

A Level History

Unit 20

Democracy and

Nazism 1918-1945

Transition pack



Book recommendations

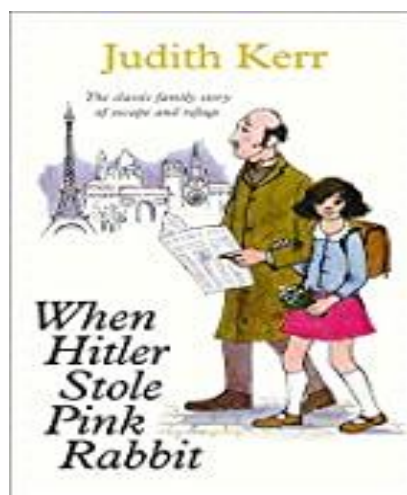
These books will help you to build up context of the period. They are not essential and some are fairly lengthy but they are a good starting point. I have copies of all these books and would be happy to lend them out to you in September if you are struggling to get hold of copies.

When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit (Essential Modern Classics)

https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=when+Hitler+stole+pink+rabbit&i=dvd&ref=nb_sb_noss_2

This semi-autobiographical and unforgettable story, of a Jewish family fleeing from Germany before the start of the Second World War, now reissued with its original cover illustration in this very special edition.

Michael Morpurgo called *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*: "The most life-enhancing book you could ever wish to read."



[The Coming of the Third Reich: How the Nazis Destroyed Democracy and Seized Power in Germany Paperback – 5 Aug. 2004](https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=the+coming+of+the+third+Reich&i=strip-books&ref=nb_sb_noss_2)

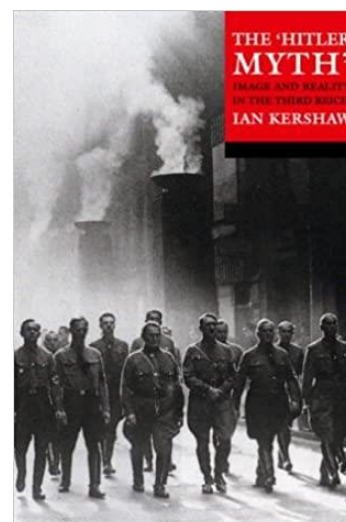
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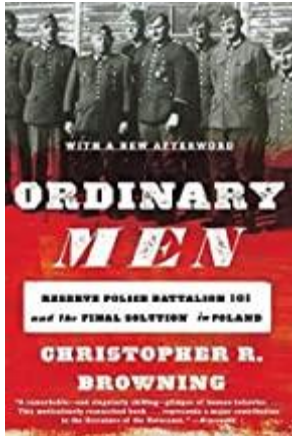
Richard J. Evans' *The Coming of the Third Reich: How the Nazis Destroyed Democracy and Seized Power in Germany* explores how the First World War, the Weimar Republic and the Great Depression paved the way for Nazi rule.

[The "Hitler Myth": Image and Reality in the Third Reich Paperback – 29 Nov. 2001](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hitler-Myth-Image-Reality-Third/dp/0192802062/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+Hitler+myth+image+and+reality+in+the+third+Reich&qid=1593786321&s=dvd&sr=1-1)

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hitler-Myth-Image-Reality-Third/dp/0192802062/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+Hitler+myth+image+and+reality+in+the+third+Reich&qid=1593786321&s=dvd&sr=1-1

Based largely on the reports of government officials, party agencies, and political opponents, Ian Kershaw's ground-breaking study charts the creation, growth, and decline of the "Hitler myth."





ORDINARY MEN - REVISED EDITION: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland Paperback – 16 April 2020

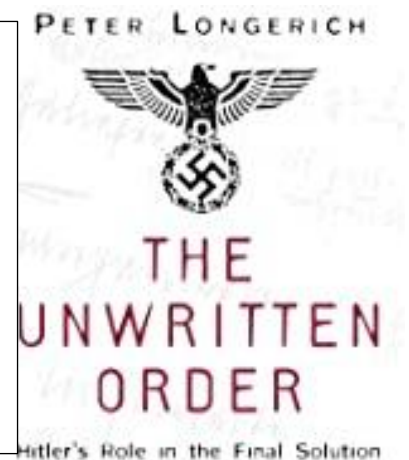
https://www.amazon.co.uk/Ordinary-Men-Revised-Battalion-Solution/dp/0062303023/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=ordinary+men&qid=1593872320&s=books&sr=1-1

Christopher R. Browning's shocking account of how a unit of average middle-aged Germans became the cold-blooded murderers of tens of thousands of Jews now with a new afterword and additional photographs.

