

## Emergence of Authoritarian State

### Economic factors

- Treaty of Versailles
  - Payments for reparations of war damages
    - About 6.6 billion pounds
    - Germany had to focus its economy thereon
  - Germany lost a lot of territories
    - France occupied the Ruhr, which was Germany's industrial heartland
    - Germany's recovery from the war slowed down even more
  - Many German leaders and citizens felt humiliated.
    - People were inclined to support Hitler, who promised to make Germany strong again
- Great Depression caused a global economic collapse - 1929
  - USA loans were stopped
    - Germany had to repay the loans from the USA
  - Further inability to pay back reparations
    - Hyperinflation
      - Printing of money to pay off reparations
    - Became worse when Heinrich Brüning was appointed - 1930
      - Increased taxation
      - Reduced welfare benefits
  - Farmer's debt accumulated
  - Unemployment soared
  - This caused people to lose faith in the democratic system
    - They thought that extremist parties would provide a quick solution to the problems
- Funding the NSDAP
  - Hitler drew more attention to those economic problems (through propaganda)
  - Vested interest caused many people to fund anything that could prevent communism
    - That way, NSDAP got the funding it needed

## Nature, extent, and treatment of opposition

- Nature & extent
  - Less than 1% engaged in active opposition
  - Silent opposition
    - Refusing to offer the Nazi salute
    - Joking about the Nazi regime
  - Active oppositions
    - Sabotage in the workplace
    - Circulation of anti-Nazi propaganda
    - Plots to assassinate Hitler
  - The Left & communists
    - Attempts to disrupt war production were minimal and ineffective
    - Spread anti-Nazi propaganda
  - SPD
    - Were against the Enabling Act
    - Had the aim of opposing the upcoming totalitarian system
  - Military
    - Feared Hitler's adventurous foreign policies and the spark of a major war
    - Some members joined a group who questioned the repressive nature of the regime
  - Bek-Goerdeler group
    - Together with leading members of the Abwehr
    - They had been involved in anti-Hitler activities since 1938
    - About six assassinations were attempted (all of which were unsuccessful)
  - Jehovah's Witnesses
    - Refused to give the Hitler salute or join Nazi organizations
- Treatment
  - Gestapo
    - Göring established the police state of the Gestapo (Geheime Staatspolizei)
    - Relied on the culture of denunciation
      - Police among ordinary citizens who informed of enemies of the state
    - This developed fear of speaking against the regime
  - The left
    - As early as January 1933, the Left was targeted violently by the SA
  - KPD
    - The Reichstag Fire Decree rendered the party ineffective
    - Leaders and officials of the KPD were attacked by the SA
    - Party members would still be arrested and open protests were minimal

## Impact of policies on women

- Hitler renew the traditional role of women
  - He limited their participation in German life to children, kitchen, and church
  - Women had to focus on their roles as mothers, especially as birth rates were declining
    - They should be bearers of children that would ensure national future
    - Birth rates should increase
  - It was described as the “natural and divine destiny.”
- Law for encouragement of marriage
  - Newly married couples given 1000 mark loan
  - Women had to give up employment
    - The positions were open to other males
  - About 42% of the population received such loans by 1939
    - Marriage rate increased
    - Birth rate did not increase significantly
      - Couples preferred to have one or two children
- Incentives for birth
  - Income-tax reductions for married couples with children
  - Family allowance payments
  - Maternity benefits
  - Reduced school fees
  - Railway fares for larger families
  - Provision of facilities
    - Birth clinics
    - Advice centers
    - Course on household management
    - Motherhood
  - Mother’s Cross
    - Eight children ⇒ gold
    - Six children ⇒ silver
    - Four children ⇒ bronze
      - Condition ⇒ They have to be of Aryan blood
- Disincentives for birth
  - Illegalization of abortion
  - Closing down of birth control centers and access to contraceptive devices
- Workplace
  - A restricted number of females in higher education and employment in the civil service
  - Propaganda aimed at discouraging females in the workplace