher). DETERMINING THE RELIABILITY OF SOURCES IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF HISTORY.

As I said, this document is by no means comprehensive, and in the present version it does not cover the entire topic for GCSE, just the early parts. In later revisions (if I do any - register to help ensure this) I should cover the whole topic (eventually).

## 1.5 shareware

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Legal things: As this product is shareware, using it without registering it after the "testing" period is illegal. The "testing" period for this product is 4 weeks, after which if you do not register you MUST trash/delete all traces of the product from your system.

Unauthorised amendment is ILLEGAL!

Please appreciate my (enormous) efforts in creating "TRTWW" by paying the shareware fee! Besides, its only a measly £2. If there's enough response then I will produce new versions. And, once you've registered you don't have to for any later versions. So, register now and put your mind at rest today!

Send your dosh/cash/whatever-you-call-it to:-

Mark Tebbutt  
The Road To World War registrations  
12 Grenville Avenue  
Rhuddlan  
Denbighshire  
N.Wales  
UK  
LL18 5PN

POUNDS STERLING ONLY, PLEASE!

(PLEASE USE THE SUPPLIED REGISTRATION FORM)

## 1.6 thanks

Many thanks to Mr Corkhill (my history teacher), Amiga Format for encouraging my computing interest, Mark Traynor (my Amiga-owning friend), the now-dead Commodore (for my A1200), and, of course, my mum and dad!

NOTE TO FELLOW YOUNG AMIGA USERS: Learn to produce Amiga software and make the Amiga a much nicer platform to use than PCs or Macs (even though it is already).

Also, good luck to Viscorp on their new Amiga ownership. Let's hope they do more than the previous owners, eh?!

ONLY AMIGA MAKES IT POSSIBLE!

## 1.7 author

Well, I won't bore you too long with my own details!

I'm a 15 year old Amiga user who also likes History. At present I have an A1200 (old Commodore one) with a Squirrel SCSI interface, a Mediavision Reno CD-ROM drive, a Goliath PSU, Viper II 28Mhz accelerator with 4 Megs Fast RAM and an external floppy. (New users: ignore previous techno-babble!).

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Unfortunately, this quite "substantial" system is only running through a portable! Never mind, eh?

Right. I think that history is a hard subject to do. So, I thought, why not write something that will help others? So, here is the end product. Like it? I hope so.

To contact me for suggestions/notes on my accuracy/SHAREWARE registrations, etc you'll have to use snail mail. My address is:-

Mark Tebbutt  
12 Grenville Avenue  
Rhuddlan  
Denbighshire  
N.Wales  
UK  
LL18 5PN

## 1.8 disclaimer

No responsibility or liability will be accepted for any damage that may appear to have resulted from use of this product. All use is at your own risk. The product is provided "as is" without any warranty implied or otherwise to the fitness or accuracy of the software and documentation. The documentation is believed to be correct but the author reserves the right to update this product without notice.

## 1.9 c,f&d

Communism, Fascism and Democracies

Democracies are when parties are voted into power by a secret and free election. This ensures no discrimination for sex or colour denotes a person's right to vote, and that a person's vote is not released.

A Communist or Facist dictatorship is when a single person or party takes power in a restricted and/or non-secret election, or with no election at all. Fascist dictatorships have racism and social classes, Communist dictatorships have no social classes and no ownership of property.

## 1.10 nwnp

A new leader and a new problem

Frederick Ebert became the first leader of the new government. He was a socialist and a member of the Socialist Democratic Party (SPD). He had the support of many Army Generals who were afraid of a Communist revolution. Russia had gone Communist in 1917 (Lenin forced Russia out of the war), and it was feared the new Communist Party (KPD) formed in Germany in December 1918 would try to overthrow the government.

Meanwhile, on the Allies side, Woodrow Wilson of the USA, Lloyd George of Britain, Clemenceau of France and Orlando of Italy

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pondered what to do with Germany in the Palace of Versailles, near Paris. Wilson, the United States President, had earlier set out 14 points outlining a fair treaty for Germany to accept. Many Germans expected the treaty to be based upon these points. They were to be proved wrong.