The Unwritten Order: Hitler's Role in the Final Solution Paperback – 4 Aug. 2016

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Unwritten-Order-Longerich/dp/0750968494/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+unwritten+order&qid=1593872515&s=books&sr=1-1

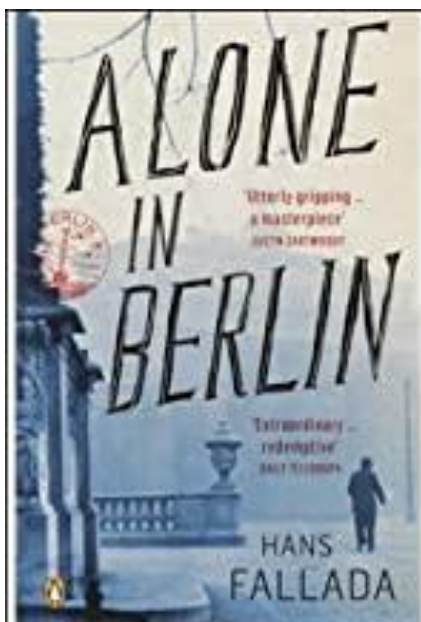
The Unwritten Order aims to offer documentary proof of Hitler's central role in the murder of the European Jews. In order to achieve this aim, various documents and fragments of documents have been pieced together and the codified language of the dictator deciphered.



Alone in Berlin (Penguin Modern Classics) Paperback – 28 Jan. 2010

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Alone-Berlin-Penguin-Modern-Classics/dp/014118938X/ref=sr_1_1?crd=P86UFJX4LHPT&dchild=1&keywords=alone+in+berlin&qid=1593872641&s=books&sprefix=alone+%2Cstripbooks%2C217&sr=1-1

Inspired by a true story, Hans Fallada's *Alone in Berlin* is the gripping tale of an ordinary man's determination to defy the tyranny of Nazi rule.



Movie recommendations

Films, whilst not always totally accurate, can also help to give an overall context of what life was like in Nazi Germany. Films like Valkyrie are based on true stories so are useful when looking at events.



Valkyrie

A dramatization of the July 20, 1944 assassination and political coup plot by desperate renegade German Army officers against Hitler during World War II.

Available on Netflix

The Book Thief

While subjected to the horrors of World War II Germany, young Liesel finds solace by stealing books and sharing them with others. In the basement of her home, a Jewish refugee is being protected by her adoptive parents.

Available on Amazon Prime or see Mrs Carter who has a copy you can borrow.



Schindler's List

Oskar Schindler is a vain and greedy German businessman who becomes an unlikely humanitarian amid the barbaric German Nazi reign when he feels compelled to turn his factory into a refuge for Jews. Based on the true story of Oskar Schindler who managed to save about 1100 Jews from being gassed at the Auschwitz concentration camp, it is a testament to the good in all of us.

Available on Netflix



Downfall

In April of 1945, Germany stands at the brink of defeat with the Soviet Armies closing in from the west and south. In Berlin, capital of the Third Reich, Adolf Hitler proclaims that Germany will still achieve victory and orders his Generals and advisers to fight to the last man. "Downfall" explores these final days of the Reich, where senior German leaders (such as Himmler and Goring) began defecting from their beloved Fuhrer, in an effort to save their own lives, while still others (Joseph Goebbels) pledge to die with Hitler.

Available on Netflix

Defiance

Jewish brothers in Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe escape into the Belarussian forests, where they join Russian resistance fighters, and endeavour to build a village, in order to protect themselves and about one thousand Jewish non-combatants.

Available on Netflix



Documentaries

Documentaries can help to both give an overview of the time period and also give more in depth knowledge of specific events.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vO-HXO7HwY> – **Ten minute History- The Weimar Republic and Nazi Germany:** This gives a brief overview of the period and will help to refresh your memory from GCSE.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xwl6o2npqOY> - **The Weimar Republic: Germany's first democracy:** A tail by Sir Richard Evans looking at why the Weimar Republic failed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Br-QxsOJ-Jg> - **Adolf Hitler's rise to power:** Gives a brief overview of how Hitler was able to go from relative obscurity to become the Fuhrer of Germany.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLrTXCNhHK4> **Hitler's circle of evil:** This is a 10 part documentary charting the rise and fall of the Third Reich told like the drama it really was: through the personal relationships of the movers and shakers of the Nazi Party

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJ6umV7CVY8&feature=emb_logo - **Heil Hitler!**

Confessions Of A Hitler Youth: Alfons Heck describes how he became a high ranking member of the Hitler Youth. He talks about the importance of propaganda and peer pressure in recruiting German boys to the movement.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Nazis-Warning-History-DVD/dp/B0001MIQ94>- **The Nazis: A Warning from History:** This exposes the popular myths surrounding the rise and fall of the Third Reich. The series explores how the Nazis came to power, how they ruled, how they treated their occupied territories and above all, how a cultured nation could be responsible for such acts of inhumanity.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDFFi0j4JM> – **Life in Nazi Germany:** Gives an overview of what life was like for people living under the Nazis in Germany.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZYgzW2fS0o> – **One day in Auschwitz:** Charts the journey of Holocaust survivor Kitty Hart-Moxon as she revisits Auschwitz and reveals her terrible experiences.

World War II in colour: Recounts the events of WWII in colour in 13 episodes. Available on Netflix.

Articles

History Extra has a range of magazine articles about specific events from History. These can help to further your understanding of the period.

