

Key people in the Germany in Transition unit...

- **Kaiser Wilhelm**

- Ruler of Germany before / during WWI.
- forced to abdicate as part of plans for armistice at end of WWI (Nov 1918).
- replaced by Weimar Government = much more democratic system of government.
- The German Constitution gave him great power, and while he should have consulted people like the Chancellor, he only appointed people to those roles who would do as he wanted anyway.
- He was very ambitious for Germany and very keen for them to build up a strong military.

- **Rohm**

- Founder member of the German Workers' Party in 1919.
- Supported Hitler when he became leader of the GWP in 1920.
- Set up and ran the S.A. for Hitler in 1921.
- Loyal supporter of Hitler: the SA were fundamental in Hitler's rise to power.
- Hitler accused Rohm of plotting to overthrow him (unlikely to have been the case) and declared him an enemy of Germany.
- Rohm was murdered on the Night of Long Knives, 30th June 1934.

- **Stresemann**

- Was Foreign Secretary from 1923 until his death in 1929 (just a few weeks before the Wall Street Crash that prompted the Great Depression).
- Was Chancellor of Germany from 1923.
- Key agreements under his rule: Dawes Plan, the Rentenmark, the Locarno Pact, membership of the League of Nations, Kellogg-Briand Pact, Young Plan.
- awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1926 for improving relations between France and Germany.
- played a crucial part in Germany's recovery in the 1920s. his work re-established the international position of Germany. He was therefore a very popular leader of the Weimar Government.

- **Hindenburg**

- President of the Weimar Republic, 1925 – 1934.
- Former army leader (chief of general staff in 1916), mainly advised by army leaders and other conservative people while he was President.
- put forward the 'Dolchstoß' theory (that the army had been 'stabbed in the back' by the 'November Criminals').
- hated Hitler and resisted him becoming Chancellor as long as he was able to.
- Died on 2nd August 1934. Following this, Hitler declared himself President, but then combined the roles of Chancellor and President to create the position of Führer.

Josef Goebbels

- In charge of Nazi propaganda and control of mass media in elections. Ensure the Nazi message was simple / straightforward and frequently repeated.
- Head of the Propaganda Ministry (Nazi Minister of Propaganda and National Enlightenment).
- Set up the Reich Radio Company to control all local radio stations. Ordered 2 Nazi propaganda films.
- Controlled propaganda during WW2.
- Committed suicide on 1st May 1945 with his wife. They had also given poison to their 6 children.

Heinrich Himmler

- Leader of the SS from 1929. Built up the SS to give it a clear identity (all wore black) and ensure complete loyalty to Hitler. The SS were responsible for removing all opposition to Hitler and the Nazis.
- Organised the Night of Long Knives.
- Became the head of all police agencies in 1936, e.g. the SD.
- Supervised the Final Solution.
- Committed suicide after capture (23rd May 1945), before being put on trial.

Rosa Luxemburg / Karl Liebknecht	Leaders of the Spartacist Uprising, 1919. Murdered during uprising.
Wolfgang Kapp	Leader of the Kapp Putsch, 1920.
Friedrich Ebert	First Chancellor of Germany under the new Weimar Government from 1918. He accepted the armistice that ended WWI.
Von Schleicher	Chancellor of Germany at the end of 1932. Part of the 'political scheming' stage of Hitler's rise to power. Murdered on the Night of Long Knives, June 1934
Von Papen	Chancellor from June 1932, resigned and replaced by Von Schleicher. Schemed with Hindenburg / Hitler as believed Hitler / Nazis could be manipulated. Was vice-Chancellor under Hitler.
Marinus van der Lubbe	Communist student, blamed by the Nazis for the Reichstag Fire. Put on trial and executed.
Mussolini	Leader of Italy. Fascist dictator
Stalin	Leader of the USSR. Communist dictator.

Hermann Goering

- Set up the Gestapo in 1933 (taken over by Heydrich in 1936).
- Head of the German Airforce (Luftwaffe)
- Created the Four Year Plan to prepare Germany for war. This aimed to make Germany self-sufficient (Autarky)
- Was convicted at the Nuremberg Trials, but committed suicide before he was executed.