Many people blamed the Republican government for their losses, believing the government was responsible for their defeat. In January 1919, a Communist group called the Spartacists tried to take over Berlin. Ebert was forced to call upon the Freikorps, bands of ex-soldiers with their weapons still with them, to crush the Communists. Berlin became a battle ground.

In June Germany was forced to sign the humiliating treaty of Versailles. Premier Clemenceau had fought for revenge against Germany, as much of the war had been fought in France, his people shared his view. Prime Minister Lloyd George of Britain was looking for a fair treaty, the people of Britain, like those of France, were after revenge. Wilson shared Lloyd George's view. Orlando was just bargaining for territory for Italy's dwindling industrial power. Clemenceau had got what he wanted, and the treaty was extremely harsh, angering Germany, one of many seeds for future war.

The treaty was so harsh because of the sheer cost and social impact on Germany. Clause 231 was the war guilt clause, which said that Germany had to admit to starting the war, of course this was not true, and angered the German people. This clause had a purpose, it was to make Germany pay reparations (damages for the war) of a massive 6,600 million pounds sterling. 25,000 square miles of land (13% of Germany) was shared between various countries, containing 5 million Germans. All colonies were lost. Germany also lost most of her military power, the Army was reduced to only 100,000 men, with no conscription (forced joining of the armed forces) allowed. Only 6 small ships in the Navy, with no submarines. Also, the Airforce was to be disbanded. Germany was angry. Many Germans who signed the treaty were either committed suicide or were assassinated.

In 1920, a group of resentful Nationalists, led by the Freikorps leader Wolfgang Kapp, took control of Berlin. The Army stood by and refused to help the government. However, the Kapp putsch failed because the Weimar government called for a general strike. This brought Berlin to a standstill and forced Kapp to surrender.

## 1.11 eww1

The end of World War One

On the 9th November 1918 the Kaiser (the German King) fled to Holland and Germany was pronounced a Republic. Two days later, the ceasefire or Armistice was signed. The German Parliament, the Reichstag, which had been in existence for many years but had never had a say in German law, was left with the job of running the defeated country. This new German government began its rule in a small town called Weimar, because the violence in Berlin was too much for the Parliament to meet safely. This was because the government agreed to end the war, this was very unpopular because many Germans thought their army was winning (part of the Kaiser's

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media censorship). In fact, most Germans were not aware their army was in full retreat.

Many Generals of the German Army later lied to the people, not wanting to lose their high position in society, as many Generals had run the government during the war. General Hindenburg (later President) and General Ludendorff (whom later supported the Nazi Munich Beer Hall Putsch) blamed the Republican government for "stabbing the German in the back".

## 1.12 ec

### Economic collapse

During its first four years the Weimar Republic was in deep economic trouble. Most Germans blamed the high cost of reparations, infact between 1921 and 1923 hardly any reparations were paid. The real cause was the failiure of the German government to tax the rich heavily enough. Between 1919 and 1923 the government spent four times more than it collected in taxes. As a result it was unable to balance its budget and keep up its reparation payments. To solve the shortage of money the government simply printed more and more money. The result was was hyper inflation.

## 1.13 ir

### The invasion of the Ruhr

During its economic troubles, Germany had problems paying her reparations. To force Germany to pay France invaded and occupied the Ruhr, the industrial heart of Germany, in 1923. In reply to this the German workers went on strike. Industrial production stopped and there was consequently little to buy in the shops, forcing prices up and inflation got worse. Money became worthless.

## 1.14 hitler

### HITLER

Adolf Hitler was born on April the 20th, 1889 in the small town of Branau-am Inn, Austria. His parents were Alois and Klara Hitler. His father, Alois was a customs official and was well respected in the community. However, Adolf did not get on with his father too well and they soon drifted apart.

Alois Hitler was an old man, and Alois was his third wife. Adolf was their fourth child, however, all Klara's previous children had died. As all her children had died, she wanted to smother Adolf with her love, and she ended up spoiling him.

Adolf Hitler failed in academic subjects in school, a situation that contributed to his interests in the arts. He was a bright pupil, but was too dreamy to bother trying. Dr. Huemer, one of Hitler's teachers, later remembered what he was like:

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"I can recall the gaunt, pale-faced youth pretty well, he had definite talent, though in a narrow field. But he lacked self-discipline, being notoriously cantankerous, wilful, arrogant and irascible. He had obvious difficulty in fitting in at school. Moreover, he was lazy; otherwise, with his gifts, he would have done very much better."