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/second-world-war/how-hitler-gain-power-become-dictator-fuhrer-nazi-germany/> **Rise of a dictator: how did Hitler gain power and become the führer of Germany?** Adolf Hitler was a failed painter on the fringes of local politics, so how did he manage to amass so much influence that he had a dictatorship bestowed on him? Writing for *BBC History Revealed*, Roger Moorhouse charts how Hitler stage-managed his way to power – transforming from feckless would-be artist into a suave politician

Podcasts

History extra podcasts are available for free on Spotify. They are around 30 minutes long and usually relate to a book that is being released but are useful for an overview and you might find you wish to extend your understanding by reading the book too

Directly relevant

Useful for context

The Rise of Hitler (24 mins)- Frank McDonough looks at the rise of Hitler

Poland, 1939: World War Two begins (46 mins)- Roger Moorhouse tells the story of the battle for Poland.

A Nazi mystery (58 mins)- All about the life of Otto von Wachter who was Hans Franks deputy in the occupation of Poland. Charts his crimes and what happened to him.

The Germans who fought Hitler (44 mins)- Looks at the story of opposition to the Nazis

Opposing the Nazis (51 mins)- Historian tells of his grandfather's observations of life in Nazi Germany

Germany's World War Two (51 mins)-How the Second World War was experienced by ordinary Germans

Blitzkrieg (45 mins)- German invasion of France

Operation Barbarossa (49 mins) Outlines the motives behind Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union

History extra podcast-June 2007 (18 minutes)- Ian Kershaw discusses the turning points in WW2

The bombing of Dresden (65 mins)- Podcast exploring one of the most controversial acts of the war and whether it constitutes a war crime.

Germany's defeat (45 mins)- Ian Kershaw explains different reasons why Germany lost WW2

The battle for Madagascar and the War of the Roses (47 mins) Tim Benbow discusses the WW2 plans for Madagascar

The Holocaust Orphans (44 mins)- Stories of child survivors of the Holocaust who made their way to Britain.

The Auschwitz volunteer (36 mins)- Story of a Polish resistance leader who allows himself to be captured and taken to Auschwitz to gather intelligence.

The big questions of the Holocaust (54 mins) Laurence Rees discusses key debates surrounding the Holocaust

Additionally there are other podcasts available by following the links below.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/no/podcast/weimar-germany/id699709288> **Apple Podcast series of 12 episodes on Weimar Germany**

<https://www.history.org.uk/podcasts/categories/438/podcast/92/how-popular-was-the-nazi-regime-> **How popular was the Nazi regime?**

<https://www.history.org.uk/podcasts/categories/438/podcast/91/nazi-policy-from-persecution-to-extermination-> **Nazi Policy from persecution to extermination.**

<https://www.history.org.uk/podcasts/categories/438/podcast/90/nazi-creation-of-a-volksgemeinschaft> **Nazi creation of a Volksgemeinschaft.**

Useful Websites

<https://holocaustlearning.org/>

<https://spartacus-educational.com/GERweimar.htm>

<https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/modern-world-history-1918-to-1980/weimar-germany/>

<http://besthistorysites.net/modern-history/hitler/>

Research tasks:

Research task 1:

Create a timeline of the main events in the period 1918-1933. You should include the following:

- Key dates
- What happened/ consequences
- Key people involved

You might also want to sort the events into the following categories:

- Economic (to do with money)
- Political (to do with power)
- Social (to do with people and society)

Be aware some events will fit into more than one.

Use your exercise books and also the following website to help with this.

- <https://www.history.com/topics/germany/weimar-republic>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zh9p34j/revision/2>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zt9v7hv/revision/1>

Research task 2:

Create a timeline of the main events in the period 1934-1945. You should include the following:

- Key dates
- What happened/ consequences
- Key people involved

You might also want to sort the events into the following categories:

- Economic (to do with money)
- Political (to do with power)
- Social (to do with people and society)

Be aware some events will fit into more than one.

Use your exercise books and also the following website to help with this.

- <http://facstaff.bloomu.edu/mhickey/lecture%20overview%20of%20nazi%20germany.htm>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zp3p82p/revision/1>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zymqwx>

Research task 3:

Create profiles of some of the following key figures within Weimar and Nazi Germany:

- Frederich Ebert
- Kaiser Wilhelm II
- Paul von Hindenburg
- Gustav Stresemann
- Wolfgang Kapp
- Ludendorff
- Von Papen
- Adolf Hitler

You should include the following:

- Key facts about their lives- including their political views and key events they were involved in
- What happened to them
- Interesting facts

The History learning site has good overviews of the people above to help with it.

Research task 4:

Create one of the following:

- A factfile
- A cartoon strip
- A role play

For one of the following events:

The foundation of the Republic

The Spartacist Uprising

The Kapp Putsch

The Munich Putsch

Hyperinflation

Political intrigue leading to Hitler becoming Chancellor

You should include the following:

- Key causes
- What happened
- Consequences

Research task 5:

Create play doh models of the 'New' Weimar women and the traditional Nazi view of women and then write a paragraph explaining the differences.

You might also want to consider how popular the 'New' woman was in Weimar Germany and how many women followed the traditional Nazi view after 1933.

Use this website to help

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z9y64j6/revision/8>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zqrfj6f/revision/1>