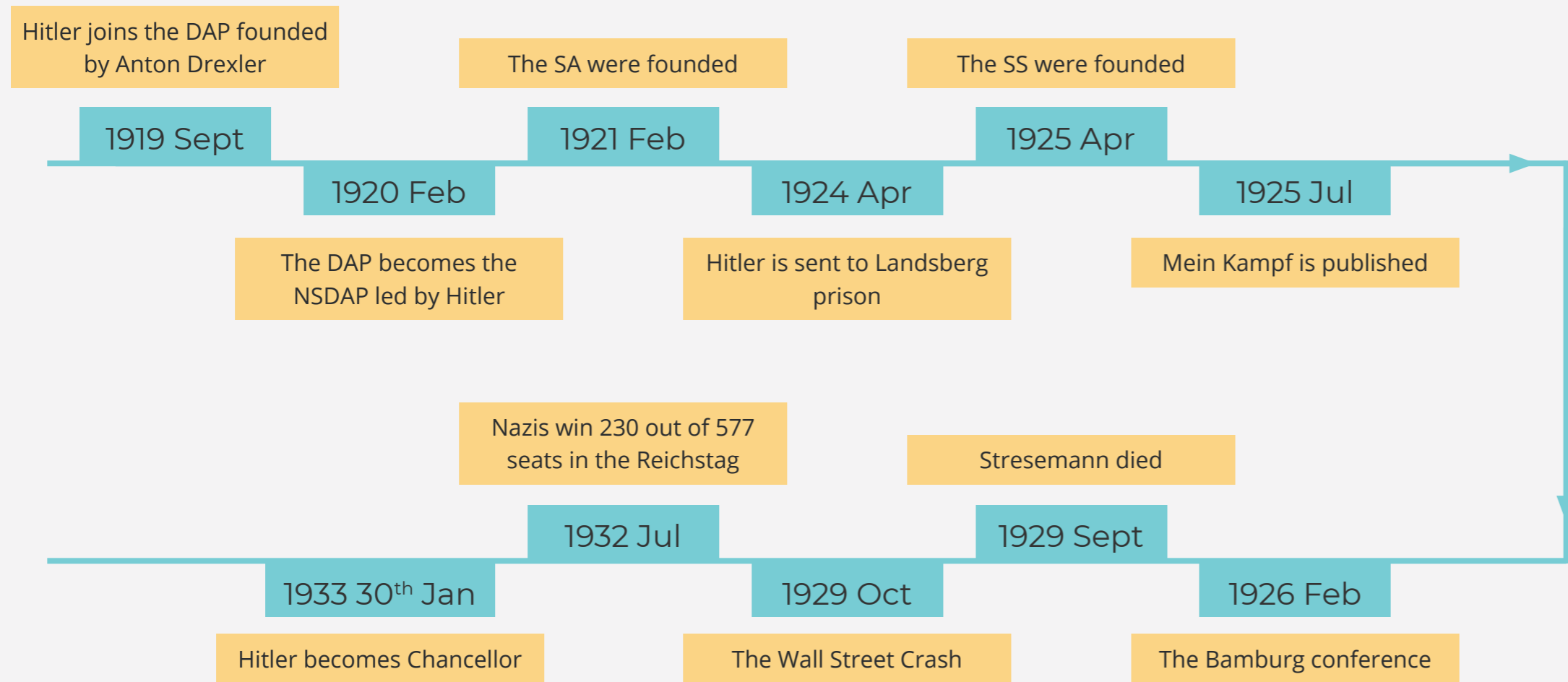


Key Question 3: How and why did the Weimar Republic collapse between 1929 and 1933?

Timeline of events



How did the Nazi Party change its tactics in the 1920s?

- The Nazis began as the German Workers Party in Bavaria in 1919.
- Hitler took over the party in 1920 and changed the party name.
- The Nazis planned a violent revolution against the Weimar government helped by the SA who were formed in 1921.
- The 1923 Munich Putsch resulted in Hitler being sent to prison and the party being banned.
- After leaving prison in 1924 Hitler had the ban on the Nazis lifted.
- Hitler's ideas were published in the book "Mein Kampf" in 1925.
- Hitler decided to destroy the Republic by winning in national elections.
- At the Bamberg conference Hitler became undisputed Fuhrer of the party.
- Hitler toured the country giving speeches blaming the Jews, Communists, the Versailles Treaty and weak Weimar politicians for Germany's problems.
- During the Depression Hitler promised "Work, Freedom, Bread".
- The gauleiter of Berlin, Goebbels, ran a propaganda campaign using cinema, radio, posters, rallies and Nazi newspapers convinced a lot of people to support the Nazis.
- In 1928 the Nazis only had 12 seats in the Reichstag.
- In the September 1930 elections the Nazis won 107 seats.

Key words

NSDAP	The German Socialist Worker's Party (the Nazis)
25 Point Programme	The political manifesto of the Nazi Party, written by Adolf Hitler and Anton Drexler
SA (Sturm Abteilung)	Storm Troopers ("brownshirts") - a Nazi group who used violence to intimidate their opponents
SS (Schutz Staffel)	Protection Squad - Hitler's loyal bodyguards, led by Heinrich Himmler
Gauleiter	A Nazi official in charge of a particular area (gau)
Propaganda	Information that persuades people to support a particular view
The Depression	World economic decline caused the US Wall Street Crash
Chancellor	The Weimar official in charge of the government

"It was not this government which led the German nation into ruin for 14 years. This government wants to lead the nation to the top once more." From Hitler's speech after becoming Chancellor in January 1933.

Important concept

The **Backstairs Intrigue** was the secret discussions by Weimar politicians that led to Hitler being asked to be Chancellor.

Key Question 3: How and why did the Weimar Republic collapse between 1929 and 1933?

How did the Depression affect Germany between 1929 and 1933?

- American loans to Germany were ended but reparation payments were only suspended in 1931
- International trade fell, damaging businesses
- Factory workers lost their jobs
- Farm workers lost money as food prices fell
- By 1932 6 million Germans were unemployed (4 in 10 people)
- Fewer people were paying taxes but the government needed to spend more money on unemployment benefits
- Without a majority of supporters in the Reichstag Chancellor Brüning had to rely on the President to use Article 48 to get things done
- For cutting unemployment benefits and failing to solve food shortages Brüning became known as the “Hunger Chancellor”
- People began to vote for the KPD (the German Communist Party) – it won 100 seats in the Reichstag in November 1932

Who were the “Three Chancellors”?

1. Heinrich Brüning (March 1930 to May 1932)
2. Franz von Papen (July 1932 to November 1932)
3. Kurt von Schleicher (December 1932 to January 1933)

How did the “Backstairs Intrigue” make Hitler Chancellor?

Problems facing the Weimar Republic:

- rising unemployment
- rising costs of unemployment benefit
- successive Chancellors 1930-33 could not get laws passed through the Reichstag to solve problems because parties would not work with each other to solve problems
- the President had to use Article 48 to get any laws passed at all
- richer people feared a Communist takeover.

Reasons why Hindenburg asked Hitler to become chancellor

- By November 1932 the Nazis had 196 seats in the Reichstag and 1/3rd of the votes in the election – they were the biggest party.
- Von Papen failed to win support in two elections in 1932 and resigned.
- Von Schleicher could not get other parties to work with him and was sacked because some thought he might give power to the communists.
- Von Papen convinced Hindenburg that if Hitler was Chancellor he would make sure Hitler did as he was told – he said “he would make Hitler squeak”.