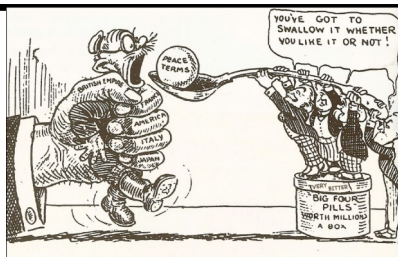


# 100% Sheet

## The world at war: How did the 'harsh provisions' of the Treaty of Versailles lead to the rise of Nazi Germany?

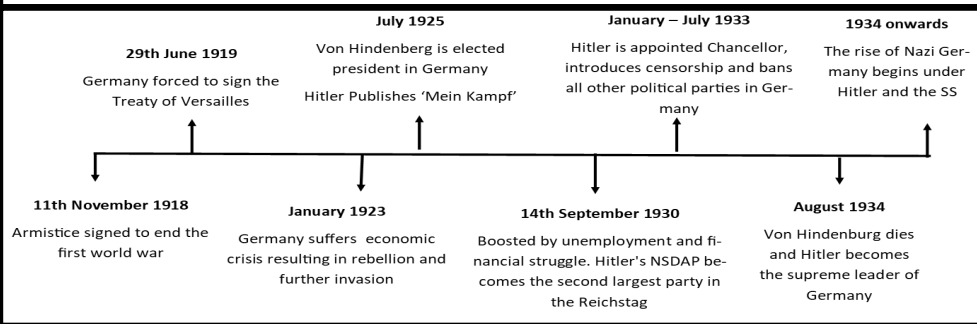
### Background information

The inter war years (1918—1939) was supposed to be a period of peace in Europe. In retrospect, the period is often viewed as a time of revenge and harsh restriction towards Germany. The 'big 3' were adamant in punishing Germany with the Treaty of Versailles. When Hitler promised the Germans a way out of the tight grip of the Treaty, the rise of Nazi Germany began.



### Key knowledge 1: The Treaty of Versailles

- Ww1 was ended with the signing of the treaty of Versailles in Paris 1919, however Germany were forced into signing the treaty without negotiation.
- The treaty was considered extremely harsh as it stripped vast German territory, reduced military down to 100,00 men and forced Germany to pay economy crippling reparations.
- The French and British were determined to make the treaty a harsh punishment, eventually it would lead to resentment against the 'dictated peace' forced onto German people.



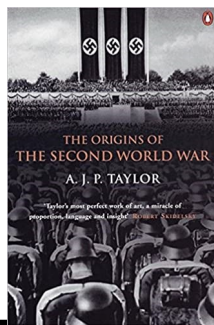
### Key knowledge 2: The rise of Nazi Germany

- Germany suffered 2 major economic crashes in 10 years, many turned to far left and right political parties for hope.
- Hitler's party promised to abandon the harsh treaty dictated by the 'big 3', stop paying reparations, to focus on building a financially stable Germany and the rearmament of the military.
- In 1930 Hitler's Party was the second most popular in Germany, by 1933 Hitler was elected Chancellor, the rise of the Nazis had begun

### Secondary interpretation/ debate about period

'The treaty contained many **harsh provisions**—or so it appeared to most Germans. The German consent to it was given grudgingly and unwillingly, after a long debate whether it would not be better to refuse to sign .... The peace of Versailles lacked moral validity from the start. It had to be **enforced**; it did not, as it were, enforce itself. No German accepted the treaty as a fair settlement between equals.'

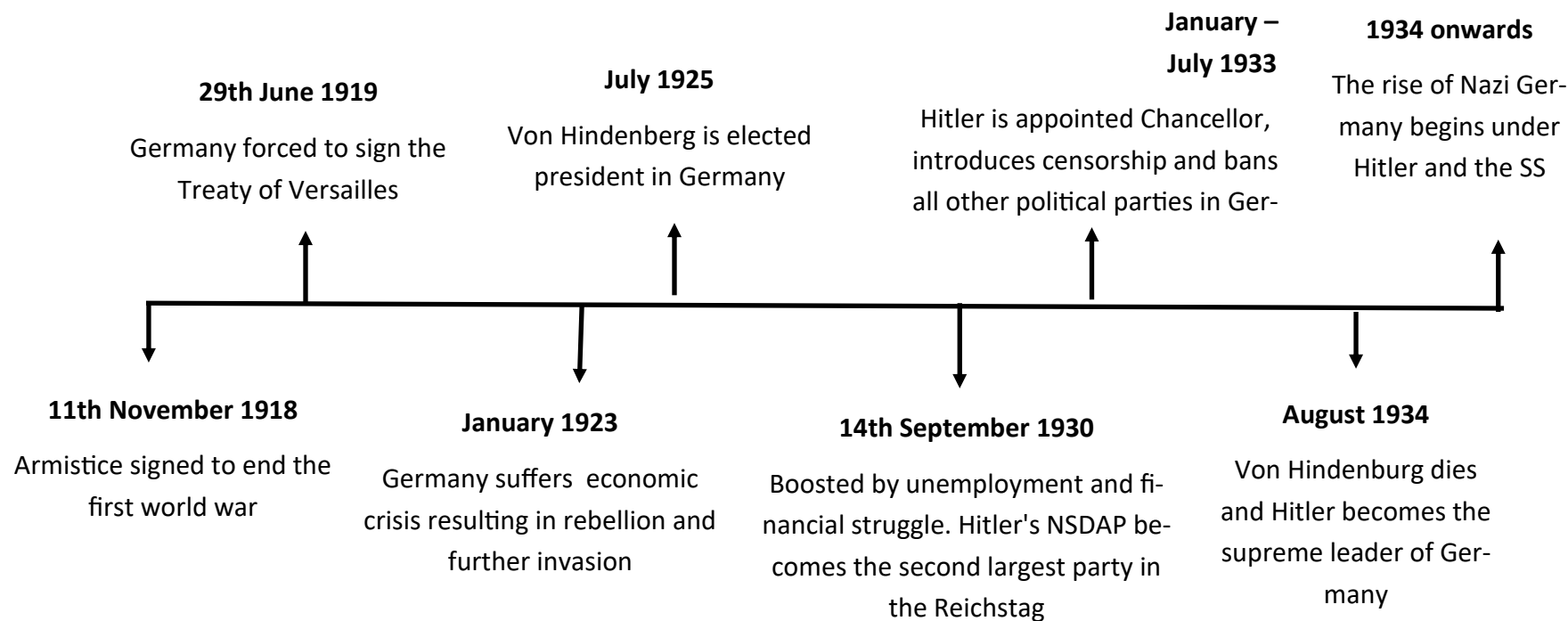
*The Origins of the Second World War* by A.J.P Taylor



### Key Knowledge 3: Life in Nazi Germany

- Although Hitler carried out his promises, censorship and propaganda helped promote extreme views of the Nazis all over Germany.
- The Hitler youth ensured younger generations were brainwashed into following Nazi ideology, meanwhile the SS were targeting any groups who did not belong in Hitler's master race.
- Women were often forced into being housewives with government incentives and propaganda to portraying expectations of women.

## Timeline



**K.O:** How did the 'dictated peace' of the Treaty of Versailles lead to the rise of Nazi Germany?

'Recently, Hagen Schulze has denominated the Versailles Treaty "a dictated peace". He describes the compact as a "destructive middle course" that "put Germany under special laws, took away its military power, ruined it economically, and humiliated it politically".'

*The Treaty of Versailles: A Reassessment After 75 Years by Manfred F. Boemeke, Gerald D. Feldman and Elisabeth Glaser.*