

# IB History Reading Notes

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Unit _____ Chapter _____ Topic/Section _____	
Discussion Notes	Reading Notes
	<p>Germany was rocked by WWI</p> <p>The Kaiser Abdicated, democracy installed, armistice, new countries</p> <p><i>*Refer back to CPE Effects for WWI*</i></p> <p>Germany and its allies were blamed for the war and as such suffered under the Versailles Treaty.</p> <p><b>Democratic Problems:</b> The people blamed the new government and the government itself was divided. Democracy was initiated by the politicians not the people. They elected the President, who controlled the army, could appoint or dismiss the chancellor, could suspend the constitution and rule by decree in times of emergency. The system was very democratic but unstable. The Reichstag members were elected by universal suffrage, but due to multiple parties, no one had control. Coalitions were formed, but broke down over political disagreements. Resulted in both right and left coups, strikes, and riots.</p> <p><i>The Right:</i> The army angry at the peace, those who felt the government was mishandling the economy, and the Freikorps.</p> <p><b>Economic Problems:</b> In 1923, Germany stopped paying reparations and France and Belgium invaded the Ruhr. The government recommended passive resistance in the form of strikes and compensating industrialists, but this led to hyperinflation (blamed on the occupation, the Treaty, government overspending, and the deficit). Great Depression cut off US loans, unemployment skyrocketed, and agricultural products dropped in price, causing farmers to go bankrupt. Government seen as inefficient at handling inflation AND unemployment because it couldn't agree fast enough. Hard to say whether it fell because of economies or Hitler.</p> <p><b>Hitler:</b> Got involved in politics after fighting in the war. Joined Workers' Party in 1919 and led it by 1921 (now called National Socialist German Workers' Party) with 25 Point Programme combining nationalism and socialism with anti-semitism.</p> <p><i>Munich Putsch:</i> After the Ruhr, Hitler staged a coup to take over the local government and then march to Berlin. Failed and Hitler was sentenced to prison, where he wrote Mein Kampf. Decided to use democratic means, but party needed to be more pragmatic and flexible. Claimed to end unemployment, re-establish order, return to traditional German values, stop Bolshevism, end the Treaty of Versailles.</p>

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	<p><b>Hitler's Aims:</b>  <i>Overthrow Versailles Treaty:</i> Humiliation that needed to be overthrown. Needed to remilitarize to do this and regain land lost.  <i>A 'Greater Germany':</i> Bring in countries where other Germans lived to create a 'Greater Germany' sharing a common Aryan origin.  <i>Lebensraum:</i> (Living Space) assumed post-war Germany was over crowded and needed to expand in order to support its population. Argument that since Aryans were a 'superior race', they deserved more territory.</p> <p><b>Hitler's Plan:</b>            Consolidate power, strengthen the economy, rearm the nation.            Suspended constitutional rights and government with the <i>Decree for the Protection of the People and State</i>. Pass decrees under the Enabling Law allowing him to bypass the Reichstag. Combined Cancellor and President into Fuhrer.  <i>Gleichschaltung:</i> (Coordination) Single Party State of the Nazis, trade unions dissolved and replaced by Nazi Germany Labor Front, local governments established, elections ended, Hitler Youth and other organizations formed, purged the army and the SA, army swore direct oath to Hitler, Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda controlled the media, education reformed to indoctrinate youth, mass rallies built personality cult, and police state established.            Police State: Schutzstaffel (SS) and Gestapo repressed political opponents, encouraged people to report each other, concentration camps for political and enemies of the state such as Jews.</p> <p><b>Impact of Domestic Issues:</b> Because of the Great Depression, Germany's main problem was unemployment and it needed to fix it to create stability. Funded Public Works Program served by the National Labor Service, which provided unemployed with work and military level discipline, on things like renovation of Berlin, irrigation, and the Autobahn (national highway for transportation). This lowered unemployment but standard of living and industry was still lacking. Nazi government increased production of arms and allowed civilian goods to decline.            Hitler created 4 year plan to restore the economy, which called for more government planning and control of the economy. Wanted to become self-sufficient and the sanctions that were leveled on Italy convinced him that Germany needed substitutes to anything that a blockade could cut off.</p>