When Hitler was thirteen, in 1903, his father died. This came as a great relief to Adolf, as this marked his freedom of thought. He could now at least try and realise his dream.

In 1907, his mother died. As he was so close to his mother, her death struck him emotionally. At the age of 18 he received an allowance from the money and pension left by his parents. From this time to 1913 he lived in Vienna, trying to gain entry to the Academy of Arts, but he lived in the city, after failing the entrance exam, making a living from odd jobs.

In May 1913, Hitler moved to Munich in Germany. During the following year the First World War began and war fever grew. Crowds of people gathered and cheered at the news that war had been declared. Among them was Adolf Hitler.

He joined an infantry regiment in 1914. This was the 16th Reserve Bavarian Infantry Regiment. Army life brought him comradeship and discipline, both of which he needed. He was a Corporal runner in the trenches, and was wounded twice, winning both the Iron Cross first class and second class. He was wounded in 1916 and gassed in 1918. In fact, as the war closed, Hitler was in hospital recovering from the effects of the gas (which he encountered in 1918) on his eyes.

The Armistice brought him a feeling of humiliation. Like many other ex-servicemen Hitler felt the army had been let down by the government. In his view the army had not been defeated but "stabbed in the back". The Treaty of Versailles hurt Hitler even more, he believed the terms of the treaty were unacceptable. He also thought that the government which accepted the terms had betrayed Germany.

After the war until April 1920, Hitler remained on the Army reserve and became a political agent and lecturer, making the sure new recruits had the 'correct', or Nationalist, ideas. In September 1919 he joined the NSDAP or Nazi party, as member number 7. By 1921 Hitler had become its leader. The badge they adopted was the swastika.

After the Munich Beer Hall Putsch, Hitler served 9 months of a 5 year sentence of imprisonment. He let his party fall while in prison, to make sure no one could take over his position as party leader. From 1925 to 1929 he made great efforts to revive its strength. He spoke to Karl Ludecke about the methods he intended to employ:

"Instead of working to achieve power by an armed coup, we shall have to hold our noses and enter the Reichstag against the Catholic and Marxist deputies. If outvoting them takes longer than out-shooting them, at least the result will be guaranteed by their own constitution...Sooner or later we shall have a majority - and after that - Germany."

While in prison he lived a comfortable life, dictating his book "Mein Kampf" or "My Struggle", in which he outlined his ideas for a future glorious Germany. He also told the story of his life, and how his father suppressed his artistic ideas. "Mein Kampf" became a best seller, making Hitler a millionaire before he even entered the Reichstag.

When the NSDAP finally entered the Reichstag, for a long time they could not win any election. People only vote for extremist parties when life is bad, between 1924 and 1929, Germany was in a period of prosperity. In 1928 the Nazis received only 2.6% of the vote.

Their main support came from middle-class people (e.g. shopkeepers, skilled workers, teachers and civil servants). Their savings had been made worthless by the inflation of 1923. Hitler also targeted the working class

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with the socialist parts of the 25 point programme. In 1928 he began to target farmers who had been hit hard by falling prices. Some businessmen supported him because he promised to get rid of Communism and Trade Unions. Despite this, until 1929, the Nazis remained a minor party.

What Hitler did well during this period was to make the party look bigger than it actually was. He used rallies, marches, meetings, speeches, flags and symbols, etc. to attract attention. His stormtroopers (SA) were used to provoke violence with other parties. The Weimar Republic failed to tackle this problem of violence in Germany. That was a mistake...

They should have banned the Freikorps (bands of ex-servicemen looking for revenge) and the private armies, but there were too many right-wing sympathisers in the government, army and police.

Finally, German prosperity was on bad foundations. American loans financed German industry, and if they were withdrawn German industry would collapse, and along with it the only reason people had for supporting the government. The fateful event took place in October 1929, the Wall Street crash was to prove a godsend for Hitler.

## 1.15 mark

How the German Mark lost its value

After 1914, because of hyper inflation caused by the Weimar Republic's huge overspending and reparation payment, the German Mark became worthless. Here are some figures to give you an idea of how much of a problem this was.

Date	£1=? Marks
July 1914	20
Jan 1919	35
Jan 1920	256
Jan 1921	256
Jan 1922	764
Jan 1923	71,888
July 1923	1,413,648
Sept 1923	3,954,408,000
Oct 1923	1,010,408,000,000
Nov 1923	1,680,800,000,000,000

The price of one egg (in Marks)

Date	Price
1914	0.09
July 1921	1.60
July 1922	7.00
July 1923	5,000
Sept 1923	4,000,000
Nov 1923	320,000,000,000

## 1.16 treaties

FIVE TREATIES

The treaty of Versailles was not the only treaty after WWI. Four others were drawn up, and they together altered the map of Europe. These treaties

created new countries, and changed old ones.

In Eastern Europe, the Austro-Hungarian empire was split into two small republics of Austria and Hungary, which were mere shadows of their former greatness, and the new countries of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia was a greatly enlarged Serbia.

A new Poland was created from Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia, the same countries that had swallowed the ancient kingdom of Poland over a hundred years before. The new Poland had a corridor (the "Polish Corridor") to the sea.

In the North East, four new states now existed, which had been part of the vast Russian Empire: Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

All these changes were to stop the the spread of Natinalism. Incidentally, all victorious countries gained in territory.

## 1.17 nsdap

### THE N.S.D.A.P: POLICIES AND VOTES CAST

The NSDAP was the party that Adolf Hitler joined and gradually took control of. This parties policies were interesting, with both Nationalist and Socialist properties. Hitler probably saw the advantage of policies appealing to the middle and working classes to gain power easily. However, when he took power, he conveniently "forgot" all his Socialist policies.

Here are some of the 25 points of the party taken from the 1925 party programme.

1. We demand the union of all Germans...to form a great Germany.
2. We demand the abolition of the Treaty of Versailles.
3. We demand land and territory for the nourishment of our people and for the settling our surplus population.
4. None but members of the nation may be members of the state. None but those of German blood...may be members of the nation. No Jew, therefore, may be a member of the nation.
6. The right of voting is to be enjoyed by citizens of the State alone...all official appointments...shall be granted to citizens of the State alone.
8. All further non-German immigration must be prevented.
11. We demand the abolition of incomes unearned by work. [This means no money lending, etc.]
14. We demand that there shall be profit sharing in the great industries. [This means all profits shall be shared between workers.]
15. We demand a generous development of provision for old age. [This means pensions in Germany - for the first time ever.]
18. We demand a ruthless war against all whose activities injure the common interest. Common criminals against the nation - money lenders, profiteers, etc - must be punished with death.
19. We demand the education of specially gifted children of poor parents at the expense of the State.
25. That all these points may be realised, we demand the creation of a strong central government in the Reich.

The following of the above were anti-Jewish: 4, 6, 8, 11 & 18.

These appeal to Nationalists: 1, 2, 6, 8, 18 & 25

These appeal to the working class: 3, 11, 14, 15, 18 & 19.

Here are Nazi election results, 1924-28:

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	% votes cast	Nazi seats	Total seats in Reichstag
May 1924	6.5	32	472
Dec 1924	3.0	14	493
May 1928	2.6	12	491

Nazi support was stronger in 1924 because of mass unemployment. Things had got better in Germany by 1928, so Nazi support plummeted very quickly. Before 1929, no one gave mention to the NSDAP (The National Socialist Democratic Workers Party).

## 1.18 putsch

### THE PUTSCH

The Munich Putsch on 19th of November, 1923, was a dismal failure. Hitler believed that, like Mussolini in Italy, he could just march on the government buildings and they would surrender. The Italian government surrendered to Mussolini, the Germans did not to Hitler. Things were bad in Germany, and Hitler thought it would be easy to take power.

On this occasion, the army refused to help Hitler. His 3,000 SA supporters were stopped by a handful of Police, and 16 Nazis died. Hitler was arrested and put on trial in 1924.

Instead of apologising, Hitler turned the trial into a giant publicity stunt, and became a national figure. In his speeches at the trial he attacked the Weimar government, and the only time the right-wing sympathising Judge intervened was to stop people standing up and applauding. The Court sentenced him to the minimum sentence for treason, just five years in Landsberg prison.

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