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	<p>League of Nations and World Disarmament Conference: LN, UK, and US, set up a World Disarmament Conference aimed as disarmament and world peace. Germany was a member of both the conference and the LN, but Hitler withdrew Germany shortly after he became Chancellor.</p> <p>Even before Hitler came to power, Germany had violated agreements by having satellite arms producers in the Netherlands and Sweden. Secretly the Treaty of Rapallo had the Soviets provide weapons and facilities to Germany in exchange for army training.</p> <p>Hitler said the conference was unfair because Germany was the only disarmed nation, lacking even fortifications while its neighbors France and Poland had the weapons to attack them. Said either they disarmed as well or Germany would have 'equality'. When both of these were rejected Hitler withdrew from the Conference and LN. Plebiscite referendum showed that 95% of the population backed this.</p> <p>The other countries started to prepare for Germany's rearmament. Four Powers Pact ended.</p> <p><b>Britain</b> was somewhat understanding to Germany's claims, realized that if peace was to be sustained it would take some revisions to Versailles, and wanted Germany to be a barrier to the supposed bigger threat of Bolshevism.</p> <p><b>Poland</b> (bordered by Germany and USSR who both wanted it) made a nonaggression pact with Germany and decreased encirclement of Germany. This made it seem like Hitler was a statesman and could work towards peace.</p> <p><b>France</b> feared German rearmament but couldn't find the support to stop it. The German-Polish Non Aggression Pact weakened France's alliance with them.</p> <p><b>The Soviet Union</b> facing the possibility of a joint German-Polish attack, signed mutual assistance treaties against Germany with both France and Czechoslovakia.</p> <p><b>The Saar:</b> German area rich in coal that France gained economic rights over in Versailles Treaty. It was placed under the LN and in 1935 there was a Plebiscite on whether to be French or German, 90% said German. Interpreted as a success.</p>

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	<p><b>German Rearmament:</b> Encouraged by Saar, Hitler said he would no longer honor the disarmament clause of Versailles and introduced conscription and increased the military budget. Creation of the German Air force: the Luftwaffe. Formation of the Stresa Front in response by Britain, France, and Italy, but this was short lived due to a naval pact between Germany and Britain that was seen as Britain betraying it's partners for its own domestic security.</p> <p><b>Anglo-German Naval Agreement:</b> Germany Navy allowed to be 35% of Britain's. Was aiming to revise Versailles but still ensure that Britain's navy would always be larger than Germany's. Wanted security without spending more.</p> <p><b>Rearmament of the Rhineland:</b> Versailles Treaty dictated that this area must forever be demilitarized and not allow the Germans to defend their borders. The Locarno Pact was signed too reinforce commitment to the boundaries of France, Belgium, and Italy. Hitler decided it was necessary to rearm it and to do it then because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protect the Ruhr, vital to German war supplies</li><li>• Had already gained rearmament and Japan and Italy had already defied LN so he was confident they wouldn't stop him.</li><li>• Early coalitions to stop him had broken down (Ex. Stresa Front). The West wasn't willing to go to war and France and Britain were tense over differences on Mussolini's invasion of Abyssinia</li><li>• Wanted to exploit another success by propaganda</li></ul> <p>Argue that the Franco-Soviet Alliance had broken terms of the Locarno Pact and meant germany could be encircled. Said Germany was justified in wanting security and also offered non aggression pacts to France and Belgium. This convinced Britain that they were just taking what was already theirs and wouldn't cause trouble. France, alone and with elections soon, did nothing. It was a success for Hitler, undermined Versailles, and put French security in danger. Hitler took France's inaction as permission to move against its allies in Eastern Europe, as they had show they wouldn't retaliate.</p>

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	<p><b>Changing Alliances:</b></p> <p>Both Mussolini and Hitler were authoritative anti-democrats, anti-communist, referred to by terms that stressed the importance of strong leadership, and desired revisions to the Versailles Treaty. Despite this, Mussolini initially disliked Hitler over Hitler's interest in Austria. However, tensions over the Abyssinia crisis led to an end of Germany being encircled. Hitler quickly supported Mussolini's claims to Abyssinia and they later worked together in the Spanish Civil War.</p> <p>Germany entered the Spanish Civil War because it was a test for the military and the Luftwaffe, wanted Franco of Spain to be a new ally and encircle France with Italy, Germany , and Spain. To isolate France and keep it from helping it's allies in Eastern Europe, and Spain had valuable resources that Hitler could trade for.</p> <p>Rome-Berlin Axis: Germany recognized Italian interests in the Mediterranean and Italy recognized German interests in Central and Eastern Europe. Followed by the Anti-Comintern Pact.</p> <p>1937: The Hossbach Memorandum records the details of the Secret meeting among the Nazi High Command in which Hitler outlined his decision to expand into Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Eastern Europe at the expense of a war with France and Britain. He insisted that it would need to be soon as their rivals were starting to catch up militarily.</p>

# IB Historian Reading Notes

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Unit _____ Chapter _____ Topic/Section _____	
Historian and School	Viewpoint
K. Hilderbrand	Hitler had a plan that was partially outlined in <i>Mein Kampf</i>
AJP Taylor	Foreign Policy was improvised and was the result of internal pressures, such as the economy, and taking advantage of external factors, such as foreign statesmen.
Allan Bullock	Hitler set out his aims in <i>Mein Kampf</i> , but used opportunistic means to reach them.

